

to submit proposed rule changes implementing a uniform decimals phase-in schedule. As described above, the Exchange is proposing to amend the following rules in conjunction with the securities industry's conversion or its markets to decimal pricing: Chapter II, Section 18; Chapter XVII, Sections (b) and (c); Chapter XXIV, Section 5, Interpretation and Policies, Paragraph.10; Chapter XXIV-B, Section 5, Interpretation and Policies, Paragraphs .01(e) and .05; and Chapter XXXI Intermarket Trading System (in accordance with the Operating Committee's determination on this matter), Section 3. The Exchange also proposes to add Chapter II, Section 41, *Minimum Price Variation* (of.01).

## 2. Statutory Basis

The BSE believes that the proposal is consistent with the provisions of Section 6(b)(5)<sup>7</sup> of the Act which requires that an exchange have rules that are designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

### *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.

### *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 with respect to the proposed rule change.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not:

- (i) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest;
- (ii) Impose any significant burden on competition; and
- (iii) Become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission

may designate, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>8</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>9</sup> At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.<sup>10</sup>

The BSE has requested that the Commission accelerate the operative date. The Commission believes that it is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest and therefore finds good cause to designate the proposal to become immediately operative upon filing.<sup>11</sup> Acceleration of the operative date will ensure that the BSE is able to operate in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Decimals Plan. For these reasons, the Commission finds good cause to designate that the proposal become operative immediately upon filing.<sup>12</sup>

## IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>10</sup> In reviewing this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposal's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

<sup>11</sup> The Decimals Plan provides for minimum price variations for equities and options of no less than one cent. The Commission's June 8th Order requires the Participants to submit joint or individual studies two months after Full Implementation (as defined in the Plan) regarding the impact of decimal pricing on systems capacity, liquidity, and trading behavior, including an analysis of whether there should be a uniform minimum quoting increment. If a Participant wishes to move to quoting in an increment of less than one cent, the Participant should include in its study a full analysis of the potential impact of such trading on the Participant's market and the markets as a whole. Within thirty days after submitting the study, and absent Commission action, the Participants individually must submit for notice, comment, and Commission action, proposed rule changes under Section 19(b) of the Exchange Act to establish their individual choice of minimum increments by which equities or options are quoted on their respective markets.

<sup>12</sup> For purposes only of accelerating the operative date of this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

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 BSE. All submissions should refer to file number SR-BSE-00-11 and should be submitted by October 5, 2000.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>13</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-23611 Filed 9-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-43251; File No. SR-CBOE-00-45]

### **Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated Amending its Code of Conduct to Elaborate Its Existing Policy Prohibiting Harassment and Other Improper Conduct**

September 6, 2000.

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 6, 2000, 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**

CBOE proposes to amend its Code of Conduct ("Employee Handbook") to elaborate its existing policy prohibiting harassment and other improper conduct. The text of the proposed rule

<sup>13</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.

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

change is available at 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, 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. CBOE 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 change is to elaborate the Exchange's existing policy prohibiting harassment and other improper conduct by CBOE employees and certain non-employees including harassment directed against any member or other market participant for acting or seeking to act competitively, or in connection with a listing proposal made by such member or market participant. Although the Exchange believes that these prohibitions are encompassed within the Exchange's extensive Employee Handbook provisions dealing with harassment and other improper employee conduct, the Exchange seeks to provide expressly in its Employee Handbook that such specific conduct is prohibited and against CBOE policy. The Exchange believes that codifying the policy in the Employee Handbook will serve to highlight the policy to CBOE employees and non-employees and reinforce the Exchange's prohibition on any such anti-competitive conduct.

Specifically, the added language will explicitly provide that it is against CBOE policy for any employee, officer, director, committee member, and other official or agent of CBOE to harass, threaten, intimidate, or retaliate against any member of CBOE or any other market participant for acting, or seeking to act, competitively, or because of a listing proposal made by such member or market participant to any exchange or other market, or such member's or market participant's advocacy or proposal concerning listing or trading on any exchange or market, or such member or market participant making markets in or trading any option on any exchange or other market.

This change compliments a recently adopted rule change submitted by the Exchange concerning a similar prohibition on COBE members.<sup>3</sup>

#### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that, because the proposed rule change will elaborate the Exchange's long-standing policy regarding the Exchange's prohibition against harassment and other similar practices, by employees and other non-members, the proposed change is consistent with Section 6 of the Act,<sup>4</sup> in general, furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5)<sup>7</sup> in particular, in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices and to promote just and equitable principles of trade.

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

The CBOE does not believe that the proposed change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

#### 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 with respect to the proposed change.

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

The foregoing proposed rule change is concerned solely with the administration of the Exchange. Therefore, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act<sup>6</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(3) thereunder.<sup>7</sup> At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

## IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed whether the proposed change is

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43227 (August 30, 2000).

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f.

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

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

<sup>7</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(3).

consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are file 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 CBOE. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-CBOE-00-45 and should be submitted by October 5, 2000.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>8</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-23612 Filed 9-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-43256; File No. SR-CHX-00-25]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change and Amendment Nos. 1, 2, and 3 by The Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated Relating to the Securities Industry's Transition to Decimal Pricing

September 6, 2000.

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 July 28, 2000, the Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated ("CHX" 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 CHX. The CHX amended the proposal on August

<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-(a)(12).

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

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