

associated persons of broker-dealers. In fact, the Phlx rule change may benefit a member firm because its off-floor traders will be comprehensively trained and tested on fundamental securities matters.

Finally, the Commission finds that the proposal will bring the Exchange's qualification requirements in line with those of other securities exchanges by adding testing requirements for off-floor traders and other associated persons of members who are not covered by the current qualification requirements for floor traders. The Series 7 Exam was adopted as an industry-wide qualification examination in 1974. In addition to mandating the exam for general securities representatives, other securities exchanges currently require off-floor traders to pass the Series 7 Exam.⁴⁷ The Commission notes that other SROs such as the NYSE, Amex, and CHX already require securities traders who do not conduct a public business to pass the Series 7 Exam.⁴⁸ For example, NYSE Rule 345 requires "securities traders" engaged in the purchase or sale of securities for the account of their employer and who do not transact business with the public to pass the Series 7 Exam. Amex Rule 341 parallels this rule. In addition, Interpretation and Policy .02 to CHX Rule 3 establishes a Series 7 examination requirement for associated persons who execute, make trading decisions, or otherwise engage in proprietary or agency trading off the floor of the exchange. The examination requirement for off-floor traders at the Phlx will enhance the consistency of exam requirements across the exchanges and prevent off-floor traders from associating with members of the Phlx solely to avoid the examination requirements of other SROs.

The Commission also finds good cause for approving proposed Amendment No. 3 prior to the thirtieth day after the date of publication of notice of filing in the **Federal Register**. Amendment No. 3 conforms the proposal to similar rules of other self regulatory organizations.⁴⁹ For these reasons, the Commission finds good

cause for accelerating approval of the proposed rule change, as amended.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning Amendment No. 3, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. 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 the filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal offices of the Phlx. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-Phlx-99-07 and should be submitted by September 20, 1999.

V. Conclusion

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act, and in particular, with Sections 6(b)(5) and 6(c)(3) (A) and (B).⁵⁰

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁵¹ that the proposal, SR-Phlx-99-07, as amended, be and hereby is approved.⁵²

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁵³

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-22426 Filed 8-27-99; 8:45 am]

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Modifications to the Disability Determination Procedures; Disability Claims Process Redesign Prototype

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

⁵⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5), 15 U.S.C. 78f(c)(3) (A) and (B).

⁵¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁵² In approving the proposal, the Commission has considered the rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁵³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

ACTION: Notice of a prototype involving modifications to the disability determination procedures.

SUMMARY: The Social Security Administration (SSA) is announcing a prototype involving a combination of modifications to the disability determination process. Before proceeding to national implementation, we expect that this prototype will provide a body of information about what impact these modifications may have on agency operations, notice and other procedures, as well as the resulting quality and timeliness of decisions for the public.

DATES: Selection of cases to be included in the prototype will begin on or about October 1, 1999 and is expected to be concluded on or about December 31, 2001. If the Agency decides to continue the prototype beyond this date, another notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Harry Pippin, Social Security Administration, Office of Disability, Disability Process Redesign Staff, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland, 21235-6401, 410-965-9203.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Current rules codified at 20 CFR 404.906 and 416.1406 authorize us to test modifications to the disability determination procedures individually or in any combination. Under this authority, several tests have been conducted. We are now announcing a prototype that incorporates multiple modifications to the disability determination procedures employed by State Disability Determination Services (DDS) which have been shown to be effective in earlier tests. Specifically, the prototype incorporates a series of changes that improve the initial disability determination process by: providing greater decisional authority to the disability examiner and more effective use of the expertise of the medical consultant; ensuring appropriate development and explanation of key issues; increasing opportunities for claimant interaction with the decision maker before a determination is made; and simplifying the appeals process by eliminating the reconsideration step. Focusing initially on 10 states enables us to further refine the process and learn more about potential operational impacts before moving to national implementation. This strategy allows us to put the complete process together and ensure that the changes meet our goal of improved service to disability applicants.

⁴⁷ See NYSE Rule 345; Amex Rule 341; NASD Conduct Rule 1030; CHX Article VI, Rule 3. On June 1, 1999, the Pacific Exchange, Inc. ("PCX") filed a similar proposed rule change with the Commission to require that qualified off-floor traders for which the PCX is the designated examining authority successfully complete the Series 7 Exam. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 41555 (June 24, 1999), 64 FR 36063 (July 2, 1999) (SR-PCX-99-16).

⁴⁸ *Id.*

⁴⁹ *Id.*

Use of an Adjudication Officer authorized under 20 CFR 404.906 and 416.1406, will not be included in the prototype. However, along with the prototype, we will incorporate several initiatives to improve the hearings process, including administrative efficiencies designed to streamline case processing; structural changes in the management organization of hearings offices; improvements in automation and data collection; and implementation of a "national workflow model" that combines pre-hearing activities, a standardized pre-hearing conference, and processing-time benchmarks for various tasks.

The prototype will be conducted in 10 states. For DDS branches listed here under Group I, all Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability applicants will participate in the Prototype—with the exception of Social Security disability claims filed for purposes of Medicare entitlement only. In States listed under Group II, only those applicants whose disability claims are processed by the listed branch of the State DDS will participate. On a national basis, approximately 20 percent of applicants for disability benefits will participate in the prototype.

Group I

State of Alabama

Department of Education, Disability Determination Services, 2545 Rocky Ridge Lane, Birmingham, AL 35216

Department of Education, Disability Determination Services, 2000 Old Bayfront Drive, Mobile, AL 36652

State of Alaska

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Disability Determination Unit, 619 East Ship Creek Avenue, Suite 305, Anchorage, AK 99501

State of Colorado

Department of Human Services, Division of Disability Determination, 2530 South Parker Road, Suite 500, Aurora, CO 80014-1641

State of Louisiana

Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, Disability Determination Services, 445 North 12th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, Disability Determination Services, 5905 Florida Blvd, Suite 3, Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, Disability Determination Services, 2920 Knight Street, Suite 232, Shreveport, LA 71105

Department of Social Services, Disability Determination Services, Suite 301, 3510 North Causeway Blvd., Metairie, LA 70002

State of Michigan

Department of Social Services, Disability Determination Services, 608 W Allegan Street, Third Floor, Lansing, MI 48933

Department of Social Services, Disability Determination Services, MI Plaza Building, Tenth Floor, 1200 Sixth Street, Detroit, MI 48226

Department of Social Services, Disability Determination Services, 315 E Front Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

Department of Social Services, Disability Determination Services, 151 South Rose Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007-4715

State of Missouri

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Dept of Elementary & Secondary Education, Section of Disability Determinations, 3024 West Truman Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65109-0525

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Dept of Elementary & Secondary Education, Section of Disability Determinations, 1500 B. Southridge Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Dept of Elementary & Secondary Education, Section of Disability Determinations, 1845 Borman Court, Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63146

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Dept of Elementary & Secondary Education, Section of Disability Determinations, 4040 Seven Hills Drive, Florissant, MO 63033

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Dept of Elementary & Secondary Education, Section of Disability Determinations, 8500 East Bannister Road, Kansas City, MO 64134

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Dept of Elementary & Secondary Education, Section of Disability Determinations, 3014 Blattner Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Dept of Elementary & Secondary Education, Section of Disability Determinations, 2530 I. South Campbell, Springfield, MO 65807

State of New Hampshire

Division of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation, Disability Determination Services, State Dept of Education Building JB, 78 Regional Drive, Concord, NH 033301

State of Pennsylvania

Bureau of Disability Determination,

Room 200-Central Operations, 1171 South Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17104-2594

Bureau of Disability Determination, 264 Highland Park Blvd., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

Bureau of Disability Determination, 351 Harvey Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15605

Group II

State of California

Department of Social Services, Disability and Adult Programs Division, 3435 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90010

State of New York

Division of Disability Determinations, 99 Washington Avenue, Room 1239, Albany, NY 12260

Division of Disability Determinations, 22 Cortlandt Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10007-3107

Dated: August 24, 1999.

Sue C. Davis,

Director, Disability Process Redesign Team.
[FR Doc. 99-22421 Filed 8-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4190-29-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice #3100]

Advisory Committee on Labor Diplomacy; Notice of Meeting

The Advisory Committee on Labor Diplomacy (ACL D) will hold its inaugural meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on September 17, 1999, in Room 1107, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20520. Committee Chairman Thomas Donahue, former President of the AFL-CIO, will chair the meeting.

The ACL D is comprised of prominent persons with expertise in the area of international labor policy and labor diplomacy. The ACL D will advise the Secretary of State and the President on the resources and policies necessary to implement labor diplomacy programs efficiently, effectively and in a manner that ensures U.S. leadership before the international community in promoting the objectives and ideals of U.S. labor policies now and in the 21st century. The ACL D will make recommendations on how to strengthen the Department of State's ability to respond to the many challenges facing the United States and the federal government in international labor matters. These challenges include the protection of worker rights, the elimination of exploitative child labor, and the prevention of abusive working conditions.