

• *Fax:* (202) 456-6027, Attn: Elizabeth Stulberg.  
 • *Mail:* Attn: Elizabeth Stulberg, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Eisenhower Executive Office Building, 1650 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20504.

*Instructions:* Electronic responses must be provided as attachments to an email. It is recommended that attachments with file sizes exceeding 25MB be compressed (*i.e.*, zipped) to ensure message delivery. Please identify your answers by responding to a specific question or topic if possible. Respondents may answer as many or as few questions as they wish. Comments of up to two pages or fewer (1,000 words) are requested; longer responses will not be considered. Any information obtained as a result of this RFI is intended to be used by the Government on a non-attribution basis for planning and strategy development. OSTP will not respond to individual submissions. A response to this RFI will not be viewed as a binding commitment to develop or pursue the project or ideas discussed. OSTP will not pay for information provided under this RFI. This RFI is not accepting applications for financial assistance or financial incentives. OSTP requests that no proprietary information, copyrighted information, or personally identifiable information be submitted in response to this RFI.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth Stulberg at *MicrobiomeRFI@ostp.eop.gov*, (202) 456-4444.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of this RFI is to solicit feedback from industry, academia, research laboratories, and other stakeholder groups on both the overarching questions that unite all microbiome research and the tools, technologies, and training that are needed to answer these questions. OSTP is specifically interested in information that corresponds to the mission statements of multiple Federal agencies, private sector interests, and current White House Policy Initiatives. In particular, respondents may wish to address the following topics:

- What are the most pressing, fundamental questions in microbiome research, common to most or all fields?
- Over the next ten years, what are the most important research gaps that must be addressed to advance this field?
- What tools, platform technologies, or technological advances would propel microbiome research from correlative to predictive?
- What crucial types of scientific and technical training will be needed to take

advantage of harnessing the microbiome's potential?

- What fields of microbiome research are currently underfunded or underrepresented?

- What specific steps could be taken by the federal government, research institutes, universities, and philanthropies to encourage multi-disciplinary microbiome research?

- Is there any additional information, not requested above, that you believe OSTP should consider in identifying crucial areas of microbiome research?

**Ted Wackler,**

*Deputy Chief of Staff and Assistant Director.*

[FR Doc. 2015-12191 Filed 5-19-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3270-F5-P**

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-74970; File No. SR-ISE-2015-14]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; International Securities Exchange, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Schedule of Fees To Introduce a New "Retail" Designation for Priority Customer Orders

May 14, 2015.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on April 29, 2015, the International Securities Exchange, LLC (the "Exchange" or the "ISE") filed with the Securities and Exchange 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 ISE proposes to amend the Schedule of Fees to introduce a new "Retail" designation for Priority Customer orders. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Web site (<http://www.ise.com>), at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

#### 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 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

The Exchange proposes to amend the Schedule of Fees to introduce a new "Retail" designation for Priority Customer orders. A "Priority Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer in securities, and does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s), as defined in Rule 100(a)(37A). This market participant type is one of six currently recognized for purposes of determining applicable fees and rebates, along with: Market Maker,<sup>3</sup> Non-ISE Market Maker,<sup>4</sup> Firm Proprietary,<sup>5</sup> Broker-Dealer,<sup>6</sup> and Professional Customer.<sup>7</sup> The Priority Customer designation was adopted by the Exchange to provide competitive pricing and market structure advantages to retail investors, and to level the playing field between retail investors and market professionals. As such, Priority Customer orders executed on the Exchange are generally afforded more favorable fees and rebates than other market participants, including Professional Customers. The Exchange now believes that it is appropriate to introduce a further distinction between

<sup>3</sup> The term "Market Makers" refers to "Competitive Market Makers" and "Primary Market Makers" collectively. See Rule 100(a)(25).

<sup>4</sup> A "Non-ISE Market Maker" is a market maker as defined in Section 3(a)(38) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, registered in the same options class on another options exchange. See Schedule of Fees, Preface.

<sup>5</sup> A "Firm Proprietary" order is an order submitted by a member for its own proprietary account. See Schedule of Fees, Preface.

<sup>6</sup> A "Broker-Dealer" order is an order submitted by a member for a broker-dealer account that is not its own proprietary account. See Schedule of Fees, Preface.

<sup>7</sup> A "Professional Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer and is not a Priority Customer. See Schedule of Fees, Preface.

market participants that fall within the definition of Priority Customer.

In particular, the Exchange proposes to introduce a new "Retail" designation for Priority Customer orders for the purpose of determining applicable fees and rebates. As proposed, a Retail order is a Priority Customer order that originates from a natural person, provided that no change is made to the terms of the order with respect to price or side of market and the order does not originate from a trading algorithm or any other computerized methodology. The proposed definition of a Retail order is designed to mirror a similar concept introduced by the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), NYSE Amex ("Amex"), and other equities exchanges to promote price improvement for orders submitted by retail investors.<sup>8</sup> The proposed rule change, however, is intended to provide benefits to retail options investors in the form of more favorable pricing rather than market structure changes.<sup>9</sup> While the Exchange is not amending fees and rebates applicable to Priority Customer orders that are designated Retail at this time, the Exchange intends to introduce special fees and rebates for Retail orders at a later date, such that Retail orders will potentially be entitled to the most favorable fees and rebates available on the Exchange. Until such time, Retail orders will be charged the same fees and provided the same rebates as other Priority Customer orders.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder that are applicable to a national securities exchange, and, in particular, with the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.<sup>10</sup> In particular, the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>11</sup> because it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade,

<sup>8</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 67347 (July 3, 2012), 77 FR 40673 (July 10, 2012) (SR-NYSE-2011-55; SR-NYSEAmex-2011-84) (Approval Order). See also NYSE and Amex Rule 107C(a)(3).

NYSE and Amex define a "Retail Order" as an agency order or a riskless principal order that meets the criteria of FINRA Rule 5320.03 that originates from a natural person and is submitted to the Exchange by a Retail Member Organization, provided that no change is made to the terms of the order with respect to price or side of market and the order does not originate from a trading algorithm or any other computerized methodology.

<sup>9</sup> In addition, the Exchange notes that unlike the related equities programs, all members will be eligible to mark orders as Retail provided that the orders meet the requirements discussed above.

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

remove impediments to and perfect the mechanisms of a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

Specifically, the proposed rule change will allow the Exchange to potentially offer more favorable fees and rebates to Retail orders that originate from natural persons. Currently, the Exchange distinguishes between orders executed for two categories of Public Customer:<sup>12</sup> Priority and Professional Customers. Priority Customers are distinguished from Professional Customers by the requirement that they not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s). Because of this limitation, Priority Customer orders are generally afforded more favorable fees and rebates than market professionals, including Professional Customers. The Exchange now believes that it is appropriate to distinguish further between orders that originate from a natural person (*i.e.*, Retail orders) and other Priority Customer orders.

The equities markets already provide benefits to order flow that originates from a natural person and not a trading algorithm or any other computerized methodology. The Exchange believes that the proposed definition of a Retail order is appropriate as it is substantially similar to the definition already used in the equities context, and is therefore already familiar to market participants. The Exchange notes, however, that unlike equities exchanges such as NYSE and Amex, it is not proposing any market structure changes at this time to accompany the introduction of a Retail designation for Priority Customer orders. All Priority Customer orders will continue to benefit from the current market structure benefits that they receive on the Exchange. In addition, Priority Customer orders other than Retail orders will continue to benefit from pricing that is generally more favorable than pricing adopted for Professional Customer and non-Customer orders.

By adopting a definition of Retail order, the Exchange hopes to be able to offer potentially more favorable fees and rebates to retail investors. The Exchange believes that this will advance the goals identified when the Exchange first introduced the Priority Customer designation, by providing genuine retail investors with the best prices available on the Exchange. In this regard, the Exchange notes that the fees and rebates

<sup>12</sup> A "Public Customer" is a person or entity that is not a broker or dealer in securities. See Rule 100(a)(38).

for Retail orders will initially be the same as fees and rebates for other Priority Customer orders; however, the Exchange will introduce additional pricing advantages for Retail orders at a later date pursuant to a proposed rule change filed with the Commission.

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

In accordance with Section 6(b)(8) of the Act,<sup>13</sup> the Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on intermarket or intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. To the contrary, the Exchange believes the proposed Retail designation is an innovative change that evidences strong competition between options markets. In particular, the proposed rule change is designed to allow the Exchange to potentially offer the most favorable fees and rebates available to Retail orders that originate from natural persons. The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct their order flow to competing venues. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually review, and consider adjusting, its fees and rebates to remain competitive with other exchanges. For the reasons described above, the Exchange believes that the proposed changes reflect this competitive environment.

## C. 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 Exchange believes that the foregoing proposed rule change may take effect upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)<sup>14</sup> of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder<sup>15</sup> because the foregoing proposed rule change does not (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest, (ii) impose any significant burden on competition, and (iii) become operative for 30 days after its filing date, or such

<sup>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

shorter time as the Commission may designate. The Exchange provided the Commission with written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing the proposed rule change.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) Necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

#### IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposal 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 Email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File No. SR-ISE-2015-14 on the subject line.

##### *Paper Comments*

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

All submissions should refer to File No. SR-ISE-2015-14. This file number should be included on the subject line if email 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 changes 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 the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the ISE. 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 No. SR-ISE-2015-14 and should be submitted on or before June 10, 2015.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>16</sup>

**Robert W. Errett,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2015-12149 Filed 5-19-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94-409, that the Securities and Exchange Commission will hold a Closed Meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.

Commissioners, Counsel to the Commissioners, the Secretary to the Commission, and recording secretaries will attend the Closed Meeting. Certain staff members who have an interest in the matters also may be present.

The General Counsel of the Commission, or her designee, has certified that, in her opinion, one or more of the exemptions set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(3), (5), (7), 9(B) and (10) and 17 CFR 200.402(a)(3), (5), (7), 9(ii) and (10), permit consideration of the scheduled matter at the Closed Meeting.

Commissioner Stein, as duty officer, voted to consider the items listed for the Closed Meeting in closed session, and determined that Commission business required consideration earlier than one week from today. No earlier notice of this Meeting was practicable.

The subject matter of the Closed Meeting will be:

- Institution of injunctive actions;
- Institution and settlement of administrative proceedings; and
- Other matters relating to enforcement proceedings.

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 at (202) 551-5400.

Dated: May 18, 2015.

**Jill M. Peterson,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2015-12380 Filed 5-18-15; 4:15 pm]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

*Upon Written Request, Copies Available From:* Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549-2736.

##### *Extension:*

Rule 17a-6; SEC File No. 270-433, OMB Control No. 3235-0489.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 ("PRA") (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information provided for in Rule 17a-6 (17 CFR 240.17a-6) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*).

Rule 17a-6 permits national securities exchanges, national securities associations, registered clearing agencies, and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB") (collectively, "SROs") to destroy or convert to microfilm or other recording media records maintained under Rule 17a-1, if they have filed a record destruction plan with the Commission and the Commission has declared such plan effective.

There are currently 29 SROs: 18 national securities exchanges, 1 national securities association, the MSRB, and 9 registered clearing agencies. Of the 29 SROs, only 2 SRO respondents have filed a record destruction plan with the Commission. The staff calculates that the preparation and filing of a new record destruction plan should take 160 hours. Further, any existing SRO record destruction plans may require revision, over time, in response to, for example, changes in document retention technology, which the Commission estimates will take much less than the 160 hours estimated for a new plan. The Commission estimates that each SRO that has filed a destruction plan will spend approximately 30 hours per year making required revisions. Thus, the

<sup>16</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).