

Additions: Underlined
 Deletions: [Bracketed]

Rule 953NY. Trading Halts and Suspensions

(a) Trading on the Exchange in any option contract shall be halted or suspended whenever the Exchange deems such action appropriate in the interests of a fair and orderly market and to protect investors. Among the factors that may be considered are that:

- (1) trading in the underlying stock or Exchange-Traded Fund Share has been halted or suspended in the primary market;
- (2) the opening of such underlying stock or Exchange-Traded Fund Share in the primary market has been delayed because of unusual circumstances;
- (3) the Exchange has been advised that the issuer of the underlying stock or Exchange-Traded Fund Share is about to make an important announcement affecting such issuer; or
- (4) other unusual conditions or circumstances are present.

Trading in option contracts of a class or series of options that has been the subject of a halt or suspension by the Exchange may be resumed upon a determination by the Exchange that the conditions which led to the halt or suspension are no longer present and that the interests of a fair and orderly market are best served by a resumption of trading.

(b) Trading on the Exchange in any option contract shall be halted whenever trading in the underlying security has been paused by the primary market. Trading in such options contracts may be resumed upon a determination by the Exchange that the conditions that led to the pause are no longer present and that the interests of a fair and orderly market are best served by a resumption of trading, which in no circumstances will be before the Exchange has received notification that the underlying security has resumed trading.

[(b)] (c) The Exchange shall have the same authority to supervise trading of option contracts as it has with respect to other securities or Exchange-Traded Fund Shares, including the authority to delay the opening of a particular class or series of options or to halt, and reopen after a halt, trading in a particular class or series of options, whenever such action is deemed necessary in the interest of maintaining a fair and orderly market in such class or series of options and to protect investors.

[(c)] (d) *Options Floor Trading Halt Guidelines*. Trading halts are, by definition, unusual market conditions. Accordingly, all of the precise circumstances of a trading halt cannot

be anticipated. An evaluation of all the circumstances at the time a trading halt is under consideration is critical. Except as provided below, to ensure consistent application of the Exchange's trading halt guidelines, such decisions shall be made by a Trading Official. Bearing in mind the need to exercise discretion in response to particular circumstances as they occur, the following are guidelines for trading halts at the Exchange under varying circumstances:

- (1) *No last sale and/or quotation dissemination either by the Exchange or by OPRA.* At the outset, a time-critical review by a Trading Official and an Exchange officer (the "group") will be made of the circumstances causing the failure of dissemination. If it is believed by the group that the dissemination will resume in less than 15 minutes, trading ordinarily will continue and a message will be given to the news wire services announcing the dissemination difficulty. If it is believed by this group that the dissemination problem will extend beyond 15 minutes, the Trading Official, in the Trading Official's discretion, may impose a halt on all trading in affected securities or Exchange-Traded Fund Shares. In any event, a Trading Official may permit trading to continue for more than 15 minutes after a failure of dissemination only with the concurrence of an Exchange Officer. Trading may resume upon a determination by the group that the conditions that led to the halt are no longer present or that the interests of a fair and orderly market are best served by a resumption of trading. Generally the Exchange will notify ATP Holders of the resumption of trading.
- (2) *Primary market halts trading in one or more securities or Exchange-Traded Fund Shares for regulatory reasons.* Upon notification by the primary market of a regulatory trading halt of an individual equity security or Exchange-Traded Fund Share in the primary market, the Exchange may impose a trading halt in the individual stock option overlying the security or Exchange-Traded Fund Share so halted. Trading will resume upon a determination by a Trading Official that the conditions that led to the halt are no longer present or that the interests of a fair and orderly market are best served by a resumption of trading.
- (3) *Primary market non-regulatory trading halt in one or more equity securities or Exchange-Traded Fund Shares.* Upon notification by the primary market of a non-regulatory trading halt of an individual equity security in the primary market, a Trading Official, in the Trading Official's discretion, may impose a trading halt in the individual stock option overlying the security so halted. Trading may resume upon a determination by the Trading Official that the conditions that led to the halt are no longer present or that the interests of a fair and orderly market are best served by a resumption of trading. Generally the Exchange will notify ATP Holders and the news wire services of the resumption of trading.
- (4) *The primary market halts trading floor-wide.* If the primary market halts trading floor-wide, the Exchange will halt trading in all individual equity options overlying the securities so halted in the primary market and will assess the viability of markets in the underlying securities, as measured by transactions and by share volume. In the

event that it is determined by a Trading Official, that sufficient markets will support trading other than on the primary exchange, the Exchange will resume trading. Generally the Exchange will notify ATP Holders and the news wire services of the resumption of trading.

(5) *Primary market is open but is unable to disseminate last sale or quotation information.* The Exchange's options trading ordinarily will remain open for trading unless, in the opinion of a Trading Official, the absence of disseminated information will impede the ability of market makers to maintain fair and orderly markets in the option. The concurrence of an Exchange officer is required if more than one option class is affected.

(6) *Over-the-counter quote dissemination halt.* A Trading Official, in his or her discretion, may halt trading in options overlying over-the-counter securities or Exchange-Traded Fund Shares affected by such a quote dissemination halt upon first notification of the dissemination halt. Trading may resume upon a determination by the Trading Official that the conditions that led to the halt are no longer present or that the interests of a fair and orderly market are best served by a resumption of trading. Generally the Exchange will notify ATP Holders and the news wire services of the resumption of trading.

(7) *Trading in Individual Equity Options Prior to Expiration.* In the event that any of the foregoing should occur on the last trading day prior to Expiration, it is the preference of the Exchange to allow trading to continue on that date. This will be a primary consideration in the assessments to be made by the Trading Official.

* * * * *