

is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Form ID (OMB Control No. 3235–0328) must be completed and filed with the Commission by all individuals, companies, and other organizations who seek access to file electronically on the Commission's primary electronic filing system, EDGAR. Those seeking access to file on EDGAR typically include those who are required to make certain disclosures pursuant to the federal securities laws. The information provided on Form ID is an essential part of the security of EDGAR. Form ID is a not a public document because it is used solely for the purpose of screening applicants and granting access to EDGAR. Form ID must be submitted whenever an applicant seeks an EDGAR identification number and access codes to file on EDGAR. The Commission may consider enhancing the EDGAR access process to require filers that already have EDGAR identification numbers but do not have EDGAR access codes to submit a Form ID to obtain access codes to file on EDGAR. If these enhancements become effective, we estimate that approximately 48,493 filers will file Form ID annually and that it will take approximately 0.15 hours per response to prepare for a total of 7,274 annual burden hours. The estimate includes the number of filers without identification numbers and filers with identification numbers that seek to obtain access codes for purposes of submitting electronic filings on EDGAR.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments are invited on: (i) Whether this proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (ii) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden imposed by the collection of information; (iii) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (iv) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to David Bottom, Director/Chief

Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Cynthia Roscoe, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: December 23, 2020.

Eduardo A. Aleman,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–90780; File No. SR–NASDAQ–2020–091]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Extend the Effective Date of the Temporary Amendments Concerning Exchange Rule 1.1210 From December 31, 2020, to April 30, 2021

December 22, 2020.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act” or “Exchange Act”) ¹ and Rule 19b–4 thereunder, ² notice is hereby given that on December 17, 2020, The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to extend the effective date of the temporary amendments set forth in SR–NASDAQ–2020–073 from December 31, 2020, to April 30, 2021. Due to the impacts of COVID–19 on the administration of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”) qualification examinations at test centers, SR–NASDAQ–2020–073 extended the 120-day period that certain individuals can function as a principal without having successfully passed an appropriate qualification examination through December 31, 2020.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at <https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/nasdaq/rules>, at the principal

office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

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

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to extend the effective date of the temporary amendments set forth in SR–NASDAQ–2020–073 from December 31, 2020, to April 30, 2021. The proposed rule change would extend the 120-day period that certain individuals can function as a principal without having successfully passed an appropriate qualification examination through April 30, 2021, ³ and would apply only to those individuals who were designated to function as a principal prior to January 1, 2021. This proposed rule change is based on filings recently submitted by FINRA ⁴ and is intended to harmonize the Exchange's registration rules with those of FINRA so as to promote uniform standards across the securities industry.

In response to COVID–19, earlier this year FINRA began providing temporary relief by way of frequently asked questions (“FAQs”) ⁵ to address disruptions to the administration of

³ If the Exchange seeks to provide additional temporary relief from the rule requirements identified in this proposed rule change beyond April 30, 2021, the Exchange will submit a separate rule filing to further extend the temporary extension of time.

⁴ See Exchange Act Release No. 89732 (September 1, 2020), 85 FR 55535 (September 8, 2020) (SR–FINRA–2020–026) and Exchange Act Release No. 90617 (December 9, 2020), 85 FR 81258 (December 15, 2020) (SR–FINRA–2020–043) (collectively, the “FINRA Filings”). The Exchange notes that the FINRA Filings also provide temporary relief to individuals registered with FINRA as Operations Professionals under FINRA Rule 1220. The Exchange does not have a registration category for Operations Professionals and therefore, the Exchange is not proposing to adopt that aspect of the FINRA Filings.

⁵ See <https://www.finra.org/rules-guidance/key-topics/covid-19/faq#q6>.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

FINRA qualification examinations caused by the pandemic that have significantly limited the ability of individuals to sit for examinations due to Prometric test center capacity issues.⁶

FINRA published the first FAQ on March 20, 2020, providing that individuals who were designated to function as principals under FINRA Rule 1210.04⁷ prior to February 2, 2020, would be given until May 31, 2020, to pass the appropriate principal qualification examination.⁸ On May 19, 2020, FINRA extended the relief to pass the appropriate examination until June 30, 2020. On June 29, 2020, FINRA again extended the temporary relief providing that individuals who were designated to function as principals under FINRA Rule 1210.04 prior to May 4, 2020, would be given until August 31, 2020, to pass the appropriate principal qualification examination.

On October 29, 2020, the Exchange filed with the Commission a proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness to adopt temporary Supplementary Material .13 (Temporary Extension of the Limited Period for Registered Persons to Function as Principals) under Exchange Rule 1.1210 of General 4 (Registration Requirements).⁹ Pursuant to this rule filing, individuals who were designated prior to September 3, 2020, to function as a principal under Exchange Rule 1.1210.04 have until December 31, 2020, to pass the appropriate qualification examination.

The COVID-19 conditions necessitating the extension of relief provided in SR-NASDAQ-2020-073 persist and in fact appear to be worsening.¹⁰ One of the impacts of

COVID-19 continues to be serious interruptions in the administration of FINRA qualification examinations at Prometric test centers and the limited ability of individuals to sit for the examinations.¹¹ Although Prometric has been reopening its test centers, Prometric's safety practices mean that currently not all test centers are open, some of the open test centers are at limited capacity, and some open test centers are delivering only certain examinations that have been deemed essential by the local government.¹² Furthermore, Prometric has had to close some reopened test centers due to incidents of COVID-19 cases. The initial nationwide closure in March along with the inability to fully reopen all Prometric test centers due to COVID-19 have led to a significant backlog of individuals who are waiting to sit for FINRA examinations that are not available online.¹³

In addition, firms are continuing to experience operational challenges with much of their personnel working from home due to shelter-in-place orders, restrictions on businesses and social activity imposed in various states, and adherence to other social distancing guidelines consistent with the recommendations of public health officials.¹⁴ As a result, firms continue to face potentially significant disruptions to their normal business operations that may include a limitation of in-person activities and staff absenteeism as a result of the health and welfare concerns stemming from COVID-19. Such potential disruptions may be further exacerbated, and may even affect client services, if firms cannot continue to keep principal positions filled, as they may have difficulty finding other qualified individuals to transition into these roles or may need to reallocate employee time and resources away from other critical responsibilities at the firm.

These ongoing, extenuating circumstances make it impracticable for

members to ensure that the individuals whom they have designated to function in a principal capacity, as set forth in Exchange Rule 1.1210.04, are able to successfully sit for and pass an appropriate qualification examination within the 120-calendar day period required under the rule, or to find other qualified staff to fill this position. The ongoing circumstances also require individuals to be exposed to the health risks associated with taking an in-person examination, because the General Securities Principal examination is not available online. Therefore, the Exchange is proposing to extend the effective date of the temporary relief provided through SR-NASDAQ-2020-073 until April 30, 2021. The proposed rule change would apply only to those individuals who were designated to function as a principal prior to January 1, 2021. Any individuals designated to function as a principal on or after January 1, 2021, would need to successfully pass an appropriate qualification examination within 120 days.

The Exchange believes that this proposed continued extension of time is tailored to address the needs and constraints on a member's operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, without significantly compromising critical investor protection. The proposed extension of time will help to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on members by providing continued flexibility so that members can ensure that principal positions remain filled. The potential risks from the proposed extension of the 120-day period are mitigated by the member's continued requirement to supervise the activities of these designated individuals and ensure compliance with federal securities laws and regulations, as well as Exchange rules.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,¹⁵ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,¹⁶ in particular, because it is 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 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

⁶ At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, all FINRA qualification examinations were administered at test centers operated by Prometric. Based on the health and welfare concerns resulting from COVID-19, in March Prometric closed all of its test centers in the United States and Canada and began to slowly reopen some of them at limited capacity in May. At this time, not all of these Prometric test centers have reopened at full capacity.

⁷ Exchange Rule 1.1210.04 is the corresponding rule to FINRA Rule 1210.04.

⁸ FINRA Rule 1210.04 (Requirements for Registered Persons Functioning as Principals for a Limited Period) allows a member firm to designate certain individuals to function in a principal capacity for 120 calendar days before having to pass an appropriate principal qualification examination. Exchange Rule 1.1210.04 provides the same allowance to members.

⁹ See Exchange Act Release No. 90359 (November 5, 2020), 85 FR 71979 (November 12, 2020) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-NASDAQ-2020-073).

¹⁰ See, e.g., Meryl Kornfield, Jacqueline Dupree, Marisa Iati, Paulina Villegas, Siobhan O'Grady and Hamza Shaban, *New daily coronavirus cases in U.S. rise to 145,000, latest all-time high*, Wash. Post, November 11, 2020, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/11/11/coronavirus-covid-live-updates-us/>.

¹¹ Information about the continued impact of COVID-19 on FINRA-administered examinations is available at <https://www.finra.org/rules-guidance/key-topics/covid-19/exams>.

¹² Information from Prometric about its safety practices and the impact of COVID-19 on its operations is available at <https://www.prometric.com/corona-virus-update>. See also *supra* note 11.

¹³ Earlier this year, an online test delivery service was launched for candidates seeking to take qualification examinations remotely. Only certain qualification examinations are available online. See *supra* note 11. FINRA is considering making additional qualification examinations available remotely on a limited basis.

¹⁴ See, e.g., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *How to Protect Yourself & Others*, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>.

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The proposed rule change is intended to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on member operations by further extending the 120-day period certain individuals may function as a principal without having successfully passed an appropriate qualification examination under Exchange Rule 1.1210.04 until April 30, 2021. The proposed rule change does not relieve members from maintaining, under the circumstances, a reasonably designed system to supervise the activities of their associated persons to achieve compliance with applicable securities laws and regulations, and with applicable Exchange rules that directly serve investor protection. In a time when faced with unique challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is a sensible accommodation that will continue to afford members the ability to ensure that critical positions are filled and client services maintained, while continuing to serve and promote the protection of investors and the public interest in this unique environment.

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. As set forth in SR-NASDAQ-2020-073, the proposed rule change is intended to provide temporary relief given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis and to also maintain consistency with the rules of other self-regulatory organizations ("SROs") with respect to the registration requirements applicable to members and their registered personnel. In that regard, the Exchange believes that any burden on competition would be clearly outweighed by providing members with temporary relief in this unique environment while also ensuring clear and consistent requirements applicable across SROs and mitigating any risk of SROs implementing different standards in these important areas. In its filing, FINRA provides an abbreviated economic impact assessment maintaining that the changes are necessary to temporarily rebalance the attendant benefits and costs of the obligations under FINRA Rule 1210 in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that is equally applicable to the changes the Exchange proposes.¹⁷ The Exchange accordingly incorporates

FINRA's abbreviated economic impact assessment by reference.

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) of the Act¹⁸ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹⁹

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) normally does not become operative for 30 days after the date of filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposed rule change may become operative immediately upon filing. As noted above, the Exchange stated that the proposed extension of time will help minimize the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on members' operations by allowing them to keep principal positions filled and minimizing disruptions to client services and other critical responsibilities. The Exchange further stated that the ongoing extenuating circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic make it impractical to ensure that individuals designated to act in these capacities are able to take and pass the appropriate qualification examination during the 120-calendar day period required under the rules. The Exchange also explained that shelter-in-place orders, quarantining, restrictions on business and social activity and adherence to social distancing guidelines consistent with the recommendations of public officials remain in place in various

states.²⁰ In addition, the Exchange observed that, following a nationwide closure of all test centers earlier in the year, some test centers have re-opened, but are operating at limited capacity or are only delivering certain examinations that have been deemed essential by the local government.²¹ Although, as the Exchange noted, FINRA has launched an online test delivery service to help address this backlog, the General Securities Principal (Series 24) Examination is not available online.²² Nevertheless, the Exchange explained that the proposed rule change will provide needed flexibility to ensure that these positions remain filled and is tailored to address the constraints on members' operations during the COVID-19 pandemic without significantly compromising critical investor protection.²³

The Commission observes that the Exchange's proposal, like the FINRA Filings on which it is based,²⁴ provides only an extension to temporary relief from the requirement to pass certain qualification examinations within the 120-day period in the rules. As proposed, this relief would extend the 120-day period that certain individuals can function as principals through April 30, 2021. If a further extension of temporary relief from the rule requirements identified in this proposal beyond April 30, 2021 is required, the Exchange noted that it may submit a separate rule filing to extend the effectiveness of the temporary relief under these rules.²⁵ For these reasons, the Commission believes that waiver of the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest.²⁶ Accordingly, the Commission hereby waives the 30-day operative delay and designates the proposal operative upon filing.²⁷

²⁰ See *supra* note 14.

²¹ See *supra* notes 11 and 12. The Exchange states that Prometric has also had to close some reopened test centers due to incidents of COVID-19 cases.

²² See *supra* note 13. FINRA is considering making additional qualification examinations available remotely on a limited basis.

²³ The Exchange states that members remain subject to the continued requirement to supervise the activities of these designated individuals and ensure compliance with federal securities laws and regulations, as well as Nasdaq rules.

²⁴ See *supra* note 4.

²⁵ See *supra* note 3.

²⁶ As noted above by Nasdaq, this proposal is an extension of temporary relief provided in a prior filing where Nasdaq also requested and the Commission granted a waiver of the 30-day operative delay. See *supra* note 9, 85 FR at 71981-82.

²⁷ For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has considered the proposed rule change's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

¹⁷ See *supra* note 4.

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 email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2020-091 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-NASDAQ-2020-091. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of Nasdaq. All comments received will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal

identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2020-091 and should be submitted on or before January 21, 2021.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁸

Eduardo A. Aleman,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-28808 Filed 12-29-20; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-90798; File No. SR-BOX-2020-40]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; BOX Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Rule 16000 Series

December 23, 2020.

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 December 15, 2020, BOX Exchange LLC (the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend the Rule 16000 Series, the Exchange's compliance rule ("Compliance Rule") regarding the National Market System Plan Governing the Consolidated Audit Trail (the "CAT NMS Plan" or "Plan")³ to be consistent with a conditional exemption granted by the Commission from certain allocation reporting requirements set forth in Sections 6.4(d)(ii)(A)(1) and (2) of the CAT NMS Plan ("Allocation Exemption").⁴ The text of the proposed rule change is available from the principal office of the

²⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ Unless otherwise specified, capitalized terms used in this rule filing are defined as set forth in the Compliance Rule.

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Rel. No. 90223 (October 19, 2020), 85 FR 67576 (October 23, 2020) ("Allocation Exemptive Order").

Exchange, at the Commission's Public Reference Room and also on the Exchange's internet website at <http://boxoptions.com>.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The self-regulatory organization 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

The purpose of this proposed rule change is to amend the Rule 16000 Series to be consistent with the Allocation Exemption. The Commission granted the relief conditioned upon the Participants' adoption of Compliance Rules that implement the alternative approach to reporting allocations to the Central Repository described in the Allocation Exemption (referred to as the "Allocation Alternative").

(1) Request for Exemptive Relief

Pursuant to Section 6.4(d)(ii)(A) of the CAT NMS Plan, each Participant must, through its Compliance Rule, require its Industry Members to record and report to the Central Repository, if the order is executed, in whole or in part: (1) An Allocation Report;⁵ (2) the SRO-Assigned Market Participant Identifier of the clearing broker or prime broker, if applicable; and the (3) CAT-Order-ID of any contra-side order(s). Accordingly, the Exchange and the other Participants implemented Compliance Rules that require their Industry Members that are executing brokers to submit to the Central Repository, among other things, Allocation Reports and the SRO-

⁵ Section 1.1 of the CAT NMS Plan defines an "Allocation Report" as "a report made to the Central Repository by an Industry Member that identifies the Firm Designated ID for any account(s), including subaccount(s), to which executed shares are allocated and provides the security that has been allocated, the identifier of the firm reporting the allocation, the price per share of shares allocated, the side of shares allocated, the number of shares allocated to each account, and the time of the allocation; provided for the avoidance of doubt, any such Allocation Report shall not be required to be linked to particular orders or executions."