SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-73463; File No. SR-MIAX-2014-54)

October 29, 2014

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Miami International Securities Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Add Exchange Rule 531, Trade Nullification and Price Adjustment Procedure

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on October 20, 2014, Miami International Securities Exchange LLC ("MIAX" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") a proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

The Exchange is filing a proposal to add Rule 531, Trade Nullification and Price Adjustment Procedure.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at http://www.miaxoptions.com/filter/wotitle/rule_filing, at MIAX's principal office, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to add Rule 531, Trade Nullification and Price Adjustment Procedure.³ As proposed, Rule 531 will allow for transactions to be nullified if both parties to the transaction agree to the nullification and allow the price of transaction [sic] and authorized by the Exchange.⁴ The proposal is based upon a recent filing of another options exchange.⁵

The Exchange proposes to add Rule 531, "Trade Nullification and Price Adjustment Procedure," which would: (a) allow for any trades on the Exchange to be nullified if both parties to the trade agree to such nullification, and (b) allow for prices of executions to be adjusted if the price adjustment is agreed upon by both parties of the trade and authorized by the Exchange.⁶

The Exchange is also proposing to add a provision to allow Members to mutually agree to adjust a price of an execution. The Exchange believes this provision is necessary given the benefits of adjusting a trade price rather than nullifying the trade completely. Because options trades are used to hedge transactions in other markets, including securities and futures, many Members, and their customers, would rather adjust prices of executions rather than nullify the

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The Exchange notes that this proposal is only intended to be effective until the joint efforts by the exchanges to create uniform trade nullification and adjustment rules are approved and in effect. Once the uniform rule has been approved and is effective, the Exchange will amend its rules appropriately.

The Exchange notes that, as proposed, Rule 6.19 [sic] will only apply to trades that were executed on the Exchange and, as such, any orders that were either fully or partially routed to, or executed, on another Exchange will not be subject to the Proposed Rule 531.

 <u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 72970 (September 3, 2014), 79 FR 53498 (September 9, 2014) (SR-CBOE-2014-066).

See <u>supra</u> note 4.

transactions and, thus, lose a hedge altogether. As such, the Exchange believes it is in the best interest of investors to allow for price adjustments as well as nullifications. In addition, the Exchange believes it is in the nature of a fair and orderly market to allow for price adjustments rather than only cancellations because an adjustment will result in the least amount of disruption to the overall market. The Exchange also notes that current Exchange Rules allow for prices of trades to be adjusted at the consent of both parties if such transactions are within the current obvious error provisions.⁷ The Exchange is now proposing to merely allow this practice for any trade.

As proposed, Rule 531 expressly states that trades may be subject to nullification or price adjustment only if such trades are authorized by the Exchange. As part of the authorization process, in the case of a mutual nullification or mutual price adjustment, the Exchange will only authorize if the Exchange received verification from both parties to the trade that a mutual agreement has been made. In addition, prior to an authorization for a mutual price adjustment, the Exchange will ensure the agreed upon price would have been permissible and in compliance

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The Exchange notes that no changes are being proposed to the procedures for nullification or adjustment of a trade by mutual agreement in the Exchange's obvious error rules. See MIAX Rule 521(c)(3). MIAX Rule 521(c)(3) provides that the "determination as to whether a trade was automatically executed at an erroneous price may be made by mutual agreement of the affected parties to a particular transaction within the time periods specified in subparagraphs (e)(1) or (2) [of Rule 531 [sic]] below. A trade may be nullified or adjusted on the terms that all parties to a particular transaction agree. In the absence of mutual agreement by the parties, a particular trade may only be nullified or adjusted when the transaction results from an Obvious Error as provided in this Rule." With the effectiveness of Proposed Rule 531, members will have two options to choose from in order to have the their trades nullified or adjusted by mutual agreement: (i) request under the procedures of MIAX Rule 521(c)(3) including the timeframes in Rule 521(e)(1), (2); or (ii) request under the procedures of Proposed Rule 531 which requires the authorization of the Exchange prior to the nullification or adjustment. The Exchange believes both provisions are complimentary [sic] in that they provide protections in different situations under procedures that are correspondingly appropriate based on the situation in which a nullification or an adjustment is requested.

with all Exchange and Securities and Exchange Commission Rules, as amended, at the time the original transaction was executed. Finally, the proposed rule will state that the format and information required by the Exchange for this submission will be released by the Exchange via Regulatory Circular. As such, prior to Rule 531 becoming operative, the Exchange will provide Members with specific requirements via an Exchange Regulatory Circular. The circular will, among other things, state specific timeframes required for requests and the format in which the requests will be accepted by the Exchange.

To conclude, the Exchange believes that the proposed changes are in furtherance of the Act because the proposed Rule 531 will allow Members to agree to nullify transactions or adjust prices of transactions to maintain a fair and orderly market. As stated above, the Exchange intends to release a Regulatory Circular to announce the implementation of the Rule and other specifics surrounding the procedures of the implementation. In addition, prior to implementation, the Exchange will ensure it has proper policies and procedures in place to correctly administer the Rule.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposed rule change is consistent with Section $6(b)^9$ of the Act in general, and furthers the objectives of Section $6(b)(5)^{10}$ of the Act in particular, in that 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 mechanisms of a

For example, the Exchange would ensure that the mutually agreed upon price would not have traded through resting interest at the time of the initial execution.

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

More specifically, the Exchange believes that the proposed changes are consistent with the Act as they are designed to promote just and equitable principles and protect investors and the public interest. Because options trades are used to hedge transactions in other markets, including securities and futures, many market participants would rather adjust prices of executions rather than nullify the transactions and, thus, lose a hedge altogether. As such, the Exchange believes it is in the best interest of investors to allow for price adjustments as well as nullifications. In addition, the Exchange believes it is in the nature of a fair and orderly market to allow for price adjustments rather than only cancellations because an adjustment will result in the least amount of disruption to the overall market. Finally, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes are unfairly discriminatory because they will be applied to all Members equally.

B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. In fact, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will foster competition as it will allow for less overall disruption to the market and encourage participation on the Exchange.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) Significantly affect the

protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition;

and (iii) become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹¹ and Rule $19b-4(f)(6)^{12}$ thereunder.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-MIAX-2014-54 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

• Send paper comments in triplicate to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Securities and Exchange

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

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.

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-MIAX-2014-54. 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 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, D.C. 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 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

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to File Number SR-MIAX-2014-54, and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

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

Kevin M. O'Neill Deputy Secretary

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