

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-47361; File No. SR-Amex-2003-04]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the American Stock Exchange LLC To Extend the Suspension of Exchange Transaction Charges for Certain Exchange-Traded Funds

February 13, 2003.

Pursuant to 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 February 3, 2003, the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "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.

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

The Amex proposes to extend until February 28, 2003 the suspension of Exchange transaction charges for specialist, Registered Trader and broker-dealer orders for the iShares Lehman 1-3 year Treasury Bond Fund; iShares Lehman 7-10 year Treasury Bond Fund; Treasury 10 FITR ETF; Treasury 5 FITR ETF; Treasury 2 FITR ETF; and Treasury 1 FITR ETF. Proposed new language is *italicized*; proposed deletions are in [brackets].

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Amex Equity Fee Schedule

I. Transaction Charges

No change.

II. Regulatory Fee

No Change.

Notes:

1. and 2. No change.

3. Customer transaction charges for the following Portfolio Depositary Receipts, Index Fund Shares, and Trust Issued Receipts have been suspended:

DIA—DIAMONDS®

QQQ—Nasdaq-100® Index Tracking Stock

SPY—SPDRs®

IVV—iShares S&P 500

MDY—MidCap SPDRs

XLY—Select Sector SPDR—Consumer Discretionary

XLP—Select Sector SPDR—Consumer Staples

XLE—Select Sector SPDR—Energy

XLF—Select Sector SPDR—Financial

XLV—Select Sector SPDR—Health Care

XLI—Select Sector SPDR—Industrial

XLB—Select Sector SPDR—Materials

XLK—Select Sector SPDR—Technology

XLU—Select Sector SPDR—Utilities

BHH—B2B Internet HOLDERS™

BBH—Biotech HOLDERS

BDH—Broadband HOLDERS

EKH—Europe 2001 HOLDERS

IAH—Internet Architecture HOLDERS

HHH—Internet HOLDERS

IIH—Internet Infrastructure HOLDERS

MKH—Market 2000+ HOLDERS

OIH—Oil Service HOLDERS

PPH—Pharmaceutical HOLDERS

RKH—Regional Bank HOLDERS

RTH—Retail HOLDERS

SMH—Semiconductor HOLDERS

SWH—Software HOLDER

TTH—Telecom HOLDERS

UTH—Utilities HOLDERS

WMH—Wireless HOLDERS

SHY—iShares Lehman 1-3 Year Treasury Bond Fund

IEF—iShares Lehman 7-10 Year Treasury Bond Fund

TLT—iShares Lehman 20+ Year Treasury Bond Fund

LQD—iShares GS \$ InvesTop Corporate Bond Fund

TFT—Treasury 1 FITR ETF

TOU—Treasury 2 FITR ETF

TFI—Treasury 5 FITR ETF

TTE—Treasury 10 FITR ETF

Until [January 31] *February 28*, 2003, transaction charges also have been suspended in SHY, IEF, TFT, TOU, TFI and TTE for specialist, Registered Trader and broker dealer orders.

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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 Amex 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 is extending until February 28, 2003 the suspension of

transaction charges in iShares Lehman 1-3 year Treasury Bond Fund (Symbol: SHY); iShares Lehman 7-10 year Treasury Bond Fund (Symbol: IEF); Treasury 10 FITR ETF (Symbol: TTE); Treasury 5 FITR ETF (TFI); Treasury 2 FITR ETF (TOU); and Treasury 1 FITR ETF (TFT) for specialist, Registered Trader and broker-dealer orders. The Exchange previously filed a suspension in such charges until November 30, 2002,³ December 13, 2002,⁴ and January 31, 2003.⁵

The Exchange believes a suspension of fees for these securities is appropriate to enhance the competitiveness of executions in these securities on the Amex. The Exchange will reassess the fee suspension as appropriate, and will file any modification to the fee suspension with the Commission pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the 1934 Act.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act⁶ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4)⁷ in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its members and other persons using its facilities.

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.

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

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁸ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)⁹ thereunder because the proposal: (i) Does not significantly affect the

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 46765 (November 1, 2002), 67 FR 68893 (November 13, 2002) (SR-Amex-2002-91).

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 46996 (December 13, 2002), 67 FR 78264 (December 23, 2002) (SR-Amex-2002-98).

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 47141 (January 8, 2003), 68 FR 2090 (January 15, 2003) (SR-Amex-2002-115).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of filing or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest; provided that the Exchange has given the Commission 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 short time as designated by the Commission. At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate 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.

The Amex has requested that the Commission waive the five-day pre-filing notice and the 30-day operative delay. The Commission believes that waiving the five-day pre-filing notice and the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Commission notes that fee suspensions for the exchange-trade funds that are the subject of this filing have been previously filed with the Commission.¹⁰ Further, extension of the fee suspension for specialist, Registered Trader, and broker-dealer orders will permit the fee suspensions to continue uninterrupted. For these reasons, the Commission designates the proposal to be effective and operative upon filing with the Commission.¹¹

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. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. 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 inspection and copying at the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-Amex-2003-04 and should be submitted by March 14, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹²

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-47365; File No. SR-DTC-2003-02]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; the Depository Trust Company; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Concerning Requests for Withdrawal of Certificates by Issuers

February 13, 2003.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ notice is hereby given that on February 3, 2003, The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") and on February 11, 2003, amended the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which items have been prepared primarily by the DTC. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested parties.

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

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to clarify that DTC will only honor requests for withdrawal of certificates submitted by its participants and not by the issuer of the securities.

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

In its filing with the Commission, DTC 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 DTC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.²

(A) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

Recently a number of issuers of securities have requested that DTC exit from the depository all securities of their issues ("Issuer Withdrawal Request" or "Issuer Withdrawal Requests"). The issuers have also advised DTC that they will refuse to reregister any securities into the name of DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co. These issuers have no legal or beneficial interest in the securities they are requesting to be exited from DTC. The securities at issue generally became eligible for DTC services at the request, or for the convenience, of DTC's participants who wish to utilize DTC's book-entry transfer system. The subject securities are held by DTC for the benefit of its participants.

DTC's current rules and procedures permit participants to submit withdrawal requests if they wish to withdraw their securities from DTC. However, DTC's current rules and procedures do not provide for DTC to comply with an Issuer Withdrawal Request without participants' instructions. Through the proposed rule filing, DTC is seeking to clarify the procedures that it will follow upon receiving an Issuer Withdrawal Request. Upon receipt of an Issuer Withdrawal Request, DTC will, among other things:

- Issue an "Important Notice" notifying participants of the receipt of the Issuer Withdrawal Request and reminding participants that they can utilize DTC withdrawal procedures if they wish to withdraw their securities from DTC.

- Notify the transfer agent for the issuer that failure to reregister certificates pursuant to DTC's instructions is a violation of the transfer agent's obligations under, among other things, DTC's rule and procedures, such as DTC's Operational Arrangements.

- Process in the ordinary course of business withdrawal requests submitted by participants and refuse to effectuate withdrawals based upon the Issuer Withdrawal Request.

Since this is a clarification of DTC's rules and procedures, DTC will

¹⁰ See *supra* notes 3, 4, and 5.

¹¹ For purposes only of accelerating the operative date of this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² The Commission has modified the text of the summaries prepared by the DTC.