

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-86688; File No. SR-NYSEAMER-2019-24)

August 15, 2019

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE American LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend Supplementary Material .01(b)(5) to NYSE American Rule 8.600E Relating to Generic Listing Standards for Managed Fund Shares

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)¹ of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”)² and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,³ notice is hereby given that on August 1, 2019, NYSE American LLC (“NYSE American” or the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “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 Supplementary Material .01(b)(5) to NYSE American Rule 8.600E relating to generic listing standards for Managed Fund Shares applicable to holdings in fixed income securities. The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at www.nyse.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, 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, the self-regulatory organization included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 15 U.S.C. 78a.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

received on the proposed rule change. The text of those 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 parts of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

Supplementary Material .01 to NYSE American Rule 8.600E sets forth generic listing standards for Managed Fund Shares on the Exchange.⁴ The Exchange proposes to amend Supplementary Material .01(b)(5) to Rule 8.600E, as described below.⁵

Proposed Amendment to Supplementary Material .01(b)(5) to Rule 8.600E

Supplementary Material .01(b) to NYSE American Rule 8.600E sets forth generic listing standards applicable to fixed income securities included in the portfolio of a series of Managed Fund Shares.⁶ Supplementary Material .01(b)(5) provides that non-agency, non- GSE and

⁴ A Managed Fund Share is a security that represents an interest in an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1) (the “1940 Act”) organized as an open-end management investment company or similar entity that invests in a portfolio of securities selected by its investment adviser consistent with its investment objectives and policies. In contrast, an open-end management investment company that issues Investment Company Units that may be traded on the Exchange under NYSE American Rule 5.2E (j)(3) seeks to provide investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance of a specific foreign or domestic stock index, fixed income securities index or combination thereof.

⁵ Managed Fund Shares are currently traded on the Exchange pursuant to UTP and are not listed on the Exchange. NYSE American Rule 8E provides that the rule shall apply to the trading pursuant to UTP of Exchange Traded Products (which include Managed Fund Shares) on the Exchange and shall not apply to the Exchange listing of Exchange Traded Products. Therefore, this proposed rule change would only apply to Exchange-listed Managed Fund Shares in the event the Exchange determines to list such securities in the future. The Exchange will not list Managed Fund Shares prior to approval or effectiveness of an Exchange proposed rule change to amend Rule 8E to permit such listings.

⁶ Supplementary Material .01(b) provides that fixed income securities are debt securities

privately-issued mortgage-related and other asset-backed securities (“ABS” and, collectively, “non-agency ABS”) components of a portfolio shall not account, in the aggregate, for more than 20% of the weight of the fixed income portion of the portfolio. The Exchange proposes to amend Supplementary Material .01(b)(5) by deleting the words “fixed income portion” to provide that such 20% limitation would apply to the entire portfolio rather than to only the fixed income portion of the portfolio. Thus, Supplementary Material .01(b)(5) would provide that non-agency, non-GSE and privately-issued mortgage-related and other ABS components of a portfolio shall not account, in the aggregate, for more than 20% of the weight of the portfolio.

The Exchange believes this amendment is appropriate because a fund’s investment in non-agency, non-GSE and privately-issued mortgage-related and other ABS may provide a fund with benefits associated with increased diversification, as such investments may be less correlated to interest rates than many other fixed income securities. The Exchange notes that application of the 20% limitation only to the fixed income portion of a fund’s portfolio may impose a much more restrictive percentage limit on permitted holdings of non-agency ABS for funds that have a more diversified investment portfolio than for funds that hold principally or exclusively fixed income securities. For example, a fund holding 100% of its assets in fixed income securities can hold 20% of its entire portfolio’s weight in non-agency ABS. In contrast, a fund holding 25% of its assets in fixed income securities, 25% in U.S Component Stocks, and 50% in cash and cash equivalents is limited to a 5% ($25\% * 20\% = 5\%$) allocation to non-agency

that are notes, bonds, debentures or evidence of indebtedness that include, but are not limited to, U.S. Department of Treasury securities (“Treasury Securities”), government-sponsored entity securities (“GSE Securities”), municipal securities, trust preferred securities, supranational debt and debt of a foreign country or a subdivision thereof, investment grade and high yield corporate debt, bank loans, mortgage and asset backed securities, and commercial paper.

ABS. The Exchange, therefore, believes application of the 20% limitation to a fund's entire portfolio would be more equitable for Managed Fund Shares issuers with different investment objectives and holdings.

The Commission has previously approved a proposed rule change by NYSE Arca, Inc. that is substantively identical to the amendment to NYSE American Rule 8.600E, Supplementary Material .01(b)(5) proposed herein.⁷ Therefore, the Exchange believes it is appropriate to apply the 20% limitation to a fund's investment in non-agency, non-GSE and privately-issued mortgage-related and other ABS components of a portfolio in Supplementary Material .01(b)(5) to a fund's total assets. Non-agency ABS would otherwise satisfy all generic listing requirements of Rule 8.600E, Supplementary Material .01(b).

The Exchange believes the proposed amendments would provide issuers of Managed Fund Shares with additional investment choices for fund portfolios for issues permitted to list and trade on the Exchange pursuant to Rule 19b-4(e), which would enhance competition among market participants, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace.⁸

2. Statutory Basis

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

⁷ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 86017 (June 3, 2019), 84 FR 26711 (June 7, 2019) (SR-NYSEArca-2019-06) (Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1, to Amend Certain Generic Listing Standards for Managed Fund Shares Applicable to Holdings of Fixed Income Securities).

⁸ See note 5, *supra*.

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

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 mechanisms of, a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest and because it is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange has in place surveillance procedures that are adequate to properly monitor trading in series of Managed Fund Shares in all trading sessions and to deter and detect violations of Exchange rules and applicable federal securities laws. The Exchange notes that the Exchange or Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”), on behalf of the Exchange, or both, would communicate as needed regarding trading in Managed Fund Shares with other markets and other entities that are members of the Intermarket Surveillance Group, and the Exchange or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, or both, could obtain trading information regarding trading in Managed Fund Shares from such markets and other entities. In addition, the Exchange could obtain information regarding trading in Managed Fund Shares from markets and other entities that are members of ISG or with which the Exchange has in place a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement.

With respect to the proposed amendment to Supplementary Material .01(b)(5), the Exchange believes this amendment is appropriate because a fund’s investment in non-agency, non-GSE and privately-issued mortgage-related and other ABS may provide a fund with benefits associated with increased diversification, as such investments may be less correlated to interest rates than many other fixed income securities. As noted above, application of the 20% limitation to only the fixed income portion of a fund’s portfolio may impose a much lower percentage limit

on permitted holdings of non-agency ABS for funds that have a more diversified investment portfolio than for funds that hold principally or exclusively fixed income securities. The Exchange, therefore, believes application of the 20% limitation to a fund's entire portfolio would be more equitable for Managed Fund Shares issuers with different investment objectives and holdings.

The Exchange notes that the Commission has previously approved a proposed rule change by NYSE Arca, Inc. that is substantively identical to the amendment to NYSE American Rule 8.600E, Supplementary Material .01(b)(5) proposed herein.¹¹ Therefore, the Exchange believes it is appropriate to apply the 20% limitation to a fund's investment in non-agency, non-GSE and privately-issued mortgage-related and other ABS components of a portfolio in Supplementary Material .01(b)(5) to a fund's total assets. Non-agency ABS would otherwise satisfy all generic listing requirements of Rule 8.600E, Supplementary Material .01(b).

The proposed rule change is designed to perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest in that it will facilitate the listing and trading of additional types of Managed Fund Shares that will enhance competition among market participants, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace.¹²

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

In accordance with Section 6(b)(8) of the Act,¹³ the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change would not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed rule change will facilitate the listing and

¹¹ See note 7, *supra*.

¹² See note 5, *supra*.

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

trading of additional types of Managed Fund Shares that will enhance competition among market participants, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace.

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 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, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹⁴ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹⁵

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 action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its 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.

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-NYSEAMER-2019-24 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-NYSEAMER-2019-24. 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 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.

Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to

make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEAMER-2019-24 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.¹⁶

Jill M. Peterson
Assistant Secretary

¹⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).