

Examination, Series 9 and 10) at designated parent branch offices or the main office of the member or member organization in accordance with its overall written plan of supervision.

Accordingly, Interpretation /02 to Rule 345(a) will be amended to permit registered representatives-in-charge to associate with members and member organizations as independent contractors provided that the member or member organization neither assigns nor delegates supervisory responsibilities to such persons. Further, in addition to the documents already required to be submitted under this Interpretation in seeking approval of independent contractor status (e.g., Employment Agreement, Consent to Jurisdiction Form, written assurances that the member or member organization will supervise and control all activities of the independent contractor the same as it regulates the activities of all other registered representatives), (see NYSE Interpretation 345(a) /02), the member or member organization would be required to submit a written statement confirming that it has not assigned or delegated any supervisory responsibilities to such person.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The statutory basis for the proposed rule change is Section 6(b)(5)<sup>4</sup> of the Exchange Act, which requires, among other things, that the rules of the Exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade 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 Exchange 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 on 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 self-regulatory organization 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 proposal 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 Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of NYSE. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-NYSE-2003-26 and should be submitted by October 28, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>5</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### [Declaration of Disaster #3548]

#### District of Columbia (Amendment #1)

In accordance with a notice received from the Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency, effective September 29, 2003, the above numbered declaration is hereby amended to establish the incident period for this disaster as beginning on September 18, 2003 and continuing through September 29, 2003.

All other information remains the same, *i.e.*, the deadline for filing

applications for physical damage is November 19, 2003, and for economic injury the deadline is June 21, 2004.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: October 1, 2003.

**Herbert L. Mitchell,**

*Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.*

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## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### [Declaration of Disaster #3547]

#### State of Maryland (Amendment #1)

In accordance with a notice received from the Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency, effective September 29, 2003, the above numbered declaration is hereby amended to establish the incident period for this disaster as beginning on September 18, 2003 and continuing through September 29, 2003.

All other information remains the same, *i.e.*, the deadline for filing applications for physical damage is November 18, 2003, and for economic injury the deadline is June 21, 2004.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: October 1, 2003.

**Herbert L. Mitchell,**

*Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 03-25370 Filed 10-6-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8025-01-P**

## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### [Declaration of Disaster #3545]

#### State of North Carolina (Amendment #1)

In accordance with a notice received from the Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency, effective September 26, 2003, the above numbered declaration is hereby amended to establish the incident period for this disaster as beginning on September 18, 2003 and continuing through September 26, 2003.

All other information remains the same, *i.e.*, the deadline for filing applications for physical damage is November 17, 2003, and for economic injury the deadline is June 18, 2004.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>5</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).