

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁷

Nancy M. Morris,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-4339 Filed 3-24-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-53511; File No. SR-CBOE-2006-23]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 Thereto Relating to Its Marketing Fee Program

March 17, 2006.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on March 1, 2006, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated (“CBOE” 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 Exchange. On March 16, 2006, the Exchange submitted Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change.³ The CBOE has designated this proposal as one establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the CBOE under Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act⁴ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder,⁵ which renders the proposal, as amended, effective upon filing with the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change, as amended, from interested persons.

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

The CBOE proposes to amend its Fees Schedule and its marketing fee program. Below is the text of the proposed rule change. Proposed new language is *italicized* and proposed deletions are in [brackets].

Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc.—Fees Schedule

March 1, 2006

1. No Change.
2. Marketing Fee (6)(16)—\$.65
- 3.–4. No Change.

Footnotes:

(1)–(5) No Change.

(6) [Commencing on December 12, 2005, t]The Marketing Fee will be assessed only on transactions of Market-Makers, RMMs, e-DPMs, DPMs, and LMMs resulting from orders for less than 1,000 contracts (i) from payment accepting firms, or (ii) that have designated a “Preferred Market-Maker” under CBOE Rule 8.13 at the rate of \$.65 per contract on all classes of equity options, options on HOLDRs, options on SPDRs, and options on DIA. The fee will not apply to: Market-Maker-to-Market-Maker transactions *including transactions resulting from orders from non-member market-makers; [or] transactions resulting from P/A orders; transactions resulting from accommodation liquidations (cabinet trades); and transactions resulting from dividend strategies, merger strategies, and short stock interest strategies as defined in footnote 13 of this Fees Schedule.* This fee shall not apply to index options and options on ETFs (other than options on SPDRs and options on DIA). A Preferred Market-Maker will only be given access to the marketing fee funds generated from a Preferred order if the Preferred Market-Maker has an appointment in the class in which the Preferred order is received and executed. If less than 80% of the marketing fee funds are paid out by the DPM/LMM or Preferred Market-Maker in a given month, then the Exchange would refund such surplus at the end of the month on a pro rata basis based upon contributions made by the Market-Makers, RMMs, e-DPMs, DPMs and LMMs. However, if 80% or more of the accumulated funds in a given month are paid out by the DPM/LMM or Preferred Market-Maker, there will not be a rebate for that month and the funds will carry over and will be included in the pool of funds to be used by the DPM/LMM or Preferred Market-Maker the following month. At the end of each quarter, the Exchange would then refund any surplus, if any, on a pro rata basis based upon contributions made by the Market-Makers, RMMs, DPMs, e-DPMs and LMMs. CBOE’s marketing fee program as described above will be in effect until June 2, 2006.

Remainder of Fees Schedule—No Change.

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 Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change, as amended, 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 CBOE has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections 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

Effective December 12, 2005, CBOE amended its marketing fee program in a number of respects.⁶ CBOE states that, as amended, the fee is assessed upon DPMs, LMMs, e-DPMs, RMMs, and Market-Makers at the rate of \$.65 per contract on transactions of Market-Makers, RMMs, e-DPMs, DPMs, and LMMs resulting from orders for less than 1,000 contracts (i) from payment accepting firms (“PAFs”), or (ii) that have designated a “Preferred Market-Maker” under CBOE Rule 8.13. CBOE notes that the fee does not apply to Market-Maker-to-Market-Maker transactions (which includes all transactions between any combination of DPMs, e-DPMs, RMMs, LMMs, and Market-Makers), or transactions of Market-Makers, RMMs, e-DPMs, DPMs, and LMMs resulting from inbound P/A orders. CBOE states that the marketing fee is assessed in all equity option classes and options on HOLDRs[®], options on SPDRs[®] and options on DIA.

CBOE proposes to amend its marketing fee program to provide that CBOE Market-Makers, RMMs, e-DPMs, DPMs, and LMMs would not be assessed the marketing fee on transactions resulting from orders from non-member market-makers, which orders may be submitted to CBOE from PAFs. CBOE believes that this would be consistent with CBOE’s existing marketing fee program which expressly provides that the fee does not apply to CBOE Market-Maker-to-Market-Maker transactions.

Additionally, CBOE proposes to amend its marketing fee program to provide that the fee would not apply to

⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 53016 (December 22, 2005), 70 FR 77209 (December 29, 2005) (SR-CBOE-2005-107).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ Amendment No. 1 (“Amendment No. 1”) makes a minor, technical clarification in the rule text of footnote 6 to CBOE’s Fees Schedule.

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

transactions resulting from dividend strategies, merger strategies, and short stock interest strategies, as defined in Footnote 13 of this Fees Schedule,⁷ or cabinet trades (see CBOE Rule 6.54—*Accommodation Liquidations*).

CBOE states that it is not amending its marketing fee program in any other respects.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change, as amended, is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁹ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,¹⁰ in particular, in that it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members and other persons using its facilities.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change, as amended, will impose any inappropriate burden on competition 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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

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

The foregoing proposed rule change, as amended, has been designated as a

⁷ CBOE notes that, as set forth in Footnote 13 of its Fees Schedule, a dividend strategy is defined as transactions done to achieve a dividend arbitrage involving the purchase, sale, and exercise of in-the-money options of the same class, executed prior to the date on which the underlying stock goes ex-dividend. CBOE states that a merger strategy is defined as transactions done to achieve a merger arbitrage involving the purchase, sale, and exercise of options of the same class and expiration date, each executed prior to the date on which shareholders of record are required to elect their respective form of consideration, *i.e.*, cash or stock. A short stock interest strategy is defined as transactions done to achieve a short stock interest arbitrage involving the purchase, sale, and exercise of in-the-money options of the same class.

⁸ CBOE notes that the fees currently assessed on transactions resulting from dividend strategies, merger strategies, and short stock interest strategies, as defined in Footnote 13 of its Fees Schedule, are part of a pilot program that will expire on September 1, 2006. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 53412 (March 3, 2006), 71 FR 12752 (March 13, 2006) (SR-CBOE-2006-20). Telephone conversation between Patrick Sexton, Associate General Counsel, Exchange, and David Liu and Michou Nguyen, Attorneys, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, on March 7, 2006.

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

fee change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act¹¹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)¹² thereunder, because it establishes or changes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the Exchange. Accordingly, the proposal, as amended, will take effect upon filing with the Commission. At any time within 60 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.¹³

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change, as amended, 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-2006-23 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Nancy M. Morris, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-9303.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CBOE-2006-23. 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

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

¹² 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

¹³ The effective date of the original proposed rule change is March 1, 2006, and the effective date of Amendment No. 1 is March 16, 2006. For purposes of calculating the 60-day period within which the Commission may summarily abrogate the proposed rule change, as amended, the Commission considers the period to commence on March 16, 2006, the date on which the Exchange submitted Amendment No. 1. See 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(C).

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. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the CBOE. 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-2006-23 and should be submitted on or before April 17, 2006.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁴

Nancy M. Morris,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-4340 Filed 3-24-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-53524; File No. SR-CBOE-2006-22]

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

March 21, 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 March 8, 2006, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("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

¹⁴ 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.