

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)¹³ requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers, because the rule applies uniformly to all Members and does not unfairly discriminate against any Member or type of market participant. The Exchange also believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(1) of the Act,¹⁴ which provides that the Exchange be organized and have the capacity to be able to carry out the purposes of the Act and to enforce compliance by the Exchange's Members and persons associated with its Members with the Act, the rules and regulations thereunder, and the rules of the Exchange.

In particular, the proposed rule change to shorten the waiting periods for retaking FINRA qualification examinations will lessen the burden on individuals who are trying to register to begin their employment in the securities industry while also continuing to protect investors by maintaining appropriate program integrity. The proposal would align the Exchange's requirement with FINRA's by establishing uniform qualification examination retake waiting periods.¹⁵ This proposal would avoid potentially different requirements for members of both FINRA and the Exchange with respect to qualification examination retake waiting periods.

The proposed changes will provide greater harmonization between Exchange and FINRA rules of similar purpose, resulting in less burdensome and more efficient regulatory compliance for dual members. As previously noted, the proposed rule text is substantially similar to FINRA's rule text. The proposal is based on a proposal that FINRA filed with the Commission for immediate effectiveness, and therefore, does not raise any new or novel issues, not already considered by the Commission.¹⁶

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 proposed rule change is not designed to address any competitive issues but rather is designed to provide greater harmonization between Exchange and FINRA rules of similar purpose for qualification examination retake waiting periods, resulting in less burdensome and more efficient regulatory compliance for dual members.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁷ and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹⁸

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such 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 under Section 19(b)(2)(B)¹⁹ of the Act 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 (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include file number SR-EMERALD-2026-22 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

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

All submissions should refer to file number SR-EMERALD-2026-22. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the filing will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-EMERALD-2026-22 and should be submitted on or before September 1, 2026.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁰

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026-16283 Filed 8-10-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-106047; File No. SR-SAPPHIRE-2026-32]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; MIAx Sapphire, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend Exchange Rule 1900, Interpretation and Policy .06, To Reduce the Waiting Periods for Retaking FINRA Qualification Examinations

August 6, 2026.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,²

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(1).

¹⁵ See *supra* note 10.

¹⁶ See *id.*

¹⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

²⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

notice is hereby given that on August 6, 2026, MIAX Sapphire, LLC (“MIAX Sapphire” or “Exchange”) filed with 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 Exchange Rule 1900, Interpretation and Policy .06, to reduce the waiting periods for retaking FINRA qualification examinations.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at <https://www.miaxglobal.com/markets/us-options/miax-sapphire/rule-filings>, and at the Exchange’s principal office.

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 Exchange Rule 1900, Interpretation and Policy .06, to reduce the waiting periods for retaking FINRA qualification examinations.

In general, the Exchange’s current rules require that persons engaged in a Member’s³ securities business who are to function as representatives⁴ or

principals⁵ register with the Exchange in each category of registration appropriate to their functions by passing one or more qualification examinations⁶ and exempt specified associated persons from the registration requirements.⁷

Current Exchange Rule 1900, Interpretation and Policy .06, provides that “[a]ny person who fails to pass a qualification examination prescribed by the Exchange shall be permitted to take that examination again after a period of 30 calendar days has elapsed from the date of such person’s last attempt to pass that examination, except that any person who fails to pass an examination three or more times in succession within a two-year period shall be prohibited from again taking that examination until a period of 180 calendar days has elapsed from the date of such person’s last attempt to pass that examination. The waiting periods for retaking a failed examination shall apply to the SIE and the representative and principal examinations specified under Rule 1901.”⁸ The Exchange notes that current Exchange Rule 1900, Interpretation and Policy .06, is substantively similar to FINRA Rule 1210.06.⁹

On June 29, 2026, FINRA filed to shorten the required qualification examination retake waiting periods to

⁵ A “principal” is any person associated with a Member, including, but not limited to, sole proprietor, officer, partner, manager of office of supervisory jurisdiction, director or other person occupying a similar status or performing similar functions, who is actively engaged in the management of the Member’s securities business, such as supervision, solicitation, conduct of business in securities or the training of persons associated with a Member for any of these functions. Such persons shall include, among other persons, a Member’s chief executive officer and chief financial officer (or equivalent officers). A “principal” also includes any other person associated with a Member who is performing functions or carrying out responsibilities that are required to be performed or carried out by a principal under Exchange rules. See Exchange Rule 1901.

⁶ See Exchange Rule 1901, Registration Categories, and Exchange Rule 1302, Registration of Representatives. The Exchange notes that the rules contained in Chapter XIII of the rulebook of Miami International Securities Exchange, LLC, including Rule 1302, are incorporated by reference into MIAX Sapphire Chapter XIII, and are thus MIAX Sapphire Rules and applicable to MIAX Sapphire Members.

⁷ See Exchange Rule 1902, Associated Persons Exempt from Registration.

⁸ The Exchange adopted Exchange Rule 1900, Interpretation and Policy .06, in 2024. The rule text was contained in the Exhibit B of the Exchange’s Form 1 application. On July 15, 2024, the Commission approved the application of the Exchange for registration of a national securities exchange. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 100539 (July 15, 2024), 89 FR 58848 (July 19, 2024) (File No. 10–240). The Exchange did not make any changes to this rule text after it was adopted.

⁹ See FINRA Rule 1210, Registration Requirements, <https://www.finra.org/rules-guidance/rulebooks/finra-rules/1210>.

15 days after the first and second failed attempts, and 60 days after the third and all subsequent failed attempts that occur within a two-year period.¹⁰ The Exchange proposes to align the Exchange’s requirement with FINRA’s by establishing uniform qualification examination retake waiting periods.

The Exchange believes that as a result of the changes to the qualification program that have occurred since the implementation of the current retake waiting periods provided in the FINRA filing, shortening the waiting periods in this manner would lessen the burden on individuals who are trying to register to begin their employment in the securities industry while also continuing to protect investors by maintaining appropriate program integrity.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,¹¹ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,¹² in particular, in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in 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)¹³ requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers, because the rule applies uniformly to all Members and does not unfairly discriminate against any Member or type of market participant. The Exchange also believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(1) of the Act,¹⁴ which provides that the Exchange be organized and have the capacity to be able to carry out the purposes of the Act and to enforce compliance by the Exchange’s Members and persons associated with its Members with the Act, the rules and regulations thereunder, and the rules of the Exchange.

¹⁰ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 105885 (July 13, 2026), 91 FR 43678 (July 16, 2026) (SR–FINRA–2026–014) (the “FINRA Filing”).

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(1).

³ The term “Member” means an individual or organization that is registered with the Exchange pursuant to Chapter II of these Rules for purposes of trading on the Exchange as an “Electronic Exchange Member” or “Market Maker.” Members are deemed “members” under the Exchange Act. See Exchange Rule 100.

⁴ A “representative” is any person associated with a Member, including assistant officers other than principals, who is engaged in the Member’s securities business, such as supervision, solicitation, conduct of business in securities or the training of persons associated with a Member for any of these functions. See Exchange Rule 1901.

In particular, the proposed rule change to shorten the waiting periods for retaking FINRA qualification examinations will lessen the burden on individuals who are trying to register to begin their employment in the securities industry while also continuing to protect investors by maintaining appropriate program integrity. The proposal would align the Exchange's requirement with FINRA's by establishing uniform qualification examination retake waiting periods.¹⁵ This proposal would avoid potentially different requirements for members of both FINRA and the Exchange with respect to qualification examination retake waiting periods.

The proposed changes will provide greater harmonization between Exchange and FINRA rules of similar purpose, resulting in less burdensome and more efficient regulatory compliance for dual members. As previously noted, the proposed rule text is substantially similar to FINRA's rule text. The proposal is based on a proposal that FINRA filed with the Commission for immediate effectiveness, and therefore, does not raise any new or novel issues, not already considered by the Commission.¹⁶

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 proposed rule change is not designed to address any competitive issues but rather is designed to provide greater harmonization between Exchange and FINRA rules of similar purpose for qualification examination retake waiting periods, resulting in less burdensome and more efficient regulatory compliance for dual members.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become

operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁷ and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹⁸

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such 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 under Section 19(b)(2)(B)¹⁹ of the Act 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 (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include file number SR-SAPPHIRE-2026-32 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090. All submissions should refer to file number SR-SAPPHIRE-2026-32. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the filing will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions

should refer to file number SR-SAPPHIRE-2026-32 and should be submitted on or before September 1, 2026.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁰

Sherry R. Haywood,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026-16277 Filed 8-10-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration #21757 and #21758; ILLINOIS Disaster Number IL-20031]

Administrative Declaration of a Disaster for the State of Illinois

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is notice of an Administrative declaration of a disaster for the state of Illinois dated August 5, 2026.

Incident: Severe Storms.

DATES: Issued on August 5, 2026.

Incident Period: July 2, 2026 through July 4, 2026.

Physical Loan Application Deadline Date: October 5, 2026.

Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date: May 5, 2027.

ADDRESSES: Visit the MySBA Loan Portal at <https://lending.sba.gov> to apply for a disaster assistance loan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tamara Edge, Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW, Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416, (202) 205-9888.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given as a result of the Administrator's disaster declaration, applications for disaster loans may be submitted online using the MySBA Loan Portal <https://lending.sba.gov> or in person at other locally announced locations. For further assistance please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center by email at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or by phone at 1-800-659-2955. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:

Primary Counties: Kane.

¹⁵ See *supra* note 10.

¹⁶ See *id.*

¹⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

²⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).