

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-65820; File No. SR-ISE-2011-79)

November 23, 2011

Self-Regulatory Organizations; International Securities Exchange, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend ISE Rule 2102(f) to Exclude from the Pilot Rule All Rights and Warrants

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on November 22, 2011, the International Securities Exchange, LLC (the "Exchange" or the "ISE") 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 the self-regulatory organization. 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 Rule 2102(f) to exclude from the pilot rule all rights and warrants.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's Internet website at <http://www.ise.com>, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room, and at the Commission's website at www.sec.gov.

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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

places specified in Item IV below. The self-regulatory organization 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

ISE proposes to amend Rule 2102(f) to exclude all rights and warrants from the trading pause process under the rule. The Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) approved Rule 2102(f) on a pilot basis on June 10, 2010, together with the analogous rules of other equity exchanges (collectively with NASDAQ, the “Exchanges”) and FINRA, to provide for trading pauses in individual securities due to extraordinary market volatility in all securities included within the S&P 500 Index (“S&P 500”) (the “Pause Pilot”).³ NASDAQ noted in its filing to adopt Rule 2102(f) that during the Pause Pilot period it would continue to assess whether additional securities need to be added and whether the parameters of Rule 2102(f) would need to be modified to accommodate trading characteristics of different securities. The Exchanges and FINRA subsequently received approval to add to the Pause Pilot the securities included in the Russell 1000 Index (“Russell 1000”) and a specified list of Exchange Traded Products (“ETPs”).⁴

³ The Commission approved the Pause Pilot for all equities exchanges and FINRA. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 62252 (June 10, 2010), 75 FR 34186 (June 16, 2010) (File Nos. SR-BATS-2010-014; SR-EDGA-2010-01; SR-EDGX-2010-01; SR-BX-2010-037; SR-ISE-2010-48; SR-NYSE-2010-39; SR-NYSEAmex-2010-46; SR-NYSEArca-2010-41; SR-NASDAQ-2010-061; SR-CHX-2010-10; SR-NSX-2010-05; and SR-CBOE-2010-047), and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 62251 (June 10, 2010), 75 FR 34183 (June 16, 2010) (SR-FINRA-2010-025).

⁴ The Commission approved the addition to the Pause Pilot of the securities included in the Russell 1000 and ETPs, where applicable, for all equities exchanges and FINRA. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 62884 (September 10, 2010), 75 FR 56618 (September 16, 2010) (File Nos. SR-BATS-2010-018; SR-BX-2010-044; SR-CBOE-2010-065; SR-CHX-2010-14; SR-EDGA-2010-05; SR-EDGX-2010-05; SR-ISE-2010-

On June 23, 2011, the Commission approved proposed rule changes of the Exchanges and FINRA to amend their respective rules to expand the Pause Pilot to include all remaining NMS stocks (“Phase III Securities”), which includes rights and warrants.⁵ Unlike the original Pause Pilot securities, amended Rule 2102(f) applies wider percentage price moves to the Phase III Securities before a trading pause is triggered.⁶ The changes to Rule 2102(f) became effective on August 8, 2011.

The Exchanges and FINRA analyzed the nature of the trading pauses triggered since adoption of the Pause Pilot and found that over 25% of such pauses have occurred in rights and warrants. Further, the Exchanges and FINRA have experienced a significant increase in trading pauses involving rights and warrants since the implementation of the Phase III Securities, with such pauses representing approximately 52% of all trading pauses occurring through the end of August 2011. Rights and warrants trade on equity exchanges, but are closely related to call options. Rights and warrants entitle owners to purchase shares of stock at predetermined prices subject to various timing and other conditions. Like options, the price of rights and

66; SR-NASDAQ-2010-079; SR-NYSE-2010-49; SR-NYSEAmex-2010-63; SR-NYSEArca-2010-61; and SR-NSX-2010-08, and Securities Exchange Act Release No. 62883 (September 10, 2010), 75 FR 56608 (September 16, 2010) (SR-FINRA-2010-033). ISE submitted a proposed rule change shortly after the addition of the Russell 1000 securities and ETPs to extend the operation of the Pause Pilot, which was set to expire on December 10, 2010, until April 11, 2011. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 63506 (December 9, 2010), 75 FR 78301 (December 15, 2010) (SR-ISE-2010-117). On March 31, 2011, ISE submitted a proposed rule change to further extend the Pause Pilot until the earlier of August 11, 2011 or the date on which a limit up/limit down mechanism to address extraordinary market volatility, if adopted, applies. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64193 (April 5, 2011), 76 FR 20062 (April 11, 2011) (SR-ISE-2011-17). On August 8, 2011, ISE submitted a proposed rule change to further extend the Pause Pilot until January 31, 2012. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 65072 (August 9, 2011), 76 FR 50513 (August 15, 2011) (SR-ISE-2011-52).

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 64735 (June 23, 2011), 76 FR 38243 (June 29, 2011) (SR-ISE-2011-028, et al.).

⁶ Id.

warrants are affected by the price of the underlying stock as well as other factors, particularly the volatility of the stock. As a consequence, the prices of rights and warrants may move more dramatically than the prices of the underlying stocks even when the rights and warrants (and the underlying stock) are trading in an orderly manner. This difference in trading behavior may result in the rights and warrants triggering the circuit breaker under Rule 2102(f) and being subject to a trading pause, even while the underlying stock continues to trade. This can be particularly true of rights and warrants that have low prices. As such, the Exchanges and FINRA have determined to exclude rights and warrants from the Pause Pilot, and accordingly, ISE is proposing to amend Rule 2102(f) to exclude rights and warrants from the rule's application.

2. Statutory Basis

The proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁷ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5),⁸ 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, and to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system. The proposed rule change also is designed to support the principles of Section 11A(a)(1)⁹ of the Act in that it seeks to ensure fair competition among brokers and dealers and among exchange markets. ISE believes that the proposed rule meets these requirements because it excludes certain securities from the rule's coverage that are prone to triggering pauses because of their unique characteristics. These securities are unique in that they may move more dramatically than the prices of the underlying stocks to which they are

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78k-1(a)(1).

related even when both securities are trading in an orderly manner. As such, the securities that are subject to this proposal may trigger the circuit breaker under Rule 2102(f) and be subject to a trading pause, even while the underlying security continues to trade. Although there is little benefit in pausing trading in these securities, such pauses sequester regulatory resources that are better applied to the review of trading pauses in other securities that have a greater impact on the national market system.

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 Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

The Exchange has not solicited, and does not intend to solicit, comments on this proposed rule change. The Exchange has not received any unsolicited written comments from members or other interested parties.

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

The Exchange has filed the proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act¹⁰ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹¹ Because the proposed rule change does not: (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative prior to 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, the proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

¹¹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹² and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) thereunder.¹³

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹⁴ normally does not become operative for 30 days after the date of filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii)¹⁵ the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposal may become operative immediately upon filing.

The Commission believes that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Including rights and warrants in the pilot program which may trigger a circuit breaker and be subject to a trading pause, even while the underlying security continues to trade, provides little benefit and has the potential to create confusion among investors. Excluding rights and warrants from the pilot program should minimize investor confusion that could result from temporary trading pauses in these securities. For this reason, the Commission designates the proposed rule change as operative upon the date of this Notice.¹⁶

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) requires the Exchange to give the Commission written notice of the Exchange's intent to file the proposed rule change along with a brief description and text of 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 Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

¹⁶ For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has also considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

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 No. SR-ISE-2011-79 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 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File No. SR-ISE-2011-79. 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 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 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 No. SR-ISE-2011-79 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.¹⁷

Kevin M. O'Neill
Deputy Secretary

¹⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).