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Page 1 of * 22	of * 22 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION File No.* SR - 2014 - * 44 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4 Amendment No. (req. for Amendments *)					
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Initial * An	nendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2) *	$\square$	19(b)(3)(A) *	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.

Form 19b-4 Information \*

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The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.

#### Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change \*

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO] -xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

#### Exhibit 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies \*

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filling as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change, security-based swap submission, or advance notice being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

## Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.

#### Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.

#### **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies**

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The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.

#### **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text**

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The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change.

#### **Partial Amendment**

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If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

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### 1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

(a) Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC ("MIAX" or "Exchange"), pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> proposes to amend its rules governing the Short Term Option Series Program to introduce finer strike price intervals for standard expiration contracts in option classes that also have short term options listed on them ("Related non-Short Term Options"). The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5 and notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.

### 2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

The proposed rule change was approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the Exchange pursuant to authority delegated by the MIAX Board of Directors on December 12, 2013. Exchange staff will advise the Board of Directors of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action by the Exchange is necessary for the filing of the proposed rule change.

Questions and comments on the proposed rule change may be directed to James C. Morgan, Associate Counsel and Assistant Vice President, at (609) 897-1484.

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

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

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

### a. Purpose

The Exchange is proposing to amend its rules governing the Short Term Option Series ("STOS") Program to introduce finer strike price intervals for standard expiration contracts in Related non-Short Term Options. In particular, the Exchange is proposing to amend its rules to permit the listing of Related non-Short Term Options during the month prior to expiration in the same strike price intervals as allowed for STOS.

Under MIAX's current rules, the Exchange may list STOS in up to fifty option classes,<sup>3</sup> in addition to option classes that are selected by other securities exchanges that employ a similar program under their respective rules. For each of these option classes, the Exchange may list five STOS expiration dates at any given time, not counting monthly or quarterly expirations.<sup>4</sup> Specifically, on any Thursday or Friday that is a business day, the Exchange may list STOS in designated option classes that expire at the close of business on each of the next five Fridays that are business days and are not Fridays in which monthly or quarterly options expire.<sup>5</sup> These STOS, which can be several weeks or more from expiration, may be listed in strike price intervals of \$0.50, \$1, or \$2.50, with the finer strike price intervals being offered for lower priced securities, and for options that trade in the Exchange's dollar strike program.<sup>6</sup> More specifically, the Exchange may list STOS in \$0.50 intervals for strike prices less than \$75, or for option

See Exchange Rule 404.02(a).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See Exchange Rule 404.02.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> <u>Id.</u>

See Exchange Rule 404.02(e).

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classes that trade in one dollar increments in the Related non-Short Term Option, \$1 intervals for strike prices that are between \$75 and \$150, and \$2.50 intervals for strike prices above \$150.7

The Exchange may also list standard expiration contracts, which are listed in accordance with the regular monthly expiration cycle. These standard expiration contracts must be listed in wider strike price intervals of \$2.50, \$5, or \$10, \$8 though the Exchange also operates strike price programs, such as the dollar strike program mentioned above, \$9 that allow the Exchange to list a limited number of option classes in finer strike price intervals. In general, the Exchange must list standard expiration contracts in \$2.50 intervals for strike prices of \$25 or less, \$5 intervals for strike prices greater than \$25, and \$10 intervals for strike prices greater than \$200. During the week prior to expiration only, the Exchange is permitted to list Related non-Short Term Option contracts in the narrower strike price intervals available for STOS. Since this exception to the standard strike price interval is available only during the week prior to expiration, however, standard expiration contracts regularly trade at significantly wider intervals than their STOS counterparts, as illustrated below.

For example, assume ABC is trading at \$56.54 and the monthly expiration contract is three weeks to expiration. Assume also that MIAX has listed all available STOS expirations and thus has STOS listed on ABC for weeks one, two, four, five, and six. Each of the five weekly ABC expiration dates can be listed with strike prices in \$0.50 intervals, including, for example,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Id.

See Exchange Rule 404(d).

See Exchange Rule 404.01(a), which allows MIAX to designate up to 150 option classes on individual classes on individual stocks to be traded in \$1 strike price intervals where the strike price is between \$50 and \$1. See also Exchange Rule 404.04 (\$0.50 Strike Program).

See Exchange Rule 404(d).

See Exchange Rule 404.02(e).

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the \$56.50 at-the-money strike. Because the monthly expiration contract has three weeks to expiration, however, the near-the-money strikes must be listed in \$5 intervals unless those options are eligible for one of the Exchange's other strike price programs. In this instance, that would mean that investors would be limited to choosing, for example, between \$55 and \$60 strike prices instead of the \$56.50 at-the-money strike available for STOS. This is the case even though contracts on the same option class that expire both several weeks before and several weeks after the monthly expiration are eligible for finer strike price intervals. Under the proposed rule change, the Exchange would be permitted to list the Related non-Short Term Option on ABC, which is less than a month to expiration, in the same strike price intervals as allowed for STOS. Thus, the Exchange would be able to list, and investors would be able to trade, all expirations described above with the same uniform \$0.50 strike price interval.

As proposed, the Exchange would be permitted to begin listing the monthly expiration contract in these narrower intervals at any time during the month prior to expiration, which begins on the first trading day after the prior month's expiration date, subject to the provisions of other Exchange rules. For example, since the April 2014 monthly option expired on Saturday, April 19, the proposed rule change would allow the Exchange to list the May 2014 monthly option in STOS intervals starting Monday, April 21.

MIAX believes that introducing consistent strike price intervals for STOS and Related non-Short Term Options during the month prior to expiration will benefit investors by giving them more flexibility to closely tailor their investment decisions. The Exchange also believes that the proposed rule change will provide the investing public and other market participants with additional opportunities to hedge their investments, thus allowing these investors to better manage their risk exposure.

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### b. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act")<sup>12</sup> and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act. Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)<sup>13</sup> 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 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)<sup>14</sup> requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

As noted above, standard expiration options currently trade in wider intervals than their STOS counterparts, except during the week prior to expiration. This creates a situation where contracts on the same option class that expire both several weeks before and several weeks after the standard expiration are eligible to trade in strike price intervals that the standard expiration contract is not. There is continuing strong customer demand to have the ability to execute hedging and trading strategies in the finer strike price intervals available in STOS, and the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will increase market efficiency by harmonizing strike price intervals for contracts that are close to expiration, whether those contracts happen to be listed pursuant to weekly or monthly expiration cycles.

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

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Id.

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The Exchange notes that, in addition to listing standard expiration contracts in STOS intervals during the expiration week, it already operates several programs that allow for strike price intervals for standard expiration contracts that range from \$0.50 to \$2.50. 15 The Exchange believes that each of these programs has been successful but notes that limitations on the number of option classes that may be selected for each of these programs means that many standard expiration contracts must still be listed in wider intervals than their STOS counterparts. For example, the \$0.50 strike price program, which offers the narrowest strike price interval, only permits the Exchange to designate up to 20 option classes to trade in \$0.50 intervals in addition to option classes selected by other exchanges that employ a similar program. 16 Thus, the proposed rules are necessary to fill the gap between strike price intervals allowed for STOS and Related non-Short Term Options. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change, like the other strike price programs currently offered by the Exchange, will benefit investors by giving them more flexibility to closely tailor their investment and hedging decisions.

With regard to the impact of this proposal on system capacity, the Exchange has analyzed its capacity and represents that it and the Options Price Reporting Authority ("OPRA") have the necessary systems capacity to handle any potential additional traffic associated with the proposed rule change. The Exchange believes that its members will not have capacity issues as a result of this proposal. The Exchange also represents that it does not believe that this expansion will cause fragmentation of liquidity.

### 4. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

MIAX does not believe that the proposed rule change under the rule will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in the furtherance of the purposes of

See supra note 9.

See Exchange Rule 404.04.

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the Act. To the contrary, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will result in additional investment options and opportunities to achieve the investment objectives of market participants seeking efficient trading and hedging vehicles, to the benefit of investors, market participants, and the marketplace in general. Specifically, the Exchange believes that investors will benefit from the availability of strike price intervals in standard expiration contracts that match the intervals currently permitted for STOS with a similar time to expiration, and from the clarification regarding the listing of additional series during the week of expiration.

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

## 6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

Not applicable.

# 7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)</u>

- (a) The proposed rule change is filed for immediate effectiveness pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)<sup>17</sup> of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>18</sup>
- (b) MIAX designates the proposed rule change proposed rule change effects a change that (i) does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) by its terms, does not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Additionally, the Exchange has given the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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a brief description and text of 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 Exchange is merely attempting to align its strike intervals for its STOS Program with those of other exchanges. As such, the Exchange does not see the proposed language affecting the protection of investors or the public interest or imposing any significant burden on competition. Also as such, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed change presents any new, unique or substantive issues.

For the foregoing reasons, this rule filing qualifies as a "non-controversial" rule change under Rule 19b-4(f)(6), which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing with the Commission. At any time within 60 days of the filing of this 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 will institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved. The Exchange respectfully requests that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay period after which a proposed rule change under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) becomes effective. The Exchange requests that the Commission waive that requirement so that the Exchange can compete with other exchanges proposing similar changes without putting the Exchange at a competitive disadvantage. In addition, the proposed change protects investors and public interest because it fosters competition by allowing finer strike price intervals for standard expiration contracts in Related non-Short Term Options to occur at more than one exchange. A waiver would allow the Exchange to align its rules modifying its STOS Program more quickly.

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- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) Not applicable.

# 8. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission

The proposed change is based upon a recent change to the International Securities

Exchange, LLC ("ISE")<sup>19</sup> and Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc. ("CBOE").<sup>20</sup> As the rules

for the Exchange and ISE and CBOE are similar, the Exchange is proposing the same substantive

changes that were made in the ISE and CBOE filings. The purpose of this filing is to align the

Exchange's Rules with those of the ISE and CBOE, and thus, the Exchange is proposing the

same amendments as those proposed in the ISE and CBOE filings.

9. Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act Not applicable.

# 10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

### 11. Exhibits

- 1. Notice of proposed rule for publication in the Federal Register.
- 5. Text of proposed rule change.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 72452 (June 24, 2014), 79 FR 36848 (June 30, 2014) (SR-ISE-2014-23).

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 72539 (July 3, 2014), 79 FR 39447 (July 10, 2014) (SR-CBOE-2014-052).

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**EXHIBIT 1** 

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-MIAX-2014-44)

August\_\_\_, 2014

Self-Regulatory Organizations: Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change by Miami International Securities Exchange LLC to Amend Exchange Rule 404 Regarding the Short Term Option Series ("STOS") Program

Pursuant to the provisions of 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 August 15, 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>
Rule Change

The Exchange is filing a proposal to amend its rules governing the Short Term Option Series Program to introduce finer strike price intervals for standard expiration contracts in option classes that also have short term options listed on them ("Related non-Short Term Options").

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at <a href="http://www.miaxoptions.com/filter/wotitle/rule\_filing">http://www.miaxoptions.com/filter/wotitle/rule\_filing</a>, 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

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

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

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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. <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 is proposing to amend its rules governing the Short Term Option Series ("STOS") Program to introduce finer strike price intervals for standard expiration contracts in Related non-Short Term Options. In particular, the Exchange is proposing to amend its rules to permit the listing of Related non-Short Term Options during the month prior to expiration in the same strike price intervals as allowed for STOS.

Under MIAX's current rules, the Exchange may list STOS in up to fifty option classes,<sup>3</sup> in addition to option classes that are selected by other securities exchanges that employ a similar program under their respective rules. For each of these option classes, the Exchange may list five STOS expiration dates at any given time, not counting monthly or quarterly expirations.<sup>4</sup> Specifically, on any Thursday or Friday that is a business day, the Exchange may list STOS in designated option classes that expire at the close of business on each of the next five Fridays that are business days and are not Fridays in which monthly or quarterly options expire.<sup>5</sup> These STOS, which can be several weeks or more from expiration, may be listed in strike price intervals of \$0.50, \$1, or \$2.50, with the finer strike price intervals being offered for lower priced securities, and for options that trade in the Exchange's dollar strike program.<sup>6</sup> More specifically.

See Exchange Rule 404.02(a).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See Exchange Rule 404.02.

<sup>5</sup> Id.

See Exchange Rule 404.02(e).

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the Exchange may list STOS in \$0.50 intervals for strike prices less than \$75, or for option classes that trade in one dollar increments in the Related non-Short Term Option, \$1 intervals for strike prices that are between \$75 and \$150, and \$2.50 intervals for strike prices above \$150.7

The Exchange may also list standard expiration contracts, which are listed in accordance with the regular monthly expiration cycle. These standard expiration contracts must be listed in wider strike price intervals of \$2.50, \$5, or \$10, \$8 though the Exchange also operates strike price programs, such as the dollar strike program mentioned above, \$9 that allow the Exchange to list a limited number of option classes in finer strike price intervals. In general, the Exchange must list standard expiration contracts in \$2.50 intervals for strike prices of \$25 or less, \$5 intervals for strike prices greater than \$25, and \$10 intervals for strike prices greater than \$200. During the week prior to expiration only, the Exchange is permitted to list Related non-Short Term Option contracts in the narrower strike price intervals available for STOS. Since this exception to the standard strike price interval is available only during the week prior to expiration, however, standard expiration contracts regularly trade at significantly wider intervals than their STOS counterparts, as illustrated below.

For example, assume ABC is trading at \$56.54 and the monthly expiration contract is three weeks to expiration. Assume also that MIAX has listed all available STOS expirations and thus has STOS listed on ABC for weeks one, two, four, five, and six. Each of the five weekly

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> <u>Id.</u>

<sup>8</sup> See Exchange Rule 404(d).

See Exchange Rule 404.01(a), which allows MIAX to designate up to 150 option classes on individual classes on individual stocks to be traded in \$1 strike price intervals where the strike price is between \$50 and \$1. See also Exchange Rule 404.04 (\$0.50 Strike Program).

See Exchange Rule 404(d).

<sup>11 &</sup>lt;u>See</u> Exchange Rule 404.02(e).

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ABC expiration dates can be listed with strike prices in \$0.50 intervals, including, for example, the \$56.50 at-the-money strike. Because the monthly expiration contract has three weeks to expiration, however, the near-the-money strikes must be listed in \$5 intervals unless those options are eligible for one of the Exchange's other strike price programs. In this instance, that would mean that investors would be limited to choosing, for example, between \$55 and \$60 strike prices instead of the \$56.50 at-the-money strike available for STOS. This is the case even though contracts on the same option class that expire both several weeks before and several weeks after the monthly expiration are eligible for finer strike price intervals. Under the proposed rule change, the Exchange would be permitted to list the Related non-Short Term Option on ABC, which is less than a month to expiration, in the same strike price intervals as allowed for STOS. Thus, the Exchange would be able to list, and investors would be able to trade, all expirations described above with the same uniform \$0.50 strike price interval.

As proposed, the Exchange would be permitted to begin listing the monthly expiration contract in these narrower intervals at any time during the month prior to expiration, which begins on the first trading day after the prior month's expiration date, subject to the provisions of other Exchange rules. For example, since the April 2014 monthly option expired on Saturday, April 19, the proposed rule change would allow the Exchange to list the May 2014 monthly option in STOS intervals starting Monday, April 21.

MIAX believes that introducing consistent strike price intervals for STOS and Related non-Short Term Options during the month prior to expiration will benefit investors by giving them more flexibility to closely tailor their investment decisions. The Exchange also believes that the proposed rule change will provide the investing public and other market participants with additional opportunities to hedge their investments, thus allowing these investors to better manage their risk exposure.

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### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act")<sup>12</sup> and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act. Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)<sup>13</sup> 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 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)<sup>14</sup> requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

As noted above, standard expiration options currently trade in wider intervals than their STOS counterparts, except during the week prior to expiration. This creates a situation where contracts on the same option class that expire both several weeks before and several weeks after the standard expiration are eligible to trade in strike price intervals that the standard expiration contract is not. There is continuing strong customer demand to have the ability to execute hedging and trading strategies in the finer strike price intervals available in STOS, and the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will increase market efficiency by harmonizing strike price intervals for contracts that are close to expiration, whether those contracts happen to be listed pursuant to weekly or monthly expiration cycles.

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

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> <u>Id.</u>

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The Exchange notes that, in addition to listing standard expiration contracts in STOS intervals during the expiration week, it already operates several programs that allow for strike price intervals for standard expiration contracts that range from \$0.50 to \$2.50. The Exchange believes that each of these programs has been successful but notes that limitations on the number of option classes that may be selected for each of these programs means that many standard expiration contracts must still be listed in wider intervals than their STOS counterparts. For example, the \$0.50 strike price program, which offers the narrowest strike price interval, only permits the Exchange to designate up to 20 option classes to trade in \$0.50 intervals in addition to option classes selected by other exchanges that employ a similar program. Thus, the proposed rules are necessary to fill the gap between strike price intervals allowed for STOS and Related non-Short Term Options. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change, like the other strike price programs currently offered by the Exchange, will benefit investors by giving them more flexibility to closely tailor their investment and hedging decisions.

With regard to the impact of this proposal on system capacity, the Exchange has analyzed its capacity and represents that it and the Options Price Reporting Authority ("OPRA") have the necessary systems capacity to handle any potential additional traffic associated with the proposed rule change. The Exchange believes that its members will not have capacity issues as a result of this proposal. The Exchange also represents that it does not believe that this expansion will cause fragmentation of liquidity.

### 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. To the

See supra note 9.

See Exchange Rule 404.04.

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contrary, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will result in additional investment options and opportunities to achieve the investment objectives of market participants seeking efficient trading and hedging vehicles, to the benefit of investors, market participants, and the marketplace in general. Specifically, the Exchange believes that investors will benefit from the availability of strike price intervals in standard expiration contracts that match the intervals currently permitted for STOS with a similar time to expiration, and from the clarification regarding the listing of additional series during the week of expiration.

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
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 after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the
Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>17</sup> and
Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>18</sup> thereunder.

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

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

<sup>17</sup> CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). 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 Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

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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 (<a href="http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>); or
- □ Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-MIAX-2014-44 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-2014-44. 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 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 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.

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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-2014-44 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.<sup>19</sup>

Kevin M. O'Neill Deputy Secretary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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**EXHIBIT 5** 

New text is <u>underlined</u>; Deleted text is in [brackets]

### MIAMI INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES EXCHANGE, LLC Rules

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### Rule 404. Series of Option Contracts Open for Trading

(a) - (g) No Change

### **Interpretations and Policies:**

.01 No Change

.02 Short Term Option Series Program. After an option class has been approved for listing and trading on the Exchange, the Exchange may open for trading on any Thursday or Friday that is a business day ("Short Term Option Opening Date") series of options on that class that expire at the close of business on each of the next five Fridays that are business days and are not Fridays in which monthly options series or Quarterly Options Series expire ("Short Term Option Expiration Dates"). The Exchange may have no more than a total of five Short Term Option Expiration Dates. If the Exchange is not open for business on the respective Thursday or Friday, the Short Term Option Opening Date will be the first business day immediately prior to that respective Thursday or Friday. Similarly, if the Exchange is not open for business on the Friday of the following business week, the Short Term Option Expiration Date will be the first business day immediately prior to that Friday. Regarding Short Term Option Series:

- (a) (d) No Change
- (e) Strike Price Interval. The strike price interval for Short Term Option Series may be \$0.50 or greater for option classes that trade in \$1 strike price intervals and are in the Short Term Option Series Program. If the class does not trade in \$1 strike price intervals, the strike price interval for Short Term Option Series may be \$0.50 or greater where the strike price is less than \$75 and \$1.00 or greater where the strike price is between \$75 and \$150, and \$2.50 or greater for strike prices greater than \$150. A non-Short Term Option series that is included in a class that has been selected to participate in the Short Term Option Series Program is referred to as a "Related non-Short Term Option." Notwithstanding any other provision regarding strike prices in this rule, Related non-Short Term Option series shall be opened during the month[on the Thursday or Friday] prior to [the ]expiration [week that such Related non-Short Term Option series expire] in the same manner as permitted in Rule 404, Interpretations and Policies .02, and in the same strike price intervals for the Short Term Option Series permitted in this Rule 404, Interpretations and Policies .02(e).

.03 - .08 No Change

.09 Notwithstanding any other provision regarding strike prices in this rule, Related non-Short Term Option series shall be opened <u>during the month</u>[on the Thursday or Friday] prior to [the ]expiration [week that such Related non-Short Term Option series expire ]in the same manner as permitted in Rule 404, Interpretations and Policies .02, and in the same strike price intervals for the Short Term Option Series permitted in this Rule 404, Interpretations and Policies .02(e).

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