

comprehensive oversight of the Commission.

Section 109 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act provides that the PCAOB shall establish a reasonable annual accounting support fee, as may be necessary or appropriate to establish and maintain the PCAOB. Under Section 109(f) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the aggregate annual accounting support fee shall not exceed the PCAOB's aggregate "recoverable budget expenses," which may include operating, capital, and accrued items. The PCAOB's annual budget and accounting support fee are subject to approval by the Commission. In addition, the PCAOB must allocate the annual accounting support fee among issuers and among registered brokers and dealers.

Section 109(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act directs the PCAOB to establish a budget for each fiscal year in accordance with the PCAOB's internal procedures, subject to approval by the Commission. Rule 190 of Regulation P (the "Budget Rule") governs the Commission's review and approval of PCAOB budgets and annual accounting support fees.³ The Budget Rule provides, among other things, a timetable for the preparation and submission of the PCAOB budget and for Commission actions related to each budget, a description of the information that should be included in each budget submission, limits on the PCAOB's ability to incur expenses and obligations except as provided in the approved budget, procedures relating to supplemental budget requests, requirements for the PCAOB to provide on a quarterly basis certain budget-related information, and a list of definitions that apply to the rule and to general discussions of PCAOB budget matters.

In accordance with the Budget Rule, in March 2022 the PCAOB provided the Commission with a narrative description of its program issues and outlook for the 2023 budget year. In response, the Commission provided the PCAOB with economic assumptions and general budgetary guidance for the 2023 budget year. The PCAOB subsequently delivered a preliminary budget and budget justification to the Commission. Staff from the Commission's Office of the Chief Accountant and Office of Financial Management dedicated a substantial amount of time to the review and analysis of the PCAOB's programs, projects, and budget estimates and participated in several meetings with staff of the PCAOB to further develop the understanding of the PCAOB's budget and operations. During the

course of this review, Commission staff relied upon representations and supporting documentation from the PCAOB. Based on this review, the Commission issued a "passback" letter to the PCAOB on October 27, 2022. On November 18, 2022, the PCAOB adopted its 2023 budget and accounting support fee during an open meeting, and subsequently submitted that budget to the Commission for approval.

After considering the above, the Commission did not identify any proposed disbursements in the 2023 budget adopted by the PCAOB that are not properly recoverable through the annual accounting support fee, and the Commission believes that the aggregate proposed 2023 annual accounting support fee does not exceed the PCAOB's aggregate recoverable budget expenses for 2023.

The Commission continues to emphasize the importance of the PCAOB's identification of efficiencies and process improvements. Accordingly, the Commission requests that the PCAOB evaluate its operational efficiency, improvements, and budgetary needs and submit such assessments to the Commission in connection with the 2024 budget cycle.

Coordination between the SEC and PCAOB continues to be important. The Commission directs the PCAOB during 2023 to continue to hold monthly meetings, as necessary, with the Commission's staff to discuss important policy initiatives, changes related to program areas, and significant impacts to the PCAOB's 2023 budget, including significant differences between actual and budgeted amounts and anticipated cost-savings. Separately, the Commission directs the PCAOB to continue its written quarterly updates on recent activities, including strategic initiatives, for the PCAOB's Office of Economic and Risk Analysis; Office of Data, Security, and Technology; and Division of Registration and Inspections. The Commission expects the PCAOB to make itself available to meet with individual Commissioners on these and other topics. Further, the Commission requests that the PCAOB submit its 2022 annual report to the Commission by March 31, 2023.

The Commission understands that the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") has determined that the 2023 budget of the PCAOB is subject to sequestration under the Budget Control Act of 2011.⁴ For 2022, the PCAOB

sequestered \$17.7 million. That amount will become available in 2023. For 2023, the sequestration amount will be 5.7% or \$19.9 million. Consequently, we expect the PCAOB will have approximately \$2.2 million less funds available from the 2022 sequestration for spending in 2023. Accordingly, the PCAOB should submit a revised spending plan for 2023 reflecting a \$2.2 million reduction to budgeted expenditures as a result of the increase in sequestration amount from 2022 to 2023.

The Commission has determined that the PCAOB's 2023 budget and annual accounting support fee are consistent with Section 109 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Accordingly,

It is ordered, pursuant to Section 109 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, that the PCAOB budget and annual accounting support fee for calendar year 2023 are approved.

By the Commission.

Vanessa A. Countryman,
Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–96570; File No. SR–CBOE–2022–057]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Designation of Longer Period for Commission Action on a Proposed Rule Change To Increase the Position and Exercise Limits for Options on Apple Inc. Stock

December 22, 2022.

On November 7, 2022, Cboe Exchange, Inc. filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),¹ and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,² a proposed rule change to increase the position and exercise limits for options on Apple Inc. stock ("AAPL"). The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on November 25, 2022.³ The Commission has received no comment letters regarding the proposed rule change.

Section 19(b)(2) of the Act⁴ provides that within 45 days of the publication of notice of the filing of a proposed rule change, or within such longer period up

⁴ OMB Report to the Congress on the BBEDCA 251A Sequestration for Fiscal Year 2023 (Mar. 28, 2022), available at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/BBEDCA_251A_Sequestration_Report_FY2023.pdf.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 96353 (Nov. 18, 2022), 87 FR 72568.

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

³ 17 CFR 202.190.

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 the 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 45th day after publication of the notice for this proposed rule change is January 9, 2023.

The Commission is extending the 45-day time period for Commission action on the proposed rule change. 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. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁵ the Commission designates February 23, 2023, as the date by which the Commission shall either approve or disapprove, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove, the proposed rule change (File No. SR-CBOE-2022-057).

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

Sherry R. Haywood,
Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-96574; File No. SR-Phlx-2022-49]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq PHLX LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Modify Equity 4, Rule 3100 to Establish Common Criteria and Procedures for Halting and Resuming Trading in Equity Securities in the Event of Regulatory or Operational Issues

December 22, 2022.

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 December 15, 2022, Nasdaq PHLX LLC (“Phlx” or “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 modify Equity 4, Rule 3100 to establish common criteria and procedures for halting and resuming trading in equity securities in the event of regulatory or operational issues, reorganize the text of the rule, and make conforming changes to related rules. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at <https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/phlx/rules>, 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

In conjunction with adoption of an amended Nasdaq UTP Plan proposed by its participants (“Amended Nasdaq UTP Plan”),³ the Exchange is amending Rule

³ On February 11, 2021, the Nasdaq UTP Plan participants filed Amendment 50 to the Plan, to revise provisions governing regulatory and operational halts. See Letter from Robert Brooks, Chairman, UTP Operating Committee, Nasdaq UTP Plan, to Vanessa Countryman, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, dated February 11, 2021. The Nasdaq UTP Plan subsequently filed two partial amendments to the 50th Amendment, on March 31, 2021 and on April 7, 2021. The SEC approved the amendments on May 28, 2021. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-92071 (May 28, 2021), 86 FR 29846 (June 3, 2021) (S7-24-89). The Amended Nasdaq UTP Plan includes provisions requiring participant self-regulatory organizations (“SROs”) to honor a Regulatory Halt declared by the Primary Listing Market. The provisions in the Nasdaq UTP Plan, and the plan

3100⁴ to integrate several definitions and concepts from the Amended Nasdaq UTP Plan and to reorganize the rule in light of the Exchange’s experience with applying the rule over many years as a national securities exchange.⁵ The Exchange proposes to reorganize and amend Rule 3100, entitled Limit Up-Limit Down Plan and Trading Halts on PSX. The rule sets forth the Exchange’s authority to halt trading under various circumstances. The Exchange is a participant of the transaction reporting plan governing Tape C Securities (“Nasdaq UTP Plan”).⁶ As part of these changes, the Exchange will amend categories of regulatory and operational halts, improve the rule’s clarity, adopt defined terms from the Amended Nasdaq UTP Plan and delete parts of the rule that are no longer needed. Last, the Exchange is updating cross references in other rules that are affected by the proposed changes.

for consolidation of data for non-Nasdaq-listed securities, the Consolidated Tape System and Consolidated Quotations System (collectively, the “CTA/CQS Plan”), include provisions similar to the changes proposed by the Exchange in this filing.

⁴ References herein to Nasdaq PHLX Rules in the 3000 Series shall mean Rules in Nasdaq PHLX Equity 4.

⁵ The Exchange notes that its sister exchange, The Nasdaq Stock Market, LLC (“Nasdaq”), filed a similar proposed rule change with the Commission. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 94370 (March 7, 2022), 87 FR 14071 (March 11, 2022); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 94838 (May 3, 2022), 87 FR 27683 (May 9, 2022). The Commission approved the proposed rule change on June 8, 2022. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 95069 (June 8, 2022), 87 FR 36018 (June 14, 2022). Nasdaq BX, Inc. plans to file a similar proposed rule change. The Exchange’s proposal provides the Exchange with less authority to declare halts in the event of regulatory or operational issues than under Nasdaq’s proposal because the Exchange, unlike Nasdaq, is not a Primary Listing Market. Given the Exchange’s status as a non-Primary Listing Market, certain definitions and concepts from the Amended Nasdaq UTP Plan, integrated in Nasdaq’s proposal, are not included herein.

⁶ Each transaction reporting plan has a securities information processor (“SIP”) responsible for consolidation of information for the plan’s securities, pursuant to Rule 603 of Regulation NMS. The transaction reporting plan for Nasdaq-listed securities is known as The Joint Self-Regulatory Organization Plan Governing the Collection, Consolidation and Dissemination of Quotation and Transaction Information for Nasdaq-Listed Securities Traded on Exchanges on an Unlisted Trading Privilege Basis or the “Nasdaq UTP Plan.” Pursuant to the Nasdaq UTP Plan, the UTP SIP, which is Nasdaq, consolidates order and trade data from all markets trading Nasdaq-listed securities. The Exchange uses the term “UTP SIP” herein when referring specifically to the SIP responsible for consolidation of information in Nasdaq-listed securities.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(31).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.