

definition of investment company under the Act.

In 1997, the Commission adopted rule 3a–4, which clarifies that programs organized and operated in accordance with the rule are not required to register under the Investment Company Act or comply with the Act's requirements.¹ These programs differ from investment companies because, among other things, they provide individualized investment advice to the client. The rule's provisions have the effect of ensuring that clients in a program relying on the rule receive advice tailored to the client's needs.

For a program to be eligible for the rule's safe harbor, each client's account must be managed on the basis of the client's financial situation and investment objectives and in accordance with any reasonable restrictions the client imposes on managing the account. When an account is opened, the sponsor² (or its designee) must obtain information from each client regarding the client's financial situation and investment objectives, and must allow the client an opportunity to impose reasonable restrictions on managing the account.³ In addition, the sponsor (or its designee) must contact the client annually to determine whether the client's financial situation or investment objectives have changed and whether the client wishes to impose any reasonable restrictions on the management of the account or reasonably modify existing restrictions. The sponsor (or its designee) must also notify the client quarterly, in writing, to contact the sponsor (or its designee) regarding changes to the client's financial situation, investment objectives, or restrictions on the account's management.

Additionally, the sponsor (or its designee) must provide each client with a quarterly statement describing all activity in the client's account during the previous quarter. The sponsor and

personnel of the client's account manager who know about the client's account and its management must be reasonably available to consult with the client. Each client also must retain certain indicia of ownership of all securities and funds in the account.

The Commission staff estimates that 19,618,731 clients participate each year in investment advisory programs relying on rule 3a–4.⁴ Of that number, the staff estimates that 3,531,372 are new clients and 16,087,359 are continuing clients.⁵ The staff estimates that each year the investment advisory program sponsors' staff engage in 1.5 hours per new client and 1 hour per continuing client to prepare, conduct and/or review interviews regarding the client's financial situation and investment objectives as required by the rule.⁶ Furthermore, the staff estimates that each year the investment advisory program sponsors' staff spends 1 hour per client to prepare and mail quarterly client account statements, including notices to update information.⁷ Based on the estimates above, the Commission estimates that the total annual burden of the rule's paperwork requirements is 41,003,148 hours.⁸

The estimate of average burden hours is made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act. The estimate is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of

the costs of Commission rules and forms. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's estimate of the burdens of the collections of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burdens of the collections of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Charles Riddle, Acting Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Candace Kenner, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549; or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: December 10, 2018.

Eduardo A. Aleman,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018–27094 Filed 12–13–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SEC File No. 270–774, OMB Control No. 3235–0726]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–2736

Extension:

Rules 300–304 of Regulation Crowdfunding (Intermediaries).

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (“PRA”) (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) is soliciting comments on the collection of information provided for Rule 17Ab2–1 (17 CFR 240.17Ab2–1) and Form CA–1: Registration of Clearing Agencies (17 CFR 249b.200) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”) (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*). The Commission plans to submit this existing collection

¹ Status of Investment Advisory Programs Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, Investment Company Act Rel. No. 22579 (Mar. 24, 1997) [62 FR 15098 (Mar. 31, 1997)] (“Adopting Release”). In addition, there are no registration requirements under section 5 of the Securities Act of 1933 for programs that meet the requirements of rule 3a–4. See 17 CFR 270.3a–4, introductory note.

² For purposes of rule 3a–4, the term “sponsor” refers to any person who receives compensation for sponsoring, organizing or administering the program, or for selecting, or providing advice to clients regarding the selection of, persons responsible for managing the client's account in the program.

³ Clients specifically must be allowed to designate securities that should not be purchased for the account or that should be sold if held in the account. The rule does not require that a client be able to require particular securities be purchased for the account.

⁴ These estimates are based on an analysis of the number of individual clients from Form ADV Item 5D(a)(1) and (b)(1) of advisers that report they provide portfolio management to wrap programs as indicated in Form ADV Item 5I(2)(b) and (c), and the number of individual clients of advisers that identify as internet advisers in Form ADV Item 2A(11). From analysis comparing reported individual client assets in Form ADV Item 5D(a)(3) and 5D(b)(3) to reported wrap portfolio manager assets in Form ADV Item 5I(2)(b) and (c), we discount the estimated number of individual clients of non-internet advisers providing portfolio management to wrap programs by 10%. These estimates are based on the number of new clients expected due to average year-over-year growth in individual clients from Form ADV Item 5D(a)(1) and (b)(1) (about 8%) and an assumed rate of yearly client turnover of 10%.

⁵ These estimates are based on the number of new clients expected due to average year-over-year growth in individual clients from Form ADV Item 5D(a)(1) and (b)(1) (about 8%) and an assumed rate of yearly client turnover of 10%.

⁶ These estimates are based upon consultation with investment advisers that operate investment advisory programs that rely on rule 3a–4.

⁷ The staff bases this estimate in part on the fact that, by business necessity, computer records already will be available that contain the information in the quarterly reports.

⁸ This estimate is based on the following calculation: (16,087,359 continuing clients × 1 hour) + (3,531,372 new clients × 1.5 hours) + (19,618,731 total clients × (0.25 hours × 4 statements)) = 41,003,148 hours. We note that the breakdown of burden hours between professional and staff time discussed below may not equal the estimate of total burden hours due to rounding.

of information to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) for extension and approval.

Rules 300–304 of Regulation Crowdfunding enumerate the requirements with which intermediaries must comply to participate in the offer and sale of securities in reliance on Section 4(a)(6) of the Securities Act of 1933 (“Section 4(a)(6)”). Rule 300 requires an intermediary to be registered with the Commission as a broker or as a funding portal and be a member of a registered national securities association.¹

Rule 301 requires intermediaries to have a reasonable basis for believing that an issuer seeking to offer and sell securities in reliance on Section 4(a)(6) through the intermediary’s platform complies with the requirements in Section 4A(b) of the Securities Act and the related requirements in Regulation Crowdfunding. Rule 302 provides that no intermediary or associated person of an intermediary may accept an investment commitment in a transaction involving the offer or sale of securities made in reliance on Section 4(a)(6) until the investor has opened an account with the intermediary and the intermediary has obtained from the investor consent to electronic delivery of materials. Rule 303 requires an intermediary to make publicly available on its platform the information that an issuer of crowdfunding securities is required to provide to potential investors, in a manner that reasonably permits a person accessing the platform to save, download or otherwise store the information, for a minimum of 21 days before any securities are sold in the offering, during which time the intermediary may accept investment commitments. Rule 303 also requires intermediaries to comply with the requirements related to the maintenance and transmission of funds. An intermediary that is a registered broker is required to comply with the requirements of Rule 15c2–4 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”) (Transmission or Maintenance of Payments Received in Connection with Underwritings).² An intermediary that is a registered funding portal must direct investors to transmit the money or other consideration directly to a qualified third party that has agreed in writing to hold the funds for the benefit of, and to promptly transmit or return the funds to, the

persons entitled thereto in accordance with Regulation Crowdfunding.

The rules also require intermediaries to implement and maintain systems to comply with the information disclosure, communication channels, and investor notification requirements. These requirements include providing disclosure about compensation at account opening (Rule 302), obtaining investor acknowledgements to confirm investor qualifications and review of educational materials (Rule 303), providing investor questionnaires (Rule 303), providing communication channels with third parties and among investors (Rule 303), notifying investors of investment commitments (Rule 303), confirming completed transactions (Rule 303) and confirming or reconfirming offering cancellations (Rule 304).

The Commission staff estimates that there are 62 intermediaries engaged in crowdfunding activity and therefore subject to Rules 300–304. The Commission staff estimates that annualized industry burden would be 15,621 hours to comply with Rules 300–304. This estimate is composed of a one-time burden for new intermediaries to comply with the rules and develop the platform and ongoing burdens associated with maintaining the platform. The Commission staff estimates that the costs associated with complying with Rules 300–304 are estimated to be approximately a total amount of \$5,772,327. These costs are composed of a one-time burden for new intermediaries to comply with the rules and develop the platform and ongoing burdens associated with maintaining the platform.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission’s estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information under the PRA unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Please direct your written comments to: Charles Riddle, Acting Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Candace Kenner, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: December 10, 2018.

Eduardo A. Aleman,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018–27093 Filed 12–13–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–84778; File No. SR–CboeEDGX–2018–058]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Relating To Amend Its Provision Related to Its Risk Monitor Mechanism

December 10, 2018.

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 30, 2018, Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “EDGX”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Exchange filed the proposal as a “non-controversial” proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act³ and Rule 19b–4(f)(6) thereunder.⁴ The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (the “Exchange” or “EDGX”) proposes to amend its provision related to its Risk Monitor Mechanism. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Exchange’s website (<http://www.cboe.com/AboutCBOE/CBOELegalRegulatoryHome.aspx>), at the Exchange’s Office of the Secretary, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f)(6).

¹ Currently, FINRA is the only registered national securities association.

² 17 CFR 240.15c2–4.