

foregoing reasons, that the continued listing of the Security does not serve either the Issuer's interests or the interests of the stockholders. The Issuer states that on June 30, 2004, a special stockholders meeting was held with the stockholders of the Issuer in which the stockholders approved a transaction that included the delisting of the Security from the Amex. Furthermore, the Issuer states that it had been advised by representatives of the holders of approximately 77% of the Security, that they do not object to the Issuer's plan to delist the Security from the Amex. In addition, the Issuer states that it is seeking to develop a trading market in the over-the-counter market on the Pink Sheets.

The Issuer stated in its application that it has met the requirements of Amex Rule 18 by complying with all applicable laws in the State of Delaware, in which it is incorporated, and with the Amex's rules governing an issuer's voluntary withdrawal of a security from listing and registration.

The Issuer's application relates solely to the withdrawal of the Security from listing on the Amex and from registration under Section 12(b) of the Act,³ and shall not affect its obligation to be registered under Section 12(g) of the Act.⁴

Any interested person may, on or before August 31, 2004, comment on the facts bearing upon whether the application has been made in accordance with the rules of the Amex, and what terms, if any, should be imposed by the Commission for the protection of investors. All comment letters may be submitted by either of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include the File Number 1-15064;

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 1-15064. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help us 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/delist.shtml>). Comments are also available for public

inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. All comments received will be posted without change; we do not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

The Commission, based on the information submitted to it, will issue an order granting the application after the date mentioned above, unless the Commission determines to order a hearing on the matter.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁵

Jonathan G. Katz,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-18602 Filed 8-13-04; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-50164; File No. SR-CBOE-2004-56]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated To Extend a Pilot Program Relating to Margin Requirements for Certain Complex Options Spreads

August 6, 2004.

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 August 6, 2004, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("CBOE" or the "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 CBOE. Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder,⁴ CBOE has designated this proposal as non-controversial, which renders the proposed rule change effective immediately upon filing. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(1).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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

CBOE proposes to extend, until February 7, 2005, a pilot program permitting an interpretation to CBOE Rule 12.3, *Margin Requirements*, relating to margin requirements for certain complex option spreads. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Office of the Secretary, CBOE, 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, CBOE 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 CBOE 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 August 8, 2003, the Commission approved a CBOE Regulatory Circular—Regulatory Circular RG03-66—which sets forth an interpretation of CBOE's current margin requirements for certain complex option spreads.⁵ The interpretation set forth in Regulatory Circular RG03-66 was approved on a one-year pilot basis ("Pilot") and is due to expire on August 7, 2004. The Exchange proposes to extend the Pilot for six months, until February 7, 2005, or until such time as the Commission has approved permanent implementation of these margin requirements, whichever occurs sooner.⁶

The Exchange is proposing an extension of the Pilot so that it may continue in effect while the Commission considers the Exchange's proposal for permanent implementation. As such, the Exchange proposes to reissue the Regulatory Circular with the new Pilot expiration date. The Exchange has received no negative comments

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 48306 (August 8, 2003), 68 FR 48974 (approving SR-CBOE-2003-24).

⁶ The Exchange in a separate filing is proposing permanent implementation of these margin requirements by incorporating the provisions of Regulatory Circular RG03-66 into its margin rules. See SR-CBOE-2004-53.

³ 15 U.S.C. 781(b).

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 781(g).

concerning Regulatory Circular RG03-66 since it has been issued, nor is the Exchange aware of any negative consequences resulting from the application of the margin requirements permitted by Regulatory Circular RG03-66.

2. Statutory Basis

The CBOE represented that the proposed Regulatory Circular clarifies that the Exchange's current margin rules extend to complex option spreads, thereby allowing investors to more efficiently implement these strategies. As such, the CBOE believes that the proposed Regulatory Circular interpretation of Exchange Rule 12.3 is consistent with and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, in that it is designed to perfect the mechanisms of a free and open market and to protect investors and the public interest.

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

CBOE 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

CBOE neither solicited nor received written comments 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 upon filing on August 6, 2004, pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)⁷ of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)⁸ thereunder because the proposal: (1) Does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (2) Does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (3) Does not become operative for 30 days from the date of filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest; provided that the self-regulatory organization has given the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the filing date of the proposed rule change.⁹

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii),¹⁰ the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. CBOE has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day operative waiting period to permit CBOE to continue the Pilot without interruption while the Commission determines whether to approve permanent implementation of the subject margin requirements.

The Commission, consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, has waived the 30-day requirement that the proposed rule change not become operative for 30 days after the date it was filed.¹¹ The Commission believes that granting immediate effectiveness to the proposed rule change is appropriate because it will allow the Pilot to continue without interruption after it would otherwise have expired on August 7, 2004. 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 the furtherance of the purposes of the Act.¹²

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 comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-CBOE-2004-56 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission,

of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the filing date.

¹⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

¹¹ For the purposes only of accelerating the operative date of this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rules impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(C).

450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CBOE-2004-56. 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 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-2004-56 and should be submitted on or before September 7, 2004.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹³

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-18603 Filed 8-13-04; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-50162; File No. SR-NASD-2004-078]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. To Establish Certain Qualification Requirements for Supervisors of Research Analysts

August 6, 2004.

On May 10, 2004, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD"), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission"), a proposed rule change

¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

⁹ As required under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), the CBOE provided the Commission with written notice