

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-100503; File No. SR-PEARL-2024-29)

July 11, 2024

Self-Regulatory Organizations; MIAX PEARL, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Amend the MIAX Pearl Options Fee Schedule for Customer Orders Routed to Another Options Exchange

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 June 28, 2024, MIAX PEARL, LLC (“MIAX Pearl” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) a 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

The Exchange is filing a proposal to amend the MIAX Pearl Options Fee Schedule (“Fee Schedule”).

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at <https://www.miaxglobal.com/markets/us-options/pearl-options/rule-filings> at MIAX Pearl’s principal office, 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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend the exchange grouping of options exchanges within the routing fee table in Section 1)b) of the Fee Schedule, Fees for Customer Orders Routed to Another Options Exchange to adjust the groupings of options exchanges.

Background

Currently, the Exchange assesses routing fees based upon (i) the origin type of the order; (ii) whether or not it is an order for standard option classes in the Penny Interval Program³ (“Penny classes”) or an order for standard option classes which are not in the Penny Interval Program (“Non-Penny classes”) (or other explicitly identified classes); and (iii) to which away market it is being routed. This assessment practice is identical to the routing fees assessment practice currently utilized by the Exchange’s affiliates, Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC (“MIAX Options”) and MIAX Emerald, LLC (“MIAX Emerald”). This is also similar to the methodology utilized by the Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe BZX Options”), a competing options exchange, in assessing routing fees. Cboe BZX Options has exchange groupings in its fee schedule, similar to those of the Exchange, whereby several exchanges are grouped into the same category dependent upon the order’s origin type and whether it is a Penny or Non-Penny class.⁴

³ See Exchange Rule 510(c).

⁴ See Cboe U.S. Options Fee Schedules, BZX Options, effective March 1, 2024, “Fee Codes and Associated Fees,” at https://www.cboe.com/us/options/membership/fee_schedule/bzx/.

As a result of conducting a periodic review of the current transaction fees charged by away markets the Exchange has determined to amend the exchange groupings of options exchanges within the routing fee table to better reflect the associated costs and fees of routing customer orders to certain away markets for execution.

Proposal

The Exchange proposes to amend the table in Section 1)b) of the Exchange's Fee Schedule, Fees for Customer Orders Routed to Another Options Exchange.

Under this proposed change, the Exchange will not amend the fees associated with the exchange groupings. This proposal merely seeks to amend the exchange groupings as described in the routing fee table below.

Description	Fees
Routed, Priority Customer, Penny Program, to: NYSE American, Cboe, Cboe EDGX Options, MIAX, Nasdaq PHLX (except SPY), Nasdaq MRX	\$0.15
Routed, Priority Customer, Penny Program, to: BOX	\$0.30
Routed, Priority Customer, Penny Program, to: NYSE Arca Options, Cboe BZX Options, Cboe C2, Nasdaq GEMX, Nasdaq ISE, NOM, Nasdaq PHLX (SPY only), MIAX Emerald, Nasdaq BX Options, MEMX	\$0.65
Routed, Priority Customer, Non-Penny Program, to: NYSE American, BOX, Cboe, Cboe EDGX Options, MIAX, Nasdaq PHLX, <u>Nasdaq MRX</u>	\$0.15
Routed, Priority Customer, Non-Penny Program, to: NYSE Arca Options, Cboe BZX Options, Cboe C2, Nasdaq GEMX, NOM, MIAX Emerald, Nasdaq BX Options, Nasdaq ISE, MEMX	\$1.00
Routed, Public Customer that is not a Priority Customer, Penny Program, to: NYSE American, NYSE Arca Options, Cboe BZX Options, BOX, Cboe, Cboe C2, Cboe EDGX Options, Nasdaq GEMX, Nasdaq ISE, Nasdaq MRX, MIAX Emerald, MIAX, NOM, Nasdaq PHLX, Nasdaq BX Options, MEMX	\$0.65
Routed, Public Customer that is not a Priority Customer, Non-Penny Program, to: NYSE American, MIAX, Cboe, Nasdaq PHLX, Cboe EDGX Options, NOM	\$1.00
Routed, Public Customer that is not a Priority Customer, Non-Penny Program, to: Cboe C2, BOX	\$1.15
Routed, Public Customer that is not a Priority Customer, Non-Penny Program, to: NYSE Arca Options, Nasdaq GEMX, Nasdaq MRX, MIAX Emerald, MEMX	\$1.25
Routed, Public Customer that is not a Priority Customer, Non-Penny Program, to: Cboe BZX Options, Nasdaq ISE, Nasdaq BX Options	\$1.40

Nasdaq MRX

Nasdaq MRX recently amended its fee structure to “no longer offer Maker Rebates for adding liquidity and instead offer Taker Rebates for removing liquidity. With this new structure, the Exchange [Nasdaq MRX] would continue to assess Priority Customers no Maker Fees for Penny and Non-Penny Symbols to continue to encourage Members to send Priority Customer order flow that adds liquidity to MRX and rests on the order book. The Exchange proposes to begin offering Priority Customer Taker Rebates in Penny and Non-Penny Symbols . . .”⁵ In

⁵ See Nasdaq MRX proposal (SR-MRX-2024-16).

response to Nasdaq MRX's filing, the Exchange proposes to adjust the grouping of Nasdaq MRX in both the Penny and Non-Penny tiers in the Exchange's routing fee table.

Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend the "Routed, Priority Customer, Penny Program" \$0.15 fee tier to remove the "SPY only" qualification for orders routed to Nasdaq MRX, so that all Priority Customer orders for Penny Program symbols routed to Nasdaq MRX will be assessed the same \$0.15 fee. The Exchange also proposes to amend the "Routed, Priority Customer, Penny Program" \$0.30 fee tier to remove Nasdaq MRX from the tier completely, as all Priority Customer orders in the Penny Program are now eligible for the \$0.15 tier under this proposal. The Exchange also proposes to amend the "Routed, Priority Customer, Non-Penny Program" \$0.15 tier to add Nasdaq MRX. Finally, the Exchange proposes to eliminate the "Routed, Priority Customer, Non-Penny Program" \$0.50 tier in its entirety as Nasdaq MRX was the only destination exchange in this tier, and given Nasdaq MRX's recent fee schedule change this tier is now obsolete.

BOX

The Exchange proposes to remove "BOX (except SPY)" from the "Routed, Priority Customer, Penny Program" \$0.15 tier. The Exchange also proposes to amend the "Routed, Priority Customer, Penny Program" \$0.30 tier to remove the qualification of "SPY only" so that all Priority Customer orders for Penny Program symbols routed to BOX will similarly be assessed a \$0.30 fee. This change is being made as BOX recently amended its fee schedule and now assesses a \$0.10 Taker fee for Public Customer orders that remove liquidity in SPY, QQQ, and IWM.⁶

⁶ See BOX Exchange Fee Schedule, Section IV, Electronic Transaction Fees, A, Non-Auction Transactions.

The purpose of the proposal is to adjust the routing fee groups for orders routed to other exchanges to better reflect the associated costs for that routed execution in Penny and Non-Penny Classes as determined by the fees and rebates assessed at the executing exchange. In determining to amend its groupings fees the Exchange took into account transaction fees assessed by the away market to which the Exchange routes orders, as well as the Exchange's clearing costs, administrative, regulatory, and technical costs associated with routing orders to an away market. The Exchange uses unaffiliated routing brokers to route orders to the away markets; the costs associated with the use of these services are included in the routing fees specified in the Fee Schedule. This routing fee structure is not only similar to the Exchange's affiliates, MIAX Options and MIAX Emerald, but is also comparable to the structure in place on at least one other competing options exchange, Cboe BZX Options.⁷ The Exchange's routing fee structure approximates the Exchange's costs associated with routing orders to away markets. The per-contract transaction fee amount associated with each grouping closely approximates the Exchange's all-in cost (plus an additional, non-material amount)⁸ to execute that corresponding contract at that corresponding exchange.

The Exchange notes that in determining whether to adjust certain groupings of options exchanges in the routing fee table, the Exchange considered the transaction fees assessed by away markets, and determined to amend the grouping of exchanges that assess transaction fees

⁷ See supra note 4. The Cboe BZX Options fee schedule has exchange groupings, whereby several exchanges are grouped into the same category, dependent on the order's Origin type and whether it is a Penny or Non-Penny class. For example, Cboe BZX Options fee code RR covers routed customer orders in Non-Penny classes to NYSE Arca, Nasdaq BX, Cboe C2, Nasdaq ISE, Nasdaq Gemini, MIAX Emerald, MIAX Pearl, NOM, or MEMX with a single fee of \$1.25 per contract.

⁸ This amount is to cover de minimis differences/changes to away market fees (i.e., minor increases or decreases) that would not necessitate a fee filing by the Exchange to re-categorize the away exchange into a different grouping. Routing fees are not intended to be a profit center for the Exchange and the Exchange's goal regarding routing fees and expenses is to be as close as possible to net neutral.

for routed orders within a similar range. This same logic and structure applies to all of the groupings in the routing fee table. By utilizing the same structure that is utilized by the Exchange's affiliates, MIAX Options and MIAX Emerald, the Exchange's Members⁹ will be assessed routing fees in a similar manner. The Exchange notes that its affiliates, MIAX Options and MIAX Emerald, will file to make the same proposed routing fee changes contained herein.

Implementation

The proposed rule changes will become effective on July 1, 2024.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal to amend its Fee Schedule is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act¹⁰ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) of the Act¹¹ in particular, in that it is an equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members and issuers and other persons using its facilities. The Exchange also believes the proposal furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act¹² in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, 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 and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers and dealers.

The Exchange believes that the proposed changes to the exchange groupings of options exchanges within the routing fee table furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) of the Act and is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the proposed change will continue

⁹ The term "Member" means an individual or organization approved to exercise the trading rights associated with a Trading Permit. Members are deemed "members" under the Exchange Act. See Exchange Rule 100.

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

to apply in the same manner to all Members that are subject to routing fees. The Exchange believes the proposed changes to the routing fee table exchange groupings furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act and is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade and is not unfairly discriminatory because the proposed changes seek to recoup costs that are incurred by the Exchange when routing Priority and Public Customer Orders to away markets on behalf of Members and does so in the same manner for all Members that are subject to routing fees. The costs to the Exchange to route orders to away markets for execution primarily includes transaction fees assessed by the away markets to which the Exchange routes orders, in addition to the Exchange's clearing costs, administrative, regulatory and technical costs. The Exchange believes that the proposed re-categorization of certain exchange groupings would enable the Exchange to better reflect the costs and fees associated with routing orders to other exchanges for execution.

The Exchange places away markets in the fee tier grouping that best approximates the Exchange's costs and fees to route the orders in that segment to that away market. The per-contract transaction fee amount associated with each grouping approximates the Exchange's all-in cost (plus an additional, non-material amount)¹³ to execute the corresponding contract at the corresponding exchange. The Exchange believes its tier structure represents the best approach to reflect the costs and fees associated with routing and executing orders on other exchanges.

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. The Exchange's proposed re-categorization of certain exchange groupings is intended to enable the

¹³ See supra note 8.

Exchange to recover the costs it incurs to route orders to away markets. The costs to the Exchange to route orders to away markets for execution primarily includes the transaction fees assessed by the away markets to which the Exchange routes orders, in addition to the Exchange's clearing costs, administrative, regulatory and technical costs. The Exchange does not believe that this proposal imposes any unnecessary burden on competition because it seeks to better reflect the costs and fees incurred by the Exchange when routing orders to away markets on behalf of Members and notes that at least one other options exchange has a similar routing fee structure.¹⁴

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

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)(ii) of the Act,¹⁵ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)¹⁶ 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 shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

¹⁴ See supra note 4.

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

¹⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

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 (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include file number SR-PEARL-2024-29 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-PEARL-2024-29. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<https://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, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office

of the Exchange. 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 SR-PEARL-2024-29 and should be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁷

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,

Deputy Secretary.

¹⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).