

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. 34-65613; File No. SR-BSECC-2011-003)

October 24, 2011

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Boston Stock Exchange Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change with Respect to an Amendment to the By-Laws of The NASDAQ OMX Group, Inc.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup>, and Rule 19b-4<sup>2</sup> thereunder, notice is hereby given that on October 11, 2011, Boston Stock Exchange Clearing Corporation ("BSECC" or the "Corporation") 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 BSECC. 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

BSECC is filing this proposed rule change with respect to an amendment to the by-laws of its parent corporation, The NASDAQ OMX Group, Inc. ("NASDAQ OMX"). The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Corporation's Website at <http://nasdaqomxbx.cchwallstreet.com>, at the principal office of the Corporation, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room. The proposed amendments will be implemented upon approval by the Commission.

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 Corporation included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined

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

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

at the places specified in Item IV below. The Corporation 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

NASDAQ OMX is proposing amendments to provisions of its by-laws pertaining to the composition of committees of the NASDAQ OMX Board of Directors. First, NASDAQ OMX is amending the compositional requirements of its Audit Committee in Section 4.13(g) to provide that the committee shall include three or more directors. Currently, the provision provides that the Audit Committee shall be composed of either four or five directors. The change will provide the NASDAQ OMX Board of Directors, which has authority to establish the size of each committee of the Board of Directors, with flexibility to increase or decrease the size of the committee, as long as the committee includes at least three directors. The listing standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market, which apply to NASDAQ OMX as a listed company, require that NASDAQ OMX's Audit Committee must have at least three members.<sup>3</sup> The amendment would not change any of the other compositional requirements of the Audit Committee, including independence requirements.

Similarly, NASDAQ OMX is proposing to amend the compositional requirements of the Nominating & Governance Committee in Section 4.13(h) to replace a requirement that the committee comprise four or five members with a requirement to include two or more members, thereby creating flexibility to populate a larger or a smaller committee than is currently the case. NASDAQ Stock Market listing standards do not regulate the size of a listed company's nominating committee. The amendment would not change any of the other compositional

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<sup>3</sup> NASDAQ IM-5605-3.

requirements of the Nominating & Governance Committee, including independence requirements.

BSECC expects that the NASDAQ OMX Board of Directors will, in the immediate future, use the modified authority to increase the size of the Nominating & Governance Committee to six directors, but will not modify the size of the Audit Committee at this time. It is likely that the authority would be used to reduce the size of these committees below their current levels only in the event of a reduction in the overall size of the NASDAQ OMX Board of Directors (which currently has 16 members). The Audit Committee supervises the audit function with respect to NASDAQ OMX and all of its subsidiaries, including BSECC, but the Nominating & Governance Committee does not perform a nominating function with respect to NASDAQ OMX's subsidiaries.

Third, NASDAQ OMX proposes to delete a paragraph of the by-laws (Section 4.13(k)) that pertains to the qualifications of committee members who are not directors. This provision was originally adopted by NASDAQ OMX's predecessor corporation, The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc., when it was a subsidiary and facility of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD"). In that capacity, The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. appointed committees that included non-directors and that exercised authority provided for under NASD rules. For example, at that time, the Board of Directors of The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. appointed the Nasdaq Listing and Hearing Review Council, a committee composed of non-directors with authority to review listing decisions with respect to companies with securities listed on The Nasdaq Stock Market, which was then a facility of NASD.

In 2005, The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("NASDAQ") was formed as a subsidiary of The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc., and in 2006, NASDAQ was registered as a national securities

exchange. The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc., which had already issued stock to the public, became a holding company, and in 2007, it ceased operating as a facility of NASD or NASDAQ.

Subsequently, following the acquisition of OMX AB, The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. became NASDAQ OMX. As a public holding company, NASDAQ OMX no longer appoints committees that include non-directors. Accordingly, the provision with respect to the qualifications of non-directors is obsolete and may appropriately be deleted.

Finally, NASDAQ OMX is correcting a typographical error in the numbering of the provisions of Section 4.13(h) of the by-laws.

## 2. Statutory Basis

BSECC believes that that the proposed rule change is consistent with provisions of Section 17A of the Act.<sup>4</sup> BSECC believes that the proposed amendments are non-controversial. The proposal to modify the compositional requirements of the NASDAQ OMX Audit Committee and Nominating & Governance Committee will provide the NASDAQ OMX Board of Directors with greater flexibility to determine the appropriate size for these committees, while maintaining compliance with applicable listing standards. BSECC expects that the NASDAQ OMX Board of Directors will, in the immediate future, use the modified authority to increase the size of the Nominating & Governance Committee to six directors, but will not modify the size of the Audit Committee at this time. The proposed changes also delete an obsolete provision from the by-laws and correct a typographical error.

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

The Corporation does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

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<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

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

No written comments were either solicited or 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 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:

Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-BSECC-2011-003 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BSECC-2011-003. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all

comments on the Commission's Internet website (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, 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 Corporation. 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-BSECC-2011-003 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>5</sup>

Kevin M. O'Neill  
Deputy Secretary

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<sup>5</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).