SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34-57204; File No. SR-NYSE-2008-05)

January 25, 2008

Self-Regulatory Organizations; New York Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change to Eliminate the One-Year Minimum Life Requirement from the Listing Standards for "Other Securities"

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 January 15, 2008, the New York Stock Exchange LLC ("NYSE" or "Exchange") 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 substantially by NYSE. This order provides notice of the proposed rule change and approves the proposed rule change on an accelerated basis.

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

The Exchange proposes to amend Section 703.19 of the Exchange's Listed Company Manual ("Manual"), which sets forth the initial listing standards for "Other Securities," to eliminate the requirement that securities listed thereunder must have a minimum life of one year. The text of the proposal is available at NYSE, the Commission's Public Reference Room, and www.nyse.com.

II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item III below, and the most significant aspects of such statements are set forth in Sections A, B, and C below.

A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend Section 703.19 of the Manual, which sets forth the Exchange's initial listing standards for "Other Securities," to eliminate the requirement that securities listed thereunder must have a minimum life of one year. The Exchange seeks to make this change to harmonize Section 703.19 of the Manual with the comparable rules of The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("NASDAQ"), the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex"), and NYSE Arca Equities, Inc. ("NYSE Arca Equities"), none of which contain a minimum life requirement.³

2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6 of the Act,⁴ in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5),⁵ in particular, in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. Specifically,

See NASDAQ Rule 4420(f), Section 107(A) of the Amex <u>Company Guide</u>, and NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(1), respectively.

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f.

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change seeks to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market by conforming NYSE's listing rules to those of its competitors, enabling the Exchange to compete for listings of securities that can currently be listed under the rules of the Exchange's competitors.

B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

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

The Exchange states that written comments on the proposed rule change were neither solicited nor received.

III. 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 (www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an e-mail to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number SR-NYSE-2008-05 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

 Send paper comments in triplicate to Nancy M. Morris, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSE-2008-05. 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 (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, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. 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-NYSE-2008-05 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

IV. <u>Commission's Findings and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of the Proposed Rule</u> Change

After careful consideration, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange.⁶ In particular, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁷ which requires that the rules of an exchange be designed, among other things, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to

In approving this rule change, the Commission notes that it has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. <u>See</u> 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

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. The Commission notes that comparable rules of other national securities exchanges currently do not require such "Other Securities" to have a minimum life of one year.⁸

The Commission finds good cause for approving this proposal before the 30th day after the publication of notice thereof in the <u>Federal Register</u>. As noted above, the proposal seeks to harmonize the Exchange's initial listing standards for "Other Securities" with those of other national securities exchanges. The initial listing standards for "Other Securities" of such other national securities exchanges do not appear to present any new or significant regulatory concerns. Therefore, the Commission believes that accelerating approval of this proposal would allow the Exchange to trade such "Other Securities" without undue delay and should generate additional competition in the market for such products.

V. Conclusion

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,9 that the

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See supra note 3.

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

proposed rule change (SR-NYSE-2008-05) be, and it hereby is, approved on an accelerated basis.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. 10

Florence E. Harmon Deputy Secretary

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¹⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).