

total hourly burden per year for all funds to comply with current information collection requirements under rule 12b-1, is 157,675 hours (371 fund families × 425 hours per fund family = 157,675 hours) over the three year period for which we are requesting approval of the information collection burden).

If a currently operating fund seeks to (i) adopt a new Rule 12b-1 plan or (ii) materially increase the amount it spends for distribution under its Rule 12b-1 plan, Rule 12b-1 requires that the fund obtain shareholder approval. As a consequence, the fund will incur the cost of a proxy. Based on conversations with fund industry representatives, Commission staff estimates that approximately three funds per year prepare a proxy in connection with the adoption or material amendment of a Rule 12b-1 plan. The staff further estimates that the cost of each fund's proxy is \$30,000. Thus the total annual cost burden of Rule 12b-1 to the fund industry is \$90,000 (3 funds requiring a proxy × \$30,000 per proxy).

The collections of information required by Rule 12b-1 are necessary to obtain the benefits of the rule. Notices to the Commission will not be kept confidential. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

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 will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information 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 Charles Boucher, Director/CIO, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312; or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

pursuant to other rules, and would keep these records in any case as a matter of business practice.

Dated: August 19, 2009.

Florence E. Harmon,

Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-60531; File No. 4-443]

Joint Industry Plan; Order Approving Amendment No. 3 to the Plan for the Purpose of Developing and Implementing Procedures Designed To Facilitate the Listing and Trading of Standardized Options

August 19, 2009.

I. Introduction

On June 30, 2009, June 16, 2009, June 12, 2009, June 22, 2009, June 18, 2009, June 23, 2009, July 8, 2009, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("CBOE"), International Securities Exchange, LLC ("ISE"), NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("NASDAQ"), NASDAQ OMX BX, Inc. ("BX"), NASDAQ OMX PHLX ("Phlx"), NYSE Amex LLC ("NYSE Amex"), NYSE Arca Inc. ("NYSE Arca"), and The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC"), respectively, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to Section 11A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 608 thereunder,² Amendment No. 3 to the Plan for the Purpose of Developing and Implementing Procedures Designed to Facilitate the Listing and Trading of Standardized Options ("Plan" or "OLPP").³ Amendment No. 3 would apply uniform objective standards to the range of options series exercise (or strike) prices available for trading on the Plan Sponsor exchanges.

The proposed Amendment was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on July 28, 2009.⁴ The Commission received no comment letters in response to the Notice. This

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78k-1.

² 17 CFR 242.608.

³ On July 6, 2001, the Commission approved the OLPP, which was originally proposed by the American Stock Exchange LLC (k/n/a NYSE Amex), CBOE, ISE, OCC, Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. (k/n/a Phlx), and Pacific Exchange, Inc. (k/n/a NYSE Arca). See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 44521, 66 FR 36809 (July 13, 2001). On February 5, 2004, the Boston Stock Exchange, Inc. (k/n/a BX) was added as a sponsor to the OLPP. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 49199, 69 FR 7030 (February 12, 2004). On March 21, 2008, NASDAQ was added as a sponsor to the OLPP. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 57546 (March 21, 2008), 73 FR 16393 (March 27, 2008).

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 60365 (July 22, 2009), 74 FR 37266 ("Notice").

order approves Amendment No. 3 to the OLPP.

II. Description of the Proposed Amendment

Amendment No. 3 would apply uniform objective standards to the range of options series exercise (or strike) prices available for trading on the Plan Sponsor exchanges as a quote mitigation strategy. Specifically, the proposal applies certain "range limitations" to the addition of new series strike prices for options classes overlying equity securities, Exchange Traded Fund Shares, or Trust Issued Receipts. As proposed, if the price of the underlying security is less than or equal to \$20, the Series Selecting Exchange would not list new option series with an exercise price more than 100 percent above or below the price of the underlying security.⁵ If the price of the underlying security is greater than \$20, the Series Selecting Exchange would not list new option series with an exercise price more than 50 percent above or below the price of the underlying security.

The proposed Amendment provides for an objective basis upon which the underlying prices for the price range limitations described above would be determined, specifically, in regards to intra-day add-on series and next-day series additions, new expiration months and for option series to be added as a result of pre-market trading. Furthermore, 8 a.m. Chicago time is proposed as the earliest permissible time at which a Series Selecting Exchange may notify the OCC, and each other exchange also trading the same options class, that it has commenced trading new series as a result of pre-market trading. This earliest permissible time is established to ensure that outlier prices for the underlying security which occur at 6 a.m. Chicago time, for example (*i.e.*, well in advance of the opening of the standard trading session), are not relied upon for purposes of the exercise price range limitations.

The proposal also allows each Plan Sponsor exchange to designate up to five underlying securities to except from the aforementioned 50 percent restriction and instead apply the 100 percent restriction. These designations would be made on an annual basis and could not be removed during the calendar year unless the option class was delisted by the designating exchange, in which case the designating exchange could designate another class to replace the delisted class. If a

⁵ This restriction would not prohibit the listing of at least three options series per expiration month in an option class.

designated class is delisted by the designating exchange but continues to trade on at least one other exchange, any additional series for the class which are added from that point forward would again be subject to the proposed exercise price range limitations, unless the class is subsequently designated by another exchange. The proposal also provides an exchange with a procedure to request, if conditions warrant, additional case-by-case exceptions even when it has already so designated five underlying securities.

In addition, a procedure is created for a Series Listing Exchange to request an exemption, on a case-by-case basis, from the 100 percent range limitation, whereby, if unanimously agreed upon by all exchanges that list the particular options class, the Series Listing Exchange may list options series with strike prices that are more than 100 percent above or below the price of the underlying security.⁶

The proposal would not allow for the listing of options series that would otherwise be prohibited by the rules of a Series Selecting Exchange or the Plan, nor does it restrict the ability of an exchange to list options series that have been properly listed by another exchange. The proposal also expressly eliminates the applicability of the strike price range limitations with regard to: (1) The listing of \$1 strike prices in option classes participating in the \$1 Strike Program, where instead, the Series Selecting Exchange would be permitted to list \$1 strike prices to the fullest extent as permitted under its rules for the \$1 Strike Program; and (2) the listing of series of Flexible Exchange Options.

III. Discussion

After careful review, the Commission finds that Amendment No. 3 is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.⁷ Specifically, the Commission finds that Amendment No. 3 to the OLPP is consistent with section 11A of the Act⁸ and Rule 608 thereunder⁹ in that it is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors and the maintenance of fair and orderly markets, to remove impediments to, and perfect

⁶ Application of any of the aforementioned exceptions and/or exemptions to the strike price range limitations for an underlying security would be available to all exchanges listing options on such security.

⁷ In approving this proposed Amendment, the Commission has considered its impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78k-1.

⁹ 17 CFR 242.608.

the mechanisms of, a national market system.

The Commission notes that according to one study cited by the Plan Sponsor exchanges, the options industry would expect an approximate four percent reduction in the number of series traded, with only a nominal reduction in trading volume, upon implementation of the changes proposed in this Amendment.¹⁰ Therefore, the Commission believes that adopting uniform objective standards to the range of options series exercise (or strike) prices available for trading on the Plan Sponsor exchanges should reduce the number of option series available for trading, and thus should reduce increases in the options quote message traffic because market participants will not be submitting quotes in those series. Accordingly, the Commission believes that it is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors and the maintenance of fair and orderly markets, to remove impediments to, and perfect mechanisms of, a national market system to approve Amendment No. 3 to the OLPP.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 11A of the Act,¹¹ and Rule 608 thereunder,¹² that proposed Amendment No. 3 to the OLPP be, and it hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹³

Florence E. Harmon,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E9-20538 Filed 8-25-09; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-60514; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2009-075]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to the Listing Standards for Selected Equity-Linked Debt Securities

August 17, 2009.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,²

¹⁰ See Notice, *supra* note 4.

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78k-1.

¹² 17 CFR 242.608.

¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(29).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

notice is hereby given that on August 6, 2009, The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq” or the “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 Nasdaq. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons and is approving the proposed rule change on an accelerated basis.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

Nasdaq is proposing to amend Nasdaq Rule 5715, the Exchange’s listing standards for selected equity-linked debt securities (“SEEDS”). The text of the proposed rule change is available from Nasdaq’s Web site at <http://nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com>, at Nasdaq’s principal office, 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, Nasdaq included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item III below, and is set forth in Sections A, B, and C below.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange is proposing to amend Nasdaq Rule 5715, the Exchange’s listing standards for SEEDS, to provide for greater flexibility in the listing criteria for such securities, as set forth below. The proposed substantive rule changes herein are based upon the rules of NYSE Arca, Inc. (“NYSEArca”)³ and the American Stock Exchange LLC (“Amex”).⁴ Similar proposed rule changes by other national securities

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 57219 (Jan. 29, 2008), 73 FR 6542 (Feb. 4, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2008-13).

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 55733 (May 10, 2007), 72 FR 27602 (May 16, 2007) (SR-Amex-2007-34) (the “May 2007 Amex Order”) and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 56629 (October 9, 2007), 72 FR 58689 (October 16, 2007) (SR-Amex-2007-87) (the “October 2007 Amex Order”). These two orders approved changes to Section 107A of the Amex Company Guide.