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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-86928; File No. SR-C2-2019-019]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to Adopt Fees for a New Data Product to be Known as Open-Close Data
September 11, 2019.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on August 30, 2019, Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “C2”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “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

Cboe C2 Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “C2 Options”) is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) a proposed rule change to adopt fees for a new data product to be known as Open-Close Data. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Exchange’s website (http://markets.cboe.com/us/options/regulation/rule_filings/ctwo/), at the Exchange’s Office of the Secretary, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

The Exchange proposes to adopt fees for a new data product on C2 Options to be known as Open-Close Data, which will be available for purchase to C2 Options Trading Permit Holders ("TPHs") and Non-TPHs. Cboe LiveVol, LLC ("LiveVol"), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Exchange's parent company, Cboe Global Markets, Inc., will make the Open-Close Data available for purchase to TPHs and Non-TPHs on the LiveVol DataShop website (datashop.cboe.com). The Exchange proposes to amend its Fee Schedule to adopt fees for the product.

The Exchange proposes to introduce the Open-Close Data product. Open-Close Data is a data product that summarizes volume (contracts traded on C2 Options) by origin (customer and firm orders), original order size and the opening or closing position of the order. The volume data is also summarized by day and series (symbol, expiration date, strike price, call or put). The Open-Close Data will be available for purchase to both C2 TPHs and Non-TPHs on a subscription and ad-hoc basis. The Exchange notes that its affiliate, Cboe Exchange, Inc. ("Cboe

Options”), as well as other exchanges, offer a similar data product.³

The Exchange proposes to provide in its Fee Schedule that TPHs and non-TPHs may purchase Open-Close Data on a subscription basis (end of day file) or by ad hoc request for a specified month (historical file). The Exchange proposes to assess a monthly fee of \$500 for subscribing to a daily update which will consist of Open/Close data covering all Exchange-listed securities. TPHs and non-TPHs purchasing Open/Close data on a subscription basis will receive access to a daily data file. The Exchange proposes to assess a fee of \$400 per request per month for an ad-hoc request of historical Open/Close data covering all Exchange-listed securities. An ad-hoc request can be for any number of months beginning with January 2018 for which the data is available.⁴ The proposed subscription and ad-hoc fees will apply both to TPHs or non-TPHs. The Exchange notes that other exchanges, including its affiliate Exchange Cboe Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe Options”) provide similar data products that may be purchased on both a subscription and ad-hoc basis and are similarly priced.⁵

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁶ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁷ in particular, in

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 55062 (January 8, 2007), 72 FR 2048 (January 17, 2007) (approving SR-CBOE-2006-88); See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 56254 (August 15, 2007), 72 FR 47104 (August 22, 2007) (SR-ISE-2007-70).

⁴ For example, a TPH or non-TPH that requests historical Open/Close Data for the months of October 2018 and November 2018, would be assessed a total of \$800. The Exchange notes that it may make historical data prior to January 2018 available in the future and that such historical data would be available to all TPHs or non-TPHs.

⁵ See e.g., Cboe Options Fees Schedule, Livevol Fees, Open-Close Data. See also Nasdaq ISE Options 7 Pricing Schedule, Section 10.A.

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, 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 to protect investors and the public interest, and that it is not designed to permit unfair discrimination among customers, brokers, or dealers. The Exchange also believes that its proposal to adopt fees for Open-Close Data is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) of the Act⁸ in particular, in that it is an equitable allocation of dues, fees and other charges among its members and other recipients of Exchange data.

In adopting Regulation NMS, the Commission granted self-regulatory organizations (“SROs”) and broker-dealers increased authority and flexibility to offer new and unique market data to the public. It was believed that this authority would expand the amount of data available to consumers, and also spur innovation and competition for the provision of market data. Particularly, Open-Close Data will further broaden the availability of U.S. option market data to investors consistent with the principles of Regulation NMS. The data product also promotes increased transparency through the dissemination of Open-Close Data and benefits investors by providing access to the Open-Close Data, which may promote better informed trading.

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive environment. Indeed, there are currently 16 registered options exchanges that trade options. The Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. Particularly, in Regulation NMS, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system “has been remarkably successful in promoting

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.”⁹ Making alternative data products available to market participants ultimately ensures increased competition in the marketplace, and constrains the ability of exchanges to charge supracompetitive fees. In the event that a market participant views one exchange’s data product as more or less attractive than the competition they can and do switch between competing products. The proposed fees are a result of the competitive environment, as the Exchange seeks to adopt fees to attract purchasers of the proposed Open-Close Data product.

The Exchange believes the proposed fees are reasonable as the proposed fees are both modest and similar to the fees assessed by other exchanges that provide similar data products.¹⁰ The Exchange also believes the proposed fees are reasonable as they would support the introduction of a new market data product that is designed to aid investors by providing insight into trading on C2 Options. The proposed Open-Close Data would provide options market participants with valuable information about opening and closing transactions executed on the Exchange, similar to other historical trade data products offered by competing options exchanges. In turn, this data would assist market participants in gauging investor sentiment and trading activity, resulting in potentially better informed trading decisions.

Selling historical market data, such as Open-Close Data, is also a means by which exchanges compete to attract business. Specifically, the Open-Close Data would provide insight into trading activity on C2 Options, and would therefore potentially encourage subscribers to direct order flow to the Exchange. To the extent that the Exchange is successful in attracting subscribers for the Open-Close Data, it may earn trading revenues and further enhance the value

⁹ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) (“Regulation NMS Adopting Release”).

¹⁰ See e.g., Cboe Options Fees Schedule, Livevol Fees, Open-Close Data. See also Nasdaq ISE Options 7 Pricing Schedule, Section 10.A.

of its data products. If the market deems the proposed fees to be unfair or inequitable, firms can diminish or discontinue their use of the data and/or avail themselves of alternative products offered by other exchanges.¹¹ The Exchange therefore believes that the proposed fees for Open-Close Data reflect the competitive environment and would be properly assessed on TPH or non-TPH users. The Exchange also believes the proposed fees are equitable and not unfairly discriminatory as the fees would apply equally to all users who choose to purchase such data. The Exchange's proposed fees would not differentiate between subscribers that purchase Open-Close Data, and are set at a modest level that would allow any interested TPH or non-TPH to purchase such data based on their business needs.

The Exchange anticipates a wide variety of market participants to purchase Open-Close Data, including but not limited to buy-side investors, investment banks and academic institutions. The Exchange notes however, that the decision as to whether or not to purchase the Open-Close Data is entirely optional for all potential subscribers. Indeed, no market participant is required to purchase the Open-Close Data, and the Exchange is not required to make the Open-Close Data available to all investors. Rather, the Exchange is voluntarily making historical Open-Close Data available, as requested by customers, and market participants may choose to receive (and pay for) this data based on their own business needs. Potential purchasers may request the data at any time if they believe it to be valuable, or may decline to purchase such data.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Rather, the Exchange believes that the proposal will promote competition by permitting the

¹¹ See e.g., Cboe Options Fees Schedule, Livevol Fees, Open-Close Data. See also Nasdaq ISE Options 7 Pricing Schedule, Section 10.A.

Exchange to sell a data product similar to those offered by other competitor options exchanges.¹² The Exchange made Open-Close Data available for C2 Options in order to keep pace with changes in the industry and evolving customer needs, and believes the data product will contribute to robust competition among national securities exchanges. Furthermore, the Exchange operates in a highly competitive environment, and its ability to price the proposed data product is constrained by competition among exchanges that offer similar data products to their customers. As discussed, there are currently a number of alternative products available to market participants and investors. At least three other U.S. options exchanges offer a market data product that is substantially similar to the Open-Close Data, which the Exchange must consider in its pricing discipline in order to compete for the market data.¹³ In this competitive environment, potential purchasers are free to choose which, if any, competing product to purchase to satisfy their need for market information. As a result, the Exchange believes this proposed rule change permits fair competition among national securities exchanges.

The Exchange also does not believe the proposed fees would cause any unnecessary or in appropriate burden on intermarket competition as other exchanges are free to introduce their own alternative and comparable data product and lower their prices to better compete with the Exchange's offering. The Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change would cause any unnecessary or inappropriate burden on intramarket competition. Particularly, the proposed product and fees apply uniformly to any purchaser, in that it does not differentiate between subscribers that purchase Open-Close Data. The proposed fees are set at a modest level that

¹² Id.

¹³ See e.g., Cboe Options Fees Schedule, Livevol Fees, Open-Close Data. See also Nasdaq ISE Options 7 Pricing Schedule, Section 10.A and Nasdaq PHLX Options 7 Pricing Schedule, Section 10, PHLX Options Trade Outline ("PHOTO").

would allow any interested TPH or non-TPH to purchase such data based on their business needs.

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

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received written comments on the proposed rule change.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁴ and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4¹⁵ 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 will institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

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

Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-C2-2019-019 on the subject line.

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

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-C2-2019-019. 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 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-C2-2019-019 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.¹⁶

Jill M. Peterson,
Assistant Secretary.

¹⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

