

longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the NASD 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 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 File Number SR-NASD-97-04, and should be submitted by November 5, 1997.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>5</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-39206; File No. SR-NYSE-97-27]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. Relating to Extension of the Pilot for Allocation Policy and Procedures

October 6, 1997.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on

September 19, 1997, the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") 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 and to grant accelerated approval to the proposed rule change.

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

The proposed rule change extends the effectiveness of the pilot program relating to the Exchange's Allocation Policy and Procedures until November 28, 1997. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Office of the Secretary, the NYSE, 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 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 III 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

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to extend the effectiveness of a pilot program relating to the Exchange's Allocation Policy and Procedures. The Exchange's Allocation Policy and Procedures are intended: (1) To ensure that securities are allocated in an equitable and fair manner and that all specialist units have a fair opportunity for allocations based on established criteria and procedures; (2) to provide an incentive for ongoing enhancement of performance by specialist units; (3) to provide the best possible match between specialist unit and security and (4) to contribute to the strength of the specialist system.

The Exchange recently implemented, on a pilot basis, a revised Allocation Policy and Procedures to amend the

procedures by which the Exchange selects a specialist for newly listed companies.<sup>3</sup> The Exchange's pilot program, which expires October 7, 1997, provides listing companies with two options, either: (1) To have their specialist unit selected by the Allocation Committee according to existing allocation criteria, with company input permitted in the form of a "generic letter" which may describe desired general characteristics of a specialist unit, but may not mention particular units or describe characteristics that would be applicable to a readily identifiable specialist unit; or (2) to make the final selection of a specialist unit from among three to five units selected by the Allocation Committee, with a generic letter from the company describing desired specialist unit characteristics permitted, as in (1) above. In the case of both options, if a generic letter is submitted, the letter would be distributed to all specialist units along with allocation data sheets ("green sheets").

The Exchanges proposes to extend the Allocation Policy and Procedure pilot program until November 28, 1997 to continue to study its effects.

###### 2. Statutory Basis

The NYSE believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>4</sup> that an Exchange have rules that are designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, 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 extending the effectiveness of the Allocation Policy and Procedures until November 28, 1997 is consistent with these objectives in that they enable the Exchange to further enhance the process by which stocks are allocated between specialist units to ensure fairness and equal opportunity in the process.

##### 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.

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 38372 (March 7, 1997), 62 FR 13421 (March 21, 1997) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of File No. SR-NYSE-97-04).

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>5</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received written comments on the proposed rule change.

### 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, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NYSE. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-NYSE-97-27 and should be submitted by November 5, 1997.

### IV. Commission's Findings and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change

The Commission finds the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange.<sup>5</sup> Specifically, the Commission believes the Exchange's proposal to extend the effectiveness of the pilot program until November 28, 1997 is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>6</sup> because the extension will permit the NYSE to further study the impact of the revised Allocation Policy and Procedures. The Commission notes that the extension is limited in duration. The Commission believes that it is reasonable to extend the pilot program for a short period of time to allow the Exchange further time to determine whether the revised allocation procedures are fair to all market participations, including listing

<sup>5</sup> In approving this rule, the Commission notes that it has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

companies, specialist units and public investors. The Commission expects the NYSE to submit any supplemental information it has on the pilot program, along with any request to modify, extend, or permanently approve the pilot by October 17, 1997.

The Commission finds good cause for approving the proposed rule change prior to the 30th day after publication of the proposed rule change in the **Federal Register**. The Commission notes that accelerated approval will enable the Exchange to continue the Allocation Policy and Procedures pilot program on an uninterrupted basis. The Commission further notes that it has previously solicited comments on the pilot program and no comments were received. Further, the extension of the existing pilot is of limited duration, only until November 28, 1997. For the foregoing reasons, the Commission believes that good cause exists pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act<sup>7</sup> to approve the proposed rule change on an accelerated basis.

*It is therefore ordered*, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>8</sup> that the proposed rule change (SR-NYSE-97-27) is hereby approved on an accelerated basis until November 28, 1997.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>9</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-39221; File No. SR-Philadep-97-04]

#### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Philadelphia Depository Trust Company; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Ceasing Activity as a Securities Depository

October 8, 1997.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> notice is hereby given that on September 25, 1997, Philadelphia Depository Trust Company ("Philadep") 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 primarily by

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12)

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

Philadep. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested parties.

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

Under the proposed rule change, Philadep will cease to engage in securities depository services. Philadep, Stock Clearing Corporation of Philadelphia ("SCCP"), and their parent organization, Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("PHLX") entered into an agreement dated as of June 18, 1997 with The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") and the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") ("Agreement"). Under the Agreement, DTC and NSCC will assist PHLX in winding down the operation of its full clearing agency services by offering SCCP participants and Philadep participants an opportunity to become members of NSCC or DTC, as the case may be. In consideration for DTC's and NSCC's assistance, PHLX, SCCP, and Philadep have agreed not to engage in the securities clearing and depository business for five years, except as otherwise specified in the Agreement.

The parties to the Agreement tentatively have scheduled the closing date for the Agreement to be November 14, 1997.<sup>2</sup> SCCP and Philadep have informed their participants of the Agreement and are taking measures to ensure the orderly transition of participants to alternative clearing and depository arrangements.

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

In its filing with the Commission, Philadep 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. Philadep has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B) and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.<sup>3</sup>

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

PHLX has decided to limit its clearance and settlement business and

<sup>2</sup> The closing date may be adjusted by the mutual consent of the parties to the Agreement.

<sup>3</sup> The Commission has modified the text of the summaries prepared by Philadep.