

quality from the affiliated person or to overpay for any securities. Applicant argues that it is unlikely that Morgan Stanley would be able to exercise any adverse influence over the Trusts with respect to purchases of Treasuries because Treasuries do not vary in quality and are traded in one of the most liquid markets in the world. Treasuries are available through both primary and secondary dealers, making the Treasuries market very competitive. In addition, market prices on Treasuries can be confirmed on a number of commercially available information screens. Applicant argues that because Morgan Stanley is one of a limited number of primary dealers in Treasuries, Morgan Stanley will be able to offer the Trusts prompt execution of their Treasury purchases at very competitive prices.

4. Applicant states that it is only seeking relief from section 17(a) with respect to the initial purchase of the Treasuries and not with respect to an on-going course of business. Consequently, investors will know before they purchase a Trust's PEPS the Treasuries that will be owned by the Trust and the amount of the cash payments that will be provided periodically by the Treasuries to the Trust and distributed to Holders. Applicant also asserts that whatever risk there is of overpricing the Treasuries will be borne by the counterparties and not by the Holders because the cost of the Treasuries will be calculated into the amount paid by the Contracts. Applicant argues that, for this reason, the counterparties will have a strong incentive to monitor the price paid for the Treasuries, because any overpayment could result in a reduction in the amount that they would be paid on the Contracts.

5. Applicant believes that the terms of the proposed transaction are reasonable and fair and to not involve overreaching on the part of any person, that the proposed transaction is consistent with the policy of each of the Trusts, and that the requested exemption is appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and purposes fairly intended by the policies and provisions of the Act.

Applicant's Conditions

Applicants agree that the order granting the requested relief shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. Any investment company owning voting stock of any Trust in excess of the limits imposed by section 12(d)(1) of the Act will be required by the Trust's charter documents, or will undertake, to

vote its Trust shares in proportion to the vote of all other Holders.

2. The trustees of each Trust, including a majority of the trustees who are not interested persons of the Trust, (a) will adopt procedures that are reasonably designed to provide that the conditions set forth below have been complied with; (b) will make and approve such changes as deemed necessary; and (c) will determine that the transactions made pursuant to the order were effected in compliance with such procedures.

3. The Trusts (a) will maintain and preserve in an easily accessible place a written copy of the procedures (and any modifications thereto), and (b) will maintain and preserve for the longer of (x) the life of the Trusts and (y) six years following the purchase of any Treasuries, the first two years in an easily accessible place, a written record of all Treasuries purchased, whether or not from applicant, setting forth a description of the Treasuries purchased, the identity of the seller, the terms of the purchase, and the information or materials upon which the determinations described below were made.

4. The Treasuries to be purchased by each Trust will be sufficient to provide payments to PEPS Holders that are consistent with the investment objectives and policies of the Trust as recited in the Trust's registration statement and will be consistent with the interests of the Trust and the Holders of its PEPS.

5. The terms of the transactions will be reasonable and fair to the Holders of the PEPS issued by each Trust and will not involve overreaching of the Trust or the Holders of PEPS thereof on the part of any person concerned.

6. The fee, spread, or other remuneration to be received by Morgan Stanley will be reasonable and fair compared to the fee, spread, or other remuneration received by dealers in connection with comparable transactions at such time, and will comply with section 17(e)(2)(C) of the Act.

7. Before any Treasuries are purchased by the Trust, the Trust must obtain such available market information as it deems necessary to determine that the price to be paid for, and the terms of, the transaction is at least as favorable as that available from other sources. This shall include the Trust obtaining and documenting the competitive indications with respect to the specific proposed transaction from two other independent government securities dealers. Competitive quotation information must include

price and settlement terms. These dealers must be those who, in the experience of the Trust's trustees, have demonstrated the consistent ability to provide professional execution of Treasury transactions at competitive market prices. They also must be those who are in a position to quote favorable prices.

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

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-24699 Filed 9-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

Sunshine Act Meeting

"FEDERAL REGISTER" CITATION OF PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT: [To Be Published].

STATUS: Closed Meeting.

PLACE: 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC.

DATE PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED: To Be Published.

CHANGE IN THE MEETING: Date Change/Time Change.

The closed meeting scheduled for Friday, September 27, 1996, at 9:30 a.m., has been changed to Thursday, September 26, 1996, at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner Wallman, as duty officer, determined that Commission business required the above change and that no earlier notice thereof was possible.

At times, changes in Commission priorities require alterations in the scheduling of meeting items. For further information and to ascertain what, if any, matters have been added, deleted or postponed, please contact: The Office of the Secretary (202) 942-7070.

Dated: September 24, 1996.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-24893 Filed 9-24-96; 3:53 pm]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

[Release No. 34-37706; File No. SR-Amex-96-32]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change by the American Stock Exchange, Inc., To Amend the Firm Facilitation Exemption

September 20, 1996.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,²

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1) (1988).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

notice is hereby given that on September 10, 1996, the American Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Amex" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. 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 Amex, pursuant to Rule 19b-4 of the Act, proposes to amend Exchange Rules 904 and 904C to revise the firm facilitation exemption provisions from its position and exercise limit rules.

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 Section 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

1. Purpose

In May of this year, the Exchange received Commission approval to expand the firm facilitation exemption³ from position and exercise limits to all non-multiply-listed Exchange option classes.⁴ Currently, only a member firm who facilitates and executes an order for its own customers⁵ may qualify for a firm facilitation exemption.

The Exchange is proposing to amend the firm facilitation exemption so that (a) a member firm who facilitates its own customer whose account it carries, whether the firm executes the order itself or gives the order to an

independent broker for execution, and (b) a member firm who receives a customer order for execution only (and thus will not have the resulting position carried by the firm) may qualify for this exemption. The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will better allow its member firms to meet the investing needs of their customers.

The Exchange also believes that the proposed amendment to the firm facilitation exemption should enhance the depth and liquidity of the market by allowing member firms an exemption from position limits to facilitate large customer orders, whether they are firms who accept customer orders for execution only, or are firms who carry their customers' accounts and positions.

2. Statutory Basis

Based upon the foregoing, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act in general and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) in particular in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers or dealers.

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

The Amex does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any inappropriate burden on competition.

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

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

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

Within 35 days of the publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 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 the proposed rule change, or

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. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. 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 at the Commission's Public Reference Section, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Amex. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-Amex-96-32 and should be submitted by October 17, 1996.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁶

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-24701 Filed 9-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

[Release No. 34-37704; File No. SR-Amex-96-33]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of, and Order Granting Accelerated Approval to, Proposed Rule Change by the American Stock Exchange, Inc. Relating to a Pilot Program for Execution of Specialists' Liquidating Transactions

September 19, 1996.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ notice is hereby given that on September 13, 1996, the American Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Amex" 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 self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons and to grant accelerated approval to the proposed rule change.

⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

³ The Amex notes that a facilitation trade is a transaction that involves crossing an order of a member firm's public customer with an order from the member firm's proprietary account.

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 37179 (May 8, 1996), 61 FR 24520 (May 15, 1996) (approval order for File No. SR-Amex-96-11).

⁵ The Amex defines customer order as one that is entered, cleared, in which the resulting position is carried with the firm.