

Rule 17Ad-22(b)(2)<sup>20</sup> requires registered clearing agencies, among other things, to establish, implement, maintain, and enforce written policies and procedures reasonably designed to use margin requirements to limit its credit exposures to participants under normal market conditions and use risk-based models and parameters to set margin requirements.

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 17A of the Act<sup>21</sup> and the rules thereunder applicable to OCC. The proposal will integrate new pricing models into the STANS methodology to accommodate the manner in which the exercise settlement amount for Asian Options and Cliquet Options is determined. The Commission believes these changes are designed to enable OCC to accurately compute margin requirements for Asian Option and Cliquet Option positions through its STANS methodology, therefore reducing the risk that clearing member margin assets would be insufficient should OCC need to use such assets to close-out the positions of a defaulted clearing member. The Commission therefore believes that the proposed rule change is reasonably designed to limit OCC's credit exposures to participants under normal market conditions and use risk-based models and parameters to set margin requirements, consistent with the requirements of Rule 17Ad-22(b)(2).<sup>22</sup> Accordingly, the Commission believes that the proposed rule change is designed to assure the safeguarding of securities and funds in OCC's custody or control or for which it is responsible, consistent with section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act.<sup>23</sup>

#### IV. Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with the requirements of the Act and in particular with the requirements of section 17A of the Act<sup>24</sup> and the rules and regulations thereunder.

*It is therefore ordered*, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>25</sup> that the proposed rule change (File No. SR-OCC-2015-010) be, and hereby is, approved.<sup>26</sup>

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>27</sup>

**Jill M. Peterson,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-75422; File No. SR-BATS-2015-52]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; BATS Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Related to Fees for Use of BATS Exchange, Inc.

July 10, 2015.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on July 1, 2015, BATS Exchange, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "BATS") 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 Exchange has designated the proposed rule change as one establishing or changing a member due, fee, or other charge imposed by the Exchange under section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act<sup>3</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder,<sup>4</sup> which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing with the Commission. 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 filed a proposal to amend its fees and rebates applicable to Members<sup>5</sup> of the Exchange pursuant to Rule 15.1(a) and (c).

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange's Web site at [www.batstrading.com](http://www.batstrading.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 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 parts of such statements.

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

###### 1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to modify the "Options Pricing" section of its fee schedule, effective immediately, in order to modify pricing charged by the Exchange's options platform ("BATS Options") including: (i) Amend footnote 2 to remove Professional<sup>6</sup> orders from the Professional and Firm Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers related to the pricing for Professional and Firm<sup>7</sup> orders that add liquidity in Penny Pilot Securities;<sup>8</sup> (ii) further amend footnote 2 to change the standards for meeting Tiers 1 and 2, changing the rebate for Tier 2, and adding a new Tier 3; (iii) amend the standard rebate associated with Fee Code PF for Firm orders that add liquidity in Penny Pilot Securities; (iv) create a new Fee Code NF for Firm orders that add liquidity in non-Penny Pilot Securities; (v) create a new footnote 8 titled "Firm Non-Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers;" (vi) add a new Tier 3 to the Market Maker Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers; (vii) amend the fees that the Exchange charges for orders routed by the Exchange for execution at other venues, including those associated with Fee Codes 2C, CC, CF, HF, and OF; and (viii) amend the Options Physical Connection Fees for both 1G and 10G physical ports.

###### Professional Orders in Penny Pilot Securities

The Exchange proposes to remove Professional orders from inclusion in the Professional and Firm Penny Pilot

<sup>20</sup> 17 CFR 240.17Ad-22(b)(2).

<sup>21</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

<sup>22</sup> 17 CFR 240.17Ad-22(b)(2).

<sup>23</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).

<sup>24</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

<sup>25</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>26</sup> In approving the proposed rule change, the Commission considered the proposal's impact on efficiency, competition and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

<sup>27</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.

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

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

<sup>5</sup> A Member is defined as "any registered broker or dealer that has been admitted to membership in the Exchange." See Exchange Rule 1.5(n).

<sup>6</sup> "Professional" applies to any transaction identified by a Member as such pursuant to Exchange Rule 16.1.

<sup>7</sup> "Firm" applies to any transaction identified by a Member for clearing in the Firm range at the OCC.

<sup>8</sup> "Penny Pilot Securities" are those issues quoted pursuant to Exchange Rule 21.5, Interpretation and Policy .01.

Add Volume Tiers, which apply to fee codes PA and PF. Currently, the Exchange provides a standard rebate of \$0.40 per contract under Fee Code PA for Professional orders that add liquidity in Penny Pilot Securities and an enhanced rebate of \$0.42 per contract for each Professional or Firm order that adds liquidity in Penny Pilot Securities and meets the requirements for either Tier 1 or Tier 2 of the Professional and Firm Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers. Specifically, the Exchange is proposing to eliminate Professional orders from the Professional and Firm Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers such that Professional orders subject to Fee Code PA would not be eligible for enhanced rebates under footnote 2. Such orders would remain eligible to receive enhanced rebates under footnotes 4 (NBBO Setter Tiers) and 5 (Quoting Incentive Program Tiers).

#### Firm Orders That Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers

The Exchange is proposing to make several changes to the Firm Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers. First, the Exchange is proposing to change the standard rebate associated with Fee Code PF for Firm orders that add liquidity in Penny Pilot Securities from \$0.40 per contract to \$0.36 per contract. The Exchange is also proposing to change the rebate for Firm orders in Penny Pilot Securities for Members that meet Tier 1 of the Firm Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers from \$0.42 per contract to \$0.40 per contract.

The Exchange is also proposing to amend the standards required to meet Tiers 1 and 2 of the Firm Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers. Currently, a Member qualifies for Tier 1 where the Member has an Options Step-up Add TCV<sup>9</sup> from June 2014 baseline equal to or greater than 0.50% and qualifies for Tier 2 where the Member has: (i) An Options Step-Up Add TCV from September 2014 baseline equal to or greater than 0.30%; and (ii) an ADV<sup>10</sup> equal to or greater than 0.40% of average TCV.<sup>11</sup> Specifically, the Exchange is proposing to change the Tier 1 required criteria such that a Member qualifies for Tier 1 where the Member has an ADV equal to

or greater than 0.30% of average TCV. The Exchange is also proposing to change the Tier 2 required criteria such that a Member qualifies for Tier 2 where the Member has an ADV equal to or greater than 1.00% of average TCV.

The Exchange is also proposing to add an additional tier to the Firm Penny Pilot Add Volume Tier under footnote 2 of the fee schedule. As described above, the Exchange currently offers two tiers under the Firm Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers. The Exchange is proposing to add Tier 3 under which Members would receive a \$0.43 per contract rebate for Firm orders that add liquidity in Penny Pilot Securities where the Member: (i) Has an ADAV<sup>12</sup> in Firm orders in Penny Pilot Securities equal to or greater than 0.35% of average TCV; and (ii) has an ADV equal to or greater than 1.00% of average TCV.

#### Firm Orders That Add Liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Securities

The Exchange is proposing to make two changes to its fee schedule regarding Firm orders that add liquidity in non-Penny Pilot Securities. First, the Exchange is proposing to create a new Fee Code NF which would apply to Firm orders that add liquidity in non-Penny Pilot Securities and for which the standard pricing would be a \$0.40 rebate per contract. As part of this change, the Exchange is also proposing to delete the reference to "Firm" in Fee Code NA, which currently applies to both Professional and Firm orders that add liquidity in non-Penny Pilot Securities, which are subject to a standard rebate of \$0.65 per contract. Like Fee Code NA, as proposed, orders yielding Fee Code NF would be eligible for enhanced rebates under the NBBO Setter Tiers and the Quoting Incentive Program Tiers.

The Exchange is also proposing to add a new footnote 8 titled "Firm Non-Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers" under which there would be three new tiers offering enhanced rebates for Firm orders that add liquidity in non-Penny Pilot Securities. Specifically, as proposed, the tiers would provide the following rebates under the following conditions for Firm orders that add volume in non-Penny Pilot Securities: Tier 1 would provide a \$0.50 rebate per contract to a Member that has an ADV equal to or greater than 0.05% of average TCV; Tier 2 would provide a \$0.60 rebate per contract to a Member that has an ADV equal to or greater than 0.15% of average TCV; and Tier 3 would

provide a \$0.65 rebate per contract to Member that has an ADV equal to or greater than 0.25% of average TCV.

#### Market Maker Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers

The Exchange is proposing to add a new Tier 3 to the Market Maker Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers in order to provide another means for Market Maker orders in Penny Pilot Securities to receive a rebate of \$0.42 per contract. Currently, the standard rebate for Market Maker orders in Penny Pilot Securities is \$0.36 per contract. Such orders can receive an enhanced rebate of \$0.40 by meeting Tier 1 of the Market Maker Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers or \$0.42 by meeting Tier 2 of such Tiers. The Exchange is proposing to add a new Tier 3 under which a Member would receive \$0.42 per contract where: (i) The Member has an ADAV in Firm orders in Penny Pilot Securities (orders that yield Fee Code PF) equal to or greater than 0.35% of average TCV; and (ii) the Member has an ADV equal to or greater than 1.00% of average TCV.

#### Routing Fee Changes

The Exchange currently charges certain flat rates for routing to other options exchanges based on the approximate cost of routing to such venues. Such flat rates for routing to such options exchanges is based on the cost of transaction fees assessed by each venue as well as costs to the Exchange for routing (*i.e.*, clearing fees, connectivity and other infrastructure costs, membership fees, etc.) (collectively, "Routing Costs"). To address different fees at various other options exchanges, the Exchange differentiates its flat rates depending on whether they are for Customer orders or for Professional, Firm, and Market Maker<sup>13</sup> orders (collectively, "non-Customer orders").

As noted previously and as set forth above, the Exchange's current approach to routing fees is to set forth in a simple manner certain flat fees that approximate the cost of routing to other options exchanges. The Exchange then monitors the fees charged as compared to the costs of its routing services, as well as monitoring for specific fee changes by other options exchanges, and adjusts its flat routing fees and/or groupings to ensure that the Exchange's fees do indeed result in a rough approximation of overall Routing Costs, and are not significantly higher or lower

<sup>9</sup> "Options Step-Up Add TCV" means ADAV as a percentage of TCV in the relevant baseline month subtracted from current ADAV as a percentage of TCV.

<sup>10</sup> "ADV" means average daily volume calculated as the number of contracts added or removed, combined, per day.

<sup>11</sup> "TCV" means total consolidated volume calculated as the volume reported by all exchanges to the consolidated transaction reporting plan for the month for which the fees apply, excluding volume on any day that the Exchange experiences an Exchange System Disruption and on any day with a scheduled early market close.

<sup>12</sup> "ADAV" means average daily added volume calculated as the number of contracts added per day.

<sup>13</sup> As defined on the Exchange's fee schedule, the terms "Firm" and "Market Maker" apply to any transaction identified by a member for clearing in the Firm or Market Maker range, respectively, at the Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC").

in any area. Over the last several months, due to various increases in fees assessed by other options exchanges, the Exchange's overall Routing Costs have increased. As a result, and in order to avoid subsidizing routing to away options exchanges and to continue providing quality routing services, the Exchange proposes various increases to the charges assessed for most orders routed to most options exchanges, as set forth below.

The Exchange is proposing to amend the fees that the Exchange charges for orders routed by the Exchange for execution at other venues, including those associated with Fee Codes 2C, CC, CF, HF, and OF. The Exchange is proposing to amend the fees for those Fee Codes as follows: From \$0.00 to \$0.47 per contract for orders yielding Fee Code 2C, which are Customer orders routed to C2 Options Exchange, Inc. ("C2"); from \$0.12 to \$0.13 per contract for orders yielding Fee Code CC, which are Customer orders routed to Chicago Board Options Exchange ("CBOE"); from \$0.65 to \$0.75 per contract for orders yielding Fee Code CF, which are Professional, Firm, or Market Maker orders routed to CBOE; from \$0.65 to \$0.70 per contract for orders yielding Fee Code HF, which are Professional, Firm, or Market Maker orders routed to NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC ("PHLX"); and from \$0.65 to \$0.99 for orders yielding Fee Code OF, which are Professional, Firm, or Market Maker orders routed to BOX Options Exchange, LLC ("BOX"). The Exchange notes that certain of the above changes are being proposed in order to maintain a simple, flat fee structure for routing to other venues in both Penny Pilot Securities and non-Penny Pilot Securities.

#### Physical Connection Fees

The Exchange proposes to amend its fee schedule to modify its fees for physical connectivity. A physical port is utilized by a Member or non-Member to connect to the Exchange at the data centers where the Exchange's servers are located. The Exchange currently maintains a presence in two third-party data centers: (i) The primary data center where the Exchange's business is primarily conducted on a daily basis, and (ii) a secondary data center, which is predominantly maintained for business continuity purposes. The Exchange currently assesses the following physical connectivity fees for Members and non-Members on a monthly basis: \$1,000 per physical port that connects to the System<sup>14</sup> via 1

gigabyte circuit; and \$2,500 per physical port that connects to the System via 10 gigabyte circuit.

The Exchange now proposes to amend its physical connectivity fees to align its fees with its affiliates.<sup>15</sup> The Exchange proposes to increase the fee per physical port that connects to the System via: (i) 1 gigabyte circuit from \$1,000 per month to \$2,000 per month; and (ii) 10 gigabyte circuit from \$2,500 per month to \$4,000 per month.

#### Effectiveness Date

As noted above, the Exchange proposes to implement the amendments to its fee schedule effective immediately.

#### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder that are applicable to a national securities exchange, and, in particular, with the requirements of section 6 of the Act.<sup>16</sup> Specifically, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with section 6(b)(4) of the Act,<sup>17</sup> in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and other persons using any facility or system which the Exchange operates or controls. The Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels to be excessive.

Volume-based rebates and fees such as the ones currently maintained on BATS Options have been widely adopted by equities and options exchanges and are equitable because they are open to all Members on an equal basis and provide additional benefits or discounts that are reasonably related to the value to an exchange's market quality associated with higher levels of market activity, such as higher levels of liquidity provision and/or growth patterns, and introduction of

designated by the Board through which securities orders of Users are consolidated for ranking, execution and, when applicable, routing away." See Exchange Rule 1.5(cc).

<sup>15</sup> For purposes of this filing, the Exchange's affiliates are EDGX Exchange, Inc. ("EDGX"), EDGA Exchange, Inc. ("EDGA"), the Exchange's equity exchange ("BATS Equities") and BATS Y-Exchange, Inc. ("BYX", together with BATS Equities, EDGA and EDGX, the "BATS Exchanges"). The Exchange notes that each of its affiliates will also file proposed rule changes with Commission to adopt similar physical connectivity fees to be effective July 1, 2015.

<sup>16</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f.

<sup>17</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

higher volumes of orders into the price and volume discovery processes.

#### Professional Orders in Penny Pilot Securities

The Exchange believes the proposed removal of Professional orders in Penny Pilot Securities that add liquidity from the Professional and Firm Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers is a reasonable, fair and equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory allocation of fees and rebates because, while Members entering such orders will not be eligible for the \$0.02 per contract enhanced rebate that they would have potentially been eligible to receive under the tiers (\$0.42 per contract vs. \$0.40 per contract standard rebate for Fee Code PA), such Members will still be eligible for enhanced rebates through both the NBBO Setter Tiers (up to an additional \$0.04 per contract) and the Quoting Incentive Program Tiers (also up to an additional \$0.04 per contract). Further, such a reduction in rebates will allow the Exchange to allocate fees and rebates to other orders in order to encourage increased participation on BATS Options, which the Exchange believes will result in higher levels of liquidity provision and introduction of higher volumes of orders into the price and volume discovery processes, which will benefit all participants on BATS Options.

#### Firm Orders That Add Liquidity in Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers

The Exchange also believes that the proposed amendments to the fee schedule related to Firm orders in Penny Pilot Securities related to the standard rebate under Fee Code PF and the proposed amendments to footnote 2, including to reduce the rebate for Tier 1, add a new tier, and amend the standards for Tiers 1 and 2 is a reasonable, fair and equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory allocation of fees and rebates because it will provide Members entering Firm orders with the opportunity to receive higher rebates while simultaneously encouraging greater participation on BATS Options, which, as described above the Exchange believes will result in higher levels of liquidity provision and introduction of higher volumes of orders into the price and volume discovery processes, which will benefit all participants on BATS Options. Specifically, the Exchange believes that the reduction of the standard rebate associated with Fee Code PF combined with the amended and lowered standard for meeting Tier 1 of the Firm Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers is a reasonable, fair and equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory

<sup>14</sup> The term "System" is defined as "the electronic communications and trading facility

allocation of fees and rebates because, in conjunction, they will both provide Members with a reasonably achievable threshold for receiving the same rebate as they do today while at the same time encouraging and rewarding higher levels of participation on the Exchange overall. The Exchange also believes that amending the standard for meeting Tier 2 is a reasonable, fair and equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory allocation of fees and rebates because it will similarly encourage increased participation on the Exchange by offering a rebate that applies equally to all Members without regard to prior trading volumes. Such rebate will encourage greater general participation on the Exchange, which will result in higher levels of liquidity provision and introduction of higher volumes of orders into the price and volume discovery processes, which will benefit all participants on BATS Options. Finally, the Exchange believes that proposed Tier 3 is a reasonable, fair and equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory allocation of fees and rebates because the second of its two requirements (that a Member has an ADV equal to or greater than 1.00% of average TCV) is identical to the only requirement for meeting Tier 2, meaning that any Member that meets Tier 2 will only need to meet the additional requirement that a Member has an ADAV in Firm orders in Penny Pilot Securities equal to or greater than 0.35% of average TCV in order to receive the enhanced rebate. This will provide a direct incentive for any Member that meets Tier 2 to further increase participation in Firm orders in Penny Pilot Securities and, as with each of the proposed changes mentioned in this paragraph, will encourage greater participation on the Exchange, which will result in higher levels of liquidity provision and introduction of higher volumes of orders into the price and volume discovery processes, which will benefit all participants on BATS Options.

#### Firm Orders That Add Liquidity in Non-Penny Pilot Securities

The Exchange believes that the amendments for Firm orders that add liquidity in non-Penny Pilot Securities mark a reasonable, fair and equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory allocation of fees and rebates because while the new Fee Code NF and the associated standard rebate marks a reduction in rebate (from \$0.65 per contract to \$0.40 per contract), under the new Firm Non-Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers, Members will be eligible to receive an enhanced rebate (\$0.50 per contract) by meeting a relatively low

threshold of ADV as a percentage of TCV (0.05%), will receive a further enhanced rebate (\$0.60 per contract) by meeting Tier 2 (0.15% ADV as a percentage of TCV), or receive the same rebate that they currently receive (\$0.65 per contract) by meeting Tier 3 (0.25% of average TCV). Further, the proposed standard rebate is still higher than those offered at NOM and NYSE Arca, Inc., which each charge fees for Firm orders that add liquidity in non-Penny Pilot Securities. The Exchange believes that such a fee structure will provide Members with the ability to receive reasonable rebates while strongly encouraging Members to increase their participation on the Exchange. Such increased participation on BATS Options will result in higher levels of liquidity provision and introduction of higher volumes of orders into the price and volume discovery processes, which will benefit all participants on BATS Options.

#### Market Maker Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers

The Exchange believes that the addition of Tier 3 to the Market Maker Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers is a reasonable, fair and equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory allocation of fees and rebates because it provides an opportunity for Market Maker orders that add liquidity in Penny Pilot Securities with an alternate means of achieving the current maximum rebate of \$0.42 per contract and only represents a potential increase in rebates for such orders. The inclusion of the requirement that a Member has an ADAV in Firm orders in Penny Pilot Securities equal to or greater than 0.35% is designed to incentivize Members to increase their participation on the Exchange in organizational order flow beyond just Market Maker orders. Further, this enhanced rebate will incentivize increased participation on BATS Options both through the enhanced rebate itself and the required criteria for a Member to become eligible for the enhanced rebate. Such increased participation on BATS Options will result in higher levels of liquidity provision and introduction of higher volumes of orders into the price and volume discovery processes, which will benefit all participants on BATS Options.

#### Routing Fee Changes

As explained above, the Exchange generally attempts to approximate the cost of routing to other options exchanges, including other applicable costs to the Exchange for routing. The Exchange believes that a pricing model

based on approximate Routing Costs is a reasonable, fair and equitable approach to pricing. Specifically, the Exchange believes that its proposal to modify fees is fair, equitable and reasonable because the fees are generally an approximation of the cost to the Exchange for routing orders to such exchanges, and the proposal is in response to various increases in fees assessed by other options exchanges. Accordingly, the Exchange believes that the proposed increases are fair, equitable and reasonable because they will help the Exchange to avoid subsidizing routing to away options exchanges and to continue providing quality routing services. The Exchange believes that its flat fee structure for orders routed to various venues is a fair and equitable approach to pricing, as it provides certainty with respect to execution fees at groups of away options exchanges. Under its flat fee structure, taking all costs to the Exchange into account, the Exchange may operate at a slight gain or slight loss for orders routed to and executed at away options exchanges. As a general matter, the Exchange believes that the proposed fees will allow it to recoup and cover its costs of providing routing services to such exchanges. The Exchange also believes that the proposed fee structure for orders routed to and executed at these away options exchanges is fair and equitable and not unreasonably discriminatory in that it applies equally to all Members.

#### Physical Connection Fees

The Exchange believes that the proposal represents an equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges as its fees for physical connectivity are reasonably constrained by competitive alternatives. If a particular exchange charges excessive fees for connectivity, affected Members and non-Members may opt to terminate their connectivity arrangements with that exchange, and adopt a possible range of alternative strategies, including routing to the applicable exchange through another participant or market center or taking that exchange's data indirectly. Accordingly, if the Exchange charges excessive fees, it would stand to lose not only connectivity revenues but also revenues associated with the execution of orders routed to it, and, to the extent applicable, market data revenues. The Exchange believes that this competitive dynamic imposes powerful restraints on the ability of any exchange to charge unreasonable fees for connectivity.

Furthermore, the proposed rule change is also an equitable allocation of

reasonable dues, fees, and other charges as the Exchange believes that the increased fees obtained will enable it to cover its increased infrastructure costs associated with establishing physical ports to connect to the Exchange's Systems. The additional revenue from the increased fees will also enable the Exchange to continue to maintain and improve its market technology and services. The Exchange believes that the proposed fees for 1 gigabyte circuit of \$2,000 per month and for 10 gigabyte circuit of \$4,000 per month are reasonable in that they are less than analogous fees charged by the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq"), which are \$2,500 per month for 1 gigabyte connectivity and range from \$10,000–\$15,000 per month for 10 gigabyte circuits.<sup>18</sup> In addition, the Exchange proposed physical connectivity fees are designed to align the Exchange's fees with its affiliates.<sup>19</sup>

Finally, the Exchange believes that the proposed rates are equitable and non-discriminatory in that they apply uniformly to all Members and non-Members. Members and non-Members will continue to choose whether they want more than one physical port and choose the method of connectivity based on their specific needs. All Exchange Members that voluntarily select various service options will be charged the same amount for the same services. As is true of all physical connectivity, all Members and non-Members have the option to select any connectivity option, and there is no differentiation with regard to the fees charged for the service.

The Exchange reiterates that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels to be excessive.

#### *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. With respect to the proposed changes to fees for Professional and Firm orders that add liquidity in Penny Pilot Securities, including the proposed changes to the Professional and Firm Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers, the Exchange does not believe that any such changes burden competition, but instead, that they enhance competition, as they are intended to increase the

competitiveness of and draw additional volume to BATS Options.

Similarly, with respect to the proposed new fees for Firm orders that add liquidity in non-Penny Pilot Securities, including both new Fee Code NF and new Firm Non-Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers, the Exchange does not believe that any such changes burden competition, but instead, that they enhance competition, as they are intended to increase the competitiveness of and draw additional volume to BATS Options.

With respect to the proposed new Tier 3 of the Market Maker Penny Pilot Add Volume Tiers, the Exchange similarly believes that the changes do not burden competition, but rather allow the Exchange to better compete and are intended to draw additional volume to BATS Options.

As it relates to the proposed routing fee changes, the proposed changes will assist the Exchange in recouping costs for routing orders to other options exchanges on behalf of its participants in a manner that is a better approximation of actual costs than is currently in place and that reflects pricing changes by various options exchanges as well as increases to other Routing Costs incurred by the Exchange. The Exchange also notes that Members may choose to mark their orders as ineligible for routing to avoid incurring routing fees.<sup>20</sup>

Finally, as it relates to physical connection fees, the Exchange believes that fees for connectivity are constrained by the robust competition for order flow among exchanges and non-exchange markets. Further, excessive fees for connectivity, including port fee access, would serve to impair an exchange's ability to compete for order flow rather than burdening competition. The proposal to increase the fees for physical connectivity would bring the fees charged by the Exchange closer to similar fees charged for physical connectivity by other exchanges.<sup>21</sup> In addition, the proposed rule change does not impose any burden on intramarket competition as the fees are uniform for all Members and non-Members. The Exchange notes that Members and non-Members also have the ability to obtain access to these services without the need for an independent physical port connection, such as through alternative means of financial extranets and service

bureaus that act as a conduit for orders entered by Members and non-Members.

As stated above, the Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if the deem fee structures to be unreasonable or excessive.

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

The Exchange has not solicited, and does not intend to solicit, comments on this proposed rule change. The Exchange has not received any written comments from members or other interested parties.

### **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) of the Act<sup>22</sup> and paragraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.<sup>23</sup> 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. 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-BATS-2015-52 on the subject line.

#### *Paper Comments*

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.
- All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BATS-2015-52. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the

<sup>20</sup> See BATS Rule 21.1(d)(8) (describing "BATS Only" orders for BATS Options) and BATS Rule 21.9(a)(1) (describing the BATS Options routing process, which requires orders to be designated as available for routing).

<sup>21</sup> See *supra* note 18.

<sup>22</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>23</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

<sup>18</sup> See Nasdaq Rule 7034(b).

<sup>19</sup> See *supra* note 15.

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 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 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 Number SR-BATS-2015-52 and should be submitted on or before August 6, 2015.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>24</sup>

**Jill M. Peterson,**  
Assistant Secretary.

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-75426; File No. SR-ICEEU-2015-010]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; ICE Clear Europe Limited; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Credit Default Swap Risk Policies

July 10, 2015.

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 June 25, 2015, ICE Clear Europe Limited ("ICE Clear Europe" or the "Clearing House") 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 primarily prepared by ICE Clear Europe. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed changes to the rules from interested persons.

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

ICE Clear Europe proposes to amend certain of its credit default swap ("CDS") risk policies (the "Risk Policy Amendments") in order to enhance its current risk model.

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

In its filing with the Commission, ICE Clear Europe included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. ICE Clear Europe 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

The principal purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend certain ICE Clear Europe risk policies relating to the CDS product category to incorporate enhancements to the existing CDS risk model. The relevant policies being modified are the CDS Risk Policy ("CDS Risk Policy") and the CDS Risk Model Description ("Risk Model Description"). ICE Clear Europe does not propose to make any changes to its Clearing Rules or Procedures in connection with these amendments.

The proposed rule change would, among other matters, (i) modify the credit spread response component of the risk model to devolatilize returns, (ii) enhance the portfolio spread response component of the risk model to limit procyclicality, (iii) establish a new framework for recovery rate sensitivity requirement ("RRSR") parameters, (iv) modify the CDS Guaranty Fund allocation methodology, (v) modify index liquidity and concentration charges and (vi) revise procedures for intraday margin calls. The Risk Policy Amendments also include certain other clarifications and conforming changes.

The following is a summary of the principal changes in the Risk Policy Amendments:

*Devolatilization of Credit Spread Response.* Under the revised Risk Model

Description, the credit spread response component of the margin model would be revised to provide that the tail estimation of the relevant fitted returns distribution is based on devolatilized returns. The use of devolatilized returns in this manner facilitates the comparison of returns for periods with different volatilities.

*Procyclicality of Portfolio Spread Response.* In order to limit procyclicality of the spread response component of the model, ICE Clear Europe proposes to modify the CDS Risk Policy and Risk Model Description to use an additional portfolio analysis that features price changes observed during and immediately after the Lehman Brothers default. The analysis considers price scenarios derived from the greatest price decrease and increase during and immediately after the Lehman Brothers default. These scenarios are designed to capture the default of a major participant in the credit market and the market response to the event. The introduced scenarios are defined in price terms to maintain the stress severity during periods of low credit spread levels (high price) when the spread response requirements, computed under the current framework, are expected to be lower. Furthermore, the Lehman default price scenarios are also incorporated into the calculation of CDS Guaranty Fund requirements.<sup>3</sup>

#### Recovery Rate Sensitivity Requirements

ICE Clear Europe proposes to revise the Risk Model Description to incorporate a more sensitive parameter estimation approach for the RRSR computation. The RRSR factor is designed to capture the risk of fluctuations in market expected recovery rates under CDS transactions. Under the current model, the RRSR is determined using fixed minimum and maximum recovery rate stress scenarios based on sector levels. In calculating the RRSR, all instruments belonging to a risk factor ("RF") or risk sub-factor ("RSF") are subjected to recovery rate stress scenarios to obtain resulting profit/loss responses, and the worst scenario response is chosen for the estimation of the RRSR. (In addition, these same recovery rate stress scenarios

<sup>3</sup> This enhancement also addresses a regulatory requirement in Article 30 of the Regulatory Technical Standards implementing the European Market Infrastructure Regulations ("EMIR"). Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 153/2013 of 19 December 2012 Supplementing Regulation (EU) No. 648/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to Regulatory Technical Standards on Requirements for Central Counterparties (the "Regulatory Technical Standards").

<sup>24</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.