

receive payment for securities sold, but in no event more than seven days. Loans effected within seven days of each other will be treated as separate loan transactions for purposes of this condition.

9. Each Interfund Loan may be called on one business day's notice by a lending Fund and may be repaid on any day by a borrowing Fund.

10. A Fund's participation in the credit facility must be consistent with its investment policies and limitations and organizational documents.

11. The Credit Facility Team will calculate total Fund borrowing and lending demand through the credit facility, and allocate Interfund Loans on an equitable basis among the Funds without the intervention of any portfolio manager of the Funds (other than the Portfolio Manager acting in his or her capacity as a member of the Credit Facility Team). All allocations will require approval of at least one member of the Credit Facility Team who is not the Portfolio Manager. The Credit Facility Team will not solicit cash for the credit facility from any Fund or prospectively publish or disseminate loan demand data to portfolio managers (except to the extent that the Portfolio Manager has access to loan demand data in his or her capacity as a member of the Credit Facility Team). The Credit Facility Team will invest any amounts remaining after satisfaction of borrowing demand in accordance with the standing instructions from portfolio managers or return remaining amounts to the Funds.

12. The Credit Facility Team will monitor the Interfund Loan Rate charged and the other terms and conditions of the Interfund Loans and will make a quarterly report to the Board concerning the participation of the Funds in the credit facility and the terms and other conditions of any extensions of credit under the facility.

13. The Board of each Fund, including a majority of the Independent Directors: (a) Will review no less frequently than quarterly the Fund's participation in the credit facility during the preceding quarter for compliance with the conditions of any order permitting the transactions; (b) will establish the Bank Loan Rate formula used to determine the interest rate on Interfund Loans and review no less frequently than annually the continuing appropriateness of the Bank Loan Rate formula; and (c) will review no less frequently than annually the continuing appropriateness of the Fund's participation in the credit facility.

14. In the event an Interfund Loan is not paid according to its terms and the

default is not cured within two business days from its maturity or from the time the lending Fund makes a demand for payment under the provisions of the Interfund Lending Agreement, the Credit Facility Team will promptly refer the loan for arbitration to an independent arbitrator selected by the Board of any Fund involved in the loan who will serve as arbitrator of disputes concerning Interfund Loans.<sup>2</sup> The arbitrator will resolve any problems promptly, and the arbitrator's decision will be binding on both Funds. The arbitrator will submit, at least annually, a written report to the Board setting forth a description of the nature of any dispute and the actions taken by the Funds to resolve the dispute.

15. Each Fund will maintain and preserve for a period of not less than six years from the end of the fiscal year in which any transaction under the credit facility occurred, the first two years in an easily accessible place, written records of all such transactions setting forth a description of the terms of the transaction, including the amount, the maturity and rate of interest on the loan, the rate of interest available at the time on short-term repurchase agreements and bank borrowings, the yield on any money market fund in which the lending Fund could otherwise invest and such other information presented to the Fund's Board in connection with the review required by conditions 12 and 13.

16. The Credit Facility Team will prepare and submit to the Board for review an initial report describing the operations of the credit facility and the procedures to be implemented to ensure that all Funds are treated fairly. After the commencement of operations of the credit facility, the Credit Facility Team will report on the operations of the credit facility at the quarterly meetings of each Fund's Board. In addition, for two years following the commencement of the credit facility, the independent public accountant for each Fund shall prepare an annual report that evaluates the Credit Facility Team's assertion that it has established procedures reasonably designed to achieve compliance with the conditions of the order. The report will be prepared in accordance with the Statements on Standards for Attestation Engagements No. 10 and it shall be filed pursuant to Item 77Q3 of Form N-SAR, as such statements or form may be revised, amended, or superseded from time to time. In particular, the report

<sup>2</sup> If a dispute involves Funds with separate Boards, the respective Boards will agree on an independent arbitrator that is satisfactory to each Fund.

shall address procedures designed to achieve the following objectives: (a) That the Interfund Loan Rate will be higher than the Repo Rate and, if applicable, the yield of the money market funds, but lower than the Bank Loan Rate; (b) compliance with the collateral requirements as set forth in the application; (c) compliance with the percentage limitations on interfund borrowing and lending; (d) allocation of interfund borrowing and lending demand in an equitable manner and in accordance with procedures established by the Board; and (e) that the interest rate on any Interfund Loan does not exceed the interest rate on any third party borrowings of a borrowing Fund at the time of the Interfund Loan. After the final report is filed, the Fund's external auditors, in connection with their Fund audit examinations, will continue to review the operation of the credit facility for compliance with the conditions of the application and their review will form the basis, in part, of the auditor's report on internal accounting controls in Form N-SAR.

17. No Fund will participate in the credit facility upon receipt of requisite regulatory approval unless all material facts about its intended participation are fully disclosed in the Fund's SAI.

18. A Fund's borrowings through the credit facility, as measured on the day when the most recent loan was made, will not exceed the greater of 125% of the Fund's total net cash redemptions or 102% of sales fails for the preceding seven calendar days.

19. The Board of each Fund will satisfy the fund governance standards as defined in rule 0-1(a)(7) under the Act by the compliance date for the rule.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

Nancy M. Morris,  
Secretary.

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BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-53657; File No. SR-Amex-2006-32]

**Self-Regulatory Organizations; American Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Commentary .10 to Amex Rule 958 and Commentary .09 to Amex Rule 958-ANTE**

April 14, 2006.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on April 11, 2006, the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex" or "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 self-regulatory organization. Amex filed this proposal pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>3</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder<sup>4</sup> as non-controversial, and therefore the proposed rule change is effective immediately upon filing. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

The Exchange proposes to revise Commentary .10 of Amex Rule 958 and Commentary .09 to Amex Rule 958-ANTE. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Amex's Web site at <http://www.amex.com>, the Office of the Secretary, the Amex, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

### **II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change**

In its filing with the Commission, Amex 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. Amex 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 the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change**

##### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of the proposal is to provide that transactions on the Exchange floor in Partnership Units ("Units") pursuant to Amex Rule 1500 *et seq.* are subject to Commentary .10 of Amex Rule 958 and Commentary .09 to Amex Rule 958-ANTE ("Commentaries"). Currently, the Commentaries provide that transactions in index warrants, currency warrants, securities listed pursuant to section 107 of the Amex Guide, trust issued receipts

listed pursuant to Amex Rules 1200 *et seq.* ("Trust Issued Receipts"), and derivative products are subject to Amex Rules 958 and 958-ANTE. A "derivative product" is defined in Article I, section 3(d) of the Amex Constitution to include, in addition to standardized options, securities which are issued by the Options Clearing Corporation or another limited purpose entity or trust, and which are based solely on the performance of an index or portfolio of other publicly traded securities. A derivative product does not include warrants of any type or closed-end management investment companies. Portfolio Depository Receipts or Index Fund Shares are derivative products consistent with Article I, section 3(d) of the Amex Constitution.

The Commentaries further provide that these transactions may only be effected by registered traders ("Registered Traders") who are regular members of the Exchange. A Registered Trader who is logged onto Auto-Ex may only sign onto Auto-Ex for Portfolio Depository Receipts, Index Fund Shares, and Trust Issued Receipts (collectively "ETFs") traded on the same or contiguous panels, *i.e.*, ETFs traded by two adjoining Specialists or ETFs traded by the same Specialist for a maximum of three panels. Amex also proposes to include Units as an ETF for the purposes of this contiguous panel requirement. The Exchange solely seeks to provide clarity akin to the trading of ETFs. As a result, the Exchange proposes that Registered Traders may participate in the trading of Units consistent with the Commentaries.

##### **2. Statutory Basis**

The proposed rule change is consistent with section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>5</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> in particular, in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, promote just and equitable principles of trade, remove impediments to and perfect the mechanisms of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, protect investors and the public interest.

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

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.

#### **C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants or Others**

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

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

The foregoing rule change has become immediately effective pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A)<sup>7</sup> of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>8</sup> thereunder because: (i) It does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) it does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) by its terms, it does not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest; provided that the Exchange has given the Commission notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission.

Amex has requested that the Commission waive the 5-day pre-filing notice requirement and the 30-day operative delay of the proposal. The Commission believes that the waiver of the 5-day pre-filing requirement and the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, because the waiver would allow Amex to immediately implement trading rules governing Units listed pursuant to Amex Rule 1500 *et seq.* that are identical to the trading rules for other ETFs traded on the Exchange. For this reason, the Commission designates the proposal effective and operative upon filing with the Commission.<sup>9</sup>

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 furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>9</sup> For purposes only of waiving the operative delay for this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>3</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>4</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

#### IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposal 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 [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-Amex-2006-32 on the subject line.

##### *Paper Comments*

- 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 No. SR-Amex-2006-32. 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 changes 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. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of Amex. 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 No. SR-Amex-2006-32 and should be submitted on or before May 15, 2006.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>10</sup>

**Nancy M. Morris,**  
Secretary.

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**BILLING CODE 8010-01-P**

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

#### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-53656; File No. SR-Amex-2006-04]

#### Self-Regulatory Organizations; American Stock Exchange LLC; Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 Thereto Relating to Procedures for Denying Initial and Continued Listing

April 14, 2006.

##### I. Introduction

On January 23, 2006, the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> a proposal to add new section 127 and amend sections 101, 401, 402, 710, 1002, and 1009 of the Amex Company Guide which the Exchange states will increase the transparency of the process associated with staff determinations to deny the initial or continued listing of a company's securities on the Amex. On February 22, 2006, Amex filed Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on March 13, 2006.<sup>3</sup> The Commission received no comments regarding the proposal. This order approves the proposed rule change.

##### II. Description of the Proposal

The Exchange proposes to add new section 127 and amend sections 101 and 1002 of the Amex Company Guide to clarify the circumstances in which the Exchange can use its discretionary authority to deny initial or continued listing to a company which raises public interest or other qualitative concerns about its condition or business. The proposed rule would specify that the Exchange has authority to deny initial listing to an applicant, impose additional or more stringent criteria on initial or continued listing of a company's securities, or delist a company's securities where there has been: (i) A history of regulatory misconduct; (ii) filing for protection under any provision of the federal bankruptcy laws or comparable foreign laws; (iii) issuance of a disclaimer opinion on financial statements required to be audited; (iv) failure to

provide required certification with the financial statements of the listed company or applicant; or (v) a determination that the listed company or applicant entity has violated or evaded applicable corporate governance standards.

Proposed section 127 of the Amex Company Guide would explain the factors used by the Exchange in evaluating whether the regulatory misconduct of an individual associated with a company should be used as a basis to deny initial or continued listing; explain the remedial measures that may serve to mitigate public interest concerns; and state that sections 101 and 1002 of the Amex Company Guide do not provide a basis for the Exchange to grant exemptions or exceptions from the enumerated initial or continued listing criteria.

The proposal also amends sections 402 and 1009 of the Amex Company Guide to conform the Amex disclosure time frames to those mandated by the Commission for current reports filed on Form 8-K by reducing to four business days the time within which a listed company must publicly disclose that the Exchange has given it written notice that it is noncompliant with one or more of the continued listing standards. The proposed amendments would also extend the disclosure obligations applicable to a company that receives a written delisting notice to include a company that receives a written notice of noncompliance with a continued listing requirement, which may be in the form of a Warning Letter or a Deficiency Letter.

In addition, the Amex proposes certain clarifying amendments to section 710 of the Amex Company Guide to provide that an exception to the shareholder approval requirements may be made upon application to the Exchange when (i) the delay in securing shareholder approval would seriously jeopardize the financial viability of the enterprise; and (ii) reliance by the company on the exception is expressly approved by the audit committee of the company's board of directors or a comparable body of the board of directors. The Exchange proposes to add that the comparable body of the board of directors, which may approve a company's reliance on the financial viability exception, must be comprised solely of independent and disinterested directors. The Exchange also proposes to prohibit a company from issuing, or authorizing its transfer agent or registrar to issue or register the securities subject to the shareholder approval requirements, until it has received written notification from the Exchange

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 53403 (March 2, 2006), 71 FR 12736.