

open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. ISE believes that extension of the \$1 Pilot Program until August 5, 2004 will result in a continuing benefit to investors, by allowing them to more closely tailor their investment decisions, and will allow ISE to further study investor interest in \$1 strike price intervals.

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

ISE does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition 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 its members or other interested persons.

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 Act⁷ and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4⁸ thereunder because it does not: (i) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate; and ISE has given the Commission written notice of its intention to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to filing. 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.

Under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) of the Act,⁹ the proposal does not become operative for 30 days after the date of its filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest and ISE is required to give the Commission written notice of

its intention to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to filing. ISE has requested that the Commission waive 30-day operative delay so that the \$1 Pilot Program may continue without interruption after it would have otherwise expired on June 5, 2004. For this reason, the Commission, consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, has determined to waive the 30-day operative delay,¹⁰ and, therefore, the proposal is 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. 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 e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-ISE-2004-21 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-ISE-2004-21. 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

¹⁰ For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay for this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹¹ In its Pilot Program Approval Order, the Commission stated that if ISE proposed to (1) extend the \$1 Pilot Program beyond June 5, 2004; (2) expand the number of options eligible for inclusion in the \$1 Pilot Program; or (3) seek permanent approval of the \$1 Pilot Program, the ISE would be required to submit a Pilot Program Report to the Commission along with the filing of such proposal. The Pilot Program Approval Order required the ISE to submit a proposed rule change with the Pilot Program Report at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the \$1 Pilot Program. Because ISE failed to provide its Pilot Program Report to the Commission with sufficient time for the Commission staff to review the report, the Commission is extending the ISE's \$1 Pilot Program only until August 5, 2004, to provide the Commission staff with time to review the ISE's Pilot Program Report.

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, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of ISE. 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-ISE-2004-21 and should be submitted on or before July 8, 2004.

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. 34-49845; File No. SR-NASD-2003-69]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Order Granting Approval of Proposed Rule Change by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Regarding Failure To Pay Arbitration Awards

June 10, 2004.

I. Introduction

On April 7, 2003, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("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 (1) to amend Article V, Section 4 of the NASD By-Laws to permit NASD to suspend for failure to pay an arbitration award or settlement, for a period of two years after the award is entered, former associated persons who terminated their registration before the award was

¹² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

⁹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

entered; and (2) to amend Article VI, Section 3 of the NASD By-Laws to clarify that NASD may suspend the association, and not just the registration, of any person who fails to pay an arbitration award. Notice of the proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on May 7, 2004.³ The Commission received one comment on the proposed rule change.⁴ This order approves the proposed rule change.

II. Description of Proposed Rule Change

The proposed rule change amends Article V, Section 4 of the NASD By-Laws to provide that, for the limited purpose of instituting proceedings for failure to pay arbitration awards or settlements, NASD retains, for a period of two years after the entry of the award or settlement, jurisdiction to impose suspensions against former associated persons if the award or settlement resulted from a claim submitted for arbitration or mediation pursuant to the NASD Rules. The proposal addresses NASD's concern that a person associated with a member will terminate his or her association with the member once aware that an arbitration award may be entered against him or her in order to avoid sanction by NASD for failure to pay any award or settlement agreement resulting from the proceeding. In addition, the proposed rule change amends Article VI, Section 3 of the NASD By-Laws to clarify that NASD may suspend any person from associating with a member in any capacity for failure of such person to comply with an arbitration award or settlement.

III. Discussion

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities association.⁵ Specifically, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,⁶ which requires, among other things, that NASD's rules be 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

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 49636 (April 30, 2004), 69 FR 25652 ("Notice").

⁴ See e-mail dated May 28, 2004 from Douglas K. Traynor. The e-mail did not raise any issues with respect to the substance of the proposed rule change.

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

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

public interest. The Commission believes that the amendments should improve NASD's ability to ensure that its membership is not likely to engage in conduct that may be harmful to public investors. The Commission notes that the proposed rule change strengthens NASD's ability to prevent persons who fail to honor securities-related arbitration awards from seeking to re-enter the securities business, and clarifies that persons who fail to honor such awards may be suspended from associating with NASD members in any capacity.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁷ that the proposed rule change (File No. SR-NASD-2003-69) be, and it hereby is, approved.

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. 34-49833; File No. SR-NASD-2004-056]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 Thereto by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Relating to Short-Sale ACT Reporting Requirements

June 8, 2004.

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 March 31, 2004, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD"), through its subsidiary, The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. ("Nasdaq"), 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 Nasdaq. On May 21, 2004, Nasdaq filed Amendment No. 1 on behalf of the NASD.³ Nasdaq has

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

⁵ See Letter from Mary M. Dunbar, Vice-President and Deputy General Counsel, Nasdaq, to Katherine A. England, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, dated May 20, 2004 ("Amendment No. 1").

designated this proposal as a stated policy, practice, or interpretation with respect to the meaning, administration, or enforcement of an existing rule pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act,⁴ and Rule 19b-4(f)(1)⁵ thereunder, which renders the proposal effective upon filing with the Commission. 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

Nasdaq is filing with the Commission a proposed rule change to clarify that members are required to indicate on their Automated Confirmation Transaction ("ACT") Service reports whether a sale is a short sale or short sale exempt transaction for all securities, including exchange-listed, SmallCap, OTC Bulletin Board and OTC equity securities.

The text of the proposed rule change is below. Proposed new language is underlined.

* * * * *

IM 6130. Trade Reporting of Short Sales

The NASD's short sale rule (Short Sale Rule or Rule 3350) generally prohibits members from effecting short sales in NNM securities at or below the inside bid when the current inside bid is below the previous inside bid. Rule 6130(d)(6) requires that members indicate on ACT reports whether a transaction is a short sale or a short sale exempt transaction ("ACT short sale reporting requirements"). Rule 6130 explicitly requires members to file ACT reports not just for NNM securities transactions, but for other securities transactions, including transactions in exchange-listed, SmallCap, convertible debt, OTC Bulletin Board, and OTC equity securities. Thus, all short sale transactions in these securities reported to ACT must carry a "short sale" indicator (or a "short sale exempt" indicator if it is a short sale transaction in an NNM or exchange-listed security that qualifies for an exemption from Rule 3350 or SEC Rule 10a-1).

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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, Nasdaq included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(1).