

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-58254; File No. SR-NYSE-2008-58)

July 30, 2008

Self-Regulatory Organizations; New York Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change to Make Permanent a Pilot Program under which the Exchange Excludes from its Earnings Standard Gains or Losses from Extinguishment of Debt Prior to Maturity

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 July 22, 2008, New York Stock Exchange LLC (the “NYSE” or the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) the proposed rule changes 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 changes from interested persons.

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

The Exchange proposes to adopt on a permanent basis an amendment to the earnings standard of Section 102.01C(I) of the Exchange’s Listed Company Manual (the “Manual”) which is currently in force pursuant to a pilot program (the “Pilot Program”). The amendment will enable the Exchange to adjust the earnings of companies listing in conjunction with an IPO by reversing the income statement effects for all periods of changes in fair value of financial instruments classified as a liability recorded by the company in earnings, provided such financial instrument is either being redeemed with the proceeds of an offering occurring in conjunction with the listing or converted into or exercised for common stock of the company at the time of listing.

1 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

2 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

The text of the proposed rule change is available at <http://www.nyse.com>, the NYSE, and 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 these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The NYSE 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 Exchange proposes to amend the earnings standard of Section 102.01C(I) of the Manual. The amendment will enable the Exchange to adjust the earnings of companies for purposes of its pre-tax earnings standard by excluding gains or losses recognized in connection with the extinguishment of debt prior to its maturity. The adjustment will relate only to gains or losses incurred in the three-year period under examination for purposes of the earnings standard. The proposed amendment was originally implemented for a six-month period as a Pilot Program.³ The Pilot Program expired and was subsequently renewed for an additional three months, expiring on September 2, 2008.⁴

3 See Exchange Act Release No. 55974 (July 6, 2007), 72 FR 37067 (June 28, 2007) (SR-NYSE-2007-52). [sic]

4 See Exchange Act Release No. 57903 (June 2, 2008), 73 FR 32610 (June 9, 2008) (SR-NYSE-2008-43).

Prior to the promulgation of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 145 (“SFAS No. 145”) in 2002, Financial Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 4 (“FASB No. 4”) required that gains and losses from the extinguishment of debt prior to its maturity that were included in the determination of net income be aggregated and, if material, classified as an extraordinary item, net of related income tax effect. SFAS No. 145 rescinded FASB No. 4 and, as a result, gains or losses in connection with the extinguishment of debt prior to its maturity are now generally included in the calculation of operating earnings under generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”). As a result, some companies that would not otherwise be qualified to list may qualify as a result of the inclusion in pre-tax income of gains from the extinguishment of debt prior to its maturity. In addition, some prospective listed companies whose operating earnings would have met the requirements of the Exchange’s pre-tax earnings test prior to 2002 are now not qualified to list as they are required to include losses from the extinguishment of debt prior to its maturity in pre-tax income. In the Exchange’s experience, these gains and losses are primarily noncash in nature. The gains generally represent the accelerated accrual of original issue discount, while the losses generally represent the remaining unamortized portion of costs incurred at the time of initial borrowing.

The Exchange believes that it is appropriate to return to its pre-2002 approach of excluding gains and losses from debt extinguishment from pre-tax earnings as calculated for purposes of its earnings standard. The purpose of the earnings standard is to determine the suitability for listing of companies on a forward-looking basis in light of a sustained demonstration of strong earnings. As such, the Exchange does not believe that it is relevant to include in pre-tax earnings gains and losses from the extinguishment of debt prior to its maturity that are principally nonrecurring in nature. Additionally, we note that the analyst community

also routinely exclude these gains and losses from their analyses in making recommendations as to the desirability of investing in companies' publicly-traded equity securities. The Exchange believes that adjusting company earnings for gains and losses from the extinguishment of debt prior to its maturity is consistent with the adjustments that are currently permitted under Section 102.01C for a number of other nonrecurring charges to earnings that are included in net income as recorded under GAAP, such as the exclusion of impairment charges on long-lived assets, the exclusion of gains and losses on sales of a subsidiary's or investee's stock and the exclusion of in-process purchased research and development charges. The Exchange also believes that this adjustment is reasonable given the purpose of the earnings standard, which is to determine the suitability for listing of companies on a forward-looking basis.

As with all companies listed on the Exchange, the Financial Compliance staff of NYSE Regulation, Inc. will monitor on an ongoing basis the compliance with the Exchange's continued listing standards of any companies listed in reliance upon the proposed amendment. Such companies will be subject to delisting if they are found at any time to be below the Exchange's continued listing standards.

As the Exchange gains experience in listing companies in reliance upon the proposed amendment, we will continue to carefully reevaluate its appropriateness. If we become aware that companies listed pursuant to the proposed amendment have difficulty complying with our continued listing standards, we will inform the Commission and discuss with the Commission the desirability of the continued use of the provision.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)⁵ of the Exchange Act, in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Exchange Act,⁶ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. The Exchange believes that the proposed amendment is consistent with the investor protection objectives of the Exchange Act in that it provides for an adjustment to listing applicants' historical financial results that is consistent with other adjustments already permitted under the Exchange's earnings standard and is reasonable given the purpose of the earnings standard, which is to determine the suitability for listing of companies on a forward-looking basis.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will 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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

5 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

6 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

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 self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

- (A) by order approve the 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 Number SR-NYSE-2008-58 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-NYSE-2008-58. 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 Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. 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-NYSE-2008-58 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.⁷

Florence E. Harmon
Acting Secretary

⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).