SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-57153; File No. SR-ISE-2008-04)

January 15, 2008

Self-Regulatory Organizations; International Securities Exchange, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1 Thereto, Relating to Fee Waiver

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"), ¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder, ² notice is hereby given that on January 2, 2008, the International Securities Exchange, LLC ("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 substantially prepared by ISE. ISE has designated this proposal as one establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge applicable only to a member under Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act, ³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder, ⁴ which renders the proposal effective upon filing with the Commission. On January 15, 2008, ISE submitted Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change, ⁵ The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change, as amended, from interested persons.

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

ISE is proposing a one-time waiver of the annual renewal fee for Registered Representatives.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

For purposes of calculating the 60-day period within which the Commission may summarily abrogate the proposed rule change under Section 19(b)(3)(C) of the Act, the Commission considers the period to commence on January 15, 2008, the date on which the Exchange filed Amendment No. 1. See 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(C).

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

In its filing with the Commission, the ISE 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. ISE has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

Pursuant to ISE Rules 601, 602, and 603, members are required to electronically file a Uniform Application for Securities Industry Registration or Transfer (Form U4) with the Web CRD System operated by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") when registering, transferring, or terminating a registered person. Pursuant to the Exchange's Schedule of Fees, members pay fees related to these U4 filings, which are collected by FINRA on behalf of the Exchange. In particular, members are assessed an annual renewal fee of \$55 for each Registered Representative.

The purpose of this rule filing is to grant a one-time waiver of the \$55 annual renewal fee for Registered Representatives for 2008. The Exchange updated its rules regarding its registration requirements in June 2007,⁶ which resulted in some members registering a substantial number of representatives with the Exchange for the first time in the later part of 2007.

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See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 55899 (June 12, 2007), 72 FR 33794 (June 19, 2007)(SR-ISE-2007-30).

Specifically, the Exchange initially requested that members comply with the revised registration requirements by no later than October 31, 2007, but subsequently extended this date until January 31, 2008. Because the 2008 annual renewal fee is assessed based on the number of Registered Representatives a member has registered with the ISE on the Web CRD system at the beginning of 2008, any member that registered its representatives prior to the end of 2007 would be assessed the annual renewal fee for each Registered Representative, whereas those firms that waited until after January 1, 2008 to register their representatives would not incur the 2008 annual renewal fee. In effect, assessing the 2008 annual renewal fee would penalize those members that complied with the Exchange's registration requirements more timely. The Exchange therefore believes it is appropriate to waive the 2008 annual renewal fee for all members.

2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the objectives of Section 6 of the Act,⁷ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,⁸ in particular, in that it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its members and other persons using its facilities.

B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

The proposed rule change does not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

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⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule</u> <u>Change Received from Members, Participants or Others</u>

The Exchange has not solicited, and does not intend to solicit, comments on this proposed rule change. The Exchange has not received any unsolicited written comments from members or other interested parties.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)¹⁰ thereunder 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 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 <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File No. SR-ISE-2008-04 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

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-ISE-2008-04. 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 on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. 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 available

publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-ISE-2008-04 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from the date of publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. ¹¹

Florence E. Harmon Deputy Secretary

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¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).