

five consecutive business days preceding the date on which the Exchange submits a certificate to the Options Clearing Corporation (“OCC”) for listing and trading. The Proposal would shorten the current “look back” period of five consecutive business days to three consecutive business days. The Exchange does not propose to amend any other criteria in Phlx Rule 1009 and the accompanying Commentary to list an option on the Exchange.

III. Discussion and Commission’s Findings

After careful review of the proposed rule change, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder that are applicable to a national securities exchange.⁷ Specifically, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,⁸ which requires that the rules of a national securities exchange be designed, among other things, 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 to protect investors and the public interest; and are not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

As noted above, although the Exchange proposes to shorten the look back period for listing options on the Exchange found in Phlx Rule 1009, Commentary .01(4)(i) from five consecutive business days⁹ to three consecutive business days, it does not propose to change any other listing provision found in Phlx Rule 1009 and the accompanying Commentary, including the requirement of Phlx Rule 1009, Commentary .01(2) that the Exchange verify the number of

shareholders of a security underlying an option. The Exchange states that the proposed look back period of three consecutive business days is intended to correspond to the securities industry’s recent shortening of the settlement period from T+3 to the current T+2.¹⁰ The Exchange represents that stock trades would clear within T+2 of their trade date (*i.e.*, within three consecutive business days) and therefore the number of shareholders could be verified within three consecutive business days.¹¹ This would facilitate options trading within four business days of an IPO (three consecutive business days plus the day the listing certificate is submitted to OCC).

The Exchange also represents that its surveillance technologies and procedures concerning manipulation provide adequate prevention or detection of rule or securities law violations in relation to the proposed shortened time frame, and specifically, that its existing trading surveillances are adequate to monitor the trading in the underlying security and subsequent trading of options.¹² The Commission notes the limited nature of the proposal to shorten the look back period of Phlx Rule 1009, Commentary .01(4)(i) from the current five consecutive business days to the proposed three consecutive business days. In addition, the Exchange represents that its surveillance program is comprehensive and adequate to monitor for manipulation of the underlying security and overlying option. The Commission also notes that it has not received any comments on the proposal, aside from the Exchange Letter.

The Commission finds that the proposal, coupled with the recent move to T+2 settlement, would facilitate transactions in securities, while providing customers safeguards comparable to those provided under the current five consecutive business day look back period. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act, specifically the requirements that the rules of an

Exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered that, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹³ that the proposed rule change (SR-Phlx-2017-75), be and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁴

Eduardo A. Aleman,
Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270-104, OMB Control No. 3235-0119]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-2736

Extension:

Rule 12g3-2

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 12g3-2 (17 CFR 240.12g3-2) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) provides an exemption from Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)) for foreign private issuers. Rule 12g3-2 is designed to provide investors in foreign securities with information about such securities and the foreign issuer. The information filed under Rule 12g3-2 must be filed with the Commission and is publicly available. We estimate that it takes 8.95 hours per response to prepare and is filed by approximately 1,386 respondents. Each respondent files an estimated 12 times submissions pursuant to Rule 12g3-2 per year for a total of 16,632 respondents. We estimate that 25% of 8.95 hours per response (2.237 hours per response) to provide the information required under Rule

⁷ In approving this rule change, the Commission has considered the rule’s impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁹ See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 47190 (January 15, 2003), 68 FR 3072 (January 22, 2003) (SR-CBOE-2002-62) (Order approving CBOE’s proposal to, among other things, shorten the look back period from the majority of business days during the preceding three calendar months to the current five consecutive business days); 47794 (May 5, 2003), 68 FR 25076 (May 9, 2003) (SR-Phlx-2003-27) (Notice and immediate effectiveness of the Exchange’s filing adopting the same changes to its options listing standards).

¹⁰ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 80295 (March 22, 2017), 82 FR 15564 (March 29, 2017) (Securities Transaction Settlement Cycle) (File No. S7-22-16).

¹¹ In addition to confirming through large clearing agencies such as the Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation, the Exchange also represents that it can verify the shareholder count with various brokerage firms that have a large retail customer clientele, and that it has confirmed with some of these brokerage firms who provide shareholder numbers to the Exchange that they are able to provide these numbers within T+2 after an IPO.

¹² See Notice, *supra* note 3 at 47255-256; Exchange Letter, *supra* note 4 at 2-3.

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

12g3–2 for a total annual reporting burden of 37,206 hours (2.237 hours per response $\times$ 16,632 responses).

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether this proposed collection of information is necessary for the performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden imposed by the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Please direct your written comment to Pamela Dyson, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: January 9, 2018.

Eduardo A. Aleman,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018–00502 Filed 1–12–18; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270–270, OMB Control No. 3235–0292]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–2736.

Extension:
Form F–6.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for approval.

Form F–6 (17 CFR 239.36) is a form used by foreign companies to register

the offer and sale of American Depositary Receipts (ADRs) under the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a *et seq.*). Form F–6 requires disclosure of information regarding the terms of the depository bank, fees charged, and a description of the ADRs. No special information regarding the foreign company is required to be prepared or disclosed, although the foreign company must be one which periodically furnishes information to the Commission. The information is needed to ensure that investors in ADRs have full disclosure of information concerning the deposit agreement and the foreign company. Form F–6 takes approximately 1.35 hour per response to prepare and is filed by 953 respondents annually. We estimate that 25% of the 1.35 hour per response (0.338 hours) is prepared by the filer for a total annual reporting burden of 322 hours (0.338 hours per response $\times$ 953 responses).

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden imposed by the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Please direct your written comments to Pamela Dyson, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549; or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: January 8, 2018.

Eduardo A. Aleman,
Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270–236, OMB Control No. 3235–0222]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–2736

Extension:

Rule 17f–1

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) is soliciting comments on the collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 17f–1 (17 CFR 270.17f–1) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “Act”) (15 U.S.C. 80a) is entitled: “Custody of Securities with Members of National Securities Exchanges.” Rule 17f–1 provides that any registered management investment company (“fund”) that wishes to place its assets in the custody of a national securities exchange member may do so only under a written contract that must be ratified initially and approved annually by a majority of the fund's board of directors. The written contract also must contain certain specified provisions. In addition, the rule requires an independent public accountant to examine the fund's assets in the custody of the exchange member at least three times during the fund's fiscal year. The rule requires the written contract and the certificate of each examination to be transmitted to the Commission. The purpose of the rule is to ensure the safekeeping of fund assets.

Commission staff estimates that each fund makes 1 response and spends an average of 3.5 hours annually in complying with the rule's requirements. Commission staff estimates that on an annual basis it takes: (i) 0.5 hours for the board of directors¹ to review and ratify the custodial contracts; and (ii) 3 hours for the fund's controller to assist the fund's independent public auditors in verifying the fund's assets.

¹ Estimates of the number of hours are based on conversations with representatives of mutual funds that comply with the rule. The actual number of hours may vary significantly depending on individual fund assets. The hour burden for rule 17f–1 does not include preparing the custody contract because that would be part of customary and usual business practice.