

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-52027; File No. SR-ISE-2005-30)

July 13, 2005

Self-Regulatory Organizations; International Securities Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 Thereto Relating to a One-Year Pilot Extension for the Price Improvement Mechanism

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on July 8, 2005, the International Securities Exchange, Inc. (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 ISE. On July 13, 2005, the ISE submitted Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change.³ The Exchange has designated the proposed rule change as “non-controversial” under Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁴ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder,⁵ 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.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ In Amendment No. 1, the Exchange made corrections to the proposal’s rule text. The effective date of the original proposed rule change is July 8, 2005, and the effective date of Amendment No. 1 is July 13, 2005. For purposes of calculating the 60-day period within which the Commission may summarily abrogate the proposed rule change under Section 19(b)(3)(C) of the Act, the Commission considers the period to commence on July 13, 2005, the date on which the ISE filed Amendment No. 1. See 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(C).

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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

The Exchange proposes to extend the pilot periods contained in paragraphs .03 and .05 of the Supplemental Material to ISE Rule 723. Below is the text of the proposed rule change, as amended. Proposed new language is italicized; proposed deletions are in [brackets].

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Rule 723. Price Improvement Mechanism for Crossing Transactions

(a) through (d) no change.

Supplementary Material to Rule 723

.01 through .02 no change.

.03 Initially, and for at least a Pilot Period expiring on July 18, [2005] 2006, there will be no minimum size requirements for orders to be eligible for the Price Improvement Mechanism.

During the Pilot Period, the Exchange will submit certain data, periodically as required by the Commission, to provide supporting evidence that, among other things, there is meaningful competition for all size orders within the Price Improvement Mechanism, that there is significant price improvement for all orders executed through the Price Improvement Mechanism, and there is an active and liquid market functioning on the Exchange outside of the Price Improvement Mechanism. Any data which is submitted to the Commission will be provided on a confidential basis.

.04 no change.

.05 Paragraphs (c)(5), (d)(5) and (d)(6) will be effective for a Pilot Period expiring on July 18, [2005] 2006. During the Pilot Period, the Exchange will submit certain data relating to the frequency with which the exposure period is terminated by unrelated orders. Any data which is submitted to the Commission will be provided on a confidential basis.

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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 ISE 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 pilot periods provided in paragraphs .03 and .05 of the Supplementary Material to ISE Rule 723 expire on July 18, 2005.⁶ Paragraph .03 provides that there is no minimum size requirement for orders to be eligible for the Price Improvement Mechanism. Paragraph .05 concerns the termination of the exposure period by unrelated orders. The Exchange proposes to extend these pilots for one year to give the Exchange and the Commission additional time to evaluate the effects of the provisions before requesting permanent approval of the rules.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change, as amended, is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,⁷ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁸ in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, remove

⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 50819 (December 8, 2004), 69 FR 75093 (December 15, 2004); and 51424 (March 23, 2005), 70 FR 16321 (March 30, 2005).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

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. Since the Price Improvement Mechanism has only been operating for a few months, the Exchange believes it is appropriate to extend the pilot periods to provide the Exchange and the Commission more data upon which to evaluate the rules.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change, as amended, 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

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

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

The Exchange asserts that the foregoing proposed rule change, as amended, has become effective upon filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder¹⁰ because it does not:

- (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest;
- (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and
- (iii) become operative for 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

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

public interest; provided that the Exchange has given the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the filing date of the proposal.¹¹

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) normally may not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of filing.¹² However, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii)¹³ permits the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Exchange has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day pre-operative period, which would make the rule change operative immediately. The Commission believes that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, because it will allow the pilot periods to continue without interruption until July 18, 2006.¹⁴ For this reason, the Commission designates that the proposal become operative immediately.

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.

¹¹ As required under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), the Exchange provided the Commission with notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposal.

¹² 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

¹³ Id.

¹⁴ 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, as amended, 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-ISE-2005-30 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-ISE-2005-30. 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. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the ISE. 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-ISE-2005-30 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.¹⁵

Jill M. Peterson
Assistant Secretary

¹⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).