

(iii) by its terms, does not become operative for thirty days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest; provided that the self-regulatory organization has given 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 of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁷ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.⁸ At any time within sixty 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. 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-CBOE-2008-87 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CBOE-2008-87. 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. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). 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 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the self-regulatory organization. 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-CBOE-2008-87, and should be submitted on or before September 23, 2008.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.⁹

Florence E. Harmon,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-20229 Filed 8-29-08; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-58404; File No. SR-DTC-2008-08]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Depository Trust Company; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change To Eliminate the Ability To Obtain a Physical Certificate From DTC for Issues That Are Eligible and Participating in the Direct Registration System

August 21, 2008.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ notice is hereby given that on July 9, 2008, The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") proposed rule change No. SR-DTC-2008-08. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments from interested parties on the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which items have been prepared primarily by the DTC.²

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² The exact text of the DTC's proposed rule change can be found at http://www.dtcc.com/legal/rule_filings/dtc/2008.

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

DTC is proposing to amend its Withdrawal-by-Transfer ("WT") service to eliminate the ability of participants to receive physical certificates for securities positions withdrawn from participants' accounts at DTC when the issue of such securities is eligible and participating in the Direct Registration System.

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 DTC 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. DTC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.³

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

1. Purpose

Over the last four decades, securities ownership has evolved from investors holding physical certificates to evidence their ownership to investors having book-entry positions. The Direct Registration System ("DRS") was implemented in support of an industry initiative to eliminate physical certificates in equity securities, paralleling the evolution of book-entry form of ownership in other investment instruments, such as mutual funds, treasury and government agency securities, municipal bonds, and options. DRS permits an investor to hold a securities position in book-entry form on the books of the issuer rather than in certificated form or indirectly through a financial intermediary in street name. DRS allows an investor to transfer at any time his or her DRS position from the issuer to a financial intermediary or vice versa through the facilities of DTC. Additionally, an investor holding a DRS position may obtain a physical certificate if the issuer provides for the issuance of certificates.⁴

³ The Commission has modified portions of the text of the summaries prepared by the DTC.

⁴ For more information on DRS, see Securities Exchange Act Release No. 37931 (November 7, 1996) 61 FR 58600 (November 15, 1996) (File No. SR-DTC-96-15).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

In 2003, the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (“SIFMA”), which was formerly the Securities Industry Association, took the lead in lobbying state legislatures, particularly Delaware, to eliminate the requirement for companies to issue certificates and to allow companies the option of issuing securities in book-entry form. As a result of this industry initiative, all states now allow for equity ownership in book-entry form.⁵ U.S. exchanges have also adopted new listing rules that require all exchange-listed securities to be eligible to participate in DRS.⁶ Today there are over 7,500 issues eligible to participate in DRS with more than 375 issues no longer offering investors the option of receiving a physical certificate. Industry representatives estimate that investors hold approximately forty million⁷ book-entry accounts on the records of the issuers or their transfer agents.

Currently, DTC participants (*i.e.*, broker-dealers and banks) use the Withdrawal-by-Transfer (“WT”) service to instruct DTC to reregister securities assets in the participant’s account in the name of an individual investor, a firm, or a third party name. The reregistered assets can be issued in certificate form or in a DRS position. On receipt of a WT instruction from a participant, DTC either (i) sends a certificate to the issuer or the issuer’s transfer agent for reregistration in the name of the person or entity identified in the WT instruction or (ii) instructs the issuer or the issuer’s transfer agent to debit DTC’s position and issue securities in the name of the person or entity identified in the WT instruction.

WT volumes at DTC have decreased from 27,000 daily transactions in 1980 to approximately 1,200 daily transactions to date in 2008. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of all WTs submitted by participants involve DRS eligible issues. Due primarily to participants’ voluntary change in their firm policies of “defaulting to DRS” (*i.e.*, requesting a DRS statement rather than a physical certificate for their customers), approximately forty-one percent (41%) of all WTs submitted in May 2008 were processed as DRS

positions, rather than as physical certificates. This trend away from certificate issuance is expected to continue throughout 2008.

As part of DTC’s response to the financial services industry’s initiative to achieve “straight-through processing” of securities transactions, which is based in part on the elimination of physical certificates in the U.S. market,⁸ DTC began a program of steadily increasing its fees for WTs as a disincentive to use of physical certificates.⁹

In an effort to further reduce the industry’s dependency on physical certificates, DTC is proposing to eliminate the issuance of physical certificates through its WT service for issues that are participating in DRS. DTC believes the modification of its WT service reaffirms its goals of reducing the costs and risk associated with processing physical certificates.

Pursuant to the proposed rule change, beginning January 1, 2009, DTC would no longer permit participants to request the issuance of a certificate on a WT instruction if the issue is participating in DRS. Instead, DTC would instruct the issuer or its transfer agent to establish a DRS position and provide a DRS statement in lieu of a physical certificate for all issues that are participating in DRS.¹⁰ An investor or the investor’s custodian will still be able to obtain a physical certificate by taking the investor’s DRS statement directly to the issuer or its transfer agent for conversion to a certificate or by using DTC’s Deposit and Withdrawal at Custodian (“DWAC”) process.¹¹

The rule change also proposes on or after July 1, 2009, to eliminate a participant’s ability to obtain a physical certificate through the WT service for issues eligible but not participating in DRS on or after July 1, 2009 (“elimination date”). For the small number of issues that have not become eligible to participate in DRS by the elimination date, WT instructions

requesting a physical certificate may continue to be processed through DWAC or Rush WT processes.

Additionally, the rule change is proposing to eliminate DTC’s Direct Mail by the Depository (“DMD”) service for all issues in the fourth quarter of 2009. As a result, DTC would no longer mail certificates to investors or their third parties. Participants would still be able to use the Direct Mail by Agent (“DMA”) service, in which transfer agents provide DRS statements or physical certificates to investors or their appointed third parties. Physical certificates could also be obtained through DTC’s Central Delivery processes in which DTC mails the physical certificates in bulk to the participant or allows the participant to pick up the certificate.

2. Statutory Basis

DTC believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of Section 17A of the Act, as amended,¹² and the rules and regulations thereunder because the proposed rule change will promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions by modifying a DTC service in order to reduce the inherent risks associated with physical certificates.

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

DTC 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

DTC 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 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 such proposed rule change or

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

⁵ Puerto Rico is currently the only jurisdiction requiring equity securities to be certificated.

⁶ Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 54290 (August 8, 2006), 71 FR 47262 (August 16, 2006) [File No. SR-Amex-2006-40]; 54289 (August 8, 2006), 71 FR 47278 (August 16, 2006) [File No. SR-NYSE-2006-29]; 54288 (August 8, 2006), 71 FR 47276 (August 16, 2006) [File No. SR-NASDAQ-2006-008]; and 54410 (September 7, 2006), 71 FR 54316 (September 14, 2006) [File No. SR-NYSEArca-2006-31].

⁷ Based on a SIFMA webinar held on June 24, 2008.

⁸ For more information on straight through processing and dematerialization initiatives, see Securities Exchange Act Release No. 49405 (March 11, 2004), 69 FR 12922 (March 18, 2004) [File No. S7-13-04].

⁹ DTC charges approximately \$125.00 per transaction for a WT instruction requesting a physical certificate for an issue participating in DRS and \$6.00 per transaction for a WT instruction requesting a DRS position.

¹⁰ Issues that participate in the DRS program allow investors to hold their assets in DRS book-entry form on the books of the issuer.

¹¹ DWAC is a method of electronically transferring shares between participants and the transfer agent as custodian. For more information about the DWAC service, see Securities Exchange Act Release No. 30283 (January 23, 1992), 57 FR 3658 (January 30, 1992) [File No. SR-DTC-91-16] (order granting approval of the DWAC service).

(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. 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-DTC-2008-08 in the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-DTC-2008-08. 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. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). 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, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Copies of such filings also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the DTC and on the DTC's Web site, <http://www.dtcc.com>. 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-DTC-2008-08 and should be submitted on or before September 23, 2008. For the Commission by the Division of Trading

and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹³

Florence E. Harmon,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-20249 Filed 8-29-08; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-58410; File No. SR-Phlx-2008-53]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. (n/k/a NASDAQ OMX PHLX, Inc.); Order Granting Approval of Proposed Rule Change Relating to an Exchange Member's Conduct of Doing Business With the Public

August 22, 2008.

I. Introduction

On July 11, 2008, the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Phlx" or "Exchange") (n/k/a NASDAQ OMX PHLX, Inc.)¹ filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission" or "SEC"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),² and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,³ a proposed rule change relating to the Exchange's rules governing doing business with the public. On July 16, 2008, the Commission issued a release noticing the proposed rule change, which was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on July 22, 2008.⁴ The Comment period expired on August 12, 2008. The Commission did not receive any comment letters in response to the proposed rule change. This order approves the proposed rule change.

II. Description of Phlx Proposal

Phlx proposed to amend Phlx Rules 1024 (Conduct of Accounts for Options Trading), 1025 (Supervision of Accounts), 1027 (Discretionary Accounts), and 1049 (Communications to Customers) that govern an Exchange member organizations' conduct of doing business with the public. Specifically, the proposed rule change would require that member organizations integrate the responsibility for supervision of a member organizations' public customer

options business into their overall supervisory and compliance programs. In addition, the proposal would require a member organization to strengthen its supervisory procedures and internal controls as they relate to its public customer options business.

A. Integration of Options Supervision

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to create a supervisory structure for options that is similar to that required by New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") Rule 342 and National Association of Securities Dealers ("NASD") Rule 3010.⁵ The proposed rule change would eliminate the requirement that member organizations qualified to do a public customer business in options must designate a single person to act as Senior Registered Options Principal ("SROP") for the member organization and that each such member organization designate a specific individual as a Compliance Registered Options Principal ("CROP"). Instead member organizations would be required to integrate the SROP and CROP functions into their overall supervisory and compliance programs. The proposed rule change is substantively similar to recent amendments to the rules of the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc. ("CBOE") which were approved by the Commission.⁶

The SROP concept was first introduced by Phlx and other options exchanges during the early years of the development of the listed options market. Initially, member organizations were required to designate one or more persons qualified as Registered Options Principals ("ROPs") having supervisory responsibilities in respect of the member organization's options business. As the number of ROPs at larger member organizations began to increase, Phlx imposed an additional requirement that member organizations designate one of their ROPs as the SROP. This was intended to eliminate confusion as to where the compliance and supervisory responsibilities lay by centralizing in a single supervisory officer overall responsibility for the supervision of a

⁵ On July 26, 2007, the Commission approved a proposed rule change filed by NASD to amend NASD's Certificate of Incorporation to reflect its name change to Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., or FINRA, in connection with the consolidation of the member firm regulatory functions of NASD and NYSE Regulation, Inc. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 56146 (July 26, 2007), 72 FR 42190 (August 1, 2007). The FINRA rule book currently consists of both NASD rules and certain NYSE Rules that FINRA has incorporated.

⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 56971 (December 14, 2007), 72 FR 72804 (December 21, 2007) (SR-CBOE-2007-106).

¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ The Exchange recently changed its name to NASDAQ OMX PHLX, Inc. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 58380 (August 18, 2008) (SR-Phlx-2008-61).

² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 58168 (July 16, 2008), 73 FR 42641 (July 22, 2008) ("proposal").