

proposed rule change is consistent with the rules of other exchanges.<sup>9</sup>

*(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. Rather, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will result in additional investment options and opportunities to achieve the investment and trading objectives of market participants seeking efficient trading and hedging vehicles, to the benefit of investors, market participants, and the marketplace in general. Additionally, this proposed rule change seeks to match the strike setting regime for IVV, SPY, and DIA options available on other options exchanges; thus, the proposed rule change may alleviate any potential burden on competition.<sup>10</sup>

*(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: (A) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (B) impose any significant burden on competition; and (C) by its terms, become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed or such shorter time as the Commission may designate it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>11</sup> and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>12</sup> the Exchange has designated this rule filing as non-controversial. The Exchange has given the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of 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.

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: (1) Necessary or appropriate in

the public interest; (2) for the protection of investors; or (3) 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*

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-CboeEDGX-2017-005 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-CboeEDGX-2017-005. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<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. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File

Number SR-CboeEDGX-2017-005 and should be submitted on or before January 10, 2018.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>13</sup>

**Eduardo A. Aleman,**  
*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2017-27350 Filed 12-19-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**[Investment Company Act Release No. 32939; 812-14785]**

**Ausdal Financial Partners, Inc. and Ausdal Unit Investment Trust**

December 14, 2017.

**AGENCY:** Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission").

**ACTION:** Notice.

Notice of an application under (a) section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Act") for an exemption from sections 2(a)(32), 2(a)(35), 14(a), 19(b), 22(d) and 26(a)(2)(C) of the Act and rules 19b-1 and rule 22c-1 thereunder and (b) sections 11(a) and 11(c) of the Act for approval of certain exchange and rollover privileges.

*Applicants:* Ausdal Financial Partners, Inc. ("Ausdal") and Ausdal Unit Investment Trust.<sup>1</sup>

*Summary of Application:* Applicants request an order to permit certain unit investment trusts ("UIT") to: (a) impose sales charges on a deferred basis and waive the deferred sales charge in certain cases; (b) offer unitholders certain exchange and rollover options; (c) publicly offer units without requiring the Depositor to take for its own account \$100,000 worth of units; and (d) distribute capital gains resulting from the sale of portfolio securities within a reasonable time after receipt.

*Filing Dates:* The application was filed on June 20, 2017, and amended on October 27, 2017.

*Hearing or Notification of Hearing:* An order granting the requested relief will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may

<sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>1</sup> Applicants also request relief for future registered unit investment trusts (collectively, with Ausdal Unit Investment Trust, the "Trusts") and series of the Trusts ("Series") that are sponsored by Ausdal or any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with Ausdal (together with Ausdal, the "Depositor"). Any future Trust and Series that relies on the requested order will comply with the terms and conditions of the application. All existing entities that currently intend to rely on the requested order are named as applicants.

<sup>9</sup> See Box Rule IM-5050-1 and Cboe Rule 5.5.08(b).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>12</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

request a hearing by writing to the Commission's Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on January 8, 2018, and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants, in the form of an affidavit, or for lawyers, a certificate of service. Pursuant to rule 0-5 under the Act, hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, any facts bearing upon the desirability of a hearing on the matter, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Commission's Secretary.

**ADDRESSES:** Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090; Applicants, 3250 Lacey Road, Suite 130, Downers Grove, IL 60515, and Morrison C. Warren, Walter L. Draney and Suzanne M. Russell, Chapman and Cutler LLP, 111 West Monroe Street, Chicago, IL 60603.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laura L. Solomon, Senior Counsel, at (202) 551-6915, or David J. Marcinkus, Branch Chief, at (202) 551-6821 (Division of Investment Management, Chief Counsel's Office).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained via the Commission's website by searching for the file number, or an applicant using the Company name box, at <http://www.sec.gov/search/search.htm> or by calling (202) 551-8090.

*Applicants' Representations:*

1. Ausdal Unit Investment Trust and any future Trust will be a UIT registered under the Act. Ausdal, an Iowa corporation, is registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as a broker-dealer and will be the Depositor of Ausdal Unit Investment Trust. Each Series will be created by a trust indenture between the Depositor and a banking institution or trust company as trustee.

2. The Depositor acquires a portfolio of securities, which it deposits with the series trustee ("Trustee") in exchange for certificates representing units of fractional undivided interest in the Series' portfolio ("Units"). The Units are offered to the public through the Depositor and dealers at a price which, during the initial offering period, is based upon the aggregate market value of the underlying securities, or, the aggregate offering side evaluation of the underlying securities if the underlying securities are not listed on a securities

exchange, plus a front-end sales charge, a deferred sales charge or both. The maximum sales charge may be reduced in compliance with rule 22d-1 under the Act in certain circumstances, which are disclosed in the Series' prospectus.

3. The Depositor may, but is not legally obligated to, maintain a secondary market for Units of an outstanding Series. Other broker-dealers may or may not maintain a secondary market for Units of a Series. If a secondary market is maintained, investors will be able to purchase Units on the secondary market at the current public offering price plus a front-end sales charge. If such a market is not maintained at any time for any Series, holders of the Units ("Unitholders") of that Series may redeem their Units through the Trustee.

*A. Deferred Sales Charge and Waiver of Deferred Sales Charge Under Certain Circumstances*

1. Applicants request an order to the extent necessary to permit one or more Series to impose a sales charge on a deferred basis ("DSC"). For each Series, the Depositor would set a maximum sales charge per Unit, a portion of which may be collected "up front" (i.e., at the time an investor purchases the Units). The DSC would be collected subsequently in installments ("Installment Payments") as described in the application. The Depositor would not add any amount for interest or any similar or related charge to adjust for such deferral.

2. When a Unitholder redeems or sells Units, the Depositor intends to deduct any unpaid DSC from the redemption or sale proceeds. When calculating the amount due, the Depositor will assume that Units on which the DSC has been paid in full are redeemed or sold first. With respect to Units on which the DSC has not been paid in full, the Depositor will assume that the Units held for the longest time are redeemed or sold first. Applicants represent that the DSC collected at the time of redemption or sale, together with the Installment Payments and any amount collected up front, will not exceed the maximum sales charge per Unit. Under certain circumstances, the Depositor may waive the collection of any unpaid DSC in connection with redemptions or sales of Units. These circumstances will be disclosed in the prospectus for the relevant Series and implemented in accordance with rule 22d-1 under the Act.

3. Each Series offering Units subject to a DSC will state the maximum charge per Unit in its prospectus. In addition, the prospectus for such Series will

include the table required by Form N-1A (modified as appropriate to reflect the difference between UITs and open-end management investment companies) and a schedule setting forth the number and date of each Installment Payment, along with the duration of the collection period. The prospectus also will disclose that portfolio securities may be sold to pay the DSC if distribution income is insufficient and that securities will be sold pro rata, if practicable, otherwise a specific security will be designated for sale.

*B. Exchange Option and Rollover Option*

1. Applicants request an order to the extent necessary to permit Unitholders of a Series to exchange their Units for Units of another Series ("Exchange Option") and Unitholders of a Series that is terminating to exchange their Units for Units of a new Series of the same type ("Rollover Option"). The Exchange Option and Rollover Option would apply to all exchanges of Units sold with a front-end sales charge, a DSC or both.

2. A Unitholder who purchases Units under the Exchange Option or Rollover Option would pay a lower sales charge than that which would be paid for the Units by a new investor. The reduced sales charge will be reasonably related to the expenses incurred in connection with the administration of the DSC program, which may include an amount that will fairly and adequately compensate the Depositor and participating underwriters and brokers for their services in providing the DSC program.

*Applicants' Legal Analysis:*

*A. DSC and Waiver of DSC*

1. Section 4(2) of the Act defines a "unit investment trust" as an investment company that issues only redeemable securities. Section 2(a)(32) of the Act defines a "redeemable security" as a security that, upon its presentation to the issuer, entitles the holder to receive approximately his or her proportionate share of the issuer's current net assets or the cash equivalent of those assets. Rule 22c-1 under the Act requires that the price of a redeemable security issued by a registered investment company for purposes of sale, redemption or repurchase be based on the security's current net asset value ("NAV"). Because the collection of any unpaid DSC may cause a redeeming Unitholder to receive an amount less than the NAV of the redeemed Units, applicants request relief from section 2(a)(32) and rule 22c-1.

2. Section 22(d) of the Act and rule 22d-1 under the Act require a registered investment company and its principal underwriter and dealers to sell securities only at the current public offering price described in the investment company's prospectus, with the exception of sales of redeemable securities at prices that reflect scheduled variations in the sales load. Section 2(a)(35) of the Act defines the term "sales load" as the difference between the sales price and the portion of the proceeds invested by the depositor or trustee. Applicants request relief from section 2(a)(35) and section 22(d) to permit waivers, deferrals or other scheduled variations of the sales load.

3. Under section 6(c) of the Act, the Commission may exempt classes of transactions, if and to the extent that such exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act. Applicants state that their proposal meets the standards of section 6(c). Applicants state that the provisions of section 22(d) are intended to prevent (a) riskless trading in investment company securities due to backward pricing, (b) disruption of orderly distribution by dealers selling shares at a discount, and (c) discrimination among investors resulting from different prices charged to different investors. Applicants assert that the proposed DSC program will present none of these abuses. Applicants further state that all scheduled variations in the sales load will be disclosed in the prospectus of each Series and applied uniformly to all investors, and that applicants will comply with all the conditions set forth in rule 22d-1.

4. Section 26(a)(2)(C) of the Act, in relevant part, prohibits a trustee or custodian of a UIT from collecting from the trust as an expense any payment to the trust's depositor or principal underwriter. Because the Trustee's payment of the DSC to the Depositor may be deemed to be an expense under section 26(a)(2)(C), applicants request relief under section 6(c) from section 26(a)(2)(C) to the extent necessary to permit the Trustee to collect Installment Payments and disburse them to the Depositor. Applicants submit that the relief is appropriate because the DSC is more properly characterized as a sales load.

#### *B. Exchange Option and Rollover Option*

1. Sections 11(a) and 11(c) of the Act prohibit any offer of exchange by a UIT

for the securities of another investment company unless the terms of the offer have been approved in advance by the Commission. Applicants request an order under sections 11(a) and 11(c) for Commission approval of the Exchange Option and the Rollover Option.

#### *C. Net Worth Requirement*

1. Section 14(a) of the Act requires that a registered investment company have \$100,000 of net worth prior to making a public offering. Applicants state that each Series will comply with this requirement because the Depositor will deposit more than \$100,000 of securities. Applicants assert, however, that the Commission has interpreted section 14(a) as requiring that the initial capital investment in an investment company be made without any intention to dispose of the investment. Applicants state that, under this interpretation, a Series would not satisfy section 14(a) because of the Depositor's intention to sell all the Units of the Series.

2. Rule 14a-3 under the Act exempts UITs from section 14(a) if certain conditions are met, one of which is that the UIT invest only in "eligible trust securities," as defined in the rule. Applicants state that they may not rely on rule 14a-3 because certain Series (collectively, "Structured Series") will invest all or a portion of their assets in equity securities, certain debt securities, shares of registered investment companies, Flexible Exchange® Options ("FLEX Options"),<sup>2</sup> or other assets which do not satisfy the definition of eligible trust securities.

3. Applicants request an exemption under section 6(c) of the Act to the extent necessary to exempt the Structured Series from the net worth requirement in section 14(a). Applicants state that the Series and the Depositor will comply in all respects with the requirements of rule 14a-3, except that the Structured Series will not restrict their portfolio investments to "eligible trust securities."

#### *D. Capital Gains Distribution*

1. Section 19(b) of the Act and rule 19b-1 under the Act provide that, except under limited circumstances, no registered investment company may distribute long-term gains more than once every twelve months. Rule 19b-1(c), under certain circumstances,

<sup>2</sup> Applicants state that a Structured Series will invest in FLEX Options with expiration dates that coincide with the Structured Series' maturity date and any relief granted from the provisions of sections 14(a) and 19(b) of the Act and rule 19b-1 under the Act included in the requested order will not extend to any Series that intends to hold a derivative security other than FLEX Options.

exempts a UIT investing in eligible trust securities (as defined in rule 14a-3) from the requirements of rule 19b-1. Because the Structured Series do not limit their investments to eligible trust securities, however, the Structured Series will not qualify for the exemption in paragraph (c) of rule 19b-1. Applicants therefore request an exemption under section 6(c) from section 19(b) and rule 19b-1 to the extent necessary to permit capital gains earned in connection with the sale of portfolio securities to be distributed to Unitholders along with the Structured Series' regular distributions. In all other respects, applicants will comply with section 19(b) and rule 19b-1.

2. Applicants state that their proposal meets the standards of section 6(c). Applicants assert that any sale of portfolio securities would be triggered by the need to meet Trust expenses, Installment Payments, or by redemption requests, events over which the Depositor and the Structured Series do not have control. Applicants further state that, because principal distributions must be clearly indicated in accompanying reports to Unitholders as a return of principal and will be relatively small in comparison to normal dividend distributions, there is little danger of confusion from failure to differentiate among distributions.

#### *Applicants' Conditions:*

Applicants agree that any order granting the requested relief will be subject to the following conditions:

#### *A. DSC Relief and Exchange and Rollover Options*

1. Whenever the Exchange Option or Rollover Option is to be terminated or its terms are to be amended materially, any holder of a security subject to that privilege will be given prominent notice of the impending termination or amendment at least 60 days prior to the date of termination or the effective date of the amendment, provided that: (a) No such notice need be given if the only material effect of an amendment is to reduce or eliminate the sales charge payable at the time of an exchange, to add one or more new Series eligible for the Exchange Option or the Rollover Option, or to delete a Series which has terminated; and (b) no notice need be given if, under extraordinary circumstances, either (i) there is a suspension of the redemption of Units of the Series under section 22(e) of the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, or (ii) a Series temporarily delays or ceases the sale of its Units because it is unable to invest amounts effectively in accordance with

applicable investment objectives, policies and restrictions.

2. An investor who purchases Units under the Exchange Option or Rollover Option will pay a lower sales charge than that which would be paid for the Units by a new investor.

3. The prospectus of each Series offering exchanges or rollovers and any sales literature or advertising that mentions the existence of the Exchange Option or Rollover Option will disclose that the Exchange Option and the Rollover Option are subject to modification, termination or suspension without notice, except in certain limited cases.

4. Any DSC imposed on a Series' Units will comply with the requirements of subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) of rule 6c-10(a) under the Act.

5. Each Series offering Units subject to a DSC will include in its prospectus the disclosure required by Form N-1A relating to deferred sales charges (modified as appropriate to reflect the differences between UITs and open-end management investment companies) and a schedule setting forth the number and date of each Installment Payment.

#### *B. Net Worth Requirement*

Applicants will comply in all respects with the requirements of rule 14a-3 under the Act, except that the Structured Series will not restrict their portfolio investments to "eligible trust securities."

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

**Eduardo A. Aleman,**  
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-27337 Filed 12-19-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-82327; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2017-129]

### **Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Amend Rule 4120 (Limit Up-Limit Down Plan and Trading Halts) To Reduce the Length of the "Display-Only Period" for the Initial Pricing on Nasdaq of a Security That Is the Subject of an Initial Public Offering**

December 14, 2017.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

("Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on December 8, 2017, The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II, 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 Rule 4120 (Limit Up-Limit Down Plan and Trading Halts)<sup>3</sup> to reduce the length of the "Display-Only Period" for the initial pricing on Nasdaq of a security that is the subject of an initial public offering ("IPO").

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at <http://nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com>, at the principal office of the Exchange, 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**

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 purpose of this proposal is to amend Rule 4120 (Limit Up-Limit Down Plan and Trading Halts) to reduce the length of the Display-Only Period for the initial pricing on Nasdaq of a security that is the subject of an IPO from 15 minutes to 10 minutes. In all other respects, the process for conducting the initial pricing of an IPO security will remain unchanged.

Initial pricing of an IPO security on Nasdaq occurs by means of the IPO Halt

Cross provided for in Rule 4753. Prior to the IPO Halt Cross, trading in the security is halted, pursuant to Rule 4120(a)(7), until such time as the conditions in Rule 4120(c)(8) are satisfied and Nasdaq releases the security for trading. Market participants may enter orders in the security for participation in the IPO Halt Cross beginning at 4:00 a.m. As the scheduled time for the IPO Halt Cross approaches, the security enters a Display-Only Period during which indicative information about the potential outcome of the IPO Halt Cross is displayed to market participants and during which market participants may continue to enter orders.

After the conclusion of the Display-Only Period, the security enters a "Pre-Launch Period" of indeterminate duration, during which indicative information continues to be disseminated.<sup>4</sup> The Pre-Launch Period ends and the security is released for trading by Nasdaq when the conditions described in paragraphs (c)(8)(A)(i), (ii), and (iii) of Rule 4120 are all met:

- Nasdaq receives notice from the underwriter of the IPO that the security is ready to trade. The Nasdaq system then calculates the Current Reference Price at that time (the "Expected Price") and displays it to the underwriter. If the underwriter then approves proceeding, the Nasdaq system will conduct two pricing validation checks.

- First, the Nasdaq system must determine that all market orders will be executed in the IPO Halt Cross; and

- Second, if the actual price calculated by the IPO Halt Cross differs from the Expected Price by an amount in excess of a price band previously selected by the underwriter, the security will not be released for trading and the Pre-Launch Period will continue.

The failure to satisfy these conditions during the process to release the security for trading will result in a delay of the release for trading of the IPO security, and a continuation of the Pre-Launch Period, until all conditions have been satisfied. Market participants may continue to enter orders and order cancellations for participation in the IPO Halt Cross during the Pre-Launch Period up to the point that the IPO Halt Cross auction process commences.

Based on feedback from underwriters participating in the IPO process, Nasdaq is proposing to reduce the time of the Display-Only Period from 15 minutes to 10 minutes. As discussed above, market participants may begin entering orders in an IPO security at 4:00 a.m., while the initial pricing of IPOs occurs no

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

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

<sup>3</sup> References to rules are to Nasdaq rules, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>4</sup> Nasdaq Rule 4753(b)(1).