general, to protect investors and the public interest.

Pursuant to the proposal, FINRA would make available to subscribers an optional End-of-Day TRACE Transaction File that would include all transaction data disseminated that day as part of Real-Time TRACE transaction data for TRACE-Eligible Securities. FINRA believes that the proposed End-of-Day TRACE Transaction File provides a simpler alternative to the Real-Time TRACE transaction data product, which provides transparency information on the price and size of transactions in TRACE-Eligible Securities, and may be useful to interested parties that do not require intra-day, real-time transaction data on TRACE-Eligible Securities. Thus, FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is in the public interest and consistent with the Act.

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

FINRA does not believe that the proposed rule change would result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

Economic Impact Analysis

FINRA’s existing Real-Time TRACE data product provides transaction data for the following Data Sets: Corporate Bond Data Set, Agency Data Set, SP Data Set, and Rule 144A Data Set. As detailed above, FINRA is proposing to create an End-of-Day TRACE Transaction File that would include all transaction data disseminated that day as part of Real-Time TRACE transaction data, and would be separately available for each data set for which Real-Time TRACE transaction data is available. The proposal to create an End-of-Day TRACE Transaction File would not impose any additional reporting requirements or costs on firms, and the purchase of TRACE data products would continue to be optional for market participants and others and, as a result, would have no direct impact on firms.

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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

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

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:
(A) By order approve or disapprove such proposed rule change, or
(B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be 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);
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR–FINRA–2017–015 on the subject line.

Paper Comments
- Send paper comments in triplicate to Robert W. Errett, Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549–1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR–FINRA–2017–015 and should be submitted on or before June 26, 2017.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.7

Eduardo A. Aleman,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017–11500 Filed 6–2–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations;
NASDAQ PHLX LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change To Eliminate Requirements That Will Be Duplicative of CAT


Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (‘‘Act’’) and Rule 19b–4 thereunder, notice is hereby given that on May 26, 2017, NASDAQ PHLX LLC (‘‘Phlx’’ or ‘‘Exchange’’) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (‘‘SEC’’ or ‘‘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

The Exchange proposes to amend the Rule 3400 series relating to the Order Audit Trail System, Rule 785 relating to Electronic Blue Sheets, Rule 1022 relating to account identification, and Rule 1063 and Option Floor Procedure Advices and Order and Decorum Regulations C–2 relating to the Consolidated Options Audit Trail System to reflect changes to these rules once members are effectively reporting to the Consolidated Audit Trail (‘‘CAT’’) and the CAT’s accuracy and reliability meets certain standards as described below.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Web site at http://nasdaqphlx.cchwallstreet.com/, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.


[FR Doc. 2017–11500 Filed 6–2–17; 8:45 am]
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 the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend the Rule 3400 series relating to the Order Audit Trail System (“OATS”), Rule 785 relating to Electronic Blue Sheets (“EBS”), Rule 1022 relating to account identification, and Rule 1063 Option Floor Procedure Advices and Order and Decorum Regulations C–2 relating to the Consolidated Options Audit Trail System (“COATS”) to reflect changes to the Consolidated Audit Trail (the “CAT”) and the retirement of such systems.1

The Exchange notes that “the elimination of such systems would facilitate a more expeditious retirement of duplicative systems; and (iii) whether individual Industry Members can be exempted from reporting to duplicative systems once their CAT reporting meets specified accuracy and reliability standards, including, but not limited to, ways in which establishing cross-system regulatory functionality or integrating data from existing systems and the CAT would facilitate such Individual Industry Member exemptions.”

Changes to OATS

In response to these requirements, Phlx is proposing to delete the Rule 3400 Series (the “OATS Rules”) from the Phlx rulebook once the CAT achieves the specific accuracy and reliability standards described below. Phlx has determined that the usage of the CAT Data has not revealed material issues that have not been corrected, confirmed that the CAT includes all data necessary to allow Phlx to continue to meet its surveillance obligations, and confirmed that the Plan Processor is sufficiently meeting all of its obligations under the CAT NMS Plan.

Specific Accuracy and Reliability Standards

The first issue the Plan requires the proposed rule change to discuss is "specific accuracy and reliability."

1 The Exchange initially filed the proposed rule change on May 15, 2017 (SR-Phlx-2017-38). On May 26, 2017, the Exchange withdrew that filing and submitted this filing.


5 17 CFR 242.608.
standards that will determine when duplicative systems will be retired, including, but not limited to, whether the attainment of a certain Error Rate should determine when a system duplicative of the CAT can be retired.” 16 Phlx believes that relevant error rates are the primary, but not the sole, metric by which to determine the CAT’s accuracy and reliability and will serve as the baseline requirement needed before OATS can be retired and requests for trading information can be amended to account for information being available in the CAT.

As discussed in Section A.3.(b) of Appendix C to the CAT NMS Plan, the Participants established an initial Error Rate, as defined in the Plan, of 5% on initially submitted data (i.e., data as submitted by a CAT Reporter before any required corrections are performed). The Participants noted in the Plan that their expectation was that “error rates after reprocessing of error corrections will be de minimis.” 17 The Participants based this Error Rate on their consideration of “current and historical OATS Error Rates, the magnitude of new reporting requirements on the CAT Reporters and the fact that many CAT Reporters may have never been obligated to report data to an audit trail.” 18 Phlx agrees with the Participants’ conclusion that a 5% pre-correction threshold “strikes the balance of adapting to a new reporting regime, while ensuring that the data provided to regulators will be capable of being used to conduct surveillance and market reconstruction, as well as having a sufficient level of accuracy to facilitate the retirement of existing regulatory reports and systems where possible.” 19 However, Phlx believes that, when assessing the accuracy and reliability of the data for the purposes of retiring OATS, the error thresholds should be measured in more granular ways and should also include minimum error rates of post-correction data, which represents the data most likely to be used by Phlx to conduct surveillance. Although Phlx is proposing to measure the appropriate error rates in the aggregate, rather than firm-by-firm, Phlx believes that the error rates for equity securities should be measured separately from options since options orders are not currently reported regularly or included in OATS.

To ensure the CAT’s accuracy and reliability, Phlx is proposing that, before OATS could be retired, the CAT would generally need to achieve a sustained error rate for Industry Member reporting in each of the categories below for a period of at least 180 days of 5% or lower, measured on a pre-correction or as-submitted basis and 2% or lower on a post-correction basis (measured at T+5). 20 Phlx is proposing to measure the 5% pre-correction and 2% post-correction thresholds by averaging the error rate across the period, not require a 5% pre-correction and 2% post-correction maximum each day for 180 consecutive days. Phlx believes that measuring each of the thresholds over the course of 180 days will ensure that the CAT consistently meets minimum accuracy and reliability thresholds for Industry Member reporting while also ensuring that single-day measurements do not unduly affect the overall measurements.

Phlx is proposing to use error rates in each of the following categories, measured separately for options and for equities, to assess whether the threshold pre- and post-correction error rates are being met:

- **Rejection Rates and Data Validations.** Data validations for the CAT, while not expected to be designed the same as OATS, must be functionally equivalent to OATS in accordance with the CAT NMS Plan (i.e., the same types of basic data validations must be performed by the Plan Processor to comply with the CAT NMS Plan requirements). Appendix D of the Plan, for example, requires that certain file validations 21 and syntax and context checks be performed on all submitted records. 22 If a record does not pass these basic data validations, it must be rejected and returned to the CAT Reporter to be corrected and resubmitted. 23 The specific validations can be determined only after the Plan Processor has finalized the Industry Member Technical Specifications; however, the Plan also requires the Plan Processor to provide daily statistics on rejection rates after the data has been processed, including the number of files rejected and accepted, the number of order events accepted and rejected, and the number of each type of report rejected. 24 Phlx is proposing that, over the 180-day period, aggregate rejection rates (measured separately for equities and options) must be no more than 5% pre-correction or 2% post-correction across all CAT Reporters.

- **Intra-Firm Linkages.** The Plan requires that “the Plan Processor must be able to link all related order events from all CAT Reporters involved in the lifecycle of an order.” 25 At a minimum, this requirement includes the creation of an order lifecycle between “all order events handled within an individual CAT Reporter, including orders routed to internal desks or departments with different functions (e.g., an internal ATS).” 26 Phlx is proposing that aggregate intra-firm linkage rates across all Industry Member Reporters must be at least 95% pre-correction and 98% post-correction.

- **Inter-Firm Linkages.** The order linkage requirements in the Plan also require that the Plan Processor be able to create the lifecycle between orders routed between broker-dealers. 27 Phlx is proposing that at least a 95% pre-correction and 98% post-correction aggregate match rate be achieved for orders routed between two Industry Member Reporters. 28

- **Order Linkage Rates.** In addition to creating linkages within and between broker-dealers, the Plan also includes requirements that the Plan Processor be able to create lifecycles to link various pieces of related orders. 29 For example, the Plan requires linkages between customer orders and “representative” orders created in firm accounts for the purpose of facilitating a customer order, various legs of option/equity complex orders, riskless principal orders, and orders worked through average price accounts. 30 Phlx is proposing that there 20 The Plan requires that the Plan Processor must ensure that regulators have access to corrected and linked order and Customer data by 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time on T+5. See CAT NMS Plan, Appendix C, Section A.2(a).

21 See CAT NMS Plan, Appendix D, Section 7.2. The Plan requires the Plan Processor to confirm that file transmission and receipt are in the correct formats, including validation of header and trailer records on the submitted report, confirmation of a valid Exchange (sic)-Assigned Market Participant Identifier, and verification of the number of records in the file. Id.

22 See id. The Plan notes that syntax and context checks would include format checks (i.e., that data is entered in the specified format); data type checks (i.e., that the data type of each attribute conforms to the specifications); consistency checks (i.e., that all attributes for a record of a specified type are consistent); range/logic checks (i.e., that each attribute for every record has a valid within specified limits and the values provided are associated with the event type they represent); data validity checks (i.e., that each attribute for every record has an acceptable value); completeness checks (i.e., that each mandatory attribute for every record is not null); and timeliness checks (i.e., that the records were submitted within the submission timelines). Id.

23 See id.

24 See id.

25 CAT NMS Plan, Appendix D, Section 3.

26 Id.

27 Id.

28 This assumes linkage statistics will include both unlinked route reports and new orders where no related route report could be found.

29 See CAT NMS Plan, Appendix D, Section 3.

30 See id.
be at least a 95% pre-correction and 98% post-correction linkage rate for multi-legged orders (e.g., related equity/options orders, VWAP orders, riskless principal transactions).

- **Exchange and TRF/ORF Match Rates.** The Plan requires that an order lifecycle be created to link “[o]rders routed from broker-dealers to exchanges” and “[e]xecuted orders and trade reports.” 31 Phlx is proposing at least a 95% pre-correction and 98% post-correction aggregate match rate to each equity exchange for orders routed from Industry Members to an exchange and, for over-the-counter executions, the same match rate for orders linked to trade reports.

In addition to these minimum error rates and matching thresholds that generally must be met before OATS can be retired, Phlx believes that during the minimum 180-day period during which the thresholds are calculated, Phlx’s use of the data in the CAT must confirm that (i) usage over that time period has not revealed material issues that have not been corrected, (ii) the CAT includes all data necessary to allow Phlx to continue to meet its surveillance obligations, and (iii) the Plan Processor is sufficiently meeting all of its obligations under the CAT NMS Plan. Phlx believes this time period to use the CAT Data is necessary to reveal any errors that may manifest themselves only after surveillance patterns and other queries have been run and to confirm that the Plan Processor is meeting its obligations and performing its functions adequately.

**Small Industry Member Data Availability**

The second issue the Plan requires the proposed rule change to address is “whether the availability of certain data from Small Industry Members two years after the Effective Date would facilitate a more expeditious retirement of OATS. For this reason, Phlx supports an amendment to the Plan that would require current OATS Reporters that are “Small Industry Members” to report two years after the Effective Date (instead of three). Phlx intends to work with the other Participants to submit a proposed amendment to the Plan to require Small Industry Members that are OATS Reporters to report two years after the Effective Date.

Phlx has identified approximately 300 member firms that currently report to OATS and meet the definition of “Small Industry Member;” however, only ten of these firms submit information to OATS on their own behalf, and eight of the ten firms report very few orders to OATS. 32 The vast majority of these 300 firms use third parties to fulfill their reporting obligations, and many of these third parties will begin reporting to CAT in November 2018. Consequently, Phlx believes that the burden on current OATS Reporters that are “Small Industry Members” would not be significant if those firms are required to report to CAT beginning in November 2018 rather than November 2019. The burdens, however, are significantly greater for those firms that are not reporting to OATS currently; therefore, Phlx does not believe it would be necessary or appropriate to accelerate CAT reporting for “Small Industry Members” that are not currently OATS Reporters.

**Individual Industry Member Exemptions**

The final issue the Plan requires the proposed rule change to address is “whether individual Industry Members can be exempted from reporting to duplicative systems once their CAT reporting meets specified accuracy and reliability standards, including, but not limited to, ways in which establishing cross-system regulatory functionality or integrating data from existing systems and the CAT would facilitate such Individual Industry Member exemptions.”

As described above, Phlx believes that a single cut-over from OATS to CAT is highly preferable to a firm-by-firm approach and is not proposing to exempt members from the OATS requirements on a firm-by-firm basis.

**Changes to EBS and Account Identification Rules**

Rule 785 is Phlx’s rule regarding the automated submission of specific trading data to Phlx upon request using the Electronic Blue Sheet (“EBS”) system. Rule 785 requires members to submit certain trade information as prescribed by the Exchange, including, for proprietary transactions, the clearing house number or alpha symbol of the member submitting the data, the identifying symbol assigned to the security, and the date the transaction was executed.

Rule 1022 imposes certain account identification requirements on Specialists and Registered Options Traders. Specifically, Rule 1022 requires those market participants to file with the Exchange upon request and keep current a list identifying all accounts for stock, Exchange-Traded Fund Shares, option and related securities or foreign currencies, physical commodities, physical commodity options, commodity futures contracts, options on commodity futures contracts, any other derivatives based on such commodity and other related trading in which the Specialist or Registered Options Trader may, directly or indirectly, engage in trading activities or over which they exercise investment discretion. That Rule prohibits a Specialist or Registered Options Trader from engaging in trading in any of these instruments in an account that has not been reported to the Exchange pursuant to this rule.

Once broker-dealer reporting to the CAT has begun, the CAT will contain the data the Participants would otherwise have requested via the EBS system for purposes of NMS Securities and OTC Equity Securities. Consequently, Phlx will not need to use the EBS system or request information.

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31 See id.

32 For example, in one recent month, eight of the ten firms submitted fewer than 100 reports during the month, with four firms submitting fewer than 50.
pursuant to these rules for NMS Securities or OTC Equity Securities for time periods after CAT reporting has begun if the appropriate accuracy and reliability thresholds are achieved, including an acceptable accuracy rate for customer and account information. However, these rules cannot be completely eliminated immediately upon the CAT achieving the appropriate thresholds because Exchange staff may still need to request information pursuant to these rules for trading activity occurring before a member was a member of the CAT. In addition, these rules apply to information regarding transactions involving securities that will not be reportable to the CAT, such as fixed-income securities; thus, these rules must remain in effect with respect to those transactions indefinitely or until those transactions are captured in the CAT.

The proposed rule change proposes to add new Supplementary Material to Rule 785 and Rule 1022 to clarify how Phlx will request data under these rules after members are reporting to the CAT. Specifically, the proposed Supplementary Material to these rules will note that the Exchange will request information under these rules only if the information is not available in the CAT because, for example, the transactions in question occurred before the firm was reporting information to the CAT or involved securities that are not reportable to the CAT. In essence, under the new Supplementary Material, the Exchange will make requests under these rules if and only if the information is not otherwise available through the CAT.

The CAT NMS Plan states, however, that the elimination of rules that are duplicative of the requirements of the CAT and the retirement of the related systems should be effective at such time as CAT Data meets minimum standards of accuracy and reliability. Accordingly, as discussed in more detail below, Phlx believes that the EBS data may be replaced by CAT Data at a date after all Industry Members are reporting to the CAT when the proposed error rate thresholds have been met, and Phlx has determined that its usage of the CAT Data has not revealed material issues that have not been corrected, confirmed that the CAT includes all data necessary to allow Phlx to continue to meet its surveillance obligations, and confirmed that the Plan Processor is sufficiently meeting all of its obligations under the CAT NMS Plan.

Phlx believes CAT Data should not be used in place of EBS data until all Participants and Industry Members are reporting data to CAT. In this way, Phlx will continue to have access to the necessary data to perform its regulatory duties.

The CAT NMS Plan requires that a rule filing to eliminate a duplicative rule address whether “the availability of certain data from Small Industry Members two years after the Effective Date would facilitate a more expeditious retirement of duplicative systems.” Phlx believes that the submission of data to the CAT by Small Industry Members a year earlier than is required in the CAT NMS Plan, at the same time as the other Industry Members, would expedite the replacement of EBS data with CAT Data. As Phlx believes that the CAT would then have all necessary data to perform the regulatory surveillance that currently is performed via EBS. For this reason, Phlx supports amending the CAT NMS Plan to require Small Industry Members to report data to the CAT two years after the Effective Date (instead of three), and intends to work with other Participants toward that end. The CAT NMS Plan requires that this rule filing address “whether individual Industry Members can be exempted from reporting to duplicative systems once their CAT reporting meets specified accuracy and reliability standards, including, but not limited to, ways in which establishing cross-system regulatory functionality or integrating data from existing systems and the CAT would facilitate such Individual Industry Member exemptions.” Phlx believes that a single cut-over from EBS to CAT is highly preferable to a firm-by-firm approach and is not proposing to exempt members from the EBS requirements on a firm-by-firm basis. Phlx believes that providing such individual exemptions to Industry Members would be inefficient, more costly, and less reliable than the single cut-over. Providing individual exemptions would require the exchanges to create, for a brief temporary period, a cross-system regulatory function and to integrate data from EBS and the CAT to avoid creating any regulatory gaps as a result of such exemptions. Such a function would be costly to create and would give rise to a greater likelihood of data errors or other issues. Given the limited time in which such exemptions would be necessary, Phlx does not believe that such exemptions would be an appropriate use of limited resources. Moreover, the primary benefit to a firm-by-firm exemptive approach would be to reduce the amount of time an individual firm is required to comply with EBS if it is also accurately and reliably reporting to the CAT. Phlx believes that the overall accuracy and reliability thresholds for the CAT described above would need to be met under any conditions before firms could stop reporting to EBS, and as discussed above, by accelerating Small Industry Members to report on the same timeframe as all other Industry Members, there is no need to exempt members from EBS requirements on a firm-by-firm basis.

The CAT NMS Plan also requires that a rule filing to eliminate a duplicative rule to provide “specific accuracy and reliability standards that will determine when duplicative systems will be retired, including, but not limited to, whether the attainment of a certain Error Rate should determine when a system duplicative of the CAT can be retired.” Phlx believes that it is critical that the CAT Data be sufficiently accurate and reliable for Phlx to perform the regulatory functions that it now performs via EBS. Accordingly, Phlx believes that the CAT Data should meet specific quantitative error rates, as well as certain qualitative requirements. Phlx believes that, before CAT Data may be used in place of EBS data, the CAT would need to achieve a sustained error rate for a period of at least 180 days of 5% or lower measured on a pre-correction or as-submitted basis, and 2% or lower on a post-correction basis (measured at T+5). Phlx proposes to measure the 5% pre-correction and 2% post-correction thresholds by averaging the error rate across the period, not require a 5% pre-correction and 2% post-correction maximum each day for 180 consecutive days. Phlx believes that measuring each of the thresholds over the course of 180 days will ensure that the CAT consistently meets minimum accuracy and reliability thresholds while also ensuring that single-day measurements do not unduly affect the overall measurements. Phlx proposes to measure the appropriate error rates in the aggregate, rather than firm-by-firm. The 2% and 5% error rates are in line with EBS if it is also accurately and reliably reporting to the CAT.
with the proposed retirement threshold for other systems, such as OATS and COATS.

In addition to these minimum error rates before using CAT Data instead of EBS data, Phlx believes that during the minimum 180-day period during which the thresholds are calculated, Phlx’s use of the data in the CAT must confirm that (i) usage over that time period has not revealed material issues that have not been corrected, (ii) the CAT includes all data necessary to allow Phlx to continue to meet its surveillance obligations, and (iii) the Plan Processor is sufficiently meeting all of its obligations under the CAT NMS Plan. Phlx believes this time period to use the CAT is necessary to reveal any errors that may manifest themselves only after surveillance patterns and other queries have been run and to confirm that the Plan Processor is meeting its obligations and performing its functions adequately.

Changes to COATS

The options exchanges utilize COATS to collect and review data regarding options orders, quotes and transactions. The Participants have provided COATS technical specifications to the Plan Processor for the CAT for use in developing the Technical Specifications for the CAT, and the Participants are working with the Plan Processor to include the necessary COATS data elements in the CAT Technical Specifications. Accordingly, although the Technical Specifications for the CAT have not yet been finalized, Phlx and the other options exchanges propose to eliminate COATS in accordance with the proposed timeline discussed below.

Phlx adopted Rule 1063 to implement certain reporting requirements related to COATS, and therefore proposes to eliminate the information reporting requirements of that rule and replacing those requirements with a requirement that members report information pursuant to this rule as required by Phlx’s CAT Compliance Rule, Rule 900A. Phlx also proposes to make a corresponding change to Option Floor Procedure Advices and Order and Decorum Regulations C–2.

Rule 1063(e) describes the operations and requirements of the Floor Broker Management System, which is designed to create an electronic audit trail for equity, equity index and U.S. dollar-settled foreign currency options orders represented by Floor Brokers on the Exchange’s Options Floor. Among other things, Rule 1063(e) requires a Floor Broker or that Floor Broker’s employees, contemporaneously upon receipt of an order and prior to the representation of such an order in the trading crowd, to record order information including (i) the order type (i.e., customer, firm, broker-dealer, professional) and order receipt time; (ii) the option symbol; (iii) buy, sell, cross or cancel; (iv) call, put, complex (i.e., spread, straddle), or contingency order; and (v) number of contracts.

Option Floor Procedure Advices and Order and Decorum Regulations C–2 repeat these requirements, and imposes a schedule of fines for violating these requirements.

The CAT NMS Plan states that the elimination of rules that are duplicative of the requirements of the CAT and the retirement of related systems should be effective at such time as CAT Data meets minimum standards of accuracy and reliability. As discussed in more detail below, Phlx and the other options exchanges believe that COATS may be retired at a date after all Industry Members are reporting to the CAT when the proposed error rate thresholds have been met, and Phlx has determined that its usage of the CAT Data has not revealed material issues that have not been corrected, confirmed that the CAT includes all data necessary to allow Phlx to continue to meet its surveillance obligations, and confirmed that the Plan Processor is sufficiently meeting all of its obligations under the CAT NMS Plan.

Phlx believes COATS should not be retired until all Participants and Industry Members that report data to COATS are reporting comparable data to the CAT. In this way, Phlx will continue to have access to the necessary data to perform its regulatory duties.

The CAT NMS Plan requires that a rule filing to eliminate a duplicative rule address whether “the availability of certain data from Small Industry Members two years after the Effective Date would facilitate a more expeditious retirement of duplicative systems.”

The Exchange believes COATS should not be retired until all Participants and Industry Members that report data to COATS are reporting comparable data to the CAT. While the early submission of options data to the CAT by Small Industry Members could expedite the retirement of COATS, the Exchange believes that it premature to consider such a change and that additional analysis would be necessary to determine whether such early reporting by Small Industry Members would be feasible.

The CAT NMS Plan requires that this rule filing address “whether individual Industry Members could be exempted from reporting to duplicative systems once their CAT reporting meets specified accuracy and reliability standards, including, but not limited to, ways in which establishing cross-system regulatory functionality or integrating data from existing systems and the CAT would facilitate such Individual Industry Member exemptions.” Phlx believes that a single cut-over from COATS to CAT is highly preferable to a firm-by-firm approach and is not proposing to exempt members from the COATS requirements on a firm-by-firm basis. Phlx and the other options exchanges believe that providing such individual exemptions to Industry Members would be inefficient, more costly, and less reliable than the single cut-over. Providing individual exemptions would require the options exchanges to create, for a brief temporary period, a cross-system regulatory function and to integrate data from COATS and the CAT to avoid creating any regulatory gaps as a result of such exemptions. Such a function would be costly to create and would give rise to a greater likelihood of data errors or other issues. Given the limited time in which such exemptions would be necessary, Phlx and the other options exchanges do not believe that such exemptions would be an appropriate use of limited resources.

The CAT NMS Plan also requires that a rule filing to eliminate a duplicative rule to provide “specific accuracy and reliability standards that will determine
when duplicative systems will be retired, including, but not limited to, whether the attainment of a certain Error Rate should determine when a system duplicative of the CAT can be retired.\textsuperscript{43} Phlx believes that it is critical that the CAT Data be sufficiently accurate and reliable for the Exchange to perform the regulatory functions that it now performs via COATS. Accordingly, Phlx believes that the CAT Data should meet specific quantitative error rates, as well as certain qualitative requirements.

Phlx and the other options exchanges believe that, before COATS may be retired, the CAT would need to achieve a sustained error rate for a period of at least 180 days of 5% or lower measured on a pre-correction or as-submitted basis, and 2% or lower on a post-correction basis (measured at T+5).\textsuperscript{44} Phlx proposes to measure the 5% pre-correction and 2% post-correction thresholds by averaging the error rate across the period, not requiring a 5% pre-correction and 2% post-correction maximum each day for 180 consecutive days. Phlx believes that measuring each of the thresholds over the course of 180 days will ensure that the CAT consistently meets minimum accuracy and reliability thresholds while also ensuring that single-day measurements do not unduly affect the overall measurements. Phlx proposes to measure the appropriate error rates in the aggregate, rather than firm-by-firm. In addition, Phlx proposes to measure the error rates for options only, not equity securities, as only options are subject to COATS. The 2% and 5% error rates are in line with the proposed retirement threshold for OATS.

In addition to these minimum error rates before COATS can be retired, Phlx believes that during the minimum 180-day period during which the thresholds are calculated, Phlx’s use of the data in the CAT must confirm that (i) usage over that time period has not revealed material issues that have not been corrected, (ii) the CAT includes all data necessary to allow Phlx to continue to meet its surveillance obligations, and (iii) the Plan Processor is sufficiently meeting all of its obligations under the CAT NMS Plan. Phlx believes this time period to use the CAT Data is necessary to reveal any errors that may manifest themselves only after surveillance patterns and other queries have been run and to confirm that the Plan Processor is meeting its obligations and performing its functions adequately.

If the Commission approves the proposed rule change, Phlx will announce the implementation date of the proposed rule change in a Regulatory Notice that will be published once Phlx concludes the thresholds for accuracy and reliability described above have been met and that the Plan Processor is sufficiently meeting all of its obligations under the CAT NMS Plan.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,\textsuperscript{45} in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,\textsuperscript{46} 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. Phlx believes that the proposed rule change fulfills the obligation in the CAT NMS Plan for Phlx to submit a proposed rule change to eliminate or modify duplicative rules. In approving the Plan, the SEC noted that the Plan “is necessary and appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors and the maintenance of fair and orderly markets, to remove impediments to, and perfect the mechanism of a national market system, or is otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.”\textsuperscript{47} As this proposal implements the Plan, Phlx believes that this proposal furthers the objectives of the Plan, as identified by the SEC, and is therefore consistent with the Exchange Act.

Moreover, the purpose of the proposed rule change is to eliminate rules that require the submission of duplicative data to the exchange. The elimination of such duplicative requirements will reduce unnecessary costs and other compliance burdens for Phlx and its members, and therefore, will enhance the efficiency of the securities markets. Furthermore, Phlx believes that the approach set forth in the proposed rule change strikes the appropriate balance between ensuring that Phlx is able to continue to fulfill its statutory obligation to protect investors and the public interest by ensuring its surveillance of market activity remains accurate and effective while also establishing a reasonable timeframe for elimination or modification of its rules that will be rendered duplicative after implementation of the CAT.

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

Section 6(b)(8) of the Exchange Act\textsuperscript{48} requires that the Exchange’s rules not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate. Phlx 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 Exchange Act. Phlx notes that the proposed rule change implements the requirements of the CAT NMS Plan approved by the Commission regarding the elimination of rules and systems that are duplicative the CAT, and is designed to assist Phlx in meeting its regulatory obligations pursuant to the Plan. Similarly, all exchanges and FINRA are proposing the elimination of their rules related to OATS, EBS and COATS to implement the requirements of the CAT NMS Plan. Therefore, this is not a competitive rule filing and, therefore, it does not raise competition issues between and among the self-regulatory organizations and/or their members.

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

Although written comments on the proposed rule change were not solicited, two commenters, the Financial Information Forum ("FIF") and the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association ("SIFMA"), submitted letters to the Participants regarding the retirement of systems related to the CAT.\textsuperscript{49} In its current letter, with regard to the retirement of duplicative systems more generally, FIF recommends that the Participants continue the effort to incorporate current reporting obligations into the CAT in order to replace existing reportable systems with the CAT. In addition, FIF further recommends that, once a CAT Reporter achieves satisfactory reporting data quality, the CAT Reporter should be exempt from reporting to any duplicative reporting systems. FIF believes that these recommendations "would serve both an underlying regulatory objective of more

\textsuperscript{43} Id.
\textsuperscript{44} The Plan requires that the Plan Processor must ensure that regulators have access to corrected and linked order and Customer data by 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time on T+5. See CAT NMS Plan, at C–15.
\textsuperscript{45} 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).
\textsuperscript{46} 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).
\textsuperscript{47} Approval Order at 84697.
\textsuperscript{49} Letter from William H. Hebert, FIF, to Participants re: Milestone for Participants’ rule change filings to eliminate/modify duplicative rules, dated April 12, 2017 ("FIF Letter"); Letter from Kenneth E. Bentsen, Jr., SIFMA, to Participants re: Selection of Thesys as CAT Processor, dated April 4, 2017 ("SIFMA Letter").
immediate and accurate access to data as well as an industry objective of reduced costs and burdens of regulatory oversight." 50 In its comments about EBS specifically, FIF states that the retirement of the EBS requirements should be a high priority, and that the CAT should be designed to include the requisite data elements to permit the rapid retirement of the EBS system.51 Similarly, SIFMA states that "the establishment of the CAT must be accompanied by the prompt elimination of duplicative systems," and "recommend[ed] that the initial technical specifications be designed to facilitate the immediate retirement of . . . duplicative reporting systems." 52

As discussed above, Phlx agrees with the commenters that the OATS, EBS and COATS reporting requirements should be replaced by the CAT reporting requirements as soon as accurate and reliable CAT Data is available. To this end, Phlx anticipates that the CAT will be designed to collect the data necessary to permit the retirement of OATS, EBS and COATS. As discussed above, Phlx disagrees with the recommendation to provide individual exemptions to those CAT Reporters who obtain satisfactory data reporting quality; however, Phlx supports amendments to the CAT NMS Plan that would accelerate reporting for Small Industry Members that are currently reporting to OATS to facilitate the retirement of that system.

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

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the Exchange consents, the Commission shall: (a) By order approve or disapprove such proposed rule change, or (b) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be 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:

- Use the Commission’s Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR–Phlx–2017–43 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549–1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Phlx-2017-43. 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 Web site (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 Web site viewing and printing in the Commission’s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549 on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of 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 to File Number SR-Phlx–2017–43, and should be submitted on or before June 26, 2017.

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

Eduardo A. Aleman, Assistant Secretary.

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