

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 and on FICC's Web site at <http://www.ficc.com>. 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-FICC-2004-18 and should be submitted on or before February 14, 2005.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>6</sup>

**J. Lynn Taylor,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-51042; File No. SR-ISE-2005-05]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; International Securities Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval to a Proposed Rule Change Relating to Position Limits and Exercise Limits for Options on Standard and Poor's Depository Receipts®

January 14, 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 12, 2005, the International Securities Exchange, Inc. ("ISE" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III 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. In addition, the Commission is

granting accelerated approval of the proposed rule change.

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

The ISE proposes to amend its rules to increase position limits and exercise limits for options on Standard & Poor's Depository Receipts® ("SPDRs®"). The text of the proposed rule change is available on the ISE's Web site (<http://www.iseoptions.com>), at the ISE's Office of the Secretary, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

#### 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 had received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item III below. The ISE 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

The Exchange began trading options on SPDRs on January 10, 2005. Currently, under ISE Rule 412 and ISE Rule 414, position limits and exercise limits for options on SPDRs are 75,000 contracts on the same side of the market. The Exchange proposes to amend ISE Rule 412 and ISE Rule 414 to increase position limits and exercise limits for options on SPDRs to 300,000 contracts on the same side of the market.

Given the expected institutional demand for options on SPDRs, the Exchange believes the current equity position limit of 75,000 contracts to be too low and a deterrent to the successful trading of the product. Options on SPDRs are 1/10th the size of options on the Standard and Poor's 500 Index (SPX) that are traded on Chicago Board Options Exchange ("CBOE"). Thus, a position limit of 75,000 contracts in SPDR options is equivalent to a 7,500 contract position limit in SPX options. Traders who trade SPDR options to hedge positions in SPX options are likely to find a position limit of 75,000 contracts in SPDR options too restrictive, which may adversely affect

the Exchange's ability to provide liquidity in this product.

Comparable products, such as options on the Nasdaq-100 Index Tracking Stock ("QQQQ") that are traded at all six option exchanges and the DIAMONDS Trust that are traded at CBOE, are subject to a 300,000 contract limit.<sup>3</sup> The Exchange proposes that options on SPDRs similarly be subject to position limits and exercise limits of 300,000 contracts. The Exchange believes that increasing position limits and exercise limits for SPDR options would lead to a more liquid and competitive market environment for SPDR options that would benefit customers interested in this product.

Consistent with the reporting requirement for QQQ options, the Exchange would require that each member that maintains a position on the same side of the market in excess of 10,000 contracts in the SPDR option class, for its own account or for the account of a customer, report certain information.<sup>4</sup> This data would include the option position, whether such position is hedged, and, if so, documentation as to how the position is hedged. Exchange market makers would continue to be exempt from this reporting requirement, as market maker information can be accessed through the Exchange's market surveillance systems. In addition, the general reporting requirement for customer accounts that maintain a position in excess of 200 contracts would remain at this level for SPDR options.<sup>5</sup>

###### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, remove impediments to and perfect the mechanisms of 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 ISE does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 45311 (January 18, 2002), 67 FR 3760 (January 25, 2002) (increase of position limits and exercise limits to 300,000 for QQQQ options); and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 47346 (February 11, 2003), 68 FR 8316 (February 20, 2003) (increase of position limits and exercise limits to 300,000 for DIA options).

<sup>4</sup> See ISE Rule 415(b).

<sup>5</sup> See ISE Rule 415(a).

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

<sup>6</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.

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. 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-ISE-2005-05 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-ISE-2005-05. 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 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 the ISE. 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 publicly available. All submissions

should refer to File Number SR-ISE-2005-05 and should be submitted on or before February 14, 2005.

### IV. Commission's Findings and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change

After careful review, 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,<sup>7</sup> and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act.<sup>8</sup> Specifically, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change should ensure that the Exchange's position limits and exercise limits on SPDR options provide its members with sufficient flexibility to participate in the market for such options in a manner that should provide greater depth and liquidity for all market participants.

The Commission finds good cause for approving this proposed rule change prior to the thirtieth day after publication of notice thereof in the **Federal Register**. Specifically, the Commission believes that granting accelerated approval to the proposed rule change should permit greater depth and liquidity in the SPDR options market that should benefit all market participants, including retail investors. Because the higher position limits and exercise limits mirror those that the Commission has previously approved for like products, the Commission believes it is consistent with Sections 6(b)(5)<sup>9</sup> and 19(b)(2)<sup>10</sup> of the Act to approve the ISE's proposed rule change on an accelerated basis.

### V. Conclusion

*It is therefore ordered*, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>11</sup> that the proposed rule change (SR-ISE-2005-05) is hereby approved on an accelerated basis.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>12</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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<sup>7</sup> In approving this proposal, the Commission has considered its impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

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

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-51035; File No. SR-NSCC-2004-07]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; National Securities Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Membership Standards Required of Insurance Companies

January 13, 2005.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> notice is hereby given that on October 26, 2004, the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") 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 NSCC. 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 purpose of this proposed rule change is to amend NSCC's Rules regarding the membership standards required of insurance companies.

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

In its filing with the Commission, NSCC 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. NSCC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.<sup>2</sup>

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

The proposed rule change amends NSCC's Rules regarding the membership standards required of insurance companies. As a general matter, the current membership standards for insurance companies are based in part on ratings provided by rating agencies. The proposed rule replaces these standards in relevant part by a measure

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

<sup>2</sup> The Commission has modified the text of the summaries prepared by NSCC.