|  |  |   |   |                                       | OMB APPROVAL  |
|--|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|
|  |  |   |   |                                       | OMB Number: 3235-00<br>Expires: June 30, 20<br>Estimated average burden<br>hours per response |
| age 1 of 9   |  | WASHIN  | DEXCHANGE COMMI<br>GTON, D.C. 20549<br>Form 19b-4   | ,,                                    | ile No. SR - 2008 - 16<br>mendment No.  |
|  | ule Change by Option<br>Rule 19b-4 under the   | • •   |   |                                       |   |
| Initial<br>V   | Amendment  | Withdrawal  | Section 19(b)(2)  | Section 19(b)(3)(A)                   | Section 19(b)(3)(B)   |
| i not j  | ension of Time Period<br>Commission Action   | Date Expires  |   | 「19b-4(i)(1) 「19b-                    | 4(1)(4)<br>4(1)(5)<br>4(1)(6)   |
|  | As Paper Document  | Exhibit 3 Sent As Pa  | per Document  | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |   |
|  | ef description of the pro<br>ed rule change would n  |   | -   | der the current policy for            | adjusting stock   |
| Description<br>Provide a bri<br>The propose<br>option contr<br>Contact Inf<br>Provide the r<br>prepared to   | ef description of the properties of the change would macts.<br>ormation<br>name, telephone number  | posed rule change (li<br>nitigate inconsistend<br>r and e-mail address  | cies that may result un<br>of the person on the sta<br>proposed rule change.                | aff of the self-regulatory or         |   |
| Description<br>Provide a bri<br>The propose<br>option contr<br>Contact Inf<br>Provide the r<br>prepared to<br>First Name   | ef description of the project rule change would nacts.<br>ormation<br>name, telephone number<br>respond to questions an  | posed rule change (li<br>nitigate inconsistend<br>r and e-mail address<br>id comments on the p  | cies that may result un   | aff of the self-regulatory or         |   |
| Description<br>Provide a bri<br>The propose<br>option contr<br>Contact Inf<br>Provide the r<br>prepared to<br>First Name<br>Title  | ef description of the proped rule change would nacts.<br>ormation<br>name, telephone number<br>respond to questions an<br>Jean<br>SVP and Deputy Gene  | posed rule change (li<br>nitigate inconsistend<br>r and e-mail address<br>id comments on the p  | cies that may result un<br>of the person on the sta<br>proposed rule change.                | aff of the self-regulatory or         |   |
| Description<br>Provide a bri<br>The propose<br>option contr<br>Contact Inf<br>Provide the r  | ef description of the proped rule change would macts.<br>ormation<br>name, telephone number<br>respond to questions an<br>Jean<br>SVP and Deputy Gene<br>[cawley@theocc.com  | posed rule change (li<br>nitigate inconsistend<br>r and e-mail address<br>id comments on the p  | of the person on the sta<br>proposed rule change.<br>Last Name Cawley                       | aff of the self-regulatory or         |   |
| Description<br>Provide a bri<br>The propose<br>option contr<br>Contact Inf<br>Provide the r<br>prepared to<br>First Name<br>Title<br>E-mail<br>Telephone<br>Signature<br>Pursuant to the<br>has duly cau<br>Date 07/2* | ef description of the proped rule change would macts.<br>ormation<br>name, telephone number<br>respond to questions an<br>Jean<br>SVP and Deputy Gene<br>[cawley@theocc.com  | posed rule change (li<br>nitigate inconsistence<br>r and e-mail address<br>Id comments on the p<br>eral Counsel<br>Fax (312) 322-628<br>Securities Exchange / | of the person on the sta<br>proposed rule change.<br>Last Name Cawley<br>30                 | aff of the self-regulatory org        |   |
| Description<br>Provide a bri<br>The propose<br>option contr<br>Contact Inf<br>Provide the r<br>prepared to<br>First Name<br>Title<br>E-mail<br>Telephone<br>Signature<br>Pursuant to the<br>has duly cau<br>Date 07/24 | ef description of the proped rule change would macts. ormation name, telephone number respond to questions an Jean SVP and Deputy Gene (312) 322-6269 the requirements of the S sed this filing to be signe 4/2008 | posed rule change (li<br>nitigate inconsistence<br>r and e-mail address<br>Id comments on the p<br>eral Counsel<br>Fax (312) 322-628<br>Securities Exchange / | of the person on the sta<br>proposed rule change.<br>Last Name Cawley<br>30<br>Act of 1934, | aff of the self-regulatory org        |   |

|  | IES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION<br>WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549   |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Form 19b-4 Information Add Remove View   | The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a<br>clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful<br>comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the<br>proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.   |  |  |  |  |
| Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change<br>Add Remove View  | The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3) |  |  |  |  |
| Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments,<br>Transcripts, Other Communications<br>Add Remove View<br>Exhibit Sent As Paper Document | Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such<br>documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall<br>be filed in accordance with Instruction G.  |  |  |  |  |
| Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire          Add       Remove       View         Exhibit Sent As Paper Document           | Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.   |  |  |  |  |
| Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies<br>Add Remove View   | The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and<br>deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit<br>the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which<br>it has been working.  |  |  |  |  |
| Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text Add Remove View   | The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed<br>changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be<br>more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be<br>considered part of the proposed rule change.  |  |  |  |  |
| Partial Amendment Add Remove View  | If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy<br>proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those<br>portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if<br>the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial<br>amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.  |  |  |  |  |

File No. SR-OCC-2008-16 Page 1 of 9

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 19b-4

Proposed Rule Change by

# THE OPTIONS CLEARING CORPORATION

Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

### Item 1. <u>Text of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC" or the "Corporation") proposes to amend Section 11A(c) of Article VI of its By-Laws to modify provisions that determine whether outstanding stock options will be adjusted to reflect special cash dividends. Material proposed to be added to OCC's By-Laws as currently in effect is underlined.

### THE OPTIONS CLEARING CORPORATION

#### **BY-LAWS**

## \* \* \*

## **ARTICLE VI**

#### **CLEARANCE OF EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS**

\* \* \*

SECTION 11A.

(a) - (c)(i). [No change]

(ii) with respect to events announced on or after February 1, 2009, there will be no adjustment to reflect (x) ordinary distributions by the issuer of the underlying security or (y) any cash dividend or distribution by the issuer of the underlying security if such dividend or distribution is less than \$12.50 per contract; provided, however, that (I) if an option contract has been previously adjusted to cover a different number of shares than a standard-size option contract and if a corresponding standard-size option contract also exists, such previously adjusted option contract will be adjusted only if the corresponding standard-size option contract is also adjusted, and (II) for purposes of this Section 11A, a "corresponding standard-size option contract" means a contract covering 100 shares or such other number of shares as may have been designated by an Exchange as underlying the previously adjusted option contract prior to any adjustments pursuant to this Section 11A; and (iii) [No change]

(d) - (j) [No change]

\* \* \*

### Item 2. <u>Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization</u>

The proposed rule change was approved by OCC's Board of Directors at a meeting held on May 9, 2008.

Questions regarding the proposed rule change should be addressed to Jean M. Cawley, Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, at (312) 322-6269.

# Item 3.Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory<br/>Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to mitigate inconsistencies that may result under the current policy for adjusting stock option contracts. In February 2007, the Commission approved rule change SR-OCC-2006-01, which amended Section 11A of Article VI of the OCC By-Laws governing adjustments to options in response to cash dividends or distributions. Under the new adjustment policy, cash dividends paid by a company otherwise than pursuant to a policy or practice of paying dividends on a quarterly or other regular basis would be deemed "special" and would normally trigger a contract adjustment policy will become effective for cash dividends announced on or after February 1, 2009.

However, certain inconsistencies may result when the threshold of "\$12.50 per option contract" is applied to all options on the affected underlying security. For example, if a

\$.10 special cash dividend is declared, the standard-size 100 share option would not be adjusted (because the value is less than \$12.50). However, a previously adjusted 150 share option (reflecting a 3 for 2 split) would be adjusted (because the value is \$15 per contract). Adjusting some but not all options of the same class in response to the same dividend event, especially if the 100 share option is not adjusted, could be confusing to investors, and OCC's Securities Committee (consisting of representatives of each of the options exchanges, as well as OCC) determined that this potential confusion should be avoided.

OCC considered modifying the threshold to specify \$.125 per share instead of \$12.50 per contract. This approach would address all standard-size (100 share) contracts that currently exist, plus adjusted contracts that come into existence in response to splits, etc. However, exchanges have proposed to introduce "maxi" size contracts. Applying the same per share threshold to a 1,000 and 100 share option could sometimes result in significant value being left on the table in the case of the 1,000 share option. Taking the same example of a \$.10 per share special dividend, neither option would be adjusted if the threshold were \$.125 per share. This would result in a loss of only \$10 per contract for the 100 share option, but the loss would be \$100 per contract for the 1,000 share option. For this reason, a per share threshold is not being proposed.

Greater consistency across contracts of varying sizes can be achieved by retaining the \$12.50 per contract threshold in all cases, but also adding a qualification specifying that if a corresponding standard-size contract exists on the underlying security, previously adjusted contracts will be adjusted only if the corresponding standard-size contract is also adjusted. For example, if a 100 share option and a 150 share option (previously adjusted for a 3 for 2 split) exist, the 150 share option would be adjusted for a special cash dividend *only* if the 100 share standard option would also be adjusted for that dividend. Stated differently, OCC proposes to refer back to the *pre-adjustment* standard-size option (if any exist) in deciding whether or not to adjust a previously adjusted option. Thus a 150 share option that was derived from a 100 share option as a result of a 3 for 2 split would be referred back to the 100 share option. A 1,500 share option (previously adjusted for a 3 for 2 split) would be referred back to the 1,000 share option (the "standard" size option for a "maxi" contract). Thus, the qualification specifies "only if the *corresponding* standard-size option contract is also adjusted." [Emphasis added.]

This qualification achieves greater consistency because in most cases all contracts on the same underlying security would be adjusted if the 100 share contract is adjusted. But the qualification does also allow a 1,000 share "standard" contract to be adjusted independently of a 100 share contract. Also, it could happen that an adjusted contract exists but *not* the corresponding standard contract. Or a contract calling for delivery of fewer than 100 shares may exist (e.g., as a result of a spinoff adjustment). In these cases, the qualification would be inapplicable and a straightforward application of the \$12.50 threshold would determine whether an adjustment would be made. The following are examples of the qualification to the \$12.50 per contract threshold.

| Shares | Contract  | Dividend |         | Dividend |         |
|--------|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|        |           | \$.09    |         | \$.13    |         |
|        |           | \$Value  | Adjust? | \$Value  | Adjust? |
| 100    | Standard  | 9.00     | NO      | 13.00    | YES     |
| 133    | 4/3 split | 11.97    | NO      | 17.29    | YES     |
| 150    | 3/2 split | 13.50    | NO      | 19.50    | YES     |
| 10     | Spinoff   | 0.90     | NO      | 1.30     | NO      |
| 177    | Merger    | 15.93    | NO      | 23.01    | YES     |
| 1000   | Standard  | 90.00    | YES     | 130.00   | YES     |
| 1500   | 3/2 split | 135.00   | YES     | 195      | YES     |

# (A) If a corresponding standard size contract exists:

| Shares | Contract  | Dividend |         | Dividend |         |
|--------|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|        |           | \$.02    |         | \$.01    |         |
|        |           | \$Value  | Adjust? | \$Value  | Adjust? |
| 100    | Standard  | 2.00     | NO      | 1.00     | NO      |
| 133    | 4/3 split | 2.66     | NO      | 1.33     | NO      |
| 150    | 3/2 split | 3.00     | NO      | 1.50     | NO      |
| 10     | Spinoff   | 0.20     | NO      | 0.10     | NO      |
| 177    | Merger    | 3.54     | NO      | 1.77     | NO      |
| 1000   | Standard  | 20.00    | YES     | 10.00    | NO      |
| 1500   | 3/2 split | 30.00    | YES     | 15.00    | NO      |

# (B) If the 100 share standard size contract does *not* exist:

| Shares | Option    | Dividend |         | Dividend |         |
|--------|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
|        |           | \$.09    |         | \$.13    |         |
|        |           | \$Value  | Adjust? | \$Value  | Adjust? |
| 133    | 4/3 split | 11.97    | NO      | 17.29    | YES     |
| 150    | 3/2 split | 13.50    | YES     | 19.50    | YES     |
| 10     | Spinoff   | 0.90     | NO      | 1.30     | NO      |
| 177    | Merger    | 15.93    | YES     | 23.01    | YES     |
| 1000   | Standard  | 90.00    | YES     | 130.00   | YES     |
| 1500   | 3/2 split | 135.00   | YES     | 195      | YES     |

The new adjustment policy approved in rule change SR-OCC-2006-01 will take effect beginning with dividends announced on and after February 1, 2009 and this proposed rule change is intended to be take effect therewith. These changes will not be implemented until the exchanges have conducted appropriate educational efforts and definitive copies of an appropriate supplement to the options disclosure document, *Characteristics and Risks of Standardized Options*, are available for distribution.

\* \* \*

The proposed rule change is consistent with the purposes and requirements of Section 17A of the Exchange Act because it is designed to promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of transactions in securities options, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a national system for the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of such transactions, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. It accomplishes this purpose by reducing inconsistencies in the adjustment of stock option contracts. The proposed rule change is not inconsistent with the existing By-Laws and Rules of OCC, including any rules proposed to be amended.

#### Item 4. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

OCC does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any material burden on competition.

# Item 5.Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed<br/>Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

Written comments were not and are not intended to be solicited with respect to the proposed rule change, and none has been received.

## Item 6. <u>Extension of Time Period for Commission Action</u>

OCC does not consent to an extension of the time period for Commission action on the proposed rule change. OCC will not implement this rule change until definitive copies of an appropriate supplement to the options disclosure document, *Characteristics and Risks of Standardized Options*, are available for distribution.

# Item 7.Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section<br/>19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

Not applicable.

## Item 8. <u>Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Regulatory Organization</u> or of the Commission

The proposed rule change is not based on a rule change of another self-regulatory

organization.

# Item 9. <u>Exhibits</u>

Exhibit 1 Completed notice of the proposed rule change for publication in

the Federal Register.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, The Options

Clearing Corporation has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned

thereunto duly authorized.

## THE OPTIONS CLEARING CORPORATION

By: \_\_\_

William H. Navin Executive Vice President and General Counsel