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

The Exchange has not solicited, and does not intend to solicit, comments on this proposed rule change. The Exchange has not received any unsolicited written comments from members or other interested parties.

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) of the Act11 and 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 Web site viewing and printing in the Commission’s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. 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–ISE–2013–32, and should be submitted on or before May 15, 2013.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.13

Kevin M. O’Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; International Securities Exchange, LLC; Order Granting Approval of Proposed Rule Change To Address Order Handling Under the Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan, the Authority of the Exchange To Cancel Orders When a Technical or Systems Issue Occurs, and To Describe the Operation of Linkage Handler Error Accounts

April 18, 2013.

I. Introduction

On March 7, 2013, the International Securities Exchange, LLC (“Exchange” or “ISE”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)1 and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,2 a proposed rule change to address: (i) Order handling under the Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan; (ii) the authority of the Exchange to cancel orders (or release routing-related orders) when a technical or systems issue occurs; and (iii) describe the operation of Linkage Handler (defined below) error account(s), which may be used to liquidate unmatched executions that may occur in the provision of the Exchange’s routing service. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the Federal Register on March 18, 2013.3 The Commission received no comment letters regarding the proposed rule change. This order approves the proposed rule change.

II. Description of the Proposal

New Supplementary Material .02 to ISE Rule 1901 (Order Protection) and New ISE Rule 1903 (Order Routing to Other Exchanges)

In its proposal, the Exchange states that, under the Options Order Protection and Locked/Crossed Market Plan (“Plan”),4 it cannot execute orders at a price that is inferior to the national best bid or offer (“NBBO”), nor can ISE place an order on its book that would cause the Exchange best bid or offer to lock or cross another exchange’s quote.5 The Exchange states that, in compliance with this requirement, incoming orders are not automatically executed at a price inferior to another exchange’s protected bid or protected offer, nor placed on the limit order book if they would lock or cross an away market. “Non-Customer Orders” (orders for the account of a broker or dealer)6 are rejected in these situations.

4 The Commission notes that the Plan is a national market system plan proposed by the options exchanges and approved by the Commission. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 60405 (July 30, 2009), 74 FR 39362 (August 6, 2009) (File No. 4–546). ISE is a participant in the Plan. Among other things, the Plan requires each participant in the Plan to adopt rules that are reasonably designed to prevent trade-throughs and establish, maintain and enforce written rules that require its members to reasonably avoid displaying locked and crossed markets. See Sections 5 and 6 of the Plan.
6 ISE Rule 100(a)(28).
circumstances, while “Public Customer Orders” (orders for the account of a person that is not a broker-dealer) are handled by the Primary Market Maker. Currently, Primary Market Makers have the responsibility of either executing the Public Customer Order at a price that at least matches the NBBO or obtaining better prices from the away market(s) by sending one or more intermarket sweep orders (“ISOs”) on the Public Customer’s behalf. The Exchange proposes to amend its rules to remove the requirement that Primary Market Makers handle Public Customer Orders in the circumstances described above, and to instead provide a centralized process for sending ISOs to other exchanges on behalf of Public Customer Orders. The Exchange proposes that it will contract with one or more unaffiliated brokers to route orders to other exchanges when necessary to comply with the linkage rules (“Linkage Handlers”). Specifically, in circumstances where marketable Public Customer Orders are received when the ISE is not at the NBBO or orders are received that would lock or cross another market, they will be exposed to ISE members for up to one second. Under the proposed rules if, after a Public Customer Order is exposed, such order cannot be executed in full on the Exchange at the then-current NBBO or better and is marketable, the lesser of the full displayed size of the Protected Bid(s) or Protected Offer(s) that are priced better than the ISE’s quote or the balance of the order will be sent to the Linkage Handler, and any additional balance of the order that is not marketable against the then-current NBBO will be placed on the ISE book.

The Exchange proposes to adopt new ISE Rule 1903 (Order Routing to Other Exchanges), which would govern the Exchange’s process for routing ISOs to other exchanges. As discussed above, the Exchange intends to contract with one or more Linkage Handlers that are not affiliated with the Exchange to route ISOs to other exchanges. The Exchange represents that any such contract will restrict the use of any confidential and proprietary information that the Linkage Handler receives to legitimate business purposes necessary for routing orders at the direction of the Exchange. Routing services would be available to ISE members only and are optional. Members that do not want orders routed can use the “Do Not Route” designation to avoid routing. Also, ISE is not approved to be a designated examining authority.

New ISE Rule 1903 also provides that: (1) The Exchange shall establish and maintain procedures and internal controls reasonably designed to adequately restrict the flow of confidential and proprietary information between the Exchange and the Linkage Handler, and, if the Linkage Handler or any of its affiliates engages in any other business activities other than providing routing services to the Exchange, between the segment of the Linkage Handler or affiliate that provides the other business activities and the segment of the Linkage Handler that provides the routing services; (2) the Exchange will provide its routing services in compliance with the provisions of the Act and the rules thereunder, including, but not limited to, the requirements in Section 6(b)(4) and (5) of the Act that the rules of a national securities exchange provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its Members and other persons using its facilities, and not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers; (3) the Exchange will determine the logic that provides when, how, and where orders are routed away to other exchanges; (4) the Linkage Handler will receive routing instructions from the Exchange, to route orders to other exchanges and report such executions back to the Exchange and the Linkage Handler cannot change the terms of an order or the routing instructions, nor does the Linkage Handler have any discretion about where to route an order; and (5) any bid or offer entered on the Exchange routed to another exchange via a Linkage Handler that results in an execution shall be binding on the Member that entered such bid/offer.

New ISE Rule 1904 (Order Cancellation/Release)

The Exchange is also proposing to adopt Rule 1904 (Order Cancellation/Release) which, the Exchange states, is designed to address the Exchange’s authority to cancel orders (or release routing-related orders) when a technical or systems issue occurs. The Exchange states that paragraph (a) of Proposed Rule 1904 is designed to authorize the Exchange to cancel orders as it deems to be necessary to maintain fair and orderly markets if a technical or systems issue occurs at the Exchange, the Linkage Handler, or another exchange to which an Exchange order has been routed. Paragraph (a) also provides that a Linkage Handler may only cancel orders being routed to another exchange...
based on the Exchange’s standing or specific instructions or as otherwise provided in the Exchange rules.\(^{20}\) In addition, paragraph (a) provides that the Exchange shall provide notice of the cancelation of the Members’ original order to affected Members as soon as practicable.

Paragraph (b) of Proposed Rule 1904 provides that the Exchange may also determine to release orders being held on the Exchange awaiting an away exchange execution as it deems to be necessary to maintain fair and orderly markets if a technical or systems issue occurs at the Exchange, a Linkage Handler, or another exchange to which an order has been routed.

**Proposed Rule 1905 (Routing Service Error Accounts)**

New ISE Rule 1905 provides that each Linkage Handler shall maintain, in the name of the Linkage Handler, one or more accounts for the purpose of liquidating unmatched trade positions that may occur in connection with the routing service provided under new ISE Rule 1903 (“error positions”).

Paragraph (a) of the rule provides that errors to which the rule applies include any action or omission by the Exchange, a Linkage Handler, or another exchange to which an Exchange order has been routed, that results in an unmatched trade position due to the execution of an order that is subject to the away market routing service and for which there is no corresponding order to pair with the execution (each a “routing error”); and that such routing errors would include, without limitation, positions resulting from determinations by the Exchange to cancel or release an order pursuant to new ISE Rule 1904.

**Paragraph (b)** of the rule provides that if error positions will be liquidated in a Linkage Handler’s error account. Paragraph (c) of new ISE Rule 1905 requires that a Linkage Handler utilizing its error account to liquidate error positions shall liquidate the positions as soon as practicable. The Linkage Handler could determine to liquidate the position itself or have a third-party broker-dealer liquidate the position on the Linkage Handler’s behalf. Paragraph (c)(i) provides that the routing broker shall establish and enforce policies and procedures reasonably designed to (1) adequately restrict the flow of confidential and proprietary information associated with the liquidation of the error position in accordance with Rule 1903 and (2) prevent the use of information associated with other orders subject to the routing services when making determinations regarding the liquidation of error positions. In addition, paragraph (c)(ii) provides that the Linkage Handler shall make and keep records associated with the liquidation of such error positions and shall maintain such records in accordance with Rule 17a–4 under the Act.\(^{21}\)

Finally, paragraph (d) provides that the Exchange shall make and keep records to document all determinations to treat positions as error positions under the rule, and shall maintain such records in accordance with Rule 17a–1 under the Act.\(^{22}\)

**III. Discussion and Commission’s Findings**

After careful review, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act\(^{23}\) and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange.\(^{24}\) In particular, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,\(^{25}\) 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 foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating 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; and are not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers. The Commission also believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 11A(a)(1)(C) of the Act\(^{26}\) in that it seeks to assure economically efficient execution of securities transactions.

The Commission finds that ISE’s proposed rules governing the routing of orders are consistent with the Act. As described above, the Exchange would contract with one or more Linkage Handlers that are not affiliated with the Exchange to route ISOs to other markets.\(^{27}\) Further, the routing of orders would be optional;\(^{28}\) and the Exchange would be responsible for making routing decisions and would retain control of the routing logic.\(^{29}\) None of ISE or its affiliates is approved to be a designated examining authority, and therefore, neither the Exchange, nor any affiliate of the Exchange,\(^{30}\) may be the designated examining authority for a Linkage Handler absent Commission approval and amendment of ISE’s rules governing the routing of orders by its Linkage Handlers.\(^{31}\) The Commission also notes that the rule contemplates procedures and internal controls designed to protect confidential and proprietary information, which should help ensure that the Linkage Handlers do not misuse routing information obtained from the Exchange. In addition, the Exchange would provide its routing services in compliance with the Act and the rules thereunder, including but not limited to, the requirements in Sections 6(b)(4) and (5) of the Act\(^{32}\) that the rules of a national securities exchange provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among Exchange members and other persons using the Exchange’s facilities, and not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers.

\(^{20}\) The Exchange states that, in addition to being unaffiliated with the Exchange, the Linkage Handlers are not facilities of the Exchange. For all routing services, the Exchange determines the logic that provides when, how and where orders are routed away to other exchanges. The Linkage Handler receives the routing instructions from the Exchange to route orders to other exchanges and to report executions back to the Exchange. The Linkage Handler cannot change the terms of an order or the routing instructions, nor does the Linkage Handler have any discretion about where to route an order. See proposed Rule 1903(c), (d) and (e). Under paragraph (a) to proposed Rule 1904, the decision to take action with respect to orders affected by a technical or systems issue shall be made by the Exchange. Depending on where those orders are located, a Linkage Handler would be permitted to initiate a cancelation of an order(s) pursuant to the Exchange’s standing or specific instructions or as otherwise provided in Exchange Rules (e.g., the Exchange’s standing instruction might provide, among other things, that the Linkage Handler could initiate the cancelation of orders if the Linkage Handler is experiencing technical or systems issues routing orders to an away exchange). See Notice, 78 FR at 16735 n.20.

\(^{21}\) 17 CFR 240.17a–4. Because a Linkage Handler will be performing an Exchange function on a contractual basis and at the direction of the Exchange, the Exchange also proposes to exclude Linkage Handlers from the limits on compensation in ISE Rule 705(d). Instead, the Exchange states that such liability matters will be handled on a contractual basis as they are with other vendors or services to the Exchange. See Notice, 78 FR at 16737.

\(^{22}\) 17 CFR 240.17a–1.


\(^{24}\) In approving this proposed rule change, the Commission has considered the proposed rule’s impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).


\(^{27}\) The Commission notes that Linkage Handlers would be required to comply with Rule 15c3–5 under the Act. See supra note 17.

\(^{28}\) Members may choose to avoid routing by using the Do Not Route designation. See supra note 15 and accompanying text.

\(^{29}\) See proposed ISE Rule 1903(d) and (e).

\(^{30}\) See supra note 16 and accompanying text.

\(^{31}\) See id.

\(^{32}\) 7 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).
brokers, or dealers. The Commission notes that such rules governing the routing of orders by Linkage Handlers should help ISE comply with its responsibility under the Plan. The Commission recognizes that technical or systems issues may occur, and believes that new ISE Rule 1904, in allowing ISE to cancel or release orders affected by technical or systems issues, should provide a reasonably efficient means for ISE to handle such orders, and appears reasonably designed to permit ISE to maintain fair and orderly markets.

The Commission also believes that allowing the Exchange to resolve error positions through the use of error accounts maintained by each Linkage Handler pursuant to the procedures set forth in the rule, and as described above, is consistent with the Act. The Commission notes that the rule establishes criteria for determining which positions are error positions to which the rule applies, and the procedures for the handling of such positions. In particular, the Commission notes that Proposed ISE Rule 1905 only applies to error positions that result from the Linkage Handler’s routing service, and that such positions shall be liquidated by the Linkage Handler, as applicable, as soon as practicable. In this regard, the Commission believes that the new rule appears reasonably designed to further just and equitable principles of trade and the protection of investors and the public interest, and to help prevent unfair discrimination, in that it should help assure the handling of error positions will be based on clear and objective criteria, and that the resolution of those positions will occur promptly through a transparent process.

The Commission is also concerned about the potential for misuse of confidential and proprietary information. The Commission notes that Linkage Handlers will be required to establish and enforce policies and procedures reasonably designed to (1) adequately restrict the flow of confidential and proprietary information associated with the liquidation of the error positions, and (2) prevent the use of information associated with other orders subject to the routing services when making determinations regarding the liquidation of error positions. The Commission believes that these requirements should help mitigate the Commission’s concerns. In particular, the Commission believes that these requirements should help ensure that none of ISE, its Linkage Handlers, or any third-party broker-dealer is able to misuse confidential or proprietary information obtained in connection with the liquidation of error positions for its own benefit. The Commission also notes that each Linkage Handler would be required to make and keep records associated with the liquidation of error positions and ISE would be required to make and keep records to document all determinations to treat positions as error positions under this Rule.

Finally, the Commission notes that the proposed procedures for routing orders, canceling orders and the handling of error positions are similar to procedures the Commission has approved for other exchanges.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, that the proposed rule change (SR–ISE–2013–18) be, and it hereby is, approved.

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

Kevin M. O’Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Arca, Inc.; Order Granting Approval of Proposed Rule Change, as Proposed by Amendment No. 1 Thereto, To List and Trade Fourteen Series of the iShares Trust Under NYSE Arca Equities Rule 8.600

April 18, 2013.

I. Introduction

On February 14, 2013, NYSE Arca, Inc. (“Exchange” or “NYSE Arca”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”) and Rule 19b–4 thereunder, a proposed rule change to list and trade shares (“Shares”) of fourteen series of the iShares Trust (“Trust”). The proposed rule change was published for comment in the Federal Register on March 6, 2013. The Commission received no comments on the proposal. On April 2, 2013, the Exchange filed Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change. This order grants approval of the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1 thereto.

II. Description of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to list and trade the Shares of the iShares Australian Dollar Cash Rate Fund; iShares British Pound Cash Rate Fund; iShares Canadian Dollar Cash Rate

4 In Amendment No. 1, the Exchange clarified that the variable rate demand notes that may be purchased by the Funds (as defined herein) would be backed by a letter of credit from a highly rated bank or financial institution that meets certain credit standards and that the Funds would purchase such variable rate demand notes with hard one or seven-day put options. In addition, the Exchange clarified that the net asset value (“NAV”) for the iShares New Zealand Dollar Cash Rate Fund would be determined on each business day as of the value date roll-over in New Zealand, which would ordinarily be 7:00 a.m., New Zealand time (which would be 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., or 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time or “E.T.”, the prior day, depending on daylight savings time). The Exchange further clarified that fair value determinations would be made in accordance with the requirements of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (“1940 Act”). Finally, the Exchange made a number of technical changes to the proposed rule change. Because the changes made by the Exchange in Amendment No. 1 do not materially alter the substance of the proposed rule change and do not raise any novel or unique regulatory issues, Amendment No. 1 is not subject to notice and comment.

See proposed ISE Rule 1903(c).
33 See supra note 4.
34 See supra note 4.
35 See ISE Rule 1905(c).
36 The Commission notes that ISE states that it believes that allowing the Exchange to cancel or release orders due to a technical or systems issue is not equivalent to the Exchange declaring self-help against another exchange pursuant to ISE Rule 1905. See 17 CFR 242.611(b). See also Notice, 78 FR at 16735 n.21.
37 The Commission notes that ISE states that it believes that it is reasonable and appropriate to address routing errors through the error account of a Linkage Handler in the manner proposed because, among other reasons, the Linkage Handler is the executing broker associated with such transactions.