

### 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 Act<sup>7</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>8</sup>

A proposed rule change filed pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6) under the Act<sup>9</sup> normally does not become operative for 30 days after the date of its filing. However, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii)<sup>10</sup> permits the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposed rule change may become operative upon filing. The proposed rule change merely relocates the Exchange's co-location and direct connectivity rules, updates rule cross-references, and removes expired waiver language.<sup>11</sup> Accordingly, the Commission believes that waiver of the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest and hereby waives the operative delay and designates the proposed rule change operative upon filing.<sup>12</sup>

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 change should be approved or disapproved.

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

<sup>11</sup> See *supra* note 4.

<sup>12</sup> For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission also has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

### 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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2018-045 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-2018-045. 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 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. 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-2018-045, and should be submitted on or before July 16, 2018.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>13</sup>

**Eduardo A. Aleman,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2018-13507 Filed 6-22-18; 8:45 am]

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-83465; File No. SR-Phlx-2018-46]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq PHLX LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Relocate the Exchange's Rules Pertaining to Co-Location and Direct Connectivity

June 19, 2018.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on June 5, 2018, Nasdaq PHLX LLC ("Phlx" or "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 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 relocate the Exchange's rules pertaining to co-location and direct connectivity, which are presently at Sections X and XI of the Exchange's Pricing Schedule, to the Exchange's new rulebook shell, entitled "General Equity and Options Rules," at new General 8 ("Connectivity"), Sections 1 and 2, respectively.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at <http://nasdaqphlx.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

<sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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

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

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

The Exchange proposes to relocate its rules governing co-location and direct connectivity services, which presently comprise Sections X and XI of the Exchange's Pricing Schedule, respectively. The Exchange proposes to establish, within its new rulebook shell,<sup>3</sup> a new General 8 heading, entitled "Connectivity," to renumber Section X as Section 1 thereunder, and to renumber Section XI as Section 2 thereunder. The Exchange furthermore proposes to amend Sections VIII and XIII of the Pricing Schedule to update cross references therein to Sections X and XI. It corrects spelling errors in the existing text. The Exchange also proposes to update internal cross-references in the renumbered Rules.

The Exchange considers it appropriate to relocate these Rules to better organize its Rulebook. The other Affiliated Exchanges intend to propose similar reorganizations of their co-location and direct connectivity rules so that these rules will be harmonized among all of the Affiliated Exchanges.

The relocation of the co-location and direct connectivity rules is part of the Exchange's continued effort to promote efficiency and conformity of its processes with those of its Affiliated Exchanges. The Exchange believes that moving the co-location and direct connectivity rules to their new location will facilitate the use of the Rulebook by Members of the Exchange who are members of other Affiliated Exchanges. Moreover, the proposed changes are of a non-substantive nature and will not amend the relocated rules other than to update their numbers and make conforming cross-reference changes.

<sup>3</sup> Recently, the Exchange added a shell structure to its Rulebook with the purpose of improving efficiency and readability and to align its rules closer to those of its five sister exchanges: The Nasdaq Stock Exchange, LLC; Nasdaq BX, Inc.; Nasdaq ISE, LLC; Nasdaq GEMX, LLC; and Nasdaq MRX, LLC (together with Phlx, the "Affiliated Exchanges"). See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 82169 (November 29, 2017), 82 FR 57508 (December 5, 2017) (SR-Phlx-2017-97).

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>4</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>5</sup> 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, by improving the way its Rulebook is organized, providing ease of reference in locating co-location and direct connectivity rules, and harmonizing the Exchange's Rules with those of the other Affiliated Exchanges. As previously stated, the proposed Rule relocation is non-substantive.

*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 intermarket or intra-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed changes do not impose a burden on competition because, as previously stated, they (i) are of a non-substantive nature, (ii) are intended to harmonize the Exchange's rules with those of its Affiliated Exchanges, and (iii) are intended to organize the Rulebook in a way that it will ease the Members' navigation and reading of the rules across the Affiliated Exchanges.

*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.

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<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

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

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>7</sup> 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,

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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 change should be approved or disapproved.

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*Paper Comments*

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange

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.

<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

<sup>10</sup> For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission also has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Phlx-2018-46. 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 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. 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-Phlx-2018-46, and should be submitted on or before July 16, 2018.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>11</sup>

**Eduardo A. Aleman,**  
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-13506 Filed 6-22-18; 8:45 am]

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 33126; 812-14734]

### AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company, et al.

June 19, 2018.

**AGENCY:** Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission").

**ACTION:** Notice.

Notice of Application for an order approving the terms of certain offers of

exchange pursuant to section 11 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). Applicants request an order approving the terms of certain offers of exchange between certain separate accounts supporting variable annuity contracts and certain registered open-end management investment companies.

**APPLICANTS:** AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company ("AXA Equitable"), a New York stock life insurance company; Separate Account A of AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company ("Separate Account A"), registered under the 1940 Act as a unit investment trust and a "separate account" as defined in section 2(a)(37) of the 1940 Act; AXA Advisors, LLC ("AXA Advisors"); AXA Distributors, LLC ("AXA Distributors"); ALPS Distributors, Inc. ("ALPS Distributors"); and AllianceBernstein Investments, Inc. ("ABI" and, together with AXA Equitable, Separate Account A, AXA Advisors, AXA Distributors, ALPS Distributors, and ABI, the "Applicants").<sup>1</sup>

**FILING DATES:** The application was filed on January 10, 2017, and amended on June 23, 2017; November 21, 2017; and April 10, 2018.

**HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING:** An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Commission's Secretary and serving the Applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 16, 2018 and should be accompanied by proof of service on the Applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Pursuant to rule 0-5 under the 1940 Act, hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, any facts bearing upon the desirability of a hearing on the matter, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Commission's Secretary.

**ADDRESSES:** Secretary, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090. Applicants: Shane Daly, AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company, 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10104; and Christopher E. Palmer, Esq., and Andrew L. Zutz, Esq., Goodwin Procter

LLP, 901 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James D. McGinnis, Senior Counsel, at (202) 551-3025, or Parisa Haghshenas, Branch Chief, at (202) 551-6723 (Division of Investment Management, Chief Counsel's Office).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained via the Commission's website by searching for the file number, or an applicant using the Company name box, at <http://www.sec.gov/search/search.htm> or by calling (202) 551-8090.

### Summary of the Application

1. Applicants seek an order on behalf of AXA Equitable and any current or future affiliated life insurance company (each, an "Insurance Company" and, collectively, the "Insurance Companies"), Separate Account A and any current or future separate account of an Insurance Company (each, a "Separate Account" and, collectively, the "Separate Accounts"), and AXA Advisors, AXA Distributors, ALPS Distributors, ABI, and any current or future broker-dealer serving as principal underwriter of variable annuity contracts issued by an Insurance Company or registered open-end management investment companies advised by an affiliate of an Insurance Company.

2. Separate Account A is registered under the 1940 Act as a unit investment trust for the purpose of funding certain variable annuity contracts issued by AXA Equitable (any such contract and any other current or future variable annuity contract issued by an Insurance Company that is funded by a Separate Account is hereinafter referred to as a "Contract" and collectively, the "Contracts"). Security interests under the Contracts have been registered under the Securities Act of 1933. The Contracts currently offer various subaccounts of Separate Account A, each of which invests exclusively in a single corresponding portfolio of EQ Advisors Trust or AXA Premier VIP Trust (together, the "Affiliated Trusts") or certain unaffiliated trusts (the "Unaffiliated Trusts" and collectively with the Affiliated Trusts, the "Trusts"). The Trusts are registered under the 1940 Act as open-end management investment companies with multiple separate series or portfolios. The Contracts may offer additional subaccounts of Separate Account A or any other Separate Account in the future, each of which may invest in any

<sup>1</sup> Each of AXA Advisors, AXA Distributors, ALPS Distributors, and ABI are registered with the Commission as broker-dealers and are members of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

<sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).