

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-81146; File No. SR-NYSEMKT-2017-44)

July 14, 2017

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE MKT LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend Rule 7.38E to Specify the Ranking of an Odd Lot Order that has a Display Price that is Better than its Working Price

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)¹ of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”)² and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,³ notice is hereby given that on June 30, 2017, NYSE MKT LLC (the “Exchange” or “NYSE MKT”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 7.38E (Odd and Mixed Lots) to specify the ranking of an odd lot order that has a display price that is better than its working price. The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at www.nyse.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of those statements may be examined at the

¹ 15 U.S.C.78s(b)(1).

² 15 U.S.C. 78a.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant parts of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 7.38E (Odd and Mixed Lots) to specify the ranking of an odd lot order that has a display price that is better than its working price.

Rule 7.38E provides that the working price of an odd lot order will be adjusted both on arrival and when resting on the Exchange Book based on the limit price of the order as follows:

- If the limit price of an odd lot order is equal to or worse than the contra-side PBBO, it will have a working price equal to the limit price.
- If the limit price of an odd lot order is better than the contra-side PBBO, it will have a working price equal to the contra-side PBBO.
- If the PBBO is crossed, the odd lot order will have a working price equal to the same-side PBB or PBO.

By moving the working price, an odd lot order to buy (sell) will not trade at a price above (below) the PBO (PBB), or if the PBBO is crossed, above (below) the PBB (PBO). In either case, if the odd lot order is ranked Priority 2 – Display Orders,⁴ its display price would not change when its working price is adjusted.

Exchange rules are currently silent regarding how a resting odd lot order that has a display price that is better than its working price would be ranked for trading at that working

⁴ As described in Rule 7.36E(e)(2), Priority 2 – Display Orders are non-marketable Limit Orders with a displayed working price.

price.⁵ This scenario would only occur if a resting odd lot order is displayed at a price, and then an Away Market PBBO crosses that display price. In that limited scenario, pursuant to Rule 7.38E(b)(1) described above, the working price of the odd-lot order would be adjusted to a price inferior to the display price, but it would remain displayed at the now crossed price.

The Exchange proposes to specify that in such case, the ranking and priority category applicable to such an order at its display [sic], i.e., the price it is displayed and Priority 2 – Display Orders, would govern its ranking for purposes of a trade at its different, inferior working price.⁶ This ranking would differ from the Exchange’s general rule that an order is ranked based on its working price.⁷ However, the Exchange believes that if the display price of an order is better than its working price, such order has already demonstrated a public willingness to trade at a more aggressive price because it continues to be published in a market data feed at the more aggressive display price.⁸ In such case, the order should receive the benefit of the ranking (both price and priority category) associated with its better display price when determining how that order would be traded at its working price. In other words, an odd-lot order with a better display price than its working price would not be ranked based on its working price, including that it would not be assigned Priority 3 – Non-Display Orders at its working price.

⁵ Pursuant to Rule 7.38E(b)(1), on arrival, an odd lot order’s working price may be adjusted consistent with the terms of the order. However, an arriving odd-lot order would not be assigned a working price that would be inferior to the price at which the arriving odd lot order would be displayed.

⁶ As described in Rule 7.36E(c), an order is ranked based on price, priority category, and time. Such ranking is only applicable once an order is resting on the Exchange Book.

⁷ Rule 7.36E(d) provides that all orders are ranked based on the working price of the order. Rule 7.36E(e)(3) generally provides that non-marketable orders for which the working price is not displayed have third priority behind Market Orders and non-marketable Limit Orders that are displayed at their working price. This proposed rule change would be an exception to these rules.

⁸ See Rule 7.36E(b)(1) (odd-lot sized orders are considered displayed for ranking purposes).

The Exchange further believes that if an odd-lot order is assigned a new working price that is worse than its display price, such order should not be assigned a new working time. In other words, when trading at its working price, its time ranking would be based on the working time associated with its display price.⁹ Maintaining the original working time of such order would ensure that it maintains its original ranking, even if it trades at a different price.

To effect this change, the Exchange proposes to amend Rule 7.38E(b)(1) to provide that an odd-lot order ranked Priority 2 – Display Orders would not be assigned a new working time if its working price is adjusted under Rule 7.38E(b)(1). In addition, if the display price of an odd lot order to buy (sell) is above (below) its working price, it would be ranked based on its display price.¹⁰

Because once on Pillar, the Exchange would trade an odd lot order with a display price better than its working price trades in this manner [sic], these changes will be in effect when the Exchange implements Pillar.

⁹ Rule 7.36E(f)(2) provides that an order is assigned a new working time any time the working price of the order changes. This proposed rule change would be an exception to this general rule.

¹⁰ For example, assume the PBBO is 10.07 x 10.10 and the Exchange receives orders ranked Priority 2 – Display Orders in the following sequence: T1 to buy 25 shares displayed at 10.08, T2 to buy 25 shares displayed at 10.09, T3 to buy 25 shares displayed at 10.08, and T4 to buy 100 shares displayed at 10.07. Assume next that the PBO changes to 10.07. The working price of T1, T2, and T3 will be adjusted to 10.07, but they would keep their original working time. Next, the Exchange receives an incoming order to sell 100 shares at 10.07. The Exchange would trade the incoming order with the resting orders in the following sequence: T2, T1, T3, and then T4 would be allocated the remaining 25 shares. T2 would trade before T1 because it has a better price ranking based on its display price. If the incoming order to sell were for 50 shares, only T2 and T1 would trade.

2. Statutory Basis

The proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),¹¹ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5),¹² in particular, because it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

Specifically, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change would remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system because the Exchange believes that an order that has been displayed should receive the benefit of the ranking of that displayed price if it trades at a less aggressive working price. This scenario would only occur if a resting odd-lot order has been displayed at a price, and then an Away Market PBBO crosses that price and then the working price of that order is adjusted to a price inferior to its display price. In such case, while the odd lot order would be executed at its working price, because it was both willing to trade at a better price and is still displayed at that better price, the Exchange proposes that it would be ranked based on its display price for purposes of its execution at the working price. If the PBBO had not crossed the odd-lot order, such order would have had the benefit of the ranking based on its display price and the Exchange believes it would be consistent with the protection of investors and the public for the odd-lot order to retain such ranking when its working price is moved to an inferior price. The Exchange further believes that the proposed rule change would promote fair and orderly markets that would

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

protect investors and the public interest because it would to [sic] promote the display of liquidity by ensuring that a displayed odd lot order maintains its ranking even if it trades at a less aggressive price.

The Exchange further believes that the proposed rule change would remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system because it would promote transparency in Exchange rules and reduce potential confusion regarding how an odd-lot order would be ranked and execute in the limited scenario when the display price of a resting odd lot has been crossed, and it has been assigned a working price inferior to its display price.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is not designed to address any competitive issues but rather to provide an incentive for market participants to enter aggressively-priced displayed liquidity.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time

as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹⁴

A proposed rule change filed pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6) under the Act¹⁵ normally does not become operative for 30 days after the date of its filing. However, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii)¹⁶ permits the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay. The Exchange represents that it anticipates beginning the migration of symbols to Pillar on July 24, 2017. Waiver of the 30-day operative delay would allow the Exchange to implement the proposed rule change concurrently with the commencement of its migration of symbols to Pillar, and thus reduce any potential for confusion of how odd-lot orders would be processed on the new trading platform. Accordingly, the Commission finds that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest and designates the proposal operative upon filing.¹⁷

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). The Commission has waived the requirement under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) that the Exchange provide it with written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and the text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of the filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission.

¹⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

¹⁷ For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

(iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-NYSEMKT-2017-44 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEMKT-2017-44. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet website (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F

Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549 on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEMKT-2017-44 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁸

Jill M. Peterson
Assistant Secretary

¹⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).