

2011–15 and should be submitted on or before January 17, 2012.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>11</sup>

**Kevin M. O'Neill,**  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2011–33052 Filed 12–23–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–66008; File No. SR–C2–2011–40]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to the Penny Pilot Program

December 20, 2011.

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 December 15, 2011, C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated (the “Exchange” or “C2”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II 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 its rules relating to the Penny Pilot Program. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Web site (<http://www.c2exchange.com/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 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 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

The Penny Pilot Program is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2011. C2 proposes to extend the Pilot Program until June 30, 2012. C2 believes that extending the Pilot Program will allow for further analysis of the Pilot Program and a determination of how the Pilot Program should be structured in the future.

During this extension of the Penny Pilot Program, C2 proposes that it may replace any option class that is currently included in the Pilot Program and that has been delisted with the next most actively-traded, multiple-listed option class that is not yet participating in the Pilot Program (“replacement class”). Any replacement class would be determined based on national average daily volume in the preceding six months<sup>3</sup>, and would be added on the second trading day following January 1, 2012. C2 will announce to its Permit Holders by circular any replacement classes in the Pilot Program.

C2 is specifically authorized to act jointly with the other options exchanges participating in the Penny Pilot Program in identifying any replacement class. C2 will submit to the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) reports that will analyze the impact of the Pilot Program on market quality and systems capacity for the periods October 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012 and April 1 through June 30, 2012. Each report will include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) Data and analysis of the number of quotations generated for options included in the report; (2) an assessment of the quotation spreads for the options included in the report; (3) an assessment of the impact of the Pilot Program on C2’s automated systems; (4) data reflecting the size and depth of markets; and (5) any capacity problems or other problems that arose related to the operation of the Pilot Program and how the Exchange addressed them.

<sup>3</sup> The month immediately preceding a replacement class’s addition to the Pilot Program (i.e. December) would not be used for purposes of the six-month analysis. Thus, a replacement class to be added on the second trading following January 1, 2012 would be identified based on The Option Clearing Corporation’s trading volume data from June 1, 2011 through November 30, 2011.

##### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6 of the Act<sup>4</sup> and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>5</sup>. Specifically, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>6</sup> requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts, to remove impediments to and to perfect the mechanism for a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. In particular, the proposed rule change allows for an extension of the Penny Pilot Program for the benefit of market participants.

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

C2 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

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

#### 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) of the Act<sup>7</sup> and Rule 19b–4(f)(6)(iii) thereunder.<sup>8</sup>

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b–4(f)(6)<sup>9</sup> normally does not become operative for 30 days after the

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

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

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f)(6)(iii). In addition, Rule 19b–4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file 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 notes that the Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f)(6).

<sup>11</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.

date of filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii)<sup>10</sup> the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposal may become operative immediately upon filing.

The Commission believes that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Waiving the operative delay will allow the pilot program to continue on C2 uninterrupted, which will avoid the investor confusion that could result from an interruption in the pilot. For this reason, the Commission designates the proposed rule change as operative upon the date of this notice.<sup>11</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 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 email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File No. SR-C2-2011-40 on the subject line.

##### *Paper Comments*

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File No. SR-C2-2011-40. 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 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-C2-2011-40 and should be submitted on or before January 17, 2012.

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

**Kevin M. O'Neill,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2011-33053 Filed 12-23-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

#### **SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**

**[Docket No. SSA-2011-0097]**

##### **Rate for Assessment on Direct Payment Fees to Representatives in 2012**

**AGENCY:** Social Security Administration (SSA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are announcing that the assessment percentage rate under Sections 206(d) and 1631(d)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act (Act), 42 U.S.C. 406(d) and 1383(d)(2)(C), is 6.3 percent for 2012.

##### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jeffrey C. Blair, Associate General Counsel for Program Law, Office of the General Counsel, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401. Phone: (410) 965-3157, email [Jeff.Blair@ssa.gov](mailto:Jeff.Blair@ssa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**  
Individuals claiming Social Security

benefits or Supplemental Security Income payments may choose to hire representatives to assist them with their claims. If the claim is successful and the individual was represented either by an attorney or by a nonattorney representative who has met certain prerequisites, the Act provides that we may withhold up to 25 percent of the past-due benefits payable on the claim and use that money to pay the representative's approved fee directly to the representative.

When we pay the representative's fee directly to the representative, we must collect from that fee payment an assessment to recover the costs we incur in determining and paying representatives' fees. The Act provides that the assessment we collect will be the lesser of two amounts: a specified dollar limit; or the amount determined by multiplying the fee we are paying by the assessment percentage rate. (Sections 206(d), 206(e), and 1631(d)(2) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. 406(d), 406(e), and 1383(d)(2)).

The Act initially set the dollar limit at \$75 in 2004 and provides that the limit will be adjusted annually based on changes in the cost-of-living. (Sections 206(d)(2)(A) and 1631(d)(2)(C)(ii)(I) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. 406(d)(2)(A) and 1383(d)(2)(C)(ii)(I)) The maximum dollar limit for the assessment currently is \$86, as we announced in the **Federal Register** on October 25, 2011 (76 FR 66111).

The Act requires us each year to set the assessment percentage rate at the lesser of 6.3 percent or the percentage rate necessary to achieve full recovery of the costs we incur to determine and pay representatives' fees. (Sections 206(d)(2)(B)(ii) and 1631(d)(2)(C)(ii)(II) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. 406(d)(2)(B)(ii) and 1383(d)(2)(C)(ii)(II)) Based on the best available data, we have determined that the current rate of 6.3 percent will continue for 2012. We will continue to review our costs for these services on a yearly basis.

Dated: December 8, 2011.

**Michael G. Gallagher,**

*Deputy Commissioner for Budget, Finance and Management.*

[FR Doc. 2011-33099 Filed 12-23-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4191-02-P**

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

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

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