



8011-01

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-88893; File No. SR-MIAX-2020-10]

### **Self-Regulatory Organizations; Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Amend Exchange Rule 307, Position Limits, and Exchange Rule 309, Exercise Limits, to Increase the Position and Exercise Limits on Certain Exchange-Traded Funds**

May 18, 2020.

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 May 8, 2020, Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC (“MIAX” or 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 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 the Substance of the Proposed Rule Change**

The Exchange is filing a proposal to amend Interpretation and Policy .01 to Exchange Rule 307, Position Limits, and Interpretation and Policy .01 to Exchange Rule 309, Exercise Limits, to increase the position and exercise limits on certain exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”) and to make minor non-substantive technical corrections to each Policy.

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

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

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at <http://www.miaxoptions.com/rule-filings/> at MIAX's principal office, 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

The Exchange proposes to amend Interpretation and Policy .01 to Exchange Rule 307, Position Limits, and Interpretation and Policy .01 to Exchange Rule 309, Exercise Limits, to increase the position and exercise limits for options on certain ETFs. These proposed rule changes are based on the similar proposal by Cboe Exchange, Inc. ("Cboe").<sup>3</sup> The Exchange also proposes to make certain minor non-substantive technical corrections to certain ETF names and symbols in each of the tables in Interpretations and Policies .01 to Exchange Rules 307 and 309, as described below.

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<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 88768 (April 29, 2020)(SR-CBOE-2020-015) (Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 1 and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of a Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1, to Increase Position Limits for Options on Certain Exchange-Traded Funds and Indexes). The Cboe proposal also proposed to increase position limits for options overlying the MSCI Emerging Markets Index ("MXEF") and the MSCI EAFE Index ("MXEA"). The Exchange, however, does not list options on the MXEF or MXEA indexes. Accordingly, this proposal is limited to the ETFs described above [sic].

Position limits are designed to address potential manipulative schemes and adverse market impacts surrounding the use of options, such as disrupting the market in the security underlying the options. While position limits should address and discourage the potential for manipulative schemes and adverse market impact, if such limits are set too low, participation in the options market may be discouraged. The Exchange believes that position limits must therefore be balanced between mitigating concerns of any potential manipulation and the cost of inhibiting potential hedging activity that could be used for legitimate economic purposes.

The Exchange has observed an ongoing increase in demand in options on the SPDR<sup>®</sup> S&P 500<sup>®</sup> ETF Trust (“SPY”), iShares<sup>®</sup> MSCI EAFE ETF (“EFA”), iShares<sup>®</sup> China Large-Cap ETF (“FXI”), iShares<sup>®</sup> iBoxx<sup>®</sup> \$ High Yield Corporate Bond ETF (“HYG”), and the Financial Select Sector SPDR<sup>®</sup> Fund (“XLF”) (collectively, with the aforementioned ETFs, the “Underlying ETFs”) for both trading and hedging purposes. Though the demand for these options appears to have increased, position limits (and corresponding exercise limits) for options on the Underlying ETFs have remained the same. The Exchange believes these unchanged position limits may have impeded, and may continue to impede, trading activity and strategies of investors, such as use of effective hedging vehicles or income generating strategies (e.g., buy-write or put-write), and the ability of Market Makers<sup>4</sup> to make liquid markets with tighter spreads in these options resulting in the transfer of volume to over-the-counter (“OTC”) markets. OTC transactions occur through bilateral agreements, the terms of which are not publically disclosed to the marketplace. As such, OTC transactions do not contribute to the price discovery process on a public exchange or other lit markets. Therefore, the Exchange believes that the proposed

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<sup>4</sup> The term “Market Makers” refers to “Lead Market Makers”, “Primary Lead Market Makers” and “Registered Market Makers” collectively. See Exchange Rule 100. A Market Maker has the rights and responsibilities set forth in Chapter VI of the Exchange’s Rulebook.

increases in position limits (and exercise limits) for options on the Underlying ETFs may enable liquidity providers to provide additional liquidity to the Exchange and other market participants to transfer their liquidity demands from OTC markets to the Exchange, as well as other options exchanges on which they participate. As described in further detail below, the Exchange believes that the continuously increasing market capitalization of the Underlying ETFs and ETF component securities, as well as the highly liquid markets for those securities, reduces the concerns for potential market manipulation and/or disruption in the underlying markets upon increasing position limits, while the rising demand for trading options on the Underlying ETFs for legitimate economic purposes compels an increase in position limits (and corresponding exercise limits).

#### Proposed Position and Exercise Limits for Options on the Underlying ETFs

Position limits for options on ETFs are determined pursuant to Exchange Rule 307, and vary according to the number of outstanding shares and the trading volumes of the underlying stocks or ETFs over the past six months. Pursuant to Exchange Rule 307, the largest in capitalization and the most frequently traded stocks and ETFs have an option position limit of 250,000 contracts (with adjustments for splits, re-capitalizations, etc.) on the same side of the market; and smaller capitalization stocks and ETFs have position limits of 200,000, 75,000, 50,000 or 25,000 contracts (with adjustments for splits, recapitalizations, etc.) on the same side of the market. Options on HYG and XLF are currently subject to the maximum standard position limit of 250,000 contracts as set forth in Exchange Rule 307. Interpretation and Policy .01 to Exchange Rule 307 sets forth separate position limits for options on specific ETFs, including SPY, FXI and EFA.

The Exchange proposes to amend Interpretation and Policy .01 to Exchange Rule 307 to double the position limits for options on each of HYG, XLF, FXI, EFA and SPY. The Exchange also proposes to amend Interpretation and Policy .01 to Exchange Rule 309 to double the exercise limits for options on each of HYG, XLF, FXI, EFA and SPY. The table below represents the current, and proposed, position and exercise limits for options on the Underlying ETFs subject to this proposal:

| <b>ETF</b> | <b>Current Position/Exercise Limit</b> | <b>Proposed Position/Exercise Limit</b> |
|------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| SPY        | 1,800,000                              | 3,600,000                               |
| EFA        | 500,000                                | 1,000,000                               |
| FXI        | 500,000                                | 1,000,000                               |
| HYG        | 250,000                                | 500,000                                 |
| XLF        | 250,000                                | 500,000                                 |

The Exchange notes that the proposed position limits for options on EFA and FXI are consistent with existing position limits for options on the iShares<sup>®</sup> Russell 2000 ETF (“IWM”) and the iShares<sup>®</sup> MSCI Emerging Markets ETF (“EEM”), while the proposed limits for options on XLF and HYG are consistent with current position limits for options on the iShares<sup>®</sup> MSCI Brazil ETF (“EWZ”), iShares<sup>®</sup> 20+ Year Treasury Bond ETF (“TLT”), and iShares<sup>®</sup> MSCI Japan ETF (“EWJ”). The Exchange represents that the Underlying ETFs qualify for either 1) the initial listing criteria set forth in Exchange Rule 402(i)(5)(ii) for ETFs holding non-U.S. component securities, or 2) the generic listing standards for series of portfolio depository receipts and index fund shares based on international or global indexes under which a comprehensive surveillance agreement (“CSA”) is not required, as well as the continued listing criteria in

Exchange Rule 403.<sup>5</sup> In compliance with its listing rules, the Exchange also represents that non-U.S. component securities that are not subject to a CSA do not, in the aggregate, represent more than 50% of the weight of any of the Underlying ETFs.<sup>6</sup>

#### Composition and Growth Analysis for Underlying ETFs

As stated above, position (and exercise) limits are intended to prevent the establishment of options positions that can be used or might create incentives to manipulate the underlying market so as to benefit options positions. The Commission has recognized that these limits are designed to minimize the potential for mini-manipulations and for corners or squeezes of the underlying market, as well as serve to reduce the possibility for disruption of the options market itself, especially in illiquid classes.<sup>7</sup> The Underlying ETFs as well as the ETF components are highly liquid, and are based on a broad set of highly liquid securities and other reference assets, as demonstrated through the trading statistics presented in this proposal. Indeed, the Commission recognized the liquidity of the securities comprising the underlying interest of SPY and permitted no position limits on SPY options from 2012 through 2018.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> The Exchange notes that the initial listing criteria for options on ETFs that hold non-U.S. component securities are more stringent than the maintenance listing criteria for those same ETF options. See Exchange Rule 402(i)(5)(ii) and Exchange Rule 403(g).

<sup>6</sup> See Exchange Rule 402(i)(5)(ii).

<sup>7</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 67672 (August 15, 2012), 77 FR 50750 (August 22, 2012) (SR-NYSEAmex-2012-29).

<sup>8</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 68341 (December 3, 2012), 77 FR 73065 (December 7, 2012) (In the Matter of the Application of Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC for Registration as a National Securities Exchange: Findings, Opinion, and Order of the Commission) (Order that approved MIAX's implementation of the pilot program that ran through 2017, during which there were no position limits for options on SPY). See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 83349 (May 30, 2018), 83 FR 26123 (June 5, 2018) (SR-MIAX-2018-11). The Exchange notes that throughout the duration of the pilot program it was not aware of any problems created or adverse consequences as a result of the pilot program.

To support the proposed position limit increases (and corresponding increase in exercise limits), the Exchange considered both the liquidity of the Underlying ETFs and the component securities of the Underlying ETFs, as well as the availability of economically equivalent products to the overlying options and their respective position limits. For instance, some of the Underlying ETFs are based upon broad-based indices that underlie cash-settled options, and therefore the options on the Underlying ETFs are economically equivalent to the options on those indices, which have no position limits. Other Underlying ETFs are based upon broad-based indices that underlie cash-settled options with position limits reflecting notional values that are larger than current position limits for options on the ETF analogues. For indexes that are tracked by an Underlying ETF but on which there are no options listed, the Exchange believes, based on the liquidity, depth and breadth of the underlying market of the components of the indexes, that each of the indexes referenced by the applicable ETFs would be considered a broad-based index under the Exchange's Rules. Additionally, if in some cases certain position limits are appropriate for the options overlying comparable indexes or basket of securities that the Underlying ETFs track, or are appropriate for those ETFs that track the Underlying Indexes [sic], then those economically equivalent position limits should be appropriate for the options overlying the Underlying ETFs or Indexes [sic].

The Exchange is presenting data collected by Cboe as part of its initial filing to increase position and exercise limits on the Underlying ETFs, that the Commission has approved,<sup>9</sup> following trading statistics regarding shares of and options on the Underlying ETFs, as well as the component securities:

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<sup>9</sup> See supra note 3.

| <b>Product</b> | <b>ADV<sup>10</sup> (ETF Shares)</b> | <b>ADV (Option Contracts)</b> | <b>Shares Outstanding (ETFs)<sup>11</sup></b> | <b>Fund Market Cap (USD)</b> | <b>Total Market Cap of ETF Components<sup>12</sup></b> |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| SPY            | 70.3 million                         | 2.8 million                   | 968.7 million                                 | 312.9 billion                | 29.3 trillion                                          |
| FXI            | 26.1 million                         | 196,600                       | 106.8 million                                 | 4.8 billion                  | 28.0 trillion                                          |
| EFA            | 25.1 million                         | 155,900                       | 928.2 million                                 | 64.9 billion                 | 19.3 trillion                                          |
| HYG            | 20.0 million                         | 193,700                       | 216.6 million                                 | 19.1 billion                 | 906.4 billion <sup>13</sup>                            |
| XLF            | 48.8 million                         | 102,100                       | 793.6 million                                 | 24.6 billion                 | 3.8 trillion                                           |

The Exchange is presenting the following data collected by Cboe as part of its initial filing, that the Commission has approved,<sup>14</sup> for the same trading statistics, where applicable, as above regarding a sample of other ETFs, as well as the current position limits for options on such ETFs pursuant to Exchange Rule 307, Interpretation and Policy .01, to draw comparisons in support of proposed position limit increases for options on a number of the Underlying ETFs (see further discussion below):

| <b>Product</b> | <b>ADV (ETF Shares)</b> | <b>ADV (Option Contracts)</b> | <b>Shares Outstanding (ETFs)</b> | <b>Fund Market Cap (USD)</b> | <b>Total Market Cap of ETF Components</b> | <b>Current Position Limits</b> |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| QQQ            | 30.2 million            | 670,200                       | 410.3 million                    | 88.7 billion                 | 10.1 trillion                             | 1,800,000                      |
| EWZ            | 26.7 million            | 186,500                       | 233 million                      | 11.3 billion                 | 234.6 billion                             | 500,000                        |
| TLT            | 9.6 million             | 95,200                        | 128.1 million                    | 17.5 billion                 | N/A                                       | 500,000                        |
| EWJ            | 7.2 million             | 5,700                         | 236.6 million                    | 14.2 billion                 | 3 trillion                                | 500,000                        |

<sup>10</sup> Average daily volume (“ADV”) data for ETF shares and options contracts presented below, are for all of 2019. Additionally, reference to ADV in ETF shares and ETF options herein this proposal are for all of 2019, unless otherwise indicated.

<sup>11</sup> See Amendment No. 1 to SR-CBOE-2020-015, at page 4, available at <https://www.sec.gov/comments/sr-cboe-2020-015/srcboe2020015-7081714-215592.pdf> (“Amendment No. 1”).

<sup>12</sup> See Amendment No. 1, at page 4.

<sup>13</sup> See Notice, at note 13.

<sup>14</sup> See supra note 3.

The Exchange believes that, overall, the liquidity in the shares of the Underlying ETFs and in the component securities of the Underlying ETFs and in their overlying options, as well as the large market capitalizations and structure of each of the Underlying ETFs support the proposal to increase the position limits for each option class (and corresponding exercise limits). Given the robust liquidity and capitalization in the Underlying ETFs and in the component securities of the Underlying ETFs the Exchange does not anticipate that the proposed increase in position limits and exercise limits would create significant price movements. Also, the Exchange believes the market capitalization of the underlying component securities of the applicable index or reference asset are large enough to adequately absorb potential price movements that may be caused by large trades.

The following analyses for the Underlying ETFs, which MIAX agrees with in support of this proposal, as well as the statistics presented in support thereof, were presented by Cboe in their initial filing, which was approved by the Commission.<sup>15</sup> The Exchange notes that SPY tracks the performance of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index, which is an index of diversified large cap U.S. companies.<sup>16</sup> It is composed of approximately 500 selected stocks spanning over approximately 24 separate industry groups. The S&P 500<sup>®</sup> is one of the most commonly followed equity indices, and is widely considered to be the best indicator of stock market performance as a whole. SPY is one of the most actively traded ETFs, and, since 2017,<sup>17</sup> its ADV has increased

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<sup>15</sup> See supra note 3.

<sup>16</sup> See Supplement dated March 25, 2020 to the Prospectus dated January 16, 2020 for the SPDR<sup>®</sup> S&P 500<sup>®</sup> ETF Trust, available at <https://www.ssga.com/us/en/individual/etfs/funds/spdr-sp-500-etf-trust-spy>.

<sup>17</sup> See Securities Exchange Release No. 82931 (March 22, 2018), 83 FR 13323 (March 28, 2018) (SR-MIAX-2018-10) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend Exchange Rule 307, Position Limits, and Exchange Rule 309, Exercise Limits). See also supra note 3.

from approximately 64.6 million shares to 70.3 million shares by the end of 2019. Similarly, its ADV in options contracts has increased from 2.6 million to 2.8 million through 2019.<sup>18</sup> As noted, the demand for options trading on SPY has continued to increase, however, the position limits have remained the same, which the Exchange believes may have impacted growth in SPY option volume from 2017 through 2019. The Exchange also notes that SPY shares are more liquid than Invesco QQQ Trust<sup>SM</sup> (“QQQ”) shares, which are also currently subject to a position limit of 1,800,000 contracts. Specifically, SPY currently experiences over twice the ADV in shares and over four times the ADV in options than that of QQQ.<sup>19</sup>

EFA tracks the performance of MSCI EAFE Index, which is comprised of over 900 large and mid-cap securities across 21 developed markets, including countries in Europe, Australia and the Far East, excluding the U.S. and Canada.<sup>20</sup> The Exchange notes that from 2017 through 2019, ADV has grown significantly in shares of EFA and in options on EFA, from approximately 19.4 million shares in 2017 to 25.1 million through 2019, and from approximately 98,800 options contracts in 2017 to 155,900 through 2019. The Exchange notes that options are available for trading on Cboe on the MXEA, the analogue index (also subject to a proposed position limit increase described in the Cboe proposal), which was subject to a position limit of 25,000 contracts. Utilizing the notional value comparison of EFA’s share price of \$69.44 and MXEA’s index level of 2036.94, approximately 29 EFA option contracts equal one MXEA option contract. Based on the above comparison of notional values, a position limit for EFA

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<sup>18</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 83349 (May 30, 2018), 83 FR 26123 (June 5, 2018) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend Exchange Rule 307, Position Limits, and Exchange Rule 309, Exercise Limits) (SR-MIAX-2018-11).

<sup>19</sup> The 2019 ADV for QQQ shares is 30.2 million and for options on QQQ is 670,200.

<sup>20</sup> See iShares MSCI EAFE ETF, available at <https://www.ishares.com/us/products/239623/ishares-msci-eafe-etf> (April 30, 2020).

options that would be economically equivalent to that of MXEA options equates to 725,000 contracts (currently) and 1,450,000 (for Cboe's proposed – and approved – 50,000 contracts position limit increase for MXEA options). Also, MXEA index options have an ADV of 594 options contracts, which equates to an ADV of 17,226 EFA options contracts (as that is 29 times the size of 594). EFA options, which are more actively traded and held than MXEA options, are currently subject to a position limit of 500,000 options contracts despite their much higher ADV of approximately 156,700 options contracts.

FXI tracks the performance of the FTSE China 50 Index, which is composed of the 50 largest Chinese stocks.<sup>21</sup> FXI shares and options have also experienced increased liquidity since 2017, as ADV has grown from approximately 15.1 million shares in 2017 to 26.1 million through 2019, as well as approximately 71,900 options contracts in 2017 to 196,600 through 2019. Although there are currently no options on the FTSE China 50 Index listed for trading, the components of the FTSE China 50 Index, which can be used to create a basket of stocks that equate to the FXI ETF, currently have a market capitalization of approximately \$28 trillion and FXI has a market capitalization of \$4.8 billion (as indicated above), which the Exchange believes are both large enough to absorb potential price movements caused by a large trade in FXI.

XLF invests in a wide array of financial service firms with diversified business lines ranging from investment management to commercial and investment banking. It generally corresponds to the price and yield performance of publicly traded equity securities of companies in the SPDR Financial Select Sector Index.<sup>22</sup> XLF experiences ADV in shares and in options that is significantly greater than the ADV in shares and options for EWZ (26.7 million shares and

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<sup>21</sup> See iShares China Large-Cap ETF, available at <https://www.ishares.com/us/products/239536/ishares-china-largecap-etf> (April 30, 2020).

<sup>22</sup> See Select Sector SPDR ETFs, XLF, available at <http://www.sectorspdr.com/sectorspdr/sector/xlf> (April 30, 2020).

186,500 options contracts), TLT (9.6 million shares and 95,200 options contracts), and EWJ (7.2 million shares and 5,700 options contracts), each of which already have a position limit of 500,000 contracts – the proposed position limit for XLF options. Although there are no options listed on the SPDR Financial Select Sector Index listed for trading, the components of the index, which can be used to create a basket of stocks that equate to the XLF ETF, currently have a market capitalization of \$3.8 trillion (indicated above). Additionally, XLF has a market capitalization of \$24.6 billion. The Exchange believes that both of these are large enough to absorb potential price movements caused by a large trade in XLF.

Finally, HYG attempts to track the investment results of Markit iBoxx<sup>®</sup> USD Liquid High Yield Index, which is composed of U.S. dollar-denominated, high-yield corporate bonds and is one of the most widely used high-yield bond ETFs.<sup>23</sup> HYG experiences significantly higher ADV in shares and options than both TLT (9.6 million shares and 95,200 options contracts), and EWJ (7.2 million shares and 5,700 options contracts), which are currently subject to a position limit of 500,000 options contracts – the proposed limit for options on HYG. While HYG does not have an index option analogue listed for trading, the Exchange believes that its market capitalization of \$19.1 billion, and of \$906.4 billion in component securities, is adequate to absorb a potential price movement that may be caused by large trades in HYG.

#### Creation and Redemption for ETFs

The Exchange believes that the creation and redemption process for ETFs will lessen the potential for manipulative activity with options on the Underlying ETFs. When an ETF provider wants to create more shares, it looks to an Authorized Participant (generally a market maker or

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<sup>23</sup> See iShares iBoxx \$ High Yield Corporate Bond ETF, available at <https://www.ishares.com/us/products/239565/ishares-iboxx-high-yield-corporatebond-etf> (April 30, 2020).

other large financial institution) to acquire the securities the ETF is to hold. For instance, when an ETF is designed to track the performance of an index, the Authorized Participant can purchase all the constituent securities in the exact same weight as the index, then deliver those shares to the ETF provider. In exchange, the ETF provider gives the Authorized Participant a block of equally valued ETF shares, on a one-for-one fair value basis. The price is based on the net asset value, not the market value at which the ETF is trading. The creation of new ETF units can be conducted during an entire trading day, and is not subject to position limits. This process works in reverse where the ETF provider seeks to decrease the number of shares that are available to trade. The creation and redemption process, therefore, creates a direct link to the underlying components of the ETF, and serves to mitigate potential price impact of the ETF shares that might otherwise result from increased position limits for the ETF options.

The Exchange understands that the ETF creation and redemption process seeks to keep an ETF's share price trading in line with the ETF's underlying net asset value. Because an ETF trades like a stock, its share price will fluctuate during the trading day, due to simple supply and demand. If demand to buy an ETF is high, for instance, the ETF's share price might rise above the value of its underlying securities. When this happens, the Authorized Participant believes the ETF may now be overpriced, so it may buy shares of the component securities and then sell ETF shares in the open market (i.e. creations). This may drive the ETF's share price back toward the underlying net asset value. Likewise, if the ETF share price starts trading at a discount to the securities it holds, the Authorized Participant can buy shares of the ETF and redeem them for the underlying securities (i.e. redemptions). Buying undervalued ETF shares may drive the share price of the ETF back toward fair value. This arbitrage process helps to keep an ETF's share price in line with the value of its underlying portfolio.

### Surveillance and Reporting Requirements

The Exchange believes that increasing the position limits for the options on the Underlying ETFs would lead to a more liquid and competitive market environment for these options, which will benefit customers interested in trading these products. The reporting requirement for the options on the Underlying ETFs would remain unchanged. Thus, the Exchange would still require that each Member<sup>24</sup> that maintains positions in the options on the same side of the market, for its own account or for the account of a customer, report certain information to the Exchange. This information would include, but would not be limited to, the options' positions, whether such positions are hedged and, if so, a description of the hedge(s). Market Makers would continue to be exempt from this reporting requirement, however, the Exchange may access Market Maker position information.<sup>25</sup> Moreover, the Exchange's requirement that Members file reports with the Exchange for any customer who held aggregate large long or short positions on the same side of the market of 200 or more options contracts of any single class for the previous day will remain at this level for the options subject to this proposal and will continue to serve as an important part of the Exchange's surveillance efforts.<sup>26</sup>

The Exchange believes that the existing surveillance procedures and reporting requirements at the Exchange and other SROs are capable of properly identifying disruptive

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<sup>24</sup> The term "Member" means an individual or organization approved to exercise the trading rights associated with a Trading Permit. Members are deemed "members" under the Exchange Act. See Exchange Rule 100.

<sup>25</sup> The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") through the Large Option Position Reporting ("LOPR") system acts as a centralized service provider for Member compliance with position reporting requirements by collecting data from each Member, consolidating the information, and ultimately providing detailed listings of each Member's report to the Exchange, as well as Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA"), acting as its agent pursuant to a regulatory services agreement ("RSA").

<sup>26</sup> See Exchange Rule 310.

and/or manipulative trading activity. The Exchange also represents that it has adequate surveillances in place to detect potential manipulation, as well as reviews in place to identify potential changes in composition of the Underlying ETFs and continued compliance with the Exchange's listing standards. These procedures utilize daily monitoring of market activity via automated surveillance techniques to identify unusual activity in both options and the underlyings, as applicable.<sup>27</sup> The Exchange also notes that large stock holdings must be disclosed to the Commission by way of Schedules 13D or 13G,<sup>28</sup> which are used to report ownership of stock which exceeds 5% of a company's total stock issue and may assist in providing information in monitoring for any potential manipulative schemes.

The Exchange believes that the current financial requirements imposed by the Exchange and by the Commission adequately address concerns regarding potentially large, unhedged positions in the options on the Underlying ETFs. Current margin and risk-based haircut methodologies serve to limit the size of positions maintained by any one account by increasing the margin and/or capital that a Member must maintain for a large position held by itself or by its customer.<sup>29</sup> In addition, Rule 15c3-1<sup>30</sup> imposes a capital charge on Members to the extent of any margin deficiency resulting from the higher margin requirement.

Additionally, the Exchange proposes to make minor non-substantive technical changes to the charts in Interpretations and Policies .01 of both Exchange Rules 307 and 309 to reflect the current names of the underlying securities listed therein. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to update the names of the following ETFs to reflect the current names in the prospectus for each:

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<sup>27</sup> The Exchange believes these procedures have been effective for the surveillance of trading the options subject to this proposal, and will continue to employ them.

<sup>28</sup> 17 CFR 240.13d-1.

<sup>29</sup> See Exchange Rule 1502 for a description of margin requirements.

<sup>30</sup> 17 CFR 240.15c3-1.

Powershares QQQ Trust; iShares China Large-Cap ETF; iShares MSCI EAFE ETF; iShares MSCI Brazil Capped ETF; iShares 20+ Year Treasury Bond Fund ETF; and the iShares MSCI Japan ETF.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.<sup>31</sup> Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)<sup>32</sup> requirements that the rules of an exchange be 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 regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and 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 general, to protect investors and the public interest. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)<sup>33</sup> requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange believes that the proposed increase in position limits for options on the Underlying ETFs will remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, protect investors and the public interest, because it will provide market participants with the ability to more effectively execute their trading and hedging activities. The proposed increases will allow market participants to more

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<sup>31</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>32</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>33</sup> Id.

fully implement hedging strategies in related derivative products and to further use options to achieve investment strategies (e.g., there are Exchange-Traded Products (“ETPs”) that use options on the Underlying ETFs as part of their investment strategy, and the applicable position limits (and corresponding exercise limits) as they stand today may inhibit these ETPs in achieving their investment objectives, to the detriment of investors). Also, increasing the applicable position limits may allow Market Makers to provide the markets for these options with more liquidity in amounts commensurate with increased consumer demand in such markets. The proposed position limit increases may also encourage other liquidity providers to shift liquidity, as well as encourage consumers to shift demand, from OTC markets onto the Exchange, which will enhance the process of price discovery conducted on the Exchange through increased order flow.

In addition, the Exchange believes that the structure of the Underlying ETFs, the considerable market capitalization of the funds, underlying component securities, and the liquidity of the markets for the applicable options and underlying component securities will mitigate concerns regarding potential manipulation of the products and/or disruption of the underlying markets upon increasing the relevant position limits. As a general principle, increases in market capitalizations, active trading volume, and deep liquidity of securities do not lead to manipulation and/or disruption. This general principle applies to the recently observed increased levels of market capitalization, trading volume, and liquidity in shares of the Underlying ETFs, and the components of the Underlying ETFs (as described above), the Exchange does not believe that the options markets or underlying markets would become susceptible to manipulation and/or disruption as a result of the proposed position limit increases. Indeed, the Commission has previously expressed the belief that removing position and exercise

limits may bring additional depth and liquidity to the options markets without increasing concerns regarding intermarket manipulation or disruption of the options or the underlying securities.<sup>34</sup>

Further, the Exchange notes that the proposed rule change to increase position limits for select actively traded options, is not novel and has been previously approved by the Commission. The proposed increase to the position and exercise limits on the Underlying ETFs has recently been approved by the Commission.<sup>35</sup> The Commission has also previously approved, on a pilot basis, eliminating position limits for options on SPY.<sup>36</sup> Additionally, the Commission has approved similar proposed rule changes by the Exchange to increase position limits for options on highly liquid, actively traded ETFs.<sup>37</sup> In approving the permanent elimination of position (and exercise limits) for such options, the Commission relied heavily upon the exchange's surveillance capabilities, expressing trust in the enhanced surveillances and reporting safeguards that the exchange took in order to detect and deter possible manipulative behavior which might arise from eliminating position and exercise limits.

Furthermore, the Exchange again notes that that the proposed position limits for options on EFA and FXI are consistent with existing position limits for options on IWM and EEM, and the proposed limits for options on XLF and HYG are consistent with current position limits for options on EWZ, TLT, and EWJ.

The Exchange's surveillance and reporting safeguards continue to be designed to deter and detect possible manipulative behavior that might arise from increasing or eliminating

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<sup>34</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 62147 (October 28, 2005) (SR-CBOE-2005-41), at 62149.

<sup>35</sup> See supra note 3.

<sup>36</sup> See supra notes 7 and 8.

<sup>37</sup> See supra note 18.

position and exercise limits in certain classes. The Exchange believes that the current financial requirements imposed by the Exchange and by the Commission adequately address concerns regarding potentially large, unhedged position in the options on the Underlying ETFs, further promoting just and equitable principles of trading, the maintenance of a fair and orderly market, and the protection of investors.

Finally, the Exchange believes the proposed technical changes to the names and symbols of certain ETFs in both tables in Interpretations and Policies .01 to Exchange Rules 307 and 309 promotes just and equitable principles of trade and remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system because the proposed changes make clarifying edits to the names and symbols for certain ETFs to provide uniformity throughout the Exchange's rules. The Exchange believes that these proposed changes will provide greater clarity to Members and the public regarding the Exchange's rules and that it is in the public interest for rules to be accurate and concise so as to eliminate the potential for confusion.

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 Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change will impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because the increased position limits (and exercise limits) will be available to all market participants and apply to each in the same manner. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will provide additional opportunities for market participants to more efficiently achieve their investment and trading objectives of market participants.

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on intermarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the Act. On the contrary, the Exchange believes the proposal promotes competition because it may attract additional order flow from the OTC market to exchanges, which would in turn compete amongst each other for those orders.<sup>38</sup> The Exchange believes market participants would benefit from being able to trade options with increased position limits in an exchange environment in several ways, including but not limited to the following: (1) enhanced efficiency in initiating and closing out position; (2) increased market transparency; and (3) heightened contra-party creditworthiness due to the role of OCC as issuer and guarantor. The Exchange understands that other options exchanges intend to file similar proposed rule changes with the Commission to increase position limits on options on the Underlying ETFs. This may further contribute to fair competition among exchanges for multiply listed options.

The proposed changes to the names and symbols of certain ETFs will have no impact on competition as they are not designed to address any competitive issues but rather are designed to remedy minor non-substantive issues and provide added clarity to the rule text of Exchange Rules 307 and 309. In addition, the Exchange does not believe the proposal will impose any burden on inter-market competition as the proposal does not address any competitive issues and is intended to protect investors by providing further clarity regarding the Exchange's rules.

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

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<sup>38</sup> Additionally, several other options exchange have the same position limits as the Exchange, as they incorporate by reference to the Exchange's position limits, and as a result the position limits for options on the Underlying ETFs will increase at those exchanges. For example, Nasdaq Options position limits are determined by the position limits established by the Exchange. See Nasdaq Stock Market LLC Rules, Options 9, Sec. 13 (Position Limits).

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 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>39</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>40</sup>

A proposed rule change filed pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6) under the Act<sup>41</sup> normally does not become operative for 30 days after the date of its filing. However, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii)<sup>42</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 asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposed rule change may become operative upon filing. The Exchange states that waiver of the operative delay would be consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because it would allow the Exchange to immediately increase its position and exercise limits for the products subject to this proposal to those of Cboe, which the Exchange believes will ensure fair competition among exchanges and provide consistency and uniformity among members of both Cboe and MIAX by subjecting members of both exchanges to the same position and exercise limits for these multiply-listed

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<sup>39</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>40</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>41</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>42</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

options classes. For this reason, the Commission believes that waiver of the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby waives the operative delay and designates the proposal as operative upon filing.<sup>43</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.

#### 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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-MIAX-2020-10 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.

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<sup>43</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).

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-MIAX-2020-10. 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. 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-MIAX-2020-10, 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.<sup>44</sup>

**J. Matthew DeLesDernier,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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<sup>44</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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