Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Page 1 of * 29	SEC	WASHINGTO	CHANGE COMMISSIOI DN, D.C. 20549 n 19b-4		e No. * SR 2021 - * 56 req. for Amendments *)
Filing by Miam	i International Securities Exchange, LLC.				
Pursuant to Rule	e 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange A	ct of 1934			
Initial *	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2)	* Section 19(b)(3)(A)	* Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
Pilot	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action *	Date Expires *		✓ 19b-4(f)(2) 19	b-4(f)(4) b-4(f)(5) b-4(f)(6)
Notice of pro	posed change pursuant to the Payment, e)(1) *	Clearing, and Settler Section 806(e)(2) *	ment Act of 2010	Security-Based Swap Sub Securities Exchange Act of Section 3C(b)(2) *	
Exhibit 2 Ser	nt As Paper Document	Exhibit 3 Sent As Pa	iper Document		
Proposal to a	rief description of the action (limit 250 cha amend the Fee Schedule to (1) amend th for Priority Customer PRIME Agency Orc	e criteria for Membe	rs to receive the additional	PRIME Agency n-substantive edit.	
	name, telephone number, and e-mail add respond to questions and comments on the		n the staff of the self-regula	tory organization	
First Name *	Michael	Last Name *	Slade		
Title *	AVP, Associate Counsel				
E-mail *	mslade@miami-holdings.com				
Telephone *	(609) 897-8499	Fax			
has duty cau	the requirements of the Securities Exchaused this filing to be signed on its behalf be	y the undersigned the	International Securities Experiente duty authorized. (Title *) AVP, Associate Counsel		
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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website. The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible Form 19b-4 Information * 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. Remove View SR-MIAX-2021-56 - 19b4 (10-27-21).c The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as **Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule** well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Change * Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Remove Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws Add View must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must SR-MIAX-2021-56- Exhibit 1.docx 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 being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) Exhibit 1A - Notice of Proposed 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 Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Submission, or Advanced Notice Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws by Clearing Agencies ' must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must Add Remove View 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 being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) Exhibit 2- Notices, Written Comments, Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed **Transcripts, Other Communications** electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G. Add Remove View Exhibit Sent As Paper Document Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change. Questionnaire Add Remove View Exhibit Sent As Paper Document Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies 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 Add Remove View made from the text of the rule with which it has been working. **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text** 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 Add Remove SR-MIAX-2021-56 Exhibit 5 (10-26-21 Partial Amendment 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 Add View Remove 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")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² proposes to amend the MIAX Options Fee Schedule ("Fee Schedule").

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u> is attached hereto as <u>Exhibit 1</u>, and a copy of the applicable section of the proposed Fee Schedule is attached hereto as Exhibit 5.

- (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 or his designee pursuant to authority delegated by the MIAX Board of Directors on January 28, 2021. 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 Michael Slade, AVP, Associate Counsel, at (609) 897-8499.

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

a. <u>Purpose</u>

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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The Exchange proposes to amend the Fee Schedule to: (1) amend the criteria for Members³ to receive the additional incremental MIAX Price Improvement Mechanism ("PRIME") Agency Order (defined below) credit that is available for Priority Customer⁴ PRIME Agency Orders for Members who achieve Priority Customer Rebate Program ("PCRP") Tier 3 or higher and who achieve over a threshold of 0.60% of national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX during the relevant month; and (2) make a minor, non-substantive corrective edit.

Background

PRIME is a process by which a Member may electronically submit for execution an order it represents as agent (an "Agency Order") against principal interest and/or solicited interest.

The Member that submits the Agency Order ("Initiating Member") agrees to guarantee the execution of the Agency Order by submitting a contra-side order representing principal interest or solicited interest ("Contra-Side Order"). When the Exchange receives a properly designated Agency Order for Auction processing, a request for response ("RFR") detailing the option, side, size and initiating price is broadcasted to MIAX participants up to an optional designated limit price. Members may submit responses to the RFR, which can be either an Auction or Cancel

The term "Member" means an individual or organization approved to exercise the trading rights associated with a Trading Permit. Members are deemed "members" under the Exchange Act. See Exchange Rule 100.

[&]quot;Priority Customer" means a person or entity that (i) is not a broker or dealer in securities, and (ii) does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial accounts(s). A "Priority Customer Order" means an order for the account of a Priority Customer. See Exchange Rule 100.

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("AOC") order or an AOC eQuote. The PRIME mechanism applies to orders on the Exchange's Simple Order Book.⁵

The Priority Customer rebate payment is calculated from the first executed contract at the applicable threshold per contract credit with rebate payments made at the highest achieved volume tier for each contract traded in that month. The percentage thresholds are calculated based on the percentage of national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX entered and executed over the course of the month (excluding QCC and cQCC Orders, Priority Customer-to-Priority Customer Orders, C2C and cC2C Orders, PRIME and cPRIME AOC Responses, PRIME and cPRIME Contra-side Orders, and PRIME and cPRIME Orders for which both the Agency and Contra-side Order are Priority Customers). Volume for transactions in both simple and complex orders are aggregated to determine the appropriate volume tier threshold applicable to each transaction. Volume is recorded for and credits are delivered to the Member that submits the order to MIAX. MIAX aggregates the contracts resulting from Priority Customer orders transmitted and executed electronically on MIAX from Members and their Affiliates⁶ for purposes of the thresholds described in the PCRP table.

The "Simple Order Book" is the Exchange's regular electronic book of orders and quotes. See Exchange Rule 518(a)(15).

The term "Affiliate" means (i) an affiliate of a Member of at least 75% common ownership between the firms as reflected on each firm's Form BD, Schedule A, ("Affiliate"), or (ii) the Appointed Market Maker of an Appointed EEM (or, conversely, the Appointed EEM of an Appointed Market Maker). An "Appointed Market Maker" is a MIAX Market Maker (who does not otherwise have a corporate affiliation based upon common ownership with an EEM) that has been appointed by an EEM and an "Appointed EEM" is an EEM (who does not otherwise have a corporate affiliation based upon common ownership with a MIAX Market Maker) that has been appointed by a MIAX Market Maker, pursuant to the following process. A MIAX Market Maker appoints an EEM and an EEM appoints a MIAX Market Maker, for the purposes of the Fee Schedule, by each completing and sending an executed Volume Aggregation Request Form by email to membership@miaxoptions.com no later than 2 business days prior to the first business day of the month in which the designation is to become effective.

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Additional Agency Order Credit for Members in PCRP Tier 3 or Higher

The Exchange proposes to amend Section 1)a)iii) of the Fee Schedule to amend the criteria for Members to receive the additional PRIME Agency Order credit that is available for Priority Customer PRIME Agency Orders for Members who achieve PCRP Tier 3 or higher and who achieve over a threshold of 0.60% of national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX during the relevant month. Currently, any Member or its Affiliate that qualifies for PCRP Tier 3 or higher is credited an additional \$0.01 per contract on incremental volume for each Priority Customer order executed in the PRIME Auction as a PRIME Agency Order over a threshold of above 0.60% of national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX during the relevant month.⁷

The Exchange proposes to amend the criteria to include an additional requirement for Members to receive the additional PRIME Agency Order credit that is available for Priority Customer PRIME Agency Orders for Members who achieve PCRP Tier 3 or higher and who

Transmittal of a validly completed and executed form to the Exchange along with the Exchange's acknowledgement of the effective designation to each of the Market Maker and EEM will be viewed as acceptance of the appointment. The Exchange will only recognize one designation per Member. A Member may make a designation not more than once every 12 months (from the date of its most recent designation), which designation shall remain in effect unless or until the Exchange receives written notice submitted 2 business days prior to the first business day of the month from either Member indicating that the appointment has been terminated. Designations will become operative on the first business day of the effective month and may not be terminated prior to the end of the month. Execution data and reports will be provided to both parties. See Fee Schedule, note 1.

The Exchange notes that the following orders are excluded from counting towards this threshold: QCC and cQCC Orders, mini-options, Priority Customer-to-Priority Customer Orders, C2C and cC2C Orders, cPRIME Agency Orders, PRIME and cPRIME AOC Responses, PRIME and cPRIME Contra-side Orders, PRIME and cPRIME Orders for which both the Agency and Contra-side Order are Priority Customers, and executions related to contracts that are routed to one or more exchanges in connection with the Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan referenced in MIAX Rule 1400. See Fee Schedule, Section 1)a)iii).

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achieve over a threshold of 0.60% of national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX during the relevant month. To qualify for the additional PRIME Agency Order credit, the Exchange proposes that Members must also achieve greater than 0.85% in Priority Customer complex volume on MIAX during a relevant month, represented as a percentage of the total national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX during the same month. Accordingly, with the proposed change, Members will be eligible to receive the additional PRIME Agency Order credit of \$0.01 per contract for their incremental Priority Customer PRIME Agency Orders if the Member executes over a monthly threshold of 0.60% of national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX during the relevant month, the Member achieves PCRP Tier 3 or higher, and the Member achieves greater than 0.85% in Priority Customer complex volume on MIAX during a particular month, represented as a percentage of national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX during the relevant month.

Fee Schedule Cleanup Item

The Exchange also proposes to amend Section 1)a)iv) of the Fee Schedule to make a minor, non-substantive corrective edit. In particular, the Exchange proposes to amend the explanatory paragraph immediately below the table in Section 1)a)iv) of the Fee Schedule to delete the phrase "Non-Priority Customer-to-Non-Priority Customer Orders." The purpose of this change is to remove an order type that does not exist on the Exchange, which will provide clarity to all market participants that the Fee Schedule is accurate and concise.

Implementation

The proposed changes will become effective on November 1, 2021.

b. Statutory Basis

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The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act 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)⁹ 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)¹⁰ requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes that its proposal provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues and fees and is not unfairly discriminatory for the following reasons. The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market. The Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market

^{8 15} U.S.C. 78f(b).

^{9 15} U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁰ Id.

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competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies."¹¹
There are currently 16 registered options exchanges competing for order flow. Based on publicly-available information, and excluding index-based options, as of October 20, 2021, no single exchange has more than approximately 12% of the market share of executed volume of multiply-listed equity and exchange-traded fund ("ETF") options trades, for the month of October 2021.¹² Therefore, no exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of multiply-listed equity and ETF options order flow. More specifically, as of October 20, 2021, the Exchange had a market share of approximately 5.87% of executed volume of multiply-listed equity and ETF options for the month of October 2021.¹³

The Exchange believes that the ever-shifting market shares among the exchanges from month to month demonstrates that market participants can shift order flow, or discontinue or reduce use of certain categories of products, in response to transaction and/or non-transaction fee changes. For example, on February 28, 2019, the Exchange's affiliate, MIAX PEARL, LLC ("MIAX Pearl"), filed with the Commission a proposal to increase Taker fees in certain Tiers for options transactions in certain Penny classes for Priority Customers and decrease Maker rebates in certain Tiers for options transactions in Penny classes for Priority Customers (which fee was to be effective March 1, 2019). MIAX Pearl experienced a decrease in total market share between the months of February and March of 2019, after the fees were in effect. Accordingly,

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496 (June 29, 2005).

See MIAX's "The Market at a Glance", available at https://www.miaxoptions.com/ (last visited October 20, 2021).

See id.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 85304 (March 13, 2019), 84 FR 10144 (March 19, 2019) (SR-PEARL-2019-07).

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the Exchange believes that the MIAX Pearl March 1, 2019, fee change may have contributed to the decrease in the MIAX Pearl's market share and, as such, the Exchange believes competitive forces constrain options exchange transaction fees and market participants can shift order flow based on fee changes instituted by the exchanges.

Accordingly, competitive forces constrain the Exchange's transaction fees, and market participants can readily trade on competing venues if they deem pricing levels at those other venues to be more favorable. In response to the competitive environment, the Exchange offers specific rates and credits in its fee schedule, like those of other options exchanges', which the Exchange believes provides incentives to Members to increase order flow of certain qualifying orders.

The Exchange believes its proposal to amend the criteria for Members to receive the additional PRIME Agency Order credit that is available for Priority Customer PRIME Agency Orders for Members who achieve PCRP Tier 3 or higher to include an additional requirement is reasonable, equitably allocated and not unfairly discriminatory because this change is for business and competitive reasons.

The Exchange believes its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act¹⁵ because it applies equally to all participants with similar order flow who reach Tier 3 of the PCRP or higher. The Exchange believes that the proposed new requirement to achieve the additional PRIME Agency Order credit will encourage market participants to execute greater Priority Customer complex volume in order to receive the additional PRIME Agency Order credit. The Exchange believes this will result in increased liquidity that benefits all Exchange participants by providing more trading opportunities and tighter spreads.

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

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Further, the Exchange believes that its proposal will continue to encourage Priority

Customer order flow to PRIME Auctions. Increased Priority Customer order flow benefits all

market participants because it continues to attract liquidity to the Exchange by providing more

trading opportunities. This attracts Market Makers and other liquidity providers, thus,

facilitating price improvement in the auction process, signaling additional corresponding

increase in order flow from other market participants, and, as a result, increasing liquidity on the

Exchange. The PCRP is reasonably designed because it incentivizes providers of Priority

Customer order flow to send that Priority Customer order flow to the Exchange in order to obtain
the highest volume threshold and receive a credit in a manner that enables the Exchange to
improve its overall competitiveness and strengthen its market quality for all market participants.

In addition, the Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) (5) of the Act¹⁶ because it perfects the mechanisms of a free and open market and a national market system and protects investors and the public interest because an increase in Priority Customer order flow will bring greater volume and liquidity to the Exchange, which benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities and tighter spreads. To the extent Priority Customer order flow and complex order flow is increased by this proposal, market participants will increasingly compete for the opportunity to trade on the Exchange including sending more orders and provided narrower and larger-sized quotations in the effort to trade with such Priority Customer and/or complex order flow.

The Exchange believes the proposed change to remove the incorrect phrase regarding a certain order type promotes just and equitable principles of trade and removes impediments to and perfects the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system because the

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

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proposed change makes a clarifying, non-substantive edit to the Fee Schedule. The Exchange believes that this proposed change will provide greater clarity to Members and the public regarding the Exchange's Fee Schedule and that it is in the public interest for the Fee Schedule to be accurate and concise so as to eliminate the potential for confusion.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

Intra-Market Competition

The Exchange does not believe that other market participants at the Exchange would be placed at a relative disadvantage by the proposed change to amend the criteria for Members to receive the additional PRIME Agency Order credit that is available for Priority Customer PRIME Agency Orders for Members who achieve PCRP Tier 3 or higher to include an additional requirement. The proposed change is designed to attract additional order flow to the Exchange. Accordingly, the Exchange believes that the proposal will not impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because it will continue to encourage Priority Customer order flow and an increase in Priority Customer order flow will bring greater volume and liquidity, which benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities and tighter spreads.

Inter-Market Competition

The Exchange 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.

There are currently 16 registered options exchanges competing for order flow. Based on publicly-available information, and excluding index-based options, no single exchange has

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exceeded approximately 12% of the market share of executed volume of multiply-listed equity and ETF options trades as of October 20, 2021, for the month of October 2021. Therefore, no exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of multiply-listed equity and ETF options order flow. More specifically, as of October 20, 2021, the Exchange had a market share of approximately 5.87% of executed volume of multiply-listed equity and ETF options for the month of October 2021. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its transaction and non-transaction fees to remain competitive with other exchanges and to attract order flow. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule changes reflect this competitive environment because they modify the Exchange's fees in a manner that encourages market participants to provide Priority Customer liquidity and to send order flow to the Exchange. To the extent this is achieved, all the Exchange's market participants should benefit from the improved market quality.

Fee Schedule Cleanup Item

The Exchange believes that the proposed change to remove an incorrect order type will not result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed rule change is not a competitive filing but rather is designed to remedy a minor non-substantive issue and provide added clarity to the Fee Schedule in order to avoid potential confusion on the part of market participants. In addition, the Exchange does not believe the proposal will impose any burden on inter-market competition as the proposal does not address any competitive issues and is intended to protect investors by providing further transparency regarding the Exchange's Fee Schedule.

See supra note 12.

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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.

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>

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act, ¹⁸ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder ¹⁹ the Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the self-regulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing.

8. <u>Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization</u> or of the Commission

Not applicable.

9. <u>Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act</u>

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. Applicable section of the Fee Schedule.

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

¹⁹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-MIAX-2021-56)

October_____, 2021

Self-Regulatory Organizations: Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change by Miami International Securities Exchange LLC 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 October 29, 2021, 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 the MIAX Options Fee Schedule (the "Fee Schedule").

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at http://www.miaxoptions.com/rule-filings, 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

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 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. <u>Purpose</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend the Fee Schedule to: (1) amend the criteria for Members³ to receive the additional incremental MIAX Price Improvement Mechanism ("PRIME") Agency Order (defined below) credit that is available for Priority Customer⁴ PRIME Agency Orders for Members who achieve Priority Customer Rebate Program ("PCRP") Tier 3 or higher and who achieve over a threshold of 0.60% of national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX during the relevant month; and (2) make a minor, non-substantive corrective edit.

Background

PRIME is a process by which a Member may electronically submit for execution an order it represents as agent (an "Agency Order") against principal interest and/or solicited interest.

The Member that submits the Agency Order ("Initiating Member") agrees to guarantee the execution of the Agency Order by submitting a contra-side order representing principal interest or solicited interest ("Contra-Side Order"). When the Exchange receives a properly designated

The term "Member" means an individual or organization approved to exercise the trading rights associated with a Trading Permit. Members are deemed "members" under the Exchange Act. See Exchange Rule 100.

[&]quot;Priority Customer" means a person or entity that (i) is not a broker or dealer in securities, and (ii) does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial accounts(s). A "Priority Customer Order" means an order for the account of a Priority Customer. See Exchange Rule 100.

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Agency Order for Auction processing, a request for response ("RFR") detailing the option, side, size and initiating price is broadcasted to MIAX participants up to an optional designated limit price. Members may submit responses to the RFR, which can be either an Auction or Cancel ("AOC") order or an AOC eQuote. The PRIME mechanism applies to orders on the Exchange's Simple Order Book.⁵

The Priority Customer rebate payment is calculated from the first executed contract at the applicable threshold per contract credit with rebate payments made at the highest achieved volume tier for each contract traded in that month. The percentage thresholds are calculated based on the percentage of national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX entered and executed over the course of the month (excluding QCC and cQCC Orders, Priority Customer-to-Priority Customer Orders, C2C and cC2C Orders, PRIME and cPRIME AOC Responses, PRIME and cPRIME Contra-side Orders, and PRIME and cPRIME Orders for which both the Agency and Contra-side Order are Priority Customers). Volume for transactions in both simple and complex orders are aggregated to determine the appropriate volume tier threshold applicable to each transaction. Volume is recorded for and credits are delivered to the Member that submits the order to MIAX. MIAX aggregates the contracts resulting from Priority Customer orders transmitted and executed electronically on MIAX from Members and their Affiliates⁶ for purposes of the thresholds described in the PCRP table.

The "Simple Order Book" is the Exchange's regular electronic book of orders and quotes. See Exchange Rule 518(a)(15).

The term "Affiliate" means (i) an affiliate of a Member of at least 75% common ownership between the firms as reflected on each firm's Form BD, Schedule A, ("Affiliate"), or (ii) the Appointed Market Maker of an Appointed EEM (or, conversely, the Appointed EEM of an Appointed Market Maker). An "Appointed Market Maker" is a MIAX Market Maker (who does not otherwise have a corporate affiliation based upon common ownership with an EEM) that has been appointed by an EEM and an "Appointed EEM" is an EEM (who does not otherwise have a corporate affiliation based upon common ownership with a MIAX Market Maker) that has been appointed by a

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Additional Agency Order Credit for Members in PCRP Tier 3 or Higher

The Exchange proposes to amend Section 1)a)iii) of the Fee Schedule to amend the criteria for Members to receive the additional PRIME Agency Order credit that is available for Priority Customer PRIME Agency Orders for Members who achieve PCRP Tier 3 or higher and who achieve over a threshold of 0.60% of national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX during the relevant month. Currently, any Member or its Affiliate that qualifies for PCRP Tier 3 or higher is credited an additional \$0.01 per contract on incremental volume for each Priority Customer order executed in the PRIME Auction as a PRIME Agency Order over a threshold of above 0.60% of national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX during the relevant month.⁷

MIAX Market Maker, pursuant to the following process. A MIAX Market Maker appoints an EEM and an EEM appoints a MIAX Market Maker, for the purposes of the Fee Schedule, by each completing and sending an executed Volume Aggregation Request Form by email to membership@miaxoptions.com no later than 2 business days prior to the first business day of the month in which the designation is to become effective. Transmittal of a validly completed and executed form to the Exchange along with the Exchange's acknowledgement of the effective designation to each of the Market Maker and EEM will be viewed as acceptance of the appointment. The Exchange will only recognize one designation per Member. A Member may make a designation not more than once every 12 months (from the date of its most recent designation), which designation shall remain in effect unless or until the Exchange receives written notice submitted 2 business days prior to the first business day of the month from either Member indicating that the appointment has been terminated. Designations will become operative on the first business day of the effective month and may not be terminated prior to the end of the month. Execution data and reports will be provided to both parties. See Fee Schedule, note 1.

The Exchange notes that the following orders are excluded from counting towards this threshold: QCC and cQCC Orders, mini-options, Priority Customer-to-Priority Customer Orders, C2C and cC2C Orders, cPRIME Agency Orders, PRIME and cPRIME AOC Responses, PRIME and cPRIME Contra-side Orders, PRIME and cPRIME Orders for which both the Agency and Contra-side Order are Priority Customers, and executions related to contracts that are routed to one or more exchanges in connection with the Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan referenced in MIAX Rule 1400. See Fee Schedule, Section 1)a)iii).

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The Exchange proposes to amend the criteria to include an additional requirement for Members to receive the additional PRIME Agency Order credit that is available for Priority Customer PRIME Agency Orders for Members who achieve PCRP Tier 3 or higher and who achieve over a threshold of 0.60% of national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX during the relevant month. To qualify for the additional PRIME Agency Order credit, the Exchange proposes that Members must also achieve greater than 0.85% in Priority Customer complex volume on MIAX during a relevant month, represented as a percentage of the total national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX during the same month. Accordingly, with the proposed change, Members will be eligible to receive the additional PRIME Agency Order credit of \$0.01 per contract for their incremental Priority Customer PRIME Agency Orders if the Member executes over a monthly threshold of 0.60% of national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX during the relevant month, the Member achieves PCRP Tier 3 or higher, and the Member achieves greater than 0.85% in Priority Customer complex volume on MIAX during a particular month, represented as a percentage of national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX during the relevant month.

Fee Schedule Cleanup Item

The Exchange also proposes to amend Section 1)a)iv) of the Fee Schedule to make a minor, non-substantive corrective edit. In particular, the Exchange proposes to amend the explanatory paragraph immediately below the table in Section 1)a)iv) of the Fee Schedule to delete the phrase "Non-Priority Customer-to-Non-Priority Customer Orders." The purpose of this change is to remove an order type that does not exist on the Exchange, which will provide clarity to all market participants that the Fee Schedule is accurate and concise.

Implementation

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The proposed changes will become effective on November 1, 2021.

2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act 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)9 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)10 requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes that its proposal provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues and fees and is not unfairly discriminatory for the following reasons. The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market. The Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market

^{8 15} U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

^{10 &}lt;u>Id</u>.

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competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies."¹¹
There are currently 16 registered options exchanges competing for order flow. Based on publicly-available information, and excluding index-based options, as of October 20, 2021, no single exchange has more than approximately 12% of the market share of executed volume of multiply-listed equity and exchange-traded fund ("ETF") options trades, for the month of October 2021.¹² Therefore, no exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of multiply-listed equity and ETF options order flow. More specifically, as of October 20, 2021, the Exchange had a market share of approximately 5.87% of executed volume of multiply-listed equity and ETF options for the month of October 2021.¹³

The Exchange believes that the ever-shifting market shares among the exchanges from month to month demonstrates that market participants can shift order flow, or discontinue or reduce use of certain categories of products, in response to transaction and/or non-transaction fee changes. For example, on February 28, 2019, the Exchange's affiliate, MIAX PEARL, LLC ("MIAX Pearl"), filed with the Commission a proposal to increase Taker fees in certain Tiers for options transactions in certain Penny classes for Priority Customers and decrease Maker rebates in certain Tiers for options transactions in Penny classes for Priority Customers (which fee was to be effective March 1, 2019). MIAX Pearl experienced a decrease in total market share between the months of February and March of 2019, after the fees were in effect. Accordingly, the Exchange believes that the MIAX Pearl March 1, 2019, fee change may have contributed to

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496 (June 29, 2005).

See MIAX's "The Market at a Glance", available at https://www.miaxoptions.com/ (last visited October 20, 2021).

See id.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 85304 (March 13, 2019), 84 FR 10144 (March 19, 2019) (SR-PEARL-2019-07).

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the decrease in the MIAX Pearl's market share and, as such, the Exchange believes competitive forces constrain options exchange transaction fees and market participants can shift order flow based on fee changes instituted by the exchanges.

Accordingly, competitive forces constrain the Exchange's transaction fees, and market participants can readily trade on competing venues if they deem pricing levels at those other venues to be more favorable. In response to the competitive environment, the Exchange offers specific rates and credits in its fee schedule, like those of other options exchanges', which the Exchange believes provides incentives to Members to increase order flow of certain qualifying orders.

The Exchange believes its proposal to amend the criteria for Members to receive the additional PRIME Agency Order credit that is available for Priority Customer PRIME Agency Orders for Members who achieve PCRP Tier 3 or higher to include an additional requirement is reasonable, equitably allocated and not unfairly discriminatory because this change is for business and competitive reasons.

The Exchange believes its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act¹⁵ because it applies equally to all participants with similar order flow who reach Tier 3 of the PCRP or higher. The Exchange believes that the proposed new requirement to achieve the additional PRIME Agency Order credit will encourage market participants to execute greater Priority Customer complex volume in order to receive the additional PRIME Agency Order credit. The Exchange believes this will result in increased liquidity that benefits all Exchange participants by providing more trading opportunities and tighter spreads.

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

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Further, the Exchange believes that its proposal will continue to encourage Priority

Customer order flow to PRIME Auctions. Increased Priority Customer order flow benefits all

market participants because it continues to attract liquidity to the Exchange by providing more

trading opportunities. This attracts Market Makers and other liquidity providers, thus,

facilitating price improvement in the auction process, signaling additional corresponding

increase in order flow from other market participants, and, as a result, increasing liquidity on the

Exchange. The PCRP is reasonably designed because it incentivizes providers of Priority

Customer order flow to send that Priority Customer order flow to the Exchange in order to obtain
the highest volume threshold and receive a credit in a manner that enables the Exchange to
improve its overall competitiveness and strengthen its market quality for all market participants.

In addition, the Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) (5) of the Act¹⁶ because it perfects the mechanisms of a free and open market and a national market system and protects investors and the public interest because an increase in Priority Customer order flow will bring greater volume and liquidity to the Exchange, which benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities and tighter spreads. To the extent Priority Customer order flow and complex order flow is increased by this proposal, market participants will increasingly compete for the opportunity to trade on the Exchange including sending more orders and provided narrower and larger-sized quotations in the effort to trade with such Priority Customer and/or complex order flow.

The Exchange believes the proposed change to remove the incorrect phrase regarding a certain order type promotes just and equitable principles of trade and removes impediments to and perfects the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system because the

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

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proposed change makes a clarifying, non-substantive edit to the Fee Schedule. The Exchange believes that this proposed change will provide greater clarity to Members and the public regarding the Exchange's Fee Schedule and that it is in the public interest for the Fee Schedule to be accurate and concise so as to eliminate the potential for confusion.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

Intra-Market Competition

The Exchange does not believe that other market participants at the Exchange would be placed at a relative disadvantage by the proposed change to amend the criteria for Members to receive the additional PRIME Agency Order credit that is available for Priority Customer PRIME Agency Orders for Members who achieve PCRP Tier 3 or higher to include an additional requirement. The proposed change is designed to attract additional order flow to the Exchange. Accordingly, the Exchange believes that the proposal will not impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because it will continue to encourage Priority Customer order flow and an increase in Priority Customer order flow will bring greater volume and liquidity, which benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities and tighter spreads.

Inter-Market Competition

The Exchange 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.

There are currently 16 registered options exchanges competing for order flow. Based on publicly-available information, and excluding index-based options, no single exchange has exceeded approximately 12% of the market share of executed volume of multiply-listed equity

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and ETF options trades as of October 20, 2021, for the month of October 2021. Therefore, no exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of multiply-listed equity and ETF options order flow. More specifically, as of October 20, 2021, the Exchange had a market share of approximately 5.87% of executed volume of multiply-listed equity and ETF options for the month of October 2021. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its transaction and non-transaction fees to remain competitive with other exchanges and to attract order flow. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule changes reflect this competitive environment because they modify the Exchange's fees in a manner that encourages market participants to provide Priority Customer liquidity and to send order flow to the Exchange. To the extent this is achieved, all the Exchange's market participants should benefit from the improved market quality.

Fee Schedule Cleanup Item

The Exchange believes that the proposed change to remove an incorrect order type will not result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed rule change is not a competitive filing but rather is designed to remedy a minor non-substantive issue and provide added clarity to the Fee Schedule in order to avoid potential confusion on the part of market participants. In addition, the Exchange does not believe the proposal will impose any burden on inter-market competition as the proposal does not address any competitive issues and is intended to protect investors by providing further transparency regarding the Exchange's Fee Schedule.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

See supra note 12.

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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, ¹⁸ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)¹⁹ 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 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-2021-56 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

□ Send paper comments in triplicate to Vanessa Countryman, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-MIAX-2021-56. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

¹⁹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

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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. 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-2021-56 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.²⁰

Vanessa Countryman Secretary

²⁰

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Exhibit 5

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

MIAX Options Exchange Fee Schedule

- 1) Transaction Fees
 - a) Multiply-Listed Options Exchange Fees
 - i) ii) No change.
 - iii) Priority Customer Rebate Program

Any Member or its Affiliate that qualifies for Priority Customer Rebate Program volume tiers 3 or higher, and who achieves greater than 0.85% in Priority Customer complex volume on MIAX, represented as a percentage of national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX, will be credited an additional \$0.01 per contract for each Priority Customer order executed in the PRIME Auction as a PRIME Agency Order over a threshold of above 0.60% of national customer volume in multiply-listed options classes listed on MIAX during the relevant month (excluding QCC and cQCC Orders, mini-options, Priority Customer-to-Priority Customer Orders, C2C and cC2C Orders, cPRIME Agency Orders, PRIME and cPRIME AOC Responses, PRIME and cPRIME Contra-side Orders, PRIME and cPRIME Orders for which both the Agency and Contra-side Order are Priority Customers, and executions related to contracts that are routed to one or more exchanges in connection with the Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan referenced in MIAX Rule 1400); volume will be recorded for and credits will be delivered to the Member Firm that submits the order to MIAX. In the event of a MIAX System outage or other interruption of electronic trading on MIAX, the Exchange will adjust the national customer volume in multiply-listed options for the duration of the outage. A Member may request to receive its credit under the Priority Customer Rebate Program as a separate direct payment.

iv) Professional Rebate Program

MIAX shall credit each Member the per contract amount set forth above as applicable resulting from any contracts executed from an order submitted by a Member for the account(s) of a (i) Public Customer that is not a Priority Customer; (ii) Non-MIAX Market Maker; (iii) Non-Member Broker-Dealer; or (iv) Firm (for purposes of the Professional Rebate Program, "Professional") which is executed electronically on the Exchange in all multiply-listed option classes (excluding, in simple or complex as applicable, mini-options, [Non-Priority Customer-to-Non-Priority Customer Orders,]QCC and cQCC Orders, PRIME and cPRIME Orders, PRIME and cPRIME AOC Responses, PRIME and cPRIME Contra-side Orders, and

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executions related to contracts that are routed to one or more exchanges in connection with the Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan referenced in MIAX Rule 1400 (collectively, for purposes of the Professional Rebate Program, "Excluded Contracts")), provided the Member achieves certain Professional volume increase percentage thresholds in the month relative to the fourth quarter of 2015, as described in the table above.

v) - xi) No change.