clearance, settlement, and custody services in Australia.

ISCC, along with a steering committee of the GCN participants, decided to expand the number of GCN service providers in order to expand and improve processing capabilities. Requests for proposals were sent to banks selected by the steering committee. After a review of the proposals received, the steering committee selected Standard and Westpac to become GCN service providers. ISCC intends to continue to add additional service providers as often as necessary in order that participant requirements are adequately addressed.

Each of the additional service providers has entered into an agreement with ISCC pursuant to which they agree to provide access to clearing, settlement, and custody services to GCN participants that qualify to be customers of such bank. Each service provider has agreed to provide the services at reduced prices. ISCC has not provided any volume guarantees to either of these banks, and each of the banks will be responsible to collect fees directly from the participants. The agreements may be terminated by mutual agreement of the parties on ninety days prior notice.

The proposed rule change also will modify the procedures for using the GCN service contained in Addendum E to ISCC's rules. Initially, participants could submit data to ISCC via their office computer's central processing unit (''CPU'') or any personal computer (''PC'') connection using an ISCC universal trade record (''UTR'') format. In addition to submission via CPU or PC, the proposal will allow ISCC to accept data submitted via S.W.I.F.T. [4] In addition to the UTR format, the proposal will allow ISCC to accept data in ISO 7775 format. [5] Data submitted via PC or CPU will be routed through ISCC's Datatrak system to validate the sender's identity against ISCC's masterfile prior to the validation and edit process. Data submitted via S.W.I.F.T. will go directly to the validation and edit process.[6] Currently, participants receive a confirmation that ISCC has received the data. The proposal will eliminate the sending of the confirmation. If the data is not received in ISO 7775 format, ISCC will convert the data into this format for transmission to the service provider. Information that does not pass the validation or edit process will be rejected, and the participant will be required to resubmit the data.

Data will be routed to the service provider using the method required by the service provider. In general, ISCC will receive confirmation that the data has been received by the service provider. If the data is sent using S.W.I.F.T., ISCC only will receive confirmation that the data was transmitted.[7] If the service provider is unable to process the data, the service provider will contact the participant directly. Each day, the service provider will provide reports on behalf of the participants' accounts to ISCC which ISCC will retransmit to the participants.

The proposed rule change will facilitate and centralize the processing of international transactions at a beneficial cost to members which ultimately will be reflected in services to the investing public. Accordingly, these changes are consistent with the requirements of the Act, specifically Section 17A of the Act, and the rules and regulations thereunder.

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

ISCC does not believe a burden will be placed on competition as a result of the proposed rule change.

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

ISCC has not solicited or received any comments.

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

Within thirty-five days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to ninety days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which ISCC consents, the Commission will:

(a) By order approve such proposed rule change or

(b) Institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of the submissions, 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 Section, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549, and at the principal offices of ISCC. All submissions should refer to File No. SR–ISCC–94–06 and should be submitted by February 8, 1995.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegate authority.[8]

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95–1194 Filed 1–17–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010–01–M

[Release No. 34–35208; File No. SR–NASD–94–66]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Amendments to the Examination Specifications and Study Outline for the General Securities Sales Supervisor (Series 8) Examination

January 10, 1995.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Act'') [1] notice is hereby given that on December 1, 1994 the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (''NASD'' or ''Association'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'' or ''SEC'') the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the NASD. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

---

[4] The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (''S.W.I.F.T.'') operates a secure data communication and processing system which enables thousands of financial institutions in more than 100 countries to communicate with each other 24 hours a day and facilitates the sending in excess of 500 million messages annually.

[5] The International Organization for Standardization (''ISO'') was founded in 1949 to promote standards worldwide. ISO 7775, the standard for international securities messages, was developed in close cooperation with S.W.I.F.T. It was first published in 1984. S.W.I.F.T. has assumed responsibility for maintenance of the standard.

[6] S.W.I.F.T. automatically verifies the identity of the sending party.

[7] Additionally, S.W.I.F.T., instead of ISCC, will verify the number of records transmitted.

[8] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12) (1994).

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1) (1988).

I. Self-regulatory Organization Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The NASD is proposing amendments to the examination specifications and study outline for the General Securities Sales Supervisor (''Series 8'') qualification examination, an industry wide qualification examination for securities sales supervisors. The amendments revise materials pertaining to recently enacted federal and SRO rules and regulations, new products and changes in industry practices. The number of questions per examination and the examination time are unaffected by the amendments.

The above amendments do not result in any textual changes to the NASD By-Laws, Schedules to the By-Laws, Rules, practices or procedures.

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 NASD 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 NASD 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

The Series 8 examination is generally required under rules of the self-regulatory organizations (''SROs'') for persons who are engaged in the supervision of general securities branch offices (*i.e.*, branch office managers) and of general securities registered representatives. The Series 8 examination tests a candidate's knowledge of securities industry rules and regulations and certain statutory provisions applicable to general securities sales supervision. The Series 8 Content Outline details the subject coverage and question allocation of the examination. The Examination Specifications detail the areas covered by the examination and break down the number of examination questions pulled from each area.

The NASD periodically reviews the content of the qualification examinations it administers to determine whether amendments are necessary or appropriate in view of changes pertaining to the subject matter covered by the examinations. Revision of the Series 8 Examination, Examination Specifications, and Content Outline was recently undertaken by an industry committee composed of representatives from SROs (the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, the National Association of Securities Dealers and the Philadelphia Stock Exchange) and representatives from broker-dealers, including branch office managers, compliance personnel and corporate executives, to update the examination in view of changes in relevant laws, rules and regulations, the development of new products, and to reflect various changes in industry practices. The committee reviewed the examination specifications, content areas and item bank and developed some new questions in new areas.

The revised examination continues to cover the areas of knowledge required to supervise sales activities in securities, however, the focus of the content of the examination has been shifted to concentrate more closely on supervisory duties. Accordingly, certain questions have been deleted from the examination which deal with routine calculations and basic product knowledge and questions on new federal and SRO rules and regulations have been incorporated into the exam, as well as questions on new products, supervision and changes in industry practices. The revised Examination Specifications and Content Outline reflect the revised content of the examination. The examination will remain a six-hour, two-part, 200 question examination.

The Commission recently approved two parallel filings of the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. (''NYSE'') and one filing of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. (''Phlx'').[2] No comments were received on either the NYSE and Phlx proposals. The Commission anticipates that the other appropriate SRO participants also will file the revised Specifications and Content Outline for approval by the Commission. The NASD, NYSE and other SROs may use the revised Examination, Specifications and Content Outline after the Commission has approved the proposed rule changes of the other appropriate SRO participants.

The NASD believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(g)(3) of the Act in that the proposed changes to the examination are to ensure persons seeking registration in the securities industry have attained the requisite levels of knowledge and competence.

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The NASD does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended.

(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. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. 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 such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NASD. All submissions should refer to the file number in the caption above and should be submitted by February 8, 1995.

IV. Commission's 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 the NASD and, in particular, with the requirements of

[2] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34967 (Nov. 10, 1994), 59 FR 59803 (Nov. 18, 1994) (File Nos. SR–NYSE–94–23 (revised Content Outline for Series 8 Examination), SR–NYSE–94–24 (exam specifications for Series 8 Examination)); and Release No. 35020 (November 29, 1994), 59 FR 62769 (Dec. 6,1994) (File No. SR–Phlx–94–51 (exam specifications for Series 8 Examination and corresponding Content Outline). Both the NYSE and Phlx approval orders are contingent upon the filing of the revised Examination Specifications and Content Outline by other appropriate SROs, and approval of those filings by the Commission.

Section 15A(g)(3) of the Act.[3] Section 15A(g)(3) provides that a registered securities association may deny membership to, or condition the membership of, a registered broker or dealer if such broker or dealer does not meet the requisite levels of knowledge and competence.

The Commission believes that revising the Series 8 Examination, Specifications and Content Outline should help to ensure that only those securities sales supervisors with a comprehensive knowledge of current NASD rules, as well as an understanding of the Act, will be able to supervise general securities branch offices and registered representatives. The Commission believes that the revised areas covered by the Examination, Specifications and Content Outline are appropriate subject matters and include a sufficiently broad range of topics to ensure an appropriate level of expertise by supervisors. Additionally, the revised examination tests relevant subject matters in view of changes in applicable laws, rules, regulations, products, and industry practices. By ensuring this requisite level of knowledge, the NASD can remain confident that securities sales supervisors have demonstrated an acceptable level of securities knowledge to carry out their responsibilities.

The approval is contingent upon the filing of the Examination Specifications and Content Outline by the other appropriate SROs and the approval of those filings by the Commission.

The Commission finds good cause for approving the proposed rule change prior to the 30th day after the date of publication of notice of filing thereof in the **Federal Register**. The Commission believes that accelerated approval is appropriate given that the Commission recently approved two parallel and substantively identical filings by the NYSE, and the importance of implementing the revised Content Outline and Series 8 Examination as soon as practicable.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)[4] that the proposed rule change is approved contingent upon the filing of the Examination Specifications and Content Outline by the other appropriate SROs and the approval of those filings by the Commission.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.[5]

[3] 15 U.S.C. 78o–3(g)(3) (1988).

[4] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2) (1988).

[5] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95–1109 Filed 1–17–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010–01–M

[Release No. 34–35210; File No. SR–NYSE–94–44]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change by New York Stock Exchange, Inc. Relating to Amendments to Market-at-the-Close Order Handling Requirements for Expiration and Non-Expiration Days

January 10, 1995.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Act''), 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1), notice is hereby given that on December 5, 1994, the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. (''NYSE'' or ''Exchange'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'' or ''SEC'') the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II and III 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

The proposed rule change consists of modifications to the order entry and imbalance display procedures for market-at-the-close (''MOC'') orders on expiration and non-expiration days, as described in two separate Information Memos. The Information Memo for expiration days would be issued before each application of the pilot program that allows the NYSE to use auxiliary closing procedures for handling MOC orders on expiration days (subject to Commission approval);[1] the Information Memo for non-expiration days would be issued once this filing is approved.[2] The term ''expiration days'' refers collectively to the last trading day before the one day a month that standardized contracts in stock index futures, stock index options and options on stock index futures expire (''Expiration Friday''), and the last trading day of each calendar expiration (''QIX'') options (''QIX Expiration Day'').

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 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 of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

Under the current pilot program for expiration days,[3] NYSE procedures require that MOC orders in any stock related to a strategy involving expiring index derivative products be entered for execution by 3:40 p.m., and that no cancellation or reduction of any MOC order in any stock take place after 3:40 p.m. For the pilot stocks on expiration days,[4] imbalances of 50,000 shares or more are published as soon as practicable after 3:40 p.m. After the imbalance publication, MOC orders in the pilot stocks may be entered only to offset a published imbalance. MOC orders may not be entered if there is no imbalance publication. The Exchange proposes that all MOC orders in all stocks (regardless of strategy) be required to be entered by 3:40 p.m. on expiration days, except orders to offset imbalance publications.

Currently, on non-expiration days, imbalances of 50,000 shares or more in

[1] The Commission has approved the NYSE's auxiliary closing procedures for handling MOC orders on expiration days on a pilot basis until October 31, 1995. *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34916 (October 31, 1994), 59 FR 55507 (November 7, 1994) (File No. SR–NYSE–94–32). The NYSE has requested that the revised procedures for expiration days, as proposed herein, be approved as part of the pilot program that is currently in effect. *See* letter from Donald Siemer, Director, Market Surveillance, NYSE, to Beth Stekler, Attorney, Division of Market Regulation, SEC, dated December 22, 1994 (''December 22nd letter'').

[2] The Commission has approved the NYSE's closing procedures for non-expiration days on a permanent basis. *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 31291 (October 6, 1992), 57 FR 47149 (October 14, 1992) (File No. SR–NYSE–92–12). The NYSE has requested that the revised procedures for non-expiration days, as proposed herein, be approved on a permanent basis. *See* December 22nd letter, *supra,* note 1.

[3] *See supra,* note 1.

[4] The Expiration Friday pilot stocks consist of the 50 most highly capitalized Standard & Poors (''S&P'') 500 stocks and any component stocks of the Major Market Index (''MMI'') not included therein. The QIX Expiration Day pilot stocks consist of the 50 most highly capitalized S&P 500 stocks, any component stocks of the MMI not included therein and the 10 highest weighted S&P Midcap 400 stocks.