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–BATS–2015–78 and should be submitted on or before October 27, 2015.

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

Robert W. Errett,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015–23327 Filed 10–5–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations;
Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to the Submission of “Clearing-Only, Non-Regulatory Reports” to the FINRA Equity Trade Reporting Facilities

September 30, 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 September 22, 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 constituting a “non-controversial” rule change under paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b–4 under the Act, 3 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 Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

FINRA is proposing to amend FINRA rules governing the reporting of over-the-counter (“OTC”) transactions in equity securities to the FINRA Facilities 4 to allow the submission of “clearing-only, non-regulatory reports,” as defined herein, relating to previously executed and reported transactions and exempt such reports from certain reporting requirements under FINRA rules.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on FINRA’s Web site at http://www.fina.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 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. FINRA has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.


4 For purposes of this filing, the FINRA Facilities are the Alternative Display Facility (“ADF”) and the Trade Reporting Facilities (“TRF”), to which members report OTC transactions in NMS stocks, as defined in SEC Rule 600(b) of Regulation NMS; and the OTC Reporting Facility (“ORF”), to which members report transactions in “OTC Equity Securities,” as defined in Rule 6420 (i.e., non-NMS stocks such as OTC Bulletin Board and OTC Market securities), as well as transactions in Restricted Equity Securities, as defined in Rule 6420, effected pursuant to Securities Act Rule 144A.

5 FINRA trade reporting rules require that for transactions between members, the “executing party” report the trade to FINRA. For transactions between a member and a non-member or customer, the member must report the trade. “Executing party” is defined under FINRA rules as the member that receives an order for handling or execution or is presented an order against its quote, does not subsequently re-route the order, and executes the transaction. See Rules 6282(b), 6380A(b), 6380B(b) and 6622(b).

6 For purposes of OTC trade reporting requirements applicable to equity securities, a “riskless principal” transaction is a transaction in which a member, after having received an order to buy (sell) a security, purchases (sells) the security as principal (the initial leg) and satisfies the original order by selling (buying) as principal at the same price.

7 See Rules 6282(d)(4), 6380A(d)(4), 6380B(d)(4) and 6622(d)(4).

8 As noted, FINRA rules do not mandate that members submit OTC transactions for clearing through a FINRA Facility, and for example, members may elect to clear via direct submission to the NSCC by a Qualified Special Representative (“QSR”).
reporting the ATS’s transactions. The member must use such separate MPID to report all transactions executed within the ATS to FINRA. Members that operate multiple ATSs or engage in other lines of business requiring the use of MPIDs must obtain and use multiple MPIDs.

Following implementation of the ATS MPID requirement, some firms that operate an ATS and use a FINRA Facility to submit trades to NSCC submit separate clearing-only reports to FINRA using their main broker-dealer MPID. In other words, the firm submits a tape report and any required non-tape, non-clearing (i.e., regulatory) reports using the ATS MPID, and also submits one or more separate clearing-only reports using the firm’s main broker-dealer MPID. FINRA understands that firms report in this manner to facilitate externally facing back office clearing processes, such as client reporting and step-out trade processing, that are built using the firm’s main broker-dealer MPID. Firms have indicated that it would be a significant burden to change these established clearing processes and use the ATS MPID for purposes of clearing-only submissions.

Currently, these additional clearing reports with the firm’s main broker-dealer MPID duplicate the trade information previously reported to FINRA. Because they are not identified with the same MPID and are not linked to the related tape and non-tape, non-clearing reports, FINRA is unable to distinguish duplicative clearing-only reports that are submitted to satisfy a firm’s regulatory reporting obligations. This creates confusion in the audit trail which in turn can result in the generation of false alerts in FINRA’s automated surveillance programs.

Clearing-Only, Non-Regulatory Reports

After reviewing the system capabilities and consulting with industry representatives, FINRA is proposing to adopt new subparagraph (d) under Rules 7130(g), 7230A(h), 7230B(h) and 7330(d) to create a uniquely identified category of submissions to FINRA that are “clearing-only, non-regulatory reports,” i.e., the transaction is submitted solely to facilitate clearing and not for dissemination or regulatory purposes. As described in more detail below, ATSs would be permitted to use their main broker-dealer MPID on this limited subset of reports.

Pursuant to the proposed rule change, a member may submit a clearing-only, non-regulatory report to a FINRA Facility for a previously executed trade for which a tape report has been submitted to the Facility, or for the offsetting portion of a riskless principal or agency transaction for which a non-tape, non-clearing report already has been submitted to the Facility satisfying FINRA regulatory requirements. In other words, the information contained in a clearing-only, non-regulatory report must be duplicative of information reported to the FINRA Facility in other submissions.

Pursuant to the proposed rule change, a clearing-only, non-regulatory report cannot be used to satisfy any regulatory reporting requirement under FINRA rules that may apply to the transaction, e.g., the identification of other members for agency or riskless principal transactions. Thus, members will only be permitted to use such reports where the member’s regulatory reporting obligations have been satisfied through other reports (tape or non-tape, as applicable) submitted to the FINRA Facility. Submission of a clearing-only, non-regulatory report constitutes certification by the member that it has satisfied all regulatory reporting requirements that may apply to the transaction through its other submissions.

Members that opt to submit such reports would be required to use a unique indicator to denote that the report is submitted solely for purposes of clearing the transaction and not for purposes of satisfying any regulatory reporting requirements. If a clearing submission does not comply with the provisions of the Rule, e.g., if it is being used to satisfy any regulatory reporting requirements, then the member must not use the unique indicator. FINRA is proposing a conformance change to Rules 7130(d), 7230A(d), 7230B(d) and 7330(d), which identify the information that must be included in trade reports submitted to FINRA, to require members to append the unique indicator to denote a clearing-only, non-regulatory report, if applicable. Although clearing-only, non-regulatory reports will not be used by members to satisfy their regulatory reporting obligations, the information contained in such reports must nonetheless be consistent with previously submitted information for the same transaction, unless otherwise expressly provided under FINRA rules. Thus, FINRA is also proposing to amend Rules 6160, 6170 and 6480 to expressly allow members that operate an ATS to use an MPID other than their ATS MPID on clearing-only, non-regulatory reports. FINRA notes, however, that this relief relates solely to the MPID requirement, and the member firm with the trade reporting obligation under FINRA rules (or the “executing party”) must continue to be identified as such in all clearing-only, non-regulatory reports.

In addition, FINRA is proposing to amend Rules 7130(d), 7230A(d), 7230B(d) and 7330(d) to provide that members are not required to use the short sale (or short sale exempt) indicator, if applicable, on clearing-only, non-regulatory reports. The short sale indicator must be included on the required tape report and if submitted, non-tape non-clearing report that identifies the FINRA member that is selling short (or short exempt). The member is not required to duplicate this information on the optional clearing-only, non-regulatory report.

FINRA reiterates that use of the clearing-only, non-regulatory report is not mandatory, and members will have the option of continuing to use clearing submissions to satisfy their regulatory reporting obligations. However, where a member opts to submit a clearing-only, non-regulatory report that duplicates trade information reported to FINRA in other tape and non-tape, non-clearing reports, then the member would be required to comply with the requirements set forth in this proposed rule change.

To further illustrate the application of the proposed rule change, FINRA is providing the following detailed example: Member Firm 1 operates an ATS that uses the MPID “MATS,” and Firm 1’s main broker-dealer MPID is “MOTH.” Firm 1 executes an agency cross transaction in its ATS between member Firm 2, as the buyer, and member Firm 3, as the seller.

Although clearing-only, non-regulatory reports will not be used by members to satisfy their regulatory reporting obligations, the information contained in such reports must

---

9 See Rules 6160, 6170 and 6480.

10 See, e.g., current Rules 7130(g)(1), 7230A(i)(1), 7230B(h)(1) and 7330(h)(1), which prohibit members from submitting to a FINRA Facility any non-tape report associated with a previously executed trade that was not reported to that FINRA Facility, except where submitting the offsetting portion of a riskless principal or agency transaction. See also Regulatory Notice 07–38 (August 2007).


12 If a member is using its clearing submission to satisfy any of its regulatory reporting obligations, then it must use its ATS MPID (and may not use its main broker-dealer MPID) in the clearing submission.
FINRA members ("MATS" sells to Firm 2 and "MATS" buys from Firm 3). Firm 1 has the option, but is not required, to also report the transaction to FINRA for submission to clearing. Under the proposed rule change, Firm 1 could opt to submit two additional reports, i.e., two clearing-only, non-regulatory reports, with the unique indicator specified by FINRA, using an MPID other than its ATS MPID ("MOTH" sells to Firm 2 and "MOTH" buys from Firm 3). In making such submissions, per the terms of the proposed rule change, Firm 1 is certifying that it has satisfied all regulatory reporting requirements through the submission of the tape and non-tape, non-clearing reports.

Alternatively, Firm 1 would have the option of designating the non-tape reports showing “MATS” sells to Firm 2 and “MATS” buys from Firm 3 for clearing. In that instance, Firm 1 would not use the special indicator because the reports are also satisfying Firm 1’s reporting obligation under FINRA rules to identify Firms 2 and 3 as parties to the trade.

Finally, FINRA notes that while the proposed rule change has been prompted by issues involving ATS trade reporting, any FINRA member (e.g., a member that does not operate an ATS but nonetheless uses multiple MPIDs) could elect to use clearing-only, non-regulatory reports in accordance with the proposed rule change.

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change will ensure the accuracy and efficiency of FINRA’s audit trail and automated surveillance programs while accommodating firms’ business models and reporting and clearing processes that rely on clearing against their main broker-dealer MPID. The proposed rule change will ensure a more accurate audit trail by distinguishing voluntary trade reports that are submitted only to facilitate clearing from reports that are required under FINRA’s trade reporting rules to satisfy a member’s regulatory reporting obligations. Further, by distinguishing clearing-only, non-regulatory reports from other trade submissions, the proposed rule change will improve the efficiency of FINRA’s automated surveillance programs by potentially preventing false alerts that require both FINRA and member firms to unnecessarily expend resources to address such alerts.

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and proposes that the operative date will be in February 2016. FINRA will announce the operative date in a Regulatory Notice. To provide members sufficient time to make the required systems changes, FINRA expects to publish updated technical specifications for the FINRA Facilities at least four months prior to the operative date.

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 change is consistent with the Act because it will ensure a more accurate audit trail and enhance FINRA’s ability to surveil on an automated basis for compliance with FINRA trade reporting rules.

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.

Economic Impact Analysis

As described above, implementation of FINRA’s reporting rules for ATSs creates an obligation for firms to report transactions to FINRA using an ATS-specific MPID. FINRA understands that requiring the submission of clearing reports with a firm’s ATS-specific MPID would impose significant costs for firms with clearing processes that use their main broker-dealer MPID, and such a requirement would provide no material additional regulatory or market information beyond what is already provided through tape and non-tape regulatory reporting. Consequently, the proposed rule change is intended to remove a burden on firms that would provide no significant regulatory benefit if maintained.

While the proposed rule change would require some firms to implement systems changes to identify clearing-only, non-regulatory reports with a unique indicator, FINRA does not believe that these changes would impose significant or differential costs on similarly situated firms.14 Firms will not be required to submit clearing-only, non-regulatory reports and may continue to combine their regulatory reporting and clearing in the same report. Thus, firms will be free to select the method of reporting that best suits their business model. FINRA notes that firms would not be required to report consistently for all trades, i.e., a firm could submit clearing-only, non-regulatory reports for some trades, but not all.15 FINRA is proposing to provide members a sufficient implementation period to accommodate any such changes.

As noted above, the information in clearing-only, non-regulatory reports will be duplicative of information provided to FINRA in other reports. Accordingly, there will be no impact on the regulatory information that FINRA receives, and FINRA will be able to identify firms’ use of clearing-only, non-regulatory reports in its audit trail. Therefore, the proposed rule change is not anticipated to create significant economic or informational impacts on the public, member firms or FINRA.

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, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.17

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. Please include File Number SR–FINRA–2015–035 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–FINRA–2015–035. 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 such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal offices of FINRA. 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–FINRA–2015–035, and should be submitted on or before October 27, 2015.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.\(^6\)

Robert W. Errett,\(^a\)
Deputy Secretary.

\[^{a}\] FR Doc. 2015–25330 Filed 10–5–15; 8:45 am

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; BATS Y-Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Delete Rule 2.13, Fidelity Bonds

September 30, 2015.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”), and Rule 19b–4 thereunder, notice is hereby given that on September 24, 2015, BATS Y-Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “BYX”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Exchange has designated this proposal as a “non-controversial” proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act \(^3\) and Rule 19b–4(f)(6)(iii) thereunder, \(^4\) which renders it effective upon filing with 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

The Exchange is proposing to delete Rule 2.13, Fidelity Bonds, in order to conform to the rules of EDGA Exchange, Inc. (“EDGA”) and EDGX Exchange, Inc. (“EDGX”).

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange’s Web site at www.batstrading.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 \(^5\) 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

In early 2014, the Exchange and its affiliate, BATS Exchange, Inc. (“BZX”), received approval to effect a merger (the “Merger”) of the Exchange’s parent company, BATS Global Markets, Inc., with Direct Edge Holdings LLC, the indirect parent of EDGX, and EDGA (together with BZX, BYX and EDGX, the “BGM Affiliated Exchanges”). In the context of the Merger, the BGM Affiliated Exchanges are working to align its [sic] rules, retaining only intended differences between the BGM Affiliated Exchanges. Thus, the proposal set forth below is intended to delete Rule 2.13, Fidelity Bonds, in order to conform to the rules of EDGA and EDGX in order to provide a consistent rule set across each of the BGM Affiliated Exchanges.\(^6\)

In sum, Exchange Rule 2.13(a) states that each Member required to join the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (“SIPC”) who has employees and who is a member in good standing of another self-regulatory organization shall follow the applicable fidelity bond rule of the self-regulatory organization to which it is designated by the Commission for financial responsibility pursuant to Section 17 of the Act and SEC Rule 17d–1 thereunder (i.e., its Designated Examining Authority or “DEA”). Subparagraph (b) to Rule 2.13 simply incorporates by reference NASD Rule 3020 (now FINRA Rule 4360) in to Exchange Rule 2.13. Subparagraph (c) of Rule 2.13 states that references to: (i) An “Association member” shall be construed as references to a “Member”; and (ii) Article I, paragraph (q) of the By-Laws shall be construed as references to Exchange Rule 1.5(g). Lastly,


\(^{15}\) The Exchange notes that BZX intends to file a proposal to delete its identical Rule 2.13, Fidelity Bonds.

\(^{16}\) A Member is defined as “any registered broker or dealer that has been admitted to membership in the Exchange.” See Exchange Rule 1.5(a).
