

in general, and Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁷ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts, 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. Specifically, the proposed rule change will allow BOX to list options on MNX at \$1 strike intervals, providing investors with greater flexibility and allowing them to better tailor their investment objectives, while allowing BOX to remain competitive with other options exchanges listing \$1 strike intervals on MNX options.

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

The Exchange has 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 rule does not: (i) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; or (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁸ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.⁹

The Exchange stated in its filing that the proposed rule change is based in all material respects on a Chicago Board Options Exchange rule change recently

approved by the Commission¹⁰ and does not raise any novel issues. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is necessary to eliminate any confusion among members of multiple exchanges regarding the listing and trading of MNX options and for purposes of maintaining a fair and orderly market.

The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the operative delay to permit the proposed rule change to become operative prior to the 30th day after filing. The Commission has determined that waiving the 30-day operative delay of the Exchange's proposal is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because such waiver will permit the Exchange to respond promptly to demand by market participants to list options on MNX at \$1 strike price intervals, and compete with other exchanges listing options on MNX at \$1 strike price intervals.¹¹ Therefore, the Commission designates the proposal operative upon filing.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate 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

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. Please include File No. SR-BSE-2008-57 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-BSE-2008-57. 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 Web site (<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 inspection and copying 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 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 available publicly. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-BSE-2008-57 and should be submitted on or before January 20, 2009.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹²

Florence E. Harmon,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-30859 Filed 12-29-08; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-59121; File No. SR-CBOE-2008-126]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Extend the Duration of the Hybrid Rule Pertaining to Orders Represented in Open Outcry

December 19, 2008.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on December 17, 2008, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("CBOE" or

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) requires a self-regulatory organization to provide the Commission with written notice of its 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 Commission deems this requirement to be met.

¹⁰ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 58924 (November 10, 2008), 73 FR 68464 (November 18, 2008) (SR-CBOE-2008-96).

¹¹ For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

“Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Exchange filed the proposal as a “non-controversial” proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder,⁴ which renders it effective upon filing with the Commission.⁵ 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 extend the duration of Rule 6.45A(b) relating to the allocation of orders represented in open outcry in equity option classes designated by the Exchange to be traded on the CBOE Hybrid Trading System (“Hybrid”) through March 31, 2009. No other changes are being made to the Rule. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Web site (<http://www.cboe.org/Legal>), at the Exchange’s Office of the Secretary and at the Commission.

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 CBOE 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 those 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 parts of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

In March 2005 the Commission approved revisions to CBOE Rule 6.45A related to the introduction of Remote Market-Makers.⁶ Among other things, Rule 6.45A(b), pertaining to the

allocation of orders represented in open outcry in equity options classes traded on Hybrid, was amended to clarify that only in-crowd market participants would be eligible to participate in open outcry trade allocations. In addition, Rule 6.45A(b) was amended to limit the duration of paragraph (b) of Rule 6.45A until September 14, 2005. The duration of this paragraph was thereafter extended through December 31, 2008.⁷ As the duration period expires on December 31st, the Exchange proposes to extend the effectiveness of Rule 6.45A(b) through March 31, 2009.⁸

2. Statutory Basis

Extension of the duration of the Rule will allow the Exchange to continue to operate under the existing allocation parameters for orders represented in open outcry in Hybrid on an uninterrupted basis. Accordingly, CBOE believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act⁹ and the rules and regulations under the Act applicable to a national securities exchange and, in particular, the

⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 52423 (September 14, 2005), 70 FR 55194 (September 20, 2005) (SR-CBOE-2005-76) (extension through December 14, 2005), 52957 (December 15, 2005), 70 FR 76085 (December 22, 2005) (extension through March 14, 2006), 53524 (March 21, 2006), 71 FR 15235 (March 27, 2006) (SR-CBOE-2006-22) (extension through July 14, 2006), 54164 (July 17, 2006), 71 FR 42143 (July 25, 2006) (SR-CBOE-2006-60) (extension through October 31, 2006), 54680 (November 1, 2006), 71 FR 65554 (November 8, 2006) (SR-CBOE-2006-86) (extension through January 31, 2007), 55219 (February 1, 2007), 72 FR 6305 (February 9, 2007) (SR-CBOE-2007-10) (extension through April 30, 2007), 55676 (April 27, 2007), 72 FR 25348 (May 4, 2007) (SR-CBOE-2007-40) (extension through July 31, 2007), 56177 (August 1, 2007), 72 FR 44194 (August 7, 2007) (SR-CBOE-2007-89) (extension through December 31, 2007), 57054 (December 27, 2007), 73 FR 899 (January 4, 2008) (SR-CBOE-2007-149) (extension through June 30, 2008) and 58048 (June 27, 2008) 73 FR 39355 (July 9, 2008) (SR-CBOE-2008-65) (extension through December 31, 2008).

⁸ In order to effect proprietary transactions on the floor of the Exchange, in addition to complying with the requirements of CBOE Rule 6.45A(b), members are also required to comply with the requirements of Section 11(a)(1) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 78k(a)(1), or qualify for an exemption. Section 11(a)(1) of the Act restricts securities transactions of a member of any national securities exchange effected on that exchange for (i) The member’s own account, (ii) the account of a person associated with the member, or (iii) an account over which the member or a person associated with the member exercises discretion, unless a specific exemption is available. The Exchange has issued regulatory circulars to members informing them of the applicability of these Section 11(a)(1) requirements each time the duration of the Rule was extended. See CBOE Regulatory Circulars RG05-103 (November 2, 2005), RG06-001 (January 3, 2006), RG06-34 (April 7, 2006), RG06-79 (July 31, 2006), RG06-115 (November 8, 2006), RG07-21 (February 8, 2007), RG07-53 (May 17, 2007), RG07-88 (August 15, 2007), RG08-08 (January 9, 2008) and RG08-83 (July 10, 2008).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*

requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.¹⁰ Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)¹¹ requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Burden on Competition

CBOE 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

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposal.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (1) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (2) impose any significant burden on competition; and (3) become operative for thirty days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹² and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹³ thereunder.¹⁴

A proposed rule change filed under Commission Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹⁵ normally does not become operative prior to thirty days after the date of filing. The CBOE requests that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay, as specified in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), and designate the proposed rule change to become operative immediately to allow the Exchange to continue to operate under

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). When filing a proposed rule change pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6) under the Act, an Exchange is required to give the Commission written notice of its 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 provided notice to the Commission three business days prior to filing the proposed rule change, and the Commission has determined to waive the five business day requirement.

¹⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

⁵ The Exchange has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay required by Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii). See discussion *infra* Section III.

⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51366 (March 14, 2005), 70 FR 13217 (March 18, 2005)(SR-CBOE-2004-75).

the existing allocation parameters for orders represented in open outcry in Hybrid on an uninterrupted basis. The Commission believes that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because such waiver will allow the CBOE to continue to operate under Rule 6.45A(b) without interruption. For this reason, the Commission designates the proposed rule change as operative upon filing.¹⁶

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate 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 the furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

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*. Please include File Number SR-CBOE-2008-126 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-CBOE-2008-126. 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 Web site (<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

¹⁶ For the purposes only of waiving the operative date of this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying 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 such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the CBOE. 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-CBOE-2008-126 and should be submitted on or before January 20, 2009.

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

Florence E. Harmon,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-30856 Filed 12-29-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-59126; File No. SR-FINRA-2008-060]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Trade Reporting of Transfers of Securities Subject to an Asset Purchase Agreement

December 19, 2008.

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 December 11, 2008, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") (f/k/a National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD")) 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 FINRA. FINRA has designated the proposed rule change as constituting a "non-controversial" rule change under Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder,⁴ which renders the proposal effective upon filing with the Commission. The Commission is

¹⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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

FINRA is proposing to amend FINRA trade reporting rules to codify the circumstances under which transfers of securities made pursuant to an asset purchase agreement are not subject to the reporting requirements applicable to over-the-counter transactions in debt and equity securities.

Below is the text of the proposed rule change.⁵ Proposed new language is in italics; proposed deletions are in brackets.

* * * * *

6200. Alternative Display Facility

* * * * *

6282. Transactions Reported by Members to TRACS

(a) Through (h) No Change.
 (i) [Transactions Not To Be Reported To FINRA For Publication Purposes] *Reporting Requirements For Certain Transactions and Transfers of Securities*

(1) The following [types of

transactions effected by FINRA members] shall not be reported to TRACS [for publication purposes]:

([1]A) Transactions that are part of a primary distribution by an issuer or of a registered secondary distribution (other than "shelf distributions") or of an unregistered secondary distribution;

([2]B) Transactions made in reliance on Section 4(2) of the Securities Act;

([3]) Transactions where the buyer and seller have agreed to trade at a price substantially unrelated to the current market for the security, e.g., to enable the seller to make a gift;]

([4]) Purchases or sales of securities effected upon the exercise of an option pursuant to the terms thereof or the exercise of any other right to acquire securities at a pre-established consideration unrelated to the current market;]

([5]C) Transactions reported on or through an exchange;

⁵ On September 25, 2008, the SEC approved proposed rule change SR-FINRA-2008-021, which adopts the NASD Marketplace Rules (the NASD Rule 4000 through 7000 Series) as the FINRA Rule 6000 through 7000 Series in the Consolidated FINRA Rulebook. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 58643 (September 25, 2008), 73 FR 57174 (October 1, 2008) (Order Approving SR-FINRA-2008-021; SR-FINRA-2008-022; SR-FINRA-2008-026; SR-FINRA-2008-028; and SR-FINRA-2008-029). SR-FINRA-2008-021 was implemented on December 15, 2008. See *Regulatory Notice 08-57* (October 2008). This Exhibit 5 reflects the underlying text of the FINRA Rules as adopted pursuant to SR-FINRA-2008-021.