

annual burden of the rule's paperwork requirements is estimated to be approximately 243,884 hours. Of the total, 38,722 hours are associated with reporting requirements for access persons, and the remaining 205,162 hours are associated with the requirements applicable to rule 17j-1 entities.

These burden hour estimates are based upon the Commission staff's experience and discussions with the fund industry. The estimates of average burden hours are made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act. These estimates are not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules.

Compliance with the collection of information requirements of the rule is mandatory and is necessary to comply with the requirements of the rule in general. 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. Rule 17j-1 requires that records be maintained for at least five years in an easily accessible place.⁶

General comments regarding the above information should be directed to the following persons: (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 email to: David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: July 2, 2004.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy 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 Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension:

Rule 3a-4; SEC File No. 270-401; OMB Control No. 3235-0459.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") a request for extension of the previously approved collections of information discussed below.

Rule 3a-4 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 [15 U.S.C. 80a] ("Investment Company Act" or "Act") provides a nonexclusive safe harbor from the definition of investment company under the Act for certain investment advisory programs. These programs, which include "wrap fee" and "mutual fund wrap" programs, generally are designed to provide professional portfolio management services to clients who are investing less than the minimum usually required by portfolio managers but more than the minimum account size of most mutual funds. Under wrap fee and similar programs, a client's account is typically managed on a discretionary basis according to pre-selected investment objectives. Clients with similar investment objectives often receive the same investment advice and may hold the same or substantially the same securities in their accounts. Some of these investment advisory programs may meet the definition of investment company under the Act because of the similarity of account management.

In 1997, the Commission adopted rule 3a-4, which clarifies that programs organized and operated in a manner consistent with the conditions of rule 3a-4 are not required to register under the Investment Company Act or comply with the Act's requirements.¹ These programs differ from investment companies because, among other things, they provide individualized investment advice to the client. The rule's provisions have the effect of ensuring that clients in a program relying on the rule receive advice tailored to the client's needs.

Rule 3a-4 provides that each client's account must be managed on the basis of the client's financial situation and

investment objectives and consistent with any reasonable restrictions the client imposes on managing the account. When an account is opened, the sponsor² (or its designee) must obtain information from each client regarding the client's financial situation and investment objectives, and must allow the client an opportunity to impose reasonable restrictions on managing the account.³ In addition, the sponsor (or its designee) annually must contact the client to determine whether the client's financial situation or investment objectives have changed and whether the client wishes to impose any reasonable restrictions on the management of the account or reasonably modify existing restrictions. The sponsor (or its designee) also must notify the client quarterly, in writing, to contact the sponsor (or the designee) regarding changes to the client's financial situation, investment objectives, or restrictions on the account's management.⁴

The program must provide each client with a quarterly statement describing all activity in the client's account during the previous quarter. The sponsor and personnel of the client's account manager who know about the client's account and its management must be reasonably available to consult with the client. Each client also must retain certain indicia of ownership of all securities and funds in the account.

Rule 3a-4 is intended primarily to provide guidance regarding the status of investment advisory programs under the Investment Company Act. The rule is not intended to create a presumption about a program that is not operated according to the rule's guidelines.

The requirement that the sponsor (or its designee) obtain information about the client's financial situation and investment objectives when the account is opened is designed to ensure that the investment adviser has sufficient information regarding the client's unique needs and goals to enable the portfolio manager to provide individualized investment advice. The sponsor is required to contact clients

² For purposes of rule 3a-4, the term "sponsor" refers to any person who receives compensation for sponsoring, organizing or administering the program, or for selecting, or providing advice to clients regarding the selection of, persons responsible for managing the client's account in the program.

³ Clients specifically must be allowed to designate securities that should not be purchased for the account or that should be sold if held in the account. The rule does not require that a client be able to require particular securities be purchased for the account.

⁴ The sponsor also must provide a means by which clients can contact the sponsor (or its designee).

⁶ If information collected pursuant to the rule is reviewed by the Commission's examination staff, it will be accorded the same level of confidentiality accorded to other responses provided to the Commission in the context of its examination and oversight program. See section 31(c) of the Investment Company Act [15 U.S.C. 80a-30(c)].

¹ Status of Investment Advisory Programs Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, Investment Company Act Release No. 22579 (Mar. 24, 1997) [62 FR 15098 (Mar. 31, 1997)] ("Adopting Release"). In addition, there are no registration requirements under section 5 of the Securities Act of 1933 for these programs. See 17 CFR 270.3a-4, introductory note.

annually and provide them with quarterly notices to ensure that the sponsor has current information about the client's financial status, investment objectives, and restrictions on management of the account. Maintaining current information enables the portfolio manager to evaluate the client's portfolio in light of the client's changing needs and circumstances. The requirement that clients be provided with quarterly statements of account activity is designed to ensure the client receives an individualized report, which the Commission believes is a key element of individualized advisory services.

The Commission staff estimates that approximately 64 wrap fee and mutual fund wrap programs administered by 56 program sponsors use the procedures under rule 3a-4.⁵ Although it is impossible to determine the exact number of clients that participate in investment advisory programs, an estimate can be made by dividing total assets by the minimum account requirement (\$172.3 billion⁶ divided by \$40,714),⁷ for a total of 4,231,960 clients. Additionally, an average number of new accounts opened each year can be estimated by dividing the average annual increase in account assets in 2000 through 2003, by the minimum account requirement (\$13.4 billion divided by \$40,714), for an average annual number of new accounts of 329,125.⁸

The Commission staff estimates that each program sponsor spends approximately one hour annually in preparing, conducting and/or reviewing interviews for each new client; 30 minutes annually preparing, conducting and/or reviewing annual interviews for each continuing client; and one hour preparing and mailing quarterly account activity statements, including the notice to update information to each client. Based on the foregoing, the Commission staff therefore estimates the total annual burden of the rule's paperwork requirements for all program sponsors to be 6,512,502.5 hours. This represents a decrease of 7,636,910 hours from the prior estimate of 14,149,412.5 hours. The decrease results from a change in

the method of computation of assets managed under investment advisory programs, and the resulting decrease in the estimated number of clients in those programs.

The estimate of average 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 and forms.

Compliance with the collection of information requirements of the rule is necessary to obtain the benefit of relying on the rule's safe harbor. Nevertheless, rule 3a-4 is a nonexclusive safe harbor, and a program that does not comply with the rule's collection of information requirements does not necessarily meet the Investment Company Act's definition of investment company. 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 OMB control number.

General comments regarding the above information to the following persons: (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 e-mail to: David.Rostker@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: June 29, 2004.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-49969; File No. 4-429]

Joint Industry Plan; Order Approving Joint Amendment No. 11 to the Plan for the Purpose of Creating and Operating an Intermarket Option Linkage Relating to the Processing of Satisfaction Orders

July 2, 2004.

I. Introduction

On February 18, 2004, March 1, 2004, March 23, 2004, April 20, 2004, April 23, 2004, and April 28, 2004, the

International Securities Exchange, Inc. ("ISE"), the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex"), the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc. ("CBOE"), the Pacific Exchange, Inc. ("PCX"), the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Phlx"), and the Boston Stock Exchange, Inc. ("BSE"), (collectively, the "Participants"), respectively, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") an amendment ("Joint Amendment No. 11") to the Plan for the Purpose of Creating and Operating an Intermarket Option Linkage ("Linkage Plan").¹ The amendment proposes to change the manner in which the Participants and their members process Satisfaction Orders² they send following a Trade-Through³, and the executions ("fills") that arise from such orders.

The proposed amendment to the Linkage Plan was published in the **Federal Register** on May 19, 2004.⁴ No comments were received on the proposed amendment. This order approves the proposed amendment to the Linkage Plan.

II. Description of the Proposed Amendment

The Participants propose to change the manner in which they process Satisfaction Orders following a Trade-Through in Joint Amendment No. 11. Pursuant to the Linkage Plan, if a disseminated quote that is traded through represents a customer order, a member representing that order may send a Satisfaction Order.⁵ Upon receipt

¹ On July 28, 2000, the Commission approved a national market system plan for the purpose of creating and operating an intermarket option linkage proposed by Amex, CBOE, and ISE. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43086 (July 28, 2000), 65 FR 48023 (August 4, 2000). Subsequently, Phlx, PCX, and BSE joined the Linkage Plan. See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 43573 (November 16, 2000), 65 FR 70850 (November 28, 2000); 43574 (November 16, 2000), 65 FR 70851 (November 28, 2000); and 49198 (February 5, 2004), 69 FR 7029 (February 12, 2004). On June 27, 2001, May 30, 2002, January 29, 2003, June 18, 2003, and January 29, 2004, the Commission approved joint amendments to the Linkage Plan. See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 44482 (June 27, 2001), 66 FR 35470 (July 5, 2001); 46001 (May 30, 2002), 67 FR 38687 (June 5, 2002); 47274 (January 29, 2003), 68 FR 5313 (February 3, 2003); 48055 (June 18, 2003), 68 FR 37869 (June 25, 2003); and 49146 (January 29, 2004), 69 FR 5618 (February 5, 2004).

² A "Satisfaction Order" is defined as an order sent through the Linkage to notify a Participant of a Trade-Through and to seek satisfaction of the liability arising from that Trade-Through. See Section 2(16)(c) of the Linkage Plan.

³ A "Trade-Through" is defined as a transaction in an options series at a price that is inferior to the National Best Bid or Offer. See Section 2(29) of the Linkage Plan.

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 49691 (May 12, 2004), 69 FR 28954.

⁵ See Sections 7(a)(ii)(D) & 8(c)(ii)(B)(2) of the Linkage Plan.

⁵ These estimates are based on statistical information on wrap fee and mutual fund wrap programs provided by Cerulli Associates.

⁶ The estimate of the amount of assets in wrap fee and mutual fund wrap programs was provided by Cerulli Associates.

⁷ The estimate of the average minimum account requirement was provided by Cerulli Associates.

⁸ The requirement for initial client contact and evaluation is not a recurring obligation, but only occurs when the account is opened. The estimated annual hourly burden is based on the average number of new accounts opened each year.