

by FICC.⁷ Based on this monitoring, such Members may also be placed on the "watch list" if they experience a financial change that presents risk to FICC. Some examples include failure to meet minimum financial requirements or experiencing a significant decrease in equity (for GSD members) or net asset value (for MBSB members). Members placed on the "watch list" in this way will also be monitored more closely by credit risk staff.

The GSD will continue, in accordance with its current procedures, to place GSD netting members on the "watch list" for failure to comply with operational standards and requirements.⁸ MBSB expects to implement a similar provision, as outlined in these rule changes, by the fourth quarter of 2003.

FICC believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of Section 17A of the Act⁹ and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to FICC because it will facilitate the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in its custody or control or for which it is responsible and in general will protect investors and the public interest by improving FICC's member surveillance process.

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

FICC does not believe that the proposed rule change will have any impact or 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 relating to the proposed rule change have not yet been solicited or received. FICC will notify the Commission of any written comments received by FICC.

⁷ Credit risk staff will monitor these members by reviewing similar criteria as those reviewed for members included on the Matrix. FICC will file a proposed rule change should it decide to use a more applicable Matrix process to evaluate these members.

⁸ The GSD currently monitors the comparison rates of members. Currently, low comparison rates can result in a member being placed on Class 1 surveillance status. Under the proposed rule change, low comparison rates may result in a GSD member being placed on the "watch list." Both the GSD and the MBSB may monitor for other operational factors in the future such as failing to timely submit trade data on a frequent basis.

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

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

Within thirty-five 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 ninety 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 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-FICC-2003-03. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help us process and review 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 FICC.

All submissions should refer to File No. SR-FICC-2003-03 and should be submitted by November 20, 2003.

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

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48688; File No. SR-Phlx-2003-70]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. Relating to the Payment for Order Flow Fees for the Top 120 Options

October 24, 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 October 10, 2003, the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Phlx" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III, below, which the Phlx has prepared. 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 Phlx proposes to establish its equity options payment for order flow fees imposed on the transactions of Phlx Registered Options Traders ("ROTs") for the period from November 2003 through January 2004 for the top 120 equity options based on volume statistics from July, August and September 2003,³ as

¹⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ The Exchange's payment for order flow fee is imposed on transactions in the top 120 most actively traded equity options in terms of the total number of contracts that are traded nationally, based on volume statistics provided by the Options Clearing Corporation. The measuring period for the top 120 equity options encompasses three months and the Exchange files a separate proposed rule change for each three-month trading period. With respect to the payment for order flow fees imposed on trades settling on or after August 1, 2003 through October 31, 2003, for example, the measuring period for the top 120 equity options was based on volume statistics from April, May and June 2003. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 48205 (July 22, 2003), 68 FR 44557 (July 29, 2003) (SR-Phlx-2003-50). For the payment for order flow fees imposed on trades settling on or after November 1, 2003 through January 31, 2004, as set forth in this proposal, the measuring period for the top 120

set forth on the ROT Equity Option Payment for Order Flow Charges Schedule⁴ and subject to certain exceptions listed below. The Phlx intends to implement the payment for order flow fees for trades settling on or after November 1, 2003 through January 31, 2004. The rate levels would not change: the top-ranked equity option would be charged a fee of \$1.00 per contract; the next 49 equity options would be charged a fee of \$.40 per contract; and no fee would be imposed for the remaining equity options in the top 120.⁵ The Exchange's ROT Equity Option Payment for Order Flow Charges Schedule is available at the Phlx 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 Phlx included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it had received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Phlx 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

The Phlx has reinstated its payment for order flow program.⁶ Under the program, the Phlx charges ROTs a per-contract fee with respect to their

equity options is based on volume statistics from July, August, and September 2003.

⁴ To avoid confusion, the ROT Equity Option Payment for Order Flow Charges Schedule reflects only those options being charged more than \$0.00.

⁵ Under the Exchange's payment for order flow program, a 500 contract cap per individual cleared side of a transaction is imposed. Thus, the applicable payment for order flow fee would be imposed only on the first 500 contracts per individual cleared side of a transaction. For example, if a transaction consists of 750 contracts by one ROT, the applicable payment for order flow fee would be applied to, and capped at, 500 contracts for that transaction. Also, if a transaction consists of 600 contracts, but is divided equally among three ROTs, the 500 contract cap would not apply to any such ROT and each ROT would be assessed the applicable payment for order flow fee on 200 contracts, as the payment for order flow fee is assessed on a per ROT, per transaction basis. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 47958 (May 30, 2003), 68 FR 34026 (June 6, 2003) (proposing SR-Phlx-2002-87) and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 48166 (July 11, 2003), 68 FR 42540 (July 17, 2003) (approving SR-Phlx-2002-87).

⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 47090 (December 23, 2002), 68 FR 141 (January 2, 2003) (SR-Phlx-2002-75).

transactions in the top 120 most actively traded equity options issues, subject to certain exceptions.⁷ The fees are set forth on the Phlx's ROT Equity Option Payment for Order Flow Charges Schedule.

1. Purpose

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to establish the payment for order flow fees for the top 120 equity options for trades settling on or after November 1, 2003 through January 31, 2004. The Phlx will file with the Commission a proposed rule change to address changes to the fee schedule for subsequent time periods. The Phlx is not making any other changes to its payment for order flow program at this time.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that this proposal to amend its schedule of dues, fees and charges would be an equitable allocation of reasonable fees among Phlx members, and that the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act⁸ and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) of the Act.⁹

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any inappropriate burden on competition.

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

The Phlx neither solicited nor received written comments on this proposal.

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

The foregoing proposed rule change has been designated as a fee change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act¹⁰ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)¹¹ thereunder. Accordingly, the proposal has taken effect upon filing with the Commission. At any time within 60

⁷ The payment for order flow fee does not apply to specialist transactions or to transactions between: (1) A ROT and a specialist; (2) a ROT and a ROT; (3) a ROT and a firm; and (4) a ROT and a broker-dealer. According to the Phlx, the fee is not imposed with respect to the above-specified transactions because the primary focus of the program is to attract order flow from customers. The payment for order flow fee also does not apply to index or foreign currency options.

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

¹¹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

days after the filing of the proposed rule change, 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 Phlx. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-Phlx-2003-70 and should be submitted by November 20, 2003.

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. 34-48692; File No. SR-SCCP-2003-04]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Stock Clearing Corporation of Philadelphia; Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to Permanent Approval of SSCP's Restructured Limited Clearing Business

October 24, 2003.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ notice is hereby given that on June 20, 2003, the Stock Clearing Corporation of Philadelphia ("SCCP")

¹² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).