

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 Web site 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 will also 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 Number SR-BatsEDGX-2016-21 and should be submitted on or before July 11, 2016.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>18</sup>

**Robert W. Errett,**  
Deputy Secretary.

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-78064; File No. SR-BX-2016-029]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; NASDAQ BX, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Amend Rule 7018(a)

June 14, 2016.

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 June 1, 2016, NASDAQ BX, Inc. ("Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "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 Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend the Rule 7018(a) to delete text from the preamble [sic] the rule concerning Consolidated Volume.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Web site at <http://nasdaqomxbx.cchwallstreet.com/>, at the principal office of the Exchange, 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 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 delete rule text from the preamble of Rule 7018(a) concerning Consolidated Volume. The rule currently defines Consolidated Volume as the total consolidated volume reported to all consolidated transaction reporting plans by all exchanges and trade reporting facilities during a month in equity securities, excluding executed orders with a size of less than one round lot. The Exchange excludes from the calculations of fees and credits that have a Consolidated Volume component all trading that occurs on the date of the annual reconstitution of the Russell Investments. The annual reconstitution represents a day of abnormal trading volume, as the Russell Investment indexes adjust holdings to accurately reflect the current state of equity markets and their market segments.<sup>3</sup> Consequently, the Exchange excludes the date of the Russell Investment

reconstitution in all calculations of fees and credits because it is not reflective of a member's normal trading. The Exchange expresses this under the rule by stating that, "[f]or purposes of calculating Consolidated Volume and the extent of a member's trading activity, expressed as a percentage of or ratio to Consolidated Volume, the date of the annual reconstitution of the Russell Investments Indexes shall be excluded from both total Consolidated Volume and the member's trading activity." The Exchange believes that the text stating "expressed as a percentage of, or ratio to, Consolidated Volume" may be confusing to market participants in understanding how the Exchange excludes trading activity on the day of the Russell Investment reconstitution should the Exchange ever adopt a fee or credit tier based on a different measure of Consolidated Volume. Specifically, the Exchange seeks to clarify that all trading activity on the date of the Russell Investment reconstitution (including trading activity not based on a percentage or ratio of Consolidated Volume) is excluded from a member's trading activity for determining credit and fee tiers. This proposed change has no impact on the Exchange at this time, as all tiers under the rule are currently expressed as a percentage of Consolidated Volume; however, if the Exchange adopted a new metric, such as a certain nominal level of share volume (e.g., a requirement to add 5 million shares), the Exchange wants to ensure that member understand that all trading activity on the day of the Russell Investment reconstitution would be excluded for purposes of determining what fees and credits a member qualifies for.

###### 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 Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>5</sup> in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system which the Exchange operates or controls, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes that deleting rule text from the preamble of Rule 7018(a) concerning Consolidated Volume is reasonable because it will help clarify how credit and fee tiers that

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

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

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

<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.ftserussell.com/research-insights/russell-reconstitution>.

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

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

rely on a calculation of Consolidated Volume will be handled by the Exchange during the annual Russell Indexes reconstitution. Currently, the rule text could be interpreted to apply to only a member organization's trading activity under a fee or credit tier that is expressed as a ratio or percentage of Consolidated Volume. The Exchange believes that, should it ever adopt a credit or fee tier based on another measure of Consolidated Volume, such an interpretation would undermine the Exchange's intent to exclude the abnormal trading activity that occurs on that day. Accordingly, the Exchange believes that it is reasonable to remove the potentially confusing rule text.

The Exchange believes that deleting rule text from the preamble of Rule 7018(a) concerning Consolidated Volume is an equitable allocation and is not unfairly discriminatory because the proposed change only serves to clarify the application of the rule and does not alter how Consolidated Volume is calculated. Thus, the Exchange will apply the same process to all similarly situated member organizations that seek to qualify under a fee or credit tier under the rule that relies on a calculation of Consolidated Volume.

#### *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 proposed rule change is being made to clarify the rule and avoid potential market participant confusion that may be caused by the existing rule text. As such, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed change places any burden on competition whatsoever.

#### *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.

### **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.<sup>6</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: (i) Necessary or appropriate in

the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) 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 email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-BX-2016-029 on the subject line.

#### *Paper Comments*

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BX-2016-029. 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 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 Web site 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 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 Number SR-BX-2016-029 and should be submitted on or before July 11, 2016.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>7</sup>

**Robert W. Errett,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**[Investment Advisers Act of 1940; Release No. IA-4421/June 14, 2016]**

### **Order Approving Adjustment for Inflation of the Dollar Amount Tests in Rule 205-3 Under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940**

#### **I. Background**

Section 205(a)(1) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act") generally prohibits an investment adviser from entering into, extending, renewing, or performing any investment advisory contract that provides for compensation to the adviser based on a share of capital gains on, or capital appreciation of, the funds of a client (also known as performance compensation or performance fees).<sup>1</sup> Section 205(e) authorizes the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") to exempt any advisory contract from the performance fee prohibition if the contract is with persons who the Commission determines do not need the protections of the prohibition, on the basis of certain factors described in that section.<sup>2</sup> Rule 205-3 under the Advisers Act exempts an investment adviser from the prohibition against charging a client performance fees in certain circumstances when the client is a "qualified client." The rule allows an adviser to charge performance fees if the client has at least a certain dollar amount in assets under management (currently, \$1,000,000) with the adviser immediately after entering into the advisory contract ("assets-under-management test") or if the adviser reasonably believes, immediately prior to entering into the contract, that the client had a net worth of more than a

<sup>7</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 80b-5(a)(1).

<sup>2</sup> Under section 205(e), the Commission may determine that persons do not need the protections of section 205(a)(1) on the basis of such factors as "financial sophistication, net worth, knowledge of and experience in financial matters, amount of assets under management, relationship with a registered investment adviser, and such other factors as the Commission determines are consistent with [section 205]." 15 U.S.C. 80b-5(e).

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