

IV. Commission's Findings and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change

After careful consideration, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change, as amended, is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, applicable to a national securities exchange.¹⁵ In particular, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,¹⁶ which requires, among other things, that the rules of a national securities exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanisms of a free and open market and to protect investors and the public interest.

The Commission notes that standard position and exercise limits have not been increased in six years, during which time overall options market volume has continually increased, and the number of accounts that approach the current limits, exceed them, and are granted exemptions from the limits has also increased. The CBOE believes, among other things, that restrictive position limits result in lost liquidity by preventing large customers from using options to gain meaningful exposure to individual stocks. In view of the Exchange's representations concerning its surveillance procedures and capabilities of identifying unusual or illegal trading activity, as well as other protections against market manipulation noted in the proposal, the Commission believes that it is appropriate at this time to approve the proposed increases in position and exercise limits for a pilot program of six months.

The Commission also believes that the proposal to implement the "reverse collar" hedge exemption is consistent with the existing hedge exemption relating to the "collar" strategy, which has already been approved by the Commission. The additional amendments appropriately adjust the requirement that the Exchange post reasonable notice of new position limits to reflect current technology, and eliminate an inaccuracy in the Exchange rules.

The CBOE has requested that the Commission find good cause for approving the proposed rule change prior to the thirtieth day after publication of notice thereof in the

Federal Register. The Commission believes that it is appropriate to accelerate approval of the proposed rule change so that the pilot program, intended to ease restrictions that inhibit liquidity in the options market, consistent with the protection of investors, may begin without delay. Accordingly, the Commission finds good cause, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹⁷ for approving the proposed rule change, as amended, prior to the thirtieth day after the date of publication of notice thereof in the **Federal Register.**

V. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹⁸ that the proposed rule change (SR-CBOE-2003-30), as amended, is hereby approved on an accelerated basis for a pilot period to expire on August 23, 2005.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁹

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E5-807 Filed 2-28-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-51243; File No. SR-PCX-2004-130]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the Pacific Exchange, Inc. Relating to Fees for Late FOCD Forms

February 23, 2005.

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 23, 2004, the Pacific Exchange, Inc. ("PCX" or "Exchange"), through its wholly owned subsidiary PCX Equities, Inc. ("PCXE"), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission" or "SEC") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II and III below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. The PCX has designated this proposal as one establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the PCX under Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,³ which

¹⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹⁹ 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)(ii).

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

The PCX proposes to amend the PCXE rules to adopt new fees for late Financial and Operational Compliance Department ("FOCD") required forms. The text of the proposed rule change is below. Proposed new language is in italics. Proposed deletions are in brackets.

Rules of the Pacific Exchange, Inc.

Rule 11

Business Conduct

* * * * *

Prevention of the Misuse of Material, Nonpublic Information

Rule 11.3(a) Every OTP Holder or OTP Firm must establish, maintain and enforce written policies and procedures reasonably designed, taking into consideration the nature of such OTP Holder or OTP Firm's business, to prevent the misuse of material, non-public information by such OTP Holder or OTP Firm or persons associated with such OTP Holder or OTP Firm. OTP Holders or OTP Firms for whom the Exchange is the Designated Examining Authority ("DEA") that are required, pursuant to Rule 4.5, to file SEC form X-17A-5, with the Exchange on an annual or more frequent basis must file contemporaneously with the submission for the calendar year end ITSFEA compliance acknowledgments stating that the procedures mandated by this Rule have been established, enforced and maintained. Any OTP Holder or OTP Firm or Associated Person who becomes aware of a possible misuse of material, non-public information must promptly notify the Exchange's Options Surveillance Department.

(b) Any OTP Holder or OTP Firm who fails to file a compliance acknowledgment form in a timely manner shall be subject to a late filing charge of \$500.00 for each occurrence. Repeated or aggravated failure to file may be referred to the Enforcement Department for appropriate disciplinary action.

Commentary .01-.03—No change.

* * * * *

Disclosure of Financial Arrangements of OTP Holders

Rule 11.11(a)—No change.

¹⁵ In approving this proposal, the Commission has considered its impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

(b) OTP Holders and OTP Firms with financial arrangements must submit to the Exchange notification of the initiation, modification or termination of such financial arrangements in a form, time and manner approved by the Exchange within ten business days of the effective date of such arrangements or within such shorter period of time as the Exchange may require. *Any OTP Holder or OTP Firm who fails to file as such in a timely manner shall be subject to a late filing charge of \$500.00 for each occurrence. Repeated or aggravated failure to file may be referred to the Enforcement Department for appropriate disciplinary action.* [Failure to disclose the terms of such financial arrangements to the Exchange may result in disciplinary action.]

* * * * *

Rules of PCX Equities, Inc.

Rule 6

Business Conduct

* * * * *

Prevention of the Misuse of Material, Nonpublic Information

Rule 6.3(a) Every ETP Holder must establish, maintain and enforce written policies and procedures reasonably designed, taking into consideration the nature of such ETP Holder's business, to prevent the misuse of material, non-public information by such ETP Holder or persons associated with such ETP Holder. ETP Holders for whom the Corporation is the Designated Examining Authority ("DEA") that are required, pursuant to Rule 4.5, to file SEC form X-17A-5, with the Corporation on an annual or more frequent basis must file contemporaneously with the submission for the calendar year end ITSFEA compliance acknowledgments stating that the procedures mandated by this Rule have been established, enforced and maintained. Any ETP Holder or Associated Persons who becomes aware of a possible misuse of material, non-public information must promptly notify the Corporation's Surveillance Department.

(b) Any ETP Holder who fails to file a compliance acknowledgment form in a timely manner shall be subject to a late filing charge of \$500.00 for each occurrence. Repeated or aggravated failure to file may be referred to the Enforcement Department for appropriate disciplinary action.

Commentary .01-.03—No change.

* * * * *

Disclosure of Financial Arrangements

Rule 6.11(a)—No change.

(b) ETP Holders with financial arrangements must submit to the Corporation notification of the initiation, modification or termination of such financial arrangements in a form, time and manner approved by the Corporation within ten business days of the effective date of such arrangements or within such shorter period of time as the Corporation may require. *Any ETP Holder who fails to file as such in a timely manner shall be subject to a late filing charge of \$500.00 for each occurrence. Repeated or aggravated failure to file may be referred to the Enforcement Department for appropriate disciplinary action.* [Failure to disclose the terms of such financial arrangements to the Corporation may result in disciplinary action.]

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

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization 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. The self-regulatory organization 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

Purpose

The Exchange proposes to adopt fees for late filings of certain required FOCD forms. Options Trading Permit ("OTP") Holders and OTP Firms and Equities Trading Permit ("ETP") Holders (collectively, "Holders") are required to file a number of FOCD related forms in a timely manner. The Exchange believes that timely submission of FOCD forms is a serious matter and believes it is necessary to assess late fees to encourage Holders to file such forms in a timely manner.

The Exchange proposes to adopt late fees for the FOCD related forms described below.

1. Annual Compliance Acknowledgement Form

Under PCX Rule 11.3 and PCXE Rule 6.3, every Holder must establish, maintain, and enforce written policies and procedures to prevent the misuse of

material, non-public information by the respective Holder or persons associated with such Holder. Holders for whom the Exchange is the Designated Examining Authority that are required, under PCX and PCXE Rule 4.5, to file SEC Form X-17A-5 with the Exchange on an annual basis must file contemporaneously with the submission for the calendar year end ITSFEA compliance acknowledgments stating that the procedures mandated by PCX Rule 11.3 or PCXE 6.3 have been established, enforced and maintained. The Exchange proposes to assess a late filing fee of \$500 for each occurrence to any Holder who fails to file the Annual Compliance Acknowledgement Form in a timely manner. Repeated or aggravated failure to file may be referred to the Enforcement Department for appropriate disciplinary action.

2. Financial Arrangement Disclosure Form

Under PCX Rule 11.11 and PCXE 6.11, Holders with financial arrangements are required to submit to the Exchange notification of the initiation, modification or termination of such financial arrangements in a form, time and manner approved by the Exchange within ten business days of the effective date of such arrangements. The Exchange proposes to assess a \$500 late fee to those Holders who fail to file the Financial Arrangement Disclosure Form in a timely manner. Repeated or aggravated failure to file may be referred to the Enforcement Department for appropriate disciplinary action.

Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)⁴ of the Act, in general, and Section 6(b)(4)⁵ of the Act, in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its OTP Holders, OTP Firms, ETP Holders, issuers, and other persons using its facilities.

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.

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

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

Written comments on the proposed rule change were neither solicited nor received.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii)⁶ of the Act and subparagraph (f)(2) of Act Rule 19b-4 thereunder,⁷ because it is concerned solely with the administration of the Exchange. At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission could have summarily abrogated such rule change if it appeared to the Commission that such action was necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance 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. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-PCX-2004-130 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-PCX-2004-130. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. 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 the PCX. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-PCX-2004-130 and should be submitted on or before March 22, 2005.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁸

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E5-808 Filed 2-28-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-51239; File No. SR-Phlx-2005-13]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to SIG Indices, LLLP

February 22, 2005.

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 February 16, 2005, the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Phlx" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in items I and II below, which items have been prepared by the Phlx. The Exchange has filed the proposal as a "non-controversial" rule change pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder,⁴ which renders it effective upon filing with the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

⁸ 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).

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Phlx proposes to amend Phlx Rule 1104A, SIG Indices, LLLP Indexes, to add five new SIG indices licensed by Susquehanna Indices, LLLP ("SI") to the Exchange. Phlx Rule 1104A provides generally that SI makes no express or implied warranty as to results to be obtained by any person or entity from the use of any of the SIG indexes, and makes no express or implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose with respect to any of the named indexes.

The text of the proposed rule change is below. Proposed new language is in *italics*; proposed deletions are in [brackets].

* * * * *

Rule 1104A. SIG Indices, LLLP [Indexes]

SIG Indices, LLLP makes no warranty, express or implied, as to results to be obtained by any person or any entity from the use of the SIG Investment Managers IndexTM, the SIG Cable, Media & Entertainment IndexTM, the SIG Casino Gaming IndexTM, the SIG Semiconductor Equipment IndexTM, [and]the SIG Semiconductor Device IndexTM, *the SIG Specialty Retail IndexTM, the SIG Steel Producers IndexTM, the SIG Footwear & Athletic IndexTM, the SIG Education IndexTM, and the SIG Restaurant IndexTM* or any data included therein in connection with the trading of option contracts thereon, or for any other use. SIG Indices, LLLP makes no express or implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose for use with respect to the SIG Investment Managers IndexTM, the SIG Cable, Media & Entertainment IndexTM, the SIG Casino Gaming IndexTM, the SIG Semiconductor Equipment IndexTM, [and]the SIG Semiconductor Device IndexTM, *the SIG Specialty Retail IndexTM, the SIG Steel Producers IndexTM, the SIG Footwear & Athletic IndexTM, the SIG Education IndexTM, and the SIG Restaurant IndexTM* or any data included therein.

* * * * *

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

In its filing with the Commission, the Phlx 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

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).