

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. 34-52429; File No. SR-BSE-2005-39)

September 14, 2005

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Boston Stock Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Relating to the Definition of Firm Customer Quote Size and Limitations on Sending of Multiple P/A Orders on the Boston Options Exchange

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on September 13, 2005, the Boston Stock Exchange, Inc. (“BSE” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the BSE. 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 is proposing to amend its rules governing the operation of the intermarket option linkage (“Linkage”) on the Boston Options Exchange (“BOX”) to conform with a proposed amendment<sup>3</sup> to the Plan for the Purpose of Creating and Operating an Intermarket Option Linkage (“Linkage Plan”).<sup>4</sup> The Exchange is proposing: (i) to amend the definition of “Firm

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<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 52401 (September 9, 2005) (File No. 4-429) (“Amendment No. 16”).

<sup>4</sup> On July 28, 2000, the Commission approved a national market system plan for the purpose of creating and operating an intermarket option market linkage proposed by the American Stock Exchange, LLC, Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated, and International Securities Exchange, Inc. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 43086 (July 28, 2000), 65 FR 48023 (August 4, 2000). Subsequently, upon separate requests by the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc., Pacific Exchange, Inc., and BSE, the Commission issued orders to permit these exchanges to participate in the Linkage Plan. See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 43573 (November 16, 2000), 65 FR 70850 (November 28,

Customer Quote Size” (“FCQS”)<sup>5</sup> to provide automatic executions for Principal Acting as Agent Orders (“P/A Orders”)<sup>6</sup> sent via Linkage up to the full size of a Participant’s disseminated quotation; and (ii) to eliminate a 15 second waiting period between the sending of P/A Orders.

The text of the proposed rule amendment is available on BSE’s Web site at <http://www.bostonstock.com>, at the BSE’s Office of the Secretary, 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 Exchange 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 Exchange 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 its rules governing Linkage in two areas: the definition of FCQS and limitations on sending multiple P/A Orders.

The Linkage Plan participants (“Participants”) provide automatic execution to P/A Orders up to the FCQS, if automatic execution is available. At the time the Participants adopted the

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2000), 43574 (November 16, 2000), 65 FR 70851 (November 28, 2000) and 49198 (February 5, 2004), 69 FR 7029 (February 12, 2004).

<sup>5</sup> See Section 2(11) of the Linkage Plan and Chapter XII, Section 1(g) of BOX’s Rules.

<sup>6</sup> See Section 2(16)(a) of the Linkage Plan and Chapter XII, Section 1(j)(i) of BOX’s Rules.

Linkage Plan, options quote sizes were not disseminated through the Options Price Reporting Authority and the floor-based Participants employed automatic execution systems that guaranteed automatic fills on orders under a certain contract size (which generally was a static number). As such, the FCQS was calculated based on the number of contracts the sending and receiving Participants guaranteed they would automatically execute. Now that all Participants disseminate dynamic quotes with size, the Participants believe that it is appropriate to calculate the FCQS based on the size of the disseminated quotation of the Participant receiving the P/A Order. Accordingly, the Participant Exchanges submitted Amendment No. 16 to the Linkage Plan and the Exchange proposes to amend the definition of FCQS to Chapter XII, Section 1(g) of BOX Rules. As such, upon implementation of the proposed rule change and Amendment No. 16, a Participant will provide incoming P/A Orders with executions up to the full size of a Participant's disseminated quotation.

The proposed rule change will eliminate a 15-second period Participants must wait before sending a second P/A Order. Specifically, Chapter XII, Section 2(c) of BOX's Rules governs the manner in which P/A Orders larger than the FCQS are handled. It provides that an initial P/A Order may be sent to a Participant for execution at the FCQS; if the same Participant continues to disseminate the same price 15 seconds after the execution of the initial P/A Order, the market maker can send a second P/A Order, subject to certain restrictions. The Exchange proposes to eliminate the 15-second wait period because the Participants now employ dynamic quotes with size, obviating the need for a manual quote refresh period for P/A Orders.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>7</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>8</sup> 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 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. Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change will help promote the Linkage Plan by providing greater automatic execution of Linkage orders.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change would 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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

## 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

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<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

the BSE consents, the Commission will:

- A. by order approve such 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 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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-BSE-2005-39 on the subject line.

##### Paper comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Station Place, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-9303.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BSE-2005-39. 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 Section Room.

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 publicly available. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-BSE-2005-39 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>9</sup>

Jonathan G. Katz  
Secretary

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<sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).