

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-100629; File No. S7-966)

Program for Allocation of Regulatory Responsibilities Pursuant to Rule 17d-2; Notice of Filing and Order Approving and Declaring Effective an Amendment to the Plan for the Allocation of Regulatory Responsibilities Among Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc., BOX Exchange, LLC, Cboe Exchange, Inc., Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc., Nasdaq ISE, LLC, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC, NYSE American LLC, NYSE Arca, Inc., The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC, Nasdaq BX, Inc., Nasdaq PHLX LLC, Nasdaq GEMX, LLC, Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc., Nasdaq MRX, LLC, MIAX PEARL, LLC, MIAX Emerald, LLC, MIAX Sapphire, LLC and MEMX LLC Concerning Options-Related Sales Practice Matters

Notice is hereby given that the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) has issued an Order, pursuant to Section 17(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),¹ approving and declaring effective an amendment to the plan for allocating regulatory responsibility (“Plan”) filed on July 22, 2024, pursuant to Rule 17d-2 of the Act,² by Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (“BZX”), BOX Exchange, LLC (“BOX”), Cboe Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe”), Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc. (“C2”), Nasdaq ISE, LLC (“ISE”), Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”), Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC (“MIAX”), The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq”), Nasdaq BX, Inc. (“BX”), NYSE American LLC (“NYSE American”), NYSE Arca, Inc. (“NYSE Arca”), Nasdaq PHLX LLC (“PHLX”), Nasdaq GEMX, LLC (“GEMX”), Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (“EDGX”), Nasdaq MRX, LLC (“MRX”), MIAX PEARL, LLC (“MIAX PEARL”), MIAX Emerald, LLC (“MIAX Emerald”), MIAX Sapphire, LLC (“MIAX Sapphire”), and MEMX LLC (“MEMX”) (collectively, “Participating Organizations” or “parties”).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78q(d).

² 17 CFR 240.17d-2.

I. Introduction

Section 19(g)(1) of the Act,³ among other things, requires every self-regulatory organization (“SRO”) registered as either a national securities exchange or national securities association to examine for, and enforce compliance by, its members and persons associated with its members with the Act, the rules and regulations thereunder, and the SRO’s own rules, unless the SRO is relieved of this responsibility pursuant to Section 17(d)⁴ or Section 19(g)(2)⁵ of the Act. Without this relief, the statutory obligation of each individual SRO could result in a pattern of multiple examinations of broker-dealers that maintain memberships in more than one SRO (“common members”). Such regulatory duplication would add unnecessary expenses for common members and their SROs.

Section 17(d)(1) of the Act⁶ was intended, in part, to eliminate unnecessary multiple examinations and regulatory duplication.⁷ With respect to a common member, Section 17(d)(1) authorizes the Commission, by rule or order, to relieve an SRO of the responsibility to receive regulatory reports, to examine for and enforce compliance with applicable statutes, rules, and regulations, or to perform other specified regulatory functions.

To implement Section 17(d)(1), the Commission adopted two rules: Rule 17d-1 and Rule 17d-2 under the Act.⁸ Rule 17d-1 authorizes the Commission to name a single SRO as the

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(g)(1).

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78q(d).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(g)(2).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78q(d)(1).

⁷ See Securities Act Amendments of 1975, Report of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs to Accompany S. 249, S. Rep. No. 94-75, 94th Cong., 1st Session 32 (1975).

⁸ 17 CFR 240.17d-1 and 17 CFR 240.17d-2, respectively.

designated examining authority (“DEA”) to examine common members for compliance with the financial responsibility requirements imposed by the Act, or by Commission or SRO rules.⁹

When an SRO has been named as a common member’s DEA, all other SROs to which the common member belongs are relieved of the responsibility to examine the firm for compliance with the applicable financial responsibility rules. On its face, Rule 17d-1 deals only with an SRO’s obligations to enforce member compliance with financial responsibility requirements. Rule 17d-1 does not relieve an SRO from its obligation to examine a common member for compliance with its own rules and provisions of the federal securities laws governing matters other than financial responsibility, including sales practices and trading activities and practices.

To address regulatory duplication in these and other areas, the Commission adopted Rule 17d-2 under the Act.¹⁰ Rule 17d-2 permits SROs to propose joint plans for the allocation of regulatory responsibilities with respect to their common members. Under paragraph (c) of Rule 17d-2, the Commission may declare such a plan effective if, after providing for notice and comment, it determines that the plan is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors, to foster cooperation and coordination among the SROs, to remove impediments to, and foster the development of, a national market system and a national clearance and settlement system, and is in conformity with the factors set forth in Section 17(d) of the Act. Commission approval of a plan filed pursuant to Rule 17d-2 relieves an SRO of those regulatory responsibilities allocated by the plan to another SRO.

⁹ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 12352 (April 20, 1976), 41 FR 18808 (May 7, 1976).

¹⁰ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 12935 (October 28, 1976), 41 FR 49091 (November 8, 1976).

II. The Plan

On September 8, 1983, the Commission approved the SRO participants' plan for allocating regulatory responsibilities pursuant to Rule 17d-2.¹¹ On May 23, 2000, the Commission approved an amendment to the plan that added the ISE as a participant.¹² On November 8, 2002, the Commission approved another amendment that replaced the original plan in its entirety and, among other things, allocated regulatory responsibilities among all the participants in a more equitable manner.¹³ On February 5, 2004, the Commission approved an amendment to the plan, primarily to include the BSE, which was establishing a new options trading facility to be known as BOX, as an SRO participant.¹⁴ On March 26, 2007, the Commission approved an amendment to the plan that, among other things, provided that the National Association of Securities Dealers ("NASD") (n/k/a FINRA) and NYSE are Designated Options Examining Authorities under the plan.¹⁵ On March 12, 2008, the Commission approved an amendment to the plan primarily to add NASDAQ as an SRO participant.¹⁶ On June 18, 2008, the Commission approved an amendment to the plan primarily to remove the NYSE as a Designated Options Examining Authority, leaving FINRA as the sole Designated Options

¹¹ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 20158 (September 8, 1983), 48 FR 41256 (September 14, 1983).

¹² See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 42816 (May 23, 2000), 65 FR 34759 (May 31, 2000).

¹³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 46800 (November 8, 2002), 67 FR 69774 (November 19, 2002).

¹⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 49197 (February 5, 2004), 69 FR 7046 (February 12, 2004).

¹⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 55532 (March 26, 2007), 72 FR 15729 (April 2, 2007).

¹⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 57481 (March 12, 2008), 73 FR 14507 (March 18, 2008).

Examining Authority for all common members that are members of FINRA.¹⁷ On February 25, 2010, the Commission approved a proposed amendment to the plan to add Bats and C2 as SRO participants and to reflect the name changes of the American Stock Exchange LLC to the NYSE Amex LLC, the Boston Stock Exchange, Inc., to the NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. and the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. to the NASDAQ OMX PHLX, Inc.¹⁸ On May 11, 2012, the Commission approved an amendment to the plan to add BOX as an SRO participant and to amend Section XIII of the plan to set forth a revised procedure for adding new participants to the plan.¹⁹ On December 5, 2012, the Commission approved an amendment to the plan to add MIAX as an SRO participant, and to change the name of NYSE Amex LLC to NYSE MKT LLC.²⁰ On July 26, 2013, the Commission approved an amendment to the plan to add Topaz Exchange LLC as an SRO participant.²¹ On October 29, 2015, the Commission approved an amendment to the plan to add EDGX as an SRO participant and to change the name of Topaz Exchange, LLC to ISE Gemini, LLC.²² On February 16, 2016, the Commission approved an amendment to the plan to add ISE Mercury, and remove the NYSE, as an SRO participant to the Plan.²³ On

¹⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 57987 (June 18, 2008), 73 FR 36156 (June 25, 2008).

¹⁸ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 61589 (February 25, 2012), 75 FR 9976 (March 4, 2010).

¹⁹ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 66974 (May 11, 2012), 77 FR 29705 (May 18, 2012).

²⁰ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 68363 (December 5, 2012), 77 FR 73711 (December 11, 2012).

²¹ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 70051 (July 26, 2013), 78 FR 46644 (August 1, 2013).

²² See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 76309 (October 29, 2015), 80 FR 68361 (November 4, 2015).

²³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 77148 (February 16, 2016), 81 FR 8775 (February 22, 2016).

February 2, 2017, the Commission approved an amendment to the plan to add MIAX PEARL as an SRO participant to the Plan.²⁴ On February 12, 2019, the Commission approved an amendment to the plan to add MIAX Emerald as an SRO participant to the Plan.²⁵ On October 18, 2022, the Commission approved an amendment to the plan to add MEMX as a Participant to the Plan to accommodate the launch of MEMX’s options facility, to reflect name changes of certain Participating Organizations, and to reflect updated rule citations.²⁶

The plan reduces regulatory duplication for a large number of firms currently members of two or more of the SRO participants by allocating regulatory responsibility for certain options-related sales practice matters to one of the SRO participants. Generally, under the plan, the SRO participant responsible for conducting options-related sales practice examinations of a firm, and investigating options-related customer complaints and terminations for cause of associated persons of that firm, is known as the firm’s “Designated Options Examining Authority” (“DOEA”). Pursuant to the plan, any other SRO of which the firm is a member is relieved of these responsibilities during the period in which the firm is assigned to another SRO acting as that firm’s DOEA.

III. Proposed Amendment to the Plan

On July 22, 2022, the Parties submitted a proposed amendment to the Plan. The primary purpose of the amendment is to add MIAX Sapphire as a Participant to the Plan. The text of the proposed amended 17d-2 plan is as follows (additions are underlined; deletions are [bracketed]):

²⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79929 (February 2, 2017), 82 FR 9757 (February 8, 2017).

²⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 85106 (February 12, 2019), 84 FR 4554 (February 15, 2019).

²⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 96100 (October 18, 2022), 87 FR 64285 (October 24, 2022).

* * * * *

Agreement by and among Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc., BOX Exchange, LLC, Cboe Exchange, Inc., Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc., Nasdaq ISE, LLC, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC, NYSE American LLC, NYSE Arca, Inc., The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC, Nasdaq BX, Inc., Nasdaq PHLX LLC, Nasdaq GEMX, LLC, Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc., Nasdaq MRX, LLC, MIAX PEARL, LLC, MIAX Emerald, LLC, MIAX Sapphire, LLC and MEMX LLC Pursuant to Rule 17d-2 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

This agreement (“Agreement”), by and among Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (“BZX”), BOX Exchange, LLC, Cboe Exchange, Inc., Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc., Nasdaq ISE, LLC, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”), Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC (“MIAX”), The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq”), Nasdaq BX, Inc. (“BX”), NYSE American LLC (“NYSE American”), NYSE Arca, Inc. (“NYSE Arca”), Nasdaq PHLX LLC (“PHLX”), Nasdaq GEMX, LLC (“GEMX”), Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (“EDGX”), Nasdaq MRX, LLC (“MRX”), MIAX PEARL, LLC (“MIAX PEARL”), MIAX Emerald, LLC (“MIAX Emerald”), MIAX Sapphire, LLC (“MIAX Sapphire”) and MEMX LLC (“MEMX”) hereinafter collectively referred to as the Participants, is made this [20th] 18th day of [September, 2022] July, 2024, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 17d-2 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”), which allows for plans among self-regulatory organizations to allocate regulatory responsibility. This Agreement shall be administered by a committee known as the Options Self-Regulatory Council (the “Council”).

This Agreement amends and restates the agreement entered into among the Participants on [January 2, 2019] September 20, 2022, entitled “Agreement by and among Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc., BOX Options Exchange, LLC, Cboe Exchange, Inc., Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc., Nasdaq ISE, LLC, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC, The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC, Nasdaq BX, Inc., NYSE American LLC, NYSE Arca, Inc., Nasdaq PHLX LLC, Nasdaq GEMX, LLC, Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc., Nasdaq MRX, LLC, MIAX PEARL, LLC, MIAX Emerald, LLC and MEMX LLC Pursuant to Rule 17d-2 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.”

WHEREAS, the Participants are desirous of allocating regulatory responsibilities with respect to broker-dealers, and persons associated therewith, that are members¹ of more than one Participant (the “Common Members”) and conduct a public business for compliance with Common Rules (as hereinafter defined) relating to the conduct by broker-dealers of accounts for listed options, index warrants, currency index warrants and currency warrants (collectively, “Covered Securities”); and

¹ In the case of BZX, NYSE American, NYSE Arca, EDGX, MIAX PEARL, MEMX, PHLX and Nasdaq, members are those persons who are options participants (as defined in the BX, BZX, NYSE American, NYSE Arca, EDGX, MIAX PEARL, MEMX, PHLX and Nasdaq Options Market Rules).

WHEREAS, the Participants are desirous of executing a plan for this purpose pursuant to the provisions of Rule 17d-2 and filing such plan with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or the “Commission”) for its approval;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained hereafter, the Participants agree as follows:

- I. As used herein the term Designated Options Examining Authority (“DOEA”) shall mean: (1) FINRA insofar as it shall perform Regulatory Responsibility (as hereinafter defined) for its broker-dealer members that also are members of another Participant or (2) the Designated Examination Authority (“DEA”) pursuant to SEC Rule 17d-1 under the Securities Exchange Act (“Rule 17d-1”) for a broker-dealer that is a member of a more than one Participant (but not a member of FINRA).
- II. As used herein, the term “Regulatory Responsibility” shall mean the examination and enforcement responsibilities relating to compliance by Common Members with the rules of the applicable Participant that are substantially similar to the rules of the other Participants (the “Common Rules”), insofar as they apply to the conduct of accounts for Covered Securities. A list of the current Common Rules of each Participant applicable to the conduct of accounts for Covered Securities is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Each year within 30 days of the anniversary date of the commencement of operation of this Agreement, each Participant shall submit in writing to FINRA and each DEA performing as a DOEA for any members

of such Participant any revisions to Exhibit A reflecting changes in the rules of the Participant, and confirm that all other rules of the Participant listed in Exhibit A continue to meet the definition of Common Rules as defined in this Agreement. Within 30 days from the date that FINRA and each DEA performing as a DOEA has received revisions and/or confirmation that no change has been made to Exhibit A from all Participants, FINRA and each DEA performing as a DOEA shall confirm in writing to each Participant whether the rules listed in any updated Exhibit A are Common Rules as defined in this Agreement. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, it is explicitly understood that the term “Regulatory Responsibility” does not include, and each of the Participants shall (unless allocated pursuant to Rule 17d- 2 otherwise than under this Agreement) retain full responsibility for, each of the following:

- (a) Surveillance and enforcement with respect to trading activities or practices involving its own marketplace, including without limitation its rules relating to the rights and obligations of specialists and other market makers;
- (b) Registration pursuant to its applicable rules of associated persons;
- (c) Discharge of its duties and obligations as a DEA; and
- (d) Evaluation of advertising, responsibility for which shall remain with the Participant to which a Common Member submits same for approval.

III. Apparent violations of another Participant’s rules discovered by a DOEA, but which rules are not within the scope of the discovering DOEA’s Regulatory Responsibility, shall be referred to the relevant Participant for such action as

the Participant to which such matter has been referred deems appropriate. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing contained herein shall preclude a DOEA in its discretion from requesting that another Participant conduct an enforcement proceeding on a matter for which the requesting DOEA has Regulatory Responsibility. If such other Participants agree, the Regulatory Responsibility in such case shall be deemed transferred to the accepting Participant and confirmed in writing by the Participants involved. Each Participant agrees, upon request, to make available promptly all relevant files, records and/or witnesses necessary to assist another Participant in an investigation or enforcement proceeding.

IV. The Council shall be composed of one representative designated by each of the Participants. Each Participant shall also designate one or more persons as its alternate representative(s). In the absence of the representative of a Participant, such alternate representative shall have the same powers, duties and responsibilities as the representative. Each Participant may, at any time, by notice to the then Chair of the Council, replace its representative and/or its alternate representative on such Council. A majority of the Council shall constitute a quorum and, unless specifically otherwise required, the affirmative vote of a majority of the Council members present (in person, by telephone or by written consent) shall be necessary to constitute action by the Council. The representative from FINRA shall serve as Chair of the Council. All notices and other communications for the Council shall be sent to it in care of the Chair or to each of the representatives.

- V. The Council shall determine the times and locations of Council meetings, provided that the Chair, acting alone, may also call a meeting of the Council in the event the Chair determines that there is good cause to do so. To the extent reasonably possible, notice of any meeting shall be given at least ten-business days prior thereto. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, representatives shall always be given the option of participating in any meeting telephonically at their own expense rather than in person.
- VI. FINRA shall have Regulatory Responsibility for all Common Members that are members of FINRA. For the purpose of fulfilling the Participants' Regulatory Responsibilities for Common Members that are not members of FINRA, the Participant that is the DEA shall serve as the DOEA. All Participants shall promptly notify the DOEAs no later than the next scheduled meeting of any change in membership of Common Members. A DOEA may request that a Common Member that is allocated to it be reallocated to another DOEA by giving thirty days written notice thereof. The DOEAs in their discretion may approve such request and reallocate such Common Member to another DOEA.
- VII. Each DOEA shall conduct an examination of each Common Member. The Participants agree that, upon request, relevant information in their respective files relative to a Common Member will be made available to the applicable DOEA. At each meeting of the Council, each DOEA shall be prepared to report on the status of its examination program for the

previous quarter and any period prior thereto that has not previously been reported to the Council.

- VIII. Each DOEA will promptly furnish a copy of the Examination report, relating to Covered Securities, of any examination made pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement to each other Participant of which the Common Member examined is a member.
- IX. Each DOEA's Regulatory Responsibility shall for each Common Member allocated to it include investigations into terminations "for cause" of associated persons relating to Covered Securities, unless such termination is related solely to another Participant's market. In the latter instance, that Participant to whose market the termination for cause relates shall discharge Regulatory Responsibility with respect to such termination for cause. In connection with a DOEA's examination, investigation and/or enforcement proceeding regarding a Covered Security-related termination for cause, the other Participants of which the Common Member is a member shall furnish, upon request, copies of all pertinent materials related thereto in their possession. As used in this Section, "for cause" shall include, without limitation, terminations characterized on Form U5 under the label "Permitted to Resign." "Discharge" or "Other."
- X. Each DOEA shall discharge the Regulatory Responsibility for each Common Member allocated to it relative to a Covered Securities-related customer complaint² unless such complaint is uniquely related to another

Participant's market. In the latter instance, the DOEA shall forward the matter to that Participant to whose market the matter relates, and the latter shall discharge Regulatory Responsibility with respect thereto. If a Participant receives a customer complaint for a Common Member related to a Covered Security for which the Participant is not the DOEA, the Participant shall promptly forward a copy of such complaint to the DOEA.

² For purposes of complaints, they can be reported pursuant to Form U4, Form U5 or RE-3 and any amendments thereto.

- XI. Any written notice required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be deemed given if sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by a comparable means of electronic communication to each Participant entitled to receipt thereof, to the attention of the Participant's representative on the Council at the Participant's then principal office or by e-mail at such address as the representative shall have filed in writing with the Chair.
- XII. The Participants shall notify the Common Members of this Agreement by means of a uniform joint notice approved by the Council.
- XIII. This Agreement may be amended to add a new Participant provided that such Participant does not assume Regulatory Responsibility, solely by an amendment by FINRA and such new Participant. All other Participants expressly consent to allow FINRA to add new Participants to this Agreement as provided above. FINRA will promptly notify all Participants of any such amendments to add new Participants. All other amendments to this Agreement must be approved in writing by each Participant. All

amendments, including adding a new Participant, must be filed with and approved by the SEC before they become effective.

- XIV. Any of the Participants may manifest its intention to cancel its participation in this Agreement at any time by giving the Council written notice thereof at least 90 days prior to the effective date of such cancellation. Upon receipt of such notice the Council shall allocate, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, any Common Members for which the petitioning party was the DOEA. Until such time as the Council has completed the reallocation described above; the petitioning Participant shall retain all its rights, privileges, duties and obligations hereunder.
- XV. The cancellation of its participation in this Agreement by any Participant shall not terminate this Agreement as to the remaining Participants. This Agreement will only terminate following notice to the Commission, in writing, by the then Participants that they intend to terminate the Agreement and the expiration of the applicable notice period. Such notice shall be given at least six months prior to the intended date of termination, provided that in the event a notice of cancellation is received from a Participant that, assuming the effectiveness thereof, would result in there being just one remaining member of the Council, notice to the Commission of termination of this Agreement shall be given promptly upon the receipt of such notice of cancellation, which termination shall be effective upon the effectiveness of the cancellation that triggered the notice of termination to the Commission.

XVI. No Participant nor the Council nor any of their respective directors, governors, officers, employees or representatives shall be liable to any other Participant in this Agreement for any liability, loss or damage resulting from or claimed to have resulted from any delays, inaccuracies, errors or omissions with respect to the provision of Regulatory Responsibility as provided hereby or for the failure to provide any such Responsibility, except with respect to such liability, loss or damages as shall have been suffered by one or more of the Participants and caused by the willful misconduct of one or more of the other participants or their respective directors, governors, officers, employees or representatives. No warranties, express or implied, are made by any or all of the Participants or the Council with respect to any Regulatory Responsibility to be performed by each of them hereunder.

XVII. Pursuant to Section 17(d)(1)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17d-2 promulgated pursuant thereto, the Participants join in requesting the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon its approval of this Agreement or any part thereof, to relieve those Participants which are from time to time participants in this Agreement which are not the DOEA as to a Common Member of any and all Regulatory Responsibility with respect to the matters allocated to the DOEA.

EXHIBIT A

RULES ENFORCED UNDER 17d-2 AGREEMENT

Pursuant to Section II of the Agreement by and among Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (“BZX”), BOX Exchange, LLC (“BOX”), Cboe Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe”), Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc. (“C2”), Nasdaq ISE, LLC (“ISE”), Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”), Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC (“MIAX”), The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq”), Nasdaq BX, Inc. (“BX”), NYSE American LLC (“NYSE American”), NYSE Arca, Inc. (“NYSE ARCA”), Nasdaq PHLX LLC (“PHLX”), Nasdaq GEMX, LLC (“GEMX”), Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (“EDGX”), Nasdaq MRX, LLC (“MRX”), MIAX PEARL, LLC (“MIAX PEARL”), MIAX Emerald, LLC (“MIAX Emerald”), MIAX Sapphire, LLC (“MIAX Sapphire”) and MEMX LLC (“MEMX”) pursuant to Rule 17d-2 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 dated [September 20, 2022] July 17, 2024 (the “Agreement”), a revised list of the current Common Rules of each Participant, as compared to those of FINRA, applicable to the conduct of accounts for Covered Securities is set forth in this Exhibit A.

OPENING OF ACCOUNTS

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| NYSE American | Rules 411, 921 and 1101 |
| BZX | Rule 26.2 |
| BOX | Rule 4020 |
| Cboe | Rule 9.1 |
| C2* | Cboe Rule 9.1 |
| EDGX | Rule 26.2 |
| ISE | Options 10, Section 6 |
| FINRA | Rules 2360(b)(16) and 2352 |
| MEMX | Rule 26.2 |

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| MIAX | Rule 1307 |
| MIAX PEARL | Rule 1307 |
| MIAX Emerald | Rule 1307 |
| <u>MIAX Sapphire</u> | <u>Rule 1307</u> |
| GEMX | Options 10, Section 6 |
| MRX | Options 10, Section 6 |
| PHLX | Options 10, Section 6 ¹ |
| NYSE ARCA | Rules 9.2-O(a), 9.18-O(b), 9.18-E(b) and 8.4-E |
| BX | Options 10, Section 6 |
| Nasdaq | Options 10, Section 6 |

SUPERVISION

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| NYSE American | Rules 411, 922 and 1104 |
| BZX | Rule 26.3 |
| BOX | Rule 4030 |
| Cboe | Rule 9.2 ² |
| C2* | Cboe Rule 9.2 ² |
| EDGX | Rule 26.3 |
| ISE | Options 10, Section 7 |
| FINRA | Rules 2360(b)(20), 2360(b)(17)(B), 2360(b)(16)(E), 2355 and 2358 |
| MEMX | Rule 26.3 |
| MIAX | Rule 1308 |
| MIAX PEARL | Rule 1308 |
| MIAX Emerald | Rule 1308 |
| <u>MIAX Sapphire</u> | <u>Rule 1308</u> |
| GEMX | Options 10, Section 7 |
| MRX | Options 10, Section 7 |
| PHLX | Options 10, Section 7 |
| NYSE ARCA | Rules 9.2-O(b), 9.18-O (d)(2)(G) and 8.7-E |
| BX | Options 10, Section 7 |
| Nasdaq | Options 10, Section 7 |

¹ FINRA shall not have any Regulatory Responsibility regarding foreign currency option requirements specified in any of the PHLX rules in this Exhibit A.

² FINRA shall not have any Regulatory Responsibility regarding receipt of written reports by April 1 of each year pursuant to Cboe Rule 9.8(g).

SUITABILITY

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| NYSE American | Rules 923 and 1102 |
| BZX | Rule 26.4 |
| BOX | Rule 4040 |
| Cboe | Rule 9.3 |
| C2* | Cboe Rule 9.3 |
| EDGX | Rule 26.4 |
| ISE | Options 10, Section 8 |
| FINRA | Rule 2360(b)(19) and 2353 |
| MEMX | Rule 26.4 |
| MIAX | Rule 1309 |
| MIAX PEARL | Rule 1309 |
| MIAX Emerald | Rule 1309 |
| <u>MIAX Sapphire</u> | <u>Rule 1309</u> |
| GEMX | Options 10, Section 8 |
| MRX | Options 10, Section 8 |
| PHLX | Options 10, Section 8 |
| NYSE ARCA | Rules 9.18-O(c), 9.18-E(c) and 8.5-E |
| BX | Options 10, Section 8 |
| Nasdaq | Options 10, Section 8 |

DISCRETIONARY ACCOUNTS

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| NYSE American | Rules 421, 924 and 1103 |
| BZX | Rule 26.5 ³ |
| BOX | Rule 4050 |
| Cboe | Rule 9.4 |
| C2* | Cboe Rule 9.4 |
| EDGX | Rule 26.5 ³ |
| ISE | Options 10, Section 9 |
| FINRA | Rules 2360(b)(18) and 2354 |
| MEMX | Rule 26.5 ³ |
| MIAX | Rule 1310 |
| MIAX PEARL | Rule 1310 |
| MIAX Emerald | Rule 1310 |
| <u>MIAX Sapphire</u> | <u>Rule 1310</u> |
| GEMX | Options 10, Section 9 |
| MRX | Options 10, Section 9 |

³ FINRA shall not have any Regulatory Responsibility to enforce this rule as to time and price discretion in institutional accounts.

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| PHLX | Options 10, Section 9 |
| NYSE ARCA | Rules 9.18-O(e), 9.18-E(e) and 8.6-E |
| BX | Options 10, Section 9 |
| Nasdaq | Options 10, Section 9 |

CUSTOMER COMMUNICATIONS (ADVERTISING)

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|----------------------|--|
| NYSE American | Rules 8.9E, 991 and 1106 |
| BZX | Rule 26.16 |
| BOX | Rule 4170 |
| Cboe | Rule 9.15 |
| C2* | Cboe Rule 9.15 |
| EDGX | Rule 26.16 |
| ISE | Options 10, Section 20 |
| FINRA | Rules 2220 and 2357 |
| MEMX | Rule 26.16 |
| MIAX | Rule 1322 |
| MIAX PEARL | Rule 1322 |
| MIAX Emerald | Rule 1322 |
| <u>MIAX Sapphire</u> | <u>Rule 1322</u> |
| GEMX | Options 10, Section 20 |
| MRX | Options 10, Section 20 |
| PHLX | Options 10, Section 20 |
| NYSE ARCA | Rules 9.21-O(a), 9.21-O(b), 9.28-O(c) and 9.28-E |
| BX | Options 10, Section 20 |
| Nasdaq | Options 10, Section 20 |

CUSTOMER COMPLAINTS

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| NYSE American | Rules 8.8E, 932 and 1105 |
| BZX | Rule 26.17 |
| BOX | Rule 4190 |
| Cboe | Rule 9.17 |
| C2* | Cboe Rule 9.17 |
| EDGX | Rule 26.17 |
| ISE | Options 10, Section 22 |
| FINRA | FINRA Rules 2360(b)(17)(A) and 2356 |
| MEMX | Rule 26.17 |
| MIAX | Rule 1324 |
| MIAX PEARL | Rule 1324 |
| MIAX Emerald | Rule 1324 |
| <u>MIAX Sapphire</u> | <u>Rule 1324</u> |
| GEMX | Options 10, Section 22 |
| MRX | Options 10, Section 22 |

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|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| PHLX | Options 10, Section 22 |
| NYSE ARCA | Rules 9.18-O(I), 9.18-E(l) and 8.8-E |
| BX | Options 10, Section 22 |
| Nasdaq | Options 10, Section 22 |

CUSTOMER STATEMENTS

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| NYSE American | Rules 419 and 930 |
| BZX | Rule 26.7 |
| BOX | Rule 4070 |
| Cboe | Rule 9.6 |
| C2* | Cboe Rule 9.6 |
| EDGX | Rule 26.7 |
| ISE | Options 10, Section 11 |
| FINRA | Rule 2360(b)(15) |
| MEMX | Rule 26.7 |
| MIAX | Rule 1312 |
| MIAX PEARL | Rule 1312 |
| MIAX Emerald | Rule 1312 |
| <u>MIAX Sapphire</u> | <u>Rule 1312</u> |
| GEMX | Options 10, Section 11 |
| MRX | Options 10, Section 11 |
| PHLX | Options 10, Section 11 |
| NYSE ARCA | Rules 9.18-O(j) and 9.18-E(j) |
| BX | Options 10, Section 11 |
| Nasdaq | Options 10, Section 11 |

CONFIRMATIONS

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| NYSE American | Rule 925 |
| BZX | Rule 26.6 |
| BOX | Rule 4060 |
| Cboe | Rule 9.5 |
| C2* | Cboe Rule 9.5 |
| EDGX | Rule 26.6 |
| ISE | Options 10, Section 10 |
| FINRA | Rule 2360(b)(12) |
| MEMX | Rule 26.6 |
| MIAX | Rule 1311 |
| MIAX PEARL | Rule 1311 |
| MIAX Emerald | Rule 1311 |
| <u>MIAX Sapphire</u> | <u>Rule 1311</u> |
| GEMX | Options 10, Section 10 |
| MRX | Options 10, Section 10 |
| PHLX | Options 10, Section 10 |

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|-----------|-------------------------------|
| NYSE ARCA | Rules 9.18-O(f) and 9.18-E(f) |
| BX | Options 10, Section 10 |
| Nasdaq | Options 10, Section 10 |

ALLOCATION OF EXERCISE ASSIGNMENT NOTICES

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| NYSE American | Rule 981 |
| BZX | Rule 23.2 |
| BOX | Rule 9010 |
| Cboe | Rule 6.21 |
| C2* | Cboe Rule 6.21 |
| EDGX | Rule 23.2 |
| ISE | Options 6B, Section 2 |
| FINRA | Rule 2360(b)(23)(C) |
| MEMX | Rule 23.2 |
| MIAX | Rule 701 |
| MIAX PEARL | Rule 701 |
| MIAX Emerald | Rule 701 |
| <u>MIAX Sapphire</u> | <u>Rule 701</u> |
| GEMX | Options 6B, Section 2 |
| MRX | Options 6B, Section 2 |
| PHLX | Options 6B, Section 2 |
| NYSE ARCA | Rule 6.25-O(a) |
| BX | Options 6B, Section 2 |
| Nasdaq | Options 6B, Section 2 |

DISCLOSURE DOCUMENTS

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| NYSE American | Rules 921 and 926 |
| BZX | Rule 26.10 |
| BOX | Rule 4100 |
| Cboe | Rule 9.9 |
| C2* | Cboe Rule 9.9 |
| EDGX | Rule 26.10 |
| ISE | Options 10, Section 13 |
| FINRA | Rule 2360(b)(11) |
| MEMX | Rule 26.10 |
| MIAX | Rule 1315 |
| MIAX PEARL | Rule 1315 |
| MIAX Emerald | Rule 1315 |
| <u>MIAX Sapphire</u> | <u>Rule 1315</u> |
| GEMX | Options 10, Section 13 |
| MRX | Options 10, Section 13 |
| PHLX | Options 10, Section 13 |
| NYSE ARCA | Rules 9.18-O(g) and 9.18-E(g) |
| BX | Options 10, Section 13 |
| Nasdaq | Options 10, Section 13 |

BRANCH OFFICES OF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| NYSE American | Rule 922(d) ⁴ |
| BOX | Rule 4010(b) |
| Cboe | Rule 3.40 |
| C2* | Cboe Rule 3.40 |
| ISE | Options 10, Section 5 |
| FINRA | Rules 2360(b)(20)(B) and 2355 |
| MIAX | Rule 1306 |
| MIAX PEARL | Rule 1306 |
| MIAX Emerald | Rule 1306 |
| MIAX Sapphire | Rule 1306 |
| GEMX | Options 10, Section 5 |
| MRX | Options 10, Section 5 |
| PHLX | N/A |
| NYSE ARCA | Rules 9.18-O(m) and 9.18-E(m) |
| BX | Options 10, Section 5 |
| Nasdaq | Options 10, Section 5 |

PROHIBITION AGAINST GUARANTEES

| | |
|---------------|--|
| NYSE American | Rule 390 |
| BZX | Rule 26.13 |
| BOX | Rule 4130 |
| Cboe | Rule 9.12 |
| C2* | Cboe Rule 9.12 |
| EDGX | Rule 26.13 |
| ISE | Options 10, Section 16 |
| FINRA | Rule 2150(b) |
| MEMX | Rule 26.13 |
| MIAX | Rule 1318 |
| MIAX PEARL | Rule 1318 |
| MIAX Emerald | Rule 1318 |
| MIAX Sapphire | Rule 1318 |
| GEMX | Options 10, Section 16 |
| MRX | Options 10, Section 16 |
| PHLX | General 9, Section 54(b) |
| NYSE ARCA | Rules 9.1-O(e), 9.1-E(e) and 9.2150-E(b) |
| BX | Options 10, Section 16 |
| Nasdaq | Options 10, Section 16 |

⁴ FINRA shall not have any Regulatory Responsibility to enforce this rule as to time and price discretion in institutional accounts.

SHARING IN ACCOUNTS

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| NYSE American | Rule 390 |
| BZX | Rule 26.14 ⁵ |
| BOX | Rule 4140 |
| Cboe | Rule 9.12(b) |
| C2* | Cboe Rule 9.12(b) |
| EDGX | Rule 26.14 ⁵ |
| ISE | Options 10, Section 17 ⁶ |
| FINRA | Rule 2150(c) |
| MEMX | Rule 26.14 ⁵ |
| MIAX | Rule 1319 |
| MIAX PEARL | Rule 1319 |
| MIAX Emerald | Rule 1319 |
| MIAX Sapphire | Rule 1319 |
| GEMX | Options 10, Section 17 ⁶ |
| MRX | Options 10, Section 17 ⁶ |
| PHLX | N/A |
| NYSE ARCA | Rules 9.1-O(f) and 9.2150-E(c) |
| BX | Options 10, Section 17 ⁶ |
| Nasdaq | Options 10, Section 17 ⁶ |

REGISTRATION OF ROP

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| NYSE American | Rules 920 and 2.1220(a)(7)(A) |
| BZX | Rule 17.2(g)(1), (2), (6) and (7) |
| BOX | Rule 2020(c)(1) |
| Cboe | Rule 3.36 |
| C2* | Cboe Rule 3.36 |
| EDGX | Rule 17.2(g)(1), (2), (6) and (7) |
| ISE | Options 10, Section 2 |
| FINRA | Rule 1220(a)(8) |
| MEMX | Rule 17.2(g)(1), (2), (6) and (7) |
| MIAX | Rule 1301 |
| MIAX PEARL | Rule 1301 |
| MIAX Emerald | Rule 1301 |

⁵ FINRA shall not have any Regulatory Responsibility regarding MEMX's, BZX's, and EDGX's requirements to the extent such rules do not contain an exemption addressing immediate family.

⁶ FINRA shall not have any Regulatory Responsibility regarding Nasdaq's, BX's, ISE's, GEMX's and MRX's requirements to the extent its rule does not permit sharing in the profits and losses of an account upon prior written consent from the customer, or contain an exemption addressing immediate family.

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| <u>MIAX Sapphire</u> | <u>Rule 1301</u> |
| GEMX | Options 10, Section 2 |
| MRX | Options 10, Section 2 |
| PHLX | Options 10, Section 2 |
| NYSE ARCA | Rules 9.26-O, 9.26-E and 2.1220(a)(7)(A) |
| BX | Options 10, Section 2 |
| Nasdaq | Options 10, Section 2 |

CERTIFICATION OF REGISTERED PERSONNEL

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| NYSE American | Rules 920 and 1220(b) |
| BZX | Rule 2.5 Interpretation .01(c) and 11.4(e) |
| BOX | IM-2040-3 |
| Cboe | Rule 3.37 |
| C2* | Cboe Rule 3.37 |
| EDGX | Rule 2.5 Interpretation .01(c) and 11.4(e) |
| ISE | Options 10, Section 3 |
| FINRA | Rule 1220(b) and FINRA By-Laws Article V Sections 2 and 3 |
| MEMX | Rule 2.5 Interpretation .01(c) and 11.4(e) |
| MIAX | Rule 1302 |
| MIAX PEARL | Rule 1302 |
| MIAX Emerald | Rule 1302 |
| <u>MIAX Sapphire</u> | <u>Rule 1302</u> |
| GEMX | Options 10, Section 3 |
| MRX | Options 10, Section 3 |
| PHLX | Options 10, Section 6 |
| NYSE ARCA | Rules 9.27-O(a), 9.27-E(a) and 2.1220(b) |
| BX | Options 10, Section 3 |
| Nasdaq | Options 10, Section 3 |

*Cboe Options rule incorporated by reference into C2 Rulebook.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing. 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 S7-966 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 S7-966. 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 plan that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed plan between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the plan also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal offices of BZX, BOX, C2, ISE, FINRA, MIAX, Nasdaq, BX, NYSE American, NYSE Arca, PHLX, GEMX, EDGX, MRX, MIAX PEARL, MIAX Emerald, MIAX Sapphire, and MEMX. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to File Number S7-966 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

V. Discussion

The Commission continues to believe that the proposed plan is an achievement in cooperation among the SRO participants. The Plan, as amended, will reduce unnecessary regulatory duplication by allocating to the designated SRO the responsibility for certain options-related sales practice matters that would otherwise be performed by multiple SROs. The plan promotes efficiency by reducing costs to firms that are members of more than one of the SRO participants. In addition, because the SRO participants coordinate their regulatory functions in accordance with the plan, the plan promotes, and will continue to promote, investor protection.

Under paragraph (c) of Rule 17d-2, the Commission may, after appropriate notice and comment, declare a plan, or any part of a plan, effective. In this instance, the Commission believes that appropriate notice and comment can take place after the proposed amendment is effective. The primary purpose of the amendment is to add MIAX Sapphire as a Participant to the Plan. By declaring it effective today, the amended Plan can become effective and be implemented without undue delay. The Commission notes that the prior version of this plan immediately prior to this proposed amendment was published for comment and the Commission did not receive any comments thereon.²⁷ Furthermore, the Commission does not believe that the amendment to the plan raises any new regulatory issues that the Commission has not previously considered.

²⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 96100 (October 18, 2022), 87 FR 64285 (October 24, 2022).

VI. Conclusion

This order gives effect to the amended Plan submitted to the Commission that is contained in File No. S7-966.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to Section 17(d) of the Act, that the Plan, as amended, filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 17d-2 on July 22, 2024, is hereby approved and declared effective.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that those SRO participants that are not the DOEA as to a particular common member are relieved of those regulatory responsibilities allocated to the common member's DOEA under the amended Plan to the extent of such allocation.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁸

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

²⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(34).