

Commission and other regulatory agencies with monitoring transfer agents and ensuring compliance with the rule.

Because the information required by Rule 17Ad-11 is already available to transfer agents, any collection burden for small transfer agents is minimal. The staff estimates that the average number of hours necessary to comply with Rule 17Ad-11 is one hour annually. Based upon past submissions, the total burden is 150 hours annually for transfer agents.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Kenneth A. Fogash, Acting Associate Executive Director/CIO, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: October 31, 2003.

**Jill M. Peterson,**  
Assistant Secretary.

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

*Upon Written Request, Copies Available From:* Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

#### Extension:

Rule 17Ad-13; SEC File No. 270-263; OMB Control No. 3235-0275.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection

of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

- Rule 17Ad-13 Annual Study and Evaluation of Internal Accounting Control

Rule 17Ad-13 requires approximately 200 registered transfer agents to obtain an annual report on the adequacy of internal accounting controls. In addition, transfer agents must maintain copies of any reports prepared pursuant to Rule 17Ad-13 plus any documents prepared to notify the Commission and appropriate regulatory agencies in the event that the transfer agent is required to take any corrective action. These recordkeeping requirements assist the Commission and other regulatory agencies with monitoring transfer agents and ensuring compliance with the rule. Small transfer agents are exempt from Rule 17Ad-13.

The staff estimates that the average number of hours necessary for each transfer agent to comply with Rule 17Ad-13 is one hundred seventy-five hours annually. The total burden is 35,000 hours annually for transfer agents, based upon past submissions.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

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Dated: October 31, 2003.

**Jill M. Peterson,**

Assistant Secretary.

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. IC-26246; 812-12860]

### Vanguard International Equity Index Funds, et al.; Notice of Application

November 3, 2003.

**AGENCY:** Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission")

**ACTION:** Notice of an application for an order under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act") for exemptions from sections 2(a)(32), 18(f)(1), 18(i), 22(d), 22(e) and 24(d) of the Act and rule 22c-1 under the Act, and under sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act for exemptions from sections 17(a)(1) and (2) of the Act.

**SUMMARY OF APPLICATION:** Applicants request an order that would permit the following: (a) An open-end management investment company, the series of which consist of the component securities of certain foreign equity securities indices, to issue a class of shares ("VIPER Shares") that can be purchased from the investment company and redeemed only in large aggregations ("Creation Units"); (b) secondary market transactions in VIPER Shares to occur at negotiated prices on a national securities exchange, as defined in section 2(a)(26) of the Act ("Exchange"); (c) dealers to sell VIPER Shares to purchasers in the secondary market unaccompanied by a prospectus when prospectus delivery is not required by the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act"); (d) certain affiliated persons of the series to deposit securities into, and receive securities from, the series in connection with the purchase and redemption of Creation Units; and, (e) the series to pay redemption proceeds, under certain circumstances, more than seven days after the tender of a Creation Unit of VIPER Shares for redemption.

**APPLICANTS:** Vanguard International Equity Index Funds ("Trust"), The Vanguard Group, Inc. ("VGI"), and Vanguard Marketing Corporation ("VMC").

**FILING DATES:** The application was filed on July 25, 2002, and amended on October 7, 2003.

**HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING:** An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Commission's Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on November 28, 2003, and