

range of instances where the Exchange can adjust the execution price, Amendment No. 3 should continue to help protect specialists and investors and the public interest by ensuring that the Exchange has the ability to remedy erroneous prices whenever they occur. Amendment No. 4 amends proposed Interpretation and Policy .06 to the Execution Guarantee Rule to state that a specialist who wants to receive relief from the requirements of the Execution Guarantee Rule must obtain the approval of two out of three floor officials, and specifies that floor officials include floor members of the Board of Governors and the Market Performance Committee. Amendment No. 4 will prohibit "forum shopping" among floor officials and will provide a tie-breaker in the situations where two floor officials disagree. Accordingly, the Commission believes that it is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act to approve Amendment Nos. 3 and 4 to the proposal on an accelerated basis.

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning Amendment Nos. 3 and 4 to the rule proposal. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 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 at the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-BSE-96-10 and should be submitted by June 6, 1997.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹⁶ that the proposed rule change (SR-BSE-96-10), including Amendment Nos. 3 and 4, is approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁷

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-38607; File No. SR-CBOE-97-10]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change by Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated Relating to Minimum Sizes for Closing Transactions, Exercises, and Responses to Requests for Quotes in FLEX Equity Options

May 9, 1997.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1), notice is hereby given that on February 21, 1997, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("CBOE or Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the CBOE. 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 CBOE proposes to reduce from 100 contracts to 25 contracts the minimum value size of closing transactions in and exercises of FLEX Equity Options, and to make a comparable reduction in the minimum value size of FLEX Equity Quotes in response to a Request for Quotes.

The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Office of the Secretary, CBOE and at the Commission.

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 CBOE 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 CBOE has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant parts of such statements.

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

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to reduce from 100 contracts to 25 contracts the minimum value size of closing transactions in an exercises of FLEX Equity Options, and to make a comparable reduction in the minimum value size of FLEX Equity Quotes in response to a Request for Quotes.

The reason for reducing the minimum value size of closing and exercise transactions in FLEX Equity Options is that, based on the Exchange's experience to date with such options, it appears that the existing 100 contract minimums are too large to accommodate the needs of certain firms and their customers.¹ These firms may purchase 100 or more FLEX Equity Options in an opening transactions for a single firm account in which more than one of the firm's clients have an interest. If one of these clients wants to redeem its investment in the account, the firm likely will want to engage in a closing or exercise transaction in order to reduce the account's position in those FLEX Equity Options by the number being redeemed. Currently, Rule 24A.4(a)(4)(iii) imposes a 100 contract minimum on all transactions in FLEX Equity Options unless the transaction is for the entire remaining position in the account. Thus, if the redeeming client's interest is less than 100 FLEX Equity Options and does not represent the total remaining position in the account, Rule 24A.4(a)(4)(iii) as it stands presently, prevents the firm from closing or exercising positions of this size.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change to Rule 24A.4(4)(iii) would remedy the situation described above, by permitting an order to close or exercise as few as 25 FLEX Equity Option contracts. The corresponding change to Rule 24A.4(a)(iv), which governs the minimum size for FLEX Equity Quotes that may be entered in response to Request for Quotes, is necessary in order to provide the liquidity needed to facilitate the execution of closing orders between 25 and 99 FLEX Equity Option contracts that would be permitted by the

¹ The Exchange notes that the existing customer base for FLEX Equity Options includes both institutional investors, in particular mutual funds, money managers and insurance companies, and high net work individuals who meet the "sophisticated investor" criteria applied to various clients by Exchange member firms. See Letter from William J. Barclay, Vice President, Strategic Planning and International Development, CBOE, to Sharon Lawson, Senior Special Counsel, Office of Market Supervision, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, dated April 21, 1997 ("CBOE Letter").

proposed amendment to Rule 24A.4(4)(iii).

The Exchange notes that the Exchange would issue a circular that (1) Describes the new rule; and (2) reminds all members and member firms of their continued responsibility to insure that FLEX Equity Options are utilized only by sophisticated investors with the necessary financial resources to sustain the possible losses arising from transactions in the requisite FLEX Equity Options class size.² The Exchange will submit surveillance procedures for the Commission's review prior to considering this proposal for approval, that will help to ensure that only such sophisticated investors are utilizing this product.

The Exchange believes by providing firms and their customers greater flexibility to trade FLEX Equity options by lowering from 100 to 25 the minimum number of contracts required for a closing transaction, for exercises, and for FLEX Quotes responsive to a Request for Quotes, the proposed rule change is consistent with and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 by removing impediments to and perfecting the mechanism of a free and open market in securities and otherwise serving to protect investors and the public interest.

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

The CBOE does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any 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. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within 35 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 90 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 the self-regulatory organization 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, N.W., Washington, D.C. 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 Section, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the CBOE. All submissions should refer to the File No. SR-CBOE-97-10 and should be submitted by June 6, 1997.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to the delegated authority.³

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-38605; File No. SR-CHX-97-7]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated Relating to SRO Fees

May 9, 1997.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),¹ notice is hereby given that on May 1, 1997, the Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated ("CHX" 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 Exchange. 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 amend Section (q) of its Membership Dues and Fees Schedule.

Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated
Membership Dues and Fees

Additions are *italized*; deletions [bracketed].

(q) Self-Regulatory Organization Fee,² \$100 per member and member organization per month.

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 CHX 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 CHX 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 purpose of the proposed rule change is to clarify the existing exemption from the Exchange's SRO fee. This fee helps recoup costs incurred by the Exchange in performing its self-regulatory function. Specifically, rather than exempting organizations that have no securities transaction revenue, the Exchange proposes to exempt memberships to which a nominee has not been assigned and which are not otherwise being used. In this regard, to qualify for this exemption, the owner of the membership cannot hold itself out as a CHX member to others by virtue of its ownership of that membership and cannot otherwise conduct business on the CHX on the basis of its ownership of that membership. This exemption is applied on a membership by membership basis and not on a member

² This fee shall not be applicable to [inactive organizations. An inactive organization is one which has no securities transaction revenue, as determined by annual FOCUS reports, as long as the organization continues to have no such revenue each month] *memberships to which a nominee has not been assigned and which are not otherwise being used.*

³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1) (1988).

² See CBOE Letter, *supra* note 1.