

*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**

The foregoing proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act<sup>8</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder<sup>9</sup> because it establishes or changes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the Exchange. 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.<sup>10</sup>

**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-Amex-2006-116 on the subject line.

*Paper Comments*

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Nancy M. Morris, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Station Place, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Amex-2006-116. 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 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 the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of Amex. 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-Amex-2006-116 and should be submitted on or before February 15, 2007.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>11</sup>

**Florence E. Harmon,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E7-1110 Filed 1-24-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34-55139; File No. SR-BSE-2007-01]

**Self-Regulatory Organizations; Boston Stock Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Extend the Effective Date of a Previous Rule Change Relating to Information Contained in a Directed Order on the Boston Options Exchange**

January 19, 2007.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on January 16, 2007, the Boston Stock Exchange, Inc. ("BSE" 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 substantially prepared by the BSE. The BSE filed the proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the

Act<sup>3</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder,<sup>4</sup> which renders the proposed rule change 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 BSE proposes to extend the effective date of the amended rule governing the Exchange's Directed Order process on the Boston Options Exchange ("BOX") from January 31, 2007 to July 31, 2007.

**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 BSE 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 BSE 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 March 20, 2006 the BSE proposed an amendment to its rules governing its Directed Order process on the BOX.<sup>5</sup> The rules were amended to clearly state that the BOX Trading Host identifies to an Executing Participant ("EP") the identity of the firm entering a Directed Order. The amended rule was to be effective until June 30, 2006, while the Commission considered a corresponding Exchange proposal<sup>6</sup> to amend its rules to permit EPs to choose the firms from which they will accept Directed Orders, while providing complete anonymity of the firm entering a Directed Order.

On June 30, 2006, the Exchange proposed extending the effective date of the amended rule governing its Directed Order process on the BOX from June 30,

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 19b-4(f)(2).

<sup>10</sup> For purposes of calculating the 60-day period within which the Commission may summarily abrogate the proposed rule change, the Commission considers the period to commence on January 16, 2007, the date on which the Exchange filed Amendment No. 1.

<sup>11</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.

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

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

<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 53516 (March 20, 2006), 71 FR 15232 (March 27, 2006) (SR-BSE-2006-14).

<sup>6</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 53357 (February 23, 2006), 71 FR 10730 (March 2, 2006) (SR-BSE-2005-52).

2006 to September 30, 2006<sup>7</sup> while the Commission continued to consider the corresponding Exchange proposal to amend its rules to permit EPs to choose the firms from which they would accept Directed Orders, while providing complete anonymity of the firm entering a Directed Order and, on September 11, 2006, the Exchange again proposed extending the effective date of the amended rule governing its Directed Order process on the BOX from September 30, 2006 to January 31, 2007.<sup>8</sup>

The Exchange now proposes another extension of the effective date of the amended rule governing its Directed Order process on the BOX from January 31, 2007, to July 31, 2007. In the event the Commission reaches a decision with respect to the corresponding Exchange proposal to amend its rules before July 31, 2007, the amended rule governing the Exchange's Directed Order process on the BOX will cease to be effective at the time of that decision.

This filing proposes to extend the effective date of the amended rule governing the Exchange's Directed Order process on the BOX from January 31, 2007 to July 31, 2007.<sup>9</sup>

## 2. Statutory Basis

The amended rule is designed to clarify the information contained in a Directed Order. This proposed rule filing seeks to extend the amended rule's effectiveness from January 31, 2007 to July 31, 2007. This extension will afford the Commission the necessary time to consider SR-BSE-2005-52 which would amend the BOX rules on a permanent basis to permit EPs to choose the firms from which they will accept Directed Orders while providing complete anonymity of the firm entering a Directed Order. Accordingly, the Exchange believes that the proposal is consistent with the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>10</sup> in general, and Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>11</sup> in particular, in that it is designed to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transaction in securities, to

remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism for a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to 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

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change: (1) Does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (2) does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (3) by its terms does not become operative for 30 days after the date of this filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)<sup>12</sup> of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>13</sup>

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>14</sup> normally may not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of filing. However, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii)<sup>15</sup> permits the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The BSE requests that the Commission waive the 5-day pre-filing notice requirement and the 30-day operative delay, as specified in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii),<sup>16</sup> which would make the rule change effective and operative upon filing. The Commission believes that waiving the 5-day pre-filing notice and the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because such waiver would continue to conform the BOX rules with BOX's current practice and clarify that Directed Orders on BOX are not anonymous.<sup>17</sup> Accordingly, the

Commission designates that the proposed rule change effective and operative upon filing with the Commission.

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.

## 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-BSE-2007-01 on the subject line.

### Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Nancy M. Morris, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Station Place, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BSE-2007-01. 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 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 BSE.

All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does

considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

<sup>7</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 54082 (June 30, 2006), 71 FR 38913 (July 10, 2006) (SR-BSE-2006-29).

<sup>8</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release 54469 (September 19, 2006), 71 FR 56201 (September 26, 2006) (SR-BSE-2006-38).

<sup>9</sup> In the event that the issue of anonymity in the Directed Order process is not resolved by July 31, 2007, the Exchange intends to submit another filing under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) under the Act extending this rule and system process.

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>12</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>13</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>14</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

<sup>16</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

<sup>17</sup> For purposes only of waiving the operative delay for this proposal, the Commission has

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-BSE-2007-01 and should be submitted on or before February 15, 2007.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>18</sup>

**Florence E. Harmon,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E7-1103 Filed 1-24-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-55134; File No. SR-FICC-2006-14]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Fixed Income Clearing Corporation; Order Granting Approval of Proposed Rule Change Relating To Returning Excess Clearing Fund Collateral

January 19, 2007.

#### I. Introduction

On September 22, 2006, the Fixed Income Clearing Corporation (“FICC”) submitted to 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 FICC’s Government Securities Division’s (“GSD”) rules to permit GSD members to request the return of their excess clearing fund collateral held on deposit with FICC on a more frequent basis than is currently allowed under GSD’s rules. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on November 27, 2006.<sup>3</sup> No comment letters were received on the proposal. This order approves the proposal.

#### II. Description of the Proposal

Prior to this rule change, GSD members were permitted to request the return of excess clearing fund collateral once per month.<sup>4</sup> In addition, on any business day, if a GSD member had exceeded its required clearing fund

obligation by \$5 million or more, the member could request the return of the excess deposit provided that, among other requirements, the return would not result in the member having a clearing fund deposit amount of less than the greater of (1) 110 percent of the member’s clearing fund requirement or (2) \$1 million more than its required clearing fund deposit.

In an effort to harmonize GSD’s process with respect to the return of excess collateral with the processes of other Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (“DTCC”) subsidiary clearing agencies, FICC is changing GSD’s rules to give GSD the discretion to return excess clearing fund more frequently and without regard to the limitations noted above.<sup>5</sup> Although the rule change will enable GSD members to request the return of excess clearing fund on a daily basis, GSD will retain the right to deny the return of some or all of a member’s excess collateral if: (i) The member has an outstanding payment obligation to FICC; (ii) the member’s funds-only settlement amounts or net settlement positions over the upcoming 90 days may reasonably be expected to be materially different than those of the preceding 90 days; (iii) the member is on the watch list; or (iv) the return of excess clearing fund will cause the member to be in violation of another GSD rule. In addition, excess clearing fund would not be returned to a member if doing so would reduce a member’s cross-guaranty repayment deposit or cross-margining repayment deposit to the clearing fund below the required amount.<sup>6</sup>

#### 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 registered clearing agency. In particular, the Commission believes the proposal is consistent with the requirements of Section 17A(b)(3)(F),<sup>7</sup> which, among other things, requires the rules of a clearing

agency to assure the safeguarding of securities and funds that are in the custody or control of the clearing agency or for which it is responsible. Although the rule change will enable FICC members to request and receive an earlier return of excess clearing fund collateral, FICC will retain explicit rights to deny such return requests when doing so would subject FICC to undue risks. Accordingly, the proposed rule change will assure FICC’s ability to safeguard securities and funds in its possession or control or for which it is responsible.

#### IV. Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with the requirements of the Act and in particular with the requirements of Section 17A of the Act<sup>8</sup> and the rules and regulations thereunder.

*It is therefore ordered*, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>9</sup> that the proposed rule change (File No. SR-FICC-2006-14) be, and hereby is, approved.<sup>10</sup>

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>11</sup>

**Florence E. Harmon,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E7-1107 Filed 1-24-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

<sup>5</sup> The rules of the National Securities Clearing Corporation (“NSCC”) and FICC’s Mortgage Backed Securities Division (“MBSD”) permit their respective members to request under normal circumstances the return of their excess clearing fund.

<sup>6</sup> Under GSD’s rules, a “cross-guaranty repayment deposit” is a deposit to the clearing fund required to be made by a cross-guaranty beneficiary member pursuant to Rule 41, Section 4 of GSD’s Rules. A “cross-margining repayment deposit” is a deposit to the clearing fund required to be made by a cross-margining beneficiary participant pursuant to Rule 43, Section 6 of GSD’s Rules.

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>10</sup> In approving the proposed rule change, the Commission considered the proposal’s impact on efficiency, competition and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

<sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>18</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.

<sup>3</sup> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 54787 (Nov. 20, 2006), 71 FR 68664.

<sup>4</sup> Excess clearing fund is the amount of collateral held on deposit at GSD that is greater than a member’s required clearing fund deposit as set forth in GSD Rule 4 (Clearing Fund, Watch List and Loss Allocation).