

(<http://www.sec.gov>). All submissions should refer to File No. SR-OC-2003-02 and should be submitted by March 18, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁶

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-4361 Filed 2-24-03; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-47373; File No. SR-Phlx-2002-76]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Order Granting Approval of Proposed Rule Change by Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. Relating to Certain Rules Governing Participation in Crossing Transactions Effected on the Exchange

February 19, 2003.

On November 21, 2002, the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Phlx" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² a proposed rule change to amend certain Phlx Rules governing participation in crossing transactions effected on the Exchange. Specifically, the Phlx proposes to amend Phlx Rule 126, adding Supplementary Material (h) instituting an alternative procedure for crossing certain orders of 10,000 shares or greater (the "Alternative Procedure"). In addition, the Phlx proposes to amend Phlx Rule 229B, to allow specialists and floor brokers on the Exchange's equity floor to take advantage of the Alternative Procedures electronically. The proposed rule change, as amended, was published for notice and comment in the **Federal Register** on January 15, 2003.³ The Commission received no comments on the proposed rule change.

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 exchange⁴ and, in particular, the

requirements of Section 6 of the Act⁵ and the rules and regulations thereunder. The Commission finds specifically that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act⁶ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act⁷ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and to perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The Exchange is concerned that in a decimal pricing environment a portion of the crossing business and corresponding Exchange volume could evaporate unless members and their customers receive the protection offered by the Alternative Procedures. The Commission believes that the Alternative Procedures strike a balance of interests of those members who are impacted by crossing transactions. Members attempting to execute crosses for their customers may be interested, on behalf of their customers, in obtaining a rapid execution of their order at a single price. Members submitting Updated Quotations may be interested in executing against with a portion of one side or the other of the cross because they see this as a favorable trade. The Commission finds that the proposal appears to be reasonably designed to allow both interests to be fulfilled by streamlining the crossing procedures while retaining the right of members to represent their best bid or offer through their response to the request for an Updated Quotation. The Commission also finds that the proposal protects the priority of agency orders by requiring that in no event shall an agency order in the book, having time priority, remain unexecuted after any other order at its price has been effected.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act⁸, that the proposed rule change, as amended (SR-Amex-2002-76), be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁹

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Notice No. 4263]

Shipping Coordinating Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Shipping Coordinating Committee (SHC) will conduct an open meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2003, in Room 6319, at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 2nd Street, SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001. The purpose of this meeting is to prepare for the 46th session of the Subcommittee on Ship Design and Equipment (DE 46) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) scheduled for March 10-19, 2003, at IMO Headquarters in London, England.

Items of particular interest on the DE 46 agenda are: Revision of resolutions MEPC.60(33) and A.586(14) regarding pollution prevention equipment; interpretations to the 2000 High Speed Craft Code; safety aspects of ballast water management; amendments to SOLAS requirements on electrical installations; amendments to resolution A.744(18) regarding guidelines on the enhanced program of inspections during surveys of bulk carriers and oil tankers; large passenger ship safety; review of fast rescue boat and means of rescue requirements; performance testing and approval standards for SOLAS personal life-saving appliances; protection of pump-rooms of tankers and access to shore-based computer programs for salvage operations; guidelines under MARPOL Annex VI on prevention of air pollution from ships to specifically address on-board NO_x monitoring and recording devices; and numerous matters related to bulk carriers.

IMO works to develop international agreements, guidelines, and standards for the marine industry. In most cases, these form the basis for class society rules and national standards/regulations. Open meetings of the SHC support the U.S. Representatives to the IMO in developing the U.S. position on those issues raised at the IMO Subcommittee meetings. This open meeting serves as an excellent forum for the public. Persons are encouraged to attend to participate in the development of the U.S. positions on issues affecting your maritime industry at DE 46 and to remain abreast of all activities ongoing within the IMO. Members of the public may attend this meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. For further information, please contact Mr. Wayne Lundy, at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001; e-mail wlundy@comdt.uscg.mil, telephone (202) 267-0024.

⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(75).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 47140 (January 8, 2003), 68 FR 2098.

⁴ In approving this proposed rule change, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

Dated: February 11, 2003.

Frederick J. Kenney,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee, Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Secretary

[Public Notice 4283]

Extension of the Restriction on the Use of United States Passports for Travel To, In or Through Iraq

On February 1, 1991, pursuant to the authority of 22 U.S.C. 211a and Executive Order 11295 (31 FR 10603), and in accordance with 22 CFR 51.73(a)(2) and (a)(3), all United States passports, with certain exceptions, were declared invalid for travel to, in, or through Iraq unless specifically validated for such travel. The restriction was originally imposed on the grounds that (1) armed hostilities then were taking place in Iraq and Kuwait and (2) there was an imminent danger to the safety of United States travelers to Iraq. American citizens then residing in Iraq and American professional reporters and journalists on assignment there were exempted from the restriction on the grounds that such exemptions were in the national interest. The restriction has been extended for additional one-year periods since then, and was last extended through February 25, 2003.

Conditions in Iraq remain hazardous for Americans. In an effort to compel Iraq to fulfill its obligations under UN Security Council resolutions, the United Nation has initiated an intensive inspections program. Mounting tensions between the Iraqi regime and the international community create an increasingly hazardous atmosphere for Americans in Iraq. If hostilities were to break out, the risk to Americans would be grave. The Iraqi regime has in the past demonstrated a willingness to use violence and intimidation against foreigners to pursue its foreign policy goals, and we believe it remains prepared to do so in the future.

At the outbreak of the Gulf War, the Iraqi regime took private citizens, including Americans, hostage and forced them to serve as "human shields" at strategic sites throughout Iraq. The Iraqi government has long asserted that it cannot ensure the safety of U.S. citizen United Nations humanitarian workers in Iraq, prompting the United Nations to remove them. Iraq regularly fires anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles at

U.S. and coalition aircraft patrolling the no-fly ones over northern and southern Iraq, and regularly illuminates U.S. and coalition aircraft with target-acquisition radar.

The tactics Iraq uses in the repression of its own civilian population creates a high risk to innocent bystanders. In addition, U.S. citizens and other foreigners working inside Kuwait near the Iraqi borders have been detained by Iraqi authorities in the past and sentenced to lengthy jail terms for alleged illegal entry into the country. Although our interests are represented by the Embassy of Poland in Baghdad, its ability to obtain consular access to detained U.S. citizens and to perform emergency services is constrained. In light of these circumstances, and pursuant to the authorities set forth in 22 U.S.C. 211a, Executive Order 11295, and 22 CFR 51.73, I have determined that Iraq continues to be a country where "there is imminent danger to the public health or physical safety of United States travellers".

Accordingly, United States passports shall continue to be invalid for travel to, in or through Iraq unless specifically validated for such travel under the authority of the Secretary of State. This restriction on the validity of U.S. passports for travel to, in or through Iraq shall not apply to and journalists on assignment there.

The Public Notice shall be effective from the date it is published in the Federal Register and shall expire at midnight on February 25, 2004, unless sooner extended or revoked by Public Notice.

Dated: February 12, 2003.

Colin L. Powell,

Secretary of State, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 03-4105 Filed 2-24-03; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Notice of Request for Public Comment Regarding Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA) Beneficiary Countries

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with section 203(f) of the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) (19 U.S.C. 3201), as amended by the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA), the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is

requesting the views of interested parties on whether the countries designated as ATPDEA beneficiary countries in Presidential Proclamation 7616 of October 31, 2002, are meeting the eligibility criteria provided for in section 204(b)(6)(B) of the ATPA, as amended by the ATPDEA.

DATES: Public comments are due at USTR no later than 5 p.m., March 27, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submissions by mail or express delivery: Public Reading Room, ATTN: ATPDEA Beneficiary Countries, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 1724 F Street, Room F12P1, NW., Washington, DC 20508. Submissions by electronic mail: FR0030@ustr.gov. See requirements for submissions below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bennett Harman, Office of the Americas, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Room 523, Washington, DC 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-5190.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Signed into law on August 6, 2002, the Trade Act of 2002 contains, in title XXXI, provisions for enhanced trade benefits for eligible Andean countries. Titled the "Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act" (ATPDEA), the ATPDEA renews the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA), and amends the ATPA to provide preferential treatment for certain products previously excluded from such treatment. In Presidential Proclamation 7616 of October 31, 2002, the President designated Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru as ATPDEA beneficiary countries. Section 203(f) of the ATPA, as amended by the ATPDEA, requires the USTR, not later than April 30, 2003, to submit to Congress a report on the operation of the ATPA. Section 203(f)(2) requires USTR, before submitting such report, to request comments on whether beneficiary countries are meeting the criteria listed in section 204(6)(B). USTR refers interested parties to the **Federal Register** notice published on August 15, 2002 (67 FR 53379), for a full list of section 204(6)(B)'s eligibility criteria.

Submitting Comments: Comments, in English, may be submitted by mail, express delivery service, or e-mail (to FR0030@ustr.gov). It is strongly recommended that comments submitted by mail or express delivery service also be sent by e-mail. Persons making submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: "ATPDEA Beneficiary Countries". Documents should be submitted as either WordPerfect, MSWord, or text (.TXT) files. Supporting documentation