

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-59332; File No. SR-NYSEArca-2008-136)

January 30, 2009

Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Arca, Inc.; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change Amending NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(6) Relating to the Initial Listing Standards for Equity Index-Linked Securities, Commodity-Linked Securities, Currency-Linked Securities, Fixed Income Index-Linked Securities, Futures-Linked Securities and Multifactor Index-Linked Securities

I. Introduction

On December 10, 2008, NYSE Arca, Inc. (“NYSE Arca” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² a proposed rule change to amend NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(6), which sets forth listing standards for Equity Index-Linked Securities, Commodity-Linked Securities, Currency-Linked Securities, Fixed Income Index-Linked Securities, Futures-Linked Securities and Multifactor Index-Linked Securities (“Index-Linked Securities”). The proposed rule change was published in the Federal Register on December 31, 2008.³ The Commission received no comments on the proposal. This order approves the proposed rule change.

II. Description of the Proposal

The Exchange proposes to amend one of the requirements of NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(6), which sets forth the listing standards for Index-Linked Securities. Rule 5.2(j)(6) permits the Exchange to consider for listing and trading Index-Linked Securities pursuant to Rule 19b-4(e) under the Act, provided that, among other things, in no event will a loss or

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59146 (December 22, 2008), 73 FR 80504.

negative payment at maturity be accelerated by a multiple that exceeds twice the performance of an underlying Reference Asset. The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 5.2(j)(6)(A)(d) to provide that in no event will a loss or negative payment at maturity be accelerated by a multiple that exceeds three times the performance of an underlying Reference Asset. The Exchange proposes this change to allow it to list and trade Index-Linked Securities that employ investment strategies similar or analogous to certain exchange-traded funds which list and trade on the Exchange pursuant to NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(3).⁴ Currently, exchange-traded funds are able to seek daily investment results, before fees and expenses, that correspond to three times the inverse or opposite of the daily performance (-300%) of the underlying indexes.

For Index-Linked Securities that that are structured to allow a loss or negative payment at maturity that may accelerated by a multiple that exceeds three times the performance of an underlying Reference Asset, the Exchange's proposal would continue to require specific Commission approval pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act.⁵ In particular, NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(6) would expressly prohibit such Index-Linked Securities from being approved by the Exchange for listing and trading pursuant to Rule 19b-4(e) under the Act.⁶

III. Discussion and Commission's Findings

After careful review, 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

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 58825 (October 21, 2008), 73 FR 63756 (October 27, 2008) (SR-NYSEArca-2008-89).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2). See e-mail dated January 29, 2009 from Tim Malinowski, Director, NYSE Euronext to Mitra Mehr, Special Counsel, Division of Trading and Markets, Commission ("NYSE Arca e-mail").

⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(e). See NYSE Arca e-mail.

securities exchange, in particular, with Section 6(b) of the Act⁷ and the rules and regulations thereunder. Specifically, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁸ which requires, among other things, that the Exchange's rules be designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, 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.⁹

The Commission believes that the proposal reasonably balances the removal of impediments to a free and open market with the protection of investors and the public interest, two principles set forth in Section 6(b)(5) of the Act.¹⁰ The Commission notes that it has previously approved a proposed rule change that would permit the Exchange to list and trade, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(e) under the Act, exchange-traded funds that seek daily investment results, before fees and expenses, that correspond to three times the inverse or opposite of the daily performance (-300%) of the underlying indexes.¹¹ With respect to the listing and trading of Index-Linked Securities that would allow a loss or negative payment at maturity that is accelerated by a multiple that exceeds three times the performance of an underlying Reference Asset, the Commission further notes that the Exchange would be required to obtain prior Commission approval pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act.¹²

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁹ In approving the proposed rule change the Commission has considered the propose rule's impact on efficiency, competition and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹¹ See supra note 4.

¹² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

The Commission also notes that Index-Linked Securities must comply with all of the applicable provisions under NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(6), as proposed to be amended, and all other requirements applicable to Index-Linked Securities including, without limitation, requirements relating to initial and continued listing standards, the dissemination of index value and related information, rules and policies governing the trading of equity securities, trading hours, trading halts, surveillance, firewalls, and Information Bulletins to ETP Holders, as set forth in prior Commission orders approving the generic listing rules applicable to the listing and trading of Index-Linked Securities.

The Commission also notes that NYSE Arca Equities Rule 9.2(a), which sets forth the Exchange's suitability requirements, would apply to the trading of Index-Linked Securities. Specifically, before recommending a transaction to a non-institutional customer in such securities, ETP Holders must have reasonable grounds to believe that the recommendation is suitable for the customer, based on facts disclosed by the customer after reasonable inquiry concerning the customer's investment objectives, financial situation, needs, and any other information that such ETP Holder believes would be useful to make a recommendation. ETP Holders must also have a reasonable basis to believe that the customer can evaluate the special characteristics, and is able to bear the financial risks, of investments in Index-Linked Securities. An Information Bulletin would inform ETP Holders of the suitability requirements of NYSE Arca Equities Rule 9.2(a) prior to the commencement of trading in such securities.

In sum, the Commission believes that the Exchange's amendment to NYSE Arca Equities Rule 5.2(j)(6) relating to the listing and trading of Index-Linked Securities should fulfill the intended objective of Rule 19b-4(e) under the Act by allowing such derivative securities products to be listed and traded without separate Commission approval. The Commission

believes that the proposed rule change should facilitate the listing and trading of additional types of Index-Linked Securities and reduce the time frame for bringing these securities to market.

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act.¹³

IV. Conclusion

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹⁴ that the proposed rule change (SR-NYSEArca-2008-136) be, and it hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁵

Florence E. Harmon
Deputy Secretary

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).