

until January 15, 2003.¹³ The Commission is still considering Nasdaq's filing seeking permanent approval of Primex. Accordingly, Nasdaq is filing this proposed rule change to continue operating Primex as a PTS until February 14, 2003, or until the Commission grants permanent approval, whichever period is shorter. Primex continues to operate in the manner described in the Form Pilot filing, as amended.¹⁴

2. Statutory Basis

Nasdaq believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of sections 15A(b)(6)¹⁵ and 11A(a)(1) of the Act.¹⁶ Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act¹⁷ requires the rules of the NASD to be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, 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; and not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers. Section 11A(a)(1) of the Act¹⁸ sets forth a finding of Congress that new data processing and communications techniques create opportunity for more efficient and effective market operations.

Nasdaq believes this proposed rule change is consistent with the NASD's obligations under the Act, as well as the finding of Congress, because it will allow Nasdaq to continue operating Primex while the Commission considers permanent approval. Among other things, the System provides members with an additional electronic, execution system, which is designed to provide members with flexibility in executing orders and the opportunity to obtain price improvement. To ensure the protection of investors, orders will not be executed at prices inferior to the National Best Bid or Offer.

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

Nasdaq does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any

burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective upon filing pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act,¹⁹ and subparagraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-5 thereunder,²⁰ because the proposal will permit Nasdaq to continue operating Primex as a PTS while the Commission considers granting permanent approval. The proposal does not modify any rule or the operation of Primex.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of a rule change pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act,²¹ the Commission may summarily abrogate the 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.

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 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 NASD. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-NASD-2003-4 and should be submitted by February 14, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.²²

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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STATE DEPARTMENT

[Public Notice 4220]

Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) Meeting Notice: Closed Meeting

The Department of State announces a meeting of the U.S. State Department—Overseas Security Advisory Council on February 25 and 26, at the Biscayne Bay Marriott, Miami, Florida. Pursuant to Section 10 (d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and 5 U.S.C. 552b, (c)(1) and (4), it has been determined the meeting will be closed to the public. Matters relative to classified national security information as well as privileged commercial information will be discussed. The agenda will include updated committee reports, a world threat overview and a round table discussion that calls for the discussion of classified and corporate proprietary/security information as well as private sector physical and procedural security policies and protective programs at sensitive U.S. Government and private sector locations overseas.

For more information contact Marsha Thurman, Overseas Security Advisory Council, Department of State, Washington, DC 20522-1003, phone: 202-663-0533.

Dated: January 9, 2003.

Peter E. Bergin,

Director of the Diplomatic Security Service,
Department of State.

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¹³ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 46924 (November 27, 2002), 67 FR 72715 (December 6, 2002).

¹⁴ Form Pilot—NASD-2001-01

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78k-1(a)(1).

¹⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78k-1(a)(1).

¹⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

²⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(5).

²¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

²² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).