

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No.34-65642; File No. SR-BX-2011-072)

October 27, 2011

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Amend the BOX Trading Rules to Retire the Additional Expiration Months Pilot Program and to Harmonize the Rules Regarding Listing Expirations with the Existing Rules of Other Exchanges

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 October 19, 2011, NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. (the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“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 the proposed rule change as constituting a non-controversial rule change under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) under the Act,<sup>3</sup> which renders the proposal 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 proposes to amend the Rules of the Boston Options Exchange Group, LLC (“BOX”) to retire the Additional Expiration Months Pilot Program and to harmonize the BOX Trading Rules regarding listing expirations with the existing rules of other exchanges.

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

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<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

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

<sup>3</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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 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 purpose of the proposed rule change is to retire the Additional Expiration Months Pilot Program ("Pilot Program") and to amend the BOX Trading Rules regarding listing expirations. This filing is based on the existing rules of other options exchanges.<sup>4</sup>

Pursuant to Chapter IV, Section 6(e) of the BOX Trading Rules, the Exchange usually will open four expiration months for each class of options open for trading on BOX: the first two being the two nearest months, regardless of the quarterly cycle on which that class trades; the third and fourth being the next two months of the quarterly cycle previously designated by the Exchange for that specific class.

For competitive reasons, in 2010, a Pilot Program was established pursuant to which BOX could list up to an additional two expiration months, for a total of six expiration months for

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<sup>4</sup> See Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("CBOE") Rule 5.5 (Series of Options Contracts Open for Trading, NASDAQ Options Market ("NOM") Chapter IV, Section 6 (Series of Options Contracts Open for Trading) and NASDAQ OMX PHLX, LLC ("PHLX") Rule 1012 (Series of Options Open for Trading). See also Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 65241 (August 31, 2011), 76 FR 55249 (September 7, 2011) (SR-CBOE-2011-080); 57478 (March 12, 2008), 73 FR 14521 (March 18, 2008) (SR-NASDAQ-2007-004 and SR-NASDAQ-2007-080); and 63700 (January 11, 2011) 76 FR 2931 (January 18, 2011) (SR-PHLX-2011-04). The PHLX filing was based on NOM's existing rules.

each class of options open for trading on BOX.<sup>5</sup> The filing to establish the Pilot Program was substantially similar in all material respects to a proposal of the International Securities Exchange, LLC (“ISE”).<sup>6</sup>

After ISE and BOX established their respective Pilot Programs, ISE submitted a filing in response to a PHLX filing regarding the listing of expirations.<sup>7</sup> In the PHLX filing, PHLX amended its rules that so that it could open “at least one expiration month” for each class of standard options open for trading on PHLX.<sup>8</sup> PHLX stated in its filing that this amendment was “based directly on the recently approved rules of another options exchange, namely Chapter IV, Sections 6 and 8” of NOM. Since PHLX’s rules did not hard code an upper limit on the maximum number of expirations that may be listed per class, ISE believed that PHLX (and NOM) had the ability to list expirations that ISE would not be able to currently list under its rules. As a result, ISE amended its rules by adding new Supplementary Material .10 to ISE Rule 504 and Supplementary Material to .04 to ISE Rule 2009 to permit ISE to list additional expiration months on options classes opened for trading on ISE if such expiration months are opened for trading on at least one other national securities exchange.<sup>9</sup>

Because BOX had adopted a Pilot Program similar to ISE’s, BOX adopted new Supplementary Material .09 to Chapter IV, Section 6 and Supplementary Material .03 to Chapter

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<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 63321 (November 16, 2010), 75 FR 71163 (November 22, 2010) SR-BX-2010-077).

<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 63104 (October 14, 2010), 75 FR 64773 (October 20, 2010) (SR-ISE-2010-91).

<sup>7</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64343 (April 26, 2011), 76 FR 24546 (May 2, 2011) (SR-ISE-2011-26).

<sup>8</sup> See id. at 24546-24547.

<sup>9</sup> See id. at 24547.

XIV, Section 10 of the BOX Trading Rules that permits BOX to list additional expiration months on options classes opened for trading on BOX if such expiration months are opened for trading on at least one other national securities exchange.<sup>10</sup>

Now that BOX has the ability to match the expiration listings of other exchanges<sup>11</sup> (that may exceed six expirations and may occur on a regular basis) the Exchange believes that the Pilot Program is no longer necessary and is proposing to retire it. To affect this change, the Exchange is proposing to delete Supplementary Material .08 to Chapter IV, Section 6 that sets forth the terms of the Pilot Program, which is currently scheduled to expire on October 31, 2011.

In addition, BOX's ability to match the expirations listed by other exchanges is set forth in Supplementary Material .09 to Chapter IV, Section 6. This provision, however, only provides BOX with the ability to match expirations initiated by other options exchanges. To encourage competition and to place BOX on a level playing field, BOX should have the same ability as PHLX and NOM to initiate expirations. Therefore, as proposed the BOX Trading Rules will be harmonized with the rules of PHLX and NOM by clarifying that BOX will open at least one expiration month and one series of for each class open for trading on the Exchange. To affect this change, the Exchange is proposing to amend the text of Chapter IV, Section 6(b) of the BOX Trading Rules to track the rule text of NOM Chapter IV, Section 6 and PHLX Rule 1012, and to delete Section 6(e) in Chapter IV of the BOX Rules.

BOX believes the proposed rule change is proper, and indeed necessary, in light of the need to have rules that do not put BOX at a competitive disadvantage. This proposal puts BOX in the same position as PHLX and NOM and provides BOX with the same ability to initiate and

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<sup>10</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64570 (May 31, 2011), 76 FR 32383 (June 6, 2011) (SR-BX-2011-029).

<sup>11</sup> See Supplementary Material .09 to Chapter IV, Section 6 of the BOX Rules.

match identical expirations across exchanges for products that are multiply-listed and fungible with one another. BOX believes that the proposed rule change should encourage competition and be beneficial to traders and market participants by providing them with a means to trade on BOX securities that are initiated by BOX and listed and traded on other exchanges.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”)<sup>12</sup> and the rules and regulations thereunder and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.<sup>13</sup> Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)<sup>14</sup> requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts, to remove impediments to and to perfect the mechanism for a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

In particular, the proposed rule change will permit BOX to accommodate requests made by BOX Options Participants and other market participants to list additional expiration months and thus encourage competition without harming investors or the public interest.

### 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.

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

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<sup>12</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>14</sup> 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 significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest, does not impose any significant burden on competition, and, by its terms, does not 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 Act<sup>15</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>16</sup>

The Exchange has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay. The Commission believes that waiver of the operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because the proposal will allow BOX to initiate the listing of series with the same range of expiration months as are available to its competitor exchanges, subject to certain conditions. Therefore, the Commission designates the proposal operative upon filing.<sup>17</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.

### IV. Solicitation of Comments

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

<sup>16</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) requires the Exchange to give the Commission written notice of the Exchange's 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.

<sup>17</sup> For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has considered the proposed rules impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-BX-2011-072 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BX-2011-072. 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, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filing also will 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 publicly available. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BX-2011-072 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.<sup>18</sup>

Kevin M. O'Neill  
Deputy Secretary

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<sup>18</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).