

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-95994; File No. SR-CboeBZX-2022-049)

October 6, 2022

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Amend Rule 21.17 Concerning Drill-Through Protection and Fat Finger Check

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on October 4, 2022, Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (“Exchange” or “BZX”) 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

Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “BZX Options”) proposes to amend Rule 21.17. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Exchange’s website (http://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule_filings/bzx/), at the Exchange’s Office of the Secretary, 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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 21.17. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend its drill-through protection mechanism and limit order fat finger check.

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 21.17(d) to update the drill-through protection mechanism to provide orders with additional execution opportunities. Pursuant to the current drill-through protection, if a buy (sell) order enters the Book at the conclusion of the opening auction process or would execute or post to the Book at the time of order entry, the System executes the order up to a buffer amount (the Exchange determines the buffer amount on a class and premium basis) above (below) the offer (bid) limit of the opening collar³ or the national best bid (“NBO”) (national best offer (“NBB”)) that existed at the time of order entry, respectively (the “drill-through price”).⁴ The System enters an order (or unexecuted portion) not executed pursuant to the provision in the immediately preceding sentence in the Book with a displayed equal to the drill-through price.⁵ The order (or unexecuted portion) rests in the Book at the drill-through price⁶ until the earlier to occur of its full execution and the end of the duration of a number of consecutive time periods (the

³ See Rule 21.7(a) for the definition of Opening Collars.

⁴ See Rule 21.17(d)(1).

⁵ See Rule 21.17(d)(2).

⁶ The proposed rule change adds “at the drill-through price” in the first sentence of subparagraph (d)(2)(A), which is a nonsubstantive change, as it reflects current functionality and is stated in the introductory paragraph to Rule 21.17(d)(2). The proposed rule change merely includes this detail in the next portion of the rule for additional clarity.

Exchange determines on a class-by-class basis the number of periods, which may not exceed five, and the length of the time period in milliseconds, which may not exceed three seconds).⁷

The proposed rule change amends Rule 21.17(d)(2)(A) to eliminate the concept that there will be a maximum number of time periods and proposes that the order (or unexecuted portion) will rest in the Book at the drill-through price for the duration of consecutive time periods.⁸ The proposed rule change makes conforming changes to subparagraph (ii) by deleting references to “the final period” and subparagraph (iv) by deleting the reference to “any remaining time period(s),” as there will no longer be an Exchange-determined limited number of time periods. Currently, as set forth in current subparagraph (i), the drill-through mechanism will continue until the earlier to occur of the order’s full execution and the end of the duration of the Exchange-determined number of time periods. The Exchange proposes to amend subparagraph (iv) to describe when the drill-through process will conclude. Specifically, proposed Rule 21.17(d)(2)(D) provides that the order continues through the process described in subparagraph (ii) (as proposed to be amended) until the earliest of the following to occur: (a) the order fully executes; (b) the User cancels the order; and (c) the order’s limit price equals or is less than (if a buy order) or greater than (if a sell order) the drill-through price at any time during application of the drill-through mechanism, in which case the order rests in the Book at its limit price, subject to a User’s instructions. In other words, the order will continue through consecutive time periods until it fully executes (unless it is cancelled by the User or reaches its limit price prior to full execution), compared to today when the order will continue through consecutive time periods until it fully executes or reaches the Exchange-determined final time period, at which time the order would be cancelled (unless it reaches its limit price prior to full

⁷ See Rule 21.17(d)(2)(A).

⁸ The Exchange will continue to determine on a class-by-class basis the length of the time periods in milliseconds, which may continue to not exceed three seconds.

execution). The Exchange believes eliminating the limit on the number of time periods may increase execution opportunities for limit orders, which will still continue to be bound by their limit prices and protected by the limit order fat finger check.⁹

In addition, the Exchange proposes to amend Rule 21.17(b) to add Limit-on-Close orders¹⁰ to the list of orders to which the limit order fat finger check does not apply. Pursuant to the limit order fat finger check, if a User submits a buy (sell) limit order to the System with a price that is more than a buffer amount above (below) the NBO (NBB), the System cancels or rejects the order.¹¹ Currently, the simple limit order fat finger check does not apply to bulk messages or Stop-Limit Orders.¹² The Exchange proposes to also not apply the limit order fat finger check to Limit-on-Close orders. The limit order fat finger check applies to orders upon entry to the System. However, the limit price of a Limit-on-Close order is intended to relate to the price at the market close, and thus may intentionally be further away from the NBBO at the time the order is entered. This may cause the order to be inadvertently rejected pursuant to this check. The Exchange believes it is not appropriate for this limit order to be subject to the fat

⁹ If a limit price is “too far away” from the market, the order will continue to be subject to the limit order fat finger protection set forth in Rule 21.17(b) and thus will still be subject to protection against a potentially erroneous execution due to an order pricing error upon submission.

¹⁰ A “Limit-on-Close” or “LOC” order is, for an order so designated, a limit order that may not execute on the Exchange until three minutes prior to market close. At that time, the System enters LOC orders into the Book in time sequence (based on the times at which the System initially received them), where they may be processed in accordance with Rule 21.8. The System cancels an LOC order (or unexecuted portion) that does not execute by the market close. Users may not designate bulk messages as LOC. See Rule 21.1(f)(7) (definition of “Limit-on-Close” and “LOC” order).

¹¹ Rule 21.17(a).

¹² Id.

finger check, as the check may inadvertently cause rejections for orders with limit prices that are intentionally “far away” from the market at the time of order entry.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”) and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.¹³ Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)¹⁴ requirements that the rules of an exchange be 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 regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and 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. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)¹⁵ requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

In particular, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change to eliminate the maximum number of time periods for which an order will rest in the Book during application of the drill-through protection mechanism will remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, protect investors, because it will provide orders with additional execution opportunities. These orders may continue to be

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁵ Id.

available on the Book for execution, at a wider range of prices, as opposed to today when such orders are cancelled after a specified number of time periods (depending on the User's instructions and if the order does not reach its limit price prior to the end of those time periods). The Exchange believes these additional execution opportunities will benefit investors that submit such orders and believes such orders will continue to receive protection against potentially erroneous executions, as the limit order fat finger check will continue to apply to them.

Finally, the Exchange believes excluding Limit-on-Close orders from the limit order fat finger check will remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, protect investors, because it may reduce inadvertent rejections of Limit-on-Close orders, which may be purposely priced further away from the NBBO at the time of entry, as their limit prices are intended to relate to price at the market close. Therefore, this proposed rule change may increase execution opportunities for Users that submit Limit-on-Close orders.

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 does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, because the amended drill-through protection mechanism and limit order fat finger check will continue to apply in the same manner to orders of all Users and may lead to increased execution opportunities. The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on intermarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of purposes of the Act, because the proposed rule change relates solely to Exchange risk controls and how the Exchange handles orders subject to those risk controls.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not:

- A. significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest;
- B. impose any significant burden on competition; and
- C. 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 Act¹⁶ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹⁷ 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. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission will 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

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-CboeBZX-2022-049 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-CboeBZX-2022-049. 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 SR-CboeBZX-2022-049 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

J. Lynn Taylor
Assistant Secretary

¹⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).