SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-72785; File No. SR-MIAX-2014-42)

August 7, 2014

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Miami International Securities Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Amend Its Fee Schedule

Pursuant to the provisions of 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 July 29, 2014, Miami International Securities Exchange LLC ("MIAX" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") a 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. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change</u>

The Exchange is filing a proposal to amend the MIAX Options Fee Schedule.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at http://www.miaxoptions.com/filter/wotitle/rule_filing, at MIAX's principal office, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

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.

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u> <u>Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fee Schedule to provide that certain orders of affiliates of Members will be included in calculating the Monthly Firm Fee Cap. The Exchange recently adopted the Monthly Firm Fee Cap that caps transaction fees for the month at \$60,000 for orders that are entered and executed for an account identified by an Electronic Exchange Member for clearing in the OCC "Firm" range.³ The Monthly Firm Fee Cap is based on the similar fees of another competing options exchange.⁴

The current transaction fees for Firms on the Exchange are \$0.25 transaction fee for executions in standard option contracts and \$0.025 transaction fee for Mini Option contracts. Pursuant to the Monthly Firm Fee Cap, in a single billing month the total amount of transaction fees for Firms are capped and thus do not exceed \$60,000. Members must notify the Exchange in writing of all accounts in which the Member is not trading in its own proprietary account. The Exchange does not make adjustments to billing invoices where transactions are commingled in accounts which are not subject to the Monthly Firm Fee Cap. Mini Option contracts are not

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 72583 (July 10, 2014), 79 FR 41612 (July 16, 2014) (SR-MIAX-2014-37).

See NASDAQ OMX PHLX LLC Pricing Schedule, Section II. See also Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 59393 (February 11, 2009), 74 FR 7721 (February 19, 2009) (SR-PHLX-2009-12); 65888 (December 5, 2011), 76 FR 77046 (December 9, 2011) (SR-PHLX-2011-160). See also NYSE Amex Options Fee Schedule, p. 17. In contrast to PHLX and NYSE MKT, the Exchange does not exclude all dividend, merger, and short stock interest strategy executions from the Monthly Firm Fee Cap. In addition, in contrast to PHLX, the Exchange does not apply the Monthly Firm Fee Cap to proprietary orders effected for the purpose of hedging the proprietary over-the-counter trading of an affiliate of a Member that qualifies for the Monthly Firm Fee Cap. Further, in contrast to PHLX and NYSE MKT which apply to floor and manual transactions respectively, since the Exchange is a fully electronic exchange and thus does not have a trading floor or manual trading, the Monthly Firm Fee Cap applies to electronic Firm transactions.

eligible for inclusion in the Monthly Firm Fee Cap. Firm transactions in Mini Options, however, continue to be executed at the rate of \$0.025 per contract.

The Exchange proposes to amend the Monthly Firm Fee Cap to allow the aggregation of trading activity of separate Members or its affiliates for purposes of the Monthly Firm Fee Cap if there is at least 75% common ownership between the firms as reflected on each firm's Form BD, Schedule A.⁵ Members must notify the Exchange in writing of the account(s) designated for purposes of trading in their proprietary account. The Member would be required to inform the Exchange immediately of any event that causes an entity to cease to be an affiliate. In addition, Member must notify the Exchange in writing of the account(s) designated for purposes of proprietary trading of Member or its affiliates. The Member would be required to segregate unaffiliated firm orders from that of its affiliates in order for the qualifying affiliated firm orders to be eligible for the Monthly Firm Fee Cap. The Exchange will not make adjustments to billing invoices where transactions are commingled in accounts which are not subject to the Monthly Firm Fee Cap. The Exchange believes that this practice would not create an undue burden on its Members and would ensure a more efficient billing process.

The proposed change to the Monthly Firm Fee Cap is intended to create an additional incentive for Firms to send order flow to the Exchange. The Exchange believes that the proposal would increase both intermarket and intramarket competition by incenting Firms on other

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A Member's total amount of transaction fees in an account that clear in the Firm range would be determined at the firm affiliated level. <u>E.g.</u>, if five EEM individuals are affiliated with member firm ABC as reflected by Exchange records for the entire month, all the volume from those five individual EEMs will count towards firm ABC's Monthly Firm Fee Cap for that month. The Exchange and CBOE both aggregate volume of market maker firms with at least 75% common ownership between the firms. <u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 72565 (July 8, 2014), 79 FR 40807 (July 14, 2014)(SR-MIAX-2014-31); 55193 (January 30, 2007), 72 FR 5476 (February 6, 2007) (SR-CBOE-2006-111). See also CBOE Fees Schedule, p. 3.

exchanges to direct additional orders to the Exchange to allow the Exchange to compete more effectively with other options exchanges for such transactions.

The Exchange proposes to implement the new transaction fees beginning August 1, 2014.

2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes that its proposal to amend its fee schedule is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act⁶ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) of the Act⁷ in particular, in that it is an equitable allocation of reasonable fees and other charges among Exchange members.

The Exchange believes that the proposal is fair, equitable and not unreasonably discriminatory. The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is reasonable because it would allow aggregation of the trading activity of separate Members or its affiliates for purposes of the Monthly Firm Fee Cap only in very narrow circumstances, namely, where the firm is an affiliate, as defined herein. Furthermore, other exchanges, as well as MIAX, have rules that permit the aggregation of the trading activity of affiliated entities for the purposes of calculating and assessing certain fees. The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to require Members to segregate these transactions in a separate account to create an effective way to account and bill for these transactions. The Exchange believes that its proposal is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because any Member may request that the Exchange aggregate its trading activity with the trading activity of an affiliated firm for purposes of calculating the Monthly Firm Fee Cap. The Exchange believes that it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to require Members to segregate these transactions in a separate account as this requirement would apply to all member organizations.

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

The Exchange 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. The proposal is similar to the transaction fees found on other options exchanges; therefore, the Exchange believes the proposal is consistent with robust competition by increasing the intermarket competition for order flow from Firms. To the extent that there is additional competitive burden on non-Firm Members, the Exchange believes that this is appropriate because the proposal should incent Members to direct additional order flow to the Exchange and thus provide additional liquidity that enhances the quality of its markets and increases the volume of contracts traded here. To the extent that this purpose is achieved, all the Exchange's market participants should benefit from the improved market liquidity. Enhanced market quality and increased transaction volume that results from the anticipated increase in order flow directed to the Exchange will benefit all market participants and improve competition on the Exchange. The Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges and to attract order flow. The Exchange believes that the proposal reflects this competitive environment.

C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule</u>
<u>Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act. Act. 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. 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 e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-MIAX-2014-42 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-MIAX-2014-42. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all

6

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

comments on the Commission's Internet website (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 website 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-MIAX-2014-42 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. 9

Kevin M. O'Neill Deputy Secretary

8

^{9 17} CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).