

the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposal 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 in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Association. All submissions should refer to file number SR-NASD-2003-120 and should be submitted by September 4, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁴

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48305; File No. SR-NASD-2003-99]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Order Granting Approval of Proposed Rule Change by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. To Amend Rule 6260 Regarding New Issue Notification Procedures for TRACE-Eligible Securities

August 8, 2003.

On June 19, 2003, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4

thereunder,² a proposed rule change to amend Rule 6260 of NASD's Trade Reporting and Compliance Engine ("TRACE") rules. Specifically, NASD is proposing to amend Rule 6260(a) and (b) to require members to provide additional, descriptive information in the notice that is sent to NASD that identifies the basic terms of a new TRACE-eligible security ("new issue notification"), and to provide the information required in Rule 6260(b) by email or facsimile. The proposal requires the managing underwriter of any newly issued TRACE-eligible security to provide to the TRACE Operations Center information, as determined by NASD, that is required to determine if a TRACE-eligible security must be disseminated under Rule 6250 (e.g., size of issue and rating). Notice of the proposed rule change, including a discussion of the proposal in greater detail, was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on July 8, 2003.³ The Commission received no comments regarding the proposal.

After careful consideration, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder applicable to a registered securities association and, in particular, with the requirements of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act.⁴ Specifically, the Commission finds that approval of the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and in general, to protect investors and the public interest.⁵

The Commission believes that requiring NASD members to provide additional information about new TRACE-eligible securities is necessary for NASD to determine if those new securities are subject to dissemination, and that requiring that new issue information be provided by email or facsimile will provide NASD with written records about TRACE-eligible securities. The Commission also believes that the proposed rule change will improve the operation of TRACE which provides price transparency and provides regulators with heightened capabilities to regulate and provide surveillance of the debt securities

markets to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices. For the reasons discussed above, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁶ that the proposed rule change (SR-NASD-2003-99), be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁷

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-20769 Filed 8-13-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

[Public Notice 4442]

Notice: Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Requirement for all FY-2004 ECA Grants and Cooperative Agreements

SUMMARY: This announcement applies to all ECA Requests for Grant Proposals (RFGP) currently published in the **Federal Register**. An Office of Management and Budget (OMB) policy directive published in the **Federal Register** on Friday, June 27, 2003, requires that all organizations applying for Federal grants or cooperative agreements must provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number when applying for all Federal grants or cooperative agreements on or after October 1, 2003. This identifier will be used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point of contract information. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or by applying online at this address: http://www.dnb.com/us/duns_update/.

To comply with this directive, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) requests that all organizations submitting proposals for grants with a start date on or after October 1, 2003 include a DUNS number with each grant application. Please write in the DUNS number in box number five, next to the Employer Identification Number (EIN) on the ECA "Assistance Award Proposal Cover Sheet" contained in the Bureau's

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 48113 (June 30, 2003), 68 FR 40727.

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

⁵ In approving this proposed rule change, the Commission has considered the proposal's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) application package.

OMB is currently in the process of revising the Application for Federal Assistance Form (SF-424) to include a space for inclusion of the applicant's DUNS number. This revised SF-424 will eventually replace ECA's current "Assistance Award Proposal Cover Sheet" and will be incorporated into the PSI.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For a list of currently published grant announcements, please visit ECA's Web site at <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/rfgps/>. The complete OMB policy directive can be referenced at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/062703_grant_identifier.pdf.

Dated: August 7, 2003.

C. Miller Crouch,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 03-20750 Filed 8-13-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4408]

Shipping Coordinating Committee; Notice of Meeting

The U.S. Shipping Coordinating Committee (SHC), Maritime Law Subcommittee, will conduct an open meeting at 10 a.m. on Monday, October 6, 2003 in Room 2415 at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC. The purpose of this meeting is to prepare for the Eighty-Seventh Session of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Legal Committee (LEG 87) scheduled from October 13, to October 17, 2003.

The provisional LEG 87 agenda calls for the Legal Committee to examine the draft Wreck Removal Convention. Also the Committee will review the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988, and its Protocol of 1988 relating to Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (SUA Convention and Protocol). To be addressed as well is the Provision of Financial Security which includes a progress report on the work of the Joint IMP/ILO Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on Liability and Compensation regarding claims for Death, Personal Injury and Abandonment of Seafarers; and includes follow-up resolutions adopted by the International Conference on the Revision of the Athens Convention relating to the Carriage of

Passengers and their Luggage by Sea, 1974. The Legal Committee will examine places of refuge, treatment of persons rescued at sea, the code of practice for the investigation of crimes of piracy and armed robbery at sea; as well as measures to protect crews and passengers against crimes committed on vessels. Also on the agenda is monitoring the implementation of the HNS Convention; review of the status of Conventions and other treaty instruments adopted as a result of the work of the Legal Committee, matters arising from the ninetieth session of the Council, work programme and long-term work plans, and technical co-operation (subprogramme for maritime legislation). Additionally, the provisional LEG 87 agenda allots time to address any other issues that may arise on the Legal Committee's work program.

Members of the public are invited to attend the SHC subcommittee meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. To facilitate the building security process, those who plan to attend should call or send an e-mail two days before the meeting. Upon request, participating by phone may be an option. For further information please contact Captain Joseph F. Ahern or Lieutenant Martha Rodriguez, at U.S. Coast Guard, Office of Maritime and International Law (G-LMI), 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001; e-mail cleonardcho@comdt.uscg.mil, telephone (202) 267-1527; fax (202) 267-4496.

Dated: July 31, 2003.

Frederick J. Kenney,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 03-20749 Filed 8-13-03; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA); Notice Regarding the 2003 Annual Review

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the 2003 Annual Review of the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA). The deadline for the submission of petitions for the 2003 Annual ATPA Review is September 15, 2003. USTR will publish a list of petitions filed in response to this announcement in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Submit petitions by electronic mail (e-mail) to FR0088@ustr.gov. If unable to submit petitions by e-mail, contact the Office of the Americas, Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), 600 17th St., NW., Washington, DC 20508, at (202) 395-5190.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bennett M. Harman, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Latin America, Office of the Americas, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th St., NW., Washington, DC 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-5190 and the facsimile number is (202) 395-9675.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The ATPA (19 U.S.C. 3201-06), as renewed and amended by the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA) in the Trade Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-210), provides for trade benefits for eligible Andean countries. Consistent with Section 3103(d) of the ATPDEA, USTR promulgated regulations (15 CFR part 2016) (68 FR 43922) regarding the review of eligibility of articles and countries for the benefits of the ATPA as amended. The 2003 Annual ATPA Review is the first such review to be conducted pursuant to the ATPA regulations.

To qualify for the benefits of the ATPA and ATPDEA, each country must meet several eligibility criteria, as set forth in sections 203(c) and (d), and section 204(b)(6)(B) of the ATPA as amended (19 U.S.C. 3202(c), (d); 19 U.S.C. 3203(b)(6)(B)), and as outlined in the **Federal Register** notice USTR published to request public comment regarding the designation of eligible countries as ATPDEA beneficiary countries (67 FR 53379). Under section 203(e) of the ATPA as amended (19 U.S.C. 3202(e)), the President may withdraw or suspend the designation of any country as a beneficiary country, and may also withdraw, suspend, or limit preferential treatment for any product of any beneficiary country, if the President determines that, as a result of changed circumstances, the country is not meeting the eligibility criteria.

The ATPA regulations provide the schedule of dates for conducting an annual review, unless otherwise specified by **Federal Register** notice. Notice is hereby given that, in order to be considered in the 2003 Annual ATPA Review, all petitions to withdraw or suspend the designation of a country as an ATPA or ATPDEA beneficiary country, or to withdraw, suspend, or limit application of preferential treatment to any article of any ATPA country under the ATPA, or to any