

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-51148; File No. SR-CBOE-2004-67]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 Thereto Relating to Split Price Priority

February 8, 2005.

On October 21, 2004, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("CBOE") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> a proposed rule change to amend its split price priority rule. On December 17, 2004, the Exchange filed Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change. The proposed rule change, as amended, was published for notice and comment in the **Federal Register** on January 3, 2005.<sup>3</sup> The Commission received no comment letters on the proposal.

The proposed rule change would amend the Exchange's rule regarding split price transactions in open outcry generally to permit a member with an order for at least 100 contracts who buys (sells) at least 50 contracts at a particular price to have priority over all others in purchasing (selling) up to an equivalent number of contracts of the same order at the next lower (higher) price without being required to yield to existing customer interest in the limit order book.

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change, as amended, is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange.<sup>4</sup> In particular, the Commission believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>5</sup> which requires, among other things, that the rules of an exchange 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 public interest. The Commission believes that the proposed rule change should encourage more aggressive quoting by market

makers in competition for large-sized orders, and, in turn, lead to better-priced executions. The Commission notes that the proposed rule change includes interpretive language that clarifies that floor brokers who avail themselves of the split priority rule are obligated to ensure compliance with Section 11(a) of the Act.

*It is therefore ordered*, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> that the proposed rule change (SR-CBOE-2004-67), as amended, be hereby approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>7</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E5-600 Filed 2-14-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8010-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-51147; File No. SR-CBOE-2005-15]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc., To Permit a Decrease of the Designated Primary Market-Maker Participation Entitlement for Certain Option Classes

February 7, 2005.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on January 31, 2005, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("Exchange" or "CBOE") 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 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 amend Rule 8.87 to permit the Exchange to decrease the Designated Primary Market-Maker ("DPM") participation entitlement for certain option classes. The text of the proposed rule change follows. Additions are in *italics*.

Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated

Rules

\* \* \* \* \*

Rule 8.87 Participation Entitlements of DPMs and e-DPMs

(a) Subject to the review of the Board of Directors, the MTS Committee may establish from time to time a participation entitlement formula that is applicable to all DPMs.

(b) The participation entitlement for DPMs and e-DPMs (as defined in Rule 8.92) shall operate as follows:

(1) Generally.

(i) To be entitled to a participation entitlement, the DPM/e-DPM must be quoting at the best bid/offer on the Exchange.

(ii) A DPM/e-DPM may not be allocated a total quantity greater than the quantity that the DPM/e-DPM is quoting at the best bid/offer on the Exchange.

(iii) The participation entitlement is based on the number of contracts remaining after all public customer orders in the book at the best bid/offer on the Exchange have been satisfied.

(2) Participation Rates applicable to DPM Complex. The collective DPM/e-DPM participation entitlement shall be: 50% when there is one Market-Maker also quoting at the best bid/offer on the Exchange; 40% when there are two Market-Makers also quoting at the best bid/offer on the Exchange; and, 30% when there are three or more Market-Makers also quoting at the best bid/offer on the Exchange.

(3) Allocation of Participation Entitlement Between DPMs and e-DPMs. The participation entitlement shall be as follows: If the DPM and one or more e-DPMs are quoting at the best bid/offer on the Exchange, the e-DPM participation entitlement shall be one-half (50%) of the total DPM/e-DPM entitlement and shall be divided equally by the number of e-DPMs quoting at the best bid/offer on the Exchange. The remaining half shall be allocated to the DPM. If the DPM is not quoting at the best bid/offer on the Exchange and one or more e-DPMs are quoting at the best bid/offer on the Exchange, then the e-DPMs shall be allocated the entire participation entitlement (divided equally between them). If no e-DPMs are quoting at the best bid/offer on the Exchange and the DPM is quoting at the best bid/offer on the Exchange, then the DPM shall be allocated the entire participation entitlement. If only the DPM and/or e-DPMs are quoting at the best bid/offer on the Exchange (with no Market-Makers at that price), the

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 50924 (December 23, 2004), 70 FR 128.

<sup>4</sup> In approving this proposed rule change, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>7</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

participation entitlement shall not be applicable and the allocation procedures under Rule 6.45A shall apply.

*Interpretations and Policies:*  
 . . . .01 Notwithstanding subparagraph (b)(2) above, the Exchange may establish a lower DPM Complex Participation Rate on a product-by-product basis for newly-listed products or products that are being allocated to a DPM trading crowd for the first time. Notification of such lower participation rate shall be provided to members through a Regulatory Circular.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 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.

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

#### 1. Purpose

CBOE Rule 8.87 governs the participation entitlement of DPMs and e-DPMs (the "DPM Complex"). Rule 8.87(b)(2) states the actual participation entitlement percentages applicable to the DPM Complex, which are tiered to take into account the number of non-DPM Market-Makers also quoting at the best price. The participation entitlement percentages are as follows: 50% when there is one Market-Maker also quoting at the best bid/offer on the Exchange; 40% when there are two Market-Makers also quoting at the best bid/offer on the Exchange; and 30% when there are three or more Market-Makers also quoting at the best bid/offer on the Exchange.

This proposal would allow the Exchange to establish a lower participation right, on a product-by-product basis, for newly-listed options or for options that are being allocated to a DPM for the first time. The Commission has previously approved specialist entitlements as high as 40% (with three or more market-makers also quoting at the same price). This filing merely gives the Exchange the flexibility

to implement a lower participation entitlement (something less than 30%) for the DPM Complex if the options are newly-listed or are being allocated to a DPM trading crowd (from a non-DPM trading crowd) for the first time.

#### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)<sup>3</sup> of the Act in general and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5)<sup>4</sup> in particular, in that it should promote just and equitable principles of trade, serve to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and protect investors and the public interest.

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

The Exchange 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

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule does not (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; or (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>5</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>6</sup> thereunder.

Pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) under the Act,<sup>7</sup> 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. The CBOE has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposed rule change becomes effective immediately.<sup>8</sup> The Commission believes

<sup>3</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>6</sup> 17 CFR 19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>7</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

<sup>8</sup> The Exchange gave the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change by notice on January 14, 2005.

that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Commission notes that the proposal would give the Exchange the flexibility to establish lower participation guarantees than the Commission has approved in the past and would apply only to newly-listed products or products that are being allocated to a DPM trading crowd for the first time. Therefore, the Commission has determined to waive the 30-day delay and allow the proposed rule change to become operative immediately.<sup>9</sup>

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the 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.

### 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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File No. SR-CBOE-2005-15 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-CBOE-2005-15. 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 Commissions Internet Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). 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

<sup>9</sup> For purposes only of waiving the operative delay of this proposal, the Commission notes that it has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

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 also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the CBOE. 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-CBOE-2005-15 and should be submitted on or before March 8, 2005.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>10</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E5-601 Filed 2-14-05; 8:45 am]

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-51156; File No. SR-DTC-2004-12]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Depository Trust Company; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change To Revise Fees for Low Volume Tender Offers

February 8, 2005.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> notice is hereby given that on November 19, 2004, the Depository Trust Company ("DTC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change described in items I, II, and III below, which items have been prepared primarily by DTC. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested parties.

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

The proposed rule change consists of fee revisions for low volume tender offers processed through the facilities of DTC. The low volume tender offer fee is payable by the offeror in advance of DTC's processing the offer and under the proposed rule change will be

payable in advance of DTC's processing each extension of an offer.<sup>2</sup>

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

In its filing with the Commission, DTC 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. DTC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.<sup>3</sup>

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

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to adjust the fees DTC charges for low volume tender offers so that the fees may be aligned with the estimated costs incurred by DTC with respect to low volume tender offers and extensions thereof.<sup>4</sup> DTC notes that certain offerors in low volume tender offers processed through DTC have extended the expiration of their offers multiple times. For tender offers other than low volume tender offers, extensions are unusual and multiple extensions almost never occur. With respect to low volume tender offers, however, DTC has seen offerors extend the offers as many as 15 times. Each extension involves significant processing costs for DTC.

DTC believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of section 17A of the Act<sup>5</sup> and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to DTC because the fees will be more equitably allocated among the users of these DTC services and products.

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

DTC does not believe that the proposed rule change will have any impact or impose any burden on competition.

<sup>2</sup> For additional information concerning DTC's low volume tender offer fee, refer to Securities Exchange Act Release No. 41032 (February 9, 1999), 64 FR 7931 [File No. SR-DTC-99-01].

<sup>3</sup> The Commission has modified the text of the summaries prepared by DTC.

<sup>4</sup> The fee for low volume tender offers will be increased from a flat fee of \$2,900 per offer to a fee of \$2,900 per offer and per each extension thereof.

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

##### (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. DTC will notify the Commission of any written comments received by DTC.

#### 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. 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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-DTC-2004-12 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-DTC-2004-12. 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 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

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).