

(e) The Lending Fund's Lending Program will be monitored on a daily basis by an officer of the Lending Fund who is subject to section 36(a) of the Act. This officer will review the terms of each loan to an Affiliated Broker-Dealer for comparability with loans to unaffiliated borrowers and conformity with the Schedule of Spreads, and will periodically, and at least quarterly, report his or her findings to the Lending Fund's Board, including a majority of the Disinterested Directors.

4. The total value of the securities loaned to any one broker-dealer on the approved list of borrowers of securities from a Lending Fund will be in accordance with a schedule to be approved by the Board of each Lending Fund, but in no event will the total value of the securities loaned to any one Affiliated Broker-Dealer exceed 10% of the net assets of such Lending Fund, computed at market value.

5. The Boards of the Lending Funds, including a majority of the Disinterested Directors, (a) will determine no less frequently than quarterly that all transactions with Affiliated Broker-Dealers effected during the preceding quarter were effected in compliance with the requirements of the procedures adopted by the Board and the conditions of this order if granted and that such transactions were conducted on terms which were reasonable and fair; and (b) will review no less frequently than annually such requirements and conditions for their continuing appropriateness.

6. The Lending Funds will maintain and preserve permanently in an easily accessible place a written copy of the procedures (and any modifications thereto) which are followed in lending securities and shall maintain and preserve for a period of not less than six years from the end of the fiscal years in which any loan occurs, the first two years in an easily accessible place, a written record of each loan setting forth the number of securities loaned, the face amount of the securities loaned, the fee received (or the rebate rate remitted), the identity of the borrower, the terms of the loan and any other information or materials upon which the finding was made that each loan made to an Affiliated Broker-Dealer was fair and reasonable, and that the procedures followed in making such loan were in accordance with the procedures and other undertakings set forth herein.

E. Interfund Transactions

1. To engage in Interfund Transactions, the Funds will comply with rule 17a-7 under the Act in all respects other than the requirement that

the parties to the transaction be affiliated persons (or second-tier affiliates) of each other solely by reason of having a common investment adviser, or investment advisers that are affiliated persons of each other, common officers, and/or common directors, solely because the Funds might become affiliated persons within the meaning of section 2(a)(3)(A) and (B) of the Act.

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

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-17928 Filed 7-17-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-44538; File No. SR-Amex-2001-37]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval to Proposed Rule Change by the American Stock Exchange LLC To Reinstatement for 90 Days Its Pilot Program Relating to Facilitation Cross Transactions

July 11, 2001.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on June 4, 2001, 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 Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons. For the reasons discussed below, the Commission is granting accelerated approval of the proposed rule change.

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

The Amex proposes to reinstate for 90 days its pilot program relating to facilitation cross transactions, described in detail in part II.A. below. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Office of the Secretary, Amex, and at the Commission.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the 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 III below. The Exchange 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 Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to reinstate for 90 days its pilot program, which expired on May 28, 2001, relating to member firm facilitation cross transactions. Revised Commentary .02(d) to Amex Rule 950(d), approved by the Commission on June 2, 2000,³ established a pilot program to allow facilitation cross transactions in equity options.⁴ The pilot program entitles a floor broker to, under certain conditions, cross a specified percentage of a customer order with a member firm's proprietary account before market makers in the crowd can participate in the transaction. The provision generally applies to orders of 400 contracts or more. However, the Exchange is permitted to establish smaller eligible order sizes, on a class basis, provided that the eligible order size is not for fewer than 50 contracts.

Under the program, when a trade takes place at the market provided by the crowd, all public customer orders on the specialist's book or represented in the trading crowd at the time the market was established must be satisfied first. Following satisfaction of any customer orders on the specialist's book, the floor broker is entitled to facilitate up to 20% of the contracts remaining in the customer order. When a floor broker proposes to execute a facilitation cross at a price between the best bid and offer

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 42894 (June 2, 2000), 65 FR 36850 (June 12, 2000). The pilot program was subsequently extended twice. See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 43229 (August 30, 2000), 65 FR 54572 (September 8, 2000), and 44019 (February 28, 2001), 66 FR 13819 (March 7, 2001).

⁴ Facilitation cross transactions occur when a floor broker representing the order of a public customer of a member firm crosses that with a contra side order from the firm's proprietary account.

provided by the crowd in response to his initial request for a market—and the crowd then wants to take part or all of the order at the improved price—the floor broker is entitled to priority over the crowd to facilitate up to 40% of the contracts. If the floor brokers has proposed the cross at a price between the best bid and offer provided by the crowd in response to his initial request for a market, and the trading crowd subsequently improves the floor broker's price, and the facilitation cross is executed at that improved price, the floor broker would only be entitled to priority to facilitate up to 20% of the contracts.

The program also provides that if the facilitation transaction takes place at the specialist's quoted bid or offer, any participation allocated to the specialist pursuant to Amex trading floor practices would apply only to the number of contracts remaining after all public customer orders have been filled and the number firm's crossing rights have been exercised.⁵ However, in no case could the total number of contracts guaranteed to the member firm and the specialist exceed 40% of the facilitation transactions.

In the year since the pilot program began, the Exchange has found it to be generally successful. The Exchange seeks to reinstate the pilot program for 90 days, pending consideration of a related proposed rule change it has filed with Commission⁶ concerning revisions to the program that the Amex believes will provide further incentive for price improvement by using different procedures to determine specialist and registered option trader participation. The related proposal would also make the program permanent.

In order to allow the pilot program to be reinstated without significant interruption, the Amex has requested that the Commission expedite review of, and grant accelerated approval to, this proposal, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act.⁷

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act⁸ in general and

further the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act⁹ in particular in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers.

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

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will impose no burden on competition.

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. 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. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. 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 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 inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of the filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal offices of the Exchange. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-Amex-2001-37 and should be submitted by August 8, 2001.

IV. Commission Findings and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of 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 exchange.¹⁰ In its original approval of

the pilot program,¹¹ the Commission detailed its reasons for finding its substantive features consistent with the Act, and, in particular, the requirements of Sections 6(b)(5) and 6(b)(8) of the Act.¹² The Commission has previously approved rules on other exchanges that establish substantially similar programs on a permanent basis,¹³ and the reinstatement of the pilot program on the Amex—pending review of its related proposal to revise the program and make it permanent—raises no new regulatory issues for consideration by the Commission.

The Commission finds good cause, consistent with Sections 6(b) and 19(b)(2) of the Act, for approving the proposed rule change prior to the thirtieth day after the date of publication of the notice of filing thereof in the **Federal Register**. The proposal will allow the pilot program to be reinstated while revisions are being considered, and does not raise any new regulatory issues.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, that the proposed rule change be, and hereby is, approved on an accelerated basis as a pilot program through October 9, 2001.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁴

Margaret McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-17889 Filed 7-17-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-44544; File No. SR-ISE-2001-04]

Self Regulatory Organizations; International Securities Exchange LLC; Order Granting Approval to Proposed Rule Change Relating To Its Disciplinary Procedures

July 12, 2001.

On February 6, 2001, the International Securities Exchange LLC ("ISE") 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 make certain changes to its

¹¹ See *supra*, note 3.

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5) and (b)(8).

¹³ See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 42835 (May 26, 2000), 65 FR 35683 (June 5, 2000), and 42848 (May 26, 2000), 65 FR 36206 (June 7, 2000).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

⁵ Amex trading floor practices provide specialists with a greater than equal participation in trades that take place at a price at which the specialist is on parity with registered options traders in the crowd. These practices are subject to a separate filing that seeks to codify specialist allocation practices. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 42964 (June 20, 2000), 65 FR 39972 (June 28, 2000).

⁶ See File No. SR-Amex-00-49, available for inspection at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁰ In approving this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).