SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; New York Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Designation of a Longer Period for Commission Action on a Proposed Rule Change Amending Rule 13 and Related Rules Governing Order Types and Modifiers, as Modified by Partial Amendment No. 1

January 14, 2015.

On November 14, 2014, New York Stock Exchange LLC (“Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)3 and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,4 a proposed rule change to amend Exchange Rule 13 and other Exchange rules governing order types and order modifiers. The proposed rule change was published in the Federal Register on December 4, 2014.5 On December 22, 2014, the Exchange submitted Partial Amendment No. 1 to the Commission and filed the Partial Amendment No. 1 to the public comment file.6 The Commission has received no other comment on the proposal.7

Section 19(b)(2) of the Act8 provides that, within 45 days of the publication of the notice of the filing of a proposed rule change, or within such longer period up to 90 days as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or as to which self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission shall either approve the proposed rule change, disapprove the proposed rule change, or institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved. The Commission is extending this 45-day time period.

The Commission finds that it is appropriate to designate a longer period within which to take action on the proposed rule change so that it has sufficient time to consider the proposed rule change, as modified by Partial Amendment No. 1. Accordingly, the Commission, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,9 designates March 4, 2015, as the date by which the Commission should either approve or disapprove or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove the proposed rule change (File Number SR–NYSE–2014–59).

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.10

Brent J. Fields,
Secretary.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Extend the Expiration Date of FINRA Rule 0180 (Application of Rules to Security-Based Swaps)

January 14, 2015.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)11 and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,12 notice is hereby given that on January 7, 2015, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”) 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 FINRA. FINRA has designated the proposed rule change as a “non-controversial” rule change under paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b–4 under the Act,13 which renders the proposal effective upon receipt of this filing by 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

FINRA is proposing to extend the expiration date of FINRA Rule 0180 (Application of Rules to Security-Based Swaps) to February 11, 2016. FINRA Rule 0180 temporarily limits, with certain exceptions, the application of FINRA rules with respect to security-based swaps.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on FINRA’s Web site at http://www.finra.org, at the principal office of FINRA 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, FINRA included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and, if it deemed 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. FINRA 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

On July 1, 2011, the SEC issued an Order granting temporary exemptive relief (the “Temporary Exemptions”) from compliance with certain provisions of the Exchange Act in connection with the revision, pursuant to Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”),4 of the Exchange Act definition of “security” to encompass security-based swaps.5 Consistent with the Commission’s action, on July 8, 2011, FINRA filed for immediate effectiveness FINRA Rule 0180,6 which, with certain exceptions, is intended to temporarily limit the definition in Section 761 of the Dodd-Frank Act.

4 See letter from Martha Redding, Chief Counsel, New York Stock Exchange, to Kevin M. O’Neill, Deputy Secretary, Commission, dated December 22, 2014.
application of FINRA rules with respect to security-based swaps, thereby helping to avoid undue market disruptions resulting from the change to the definition of “security” under the Act.

The Commission, noting the need to avoid a potential unnecessary disruption to the security-based swap market in the absence of an extension of the Temporary Exemptions, and the need for additional time to consider the potential impact of the revision of the Exchange Act definition of “security” in light of ongoing Commission rulemaking efforts under Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act, issued an Order which extended and refined the applicable expiration dates for the previously granted Temporary Exemptions.

The Commission previously noted that extending the Temporary Exemptions would facilitate a coordinated consideration of these issues with the relief provided pursuant to FINRA Rule 0180. In establishing Rule 0180, and in extending the rule’s expiration date, FINRA noted its intent, pending the implementation of any SEC rules and guidance that would provide greater regulatory clarity in relation to security-based swap activities, to align the expiration date of FINRA Rule 0180 with the termination of relevant provisions of the Temporary Exemptions.

The Commission’s rulemaking and development of guidance in relation to security-based swap activities is ongoing. As such, FINRA believes it is appropriate and in the public interest, in light of the Commission’s goals as set forth in the Exemptive Release and the Temporary Exemptions Extension Release, to extend FINRA Rule 0180 for a limited period, to February 11, 2016, so as to avoid undue market disruptions resulting from the change to the definition of “security” under the Act. As noted in the FINRA Rule 0180 Notice of Filing, FINRA will amend the expiration date of Rule 0180 in subsequent filings as necessary such that the expiration date will be coterminous with the termination of relevant provisions of the Temporary Exemptions.

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. FINRA is proposing that the implementation date of the proposed rule change will be February 11, 2015.

2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act, which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules must be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. FINRA believes that the proposed rule change would further the purposes of the Act because, consistent with the goals set forth by the Commission in the Exemptive Release and in the Temporary Exemptions Extension Release, the proposed rule change will help to avoid undue market disruption that could result if FINRA Rule 0180 expires before the implementation of any SEC rules and guidance that would provide greater regulatory clarity in relation to security-based swap activities.

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

FINRA 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. FINRA believes that the proposed rule change would prevent undue market disruption that would otherwise result if security-based swaps were, by virtue of the expansion of the Act’s definition of “security” to encompass security-based swaps, subject to the application of all FINRA rules before the implementation of any SEC rules and guidance that would provide greater regulatory clarity in relation to security-based swap activities. FINRA believes that, by extending the expiration of FINRA Rule 0180, the proposed rule change will serve to promote regulatory clarity and consistency, thereby reducing burdens on the marketplace and facilitating investor protection.

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 from the date on which it was filed, FINRA may determine, in its discretion, that the rule change will become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act and Rule 19b–4(f)(6) thereunder.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission 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

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7 The current FINRA rulebook consists of: (1) FINRA Rules; (2) NASD Rules; and (3) rules incorporated from NYSE (“Incorporated NYSE Rules”). While the NASD Rules generally apply to all FINRA members, the Incorporated NYSE Rules apply only to those members of FINRA that are also members of NYSE. The FINRA Rules apply to all FINRA members, unless such rules have a more limited application by their terms. For more information about the rulebook consolidation process, see Information Notice, March 12, 2008 (Rulebook Consolidation Process).

8 In its Exemptive Release, the Commission noted that the relief is targeted and does not include, for instance, relief from the Act’s antifraud and anti-manipulation provisions. FINRA has noted that FINRA Rule 0180 is similarly targeted. For instance, paragraph (a) of FINRA Rule 0180 provides that FINRA rules shall not apply to members’ activities and positions with respect to security-based swaps, except for FINRA Rules 2010 (Standards of Commercial Honor and Principles of Trade), 2020 (Use of Manipulative, Deceptive or Other Fraudulent Devices), 3110 (Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program) and 4240 (Margin Requirements for Credit Default Swaps). See also paragraphs (b) and (c) of FINRA Rule 0180 (addressing the applicability of additional rules) and FINRA Rule 0180 Notice of Filing.

9 See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 71485 (February 5, 2014), 79 FR 7570 (February 10, 2014) (Order Extending Temporary Exemptions Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in Connection With the Revision of the Definition of “Security” to Encompass Security-Based Swaps, and Request for Comment) (“Temporary Exemptions Extension Release”) stating that, for those expiring Temporary Exemptions “that are not directly linked to pending security-based swap rulemakings, the Commission is extending the expiration date until the earlier of the expiration date for the related rulemakings, the Commission is extending the expiration date until the compliance date for the related security-based swap-specific rulemaking.” See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 71482 (February 5, 2014), 79 FR 7570 (February 10, 2014) (Extension of Exemptions for Security-Based Swaps) (extending the expiration dates in interim final rules that provide exemptions under the Securities Act of 1933 (the “Securities Act”), the Exchange Act, and the Trust Indenture Act of 1939


11 See note 6 supra.


For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.15

Brent J. Fields,
Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; ICE Clear Credit LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change To Revise ICC End-of-Day Price Discovery Policies and Procedures

January 14, 2015.

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 January 5, 2015, ICE Clear Credit LLC ("ICC") 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 primarily by ICC. 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 principal purpose of the proposed rule change is to revise the ICC End-of-Day Price Discovery Policies and Procedures to incorporate enhancements to its price discovery process. This revision does not require any changes to the ICC Rules.

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

In its filing with the Commission, ICC 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. ICC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.

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

ICC proposes revising the ICC End-of-Day Price Discovery Policies and Procedures to incorporate enhancements to its price discovery process.

ICC believes such revisions will facilitate the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and derivative agreements, contracts, and transactions for which it is responsible. The proposed revisions are described in detail as follows.

ICC currently utilizes a “cross and lock” algorithm as part of its price discovery process. Under this algorithm, standardized bids and offers derived from Clearing Participant ("CP") submissions are matched by sorting them from highest to lowest and lowest to highest levels, respectively. This sorting process pairs the CP submitting the highest bid price with the CP submitting the lowest offer price, the CP submitting the second highest bid price with the CP submitting the second-lowest offer price, and so on. The algorithm then identifies crossed and/or locked markets. Crossed markets are the CP pairs generated by the sorting and ranking process for which the bid price of one CP is above the offer price of the matched CP. The algorithm identifies locked markets, where the bid and the offer are equal, in a similar fashion.

Whenever there are crossed and/or locked matched markets, the algorithm applies a set of rules designed to identify standardized submissions that are “obvious errors.” The algorithm sets a high bid threshold equal to the preliminary end-of-day (“EOD”) level plus one EOD bid offer width ("BOW"), and a low offer threshold equal to the preliminary EOD level minus one EOD BOW. The algorithm considers a CP’s standardized submission to be an “obvious error” if the bid is higher than the high bid threshold, or the offer is lower than the low offer threshold.

CP pairs identified by the algorithm as crossed or locked markets are required from time to time, under the End-of-Day Price Discovery Policies and Procedures, to enter into cleared trades with each other as part of the ICC EOD price discovery process (“Firm Trade”). Currently, ICC excludes standardized submissions it identifies as obvious errors from Firm Trades and does not use these submissions in its determination of published EOD levels.

ICC proposes implementing consequences for CPs providing price discovery submissions deemed to be