

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-64699; File No. SR-CBOE-2011-056)

June 17, 2011

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Adopt the Selection Specifications and Content Outline for the Proprietary Traders Examination Program (Series 56)

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1), notice is hereby given that on June 16, 2011, Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated (“CBOE” or the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by CBOE. 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

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”),¹ the Exchange is filing with the Commission the content outline and selection specifications for the Proprietary Traders Qualification Examination (“Series 56”) program. CBOE is not proposing any textual changes to the Rules of CBOE. The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website (<http://www.cboe.org/legal>), at the Exchange’s Office of the Secretary and at the Commission.

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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. 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, Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

Pursuant to Rule 15b7-1,² promulgated under the Exchange Act,³ “No registered broker or dealer shall effect any transaction in...any security unless any natural person associated with such broker or dealer who effects or is involved in effecting such transaction is registered or approved in accordance with the standards of training, experience, competence, and other qualification standards...established by the rules of any national securities exchange...” CBOE Rule 3.6A sets forth the requirements for registration and qualification of individual Trading Permit Holders and individual associated persons. Specifically, CBOE Rule 3.6A provides that individual Trading Permit Holders and individual associated persons that are “engaged or to be engaged in the securities business of a Trading Permit Holder or TPH organization shall be registered with the Exchange in the category of registration appropriate to the function to be performed as prescribed by the Exchange.” Further, Rule 3.6A requires, among other things, that an individual Trading Permit Holder or individual associated person submit an application for registration and pass the appropriate qualification examination before the registration can become effective.

In accordance with Interpretation and Policy .06 to Rule 3.6A, those individuals shall be considered to be “engaged in the securities business of a Trading Permit Holder or TPH organization” and subject to the registration requirements and successful completion of Series 56 if

² 17 C.F.R. [sic] 240.15b7-1.

³ 15 U.S.C. § 78a et seq.

(i) the individual Trading Permit Holder or associated person conducts proprietary trading, acts as a market-maker, effects transactions on behalf of a broker-dealer account, supervises or monitors proprietary trading, market-making or brokerage activities on behalf of the broker-dealer, supervises or conducts training for those engaged in proprietary trading, market-making or brokerage activities on behalf of a broker-dealer account; or (ii) the individual Trading Permit Holder or associated person engages in the management of any individual Trading Permit Holder or individual associated person identified in (i) above as an officer, partner or director.⁴

The Series 56 examination tests a candidate's knowledge of proprietary trading generally and the industry rules applicable to trading of equity securities and listed options contracts. The Series 56 examination covers, among other things, recordkeeping and recording requirements, types and characteristics of securities and investments, trading practices and display execution and trading systems. While the examination is primarily dedicated to topics related to proprietary trading, the Series 56 examination also covers a few general concepts relating to customers.⁵

The Series 56 examination program is shared by CBOE and the following Self-Regulatory Organizations ("SROs"): Boston Options Exchange; C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated; Chicago Stock Exchange, Incorporated; International Securities Exchange, LLC; NASDAQ OMX, BX; NASDAQ OMX, PHLX; NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; National Stock Exchange, Incorporated; New York Stock Exchange, LLC; NYSE AMEX, Incorporated; and NYSE ARCA, Incorporated.

⁴ In accordance with Rule 3.6A, an individual Trading Permit Holder or individual associated person that is engaged in the supervision or monitoring of proprietary trading, market-making or brokerage activities and/or that is engaged in the supervision or training of those engaged in proprietary trading, market-making or brokerage activities with respect to those activities will be subject to heightened qualification requirements, as prescribed by the Exchange.

⁵ The Commission notes that proprietary trading firms do not have customers.

Upon request by the SROs referenced above, FINRA staff convened a committee of industry representatives, CBOE staff and staff from the other SROs referenced above, to develop the criteria for the Series 56 examination program. As a result, CBOE is proposing to set forth the content of the examination. The qualification examination consists of 100 multiple choice questions. Candidates will have 150 minutes to complete the exam. The content outline describes the following topical sections comprising the examination: Personnel, Business Conduct and Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements, 9 questions; Markets, Market Participants, Exchanges, and Self Regulatory Organizations, 8 questions; Types and Characteristics of Securities and Investments, 20 questions; Trading Practices and Prohibited Acts, 50 questions; and Display, Execution and Trading Systems, 13 questions. Representatives from the applicable self-regulatory organizations shall meet on a periodic basis to evaluate and, as necessary, update, the Series 56 examination program.

CBOE understands that the other applicable SROs will also file with the Commission similar filings regarding the Series 56 examination program. CBOE proposes to implement the Series 56 examination program upon availability in WebCRD. The Exchange shall announce all relevant dates with respect to the Series 56 examination program through a Regulatory Circular.

The selection specifications for the Series 56 examination, which CBOE has submitted under separate cover to the Commission with a request for confidential treatment pursuant to the Commission's confidential treatment procedures under the Freedom of Information Act,⁶ describe additional confidential information regarding the examination.

As noted in Item 2 of this filing, CBOE is filing the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. CBOE will announce the implementation date of the proposed rule change in a

⁶ 17 C.F.R. [sic] 200.83.

Regulatory Circular. The implementation date of the proposed rule change will coincide with a new release of the WebCRD.⁷

2. Statutory Basis

The proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁸ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(1)⁹ of the Act in particular, in that it is designed to enforce compliance by Exchange members and persons associated with its members with the rules of the Exchange. The Exchange also believes the proposed rule change furthers the objectives of Section 6(c)(3)¹⁰ of the Act, which authorizes CBOE to prescribe standards of training, experience and competence for persons associated with CBOE members, in that this filing comprises the content outline and relevant specifications for the Series 56 examination program. CBOE believes the Series 56 examination program establishes the appropriate qualifications for an individual Trading Permit Holder and individual associated person that is required to register as a Proprietary Trader under Exchange Rule 3.6A, including, but not limited to, Market-Makers, proprietary traders and individuals effecting transactions on behalf of other broker-dealers. The Series 56 addresses industry topics that establish the foundation for the regulatory and procedural knowledge necessary for individuals required to register as a Proprietary Trader. CBOE will continue to educate its Trading Permit Holders and nominees of requirements that are unique to CBOE through its Trading Permit Holder orientation program.

⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 63314 (November 12, 2010), 75 FR 70957 (November 19, 2010) (SR-CBOE-2010-084).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(1).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(c)(3).

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

CBOE does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of 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 solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule 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 from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, provided that the self-regulatory organization has given the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change or such shorter time as designated by the Commission, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹¹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹²

The Commission believes it is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest to waive the 30-day operative delay. The Series 56 exam will be available as of June 20, 2011, so waiver of the 30-day operative delay will enable associated persons of CBOE firms to

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹² 17 C.F.R. [sic] 240.19b-4(f)(6).

take the exam as soon as it becomes available. For these reasons, the Commission hereby waives the 30-day operative delay.¹³

At any time within 60 days of the filing of such proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend 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.

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 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-2011-056 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-CBOE-2011-056. 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 website (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies

¹³ For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has considered the proposed rule change's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

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 website 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 such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of 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-2011-056 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁴

Cathy H. Ahn
Deputy Secretary

¹⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).