

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-61921; File No. SR-NYSEAmex-2010-38)

April 15, 2010

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Amex LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Amending Rule 903 Commentary .06

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹, and Rule 19b-4² thereunder, notice is hereby given that on April 12, 2010, NYSE Amex LLC (the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Exchange filed the proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act,³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder,⁴ which renders the proposal effective upon filing with the Commission. 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 903 Commentary .06 to permit the concurrent listing of \$3.50 and \$4 strikes for classes that participate in both the \$0.50 Strike and \$1 Strike Programs. The text of the proposed rule change is attached as Exhibit 5 to the 19b-4 form. A copy of this filing is available on the Exchange’s Web

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

site at www.nyse.com, at the Exchange's principal office 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 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 Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The purpose of this filing is to amend Rule 903 Commentary .06 to permit the concurrent listing of \$3.50 and \$4 strikes for classes that participate in both the \$0.50 Strike and \$1 Strike Programs.

The Exchange recently implemented a rule change that permits strike price intervals of \$0.50 for options on stocks trading at or below \$3.00 ("\$0.50 Strike Program").⁵ As part of the filing to establish the \$0.50 Strike Program, the Exchange contemplated that a class may be selected to participate in both the \$0.50 Strike Program and the \$1 Strike Program.

Under the \$1 Strike Program, new series with \$1 intervals are not permitted to be listed within \$0.50 of an existing \$2.50 strike price in the same series, except that strike

⁵ See Exchange Act Release No. 60720 (September 25, 2009) 74 FR 51205 (October 5, 2009)

prices of \$2 and \$3 are permitted to be listed within \$0.50 of a \$2.50 strike price for classes also selected to participate in the \$0.50 Strike Program. Under NYSE Amex's existing rule, for classes selected to participate in both the \$0.50 Strike Program and the \$1 Strike Program, the Exchange may either: (a) list a \$3.50 strike but not list a \$4 strike; or (b) list a \$4 strike but not list a \$3.50 strike. For example, under the Exchange's current rules, if a \$3.50 strike for an option class in both the \$0.50 and \$1 Strike Programs was listed, the next highest permissible strike price would be \$5.00. Alternatively, if a \$4 strike was listed, the next lowest permissible strike price would be \$3.00. The intent of the \$0.50 Strike Program was to expand the ability of investors to hedge risks associated with stocks trading at or under \$3 and to provide finer intervals of \$0.50, beginning at \$1 up to \$3.50. As a result, the Exchange believes that the current filing is consistent with the purpose of the \$0.50 Strike Program and will permit the Exchange to fill in any existing gaps resulting from having to choose whether to list a \$3.50 or \$4 strike for options classes in both the \$0.50 and \$1 Strike Programs.

Therefore, the Exchange is submitting the current filing to permit the listing of concurrent \$3.50 and \$4 strikes for classes that are selected to participate in both the \$0.50 Strike Program and the \$1 Strike Program. To effect this change, the Exchange is proposing to add \$4 to the strike prices of \$2 and \$3 currently permitted if a class participates in both the \$0.50 Strike Program and the \$1 Strike Program.

The Exchange is also proposing to amend the current rule text to delete references to "\$2.50 strike prices" (and the example utilizing \$2.50 strike prices) and to replace those references with broader language, e.g., "existing strike prices."

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)⁶ of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”), in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5)⁷ in particular in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts, to remove impediments to and to perfect the mechanism for a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest by permitting the Exchange to list more granular strikes on options overlying lower priced securities, which the Exchange believes will provide investors with greater flexibility by allowing them to establish positions that are better tailored to meet their investment objectives.

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 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 change does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest, does not impose any significant burden on

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

competition, and, by its terms, does not become operative for 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)⁸ of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)⁹ thereunder. The Exchange provided the Commission with 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 the proposed rule change.

The Exchange has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay to permit the Exchange to list series available on other exchanges. The Commission finds that waiver of the operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because such waiver will enable the Exchange to compete with other exchanges whose rules permit concurrent listing of \$3.50 and \$4 strikes for classes similarly participating in both a \$0.50 strike program and a \$1 strike program. Therefore, the Commission designates the proposal operative upon filing.¹⁰

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

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁹ 17 C.F.R. 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁰ For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

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-NYSEAmex-2010-38 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 Number SR-NYSEAmex-2010-38. 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,¹¹ 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

¹¹ The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.sec.gov/>.

Web site 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 a.m. and 3 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; 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-NYSEAmex-2010-38 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.¹²

Florence E. Harmon
Deputy Secretary

¹² 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).