

Act of 2000 (“CFMA”). Prior to the CFMA, federal law did not allow the trading of futures on individual stocks or on narrow-based stock indexes (collectively, “security futures products”). The CFMA removed this restriction and provided that trading in security futures products would be regulated jointly by the Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”).

The Exchange Act requires all SROs to submit to the SEC any proposals to amend, add, or delete any of their rules. Certain entities (Security Futures Product Exchanges) would be notice registered national securities exchanges only because they trade security futures products. Similarly, certain entities (Limited Purpose National Securities Associations) would be limited purpose national securities associations only because their members trade security futures products. The Exchange Act, as amended by the CFMA, established a procedure for Security Futures Product Exchanges and Limited Purpose National Securities Associations to provide notice of proposed rule changes relating to certain matters.¹ Rule 19b-7 and Form 19b-7 implemented this procedure. Effective April 28, 2008, the SEC amended Rule 19b-7 and Form 19b-7 to require that Form 19b-7 be submitted electronically.²

The collection of information is designed to provide the Commission with the information necessary to determine, as required by the Exchange Act, whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Exchange Act and the rules thereunder. The information is used to determine if the proposed rule change should remain in effect or abrogated.

The respondents to the collection of information are SROs. Three respondents file an average total of approximately 2 responses per year.³ Each response takes approximately 12.5 hours to complete and each amendment

takes approximately 3 hours to complete, which correspond to an estimated annual response burden of 25 hours ((2 rule change proposals × 12.5 hours) + (0 amendments⁴ × 3 hours)). The average internal cost of compliance per response is \$5,050 (11.5 legal hours multiplied by an average hourly rate of \$420⁵ plus 1 hour of paralegal work multiplied by an average hourly rate of \$220⁶). The total resulting internal cost of compliance for a respondent is \$10,100 per year (2 responses × \$5,050 per response).

In addition to filing its proposed rule changes and any amendments thereto with the Commission, a respondent is also required to post each of its proposals and any amendments thereto, on its website. This process takes approximately 0.5 hours to complete per proposal and 0.5 hours per amendment. Thus, for approximately 2 responses and 0 amendments,⁷ the total annual reporting burden on a respondent to post these on its website is 1 hour ((2 proposals per year × 0.5 hours per filing) + (0 amendments × 0.5 hours)). Further, a respondent is required to update its rulebook, which it maintains on its website, to reflect the changes that it makes in each proposal and any amendment thereto. Thus, for all filings that were not withdrawn by a respondent (0 withdrawn filings in calendar years 2017–2019) or disapproved by the Commission (0 disapproved filings in calendar years 2017–2019), a respondent was required to update its online rulebook to reflect the effectiveness of 2 filings on average, each of which takes approximately 4 hours to complete per proposal. Thus, the total annual reporting burden for updating an online rulebook is 8 hours ((2 filings per year – 0 withdrawn

filings – 0 disapproved filings) × 4 hours).

Compliance with Rule 19b-7 is mandatory. Information received in response to Rule 19b-7 is not kept confidential; the information collected is public information.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission’s estimates of the burden of the proposed 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.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information under the PRA unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Please direct your written comments to: David Bottom, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Cynthia Roscoe, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: July 2, 2020.

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-14747 Filed 7-8-20; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-89216; File No. SR-LTSE-2020-10]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Long-Term Stock Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to the Designation of Members for Mandatory Disaster Recovery Testing Pursuant to Regulation SCI for Calendar Year 2020

July 2, 2020.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on June 22, 2020, Long-Term Stock Exchange, Inc.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

¹ These matters are higher margin levels, fraud or manipulation, recordkeeping, reporting, listing standards, or decimal pricing for security futures products; sales practices for security futures products for persons who effect transactions in security futures products; or rules effectuating the obligation of Security Futures Product Exchanges and Limited Purpose National Securities Associations to enforce the securities laws. See 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(7)(A).

² See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 57526 (March 19, 2008), 73 FR 16179 (March 27, 2008).

³ There are currently four Security Futures Product Exchanges and one Limited Purpose National Securities Association, the National Futures Authority. However, two Security Futures Product Exchanges currently do not trade security futures products and, as a result, have not been filing proposed rule changes. Therefore, there are currently three respondents to Form 19b-7.

⁴ SEC staff notes that even though no amendments were received in the previous three years and that staff does not anticipate the receipt of any amendments, calculation of amendments is a separate step in the calculation of the PRA burden and it is possible that amendments are filed in the future. Therefore, instead of removing the calculation altogether, staff has shown the calculation as anticipating zero amendments.

⁵ The \$420 per hour figure for an Attorney is from SIFMA’s *Management & Professional Earnings in the Securities Industry 2013*, modified by Commission staff to account for inflation and an 1800-hour work-year and then multiplied by 5.35 to account for bonuses, firm size, employee benefits, and overhead.

⁶ The \$220 per hour figure for a Paralegal is from SIFMA’s *Management & Professional Earnings in the Securities Industry 2013*, modified by Commission staff to account for inflation and an 1800-hour work-year and then multiplied by 5.35 to account for bonuses, firm size, employee benefits, and overhead.

⁷ See *supra* note 4.

(“LTSE” or the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. 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

LTSE proposes a rule change to amend how the Exchange will designate certain Members to participate in mandatory disaster recovery testing pursuant to Regulation SCI and LTSE Rule 2.250 for calendar year 2020.

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange’s website at <https://longtermstockexchange.com/>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization 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. The self-regulatory organization 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 on the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend LTSE Rule 2.250 to revise how it will designate certain Members to participate in mandatory disaster recovery testing pursuant to Regulation SCI and Rule 2.250 for calendar year 2020.

Regulation SCI requires LTSE, as an SCI entity, to maintain business continuity and disaster recovery plans that provide for resilient and geographically diverse backup and recovery capabilities that are reasonably designed to achieve two-hour resumption of critical SCI systems and next business day resumption of other

SCI systems following a wide-scale disruption.³

Regulation SCI and LTSE Rule 2.250 also require LTSE to designate certain Members⁴ to participate in business continuity and disaster recovery testing in a manner specified by LTSE and at a frequency of not less than once every 12 months.⁵ Such testing ordinarily is part of an annual industry-wide test, which is next scheduled for October 24, 2020.

LTSE Rule 2.250 governs mandatory participation in testing of LTSE’s backup systems, and states that LTSE will designate Members that account for a specified percentage of executed volume on LTSE, measured on quarterly basis, as required to connect to LTSE’s backup systems and participate in functional and performance testing of such system.⁶ Rule 2.250 further provides that if a Member has not previously been designated as meeting the volume criteria, such Member will have until the next calendar quarter before such requirements are applicable.⁷ LTSE currently is not operational and is not expecting to have two quarters of trading data on which to base its Member designation prior to the October 24, 2020 test. Thus, as currently written, Rule 2.250 would not permit the Exchange to designate any Members to participate in the industry-wide test for 2020 because no Members will have the requisite trading volume on LTSE upon which a designation can be made.

To address the unique circumstances for disaster recovery testing in 2020, the year in which LTSE will become operational, the Exchange proposes to add new paragraph (d), which would provide that for calendar year 2020, notwithstanding paragraphs (b) and (c), which assign the Exchange responsibility of “identifying Members that account for a meaningful percentage of the Exchange’s overall volume,” the Exchange will instead designate at least three Members who have a meaningful percentage of trading volumes in NMS Stocks across the other equity exchanges. This would allow the

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 73639 (November 19, 2014), 79 FR 72252 (December 5, 2014).

⁴ The term “Member” refers to any registered broker or dealer that has been admitted to membership in the Exchange. A Member will have the status of a Member of the Exchange as that term is defined in Section 3(a)(3) of the Act. Membership may be granted to a sole proprietor, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other organization that is a registered broker or dealer pursuant to Section 15 of the Act, and which has been approved by the Exchange. See LTSE Rule 1.160(w).

⁵ See LTSE Rule 2.250(a), (b).

⁶ See LTSE Rule 2.250(a), (c).

⁷ See LTSE Rule 2.250(c).

Exchange to identify Members for industry-wide disaster recovery testing in the absence of the metrics that will be used in the ordinary course to designate such firms.

LTSE believes that designating at least three Members who are likely already to be participating in the industry-wide test by virtue of their trading activities on other exchanges is likely to reduce the burdens associated with being designated for disaster recovery testing by LTSE in absence of significant trading volumes on the Exchange. Moreover, to reduce the burdens on such Members, the Exchange proposes, where possible, to designate firms that have already established connections to its backup systems. This is intended to address the “notice” requirements in the existing Rule 2.250.⁸ The Exchange believes that designating three or more such firms is reasonably designed to provide the minimum necessary for the maintenance of fair and orderly markets in the event of the activation of such plans.

LTSE intends to notify Members of their designation for disaster recovery testing no later than July 10, 2020. With respect to industry-wide disaster recovery testing in 2021 and beyond, the Exchange will issue one or more regulatory circulars establishing the standards to be used for determining which Members contribute a meaningful percentage of the Exchange’s overall volume and thus are required to participate in functional and performance testing. Such standards will be informed by the Exchange’s actual market and trading data, in accordance with LTSE Rule 2.250(a)–(c).

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act,⁹ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,¹⁰ in particular, in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and 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 believes that its proposed methodology of designating Members who have meaningful levels of trading activity on other exchanges and

⁸ See *id.*

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

who have established connectivity to LTSE's backup systems is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will ensure that the Members necessary to ensure the maintenance of fair and orderly markets in the event of the activation of LTSE's disaster recovery plans have been designated consistent with LTSE Rule 2.250 and Rule 1004 of Regulation SCI. Specifically, the proposal will address the unique circumstances of industry-wide testing taking place within a short time of when the Exchange commences operations. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change balances the objectives of having Members participate in industry-wide disaster recovery testing, including LTSE's backup systems, and the burdens on such Members who, at the time of designation, will not have traded on LTSE.

As set forth in the SCI Adopting Release, "SROs have the authority, and legal responsibility, under Section 6 of the Exchange Act, to adopt and enforce rules (including rules to comply with Regulation SCI's requirements relating to BC/DR testing) applicable to their members or participants that are designed to, among other things, foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest."¹¹ The Exchange believes that this proposal is consistent with such authority and legal responsibility.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is designed to promote fair competition among brokers and dealers and exchanges by ensuring the Exchange can designate Members to participate in mandatory disaster recovery testing pursuant to Regulation SCI for calendar year 2020. The Exchange believes that designating three or more such firms is reasonably designed to provide the minimum necessary for the maintenance of fair and orderly markets in the event of the

activation of such plans, thereby promoting intermarket competition between exchanges in furtherance of the principles of Section 11A(a)(1) of the Act.¹²

With respect to intramarket competition, the proposed rule change seeks to reduce the burdens on Members by only designating Members who are likely already participating in the industry-wide test by virtue of their trading activities on other exchanges. Under the proposed rule change, the Exchange will designate firms that have already established connections to the Exchange's backup systems. Consequently, LTSE does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any burden on intramarket 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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act¹³ and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.¹⁴

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹⁵ normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of the filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii),¹⁶ the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay to permit the Exchange to notify Members of their designation

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78k-1(a)(1).

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires the Exchange to give the Commission written 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. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

¹⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

earlier than would be possible without a waiver of the operative delay. The Commission believes that waiver of the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because it would provide designated members additional time to receive notice of their designation, and thus prepare for disaster recovery testing with the Exchange's backup systems. Accordingly, the Commission waives the 30-day operative delay and designates the proposal operative upon filing.¹⁷

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend 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. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change 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 email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-LTSE-2020-10 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-LTSE-2020-10. This file number should be included on the subject line if email 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 website (<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

¹⁷ For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹¹ See *supra* note 3, at 72350.

Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change 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 website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549 on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of LTSE and on its internet website at <https://longtermstockexchange.com/>.

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 Number SR-LTSE-2020-10 and should be submitted on or before July 30, 2020.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁸

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-14741 Filed 7-8-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270-505, OMB Control No. 3235-0562]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-2736

Extension:
Rule 17d-1

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") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Section 17(d) (15 U.S.C. 80a-17(d)) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a *et seq.*) (the "Act") prohibits first- and second-tier affiliates of a fund, the fund's principal underwriters, and affiliated persons of

the fund's principal underwriters, acting as principal, to effect any transaction in which the fund or a company controlled by the fund is a joint or a joint and several participant in contravention of the Commission's rules. Rule 17d-1 (17 CFR 270.17d-1) prohibits an affiliated person or principal underwriter for any fund (a "first-tier affiliate"), or any affiliated person of such person or underwriter (a "second-tier affiliate"), acting as principal, from participating in or effecting any transaction in connection with a joint enterprise or other joint arrangement in which the fund is a participant, unless prior to entering into the enterprise or arrangement "an application regarding [the transaction] has been filed with the Commission and has been granted by an order." In reviewing the proposed affiliated transaction, the rule provides that the Commission will consider whether the proposal is (i) consistent with the provisions, policies, and purposes of the Act, and (ii) on a basis different from or less advantageous than that of other participants in determining whether to grant an exemptive application for a proposed joint enterprise, joint arrangement, or profit-sharing plan.

Rule 17d-1 also contains a number of exceptions to the requirement that a fund must obtain Commission approval prior to entering into joint transactions or arrangements with affiliates. For example, funds do not have to obtain Commission approval for certain employee compensation plans, certain tax-deferred employee benefit plans, certain transactions involving small business investment companies, the receipt of securities or cash by certain affiliates pursuant to a plan of reorganization, certain arrangements regarding liability insurance policies and transactions with "portfolio affiliates" (companies that are affiliated with the fund solely as a result of the fund (or an affiliated fund) controlling them or owning more than five percent of their voting securities) so long as certain other affiliated persons of the fund (*e.g.*, the fund's adviser, persons controlling the fund, and persons under common control with the fund) are not parties to the transaction and do not have a "financial interest" in a party to the transaction. The rule excludes from the definition of "financial interest" any interest that the fund's board of directors (including a majority of the directors who are not interested persons of the fund) finds to be not material, as long as the board records the basis for its finding in their meeting minutes.

Thus, the rule contains two filing and recordkeeping requirements that

constitute collections of information. First, rule 17d-1 requires funds that wish to engage in a joint transaction or arrangement with affiliates to meet the procedural requirements for obtaining exemptive relief from the rule's prohibition on joint transactions or arrangements involving first- or second-tier affiliates. Second, rule 17d-1 permits a portfolio affiliate to enter into a joint transaction or arrangement with the fund if a prohibited participant has a financial interest that the fund's board determines is not material and records the basis for this finding in their meeting minutes. These requirements of rule 17d-1 are designed to prevent fund insiders from managing funds for their own benefit, rather than for the benefit of the funds' shareholders.

Based on an analysis of past filings, Commission staff estimates that 23 funds file applications under section 17(d) and rule 17d-1 per year. The staff understands that funds that file an application generally obtain assistance from outside counsel to prepare the application. The cost burden of using outside counsel is discussed below. The Commission staff estimates that each applicant will spend an average of 154 hours to comply with the Commission's applications process. The Commission staff therefore estimates the annual burden hours per year for all funds under rule 17d-1's application process to be 3,542 hours at a cost of \$1,528,120.¹ The Commission, therefore, requests authorization to increase the inventory of total burden hours per year for all funds under rule 17d-1 from the current authorized burden of 2,772 hours to 3,542 hours. The increase is due to an increase in the number of funds that filed applications for exemptions under rule 17d-1.

As noted above, the Commission staff understands that funds that file an application under rule 17d-1 generally use outside counsel to assist in preparing the application. The staff estimates that, on average, funds spend

¹ The Commission staff estimates that a senior executive, such as the fund's chief compliance officer, will spend an average of 62 hours and a mid-level compliance attorney will spend an average of 92 hours to comply with this collection of information: 62 hours + 92 hours = 154 hours. 23 funds × 154 burden hours = 3,542 burden hours. The Commission staff estimate that the chief compliance officer is paid \$530 per hour and the compliance attorney is paid \$365 per hour. (\$530 per hour × 62 hours) + (\$365 per hour × 92 hours) = \$66,440 per fund. \$66,440 × 23 funds = \$1,528,120. The \$530 and \$365 per hour figures are based on salary information compiled by SIFMA's Management & Professional Earnings in the Securities Industry, 2013. The Commission staff has modified SIFMA's information to account for an 1800-hour work year and inflation, and multiplied by 5.35 to account for bonuses, firm size, employee benefits, and overhead.

¹⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).