

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549

Extension:

Rule 15c2-7, SEC File No. 270-420, OMB Control No. 3235-0479

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.

Rule 15c2-7 Identification of Quotations

Rule 15c2-7 enumerates the requirements with which brokers and dealers must comply when submitting a quotation for a security (other than a municipal security) to an inter-dealer quotation system. The purpose of Rule 15c2-7 is to ensure that an inter-dealer quotation system clearly reveals where two or more quotations in different names for a particular security represent a single quotation or where one broker-dealer appears as a correspondent. This is accomplished by requiring broker-dealers and inter-dealer quotation systems to disclose with each published quotation the information required pursuant to the rule. The rule permits users of an inter-dealer quotation system to determine the identity of dealers making an inter-dealer market for a security—a fact which may be extremely pertinent in evaluating its marketability.

It is estimated that there are 8,500 brokers and dealers. Industry personnel estimate that approximately 900 notices are filed pursuant to Rule 15c2-7 annually. Based on industry estimates that respondents complying with Rule 15c2-7 spend 30 seconds to add notice of an arrangement and 1 minute to delete notice of an arrangement, and assuming that one-half of the notices given are to add an arrangement and the other half are to delete an arrangement, the staff estimates that, on an annual basis, respondents spend a total of 11.25 hours to comply with Rule 15c2-7 (90x45 seconds=40,500 seconds/60=675 minutes/60=11.23 hours). The Commission staff estimates that the average labor cost associated with this activity is \$35 per hour. Therefore, the total labor cost of compliance for all broker-dealers respondents is

approximately \$394 (11.25 multiplied by \$35).

The retention period for the record-keeping requirement under Rule 15c2-7 is three years following the date a quotation is submitted. The record-keeping requirement under this Rule is mandatory to assist the Commission with monitoring brokers and dealers who submit quotations to an inter-dealer quotation system. This rule does not involve the collection of confidential information. Please note that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments regarding the above information should be directed to the following persons:

- (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; and
- (ii) Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20549.

Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: November 2, 1999.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-42094; File No. SR-Amex 99-43]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the American Stock Exchange LLC Relating to the Maximum Permissible Number of Equity and Index Option Contracts Executable Through AUTO-EX

November 3, 1999.

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 October 28, 1999, the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex" 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.³ 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 permit, on a case by case basis, the execution of up to fifty option contracts through AUTO-EX. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Amex Office of the Secretary and at the Commission.

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

1. Purpose

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange 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 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 the Statutory Basis for the Proposed Rule Change

I. Purpose

In 1985, the Exchange implemented the AUTO-EX system, which automatically executes public customer market and marketable limit orders in options at the best bid or offer displayed at the time the order is entered into the Amex Order File ("AOF"). There are, however, limitations on the number of option contracts that can be entered into or executed by these systems. AOF, which handles limit orders routed to the specialist's book as well as orders routed to AUTO-EX, was recently increased to allow for the entry of orders of up to 250 option contracts. AUTO-EX, however, is only permitted to automatically execute equity option orders of 20 contracts or less (except in emergency situations, in which case up to 50 contracts may be executed) and

³ The initial filing of SR-Amex-99-43 received by the Commission on October 21, 1999 serves as the required five day pre-filing notice set forth in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) under the Act, 17 CFR 240.19B-4(f)(6)(iii). Thus, the filing date of SR-Amex-99-43 is October 28, 1999. See Letter from Scott G. Van Hatten, Legal Counsel for Amex, dated October 27, 1999.

¹ 15 USC 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.