

proposes increasing the fees in order to recoup such costs. Further, these changes will make these fee amounts equivalent to corresponding fees on the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("CBOE").<sup>3</sup>

The Exchange also proposes waiving Renewal fees for a six-month period beginning on April 1, 2012. The Renewal fee is assessed to organizations and sole proprietorships that were once C2 Trading Permit Holders but gave up their trading permits, and now want to return. The Exchange proposes waiving the Renewal fee for a six-month period beginning on April 1, 2012 in order to provide an incentive to former C2 Trading Permit Holders to return to C2.

The proposed changes are to take effect April 1, 2012.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.<sup>4</sup> Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,<sup>5</sup> which provides that Exchange rules may provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its Trading Permit Holders and other persons using its facilities. The proposed increases in TPH Application fees are reasonable because such increases are necessary to cover the increased costs of processing such applications and activities. The proposed increases in TPH Application fees are equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because they apply equally to all qualifying market participants. Further, these changes will make these fee amounts equivalent to corresponding fees on CBOE.<sup>6</sup>

The proposed waiver of the Renewal fees for a six-month period beginning on April 1, 2012 is reasonable because it will permit former C2 Trading Permit Holders to avoid having to pay a fee they would otherwise have to pay to return to C2. The proposed waiver of the Renewal fees for a six-month period beginning on April 1, 2012 is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because it will apply equally to all former C2 Trading Permit Holders who wish to return to C2. Moreover, this waiver will encourage former C2 Trading Permit Holders to return to C2, which will in turn bring greater liquidity and more

trading opportunities for all market participants.

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

C2 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.

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

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) <sup>7</sup> of the Act and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4 <sup>8</sup> thereunder. 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 necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

## 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 email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-C2-2012-010 on the subject line.

### Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-C2-2012-010. This file number should be included on the subject line if email 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 Web site (<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 Web site 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 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing will also 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 No. SR-C2-2012-010 and should be submitted on or before April 19, 2012.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>9</sup>

**Kevin M. O'Neill,**  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-7525 Filed 3-28-12; 8:45 am]

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-66645; File No. SR-PHLX-2012-37]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC Relating to the Proprietary Traders Qualification Examination ("Series 56")

March 22, 2012.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") <sup>1</sup>, and Rule 19b-4 <sup>2</sup> thereunder, notice is hereby given that on March 21, 2012, NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC ("Phlx" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been

<sup>3</sup> See CBOE Fees Schedule, Section 11.

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

<sup>6</sup> See Note 3.

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

prepared by the Exchange. 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 is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the content outline and selection specifications for the Proprietary Traders Qualification Examination ("Series 56") program. Phlx will implement the proposal upon notice to its membership.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Web site at <http://www.nasdaqtrader.com/micro.aspx?id=PHLXRulefilings>, 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 Exchange 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 these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

##### **1. Purpose**

Recently, Phlx filed a proposed rule change to recognize a new category of limited representative registration for proprietary traders.<sup>3</sup> Specifically, Phlx will recognize the new registration category "Proprietary Trader" and the new examination, the Series 56. The new Proprietary Trader category would be limited to persons engaged solely in proprietary trading, market making or effecting transactions on behalf of a broker-dealer account.

The Exchange has been working with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") and certain other markets, many of which have recently enhanced their registration requirements to require the registration

of associated persons,<sup>4</sup> to develop the content outline and qualification examination that would be applicable to proprietary traders. The Series 56 examination program is shared by Phlx and the following: Boston Options Exchange; C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated; Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Chicago Stock Exchange, Inc.; International Securities Exchange, LLC; The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; National Stock Exchange, Inc.; New York Stock Exchange LLC; NYSE AMEX LLC; and NYSE ARCA, Inc. FINRA staff convened a committee of industry representatives and staff of the various markets to develop the criteria for the Series 56 examination program.

The Series 56 examination tests a candidate's knowledge of proprietary trading generally and the industry rules applicable to trading of equity securities and listed options contracts. The Series 56 examination covers, among other things, recordkeeping and recording requirements, types and characteristics of securities and investments, trading practices and display execution and trading systems. While the examination is primarily dedicated to topics related to proprietary trading, the Series 56 examination also covers a few general concepts relating to customers.<sup>5</sup>

The qualification examination consists of 100 multiple choice questions. Candidates will have 150 minutes to complete the exam. The content outline describes the following topical sections comprising the examination: Personnel, Business Conduct and Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements, 9 questions; Markets, Market Participants, Exchanges, and Self-Regulatory Organizations, 8 questions; Types and Characteristics of Securities and Investments, 20 questions; Trading Practices and Prohibited Acts, 50 questions; and Display, Execution, and Trading Systems, 13 questions. Representatives from the applicable markets intend to meet on a periodic basis to evaluate and, as necessary, update the Series 56 examination program.

The Exchange understands that the other applicable markets will also file with the Commission similar filings regarding the Series 56 examination program. The Exchange proposes to implement the Series 56 examination

program upon availability in WebCRD, notification to its membership and approval of SR-Phlx-2012-23.

##### **2. Statutory Basis**

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>6</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(c)(3)(B) of the Act,<sup>7</sup> pursuant to which a national securities exchange prescribes standards of training, experience and competence for members and their associated persons, in particular, by offering a new qualification examination for proprietary traders. This filing provides the content outline and relevant specifications for the Series 56 examination program, which should help ensure that all associated persons engaged in a securities business are, and will continue to be, properly trained and qualified to perform their functions.

#### **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 not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

### **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 after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>8</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>9</sup> thereunder.

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 necessary or appropriate in the

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78(c)(3)(B).

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 66497 (March 1, 2012), 77 FR 13668 (March 7, 2012) (SR-Phlx-2012-23).

<sup>4</sup> See e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 63843 (February 4, 2011), 76 FR 7884 (February 11, 2011) (SR-ISE-2010-115); and 63314 (November 12, 2010), 75 FR 70957 (November 19, 2010) (SR-CBOE-2010-084).

<sup>5</sup> Proprietary trading firms do not have customers.

public interest, for the protection of investors, or 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 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 email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-PHLX-2012-37 on the subject line.

##### *Paper Comments*

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-PHLX-2012-37. This file number should be included on the subject line if email 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 Web site (<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 Web site 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 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal offices 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-PHLX-

2012-37, and should be submitted on or before April 19, 2012.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>10</sup>

**Kevin M. O'Neill,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-66652; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2012-038]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; the NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Amend Rule 4120

March 23, 2012.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on March 19, 2012, The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("NASDAQ" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. 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

NASDAQ is proposing to amend Rule 4120 to adopt a modification in the process for initiating trading of a security that is the subject of an initial public offering (an "IPO") on NASDAQ. The text of the proposed rule change is available at <http://nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com/>, at the Exchange's principal office, on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.sec.gov/>, 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 Exchange 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 these statements may be examined at the

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

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

##### 1. Purpose

NASDAQ is proposing to make a minor modification to its process for commencing trading of a security that is the subject of an IPO on NASDAQ. Rule 4120(a)(7) provides that trading in an IPO security is halted until the security is released for trading. Rule 4120(c)(7)(B) establishes the process for lifting the halt and commencing trading. Under that rule, prior to terminating the halt, there is a 15-minute Display-Only Period during which market participants may enter quotes and orders into the NASDAQ Market Center. At the conclusion of the Display-Only Period, trading commences through the halt cross process provided for in Rule 4753. However, if at the end of a Display-Only Period, NASDAQ detects an order imbalance in the security, the halt may be extended for up to six additional Display-Only Periods of five minutes each.

Under the current process, quotes and orders in the IPO security may not be entered until the commencement of the Display-Only Period. However, NASDAQ believes that the quality of its process for commencing IPO trading would be enhanced by allowing market participants to begin entering orders at 7 a.m., to be held and not displayed until the beginning of the Display-Only Period. Specifically, NASDAQ believes that this change will provide for a greater number of orders being entered prior to commencement of trading, resulting in a higher level of order interaction at the open.

To effect this change, NASDAQ proposes amending Rule 4120(c)(7)(B) to provide that beginning at 7 a.m., market participants may enter Market Hours Day Orders ("MDAY Orders") in a security that is the subject of an IPO on NASDAQ and designate such orders to be held until the beginning of the Display-Only Period. Such orders will be held in an undisplayed state until the beginning of the Display-Only Period, at which time they will be entered into the system. Market participants may cancel orders entered in this manner in the same way they would cancel any other order. Orders entered prior to the Display-Only Period will be cancelled

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.