

report of matched trades would be similarly revised.⁶

Rule 501, which governs position reporting by OCC to its clearing members, would be amended to reflect that position information updated during a business day would only be provisional and informational in nature and that only clearing members' daily position reports could be relied upon as definitely reflecting their final positions. Daily position reports are made available to clearing members the business day after the trade date.

Rule 801, which relates to exercises of options, also would be amended to reflect that exercise information provided throughout a business day would be provisional and informational only. Exercises accepted by OCC would be definitely reflected in delivery advices and exercise and assignment reports. Such advices or reports are made available the following business day.

OCC requests that the Commission approve this rule change by October 31, 2002, so that the changes are effective when OCC implements the supporting system changes. These system changes are scheduled for implementation in early November 2002.

OCC believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with section 17A of the Act because it facilitates the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of cleared contracts.

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

OCC does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any burden on competition.

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

Written comments were not and are not intended to be solicited with respect to the proposed rule change, and none have been received.

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

Within thirty five 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 ninety 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 self-regulatory

⁶In addition, the term settlement time, as defined in Section 1.S. of Articles XV, XX, and XXIII is being modified to reflect OCC's receipt of matching trade information as opposed to a matched trade report.

organization consents, the Commission will:

(a) By order approve the 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, 450 Fifth Street NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of OCC. All submissions should refer to the File No. SR-OCC-2002-18 and should be submitted by September 13, 2002.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁷

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-21518 Filed 8-22-02; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-46377; File No. SR-OCC-2002-15]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Options Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to Dating Assignments

August 19, 2002.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ notice is hereby given that on July 3, 2002, The Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission

⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which items have been prepared primarily by OCC. 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 proposed rule change would amend OCC Rule 803 to provide that assignments of exercise notices will be dated and effective on the same date that the applicable exercise notice was accepted by OCC.

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

In its filing with the Commission, OCC 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. OCC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.²

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

The purpose of this rule change is to modify Rule 803 to provide that assignments will be dated and effective on the same date that the related exercise notice was accepted by OCC. Rule 803(b) currently provides that assignments are dated and effective as of the business day following the exercise date. This reflects the mechanics of OCC's processing. OCC assigns exercises on an overnight basis, but assigned clearing members do not receive notice of assignment until the morning of the day after exercise. OCC's practice has been to date assignments as of the day the assigned clearing members receive the notice of assignment. However, the trade (*i.e.*, the purchase or sale of stock) resulting from the exercise is treated as having occurred on the exercise date not the assignment date. Thus, settlement takes place on the third business day following the exercise date.³

This has the potential to cause confusion for call writers. OCC has learned that some, if not all, clearing members use the same assignment date

² The Commission has modified parts of these statements.

³ OCC Rule 902.

as OCC. As a result, when a holder exercises a call on the day before an ex-dividend date in order to capture the dividend, the writer who is assigned the exercise may see an assignment date the same as the ex-dividend date. The writer's broker may then have to explain that the writer is required to give up the dividend to the exercising holder because the exercise occurred before the ex-dividend date even though the assignment did not. While the language of this filing reflects OCC's current business of clearing and settling exchange traded options, the filing and the change to OCC's by-laws and rules extend to matching trade information from national securities exchanges, national securities associations, futures merchants, security futures markets, and international markets for which OCC clears and settles transactions.⁴ Dating assignments on the same date as the related exercise will lessen the potential for this kind of confusion.

Other, nonsubstantive changes are proposed for Rule 803 for the purposes of updating obsolete language. In addition, a conforming change is made to Rule 402, which pertains to supplemental reports of matched trades.

OCC believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with section 17A of the Act because it eliminates a potential source for investor confusion.

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

OCC does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any burden on competition.

(C) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

Written comments were not and are not intended to be solicited with respect to the proposed rule change, and none have been received.

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

Within thirty five 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 ninety 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 self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(a) By order approve the 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, 450 Fifth Street NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of OCC. All submissions should refer to the File No. SR-OCC-2002-15 and should be submitted by September 13, 2002.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁵

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-21519 Filed 8-22-02; 8:45 am]

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Request and Comment Request

The Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes a list of information collection packages that will require clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with Pub. L. 104-13 effective October 1, 1995, The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The information collection packages that may be included in this notice are for new information collections, revisions to OMB-approved information collections and extensions (no change) of OMB-approved information collections.

SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden

estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Written comments and recommendations regarding the information collection(s) should be submitted to the OMB Desk Officer and the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the following addresses:

(OMB) Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, 725 17th St., NW., Washington, DC 20503.

(SSA) Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Reports Clearance Officer, 1300 Annex Bldg., 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235.

I. The information collections listed below are pending at SSA and will be submitted to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice. Therefore, your comments should be submitted to SSA within 60 days from the date of this publication. You can obtain copies of the collection instruments by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at 410-965-0454, or by writing to the address listed above.

1. *Application for Disability Insurance Benefits—0960-0060—20 CFR Subpart P—404.1501-1512 and Subpart D—404.315-404.322.* The information collected on form SSA-16 helps to determine eligibility for social security disability benefits. The respondents are applicants for Social Security disability benefits.

Type of Request: Revision of an OMB-Approved Information Collection.

Number of Respondents: 1,513,677.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 20 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 504,559 hours.

2. *Worker's Compensation/Public Disability Benefit Questionnaire—0960-0247—20 CFR Subpart R—404.1720 and 404.1725, Subpart F—410.686b, Subpart O—416.1520.* Section 224 of the Act provides for the reduction of disability insurance benefit (DIB) when the combination of DIB benefits and any worker's compensation (WC) and/or certain Federal, State or Local public disability benefits (PDB) exceeds 80% of the worker's predisability earnings. SSA-546 collects the information to determine whether or not the worker's receipt of WC/PDB payments will cause a reduction of DIB. The respondents are applicants for title II DIB.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-Approved Information Collection.

⁴ OCC Rules 912 and 913(e).

⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).