

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-82546; File No. SR-CboeBZX-2018-002)

January 19, 2018

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Harmonize the Definition of Non-Professional User in its Fee Schedule with that of its Affiliates

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on January 17, 2018, Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “BZX”) 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 Exchange. The Exchange has designated this proposal as a “non-controversial” proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) thereunder,⁴ which renders it 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 the Market Data section of its fee schedule to harmonize the definition of “Non-Professional User” with that of its affiliates, Cboe Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe”) and Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc. (“C2”).

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange’s website at www.markets.cboe.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

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 amend the Market Data section of its fee schedule to harmonize the definition of “Non-Professional User” with that of its affiliates, Cboe and C2. In late 2016, the Exchange and its affiliates Cboe EDGA Exchange, Inc. (“EDGA”), Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc. (“BYX”), and Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (“EDGX”) received approval to effect a merger (the “Merger”) of the Exchange’s parent company, Bats Global Markets, Inc., the parent of EDGA, EDGX, BYX, and BZX with CBOE Holding, Inc. (now known as Cboe Global Markets, Inc.) the parent company of Cboe and C2.⁵ In order to provide consistent rules and terminology amongst the Exchange, Cboe, and C2, the Exchange proposes to amend the definition of “Non-Professional User” to harmonize it with that of its affiliates, Cboe and C2. The BZX Option’s fee schedule currently defines “Non-Professional User” as:

“a natural person who is not: (i) registered or qualified in any capacity with the Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, any state securities

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79585 (December 16, 2016), 82 FR 6961 (December 22, 2016) (SR-BatsEDGX-2016-60; SR-BatsEDGA-2016-24; SR-BatsBYX-2017-29; and SR-BatsBYX-2016-68).

agency, any securities exchange or association, or any commodities or futures contract market or association; (ii) engaged as an “investment adviser” as that term is defined in Section 202(a)(11) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (whether or not registered or qualified under that Act); or (iii) employed by a bank or other organization exempt from registration under federal or state securities laws to perform functions that would require registration or qualification if such functions were performed for an organization not so exempt.”

As amended, “Non-Professional User” would be defined as:

a natural person or qualifying trust that uses Data only for personal purposes and not for any commercial purpose and, for a natural person who works in the United States, is not: (i) registered or qualified in any capacity with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, any state securities agency, any securities exchange or association, or any commodities or futures contract market or association; (ii) engaged as an “investment adviser” as that term is defined in Section 202(a)(11) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (whether or not registered or qualified under that Act); or (iii) employed by a bank or other organization exempt from registration under federal or state securities laws to perform functions that would require registration or qualification if such functions were performed for an organization not so exempt; or, for a natural person who works outside of the United States, does not perform the same functions as would disqualify such person as a Non-Professional User if he or she worked in the United States.

The revised definition is substantially identical to the definition of “Non-Professional

User' included within the Cboe and C2 fee schedules.⁶ The Exchange's current definition of "Non-Professional User" does differ from that contained in the Cboe and C2 fee schedules in following minor, non-substantive ways. First, the harmonized definition will make clear that a Non-Professional User may be a natural person or qualifying trust that uses Data only for personal purposes and not for any commercial purpose. To date, the Exchange is not aware of any entity that receives an Exchange market data product would be deemed a qualifying trust and, therefore, has not had to determine whether such entity is a Professional or Non-Professional User under the prior definition. Second, the harmonized definition would specify that a natural person who works outside of the United States would not be deemed a Non-Professional User where that person does not perform the same functions as would disqualify such person as a Non-Professional User if he or she worked in the United States. The definition with regard to natural persons who work in the United States are substantively identical amongst the old and harmonized definition.

None of these differences impact the manner in which the Exchange would characterize a User and a Professional or Non-Professional. The harmonized definition would provide additional specificity while harmonizing the definition with that of its affiliates. Doing so would ensure consistent terms amongst the Exchange and its affiliates, thereby reducing the potential for confusion amongst market data subscribers regarding the type of User they may be considered by the Exchange.

⁶ See the Cboe fee schedule available at https://www.cboe.org/general-info/pdf/framed?content=/publish/mdxfees/cboe-cds-fees-schedule-for-cboe-datafeeds.pdf§ion=SEC_MDX_CSM&title=Cboe%20CDS%20Fees%20Schedule and the C2 fee schedule available at https://www.cboe.org/general-info/pdf/framed?content=/publish/mdxfees/c2-cds-fees-schedule.pdf§ion=SEC_MDX_CSM&title=C2%20CDS%20Fees%20Schedule.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the objectives of Section 6 of the Act,⁷ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act⁸ in particular, in that it is designed 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. The harmonized definition of Non-Professional User is equitable, reasonable, and removes impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system it would provide additional specificity while harmonizing the definition with that of its affiliates. Doing so would ensure consistent terms amongst the Exchange and its affiliates, thereby reducing the potential for confusion amongst market data subscribers regarding the type of User they may be considered by the Exchange.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended. The harmonized definition of Non-Professional User would have no impact on competition because it does not materially alter the definition.

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

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

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

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)(iii) of the Act⁹ and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹⁰ 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, along with a brief description and text of 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.

In its filing, the Exchange requested that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay in order to enable the Exchange to immediately ensure consistent use of terms amongst the Exchange and its affiliates, thereby reducing the potential for confusion amongst market data subscribers regarding the type of User they may be considered by the Exchange. The Commission believes that such waiver is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Therefore, the Commission designates the proposed rule change to be operative upon filing. For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has also considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation.¹¹

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

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹¹ See 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 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-CboeBZX-2018-002 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 CboeBZX-2018-002. 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, D.C. 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. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number CboeBZX-2018-002 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.¹²

Eduardo A. Aleman
Assistant Secretary

¹² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).