

and, as a result, raise the number of shares associated with the maximum fee from 1,125,000 to 2,250,000 shares (\$0.02 × 2,250,000 = \$45,000); and (ii) increase the annual maximum fee per company from \$45,000 to \$60,000. The minimum fee per application would remain unchanged. The Exchange also proposes to amend paragraph (d) of Section 142 ("Substitution Listing") to raise the maximum fee for substituted shares and excess shares from \$27,500 to \$50,000 per application (corresponding to the proposed \$22,500 increase in maximum fees for listing additional shares under Section 142(a)). Furthermore, similar to the abovementioned proposed amendment to Section 141, the Exchange proposes to amend Section 142(a) to clarify that the additional listing fees do not apply to Nasdaq National Market securities to which the Exchange has extended unlisted trading privileges as specified in Commentary .01 of Section 950 of the Amex *Company Guide*.

2. Statutory Basis

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

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

The Amex 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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received with respect to the proposed rule change.

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 Exchange 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.

The Amex has requested accelerated effectiveness pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act.⁸ In support of its request, the Exchange represents that these fee changes are necessary to adequately fund the Exchange's listed equities business and develop value-added services for Amex listed issuers.

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-Amex-2003-103. 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 Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Amex. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-Amex-2003-103 and should be submitted by January 2, 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. 34-48879; File No. SR-CBOE-2003-36]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change by the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc., Relating to Trading Crowd Space Dispute Resolution Procedures

December 4, 2003.

I. Introduction

On October 20, 2003, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc. ("CBOE" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission" or "SEC"), 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 adopt new CBOE Rule 24.21, "Index Crowd Space Dispute Resolution Procedures," which establishes guidelines and procedures for resolving disputes among CBOE members concerning the ability to occupy a space in an index option trading crowd.

The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on October 31, 2003.³ The Commission received no comments regarding the proposal. This order approves the proposed rule change.

II. 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 exchange. Specifically, the Commission believes that the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁴ which requires, among other things, that the rules of a national securities exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, 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.⁵ The proposal is also consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,⁶ which requires, among other things, the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 48702 (October 27, 2003), 68 FR 62122.

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

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. 78f(b)(4).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78(f)(b)(4).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

other charges among members. The Commission believes that the procedures established by the proposal are designed to provide a fair and impartial process for resolving trading crowd space disputes among CBOE members. According to the CBOE, the recent increase in trading volume and size of trading crowds for certain index options has created a lack of trading spots in certain trading pits.⁷ The proposal permits any CBOE member to request the CBOE's assistance in resolving an index option trading crowd space dispute.⁸ The proposal is designed to encourage mediated resolutions by requiring the parties to a trading crowd space dispute to cooperate with the Chairman of the FPC in his efforts to mediate before they may request a hearing. In addition, the Hearing Fee, which escalates under certain circumstances set forth in CBOE Rule 24.21(e), should further encourage parties to resolve trading crowd space disputes through mediation rather than through the hearing process.

If a dispute is not resolved through mediation, a CBOE member may request a hearing. The Commission believes that the proposal establishes procedures for selecting impartial Hearing Panels and that the written guidelines in CBOE Rule 24.21(j) should provide the Hearing Panels with guidance in rendering decisions. In addition, the Commission notes that any party may appeal the decision of a Hearing Panel under Chapter XIX of the CBOE's rules.

III. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁹ that the proposed rule change (SR-CBOE-2003-36) is approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁰

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-30702 Filed 12-10-03; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48871; File No. SR-CHX-2003-38]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated To Extend a Pilot Rule Interpretation Relating to Trading of Nasdaq/NM Securities in Subpenny Increments

December 3, 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 December 1, 2003, the Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated ("CHX" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Exchange filed the proposal pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act,³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)⁴ 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 from interested persons.

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

The Exchange proposes to extend through June 30, 2004, the pilot rule interpretation relating to the trading of Nasdaq/NM securities in subpenny increments. The pilot is due to expire on December 1, 2003. The CHX does not propose to make any substantive or typographical changes to the pilot; the only change is an extension of the pilot's expiration date through June 30, 2004. The text of the proposal is available at the Commission and at the CHX.

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 CHX included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for its proposal and discussed any comments it received regarding the proposal. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The CHX 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

On April 6, 2001, the Commission approved, on a pilot basis through July 9, 2001, a pilot rule interpretation (CHX Article XXX, Rule 2, Interpretation and Policy .06 "Trading in Nasdaq/NM Securities in Subpenny Increments")⁵ that requires a CHX specialist (including a market maker who holds customer limit orders) to better the price of a customer limit order in his book which is priced at the national best bid or offer ("NBBO") by at least one penny if the specialist determines to trade with an incoming market or marketable limit order. The pilot has been extended several times and is now due to expire on December 1, 2003.⁶ The CHX now proposes to extend the pilot through June 30, 2004. The CHX proposes no other changes to the pilot, other than extending it through June 30, 2004.

2. Statutory Basis

The CHX believes the proposal is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder that are applicable to a national securities exchange, and, in particular, with the requirements of Section 6(b).⁷ In particular, the CHX believes the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act⁸ in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to, and to perfect the mechanism of, a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 44164 (April 6, 2001), 66 FR 19263 (April 13, 2001) (SR-CHX-2001-07).

⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 44535 (July 10, 2001), 66 FR 37251 (July 17, 2001) (extending the pilot through November 5, 2001); 45062 (November 15, 2001), 66 FR 58768 (November 23, 2001) (extending the pilot through January 14, 2002); 45386 (February 1, 2002), 67 FR 6062 (February 8, 2002) (extending the pilot through April 15, 2002); 45755 (April 15, 2002), 67 FR 19607 (April 22, 2002) (extending the pilot through September 30, 2002); 46587 (October 2, 2002), 67 FR 63180 (October 10, 2002) (extending the pilot through January 31, 2003); and 47372 (February 14, 2003), 68 FR 8955 (February 26, 2003) (extending the pilot through May 31, 2003); 47961 (May 30, 2003), 68 FR 34448 (June 9, 2003) (extending the pilot through December 1, 2003).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁷ The proposal will apply only to CBOE members who trade OEX, SPX, DJX, and DIA options on the floor of the CBOE or who trade any other index options not located at a station shared with equity options, as determined by the appropriate floor procedure Committee ("FPC").

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). The Commission waived the 5-day pre-filing notice requirement.