

performance of PCX equity specialists (e.g., price improvement and trading in size greater than the NBBO) are appropriate means of helping to determine whether a PCX equity specialist in performing its specialist duties to maintain a fair and orderly market.¹³

Further, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with the Act, particularly section 11(b)¹⁴ of the Act and Rule 11b-1¹⁵ under the Act, which allows securities exchanges to permit exchange members to register as specialists, providing that the exchange requires the specialist to assist in maintaining a fair and orderly market. As discussed, the means PCX has chosen to assess those duties and the means of sanctioning specialists who fail to meet their obligations (e.g., restrictions on further stock allocations) are appropriate and consistent with the Act.

The Commission finds good cause for approving the proposed rule change prior to the thirtieth day after the date of publication of notice of the filing in the **Federal Register**. The Exchange has stated that the program is operating successfully and without any problems. Accelerated approval will permit the Specialist Evaluation program to continue on an uninterrupted basis. In addition, the rule change that implemented the pilot program in its current form and the rule change that subsequently extended pilot program were noticed for the full statutory period and the Commission received no comments on the proposed rule changes. Accordingly, the Commission does not believe that the current filing raises any regulatory issues not raised in the previous filings.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)¹⁶ of the Act, that the proposed rule change (SR-PCX-99-46), as amended, is approved on an accelerated basis.

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

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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¹³ In approving this rule change, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78k(b).

¹⁵ 17 CFR 240.11b-1.

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹⁷ CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3174]

Advisory Committee on International Communications and Information Policy; Meeting Notice

The Department of State is announcing the next meeting of its Advisory Committee on International Communications and Information Policy. The Committee provides a formal channel for regular consultation and coordination on major economic, social and legal issues and problems in international communications and information policy, especially as these issues and problems involve users of information and communication services, providers of such services, technology research and development, foreign industrial and regulatory policy, the activities of international organizations with regard to communications and information, and developing country interests.

The purpose of the meeting will be for the members to look at the substantive issues on which the committee should focus, as well as specific countries and regions of interest to the committee. In addition, the Committee members will review the activities of the various working groups of the Advisory Committee.

This meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2000, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Room 1107 of the Main Building of the U.S. Department of State, located at 2201 "C" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520. Members of the public may attend these meetings up to the seating capacity of the room. While the meeting is open to the public, admittance to the State Department Building is only by means of a pre-arranged clearance list. In order to be placed on the pre-clearance list, please provide your name, title, company, social security number, date of birth, and citizenship to Timothy C. Finton at <fintontc@state.gov>. All attendees for this meeting must use the 23rd Street entrance. One of the following valid ID's will be required for admittance: Any U.S. driver's license with photo, a passport, or a U.S. Government agency ID. Non-U.S. Government attendees must be escorted by State Department personnel at all times when in the State Department building.

For further information, contact Timothy C. Finton, Executive Secretary of the Committee, at (202) 647-5385 or <fintontc@state.gov>.

Dated: December 20, 1999.

Timothy C. Finton,

Executive Secretary of the Advisory Committee on International Communications and Information Policy, U.S. Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 3185]

Shipping Coordinating Committee; Subcommittee on Safety of Life at Sea and Associated Bodies; Notice of Meeting

The Shipping Coordinating Committee will conduct an open meeting at 10 A.M. on Wednesday, January 19, 2000, in Room 6319, at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001. The purpose of the meeting is to finalize preparations for the Flag State Implementation (FSI) Subcommittee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) which is scheduled for January 24-28, 2000, at the IMO Headquarters in London. At this meeting, the U.S. position on documents submitted for consideration at the eighth session of the FSI Subcommittee will be discussed.

Among other things, the items of particular interest are:

1. Responsibilities of Governments and measures to encourage flag State compliance;
2. Comprehensive analysis of difficulties encountered in the implementation of IMO instruments;
3. Self-assessment of flag State performance;
4. Implications arising when a vessel loses the right to fly the flag of a State;
5. Revision of Survey Guidelines (A.746(18)) and Guidelines on Surveys (A.560(14));
6. Guidelines for unscheduled inspections of roll-on/roll-off (ro-ro) passenger vessels;
7. Introduction of the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) into MARPOL Annex VI on prevention of air pollution;
8. Analysis and evaluation of deficiency reports and mandatory reports under the International Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Ships 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL 73/78);
9. Casualty statistics and investigations;
10. Regional cooperation on port State control;
11. Results of inspections; and,
12. Mandatory reporting procedures on port State control detentions.