

## II. Effectiveness of the OLPP Amendment

The foregoing OLPP amendment has become effective pursuant to Rule 608(b)(3)(iii)<sup>9</sup> because it involves solely technical or ministerial matters. At any time within sixty days of the filing of the amendment, the Commission may summarily abrogate the amendment and require that it be refiled pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of Rule 608,<sup>10</sup> if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors or the maintenance of fair and orderly markets, to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanisms of, a national market system or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

## III. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the amendment 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 Number 4-443 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 4-443. 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 plan that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the plan 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 MIAx PEARL's principal office. 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 4-443, and should be submitted on or before February 24, 2017.

By the Commission.

**Eduardo A. Aleman,**  
Assistant Secretary.

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-79896; File No. 4-546]

### Joint Industry Plan; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Amendment to the Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan To Add MIAx PEARL, LLC as a Participant

January 30, 2017.

Pursuant to Section 11A(a)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 608 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on January 17, 2017, MIAx PEARL, LLC ("MIAx PEARL" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") an amendment to the Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan ("Plan").<sup>3</sup> The Commission approved the application of MIAx PEARL to register as a national

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78k-1(a)(3).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 242.608.

<sup>3</sup> On July 30, 2009, the Commission approved the Plan, which was proposed by Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("CBOE"), International Securities Exchange, LLC ("ISE"), The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq"), NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. ("BX"), NASDAQ OMX PHLX, Inc. ("Phlx"), NYSE Amex, LLC ("NYSE Amex"), and NYSE Arca, Inc. ("NYSE Arca"). See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 60405 (July 30, 2009), 74 FR 39362 (August 6, 2009). See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 61546 (February 19, 2010), 75 FR 8762 (February 25, 2010) (adding BATS Exchange, Inc. ("BATS") as a Participant); 63119 (October 15, 2010), 75 FR 65536 (October 25, 2010) (adding C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated ("C2") as a Participant); 66969 (May 11, 2015), 77 FR 29396 (May 17, 2012) (adding BOX Options Exchange LLC ("BOX Options") as a Participant); 70763 (October 28, 2013), 78 FR 65734 (November 1, 2013) (adding Topaz Exchange, LLC ("Topaz") as a Participant); 70762 (October 28, 2013), 78 FR 65740 (November 1, 2013) (adding MIAx International Securities Exchange, LLC ("MIAx") as a Participant); 76823 (January 5, 2016), 81 FR 1260 (January 11, 2016) (adding EDGX Exchange, Inc. ("EDGX") as a Participant); 77324 (March 8, 2016), 81 FR 13425 (March 14, 2016) (adding ISE MERCURY, LLC ("ISE Mercury") as a Participant).

securities exchange on December 13, 2016.<sup>4</sup> One of the conditions of the Commission's approval was the requirement for MIAx PEARL to join the Plan. The amendment adds MIAx PEARL as a Participant<sup>5</sup> to the Plan.<sup>6</sup> The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the amendment from interested persons.

## I. Description and Purpose of the Amendment

The Plan requires the options exchanges to establish a framework for providing order protection and addressing locked and crossed markets in eligible options classes. The amendment to the Plan adds MIAx PEARL as a Participant. The other Plan Participants are BATS, BOX, BX, C2, CBOE, EDGX, ISE, ISE Gemini, ISE Mercury, MIAx, Nasdaq, Phlx, NYSE MKT, and NYSE Arca. MIAx PEARL has submitted an executed copy of the Plan to the Commission in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Plan regarding new Participants. Section 3(c) of the Plan provides for the entry of new Participants to the Plan. Specifically, Section 3(c) of the Plan provides that an Eligible Exchange<sup>7</sup> may become a Participant in the Plan by: (i) Executing a copy of the Plan, as then in effect; (ii) providing each current Participant with a copy of such executed Plan; and (iii) effecting an amendment to the Plan, as specified in Section 4(b) of the Plan.

Section 4(b) of the Plan sets forth the process by which an Eligible Exchange may effect an amendment to the Plan. Specifically, an Eligible Exchange must: (a) Execute a copy of the Plan with the only change being the addition of the new Participant's name in Section 3(a) of the Plan; and (b) submit the executed Plan to the Commission. The Plan then

<sup>4</sup> See Securities and Exchange Act Release No. 79543 (Dec. 13, 2016), 81 FR 92901 (Dec. 20, 2016) (File No. 10-227).

<sup>5</sup> The term "Participant" is defined as an Eligible Exchange whose participation in the Plan has become effective pursuant to Section 3(c) of the Plan.

<sup>6</sup> See Letter from Barbara J. Comly, Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary, MIAx PEARL, to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Commission, dated January 13, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> Section 2(6) of the Plan defines an "Eligible Exchange" as a national securities exchange registered with the Commission pursuant to Section 6(a) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 78f(a), that: (a) Is a "Participant Exchange" in the Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") (as defined in OCC By-laws, Section VII); (b) is a party to the Options Price Reporting Authority ("OPRA") Plan (as defined in the OPRA Plan, Section 1); and (c) if the national securities exchange chooses not to become part to this Plan, is a participant in another plan approved by the Commission providing for comparable Trade-Through and Locked and Crossed Market protection. MIAx PEARL has represented that it has met the requirements for being considered an Eligible Exchange. See *supra* note 6.

<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 242.608(b)(3)(iii).

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 242.608(b)(1).

provides that such an amendment will be effective when the amendment is approved by the Commission or otherwise becomes effective pursuant to Section 11A of the Act and Rule 608 thereunder.

## II. Effectiveness of the Linkage Plan Amendment

The foregoing Plan amendment has become effective pursuant to Rule 608(b)(3)(iii)<sup>8</sup> because it involves solely technical or ministerial matters. At any time within sixty days of the filing of this amendment, the Commission may summarily abrogate the amendment and require that it be refiled pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of Rule 608,<sup>9</sup> if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors or the maintenance of fair and orderly markets, to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanisms of, a national market system or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

## III. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the amendment 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 Number 4-546 on the subject line.

### Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090. All submissions should refer to File Number 4-546. 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 amendment 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 office of MIAx PEARL. 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 4-546 and should be submitted on or before February 24, 2017.

By the Commission.

**Eduardo A. Aleman,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-79900; File No. SR-BOX-2017-06]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; BOX Options Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend Rule 7150 (The Price Improvement Period ("PIP"))

January 30, 2017.

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 January 18, 2017, BOX Options Exchange LLC (the "Exchange") 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 self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule from interested persons.

### I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 7150 (The Price Improvement Period ("PIP")). The text of the proposed rule change is available from the principal office of the Exchange, at the Commission's Public Reference Room and also on the Exchange's

Internet Web site at <http://boxexchange.com>.

### 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 self-regulatory organization 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 self-regulatory organization 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

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend Rule 7150 (The Price Improvement Period ("PIP")) to provide that if at the start of the auction the quoted NBBO spread is less than or equal to a \$0.01, only PIP Orders for less than 50 contracts will be rejected.

The Exchange recently filed to amend the BOX Rules to make permanent the pilot programs that permit the Exchange to have no minimum size requirement for orders entered into the PIP ("PIP Pilot Program") and COPIP ("COPIP Pilot Program"), collectively known as the ("Programs").<sup>3</sup> As part of this filing, BOX also modified the requirements for the PIP to specify where the National Best Bid and Offer ("NBBO") spread is less than equal to \$0.01, the PIP Order and corresponding Primary Improvement Order will be rejected.

The Exchange now proposes to modify the requirements of the PIP to specify where the NBBO spread is less than or equal to \$0.01; only PIP Orders for less than 50 contracts will be rejected. This is a competitive filing based on the price improvement auction proposed rules of the Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC ("MIAx").<sup>4</sup> Specifically, under MIAx Rule 515A(a)(1)(iii), with respect to Agency Orders that have a size of less than 50 contracts, if at the receipt of the Agency Order, the NBBO has a bid/ask differential of \$0.01, the System will reject the Agency Order. Further,

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79531 (December 12, 2016), 81 FR 91227 (December 16, 2016) (SR-BOX-2016-58).

<sup>4</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79500 (December 7, 2016), 81 FR 90030 (December 13, 2016). See also MIAx Rule 515A.(a)(1)(iii).

<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 242.608(b)(3)(iii).

<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 242.608(a)(1).

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.