

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 Section, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090. Copies of the filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the NYSE's principal office and on its Internet Web site at www.nyse.com. 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-NYSEMKT-2015-100 and should be submitted on or before January 4, 2016.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁸

Robert W. Errett,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-31278 Filed 12-10-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-76566; File No. SR-CBOE-2015-108]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend Rule 6.54

December 7, 2015.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on November 23, 2015, Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated (the "Exchange" or "CBOE") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "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 the Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to extend its program that allows transactions to take

place at a price that is below \$1 per option contract through January 5, 2017. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Web site (<http://www.cboe.com/AboutCBOE/CBOELegalRegulatoryHome.aspx>), at the Exchange's Office of the Secretary, 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

An "accommodation" or "cabinet" trade refers to trades in listed options on the Exchange that are worthless or not actively traded. Cabinet trading is generally conducted in accordance with the Exchange Rules, except as provided in Exchange Rule 6.54, *Accommodation Liquidations (Cabinet Trades)*, which sets forth specific procedures for engaging in cabinet trades. Rule 6.54 currently provides for cabinet transactions to occur via open outcry at a cabinet price of \$1 per option contract in any options series open for trading in the Exchange, except that the Rule is not applicable to trading in option classes participating in the Penny Pilot Program. Under the procedures, bids and offers (whether opening or closing a position) at a price of \$1 per option contract may be represented in the trading crowd by a Floor Broker or by a Market-Maker or provided in response to a request by a PAR Official/OBO, a Floor Broker or a Market-Maker, but must yield priority to all resting orders in the PAR Official/OBO cabinet book (which resting cabinet book orders may be closing only). So long as both the buyer and the seller yield to orders resting in the cabinet book, opening cabinet bids can trade with opening cabinet offers at \$1 per option contract.

The Exchange has temporarily amended the procedures through January 5, 2015 [sic] to allow

transactions to take place in open outcry at a price of at least \$0 but less than \$1 per option contract.³ These lower priced transactions are traded pursuant to the same procedures applicable to \$1 cabinet trades, except that (i) bids and offers for opening transactions are only permitted to accommodate closing transactions in order to limit use of the procedure to liquidations of existing positions, and (ii) the procedures are also available for trading in option classes participating in the Penny Pilot Program.⁴ The Exchange believes that allowing a price of at least \$0 but less than \$1 better accommodates the closing of options positions in series that are worthless or not actively traded, particularly due to market conditions which may result in a significant number of series being out-of-the-money. For example, a market participant might have a long position in a call series with a strike price of \$100 and the underlying stock might now be trading at \$30. In such an instance, there might not otherwise be a market for that person to close-out the position even at the \$1 cabinet price

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 59188 (December 30, 2008), 74 FR 480 (January 6, 2009) (SR-CBOE-2008-133) (adopting the amended procedures on a temporary basis through January 30, 2009), 59331 (January 30, 2009), 74 FR 6333 (February 6, 2009) (extending the amended procedures on a temporary basis through May 29, 2009), 60020 (June 1, 2009), 74 FR 27220 (June 8, 2009) (SR-CBOE-2009-034) (extending the amended procedures on a temporary basis through June 1, 2010), 62192 (May 28, 2010), 75 FR 31828 (June 4, 2010) (SR-CBOE-2010-052) (extending the amended procedures on a temporary basis through June 1, 2011), 64403 (May 4, 2011), 76 FR 27110 (May 10, 2011) (SR-CBOE-2011-048) (extending the amended procedures on a temporary basis through December 30, 2011), 65872 (December 2, 2011), 76 FR 76788 (December 8, 2011) (SR-CBOE-2011-113) (extending the amended procedures on a temporary basis through June 29, 2012), 67144 (June 6, 2012), 77 FR 35095 (June 12, 2012) (SR-CBOE-2012-053) (extending the amended procedures on a temporary basis through June 28, 2013), and 69854 (June 25, 2013), 78 FR 39424 (July 1, 2013) (SR-CBOE-2013-063); 69893 (June 28, 2013), 78 FR 40539 (July 5, 2013) (both extending the amended procedures on a temporary basis through January 5, 2014) and 71090 (December 17, 2013), 78 FR 77532 (December 23, 2013) (SR-CBOE-2013-118) (extending the amended procedures on a temporary basis through January 5, 2015), and 73974 (December 31, 2014), 80 FR 911 (January 7, 2015) (SR-CBOE-2014-093) (extending the amended procedures on a temporary basis through January 5, 2016).

⁴ Currently the \$1 cabinet trading procedures are limited to options classes traded in \$0.05 or \$0.10 standard increment. The \$1 cabinet trading procedures are not available in Penny Pilot Program classes because in those classes an option series can trade in a standard increment as low as \$0.01 per share (or \$1.00 per option contract with a 100 share multiplier). Because the temporary procedures allow trading below \$0.01 per share (or \$1.00 per option contract with a 100 share multiplier), the procedures are available for all classes, including those classes participating in the Penny Pilot Program.

¹⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

²⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

(e.g., the series might be quoted no bid).⁵

The purpose of the instant rule change is to extend the operation of these temporary procedures through January 5, 2017, so that the procedures can continue without interruption while CBOE considers whether to seek permanent approval of the temporary procedures.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.⁶ Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)⁷ requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)⁸ requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

In particular, the Exchange believes that allowing for liquidations at a price less than \$1 per option contract better

facilitates the closing of options positions that are worthless or not actively trading. Further, the Exchange believes the proposal is consistent with the Act because the proposed extension is of appropriate length to allow the Exchange and the Commission to continue to assess the impact of the Exchange's authority to allow transactions to take place in open outcry at a price of at least \$0 but less than \$1 per option in accordance with its attendant obligations and conditions, including the process for submitting such transactions to OCC for clearing.

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

CBOE does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange believes that allowing for liquidations at a price less than \$1 per option contract better facilitates the closing of options positions that are worthless or not actively trading. The Exchange believes this promotes fair and orderly markets, as well as assists the Exchange in its ability to effectively attract order flow and liquidity to its market, and ultimately benefit all CBOE Trading Permit Holders ("TPHs") and all investors.

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because the proposed rule change does not make any changes to Exchange rules, but simply extends an existing temporary program. Further, the program is available to all market participants through CBOE TPHs. The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on intermarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because, again, the proposed rule change does not make any changes to Exchange rules, but simply extends an existing temporary program. Moreover, to the extent that the program makes CBOE a more attractive marketplace, as noted above, the program is available to all market participants through CBOE TPHs.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Because the foregoing proposed rule 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 if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, provided that the self-regulatory organization has given 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,⁹ the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁰ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹¹

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such 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. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings under Section 19(b)(2)(B)¹² of the Act to determine whether the proposed rule change 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-CBOE-2015-108 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-CBOE-2015-108. This file

⁵ As with other accommodation liquidations under Rule 6.54, transactions that occur for less than \$1 are not be disseminated to the public on the consolidated tape. In addition, as with other accommodation liquidations under Rule 6.54, the transactions are exempt from the Consolidated Options Audit Trail ("COATS") requirements of Exchange Rule 6.24, *Required Order Information*. However, the Exchange maintains quotation, order and transaction information for the transactions in the same format as the COATS data is maintained. In this regard, all transactions for less than \$1 must be reported to the Exchange following the close of each business day. The rule also provides that transactions for less than \$1 will be reported for clearing utilizing forms, formats and procedures established by the Exchange from time to time. In this regard, the Exchange initially intends to have clearing firms directly report the transactions to The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") using OCC's position adjustment/transfer procedures. This manner of reporting transactions for clearing is similar to the procedure that CBOE currently employs for on-floor position transfer packages executed pursuant to Exchange Rule 6.49A, *Transfer of Positions*.

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ The Exchange has fulfilled this requirement.

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹¹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

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 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-CBOE-2015-108, and should be submitted on or before January 4, 2016.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹³

Brent J. Fields,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-31177 Filed 12-10-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-76577; File No. SR-NYSEARCA-2015-116]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Arca, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Amending NYSE Arca Rule 2.23 To Establish the Securities Trader and Securities Trader Principal Registration Categories

December 8, 2015.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)¹ of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act")² and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,³ notice is hereby given that, on

November 24, 2015, NYSE Arca, Inc. (the "Exchange" or "NYSE Arca") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. 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 NYSE Arca Rule 2.23 to (1) prescribe the Securities Traders examination (Series 57) (the "Series 57 Examination") as the qualifying examination for registered Market Makers, Market Maker Authorized Traders ("MMATs"), Floor Brokers and Securities Traders, (2) eliminate reference to the S501 Program as a continuing education requirement, and (3) rename the category "Proprietary Trader" as "Securities Trader" in Exchange rules without making any substantive change to the definition of such term. The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Web site at www.nyse.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 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 those 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 Exchange proposes to amend NYSE Arca Rule 2.23 to prescribe the Series 57 Examination as the qualifying examination for registered Market Makers, MMATs, Floor Brokers and Securities Traders and eliminate reference to the S501 Program as a continuing education requirement.

NYSE Arca Rule 2.23 currently specifies that the successful completion

of the Proprietary Trader Qualification Examination ("Series 56 Examination") is required in order to register as a Market Maker, a MMAT, or a Floor Broker.⁴ In addition, individuals currently engaged solely in proprietary trading, who are not required to register as Market Makers, MMATs or Floor Brokers, may qualify for registration by successful completion of the Series 56 Examination or the General Securities Representative Qualification Examination ("Series 7 Examination").⁵

The Exchange proposes to change the prescribed examination for Market Makers, MMATs, and Floor Brokers from the Series 56 Examination to the Series 57 Examination and also proposes to replace the Series 56 Examination with the Series 57 Examination for individuals engaged solely in proprietary trading. With this proposed rule change, Market Makers, MMATs, Floor Brokers and individuals engaged solely in proprietary trading will qualify for registration by passing the Series 57 Examination.

The Series 57 Examination is being developed by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") in consultation with industry and exchange representatives. The Series 57 Examination will be based on the current job functions of securities traders and will include elements of the Series 55 Equity Trader Qualification Examination (which is required to engage in over-the-counter securities trading) and the current Series 56 Registered Proprietary Traders Examination (which is required for associated persons engaged in proprietary trading).⁶ The Series 57 Examination will be based on industry rules applicable to trading of equity securities and listed options contracts. The Series 57 Examination will cover, among other things, recordkeeping and

⁴ Under the current rule, Market Makers, MMATs and Floor Brokers are also required to successfully complete an orientation program for the prescribed examination.

⁵ Currently, individuals engaged solely in proprietary trading can alternatively take the Series 7 Examination as a qualifying exam. After implementation of the Series 57 Examination, an individual engaged solely in proprietary trading will be required to take the Series 57 Examination as the Series 7 Examination would no longer serve as a qualifying exam to engage solely in proprietary trading.

⁶ While the Series 56 Examination is required for associated persons engaged in proprietary trading, Exchange rules do not require such individuals to work at a proprietary trading firm only. These individuals can work at any type of firm. However, they may only engage in proprietary trading at the firm where they are employed. For example, an individual engaged in proprietary trading at a full service firm, who is registered solely to engage in proprietary trading, may not act as a registered representative for that firm.

¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

²⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78a.

¹⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.