

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. 34-64312; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2011-053)

April 20, 2011

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Adopt an Order Price Protection Feature

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 April 14, 2011, The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC (“NASDAQ” or the “Exchange”) 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 the Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

NASDAQ is filing with the Commission a proposal for the NASDAQ Options Market (“NOM”) to amend Chapter VI, Trading Systems, to adopt new Section 18, Order Price Protection.

This change is scheduled to be implemented on NOM on or about August 1, 2011; the Exchange will announce the implementation schedule by Options Trader Alert, once the rollout schedule is finalized.

The text of the proposed rule change is available at [nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com](http://nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com), at NASDAQ’s principal office, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

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

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

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

In its filing with the Commission, NASDAQ 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. NASDAQ 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 address risks to market participants of human error in entering orders at unintended prices. To that end, the Exchange has developed a program known as Order Price Protection ("OPP"), which would prevent certain orders from executing or being placed on the book at prices outside pre-set standard limits. The System would reject such orders rather than executing them automatically. The operation of the OPP, which is very similar to PHLX Rule 1080.07, would be set forth in new Section 18 of Chapter VI.

The OPP feature would prevent certain day limit, good til cancelled or immediate or cancel orders at prices outside of certain pre-set limits from being accepted by the System. OPP would apply to all options, but would not apply to market orders or Intermarket Sweep Orders. OPP would be operational each trading day after the opening until the close of trading, except during trading halts. The Exchange would also be able to temporarily deactivate OPP from time to time on an intraday basis at its discretion if it determined that volatility warranted deactivation. Participants would be notified of intraday OPP deactivation due to volatility and

any subsequent intraday reactivation by the Exchange through the issuance of system status messages.

The OPP will help Participants control risk by checking each order, before it is accepted into the System, against certain parameters established by new Chapter VI, Section 18. It would compare price instructions on the order against the current contra-side National Best Bid Offer (“NBBO”),<sup>3</sup> and would automatically reject the order if it is priced outside the range established in Section 18.

The range of permissible orders depends on whether the contra-side of an incoming order is greater than \$1.00, or equal to or less than \$1.00. If the NBBO on the contra-side of an incoming order were greater than \$1.00, orders with a limit more than 50% through such contra-side NBBO would be rejected by the System upon receipt. For example, if the NBBO on the offer side were \$1.10, an order to buy options for more than \$1.65 would be rejected. Similarly, if the NBBO on the bid side were \$1.10, an order to sell options for less than \$0.55 would be rejected.

If the NBBO on the contra-side of an incoming order were less than or equal to \$1.00, orders with a limit more than 100% through such contra-side NBBO would be rejected by the System upon receipt. For example, if the NBBO on the offer side were \$1.00, an order to buy options for more than \$2.00 would be rejected. However, if the NBBO of the bid side of an incoming order to sell were less than or equal to \$1.00, the OPP limits set forth above would result in all incoming sell orders being accepted regardless of their limit.

Like the PHLX’s OPP, NOM’s will be available for Participants’ orders, but not for market making.

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<sup>3</sup> See Chapter I, Section 1(a)(33).

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>4</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>5</sup> in particular, in that it is 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 facilitating transactions in securities, and to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanisms of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest, by mitigating risks to market participants of human error in entering orders at clearly unintended prices.

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

NASDAQ 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.

### 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

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 after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the

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<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>6</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>7</sup> 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.

#### 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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2011-053 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.

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<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>7</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). 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 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.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2011-053. 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 the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal offices 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 available publicly.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2011-053 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>8</sup>

Cathy H. Ahn  
Deputy Secretary

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<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).