

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Filing by MIAX PEARL, LLC
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Initial *	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2) *	Section 19(b)(3)(A) *	Section 19(b)(3)(B) *
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Rule		
Pilot	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action *	Date Expires *	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(5)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6)	

Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010	Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
Section 806(e)(1) *	Section 806(e)(2) *
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Section 3C(b)(2) *
	<input type="checkbox"/>

Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Description

Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked *).

Amend Exchange Rule 404 to permit Monday and Wednesday expirations for options listed pursuant to the Short Term Options Series Program on QQQ.

Contact Information

Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the action.

First Name *	Last Name *
Gregory	Ziegler
Title *	
Senior Counsel	
E-mail *	
gziegler@miaxoptions.com	
Telephone *	Fax
(609) 897-1483	

Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

(Title *)

Date	Senior Counsel	
04/22/2021		
By		
Gregory P. Ziegler		
(Name *)		

gziegler@miami-holdings.com

NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.

Form 19b-4 Information *

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The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.

Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change *

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

Exhibit 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies *

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change, security-based swap submission, or advance notice being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications

Add Remove View

Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.

Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.

Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies

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The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.

Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text

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The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change.

Partial Amendment

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If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change

(a) MIAX PEARL, LLC (“MIAX Pearl” or “Exchange”), pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² proposes to amend its Rulebook to permit Monday and Wednesday expirations for options listed pursuant to the Short Term Options Series Program on the Invesco QQQ TrustSM Series (“QQQ”) ETF Trust.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register is attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and the text of the proposed rule change is attached hereto as Exhibit 5.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

The proposed rule changes were approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the Exchange or his designee pursuant to authority delegated by the MIAX Pearl Board of Directors on January 28, 2021. Exchange staff will advise the Board of Directors of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action by the Exchange is necessary for the filing of the proposed rule changes.

Questions and comments on the proposed rule changes may be directed to Katherine Comly, Legal Associate, at (609) 613-1396.

3. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

a. Purpose

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

The Exchange proposes to amend Policy .02 (Short Term Option Series Program) of Exchange Rule 404, Series of Option Contracts Open for Trading, to permit Monday and Wednesday expirations for options listed pursuant to the Short Term Options Series Program (“Program”) on QQQ.

A Short Term Options Series is a series in an option class that is approved for listing and trading on the Exchange in which the series is opened for trading on any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday that is a business day and that expires on the Monday, Wednesday or Friday of the next business week, or, in the case of a series that is listed on a Friday and expires on a Monday, is listed one business week and one business day prior to that expiration.³ The Exchange is proposing to amend Policy .02 of Exchange Rule 404 to permit the listing of options series that expire on Mondays and Wednesdays in QQQ.

Monday Expirations

As proposed, with respect to Monday QQQ Expirations within Policy .02, the Exchange may open for trading on any Friday or Monday that is a business day series of options on QQQ to expire on any Monday of the month that is a business day and is not a Monday in which Quarterly Options Series on the same class expire (“Monday QQQ Expirations”), provided that Monday QQQ Expirations that are listed on a Friday must be listed at least one business week and one business day prior to the expiration. The Exchange may list up to five consecutive Monday QQQ Expirations at one time; the Exchange may have no more than a total of five Monday QQQ Expirations.

³ See Exchange Rulebook, as of Apr. 13, 2021, Rule 100, Definitions, of “Short Term Options Series,” available at: https://www.miaxoptions.com/sites/default/files/page-files/MIAX_Pearl_Exchange_Rules_04132021.pdf.

Wednesday Expirations

As proposed, with respect to Wednesday QQQ Expirations within Policy .02, the Exchange may open for trading on any Tuesday or Wednesday that is a business day series of options on QQQ to expire on any Wednesday of the month that is a business day and is not a Wednesday in which Quarterly Options Series on the same class expire (“Wednesday QQQ Expirations”). The Exchange may list up to five consecutive Wednesday QQQ Expirations at one time; the Exchange may have no more than a total of five Wednesday QQQ Expirations.

Monday and Wednesday Expirations

The interval between strike prices for the proposed Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations will be the same as those for the current Short Term Option Series for Wednesday and Friday expirations applicable to the Program.⁴ Specifically, the Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations will have a \$0.50 strike interval minimum.⁵ As is the case with other equity options series listed pursuant to the Program, the Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations series will be P.M.-settled.

Pursuant to Rule 100,⁶ with respect to the Program, if Monday is not a business day the series shall expire on the first business day immediately following that Monday. This procedure differs from the expiration date of Wednesday expiration series that are scheduled to expire on a holiday. Pursuant to Rule 100,⁷ a Wednesday expiration series shall expire on the first business day immediately prior to that Wednesday, e.g., Tuesday of that week, if the Wednesday is not a

⁴ See Policy .02(e) of Exchange Rule 404.

⁵ Id.

⁶ Rule 100, Definition of “Short Term Option Series.”

⁷ Id.

business day. For purposes of QQQ, however, the Exchange believes that it is preferable to require Monday expiration series in this scenario to expire on the Tuesday of that week rather than the previous business day, e.g., the previous Friday, since the Tuesday is closer in time to the scheduled expiration date of the series than the previous Friday, and therefore may be more representative of anticipated market conditions. Nasdaq PHLX LLC (“Phlx”) uses the same procedure for QQQ with Monday and Wednesday expirations.⁸ Nasdaq Phlx⁹ and Nasdaq ISE, LLC (“ISE”)¹⁰ also use the same procedure for options on the Nasdaq-100® (“NSX”) with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Programs, respectively. Cboe Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe”) uses the same procedure for options on the S&P 500 index (“SPX”) with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program and that are scheduled to expire on a holiday.¹¹

Currently, for each option class eligible for participation in the Program, the Exchange is limited to opening thirty (30) series for each expiration date for the specific class.¹² The thirty (30) series restriction does not include series that are open by other securities exchanges under their respective short term options rules; the Exchange may list these additional series that are

⁸ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 91238 (March 2, 2021), 86 FR 13404 (March 8, 2021) (SR-Phlx-2021-10).

⁹ See Phlx Options 4A, Section 12(b)(5).

¹⁰ See ISE Supplementary Material .07 to Options 4A, Section 12.

¹¹ See Cboe Rule 4.13(e)(1) “...If the Exchange is not open for business on a respective Monday, the normally Monday expiring Weekly Expirations will expire on the following business day. If the Exchange is not open for business on a respective Wednesday or Friday, the normally Wednesday or Friday expiring Weekly Expirations will expire on the previous business day.”

¹² See Policy .02 of Exchange Rule 404.

listed by other exchanges.¹³ This thirty (30) series restriction would apply to Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expiration series as well. In addition, the Exchange will be able to list series that are listed by other exchanges, assuming they file similar rules with the Commission to list QQQ options expiring on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Finally, the Exchange is amending Policy .02(b) to Rule 404, which addresses the listing of Short Term Options Series that expire in the same week as monthly or quarterly options series. Currently, that rule states that no Short Term Option Series may expire in the same week in which monthly option series on the same class expire (with the exception of Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations) or, in the case of Quarterly Options Series, on an expiration that coincides with an expiration of Quarterly Options Series on the same class.¹⁴ As with Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations, the Exchange is proposing to permit Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations to expire in the same week as monthly options series on the same class. The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to extend this exemption to Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations because Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations and standard monthly options will not expire on the same trading day, as standard monthly options expire on Fridays. Additionally, the Exchange believes that not listing Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations for one week every month because there was a monthly QQQ expiration on the Friday of that week would create investor confusion.

The Exchange does not believe that any market disruptions will be encountered with the introduction of P.M.-settled Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations. The Exchange has the

¹³ Supra note 12.

¹⁴ See Policy .02(b) of Exchange Rule 404.

necessary capacity and surveillance programs in place to support and properly monitor trading in the proposed Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations. The Exchange currently trades P.M.-settled Short Term Option Series that expire Monday and Wednesday for SPY and has not experienced any market disruptions nor issues with capacity. The Exchange currently has surveillance programs in place to support and properly monitor trading in Short Term Option Series that expire Monday and Wednesday for SPY.

Similar to SPY, the introduction of Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations will, among other things, expand hedging tools available to market participants and continue the reduction of the premium cost of buying protection. The Exchange believes that Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations will allow market participants to purchase QQQ based on their timing as needed and allow them to tailor their investment and hedging needs more effectively.

b. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act¹⁵ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act¹⁶ 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 facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanisms of a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

The proposed rule change is intended to provide the investing public and other market participants more flexibility to closely tailor their investment and hedging decisions in QQQ options, thus allowing them to better manage their risk exposure.

In particular, the Exchange believes the Program has been successful to date and that Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations should simply expand the ability of investors to hedge risk against market movements stemming from economic releases or market events that occur throughout the month in the same way that the Program has expanded the landscape of hedging. Similarly, the Exchange believes Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations should create greater trading and hedging opportunities and flexibility, and will provide customers with the ability to tailor their investment objectives more effectively. The Exchange currently lists Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations.¹⁷ Also, Cboe¹⁸ currently permits Monday and Wednesday expirations for other options with a weekly expiration, such as options on the SPX pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program and Phlx¹⁹ and ISE²⁰ currently permit Monday and Wednesday expirations for other options with a weekly expiration on NDX pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Programs, respectively.

With the exception of Monday expiration series that are scheduled to expire on a holiday, there are no material differences in the treatment of Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations for Short Term Option Series. The Exchange believes that it is consistent with the Act to treat Monday expiration series that expire on a holiday differently than Wednesday or Friday

¹⁷ Supra note 12.

¹⁸ Supra note 11.

¹⁹ Supra note 9.

²⁰ Supra note 10.

expiration series, since the proposed treatment for Monday expiration series will result in an expiration date that is closer in time to the scheduled expiration date of the series, and therefore may be more representative of anticipated market conditions. Monday SPY expirations are currently treated in this manner.²¹ Cboe²² uses the same procedure for SPX options with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program and that are scheduled to expire on a holiday, as do Phlx²³ and ISE²⁴ for NDX options with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to their Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Programs, respectively.

Given the similarities between Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations and the proposed Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations, the Exchange believes that applying the provisions in Policy .02 of Exchange Rule 404 that currently apply to Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations to Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations is justified. For example, the Exchange believes that allowing Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations and monthly QQQ expirations in the same week will benefit investors and minimize investor confusion by providing Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations in a continuous and uniform manner. The Exchange also believes that it is appropriate to amend Policy .02 of Rule 404 to clarify that no Short Term Option Series may expire on the same day as an expiration of Quarterly Option Series on the same class, same as SPY.

The Exchange represents that it has an adequate surveillance program in place to detect manipulative trading in Monday and Wednesday expirations, including Monday and Wednesday

²¹ Supra note 12.

²² Supra note 11.

²³ Supra note 9.

²⁴ Supra note 10.

QQQ Expirations, in the same way that it monitors trading in the current Short Term Option Series and trading in Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations. The Exchange also represents that it has the necessary systems capacity to support the new options series. Finally, the Exchange does not believe that any market disruptions will be encountered with the introduction of Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations.

4. 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 Exchange notes that having Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations is not a novel proposal, as Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations are currently listed on the Exchange.²⁵ Cboe²⁶ uses the same procedure for SPX options with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program and that are scheduled to expire on a holiday, as do Phlx²⁷ and ISE²⁸ for NDX options with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to their Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Programs, respectively.

The Exchange does not believe the proposal will impose any burden on intra-market competition, as all market participants will be treated in the same manner under this proposal. Additionally, the Exchange does not believe the proposal will impose any burden on inter-market competition, as nothing prevents the other options exchanges from proposing similar rules to list and trade Short-Term Option Series with Monday and Wednesday expirations.

²⁵ Supra note 12.

²⁶ Supra note 11.

²⁷ Supra note 9.

²⁸ Supra note 10.

5. **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.

6. **Extension of Time Period for Commission Action**

Not applicable.

7. **Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)**

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act²⁹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)³⁰ thereunder, the Exchange has designated this proposal as one that effects a change that: (i) does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) by its terms, does not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest.

The Exchange does not believe that its proposal significantly affects the protection of investors or the public interest but rather promotes the protection of investors and the public interest by listing options that another exchange is listing. The Exchange believes its proposal promotes competition which may lead to an increase in quotes in the market place which in turn may lead to tighter spreads which benefits investors.

The proposed rule change is substantially similar in all material respects to a recently approved Phlx filing.³¹ As a result, the Exchange believes its proposal does not raise any new or

²⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

³⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

³¹ Supra note 8.

novel issues. Additionally, the Exchange believes this proposed rule change is necessary to permit fair competition among the options exchanges.

Accordingly, because the proposed rule changes are based on the rules of another Self-Regulatory Organization and thus do not introduce any new regulatory issues, the Exchange has filed this rule filing as non-controversial under Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act³² and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.³³

Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement. Furthermore, a proposed rule change filed pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6) under the Act³⁴ normally does not become operative for 30 days after the date of its filing. However, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)³⁵ permits the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest.

The Exchange respectfully requests that the Commission waive the 30-day pre-operative delay pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act³⁶ and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.³⁷ Waiver of this requirement, specified in Rule 19b-4(f)(6),³⁸ will allow the Exchange to immediately permit Monday and Wednesday expirations for options listed pursuant

³² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

³⁴ Id.

³⁵ Id.

³⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

³⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

³⁸ Id.

to the Short Term Options Series Program on QQQ, which will promote competition within the marketplace and benefit investors. Waiver of the operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest as it would encourage fair competition among exchanges by allowing MIAX Pearl to compete effectively with Phlx by having the ability to list and trade the same Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations that Phlx is able to list and trade.³⁹ The Exchange would be at a competitive disadvantage if it had to wait for the thirty day operative delay to expire prior to listing these options. Offering these options on multiple exchanges provides opportunities for investors to select the venue on which to trade these options.

Based on the foregoing, the Exchange believes that its proposal should become immediately effective and requests that the Commission waive the 30-day pre-operative waiting period contained in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) under the Act.⁴⁰ Waiver of this requirement is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest for the reasons described above.

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.

8. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission

The proposed rule change is substantially similar in all material respects to the recently approved filing by Phlx.⁴¹

³⁹ Supra note 8.

⁴⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

⁴¹ Supra note 8.

9. Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act

Not applicable.

10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act

Not applicable.

11. Exhibits

1. Notice of proposed rule for publication in the Federal Register.

5. Text of proposed rule change.

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-PEARL-2021-21)

April__, 2021

Self-Regulatory Organizations: Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change by MIAX PEARL, LLC to Amend Exchange Rule 404, Series of Option Contracts Open for Trading, to Permit Monday and Wednesday Expirations for Options Listed pursuant to the Short Term Options Series Program (“Program”) on QQQ

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on April 22, 2021, MIAX PEARL, LLC (“MIAX Pearl”) or the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) a 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 its Rulebook to permit Monday and Wednesday expirations for options listed pursuant to the Short Term Options Series Program on the Invesco QQQ TrustSM Series (“QQQ”) ETF Trust.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at <http://www.miaxoptions.com/rule-filings/pearl> at MIAX Pearl’s principal office, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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 Policy .02 (Short Term Option Series Program) of Exchange Rule 404, Series of Option Contracts Open for Trading, to permit Monday and Wednesday expirations for options listed pursuant to the Short Term Options Series Program (“Program”) on QQQ.

A Short Term Options Series is a series in an option class that is approved for listing and trading on the Exchange in which the series is opened for trading on any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday that is a business day and that expires on the Monday, Wednesday or Friday of the next business week, or, in the case of a series that is listed on a Friday and expires on a Monday, is listed one business week and one business day prior to that expiration.³ The Exchange is proposing to amend Policy .02 of Exchange Rule 404 to permit the listing of options series that expire on Mondays and Wednesdays in QQQ.

Monday Expirations

As proposed, with respect to Monday QQQ Expirations within Policy .02, the Exchange may open for trading on any Friday or Monday that is a business day series of options on QQQ

³ See Exchange Rulebook, as of Apr. 13, 2021, Rule 100, Definitions, of “Short Term Options Series,” available at: https://www.miaxoptions.com/sites/default/files/page-files/MIAX_Pearl_Exchange_Rules_04132021.pdf.

to expire on any Monday of the month that is a business day and is not a Monday in which Quarterly Options Series on the same class expire (“Monday QQQ Expirations”), provided that Monday QQQ Expirations that are listed on a Friday must be listed at least one business week and one business day prior to the expiration. The Exchange may list up to five consecutive Monday QQQ Expirations at one time; the Exchange may have no more than a total of five Monday QQQ Expirations.

Wednesday Expirations

As proposed, with respect to Wednesday QQQ Expirations within Policy .02, the Exchange may open for trading on any Tuesday or Wednesday that is a business day series of options on QQQ to expire on any Wednesday of the month that is a business day and is not a Wednesday in which Quarterly Options Series on the same class expire (“Wednesday QQQ Expirations”). The Exchange may list up to five consecutive Wednesday QQQ Expirations at one time; the Exchange may have no more than a total of five Wednesday QQQ Expirations.

Monday and Wednesday Expirations

The interval between strike prices for the proposed Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations will be the same as those for the current Short Term Option Series for Wednesday and Friday expirations applicable to the Program.⁴ Specifically, the Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations will have a \$0.50 strike interval minimum.⁵ As is the case with other equity options series listed pursuant to the Program, the Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations series will be P.M.-settled.

Pursuant to Rule 100,⁶ with respect to the Program, if Monday is not a business day the

⁴ See Policy .02(e) of Exchange Rule 404.

⁵ Id.

⁶ Rule 100, Definition of “Short Term Option Series.”

series shall expire on the first business day immediately following that Monday. This procedure differs from the expiration date of Wednesday expiration series that are scheduled to expire on a holiday. Pursuant to Rule 100,⁷ a Wednesday expiration series shall expire on the first business day immediately prior to that Wednesday, e.g., Tuesday of that week, if the Wednesday is not a business day. For purposes of QQQ, however, the Exchange believes that it is preferable to require Monday expiration series in this scenario to expire on the Tuesday of that week rather than the previous business day, e.g., the previous Friday, since the Tuesday is closer in time to the scheduled expiration date of the series than the previous Friday, and therefore may be more representative of anticipated market conditions. Nasdaq PHLX LLC (“Phlx”) uses the same procedure for QQQ with Monday and Wednesday expirations.⁸ Nasdaq Phlx⁹ and Nasdaq ISE, LLC (“ISE”)¹⁰ also use the same procedure for options on the Nasdaq-100[®] (“NSX”) with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Programs, respectively. Cboe Exchange, Inc. (“Cboe”) uses the same procedure for options on the S&P 500 index (“SPX”) with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program and that are scheduled to expire on a holiday.¹¹

⁷ Id.

⁸ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 91238 (March 2, 2021), 86 FR 13404 (March 8, 2021) (SR-Phlx-2021-10).

⁹ See Phlx Options 4A, Section 12(b)(5).

¹⁰ See ISE Supplementary Material .07 to Options 4A, Section 12.

¹¹ See Cboe Rule 4.13(e)(1) “...If the Exchange is not open for business on a respective Monday, the normally Monday expiring Weekly Expirations will expire on the following business day. If the Exchange is not open for business on a respective Wednesday or Friday, the normally Wednesday or Friday expiring Weekly Expirations will expire on the previous business day.”

Currently, for each option class eligible for participation in the Program, the Exchange is limited to opening thirty (30) series for each expiration date for the specific class.¹² The thirty (30) series restriction does not include series that are open by other securities exchanges under their respective short term options rules; the Exchange may list these additional series that are listed by other exchanges.¹³ This thirty (30) series restriction would apply to Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expiration series as well. In addition, the Exchange will be able to list series that are listed by other exchanges, assuming they file similar rules with the Commission to list QQQ options expiring on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Finally, the Exchange is amending Policy .02(b) to Rule 404, which addresses the listing of Short Term Options Series that expire in the same week as monthly or quarterly options series. Currently, that rule states that no Short Term Option Series may expire in the same week in which monthly option series on the same class expire (with the exception of Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations) or, in the case of Quarterly Options Series, on an expiration that coincides with an expiration of Quarterly Options Series on the same class.¹⁴ As with Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations, the Exchange is proposing to permit Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations to expire in the same week as monthly options series on the same class. The Exchange believes that it is reasonable to extend this exemption to Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations because Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations and standard monthly options will not expire on the same trading day, as standard monthly options expire on Fridays. Additionally, the Exchange believes that not listing Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations

¹² See Policy .02 of Exchange Rule 404.

¹³ Supra note 12.

¹⁴ See Policy .02(b) of Exchange Rule 404.

for one week every month because there was a monthly QQQ expiration on the Friday of that week would create investor confusion.

The Exchange does not believe that any market disruptions will be encountered with the introduction of P.M.-settled Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations. The Exchange has the necessary capacity and surveillance programs in place to support and properly monitor trading in the proposed Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations. The Exchange currently trades P.M.-settled Short Term Option Series that expire Monday and Wednesday for SPY and has not experienced any market disruptions nor issues with capacity. The Exchange currently has surveillance programs in place to support and properly monitor trading in Short Term Option Series that expire Monday and Wednesday for SPY.

Similar to SPY, the introduction of Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations will, among other things, expand hedging tools available to market participants and continue the reduction of the premium cost of buying protection. The Exchange believes that Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations will allow market participants to purchase QQQ based on their timing as needed and allow them to tailor their investment and hedging needs more effectively.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act¹⁵ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act¹⁶ 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 facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanisms of a

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The proposed rule change is intended to provide the investing public and other market participants more flexibility to closely tailor their investment and hedging decisions in QQQ options, thus allowing them to better manage their risk exposure.

In particular, the Exchange believes the Program has been successful to date and that Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations should simply expand the ability of investors to hedge risk against market movements stemming from economic releases or market events that occur throughout the month in the same way that the Program has expanded the landscape of hedging. Similarly, the Exchange believes Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations should create greater trading and hedging opportunities and flexibility, and will provide customers with the ability to tailor their investment objectives more effectively. The Exchange currently lists Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations.¹⁷ Also, Cboe¹⁸ currently permits Monday and Wednesday expirations for other options with a weekly expiration, such as options on the SPX pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program and Phlx¹⁹ and ISE²⁰ currently permit Monday and Wednesday expirations for other options with a weekly expiration on NDX pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Programs, respectively.

With the exception of Monday expiration series that are scheduled to expire on a holiday, there are no material differences in the treatment of Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations for Short Term Option Series. The Exchange believes that it is consistent with the Act to treat

¹⁷ Supra note 12.

¹⁸ Supra note 11.

¹⁹ Supra note 9.

²⁰ Supra note 10.

Monday expiration series that expire on a holiday differently than Wednesday or Friday expiration series, since the proposed treatment for Monday expiration series will result in an expiration date that is closer in time to the scheduled expiration date of the series, and therefore may be more representative of anticipated market conditions. Monday SPY expirations are currently treated in this manner.²¹ Cboe²² uses the same procedure for SPX options with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program and that are scheduled to expire on a holiday, as do Phlx²³ and ISE²⁴ for NDX options with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to their Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Programs, respectively.

Given the similarities between Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations and the proposed Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations, the Exchange believes that applying the provisions in Policy .02 of Exchange Rule 404 that currently apply to Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations to Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations is justified. For example, the Exchange believes that allowing Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations and monthly QQQ expirations in the same week will benefit investors and minimize investor confusion by providing Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations in a continuous and uniform manner. The Exchange also believes that it is appropriate to amend Policy .02 of Rule 404 to clarify that no Short Term Option Series may expire on the same day as an expiration of Quarterly Option Series on the same class, same as SPY.

The Exchange represents that it has an adequate surveillance program in place to detect manipulative trading in Monday and Wednesday expirations, including Monday and Wednesday

²¹ Supra note 12.

²² Supra note 11.

²³ Supra note 9.

²⁴ Supra note 10.

QQQ Expirations, in the same way that it monitors trading in the current Short Term Option Series and trading in Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations. The Exchange also represents that it has the necessary systems capacity to support the new options series. Finally, the Exchange does not believe that any market disruptions will be encountered with the introduction of Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations.

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 Exchange notes that having Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations is not a novel proposal, as Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations are currently listed on the Exchange.²⁵ Cboe²⁶ uses the same procedure for SPX options with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to its Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Program and that are scheduled to expire on a holiday, as do Phlx²⁷ and ISE²⁸ for NDX options with Monday expirations that are listed pursuant to their Nonstandard Expirations Pilot Programs, respectively.

The Exchange does not believe the proposal will impose any burden on intra-market competition, as all market participants will be treated in the same manner under this proposal. Additionally, the Exchange does not believe the proposal will impose any burden on inter-market competition, as nothing prevents the other options exchanges from proposing similar rules to list and trade Short-Term Option Series with Monday and Wednesday expirations.

²⁵ Supra note 12.

²⁶ Supra note 11.

²⁷ Supra note 9.

²⁸ Supra note 10.

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 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act²⁹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)³⁰ thereunder.

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. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule 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:

²⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

³⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

- 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:to-rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-PEARL-2021-21 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-PEARL-2021-21. 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 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 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 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-PEARL-2021-21 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.³¹

Vanessa Countryman
Secretary

³¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

EXHIBIT 5

New text is underlined;
Deleted text is in [brackets]

MIAX PEARL, LLC Rules

Rule 404. Series of Option Contracts Open for Trading

(a) - (g) No change.

Interpretations and Policies:

.01 No change.

.02 **Short Term Option Series Program.** After an option class has been approved for listing and trading on the Exchange, the Exchange may open for trading on any Thursday or Friday that is a business day (“Short Term Option Opening Date”) series of options on that class that expire at the close of business on each of the next five Fridays that are business days and are not Fridays in which monthly options series or Quarterly Options Series expire (“Short Term Option Expiration Dates”). The Exchange may have no more than a total of five Short Term Option Expiration Dates. Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations and Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations (described in the paragraphs below) are not included as part of this count. If the Exchange is not open for business on the respective Thursday or Friday, the Short Term Option Opening Date will be the first business day immediately prior to that respective Thursday or Friday. Similarly, if the Exchange is not open for business on a Friday, the Short Term Option Expiration Date will be the first business day immediately prior to that Friday.

The Exchange may open for trading on any Tuesday or Wednesday that is a business day (“Wednesday SPY Expiration Opening Date” and “Wednesday QQQ Expiration Opening Date”) series of options on the SPDR S&P 500 ETF Trust (“SPY”) and the INVESCO QQQ TrustSM, Series 1 (“QQQ”) that expire at the close of business on each of the next five Wednesdays that are business days and are not Wednesdays on which Quarterly Options Series expire (“Wednesday SPY Expirations” and “Wednesday QQQ Expirations”). The Exchange may have no more than a total of five Wednesday SPY Expirations and no more than a total of five Wednesday QQQ Expirations. Non-Wednesday SPY Expirations and Non-Wednesday QQQ Expirations (described in the paragraph above) are not included as part of this count. If the Exchange is not open for business on the respective Tuesday or Wednesday, the Wednesday SPY Expiration Opening Date and the Wednesday QQQ Expiration Opening Date will be the first business day immediately prior to that respective Tuesday or Wednesday. Similarly, if the Exchange is not open for business on a Wednesday, the expiration date for a Wednesday SPY Expiration and a Wednesday QQQ Expiration will be the first business day immediately prior to that Wednesday. References to “Short Term Option Series” below shall be read to include “Wednesday SPY Expirations” and “Wednesday QQQ Expirations,” except where indicated otherwise.

With respect to Wednesday SPY Expirations and Wednesday QQQ Expirations, the Exchange may open for trading on any Tuesday or Wednesday that is a business day series of options on the SPDR S&P 500 ETF Trust (“SPY”) and the INVESCO QQQ TrustSM, Series 1 (“QQQ”) to expire on any Wednesday of the

month that is a business day and is not a Wednesday in which Quarterly Options Series expire (“Wednesday SPY Expirations” and “Wednesday QQQ Expirations”). With respect to Monday SPY Expirations and Monday QQQ Expirations, the Exchange may open for trading on any Friday or Monday that is a business day series of options on SPY or QQQ to expire on any Monday of the month that is a business day and is not a Monday in which Quarterly Options Series expire (“Monday SPY Expirations” and “Monday QQQ Expirations”), provided that Monday SPY Expirations and Monday QQQ Expirations that are listed on Friday must be listed at least one business week and one business day prior to the expiration. The Exchange may list up to five consecutive Wednesday SPY Expirations, five consecutive Wednesday QQQ Expirations, [and] five consecutive Monday SPY Expirations, and five consecutive Monday QQQ Expirations at one time; the Exchange may have no more than a total of five Wednesday SPY Expirations, five Wednesday QQQ Expirations, [and a total of] five Monday SPY Expirations, and five Monday QQQ Expirations. Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations and Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations will be subject to the provisions of this Rule.

Regarding Short Term Option Series:

(a) **Classes.** The Exchange may select up to fifty (50) currently listed option classes in which Short Term Option Series may be opened on any Short Term Option Opening Date. In addition to the 50 option class restriction, the Exchange may also list Short Term Option Series on any option classes that are selected by other securities exchanges that employ a similar Pilot Program under their respective rules. For each option class eligible for participation in the Short Term Option Series Pilot Program, the Exchange may open up to thirty (30) Short Term Option Series for each expiration date in that class.

(b) **Expiration.** No Short Term Option Series (excluding Monday and Wednesday SPY Expirations and Monday and Wednesday QQQ Expirations) may expire in the same week in which monthly option series on the same class expires. In the case of Quarterly Options Series, no Short Term Option Series may expire on the same day as an expiration of Quarterly Options Series in the same class.

(c) **Initial Series.** The Exchange may open up to 30 initial series for each option class that participates in the Short Term Option Series Program. The strike price of each Short Term Option Series will be fixed at a price per share, with approximately the same number of strike prices above and below the value of the underlying security at about the time that Short Term Option Series are initially opened for trading on the Exchange (e.g., if seven series are initially opened, there will be at least three strike prices above and three strike prices below the value of the underlying security). Any strike prices listed by the Exchange shall be reasonably close to the price of the underlying equity security and within the following parameters: (i) if the price of the underlying security is less than or equal to \$20, strike prices shall be not more than one hundred percent (100%) above or below the price of the underlying security; and (ii) if the price of the underlying security is greater than \$20, strike prices shall be not more than fifty percent (50%) above or below the price of the underlying security.

(d) **Additional Series.** If the Exchange opens less than thirty (30) Short Term Option Series for a Short Term Option Expiration Date, additional series may be opened for trading on the Exchange when the Exchange deems it necessary to maintain an orderly market, to meet customer demand or when the market price of the underlying security moves substantially from the exercise price or prices of the series already opened. Any additional strike prices listed by the Exchange shall be reasonably close to the price of the underlying equity security and within the following parameters: (i) if the price of the underlying security is less than or equal to \$20, strike prices shall be not more than one hundred percent (100%) above or below the price of the underlying security; and (ii) if the price of the underlying security is greater than \$20, strike prices shall be not more than fifty percent (50%) above or below the price of the underlying security. The

Exchange may also open additional strike prices on Short Term Option Series that are more than 50% above or below the current price of the underlying security (if the price is greater than \$20) provided that demonstrated customer interest exists for such series, as expressed by institutional, corporate or individual customers or their brokers. Market Makers trading for their own account shall not be considered when determining customer interest under this provision. In the event that the underlying security has moved such that there are no series that are at least 10% above or below the current price of the underlying security, the Exchange will delist any series with no open interest in both the call and the put series having a: (i) strike higher than the highest strike price with open interest in the put and/or call series for a given expiration week; and (ii) strike lower than the lowest strike price with open interest in the put and/or the call series for a given expiration week. The opening of new Short Term Option Series shall not affect the series of options of the same class previously opened. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Rule 404, Short Term Option Series may be added up to and including on the Short Term Option Expiration Date for that options series.

(e) **Strike Price Interval.** The strike price interval for Short Term Option Series may be \$0.50 or greater for option classes that trade in \$1 strike price intervals and are in the Short Term Option Series Program. If the class does not trade in \$1 strike price intervals, the strike price interval for Short Term Option Series may be \$0.50 or greater where the strike price is less than \$100 and \$1.00 or greater where the strike price is between \$100 and \$150, and \$2.50 or greater for strike prices greater than \$150. A non-Short Term Option series that is included in a class that has been selected to participate in the Short Term Option Series Program is referred to as a "Related non-Short Term Option." Notwithstanding any other provision regarding strike prices in this Rule, Related non-Short Term Option series shall be opened during the month prior to expiration in the same manner as permitted in Rule 404, Interpretations and Policies .02, and in the same strike price intervals for the Short Term Option Series permitted in this Rule 404, Interpretations and Policies .02(e).
