maintain and enforce written policies and procedures reasonably designed to cover its credit exposures to its participants by establishing a risk-based margin system that, at a minimum, considers, and produces margin levels commensurate with, the risks and particular attributes of each relevant product, portfolio, and market; and uses an appropriate method for measuring credit exposure that accounts for relevant product risk factors and portfolio effects across products.23

As described above, NSCC faces specific wrong-way risk where it acts as central counterparty to Member transactions in family-issued securities. To help address this risk, NSCC applies the FIS Charge in calculating the Member’s required margin. Specifically, the FIS Charge is a component of the margin that NSCC calculates and collects using a risk-based margin methodology that is designed to help maintain the coverage of NSCC’s credit exposures to its Members at a confidence level of at least 99 percent. The FIS Charge is tailored to consider both the value and type of family-issued securities held by the Member, as well as the credit risk presented by the Member, as calculated by NSCC.

However, currently, the FIS Charge is assessed only against Members on the Watch List because of the additional credit risk presented by such Members. Nevertheless, all Members, not just Members on the Watch List, present specific wrong-way risk. As such, NSCC proposes to expand the FIS Charge to all Members, while maintaining the relation between the FIS Charge and the Member’s credit risk. Specifically, NSCC proposes to apply the FIS Charge to fixed-income securities that are family-issued securities of non-Watch List Members at a rate of no less than 40 percent, and to equities that are family-issued securities of non-Watch List Members at a rate of no less than 50 percent. Although NSCC proposes to apply a lesser percentage rate to non-Watch List Members than some Watch List Members, the proposed rate is designed to more accurately reflect the risks posed than what is reflected in a VaR Charge.

Because the expanded FIS Charge would also be a tailored component of the margin that NSCC collects from non-Watch List Members to help cover NSCC credit exposure to such Members, as the charge would be based on different product risk factors with respect to equity and fixed-income securities, as described above, the Commission believes that the proposed changes in the Proposed Rule Change are consistent with Rule 17A– 22(e)(6)(i) and (e)(6)(v) under the Act.24

III. Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, the Commission finds that the Proposed Rule Change is consistent with the requirements of the Act, in particular the requirements of Section 17A of the Act 25 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, that proposed rule change SR–NSCC–2017–010 be and hereby is APPROVED as of the date of this order or the date of a notice by the Commission authorizing NSCC to implement its related advance notice proposal (SR–NSCC–2017–804), whichever is later.26

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.27

Eduardo A. Aleman,
Assistant Secretary.

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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 38a–1, OMB Control No. 3235–0586, SEC File No. 270–522.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Rule (17 CFR 270.38a–1) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a) (“Investment Company Act”) is intended to protect investors by fostering better fund compliance with securities laws. The rule requires every registered investment company and business development company (“fund”) to: (i) Adopt and implement written policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent violations of the federal securities laws by the fund, including procedures for oversight of compliance by each investment adviser, principal underwriter, administrator, and transfer agent of the fund; (ii) obtain the fund board of directors’ approval of those policies and procedures; (iii) annually review the adequacy of those policies and procedures and the policies and procedures of each investment adviser, principal underwriter, administrator, and transfer agent of the fund, and the effectiveness of their implementation; (iv) designate a chief compliance officer to administer the fund’s policies and procedures and prepare an annual report to the board that addresses certain specified items relating to the policies and procedures; and (v) maintain for five years the compliance policies and procedures and the chief compliance officer’s annual report to the board.

The rule contains certain information collection requirements that are designed to ensure that funds establish and maintain comprehensive, written internal compliance programs. The information collections also assist the Commission’s examination staff in assessing the adequacy of funds’ compliance programs.

While Rule 38a–1 requires each fund to maintain written policies and procedures, most funds are located within a fund complex. The experience of the Commission’s examination and oversight staff suggests that a fund in a complex is able to draw extensively from the fund complex’s “master” compliance program to assemble appropriate compliance policies and procedures. Many fund complexes already have written policies and procedures documenting their compliance programs. Further, a fund needing to develop or revise policies and procedures on one or more topics in order to achieve a comprehensive compliance program can draw on a number of outlines and model programs available from a variety of industry representatives, commentators, and organizations.

There are approximately 4,133 funds subject to Rule 38a–1. Among these funds, 97 were newly registered in the past year. These 97 funds, therefore, were required to adopt and document the policies and procedures that make up their compliance programs. Commission staff estimates that the average annual hour burden for a fund to adopt and document these policies and procedures is 105 hours. Thus, we estimate that the aggregate annual
burden hours associated with the adoption and documentation requirement is 10,185 hours.

All funds are required to conduct an annual review of the adequacy of their existing policies and procedures and the policies and procedures of each investment adviser, principal underwriter, administrator, and transfer agent of the fund, and the effectiveness of their implementation. In addition, each fund chief compliance officer is required to prepare an annual report that addresses the operation of the policies and procedures of the fund and the policies and procedures of each investment adviser, principal underwriter, administrator, and transfer agent of the fund, any material changes made to those policies and procedures since the date of the last report, any material changes to the policies and procedures recommended as a result of the annual review, and certain compliance matters that occurred since the date of the last report. The staff estimates that each fund spends 49 hours per year, on average, conducting the annual review and preparing the annual report to the board of directors. Thus, we estimate that the annual aggregate burden hours associated with the annual review and annual report requirement is 202,517 hours.

Finally, the staff estimates that each fund spends 6 hours annually, on average, maintaining the records required by proposed Rule 38a–1. Thus, the annual aggregate burden hours associated with the recordkeeping requirement is 24,798 hours.

In total, the staff estimates that the aggregate annual information collection burden of Rule 38a–1 is 237,500 hours. The estimate of burden hours is made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act. The estimate is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules. Complying with this collection of information requirement is mandatory. Responses will not be kept confidential. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

The public may view the background documentation for this information collection at the following Web site, www.reginfo.gov. Comments should be directed to: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503, or by sending an email to: Shagufta Ahmed@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) Pamela Dyson, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549 or send an email to: PRA Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: September 8, 2017.

Eduardo A. Aleman,
Assistant Secretary.

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BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SEcurities and exchange commission


Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE American LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Modify the NYSE American Options Fee Schedule


Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”) and Rule 19b–4 thereunder, notice is hereby given that, on August 31, 2017, NYSE American LLC (the “Exchange” or “NYSE American”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “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 Exchange proposes to modify the NYSE American Options Fee Schedule.

The proposed change is available on the Exchange’s Web site at www.nyse.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

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 those statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below.

the Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant parts of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The purpose of this filing is to amend the Fee Schedule effective September 1, 2017. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to modify the surcharge that is applied to certain Complex Orders executed on the Exchange.

Currently, the Exchange imposes a $0.05 per contract surcharge for any Electronic Non-Customer Complex Order that executes against a Customer Complex Order, regardless of whether the execution occurs in a Complex Order Auction (the “Surcharge”). The Exchange proposes to modify the Surcharge to $0.10 per contract, which surcharge is comparable to charges imposed by other options exchanges.

For clarity, the Exchange also proposes to make clear that the Surcharge is applied on a “per contract” basis. Additionally, to encourage ATP Holders to transact additional Non-Customer Complex Orders on the Exchange, the Exchange proposes to offer a reduced Surcharge for those ATP Holders that meet a certain volume threshold. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to reduce the per contract surcharge to $0.07 for any ATP Holder that transacts at least 0.20% of Total Industry Customer equity and ETF option average daily volume (or TCADV) of Electronic Non-Customer Complex Order Executions in a month.

Finally, the Exchange proposes to add “TCADV” as a defined term in the Key

4 See Fee Schedule, Section I.A., n. 6, available here, https://www.nyse.com/publicdocs/nyse/markets/americanoptions/NYSE_American_Options_Fee_Schedule.pdf. Fee the Fee Schedule, a “Customer” is an individual or organization that is not a Broker-Dealer, per Rule 900.2NY(18); and is a “Non-Customer” is anyone who is not a Customer. See id., Fee Schedule, Key Terms and Definitions. Thus, Non-Customers include Specialists, any person not a Broker Dealer, and Professional Customers. The Exchange notes that Firm Facilitation trades are not electronic and are therefore not subject to the Surcharge.


6 See proposed Fee Schedule, Section I.A., n. 6. The Exchange also proposes to correct a typographical error referring to “a CUBE Auctions” by removing the word “a.” See id.

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