

any time within sixty days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission could have summarily abrogated such rule change if it appeared to the Commission that such action was necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for 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 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. Comments may also be submitted electronically at the following e-mail address: rule-comments@sec.gov. All comment letters should refer to File No. SR-DTC-2002-17. 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, comments should be sent in hardcopy or by e-mail but not by both methods. 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 Section, 450 Fifth Street NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of DTC and on DTC's Web site at <http://www.dtc.org/impNtc/mor/index.html>. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-DTC-2002-17 and should be submitted by January 6, 2004.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁸

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48892; File No. SR-ISE-2003-34]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 Thereto by the International Securities Exchange, Inc. Relating to Firm Quotations

December 8, 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 November 20, 2003, the International Securities Exchange, Inc. ("ISE" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The ISE submitted Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change on December 3, 2003.³ The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change, as amended, from interested persons.

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

The ISE is proposing to amend its rules governing firm quotations. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Office of the Secretary, ISE and at the Commission.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the 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.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ See letter from Michael Simon, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, ISE, to Nancy Sanow, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, dated December 2, 2003. In Amendment No. 1, ISE corrects an error in the second sentence of the rule text of the original filing. Specifically, Amendment No. 1 deletes the reference to "Order Execution Size"—a term no longer used in the rule—and substitutes the term "a bid or offer."

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of this proposed rule change is to require ISE market makers to be firm for the stated size of their quotations in all instances. Earlier this year, the Exchange moved to "one size" for market maker quotations.⁴ As now in effect, a market maker's disseminated quotation is firm at its stated size for all incoming orders. However, there currently is one exception to the "one size" rule: when quotes of two ISE market makers interact, a market maker can limit its exposure to one contract, regardless of the size of its disseminated quotation. This proposed rule change will remove that exception.

The ISE originally proposed the limited exception to the one-size rule to help limit market makers' risk during the transition to one size. Because quotations often change across multiple series in an options class, a market maker could be at risk when multiple quotes "hit" the quotes of other market makers and multiple trades occur. At the time the ISE moved to one size, the Commission granted the ISE an exemption from the firm quote rule⁵ to permit market makers to limit their exposure in this limited situation.⁶ ISE market makers have now operated under the one-size rule for almost a year, and have grown increasingly comfortable with the rule. As a general matter, both the ISE and its market makers believe that all market maker quotations should be firm for the full size in all situations. Thus, the ISE proposes to eliminate the current exception.

2. Statutory Basis

The ISE states that the basis under the Act for this proposed rule change is the requirement under Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁷ that the rules of an exchange be designed to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. The ISE states that, in particular, the proposed rule change will further the development of the national market system by having ISE market makers be

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 47220 (January 21, 2003), 68 FR 4260 (January 28, 2003).

⁵ 17 CFR 240.11Ac1-1.

⁶ See letter from Robert L.D. Colby, Deputy Director, Division of Market Regulation, to Michael J. Simon, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, ISE, dated January 21, 2003.

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

fully compliant with Commission Rule 11Ac1-1 under the Act.⁸

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

The ISE 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.

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

The ISE has not solicited, and does not intend to solicit, comments on this proposed rule change. The ISE has not received any unsolicited written comments from members or other interested parties.

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

Within 35 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

- (a) by order approve such proposed rule change; or
- (b) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change, as amended, 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. Comments may also be submitted electronically at the following e-mail address: rule-comments@sec.gov. All comment letters should refer to File No. SR-ISE-2003-34. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review comments more efficiently, your comments should be sent in hardcopy or by e-mail but not by both methods.

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 Section, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the ISE. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-ISE-2003-34 and should be submitted by January 6, 2004.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁹

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48897; File No. SR-NASD-2003-104]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change and Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 Thereto by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Relating to Proposed New Uniform Definition of "Branch Office" Under NASD Rule 3010(g)(2)

December 9, 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 July 2, 2003, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II and III below, which Items have been prepared by NASD. On October 21, 2003, NASD amended the proposed rule change.³ On December 8, 2003, NASD amended the proposed rule change.⁴ The Commission is publishing

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ See letter from Kosha K. Dalal, Assistant General Counsel, NASD, to Katherine A. England, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation ("Division"), Commission, dated October 21, 2003 ("Amendment No. 1"). In Amendment No. 1, NASD restated the proposed rule change in its entirety.

⁴ See letter from Kosha K. Dalal, Assistant General Counsel, NASD, to Katherine A. England, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, dated December 8, 2003 ("Amendment No. 2"). In Amendment No. 2, NASD revised the proposed rule change (i) to insert the word "associated" into subparagraph (g)(2)(B)(i) of Rule 3010; (ii) to correct a cross-reference in

this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change, as amended, from interested persons.

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

NASD filed the proposed rule change with the Commission (1) to amend NASD Rule 3010(g)(2) to revise the definition of the term "branch office"; and (2) to adopt IM-3010-1 to provide guidance on factors to be considered by a member firm in conducting internal inspections of offices. NASD represents that the purpose of the proposed rule change is to facilitate the creation of a branch office registration system through the Central Registration Depository ("CRD")[®] to provide a more efficient, centralized method for members and associated persons to register branch office locations as required by the rules and regulations of states and self-regulatory organizations, including NASD. NASD expects centralized registration of such locations would provide efficiency, clarity, and costs savings to members. NASD believes that the creation of a uniform registration system for branch offices through CRD[®] also would allow NASD and other securities regulators to effectively examine such locations to further investor protections.

In addition, NASD represents that the proposed rule change is part of NASD's rule modernization initiative to streamline and update NASD Rules while preserving investor protections. The proposed definition establishes a broader national standard and is the product of a coordinated effort among regulators to reduce inconsistencies in the definitions used by the Commission, NASD, the NYSE, and state securities regulators in identifying locations where broker/dealers conduct securities or investment banking business. The proposed rule change is set forth below. Proposed new language is in *italics*; proposed deletions are in [brackets].

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3000. Responsibilities Relating to Associated Persons, Employees, and Others' Employees

3010. Supervision

(a) through (f) No change.

subparagraph (g)(2)(C) of Rule 3010; and (iii) to correct punctuation in subparagraph (g)(3) of Rule 3010. In addition, in Amendment No. 2, NASD revised the discussion of the purpose of the proposed rule change (i) to remove a discussion regarding the Economic Advisory Board and references thereto, and (ii) to clarify a statement regarding the "branch office" definition proposed by The New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") and its position with respect to such definition.

⁸ 17 CFR 240.11Ac1-1.