

notify the RRB that a student has ceased full-time school attendance. Completion is voluntary.

The RRB proposes no changes to the forms. One response is completed by each respondent.

Previous Requests for Comments: The RRB has already published the initial 60-day notice (73 FR 22183 on April 24, 2008) required by 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2). That request elicited no comments.

Information Collection Request (ICR)

Title: Student Beneficiary Monitoring.
OMB Control Number: OMB 3220-0123.

Form(s) submitted: G-315, G-315a, G-315a.1.

Type of request: Extension of a currently approved collection of information.

Affected public: Individuals or households, Business or other for-profit, Non-profit institutions.

Abstract: Under the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), a student benefit is not payable if the student ceases full-time school attendance, marries, works in the railroad industry, has excessive earnings or attains the upper age limit under the RRA. The report obtains information to be used in determining if benefits should cease or be reduced.

Changes Proposed: The RRB proposes no changes to the forms in the collection.

The burden estimate for the ICR is as follows:

Estimated Completion Time for Form(s): Form G-315 is estimated at 15 minutes per response; Form G-315a is estimated at 3 minutes per response and Form G-315a.1 is estimated at 2 minutes per response.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 900.

Total annual responses: 900.

Total annual reporting hours: 217.

Additional Information or Comments: Copies of the form and supporting documents can be obtained from Charles Mierzwa, the agency clearance officer at (312-751-3363) or Charles.Mierzwa@rrb.gov.

Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092 or Ronald.Hodapp@rrb.gov and to the OMB Desk Officer for the RRB, at the Office of Management and Budget, Room 10230, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Charles Mierzwa,
Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-21297 Filed 9-11-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-58466; File No. SR-AMEX-2008-53]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; American Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Related to Amendments to Rule 925 (Confirmations) and Rule 921 (Opening of Accounts)

September 5, 2008.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on June 26, 2008, the American Stock Exchange LLC (the "Amex" or the "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. 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 amend Amex Rule 925 to clarify that written confirmations relating to options transactions are not required to specify the options exchange or exchanges on which such options contracts were executed. The Exchange further proposes to amend Amex Rule 921 to permit a General Securities Sales Supervisor to approve the opening of an options account. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange, the Commission's Public Reference Room and <http://www.amex.com>.

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 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 Exchange 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 the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

a. Options Confirmation Rule (Rule 925)

Amex Rule 925 requires that every member and member organization promptly furnish to each customer a written confirmation of each options transaction for such customer's account. This confirmation is required to disclose the type of option, the underlying security, the expiration month, the exercise price, the number of option contracts, the premium, commissions, the transaction and settlement dates, whether the transaction was a purchase or a sale (writing) transaction, whether the transaction was an opening or a closing transaction, and whether the transaction was effected on a principal or agency basis. In addition, Rule 925 requires that each confirmation, by appropriate symbols, must distinguish between Exchange option transactions and other transactions in option contracts and between such transactions and transactions in other options. Rule 925 has been interpreted over the years by market participants to require that written confirmations relating to options transactions specify the options exchange or exchanges on which such options contracts were executed. This proposal seeks to clarify that Rule 925 does not require the name of the options exchange or exchanges on which an options contract is executed.

Prior to August 1999, an options class was typically listed on only one options exchange. In August 1999, the options exchanges began to multiply-list options classes that were previously listed on only one exchange. In October 1999, the Commission stated that it believed a linkage among options markets would benefit investors by increasing competition among markets (and market participants) to provide the best execution of customer orders.³ Subsequently, the Commission directed the options exchanges to act jointly in discussing, developing, and submitting for Commission approval an intermarket linkage plan for multiply-traded options. On July 28, 2000, the Commission approved the Plan for the Purpose of Creating and Operating an Intermarket Options Market Linkage (the "Options Linkage Plan" or "Linkage Plan") submitted by the Amex, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc. and the International Securities

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ See Exchange Act Release No. 42029 (Oct. 19, 1999), 64 FR 57674 (Oct. 26, 1999).

Exchange, Inc.⁴ The Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc., and the Pacific Stock Exchange agreed to participate in the Options Linkage Plan in November 2000.⁵ As a result of the introduction of multiple trading of options and the implementation of the Linkage Plan, the contracts in a customer options order could be executed on more than one options exchange and the significance of the options exchange or exchanges that execute a particular options transaction has diminished significantly.⁶

Under the duty of best execution, Amex members are required to exercise diligence to obtain the best price when routing customer options trades for execution. The Exchange, as well as the other members of the Options Self Regulatory Council (the "OSRC"),⁷ believes that in light of the existing best execution and disclosure requirements, the usefulness of including on an options confirmation the name of the options exchange or exchanges on which an options transaction was effected does not outweigh the operational difficulties of capturing the information given the multiple trading of options and the application of the Options Linkage Plan industry-wide. Consequently, the proposal would amend Amex Rule 925 to make clear that written confirmations relating to options transactions are not required to specify the options exchange or exchanges on which such options contracts were executed.

The Exchange has worked with the other members of the OSRC in developing these proposed rule changes. Each member of the OSRC is expected to similarly file rule proposals to either delete the requirement that the written options confirmation disclose the name of the options exchange or exchanges on which the options transaction was executed, or clarify that no such requirement exists.

b. Options Account Opening Rule (Rule 921)

Amex Rule 921 governs the opening of options accounts by members and member organizations. Specifically,

Rule 921(c), relating to "Diligence in Opening Account," provides that in approving a customer's account for options transactions, a member or member organization shall exercise due diligence to learn the essential facts as to the customer and his investment objectives and financial situation, and shall make a record of such information (which shall be retained in accordance with Amex Rule 922). Based on such information, the branch manager or other registered options principal ("ROP") is required to approve in writing the customer's account for options transactions. If the branch manager is not a ROP, the branch manager's approval of the account must be confirmed within a reasonable time by a ROP. The Exchange and the other members of the OSRC believe that an amendment to the current options account opening procedures is warranted so that a general securities sales supervisor, in addition to a ROP, is able to open an options account without the approval of a ROP. The other members of the OSRC are also expected to file similar amendments to their options account opening rules.

The Exchange believes that permitting a general securities sales supervisor to approve the opening of an options account would be appropriate and would properly reflect the maturity of the options market and the manner in which the uses of options are more integrated with other securities in the implementation of investment strategies.⁸ In particular, the Exchange believes that the proposed amendment to Rule 921 would further permit member firms to integrate their options activities into their overall supervisory and compliance structures that monitor all securities products.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6 of the Exchange Act,⁹ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5),¹⁰ in particular, in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in

facilitating transactions in securities, to 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, by clarifying options confirmation and account opening procedure rules to better reflect the realities of the modern options market and the compliance and regulatory structures adopted by firms. The Exchange believes that the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) Exchange Act because the proposed amendments to Amex Rules 925 and 921 better reflect the manner in which standardized options are listed and traded on the options exchanges and integrated into firms' general securities supervision and compliance programs.

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

The proposed rule change does not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Exchange Act.

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 date of 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 Exchange consents, the Commission will (A) by order approve such 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, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Exchange 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

⁴ See Exchange Act Release No. 43086 (Jul. 28, 2000), 65 FR 48023 (Aug. 4, 2000).

⁵ See Exchange Act Release Nos. 43573 (Nov. 16, 2000), 65 FR 70850 (Nov. 28, 2000) and 43574 (Nov. 16, 2000), 65 FR 70851 (Nov. 28, 2000) (approval order).

⁶ Modifications to this paragraph discussed in telephone conference between Jeffrey P. Burns, Vice-President & Associate General Counsel, American Stock Exchange LLC, and Max Welsh, Special Counsel, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, on August 7, 2008.

⁷ The OSRC consists of the options exchanges and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA").

⁸ The Commission recently approved the elimination of the Senior Registered Options Principal ("SROP") and Compliance Registered Options Principal ("CROP") supervisory categories, permitting member firms to supervise their options activities through their overall supervisory and compliance programs that monitor all other securities products. See Exchange Act Release No. 57738 (Apr. 29, 2008), 73 FR 25805 (May 7, 2008) (approval order).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

Number SR-AMEX-2008-53 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-AMEX-2008-53. 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 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 Section, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Amex. 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-AMEX-2008-53 and should be submitted on or before October 3, 2008.

For the Commission by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹¹

Florence E. Harmon,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-21165 Filed 9-11-08; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-58456; File No. SR-CBOE-2008-93]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Temporary Membership Status and Interim Trading Permit Access Fees

September 3, 2008.

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 August 29, 2008, 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 CBOE. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested parties.

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

CBOE proposes to adjust (1) the monthly access fee for persons granted temporary CBOE membership status ("Temporary Members") pursuant to Interpretation and Policy .02 under CBOE Rule 3.19 ("Rule 3.19.02") and (2) the monthly access fee for Interim Trading Permit ("ITP") holders under CBOE Rule 3.27. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Web site (<http://www.cboe.org/Legal/>), at the Exchange's Office of the Secretary, 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, CBOE 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 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

The current access fee for Temporary Members under Rule 3.19.02³ and the current access fee for ITP holders under Rule 3.27⁴ are both \$10,653 per month. Both access fees are currently set at the indicative lease rate (as defined below) for August 2008. The Exchange proposes to adjust both access fees effective at the beginning of September 2008 to be equal to the indicative lease rate for September 2008 (which is \$10,800). Specifically, the Exchange proposes to revise both the Temporary Member access fee and the ITP access fee to be \$10,800 per month commencing on September 1, 2008.

The indicative lease rate is defined under Rule 3.27(b) as the highest clearing firm floating monthly rate⁵ of the CBOE Clearing Members that assist in facilitating at least 10% of the CBOE transferable membership leases.⁶ The Exchange determined the indicative lease rate for September 2008 by polling each of these Clearing Members and obtaining the clearing firm floating monthly rate designated by each of these Clearing Members for that month.

The Exchange used the same process to set the proposed Temporary Member and ITP access fees that it used to set the current Temporary Member and ITP access fees. The only difference is that the Exchange used clearing firm floating monthly rate information for the month of September 2008 to set the proposed access fees (instead of clearing firm floating monthly rate information for the month of August 2008 as was used to set the current access fees) in order to take into account changes in clearing firm floating monthly rates for the month of September 2008.

The Exchange believes that the process used to set the proposed

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 56458 (September 18, 2007), 72 FR 54309 (September 24, 2007) (SR-CBOE-2007-107) for a description of the Temporary Membership status under Rule 3.19.02.

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 58178 (July 17, 2008), 73 FR 42634 (July 22, 2008) (SR-CBOE-2008-40) for a description of the Interim Trading Permits under Rule 3.27.

⁵ Rule 3.27(b) defines the clearing firm floating monthly rate as the floating monthly rate that a Clearing Member designates, in connection with transferable membership leases that the Clearing Member assisted in facilitating, for leases that utilize that monthly rate.

⁶ The concepts of an indicative lease rate and of a clearing firm floating month rate were previously utilized in the CBOE rule filings that set and adjusted the Temporary Member access fee. Both concepts were also recently codified in Rule 3.27(b) in relation to ITPs.

¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.