

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-Amex-2006-62 and should be submitted on or before August 15, 2006.

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

After careful consideration, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange,⁶ and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act⁷ and the rules and regulations thereunder. The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,⁸ which requires that the rules of the Exchange provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its members and other persons using its facilities. The Commission believes that the extension of the Linkage fee pilot until July 31, 2007 will give the Exchange and the Commission further opportunity to evaluate whether such fees are appropriate.

The Commission finds good cause, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁹ for approving the proposed rule change prior to the thirtieth day after publication of notice thereof in the **Federal Register**. The Commission believes that granting accelerated approval of the proposed rule change will preserve the Exchange's existing pilot program for Linkage fees without interruption as the Exchange and the Commission further consider the appropriateness of Linkage fees.

V. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹⁰ that the proposed rule change (SR-Amex-2006-62) is hereby approved on an accelerated basis for a pilot period to expire on July 31, 2007.

⁶ In approving this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹⁰ *Id.*

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹¹

Nancy M. Morris,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-11795 Filed 7-24-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-54169; File No. SR-CBOE-2006-45]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Order Granting Approval of Proposed Rule Change Regarding the Review Authority of the Board of Directors

July 18, 2006.

I. Introduction

On May 5, 2006, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("CBOE" or "Exchange") 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 amend its rules to clarify the authority of CBOE's Board of Directors ("Board") with respect to actions or inactions of CBOE committees and CBOE officers, representatives, or designees. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on June 2, 2006.³ The Commission received one comment letter regarding the proposal⁴ and a response to the comment letter from the Exchange.⁵ This order approves the proposed rule change.

II. Description of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to add new CBOE Rule 2.2, *Power of the Board to Review Exchange Decisions*, which would provide that, in connection with any delegation to a committee or committees pursuant to Article EIGHTH of CBOE's Certificate of Incorporation ("Certificate"), the Board would retain the power and authority to review,

affirm, modify, suspend, or overrule any and all actions or inactions of CBOE committees, and of all officers, representatives, or designees of CBOE. Proposed CBOE Rule 2.2 would not apply to actions taken (or inactions) pursuant to Chapters XVII (*Discipline*), XVIII (*Arbitration*), and XIX (*Hearings and Review*) of the Exchange's Rules, unless specifically provided for in those Rules, or to actions taken by (or inactions of) the Nominating Committee or Executive Committee pursuant to Article IV of the Exchange's Constitution, which sets forth the Exchange's nominations process. In addition, the proposed rule change would amend CBOE Rule 2.1, *Committees of the Exchange*, to clarify that CBOE committees would have, in addition to the powers and duties that are specifically granted in the Exchange's Constitution or Rules, only such other powers and duties as may be delegated to them by the Board.

III. Discussion and Commission Findings

The Commission has carefully reviewed the proposed rule change, the comment letter received, and the CBOE Response Letter, and finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act,⁶ and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6 of the Act.⁷ Specifically, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(1) of the Act,⁸ which requires that an exchange be so organized and have the capacity to be able to carry out the purposes of the Act and to comply, and (subject to any rule or order of the Commission pursuant to Section 17(d)⁹ or 19(g)(2)¹⁰ of the Act) to enforce compliance by its members and persons associated with its members, with the provisions of the Act, the rules and regulations thereunder, and the rules of the Exchange.

The commenter asserted that the proposed rule change is unnecessary and generally in conflict with the CBOE Constitution.¹¹ The commenter also expressed concern that the aim of the proposed rule change is to reduce the influence of member/owners.¹² In response, the Exchange noted that CBOE is a membership corporation formed

¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 53872 (May 25, 2006), 71 FR 32156.

⁴ See letter to Nancy M. Morris, Secretary, Commission, from Lawrence J. Blum, Member, CBOE, dated June 5, 2006 ("Blum Letter").

⁵ See letter to Nancy Sanow, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation ("Division"), Commission, from Jennifer M. Lamie, Managing Senior Attorney, Legal Division, CBOE, dated July 7, 2006 ("CBOE Response Letter").

⁶ In approving this proposed rule change the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(1).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78q(d).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(g)(2).

¹¹ See Blum Letter at 1, *supra* note 4.

¹² *Id.* at 2.

under Delaware's General Corporation Law, which provides that "the business and affairs of every corporation shall be managed by or under the direction of a board of directors, except as may be otherwise * * * provided in its certificate of incorporation * * *"¹³ CBOE stated that its Certificate provides that the Board is CBOE's governing body and is vested with all powers necessary for the management of the Exchange's business and affairs, except to the extent that the authority, powers, and duties of such management are delegated to a committee or committees established pursuant to CBOE's Constitution or Rules. According to CBOE, its Certificate and Constitution provide that the Board may establish one or more committees, each of which has the authority, powers, and duties as may be prescribed in the Constitution, Exchange Rules, or by resolution of the Board.¹⁴ CBOE advised that, under these provisions, it has established various committees and has delegated to those committees specific authority, powers, and duties.

CBOE further noted that its Rules provide that each committee "is subject to the control and supervision of the Board."¹⁵ CBOE stated, however, that such supervisory power alone does not make explicit the power of the Board to directly modify or overrule the action (or inaction) of a committee when the decision-making authority with respect to the action has been delegated to the committee. CBOE pointed out that the specific delegations contained in its Constitution, Rules, and resolutions vary in scope: Some involve a complete delegation and others involve a limited delegation where the Board has explicitly or implicitly reserved certain authorities. CBOE noted that, although the specific delegations contained in its Constitution, Rules, and Board resolutions vary in describing the scope of the authority delegated, its Board retains the power to revoke, limit, or change a committee delegation, either by rule change or by resolution as appropriate.

The purpose of the proposed rule change, CBOE asserted, is to apply an explicit, uniform standard of review by the Board to the general organizational and administrative structure of CBOE's committees and to resolve any ambiguity that may exist. Thus, CBOE contended that the proposed rule change would clarify that the Board retains the power and authority to review, affirm, modify, suspend or

overrule any and all actions or inactions of CBOE committees and officers, representatives, or designees, except as otherwise specified. In CBOE's view, the proposal is consistent with its Certificate and Constitution.

CBOE also advised that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of its Constitution pertaining to the Executive Committee. CBOE stated that the Executive Committee is a committee of the Board that performs the functions of the Board when the Board is not in session or it is not practicable to arrange a meeting of the Board within the time reasonably available. Thus, to the extent that the Executive Committee would take any action pursuant to Article VII, Section 7.2 of its Constitution, CBOE asserted that the Board retains jurisdiction over those matters and may later determine to review, affirm, modify, suspend or overrule any and all actions of the Executive Committee.

In the Commission's view, the Exchange has provided a sufficient basis on which the Commission can find that, as a federal matter under the Act, the Exchange is complying with its own Certificate and Constitution. Further, in approving this proposal, the Commission is relying on CBOE's representation that the proposed rule change is appropriate under Delaware state law.¹⁶ Thus, the Commission believes that the proposed rule change clarifies the Board's review authority by providing an explicit, uniform standard to be applied to any delegation of Board authority, powers, and duties and is consistent with the Act.

IV. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange, and in particular, with Section 6(b)(1) of the Act.¹⁷

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹⁸ that the proposed rule change (File No. SR-CBOE-2006-45) is hereby approved.

¹⁶ Telephone conference among Jennifer M. Lamie, Managing Senior Attorney, Legal Division, CBOE; Leah Mesfin, Special Counsel, Division, Commission; and Jan Woo, Attorney, Division, Commission, on July 18, 2006.

¹⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(1).

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

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

Nancy M. Morris,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-11793 Filed 7-24-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-54164; File No. SR-CBOE-2006-60]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Extend the Duration of CBOE Rule 6.45A(b) Pertaining to Orders Represented in Open Outcry

July 17, 2006.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on July 12, 2006, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc. ("CBOE" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the CBOE. The Exchange filed the proposal as a "non-controversial" proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder,⁴ which renders it effective upon filing with the Commission.⁵ 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 CBOE proposes to extend the duration of CBOE Rule 6.45A(b) (the "Rule"), which relates to the allocation of orders represented in open outcry in equity option classes designated by the Exchange to be traded on the CBOE Hybrid Trading System ("Hybrid") through October 31, 2006. No other substantive changes are being made to the Rule. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the CBOE's Internet Web site (<http://www.cboe.com>), at the CBOE's principal

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)(iii).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

⁵ The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay required by Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii). See discussion *infra* Section III.

¹³ See CBOE Response Letter, *supra* note 5, at 1.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ CBOE Rule 2.1(d).