

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Page 1 of * 30	SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4	File No.* SR - 2020 - * 05	Amendment No. (req. for Amendments *)
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Filing by Nasdaq MRX, LLC
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Initial * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amendment * <input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(A) * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(B) * <input type="checkbox"/>
			Rule		
Pilot <input type="checkbox"/>	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action * <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Expires * <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(5)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6)	

Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010	Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
Section 806(e)(1) * <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 806(e)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>
Section 3C(b)(2) * <input type="checkbox"/>	

Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>
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Description

Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *).

Proposed rule to amend Options 9, Section 21, Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program

Contact Information

Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the action.

First Name * Angela Last Name * Dunn

Title * Principal Associate General Counsel

E-mail * angela.dunn@nasdaq.com

Telephone * (215) 496-5692 Fax

Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

(Title *)

Date 02/18/2020

By John Zecca

EVP and Chief Legal Officer

john.zecca@nasdaq.com

NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.

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 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 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 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

Add Remove View

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

Add Remove View

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.

1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

(a) Nasdaq MRX, LLC (“MRX” or “Exchange”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) a proposed rule to amend Options 9, Section 21, “Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program.” This rule change is intended to reflect the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network’s (“FinCEN”) adoption of a final rule on Customer Due Diligence Requirements for Financial Institutions (“CDD Rule”). Specifically, the proposed amendments would conform Options 9, Section 21 to the CDD Rule’s amendments to the minimum regulatory requirements for Members’ anti-money laundering (“AML”) compliance programs by requiring such programs to include risk-based procedures for conducting ongoing customer due diligence. This ongoing customer due diligence element for AML programs includes: (1) understanding the nature and purpose of customer relationships for the purpose of developing a customer risk profile; and (2) conducting ongoing monitoring to identify and report suspicious transactions and, on a risk basis, to maintain and update customer information.

The Exchange has designated this proposal as “non-controversial” under paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4³ under the Act.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

The text of the proposed rule change is attached as Exhibit 5.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

The proposed rule change was approved by senior management of the Exchange pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors (the “Board”) on September 25, 2019. Exchange staff will advise the Board of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

Questions and comments on the proposed rule change may be directed to:

Angela Saccomandi Dunn
Principal Associate General Counsel
Nasdaq, Inc.
215-496-5692

3. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

a. Purpose

I. Background

The Bank Secrecy Act⁴ (“BSA”), among other things, requires financial institutions,⁵ including broker-dealers, to develop and implement AML programs that, at a minimum, meet the statutorily enumerated “four pillars.”⁶ These four pillars currently require broker-dealers to have written AML programs that include, at a minimum:

⁴ 31 U.S.C. 5311, et seq.

⁵ See U.S.C. 5312(a)(2) (defining “financial institution”).

⁶ 31 U.S.C. 5318(h)(1).

- the establishment and implementation of policies, procedures and internal controls reasonably designed to achieve compliance with the applicable provisions of the BSA and implementing regulations;
- independent testing for compliance by broker-dealer personnel or a qualified outside party;
- designation of an individual or individuals responsible for implementing and monitoring the operations and internal controls of the AML program; and
- ongoing training for appropriate persons.⁷

In addition to meeting the BSA's requirement with respect to AML programs, Exchange Members must also comply with Options 9, Section 21, which incorporates the BSA's four pillars, as well as requires Members' AML programs to establish and implement policies and procedures that can be reasonably expected to detect and cause the reporting of suspicious transactions.

On May 11, 2016, FinCEN, the bureau of the Department of the Treasury responsible for administering the BSA and its implementing regulations, issued the CDD Rule⁸ to clarify and strengthen customer due diligence for covered financial institutions,⁹ including broker-dealers. In its CDD Rule, FinCEN identifies four components of

⁷ 31 CFR 1023.210(b).

⁸ FinCEN Customer Due Diligence Requirements for Financial Institutions; CDD Rule, 81 FR 29397 (May 11, 2016) (CDD Rule Release); 82 FR 45182 (September 28, 2017) (making technical correcting amendments to the final CDD Rule published on May 11, 2016). FinCEN is authorized to impose AML program requirements on financial institutions and to require financial institutions to maintain procedures to ensure compliance with the BSA and associated regulations. 31 U.S.C. 5318(h)(2) and (a)(2). The CDD Rule is the result of the rulemaking process FinCEN initiated in March 2012. See 77 FR 13046 (March 5, 2012) (Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) and 79 FR 45151 (Aug. 4, 2014) (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking).

⁹ See 31 CFR 1010.230(f) (defining "covered financial institution").

customer due diligence: (1) customer identification and verification; (2) beneficial ownership identification and verification; (3) understanding the nature and purpose of customer relationships; and (4) ongoing monitoring for reporting suspicious transactions and, on a risk basis, maintaining and updating customer information.¹⁰ As the first component is already required to be part of a broker-dealers AML program under the BSA, the CDD Rule focuses on the other three components.

Specifically, the CDD Rule focuses particularly on the second component by adding a new requirement that covered financial institutions identify and verify the identity of the beneficial owners of all legal entity customers at the time a new account is opened, subject to certain exclusions and exemptions.¹¹ The CDD Rule also addresses the third and fourth components, which FinCEN states “are already implicitly required for covered financial institutions to comply with their suspicious activity reporting requirements,” by amending the existing AML program rules for covered financial institutions to explicitly require these components to be included in AML programs as a new “fifth pillar.”

On November 21, 2017, FINRA published Regulatory Notice 17-40 to provide guidance to member firms regarding their obligations under FINRA Rule 3310 in light of the adoption of FinCEN’s CDD Rule. In addition, the Notice summarized the CDD Rule’s impact on member firms, including the addition of the new fifth pillar required for

¹⁰ See CDD Rule Release at 29398.

¹¹ See 31 CFR 1010.230(d) (defining “beneficial owner”) and 31 CFR 1010.230(e)(defining “legal entity customer”).

member firms' AML programs. FINRA also amended FINRA Rule 3310 to explicitly incorporate the fifth pillar.¹² This proposed rule change amends Options 9, Section 21 to harmonize it with the FINRA rule and incorporate the fifth pillar.

II. Options 9, Section 21 and Amendment to Minimum Requirements for Members' AML Programs

Section 352 of the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001¹³ amended the BSA to require broker-dealers to develop and implement AML programs that include the four pillars mentioned above. Consistent with Section 352 of the PATRIOT Act, and incorporating the four pillars, Options 9, Section 21 requires each Member to develop and implement a written AML program reasonably designed to achieve and monitor the Member's compliance with the BSA and implementing regulations. Among other requirements, Options 9, Section 21 requires that each Member firm, at a minimum: (1) establish and implement policies and procedures that can be reasonably expected to detect and cause the reporting of suspicious transactions; (2) establish and implement policies, procedures, and internal controls reasonably designed to achieve compliance with the BSA and implementing regulations; (3) provide independent testing for compliance to be conducted by Member personnel or a qualified outside party; (4) designate and identify to the Exchange an individual or individuals (i.e., AML compliance person(s)) who will be responsible for implementing and monitoring the day-to-day operations and internal

¹² See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 83154 (May 2, 2018), 83 FR 20906 (May 8, 2018) (File No. SR-FINRA-2018-016).

¹³ Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-56, 115 Stat. 272 (2001) ("PATRIOT Act").

controls of the AML program and provide prompt notification to the Exchange of any changes to the designation; and (5) provide ongoing training for appropriate persons.

FinCEN's CDD Rule does not change the requirements of Options 9, Section 21, and Members must continue to comply with its requirements.¹⁴ However, FinCEN's CDD Rule amends the minimum regulatory requirements for broker-dealers' AML programs by explicitly requiring such programs to include risk-based procedures for conducting ongoing customer due diligence.¹⁵ Accordingly, the Exchange is proposing to amend Options 9, Section 21 to incorporate this ongoing customer due diligence element, or "fifth pillar" required for AML programs. Thus, proposed Options 9, Section 21(f) would provide that the AML programs required by this Rule shall, at a minimum include appropriate risk-based procedures for conducting ongoing customer due diligence, to include, but not be limited to: (1) understanding the nature and purpose of customer relationships for the purpose of developing a customer risk profile; and (2) conducting ongoing monitoring to identify and report suspicious transactions and, on a risk basis, to maintain and update customer information.

As stated in the CDD Rule, these provisions are not new and merely codify existing expectations for Members to adequately identify and report suspicious transactions as required under the BSA and encapsulate practices generally already undertaken by securities firms to know and understand their customers.¹⁶ The proposed

¹⁴ FinCEN notes that broker-dealers must continue to comply with FINRA Rules, notwithstanding differences between the CDD Rule and FINRA Rule 3310, which is substantially identical to Options 9, Section 21. See CDD Rule Release 29421, n. 85.

¹⁵ See CDD Rule Release at 29420; 31 CFR §1023.210.

¹⁶ Id. at 29419.

rule change simply incorporates into Options 9, Section 21 the ongoing customer due diligence element, or “fifth pillar,” required for AML programs by the CDD Rule to aid Members in complying with the CDD Rule’s requirements. However, to the extent that these elements, which are briefly summarized below, are not already included in Members’ AML programs, the CDD Rule requires Members to update their AML programs to explicitly incorporate them.

III. Summary of Fifth Pillar’s Requirements

Understanding the Nature and Purpose of Customer Relationships

FinCEN states in the CDD Rule that firms must necessarily have an understanding of the nature and purpose of the customer relationship in order to determine whether a transaction is potentially suspicious and, in turn, to fulfill their SAR obligations.¹⁷ To that end, the CDD Rule requires that firms understand the nature and purpose of the customer relationship in order to develop a customer risk profile. The customer risk profile refers to information gathered about a customer to form the baseline against which customer activity is assessed for suspicious transaction reporting.¹⁸ Information relevant to understanding the nature and purpose of the customer relationship may be self-evident and, depending on the facts and circumstances, may include such information as the type of customer, account or service offered, and the customer’s income, net worth, domicile, or principal occupation or business, as well as, in the case of existing customers, the customer’s history of activity.¹⁹ The CDD Rule also does not

¹⁷ Id. at 29421.

¹⁸ Id. at 29422.

¹⁹ Id.

prescribe a particular form of the customer risk profile.²⁰ Instead, the CDD Rule states that depending on the firm and the nature of its business, a customer risk profile may consist of individualized risk scoring, placement of customers into risk categories or another means of assessing customer risk that allows firms to understand the risk posed by the customer and to demonstrate that understanding.²¹

The CDD Rule also addresses the interplay of understanding the nature and purpose of customer relationships with the ongoing monitoring obligation discussed below. The CDD Rule explains that firms are not necessarily required or expected to integrate customer information or the customer risk profile into existing transaction monitoring systems (for example, to serve as the baseline for identifying and assessing suspicious transactions on a contemporaneous basis).²² Rather, FinCEN expects firms to use the customer information and customer risk profile as appropriate during the course of complying with their obligations under the BSA in order to determine whether a particular flagged transaction is suspicious.²³

Conduct Ongoing Monitoring

As with the requirement to understand the nature and purpose of the customer relationship, the requirement to conduct ongoing monitoring to identify and report suspicious transactions and, on a risk basis, to maintain and update customer information, merely adopts existing supervisory and regulatory expectations as explicit minimum

²⁰ Id.

²¹ Id.

²² Id.

²³ Id.

standards of customer due diligence required for firms' AML programs.²⁴ If, in the course of its normal monitoring for suspicious activity, the Member detects information that is relevant to assessing the customer's risk profile, the Member must update the customer information, including the information regarding the beneficial owners of legal entity customers.²⁵ However, there is no expectation that the Member update customer information, including beneficial ownership information, on an ongoing or continuous basis.²⁶

b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,²⁷ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,²⁸ in particular, in that it is designed 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. Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change will protect investors, because it will aid Members in complying with the CDD Rule's requirement that Members' AML programs include risk-based procedures for conducting ongoing customer due diligence by also incorporating the requirement into Options 9, Section 21.

²⁴ Id. at 29402.

²⁵ Id. at 29420-21. See also FINRA Regulatory Notice 17-40 (discussing identifying and verifying the identity of beneficial owners of legal entity customers).

²⁶ Id.

²⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

²⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed rule change simply incorporates into Options 9, Section 21 the ongoing customer due diligence element, or “fifth pillar,” required for AML programs by the CDD Rule. Regardless of the proposed rule change, to the extent that the elements of the fifth pillar are not already included in Members’ AML programs, the CDD Rule requires Members to update their AML programs to explicitly incorporate them. In addition, as stated in the CDD Rule, these elements are already implicitly required for covered financial institutions to comply with their suspicious activity reporting requirements. Further, all Exchange Members that have customers are required to be members of FINRA pursuant to Rule 15b9-1 under the Exchange Act,²⁹ and are therefore already subject to the requirements of FINRA Rule 3310. Additionally, the proposed rule change is virtually identical³⁰ to FINRA Rule 3310. The Exchange is not imposing any additional direct or indirect burdens on member firms or their customers through this proposal, and as such, the proposal imposes no new burdens on competition.

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

²⁹ 17 CFR 240.15b9-1.

³⁰ The Exchange notes that changes between the proposed Rule and FINRA Rule 3310 are non-substantive and relate to cross references.

6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action

The Exchange does not consent to an extension of the time period for Commission action.

7. Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii)³¹ of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)³² thereunder in that it 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.

The Exchange's proposal does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest because the proposed rule change is non-controversial because it raises no novel issues. In particular, the purpose of the proposed rule change is to harmonize with and conform to FINRA Rule 3310, as described in the Purpose section. Because the new rule provision by its terms only applies to Members with customers, and all Members with customers are already subject to FINRA Rule 3310, the rule change does not impose any new requirements on Members and therefore does not impose any significant burden on competition.

³¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(a)(iii).

³² 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

Furthermore, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii)³³ requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file a proposed rule change under that subsection at least five business days prior to the date of filing, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has provided such notice.

For the above reasons, the proposed rule change qualifies for immediate effectiveness as a “non-controversial” rule change under Rule 19b-4(f)(6).³⁴ 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.

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

This proposed rule change is based on FINRA Rule 3310, as described in the Purpose section.

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.

³³ 17 CFR 19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

³⁴ 17 CFR 19b-4(f)(6).

11. Exhibits

1. Notice of Proposed Rule Change for publication in the Federal Register.
5. Text of the proposed rule change.

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. _____ ; File No. SR-MRX-2020-05)

February __, 2020

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq MRX, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend Options 9, Section 21, Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program

Pursuant to 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 February 18, 2020, Nasdaq MRX, LLC (“MRX” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) the 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. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend Options 9, Section 21, “Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program.” This rule change is intended to reflect the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network’s (“FinCEN”) adoption of a final rule on Customer Due Diligence Requirements for Financial Institutions (“CDD Rule”). Specifically, the proposed amendments would conform Options 9, Section 21 to the CDD Rule’s amendments to the minimum regulatory requirements for Members’ anti-money laundering (“AML”) compliance programs by requiring such programs to include risk-based procedures for conducting ongoing customer due diligence. This ongoing

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

customer due diligence element for AML programs includes: (1) understanding the nature and purpose of customer relationships for the purpose of developing a customer risk profile; and (2) conducting ongoing monitoring to identify and report suspicious transactions and, on a risk basis, to maintain and update customer information.

The Exchange has designated this proposal as “non-controversial” under paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4³ under the Act.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Website at <http://nasdaqmrx.cchwallstreet.com/>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

I. Background

The Bank Secrecy Act⁴ (“BSA”), among other things, requires financial

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

⁴ 31 U.S.C. 5311, et seq.

institutions,⁵ including broker-dealers, to develop and implement AML programs that, at a minimum, meet the statutorily enumerated “four pillars.”⁶ These four pillars currently require broker-dealers to have written AML programs that include, at a minimum:

- the establishment and implementation of policies, procedures and internal controls reasonably designed to achieve compliance with the applicable provisions of the BSA and implementing regulations;
- independent testing for compliance by broker-dealer personnel or a qualified outside party;
- designation of an individual or individuals responsible for implementing and monitoring the operations and internal controls of the AML program; and
- ongoing training for appropriate persons.⁷

In addition to meeting the BSA’s requirement with respect to AML programs, Exchange Members must also comply with Options 9, Section 21, which incorporates the BSA’s four pillars, as well as requires Members’ AML programs to establish and implement policies and procedures that can be reasonably expected to detect and cause the reporting of suspicious transactions.

On May 11, 2016, FinCEN, the bureau of the Department of the Treasury responsible for administering the BSA and its implementing regulations, issued the CDD Rule⁸ to clarify and strengthen customer due diligence for covered financial institutions,⁹

⁵ See U.S.C. 5312(a)(2) (defining “financial institution”).

⁶ 31 U.S.C. 5318(h)(1).

⁷ 31 CFR 1023.210(b).

⁸ FinCEN Customer Due Diligence Requirements for Financial Institutions; CDD Rule, 81 FR 29397 (May 11, 2016) (CDD Rule Release); 82 FR 45182 (September 28, 2017) (making technical correcting amendments to the final CDD Rule published on May 11, 2016). FinCEN is authorized to impose AML program requirements on financial institutions and to require financial institutions to maintain procedures to ensure compliance with the BSA and associated

including broker-dealers. In its CDD Rule, FinCEN identifies four components of customer due diligence: (1) customer identification and verification; (2) beneficial ownership identification and verification; (3) understanding the nature and purpose of customer relationships; and (4) ongoing monitoring for reporting suspicious transactions and, on a risk basis, maintaining and updating customer information.¹⁰ As the first component is already required to be part of a broker-dealers AML program under the BSA, the CDD Rule focuses on the other three components.

Specifically, the CDD Rule focuses particularly on the second component by adding a new requirement that covered financial institutions identify and verify the identity of the beneficial owners of all legal entity customers at the time a new account is opened, subject to certain exclusions and exemptions.¹¹ The CDD Rule also addresses the third and fourth components, which FinCEN states “are already implicitly required for covered financial institutions to comply with their suspicious activity reporting requirements,” by amending the existing AML program rules for covered financial institutions to explicitly require these components to be included in AML programs as a new “fifth pillar.”

regulations. 31 U.S.C. 5318(h)(2) and (a)(2). The CDD Rule is the result of the rulemaking process FinCEN initiated in March 2012. See 77 FR 13046 (March 5, 2012) (Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) and 79 FR 45151 (Aug. 4, 2014) (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking).

⁹ See 31 CFR 1010.230(f) (defining “covered financial institution”).

¹⁰ See CDD Rule Release at 29398.

¹¹ See 31 CFR 1010.230(d) (defining “beneficial owner”) and 31 CFR 1010.230(e) (defining “legal entity customer”).

On November 21, 2017, FINRA published Regulatory Notice 17-40 to provide guidance to member firms regarding their obligations under FINRA Rule 3310 in light of the adoption of FinCEN's CDD Rule. In addition, the Notice summarized the CDD Rule's impact on member firms, including the addition of the new fifth pillar required for member firms' AML programs. FINRA also amended FINRA Rule 3310 to explicitly incorporate the fifth pillar.¹² This proposed rule change amends Options 9, Section 21 to harmonize it with the FINRA rule and incorporate the fifth pillar.

II. Options 9, Section 21 and Amendment to Minimum Requirements for Members' AML Programs

Section 352 of the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001¹³ amended the BSA to require broker-dealers to develop and implement AML programs that include the four pillars mentioned above. Consistent with Section 352 of the PATRIOT Act, and incorporating the four pillars, Options 9, Section 21 requires each Member to develop and implement a written AML program reasonably designed to achieve and monitor the Member's compliance with the BSA and implementing regulations. Among other requirements, Options 9, Section 21 requires that each Member firm, at a minimum: (1) establish and implement policies and procedures that can be reasonably expected to detect and cause the reporting of suspicious transactions; (2) establish and implement policies, procedures, and internal controls reasonably designed to achieve compliance with the BSA and implementing regulations; (3) provide independent testing for compliance to be

¹² See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 83154 (May 2, 2018), 83 FR 20906 (May 8, 2018) (File No. SR-FINRA-2018-016).

¹³ Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-56, 115 Stat. 272 (2001) ("PATRIOT Act").

conducted by Member personnel or a qualified outside party; (4) designate and identify to the Exchange an individual or individuals (i.e., AML compliance person(s)) who will be responsible for implementing and monitoring the day-to-day operations and internal controls of the AML program and provide prompt notification to the Exchange of any changes to the designation; and (5) provide ongoing training for appropriate persons.

FinCEN's CDD Rule does not change the requirements of Options 9, Section 21, and Members must continue to comply with its requirements.¹⁴ However, FinCEN's CDD Rule amends the minimum regulatory requirements for broker-dealers' AML programs by explicitly requiring such programs to include risk-based procedures for conducting ongoing customer due diligence.¹⁵ Accordingly, the Exchange is proposing to amend Options 9, Section 21 to incorporate this ongoing customer due diligence element, or "fifth pillar" required for AML programs. Thus, proposed Options 9, Section 21(f) would provide that the AML programs required by this Rule shall, at a minimum include appropriate risk-based procedures for conducting ongoing customer due diligence, to include, but not be limited to: (1) understanding the nature and purpose of customer relationships for the purpose of developing a customer risk profile; and (2) conducting ongoing monitoring to identify and report suspicious transactions and, on a risk basis, to maintain and update customer information.

As stated in the CDD Rule, these provisions are not new and merely codify existing expectations for Members to adequately identify and report suspicious

¹⁴ FinCEN notes that broker-dealers must continue to comply with FINRA Rules, notwithstanding differences between the CDD Rule and FINRA Rule 3310, which is substantially identical to Options 9, Section 21. See CDD Rule Release 29421, n. 85.

¹⁵ See CDD Rule Release at 29420; 31 CFR §1023.210.

transactions as required under the BSA and encapsulate practices generally already undertaken by securities firms to know and understand their customers.¹⁶ The proposed rule change simply incorporates into Options 9, Section 21 the ongoing customer due diligence element, or “fifth pillar,” required for AML programs by the CDD Rule to aid Members in complying with the CDD Rule’s requirements. However, to the extent that these elements, which are briefly summarized below, are not already included in Members’ AML programs, the CDD Rule requires Members to update their AML programs to explicitly incorporate them.

III. Summary of Fifth Pillar’s Requirements

Understanding the Nature and Purpose of Customer Relationships

FinCEN states in the CDD Rule that firms must necessarily have an understanding of the nature and purpose of the customer relationship in order to determine whether a transaction is potentially suspicious and, in turn, to fulfill their SAR obligations.¹⁷ To that end, the CDD Rule requires that firms understand the nature and purpose of the customer relationship in order to develop a customer risk profile. The customer risk profile refers to information gathered about a customer to form the baseline against which customer activity is assessed for suspicious transaction reporting.¹⁸ Information relevant to understanding the nature and purpose of the customer relationship may be self-evident and, depending on the facts and circumstances, may include such information as the type of customer, account or service offered, and the customer’s

¹⁶ Id. at 29419.

¹⁷ Id. at 29421.

¹⁸ Id. at 29422.

income, net worth, domicile, or principal occupation or business, as well as, in the case of existing customers, the customer's history of activity.¹⁹ The CDD Rule also does not prescribe a particular form of the customer risk profile.²⁰ Instead, the CDD Rule states that depending on the firm and the nature of its business, a customer risk profile may consist of individualized risk scoring, placement of customers into risk categories or another means of assessing customer risk that allows firms to understand the risk posed by the customer and to demonstrate that understanding.²¹

The CDD Rule also addresses the interplay of understanding the nature and purpose of customer relationships with the ongoing monitoring obligation discussed below. The CDD Rule explains that firms are not necessarily required or expected to integrate customer information or the customer risk profile into existing transaction monitoring systems (for example, to serve as the baseline for identifying and assessing suspicious transactions on a contemporaneous basis).²² Rather, FinCEN expects firms to use the customer information and customer risk profile as appropriate during the course of complying with their obligations under the BSA in order to determine whether a particular flagged transaction is suspicious.²³

¹⁹ Id.

²⁰ Id.

²¹ Id.

²² Id.

²³ Id.

Conduct Ongoing Monitoring

As with the requirement to understand the nature and purpose of the customer relationship, the requirement to conduct ongoing monitoring to identify and report suspicious transactions and, on a risk basis, to maintain and update customer information, merely adopts existing supervisory and regulatory expectations as explicit minimum standards of customer due diligence required for firms' AML programs.²⁴ If, in the course of its normal monitoring for suspicious activity, the Member detects information that is relevant to assessing the customer's risk profile, the Member must update the customer information, including the information regarding the beneficial owners of legal entity customers.²⁵ However, there is no expectation that the Member update customer information, including beneficial ownership information, on an ongoing or continuous basis.²⁶

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,²⁷ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,²⁸ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a

²⁴ Id. at 29402.

²⁵ Id. at 29420-21. See also FINRA Regulatory Notice 17-40 (discussing identifying and verifying the identity of beneficial owners of legal entity customers).

²⁶ Id.

²⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

²⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

national market system, and, in general to protect investors and the public interest. Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change will protect investors, because it will aid Members in complying with the CDD Rule's requirement that Members' AML programs include risk-based procedures for conducting ongoing customer due diligence by also incorporating the requirement into Options 9, Section 21.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed rule change simply incorporates into Options 9, Section 21 the ongoing customer due diligence element, or "fifth pillar," required for AML programs by the CDD Rule. Regardless of the proposed rule change, to the extent that the elements of the fifth pillar are not already included in Members' AML programs, the CDD Rule requires Members to update their AML programs to explicitly incorporate them. In addition, as stated in the CDD Rule, these elements are already implicitly required for covered financial institutions to comply with their suspicious activity reporting requirements. Further, all Exchange Members that have customers are required to be members of FINRA pursuant to Rule 15b9-1 under the Exchange Act,²⁹ and are therefore already subject to the requirements of FINRA Rule 3310. Additionally, the proposed rule change is virtually identical³⁰ to FINRA Rule 3310. The Exchange is not imposing any additional direct or indirect burdens on member firms or their customers through this proposal, and as such, the proposal imposes no new burdens on competition.

²⁹ 17 CFR 240.15b9-1.

³⁰ The Exchange notes that changes between the proposed Rule and FINRA Rule 3310 are non-substantive and relate to cross references.

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

No written comments were either solicited or 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 from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act³¹ and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.³²

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.

³¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

³² 17 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.

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-MRX-2020-05 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-MRX-2020-05. 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. 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-MRX-2020-05 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.³³

J. Matthew DeLesDernier
Assistant Secretary

³³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

EXHIBIT 5

New text is underlined; deleted text is in brackets.

Nasdaq MRX, LLC Rules

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Options Rules

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Options 9 Business Conduct

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Section 21. Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program

Each Member shall develop and implement a written anti-money laundering program reasonably designed to achieve and monitor the Member's compliance with the requirements of the Bank Secrecy Act (31 U.S.C. 5311, et seq.) and the implementing regulations promulgated thereunder by the Department of the Treasury. Each Member's anti-money laundering program must be approved, in writing, by the Member's senior management. The anti-money laundering programs required by this Rule shall, at a minimum,

- (a) Establish and implement policies and procedures that can be reasonably expected to detect and cause the reporting of transactions required under 31 U.S.C. 5318(g) and the implementing regulations thereunder;
- (b) Establish and implement policies, procedures, and internal controls reasonably designed to achieve compliance with the Bank Secrecy Act and the implementing regulations thereunder;
- (c) Provide for independent testing for compliance to be conducted by the Member's personnel or by a qualified outside party;
- (d) Designate and identify to the Exchange (by name, title, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, and facsimile number) an individual or individuals responsible for implementing and monitoring the day-to-day operations and internal controls of the program, and provide prompt notification to the Exchange regarding any change in such designation(s); and
- (e) Provide ongoing training for appropriate personnel[.]; and
- (f) Include appropriate risk-based procedures for conducting ongoing customer due diligence, to include, but not be limited to: (1) understanding the nature and purpose of customer relationships for the purpose of developing a customer risk profile; and (2) conducting ongoing monitoring to identify and report suspicious transactions and, on a risk basis, to maintain and update customer information. For purposes of this subparagraph (f), customer information shall include information regarding the beneficial owners of legal entity customers (as defined in 31 CFR 1010.230(e)).

In the event that any of the provisions of this Rule conflict with any of the provisions of another, applicable self-regulatory organization's rule requiring the development and implementation of an anti-money laundering compliance program, the provisions of the rule of the Member's Designated Examining Authority shall apply.

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