

authority under paragraph (d)(2)(k) of Rule 462 to impose a higher margin requirement upon the member or member organization when the Exchange determines a higher requirement is warranted. Proposed Commentary .11 to Exchange Rule 904 codifies these financial requirements imposed by the Exchange and the Commission.

Reporting Requirements

Consistent with Amex Rule 906(b), the Amex will continue to require that each member or member organization that maintains a position on the same side of the market in excess of 10,000 contracts in the QQQ option, for its own account or for the account of a customer report certain information. This data includes, but is not limited to, the option position, whether such position is hedged and if so, a description of the hedge and if applicable, the collateral used to carry the position. Exchange market-makers are exempt from this reporting requirement as market-maker information can be accessed through the Exchange's market surveillance systems. Once the 10,000 contract reporting threshold is attained, the Amex requires members and member organizations to similarly report each increase of 2,500 contracts on the same side of the market for customer accounts and each increase of 5,000 contracts on the same side of the market for proprietary accounts. The Exchange believes that the reporting level of 10,000 contracts on the same side of the market for members other than Exchange market-makers is consistent with the designation of the QQQ as an equity option, and therefore, the existing regulatory regime. Pursuant to Rule 906(a), the general reporting requirement for customer accounts that maintain a position in excess of 200 contracts will remain at this level for QQQ options. Lastly, the Amex believes that the 10,000 contract reporting requirement is above and beyond what is currently required in the OTC market. According to the Amex, NASD member firms are only required to report options positions in excess of 200 contracts and are not required to report any related hedging information.

2. Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with section 6(b) of the Act¹⁴ in general and furthers the objectives of section 6(b)(5)¹⁵ in particular in that it is 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 facilitating transactions in securities, and to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system.

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.

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 Amex 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, 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, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. 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. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Amex. All submissions should refer File No. SR-

AMEX-2001-42 and should be submitted by January 31, 2002.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁶

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-45230; File No. SR-CBOE-2001-68]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated To Extend for a Six-Month Period the Pilot Program for the Exchange's 100 Spoke RAES Wheel

January 3, 2002.

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 December 26, 2001, 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 Exchange. CBOE filed the proposal pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder,⁴ which renders the proposal effective upon filing with the Commission. 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 hereby proposes to extend, for an additional six-month period, the pilot program that permits the appropriate Floor Procedure Committee ("FPC") to allocate orders on the Exchange's Retail Automatic Execution System ("RAES") under the allocation system known as the 100 Spoke RAES Wheel. CBOE has designated this proposal as non-controversial and requests that the Commission waive the 30-day pre-operative waiting period set forth in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) under the

¹⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

Act⁵ to allow the proposal to be effective and operative immediately upon filing with 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

On May 25, 2000, the Commission approved, on a nine-month pilot basis, the Exchange's proposal to amend CBOE Rule 6.8, which governs the operation of RAES,⁶ to provide the appropriate FPC with another choice for apportioning RAES trades among participating market makers, the 100 Spoke RAES Wheel.⁷ The pilot program has been extended twice and will expire on December 28, 2001.⁸ CBOE now proposes to extend the pilot program for an additional six-month period ending June 28, 2002.

CBOE states that it believes that the 100 Spoke RAES Wheel pilot program is used as anticipated. CBOE represents that use of the 100 Spoke RAES Wheel has expanded since its implementation; it is currently used in approximately three-fourths of the equity options trading stations. CBOE has represented that an extension of the pilot program is necessary to further study the pilot program. CBOE believes that an extension of the pilot program will continue to provide the appropriate FPC with flexibility in determining the appropriate allocation system for a

given class of options on RAES. CBOE also believes that the continuation of the pilot program will continue to reward those market makers who are most active in providing liquidity to agency business in the assigned option class.

2. Statutory Basis

CBOE believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of section 6(b)(5) of the Act.⁹ Section 6(b)(5) requires, among other things, that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices; to promote just and equitable principles of trade; to facilitate transactions in securities; 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.

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

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

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

CBOE has asserted that, 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 Act¹⁰ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹¹ 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.¹²

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) normally would not

become operative prior to 30 days after the date of the filing. However, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) permits the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. CBOE has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day pre-operative waiting period, which would allow the Exchange to continue the pilot program without interruption. CBOE contends that, with the continuation of the pilot program, market makers will continue to have greater incentive to compete effectively for orders in the crowd, which benefits investors and promotes the public interest. In addition, CBOE argues that, given the widespread use of the 100 Spoke RAES Wheel in equity options trading stations, requiring the Exchange to discontinue use of the 100 Spoke RAES Wheel as of December 29, 2001, would cause disruption to those trading stations and, thus, be disruptive to investors and the public interest. In light of these considerations, the Commission, consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, has determined to designate the proposed rule change as operative immediately.¹³

In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires the self-regulatory organization submitting the proposed rule change to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. CBOE has requested that the Commission waive the five-day pre-filing requirement. Consistent with CBOE's request, the Commission has determined to waive the pre-filing requirement.

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, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. 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

¹³ 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. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

⁶ RAES is the Exchange's automatic execution system for public customer market or marketable limit orders of less than a certain size.

⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 42824 (May 25, 2000), 65 FR 37442 (June 14, 2000). In those classes where the 100 Spoke RAES Wheel is employed, the percentage of RAES contracts assigned to a participating market maker is essentially identical to the percentage of non-RAES in-person agency contracts traded by that market maker in that class.

⁸ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 44020 (February 28, 2001), 66 FR 13985 (March 8, 2001) (six-month extension to August 28, 2001; Securities Exchange Act Release No. 44749 (August 28, 2001), 66 FR 46487 (September 5, 2001) (four-month extension to December 28, 2001).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹¹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹² See 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(C).

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 Exchange. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-CBOE-2001-68 and should be submitted by January 31, 2002.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁴

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-45231; File No. SR-CBOE-2001-73]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated to Delete a Previously Proposed Fee for Excessive RFQs on Its New Screen-Based Trading System

January 3, 2002.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice hereby is given that on December 27, 2001, 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 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

CBOE proposes to modify the fee schedule for the Exchange's new screen-based trading platform by deleting a previously proposed fee for excessive requests for quote ("RFQs"). The text of the proposed rule change is available at the principal office of the Exchange and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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 regarding 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

CBOE proposes to delete a previously proposed fee for excessive RFQs applicable to the Exchange's new screen-based trading system, *CBOEdirect*.

CBOEdirect is CBOE's new options trading engine. A component of trading on *CBOEdirect* is the RFQ process (although CBOE market-makers may be required to provide continuous two-sided markets in products traded on the system). RFQs generally provide a mechanism for gauging the marketing in a particular option series in connection with effecting a trade in such series. Because the RFQ process is not meant to serve exclusively as an unlimited price discovery mechanism, CBOE intends to adopt an excessive RFQ fee to help protect the *CBOEdirect* system.

CBOE originally submitted an excessive RFQ fee in SR-CBOE-2001-57.³ CBOE now seeks to delete that excess RFQ fee from its fee schedule in order to reevaluate how it intends to structure the fee. CBOE has represented that it expects to submit a new fee that will assist in addressing the costs associated with excessive RFQs in the near future.

2. Statutory Basis

CBOE believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with section 6(b) of the Act⁴ in general and section 6(b)(4)⁵ in particular, in that it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among CBOE members.

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 45075 (November 19, 2001), 66 FR 59038 (November 26, 2001).

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

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

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

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

CBOE represents that the proposed rule change establishes or changes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the Exchange and, therefore, has become effective pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁶ and subparagraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.⁷ 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 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, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. 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 will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-CBOE-2001-73 and should be submitted by January 31, 2002.

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.