

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Dr. Marick Masters, University of Pittsburgh, will present the findings of the NPC Research Project.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Jeff Sumberg, Director, Office of Labor and Employee Relations, Office of Personnel Management, Theodore Roosevelt Building, 1900 E Street, NW., Room 7H28, Washington, DC 20415–2000, (202) 606–2930.

Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,

Director.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 24805; 812–12310]

Scudder Weisel Capital Entrepreneurs Fund and Scudder Weisel Capital LLC; Notice of Application

December 27, 2000.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”).

ACTION: Notice of application for an order under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (“Act”) for an exemption from sections 18(c) and 18(i) of the Act, under sections 6(c) and 23(c)(3) of the Act for an exemption from rule 23c–3 under the Act, and pursuant to section 17(d) of the Act and rule 17d–1 under the Act.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicants request an order to permit certain registered closed-end management investment companies to issue multiple classes of shares and to impose asset-based distribution fees and early withdrawal charges.

APPLICANTS: Scudder Weisel Capital Entrepreneurs Fund (the “Fund”) and Scudder Weisel Capital LLC (“Scudder Weisel”).

FILING DATES: The application was filed on October 24, 2000 and amended on December 26, 2000.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Commission’s Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on January 18, 2001, and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants, in the form of an affidavit, or for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state

the nature of the writer’s interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Commission’s Secretary.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549–0609. Applicants, 88 Kearny Street, San Francisco, California, 94108.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara P. Crovitz, Senior Counsel, at (202) 942–0667, or Michael W. Mundt, Branch Chief, at (202) 942–0564 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained for a fee at the Commission’s Public Reference Branch, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549–0101, (202) 942–8090.

Applicants’ Representations

1. The Fund is a closed-end management investment company registered under the Act and organized as a Delaware business trust. Scudder Weisel is registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and will serve as investment adviser to the Fund. Scudder Weisel also is registered as a broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and will distribute the Fund’s shares. Applicants request that the order also apply to any other registered closed-end management investment company established in the future for which Scudder Weisel, or any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with Scudder Weisel acts as principal underwriter or investment adviser.¹

2. The Fund’s investment objective is to provide investors with long-term capital appreciation. The Fund seeks its objective by investing primarily in public and private equity securities of U.S. and non-U.S. companies.

3. The Fund intends to continuously offer its shares to the public at net asset value, plus any applicable sales charges. The Fund’s shares will not be offered or traded in the secondary market and will not be listed on any exchange or quoted on any quotation medium. The Fund intends to operate as an “interval fund” pursuant to rule 23c–3 under the Act and to make quarterly repurchase offers to its shareholders.

¹ Any registered closed-end investment company relying on this relief in the future will do so in a manner consistent with the terms and conditions of the application. Applicants represent that each investment company presently intending to rely on the requested relief is listed as an applicant.

4. The Fund currently intends to offer one class of shares, Class A shares, that will be sold with a front-end sales charge and will be subject to a shareholder services fee. Class A shares will not be subject to an early withdrawal charge (“EWC”). The Fund seeks the flexibility to be structured as a multiple-class fund and may in the future offer other classes of shares with different distribution structures, including shares with no front-end sales charge but with an EWC. Future classes of shares of the Fund may also be subject to an asset-based distribution fee. Applicants represent that shareholder services fees and asset-based distribution fees will comply with the provisions of rule 2830(d) of the Conduct Rules of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (“NASD Sales Charge Rule”). Applicants also represent that the Fund will disclose in its prospectus, the fees, expenses and other characteristics of each class of shares offered for sale by the prospectus, as is required for open-end multi-class funds under Form N–1A.

5. All expenses incurred by the Fund will be allocated among the various classes of shares based on the net assets of the Fund attributable to each class, except that the net asset value and expenses of each class will reflect distribution fees, service fees, and any other incremental expenses of that class. Expenses of the Fund allocated to a particular class of shares will be borne on a pro rata basis by each outstanding share of that class. The Fund may create additional classes of shares in the future that may have different terms from Class A shares. Applicants state that the Fund will comply with the provisions of rule 18f–3 under the Act as if it were an open-end investment company.

6. The Fund may waive the EWC for certain categories of shareholders or transactions to be established from time to time. With respect to any waiver of, scheduled variation in, or elimination of the EWC, the Fund will comply with rule 22d–1 under the Act as if the Fund were an open-end investment company.

7. The Fund may offer its shareholders an exchange feature under which shareholders of the Fund may, during the Fund’s quarterly repurchase periods, exchange their shares for shares of the same class of other registered open-end investment companies or registered closed-end investment companies that comply with rule 23c–3 under the Act and continuously offer their shares at net asset value, and that are in the Scudder Weisel group of investment companies. Fund shares so exchanged will be counted as part of the

repurchase offer amount as specified in rule 23c-3 under the Act. Any exchange option will comply with rule 11a-3 under the Act as if the Fund were an open-end investment company subject to that rule. In complying with rule 11a-3, the Fund will treat the EWC as if it were a contingent deferred sales charge ("CDSC").

Applicants' Legal Analysis

Multiple Classes of Shares

1. Section 18(c) of the Act provides, in relevant part, that a closed-end investment company may not issue or sell any senior security if, immediately thereafter, the company has outstanding more than one class of senior security. Applicants state that the creation of multiple classes of shares of the Fund may be prohibited by section 18(c).

2. Section 18(i) of the Act provides that each share of stock issued by a registered management investment company will be a voting stock and have equal voting rights with every other outstanding voting stock. Applicants state that multiple classes of shares of the Fund may violate section 18(i) of the Act because each class would be entitled to exclusive voting rights with respect to matters solely related to that class.

3. Section 6(c) of the Act provides that the Commission may exempt any person, security or transaction from any provision of the Act, if and to the extent that such exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act. Applicants request an exemption under section 6(c) from sections 18(c) and 18(i) to permit the Fund to issue multiple classes of shares.

4. Applicants submit that the proposed allocation of expenses and voting rights among multiple classes is equitable and will not discriminate against any group or class of shareholders. Applicants submit that the proposed arrangements would permit the Fund to facilitate the distribution of its securities and provide investors with a broader choice of shareholder services. Applicants assert that their proposal does not raise the concerns underlying section 18 of the Act to any greater degree than open-end investment companies' multiple class structures that are permitted by rule 18f-3 under the Act. Applicants state that the Fund will comply with the provisions of rule 18f-3 as if it were an open-end investment company.

Early Withdrawal Charges

5. Section 23(c) of the Act provides, in relevant part, that no registered closed-end investment company will purchase securities of which it is the issuer, except: (i) on a securities exchange or other open market; (ii) pursuant to tenders, after reasonable opportunity to submit tenders given to all holders of securities of the class to be purchased; or (iii) under other circumstances as the Commission may permit by rules and regulations or orders for the protection of investors.

6. Rule 23c-3 under the Act permits a registered closed-end investment company (an "interval fund") to make repurchase offers of between five and twenty-five percent of its outstanding shared at net asset value at periodic intervals pursuant to a fundamental policy of the interval fund. Rule 23c-3(b)(1) under the Act provides that an interval fund may deduct from repurchase proceeds only a repurchase fee, not to exceed two percent of the proceeds, that is reasonably intended to compensate the fund for expenses directly related to the repurchase.

7. Section 23(c)(3) provides that the Commission may issue an order that would permit a closed-end investment company to repurchase its shares in circumstances in which the repurchase is made in a manner or on a basis that does not unfairly discriminate against any holders of the class or classes of securities to be purchased. As noted above, section 6(c) provides that the Commission may exempt any person, security or transaction from any provision of the Act, if and to the extent that the exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act. Applicants request relief under sections 6(c) and 23(c) from rule 23c-3 to permit them to impose EWCs on shares submitted for repurchase that have been held for less than a specified period.

8. Applicants believe that the requested relief meets the standards of sections 6(c) and 23(c)(3). Rule 6c-10 under the Act permits open-end investment companies to impose CDSCs, subject to certain conditions. Applicants state that EWCs are functionally similar to CDSCs imposed by open-end investment companies under rule 6c-10. Applicants state that EWCs may be necessary for Scudder Weisel to recover distribution costs. Applicants will comply with rule 6c-10 as if that rule applied to closed-end investment companies. The Fund also

will disclose EWCs in accordance with the requirements of Form N-1A concerning CDSCs. Applicants further state that the Fund will apply the EWC (and any waivers or scheduled variations of the EWC) uniformly to all shareholders in a given class and consistent with the requirements of rule 22d-1 under the Act.

Asset-based Distribution Fees

9. Section 17(d) of the Act and rule 17d-1 under the Act prohibit an affiliated person of a registered investment company or an affiliated person of such person, acting as principal, from participating in or effecting any transaction in connection with any joint enterprise or joint arrangement in which the investment company participates unless the Commission issues an order permitting the transaction. In reviewing applications submitting under section 17(d) and rule 17d-1, the Commission considers whether the participation of the investment company in a joint enterprise or joint arrangement is consistent with the provisions, policies and purposes of the Act, and the extent to which the participation is on a basis different from or less advantageous than that of other participants.

10. Rule 17d-3 under the Act provides an exemption from section 17(d) and rule 17d-1 to permit open-end investment companies to enter into distribution arrangements pursuant to rule 12b-1 under the Act. Applicants request an order under section 17(d) and rule 17d-1 under the Act to permit the Fund to impose asset-based distribution fees. Applicants have agreed to comply with rules 12b-1 and 17d-3 as if those rules applied to closed-end investment companies.

Applicants' Condition

Applicants agree that any order granting the requested relief will be subject to the following condition:

Applicants will comply with the provisions of rules 6c-10, 11a-3, 12b-1, 17d-3, 18f-3, and 22d-1 under the Act, as amended from time to time, as if those rules applied to closed-end management investment companies, and will comply with the NASD Sales Charge Rule, as amended from time to time.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, pursuant to delegated authority.

Jonathan G. Katz,
Secretary.

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