

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁶

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-101283; File No. 4-844]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; MIAX Sapphire, LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Minor Rule Violation Plan

October 8, 2024.

Pursuant to Section 19(d)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),¹ and Rule 19d-1(c)(2) thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on October 1, 2024, MIAX Sapphire, LLC (“Sapphire” or the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) a proposed minor rule violation plan (“MRVP”) with sanctions not exceeding \$2,500 which would not be subject to the provisions of Rule 19d-1(c)(1) of the Act³ requiring that a self-regulatory organization (“SRO”) promptly file notice with the Commission of any final disciplinary action taken with respect to any person or organization.⁴ In accordance with Rule 19d-1(c)(2) under the Act,⁵ the Exchange proposes to designate certain specified rule violations as minor rule violations, and requests that it be relieved of the prompt reporting requirements regarding such violations, provided it gives notice of such violations to the Commission on a quarterly basis.

The Exchange proposes to include in its MRVP the procedures and violations currently included in Exchange Rule 1014 (“Imposition of Fines for Minor

Rule Violations”).⁶ According to the Exchange’s proposed MRVP, under Rule 1014, the Exchange may impose a fine (not to exceed \$2,500) on any Member, or person associated with or employed by a Member, for any rule violation listed in Rule 1014(d).⁷ The Exchange shall serve the person against whom a fine is imposed with a written statement setting forth the rule or rules allegedly violated, the act or omission constituting each such violation, the fine imposed for each violation, and the date by which such determination becomes final or by which such determination must be paid or contested. If the person against whom the fine is imposed pays the fine, such payment shall be deemed to be a waiver of such person’s right to a disciplinary proceeding and any review of the matter under the Exchange rules. Any person against whom a fine is imposed may contest the Exchange’s determination by filing with the Exchange a written answer, at which point the matter shall become a disciplinary proceeding.

The Exchange proposes that, as set forth in Exchange Rule 1014(d), violations of the following rules would be appropriate for disposition under the MRVP: Rule 307 (Position Limits); Rule 803 (Focus Reports); Rule 804 (Requests for Trade Data); Rule 520 (Order Entry); Rule 605 (Execution of Orders in Appointed Options); Rule 314 (Mandatory Systems Testing); Rule 700 (Exercise of Option Contracts); Rule 309 (Exercise Limits); Rule 310 (Reports Related to Position Limits); Rule 403 (Trading in Restricted Classes); Rule 605 (Market Maker Quotations); Rule 1904 (Failure to Timely File Amendments to Form U4, Form U5, and Form BD); and Rules 1701-1713 (Failure to Comply with the Consolidated Audit Trail Compliance Rule Under Chapter XVII). The Exchange states that it is specifically excluding Rule 1014(d)(4), Conduct and Decorum Policies, from this filing.

Upon the Commission’s declaration of effectiveness of the MRVP, the Exchange will provide to the Commission a quarterly report for any actions taken on minor rule violations under the MRVP. The quarterly report will include: the disposition date, the name of the firm/individual, the Exchange’s internal enforcement number, the review period,

the nature of the violation type, the number of the rule that was violated, the number of instances the violation occurred, and the sanction imposed.

Based on compliance with the above, the Exchange requests that the rule violations designated in Rule 1014(d) be designated as minor rule violations subject to a minor rule violation reporting plan and that the Exchange be relieved of the current reporting requirements regarding such violations. In addition, going forward, to the extent that there are any changes to the rules applicable to the Exchange’s MRVP, the Exchange requests that the Commission deem such changes to be modifications to the Exchange’s MRVP.

I. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed MRVP 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 No. 4-844 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 No. 4-844. 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 MRVP that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed MRVP 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 proposed MRVP also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include

¹⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(d)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19d-1(c)(2).

³ 17 CFR 240.19d-1(c)(1).

⁴ The Commission adopted amendments to paragraph (c) of Rule 19d-1 to allow SROs to submit for Commission approval plans for the abbreviated reporting of minor disciplinary infractions. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 21013 (June 1, 1984), 49 FR 23828 (June 8, 1984). Any disciplinary action taken by an SRO against any person for violation of a rule of the SRO which has been designated as a minor rule violation pursuant to such a plan filed with and declared effective by the Commission shall not be considered “final” for purposes of Section 19(d)(1) of the Act if the sanction imposed consists of a fine not exceeding \$2,500 and the sanctioned person has not sought an adjudication, including a hearing, or otherwise exhausted his administrative remedies.

⁵ 17 CFR 240.19d-1(c)(2).

⁶ The Exchange received its grant of registration on July 15, 2024, which included approving the rules that govern the Exchange.

⁷ While Rule 1014 allows the Exchange to administer fines up to \$5,000, the Exchange is only seeking relief from the reporting requirements of paragraph (c)(1) of Rule 19d-1 for fines administered under Rule 1014(d) that do not exceed \$2,500.

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 No. 4–844 and should be submitted on or before November 5, 2024.

II. Date of Effectiveness of Proposed Minor Rule Violation Plan and Timing for Commission Action

Pursuant to Section 19(d)(1) of the Act and Rule 19d–1(c)(2) thereunder,⁸ after November 5, 2024, the Commission may, by order, declare the Exchange's proposed MRVP effective if the plan is consistent with the public interest, the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Commission in its order may restrict the categories of violations to be designated as minor rule violations and may impose any other terms or conditions to the proposed MRVP, File No. 4–844, and to the period of its effectiveness, which the Commission deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.⁹

Sherry R. Haywood,
Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–101277; File No. 4–698]

Joint Industry Plan; Notice of Designation of a Longer Period for Commission Action on Proposed Amendments to the National Market System Plan Governing the Consolidated Audit Trail Regarding Cost Savings Measures

October 8, 2024.

I. Introduction

On March 27, 2024, and pursuant to Section 11A(a)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”)¹ and Rule 608 of Regulation NMS thereunder,² BOX Exchange LLC, Cboe BYX Exchange, Inc., Cboe BZX

Exchange, Inc., Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc., Cboe EDGA Exchange, Inc., Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc., Cboe Exchange, Inc., The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., Investors’ Exchange LLC, Long-Term Stock Exchange, Inc., MEMX LLC, Miami International Securities Exchange LLC, MIAIX Emerald, LLC, MIAIX PEARL, LLC, Nasdaq BX, Inc., Nasdaq GEMX, LLC, Nasdaq ISE, LLC, Nasdaq MRX, LLC, Nasdaq PHLX LLC, The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC, New York Stock Exchange LLC, NYSE American LLC, NYSE Arca, Inc., NYSE Chicago, Inc., and NYSE National, Inc. (“the Participants”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission” or the “SEC”) proposed amendments to the national market system plan governing the consolidated audit trail (the “CAT NMS Plan”).³ These proposed amendments (the “Proposal”) were designed to implement certain cost saving measures,⁴ including: (A) provisions that would change processing, query, and storage requirements for options market maker quotes in listed options; (B) provisions that would permit the Plan Processor⁵ to move raw unprocessed data and interim operational copies of CAT Data⁶ older than 15 days to what the Participants described as a more cost-

³ In July 2012, the Commission adopted Rule 613 of Regulation NMS, which required the Participants to jointly develop and submit to the Commission a national market system plan to create, implement, and maintain a consolidated audit trail (the “CAT”). See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 67457 (July 18, 2012), 77 FR 45722 (Aug. 1, 2012) (“Rule 613 Adopting Release”); 17 CFR 242.613. On November 15, 2016, the Commission approved the CAT NMS Plan. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78318 (Nov. 15, 2016), 81 FR 84696 (Nov. 23, 2016) (“CAT NMS Plan Approval Order”). The CAT NMS Plan is Exhibit A to the CAT NMS Plan Approval Order. See CAT NMS Plan Approval Order, at 84943–85034.

⁴ See Letter from Brandon Becker, CAT NMS Plan Operating Committee Chair, to Vanessa Countryman, Secretary, Commission, dated March 27, 2024, available at <https://catnmsplan.com/sites/default/files/2024-03/03.27.24-Proposed-CAT-NMS-Plan-Amendment-Cost-Savings-Amendment.pdf>. MIAIX Sapphire, LLC was not a Participant to the CAT NMS Plan when the Proposal was originally filed, but the Participants filed an immediately-effective amendment to the CAT NMS Plan on July 30, 2024 to add MIAIX Sapphire, LLC as a Participant. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 100631 (July 31, 2024), 89 FR 64011 (Aug. 6, 2024).

⁵ The “Plan Processor” is “the Initial Plan Processor or any other Person selected by the Operating Committee pursuant to SEC Rule 613 and Sections 4.3(b)(i) and 6.1, and with regard to the Initial Plan Processor, the Selection Plan, to perform the CAT processing functions required by SEC Rule 613 and set forth in this Agreement.” See CAT NMS Plan, *supra* note 3, at Section 1.1.

⁶ “CAT Data” is “data derived from Participant Data, Industry Member Data, SIP Data, and such other data as the Operating Committee may designate as ‘CAT Data’ from time to time.” See *id.*

effective storage tier; (C) provisions that would permit the Plan Processor to provide an interim CAT-Order-ID⁷ to regulatory users on an “as requested” basis, rather than on a daily basis; and (D) provisions that would codify and expand exemptive relief recently provided by the Commission related to certain recordkeeping and data retention requirements for industry testing data. The Proposal was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on April 16, 2024.⁸

On July 15, 2024, the Commission instituted proceedings pursuant to Rule 608(b)(2)(i) of Regulation NMS,⁹ to determine whether to disapprove the Proposal or to approve the Proposal with any changes or subject to any conditions the Commission deems necessary or appropriate after considering public comment (the “OIP”).¹⁰ The Participants subsequently submitted an amendment to their Proposal on September 20, 2024 (the “Amendment”), which, among other things, withdrew the proposed amendments that would have permitted the Plan Processor to provide an interim CAT-Order-ID to regulatory users on an “as requested” basis, rather than on a daily basis.¹¹ The Amendment was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on October 7, 2024.¹²

Rule 608(b)(2)(i) of Regulation NMS provides that proceedings, once instituted, shall be concluded within 180 days of the date of the publication of notice of an amendment to an existing national market system plan and that the time for conclusion of such proceedings may be extended for up to 60 days (up to 240 days from the date of notice publication) if the Commission determines that a longer period is appropriate and publishes the reasons for such determination or if the plan

⁷ The “CAT-Order-ID” is “a unique order identifier or series of unique order identifiers that allows the central repository to efficiently and accurately link all reportable events for an order, and all orders that result from the aggregation or disaggregation of such order.” See 17 CFR 242.613(j)(1); see also CAT NMS Plan, *supra* note 3, at Section 1.1 (“‘CAT-Order-ID’ has the same meaning provided in SEC Rule 613(j)(1).”).

⁸ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 99938 (Apr. 10, 2024), 89 FR 26983 (Apr. 16, 2024) (“Notice”). Comments received in response to the Notice can be found on the Commission’s website at <https://www.sec.gov/comments/4-698/4-698-d.htm>.

⁹ 17 CFR 242.608(b)(2)(i).

¹⁰ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 100530 (July 15, 2024), 89 FR 58838 (July 19, 2024).

¹¹ Letter from Brandon Becker, CAT NMS Plan Operating Committee Chair, to Vanessa Countryman, Secretary, Commission, dated Sept. 20, 2024, available at <https://www.sec.gov/comments/4-698/4698-522995-1501362.pdf>.

¹² See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 101225 (Oct. 1, 2024), 89 FR 81120 (Oct. 7, 2024).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(d)(1); 17 CFR 240.19d–1(c)(2).

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(44).

¹ 15 U.S.C 78k–1(a)(3).

² 17 CFR 242.608.