

process. This revision does not require any changes to the ICC Clearing Rules.

According to ICC, it utilizes a “cross and lock” algorithm as part of its price discovery process. As described by ICC, under this algorithm, bids and offers derived from Clearing Participant (“CP”) submissions are matched by sorting them from highest to lowest and lowest to highest levels, respectively. This sorting process pairs the CP submitting the highest bid price with the CP submitting the lowest offer price, the CP submitting the second highest bid price with the CP submitting the second-lowest offer price, and so on. The algorithm then identifies crossed and/or locked markets. Crossed markets are the Clearing Participant pairs generated by the sorting and ranking process for which the bid price of one Clearing Participant is above the offer price of the matched Clearing Participant. The algorithm identifies locked markets, where the bid and the offer are equal, in a similar fashion. The mid-point of the first non-crossed, non-locked matched market is, as stated by ICC, the final end-of-day level (with additional steps taken to remove off-market submissions from influencing the final level). According to ICC, this process captures the market dynamics of trading; however, final pricing levels are ultimately determined by a single bid and a single offer, which results in the ability for one submission to influence the outcome.

ICC proposes enhancements to its methodology to improve the consistency of prices and reduce the sensitivity of the final level to a single Clearing Participant’s submission. ICC states that under the new “cross and lock” methodology, the average of the mid-points of all non-crossed, non-locked matched markets that are less than or equal to one bid-offer width is used as the final level (with additional steps taken to remove off-market submissions from influencing the final level). ICC states that, as a result, prices are less sensitive to outlying submissions. ICC also proposes additional language in the ICC End-of-Day Price Discovery Policies and Procedures to clarify existing policies and practices, including, but not limited to, language to clarify the existing pricing methodology’s treatment of identical crossed or locked matched market bids or offers.

III. Discussion and Commission Findings

Section 19(b)(2)(C) of the Act⁴ directs the Commission to approve a proposed rule change of a self-regulatory

organization if the Commission finds that such proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to such self-regulatory organization. Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act⁵ requires, among other things, that the rules of a clearing agency are designed to promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and, to the extent applicable, derivative agreements, contracts, and transactions, to assure the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in the custody or control of the clearing agency or for which it is responsible and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 17A of the Act⁶ and the rules thereunder applicable to ICC. The revised ICC End-of-Day Price Discovery Policies and Procedures will reduce the sensitivity of the final price level to a single Clearing Participant’s submission, resulting in more consistent day-over-day end-of-day levels. The proposed rule change is therefore reasonably expected to provide a pricing methodology to more accurately reflect the market level. As such, the Commission believes that the changes will promote the prompt and accurate settlement of securities and derivatives transactions, and therefore are consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to ICC, in particular, Section 17(A)(b)(3)(F).

IV. Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with the requirements of the Act and in particular with the requirements of Section 17A of the Act⁷ and the rules and regulations thereunder.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁸ that the proposed rule change (File No. SR-ICC-2014-17) be, and hereby is, approved.⁹

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁰

Kevin M. O’Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2014-29181 Filed 12-11-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-73781; File No. SR-EDGA-2014-31]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; EDGA Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Related to Fees for Use of EDGA Exchange, Inc.

December 8, 2014.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on November 25, 2014, EDGA Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “EDGA”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Exchange has designated the proposed rule change as one establishing or changing a member due, fee, or other charge imposed by the Exchange under Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder,⁴ which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing with the Commission. 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 filed a proposal to amend the fee schedule applicable to Members⁵ of the Exchange pursuant to EDGA Rules 15.1(a) and (c) (“Fee Schedule”). Changes to the fee schedule pursuant to this proposal are effective upon filing.

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange’s Web site at <http://www.directedge.com>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at

¹⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

⁵ The term “Member” is defined as “any registered broker or dealer, or any person associated with a registered broker or dealer, that has been admitted to membership in the Exchange. A Member will have the status of a “member” of the Exchange as that term is defined in Section 3(a)(3) of the Act.” See Exchange Rule 1.5(n).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁹ In approving the proposed rule change, the Commission considered the proposal’s impact on efficiency, competition and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(C).

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 parts 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 its Fee Schedule to amend the first two bullets regarding added and removal flags under the General Notes section to include Flags EA, ER, and 5, which include in [sic] internalized volume. The General Notes section of the Fee Schedule includes two bullets that contain the list of applicable "added flags" and "removal flags" that may be considered when calculating whether a Member satisfied a certain pricing tier. The Exchange appends Flags EA, ER, and 5 to orders that inadvertently match against each other and share the same MPID (Member shares both sides of the trade). The Exchange proposes to amend the first bullet regarding added flags to include Flag EA, which covers internalized trades that add liquidity. The Exchange also proposes to amend the second bullet regarding removal flags to include Flag ER, which covers internalized trades that remove liquidity. The Exchange believes that Members orders that yield Flags EA, ER, or 5 should be included in the calculation of the Average Daily Volume⁶ ("ADV") threshold as added or removal flags for purposes of determining whether a tier's criteria has been met.

Lastly, the Exchange proposes to amend both the first and second bullets

to include Flag 5, which covers internalized trades that add or remove liquidity during the pre and post market sessions. The Exchange also proposes to add Footnote 13 to state that a Member's monthly volume attributed to Flag 5 will be divided evenly between the added flags and removal flags when determining whether that Member satisfied a certain tier. The Exchange proposes to divide a Member's Flag 5 volume as such because the Exchange's systems cannot currently delineate orders yielding Flag 5 that added from those that removed liquidity for purposes of determining whether a Member satisfies a certain tier.

Implementation Date

The Exchange proposes to implement these amendments to its Fee Schedule on December 1, 2014.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the objectives of Section 6 of the Act,⁷ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4),⁸ in particular, as it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its Members and other persons using its facilities. The Exchange also notes that it operates in a highly-competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive. The proposed rule change reflects a competitive pricing structure designed to incent market participants to direct their order flow to the Exchange. The Exchange believes that the proposed rates are equitable and non-discriminatory in that they apply uniformly to all Members. The Exchange believes the fees and credits remain competitive with those charged by other venues and therefore continue to be reasonable and equitably allocated to Members.

The Exchange believes that its proposal to amend two bullets under the General Notes section of the Fee Schedule that contain the list of applicable "added flags" and "removal flags" are [sic] represents an equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among Members and other persons using its facilities. The Exchange appends Flag EA, ER, and 5 to buy and sell orders that inadvertently match against each other and share the same MPID (Member shares both sides of the trade). The Exchange also believes proposed Footnote 13 stating that a

Member's monthly volume attributed to Flag 5 will be divided evenly between the added flags and removal flags when determining whether that Member satisfied a certain tier represents an equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges. The Exchange proposes to divide a Member's Flag 5 volume as such because Flag 5 includes both added and removed liquidity because the Exchange's systems cannot currently delineate orders yielding Flag 5 that added from those that removed liquidity purposes of determining whether a Member satisfies a certain tier. The Exchange believes that Members orders that yield Flags EA, ER, or 5 should be included in the calculation of the ADV threshold as added or removal flags for purposes of determining whether a tier's criteria has been met. Including such Flags would be a reasonable means to encourage Members to direct their orders to the Exchange because they would have certainty that certain orders will not be excluded from their ADV calculations because it inadvertently matched against an order sharing the same MPID. Lastly, the Exchange also believes that the proposed amendment is non-discriminatory because it applies uniformly to all Members.

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

These proposed rule changes do not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange does not believe that any of these changes represent a significant departure from previous pricing offered by the Exchange or pricing offered by the Exchange's competitors. Additionally, Members may opt to disfavor EDGA's pricing if they believe that alternatives offer them better value. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed changes will impair the ability of Members or competing venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

The Exchange believes that adding orders yielding Flags EA, ER, and 5 to the "added flags" and "removal flags" would increase intermarket competition because it would encourage Members to direct their orders to the Exchange because they would have certainty that their orders will not be excluded from their ADV calculations because it inadvertently matched against an order sharing the same MPID. The Exchange believes that its proposal would neither increase nor decrease intramarket competition because the added and removal flags would continue to apply

⁶ ADV is defined in the Exchange's Fee Schedule "as the average daily volume of shares that a Member executed on, or routed by, the Exchange for the month in which the fees are calculated. ADV is calculated on a monthly basis, excluding shares on any day that the Exchange's system experiences a disruption that lasts for more than 60 minutes during Regular Trading Hours ('Exchange System Disruption'), on any day with a scheduled early market close and on the last Friday in June (the 'Russell Reconstitution Day')."

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

uniformly to all Members and the ability of some Members to meet the tiers would only benefit other Members by contributing to increased liquidity and improve market quality at the Exchange.

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

The Exchange has not solicited, and does not intend to solicit, comments on this proposed rule change. The Exchange has not received any unsolicited written comments from Members or other interested parties.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁹ and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹⁰ 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.

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 email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-EDGA-2014-31 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-EDGA-2014-31. 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 the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; 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-EDGA-2014-31, and should be submitted on or before January 2, 2015.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹¹

Kevin M. O'Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2014-29107 Filed 12-11-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-73787; File No. SR-FICC-2014-06]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Fixed Income Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Rules of the Government Securities Division and the Mortgage-Backed Securities Division on Insolvency and Ceasing To Act

December 8, 2014.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act")¹, and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on November 25, 2014, Fixed Income Clearing Corporation ("FICC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the clearing agency. The Commission is publishing this notice to

solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Clearing Agency's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The proposed rule change consists of amendments to the rules of the Government Securities Division ("GSD Rules") of FICC and the rules of the Mortgage-Backed Securities Division ("MBSD Rules") of FICC (each of GSD and MBSD, a "Division" of FICC) on insolvency and ceasing to act that simplify in certain respects FICC's process in a cease to act situation and provide greater legal certainty for FICC and its members, particularly in an intra-day cease to act situation.

II. Clearing Agency's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, FICC 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. FICC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Clearing Agency's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The purpose of this filing is to amend the GSD Rules and the MBSD Rules on insolvency and ceasing to act in order to simplify in certain respects FICC's process in a cease to act situation and provide greater legal certainty for FICC and its members, particularly in an intra-day cease to act situation.

Background

In connection with lessons learned from a recent close-out simulation exercise conducted by The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation, FICC's parent company, in which FICC participated, and related review of the GSD Rules and the MBSD Rules, certain potential challenges with administering certain aspects of the GSD Rules and the MBSD Rules on insolvency and ceasing to act described below, particularly in an intra-day cease to act situation, were identified.

"Time of Insolvency" and "Cut-Off Time"

Currently, GSD and MBSD include in their insolvency rules (GSD Rule 22, MBSD Rule 16) and cease to act rules (GSD Rule 22A, MBSD Rule 17) the

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.