

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁷

Nancy M. Morris,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E6-257 Filed 1-12-06; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-53078; File No. SR-Phlx-2005-88]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to the Elimination of the 500 Contract Cap on Payment for Order Flow Fees

January 9, 2006.

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 December 23, 2005, the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Phlx" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Phlx has designated this proposal as one changing a fee imposed by the Phlx under Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder,⁴ 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.

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

The Phlx proposes to eliminate the 500-contract cap per individual cleared side of a transaction which is currently imposed in connection with the Exchange's equity options payment for order flow program.⁵ The Exchange states that the elimination of the 500-contract cap would be scheduled to become effective for trades settling on or after January 2, 2006.

Below is the text of the proposed rule change. Proposed deletions are in [brackets].

* * * * *

Summary of Equity Option Charges (p. 3/6)

For any top 120 option listed after February 1, 2004 and for any top 120 option acquired by a new specialist unit ** within the first 60-days of operations, the following thresholds will apply, with a cap of \$10,000 for the first 4 full months of trading per month per option provided that the total monthly market share effected on the Phlx in that top 120 Option is equal to or greater than 50% of the volume threshold in effect:

First full month of trading: 0% national market share.

Second full month of trading: 3% national market share.

Third full month of trading: 6% national market share.

Fourth full month of trading: 9% national market share.

Fifth full month of trading (and thereafter): 12% national market share.

** A new specialist unit is one that is approved to operate as a specialist unit by the Options Allocation, Evaluation, and Securities Committee on or after February 1, 2004 and is a specialist unit that is not currently affiliated with an existing options specialist unit as reported on the member organization's Form BD, which refers to direct and indirect owners, or as reported in connection with any other financial arrangement, such as is required by Exchange Rule 783.

Real-Time Risk Management Fee

\$.0025 per contract for firms/members receiving information on a real-time basis.

Equity Option Payment for Order Flow Fees *

(1) For trades resulting from either Directed or non-Directed Orders that are delivered electronically and executed on the Exchange: Assessed on ROTs, specialists and Directed ROTs on those trades when the specialist unit or Directed ROT elects to participate in the payment for order flow program.***

(2) No payment for order flow fees will be assessed on trades that are not delivered electronically.

QQQQ (NASDAQ-100 Index Tracking StockSM)—\$.75 per contract.
Remaining Equity Options, except FXI Options—\$.60 per contract.

* Assessed on transactions resulting from customer orders[, subject to a 500-contract cap, per individual cleared side of transaction]. This proposal will be in effect for trades settling on or after October 1, 2005 and will remain in effect as a pilot program that is scheduled to expire on May 27, 2006.

*** Any excess payment for order flow funds billed but not utilized by the specialist

or Directed ROT will be carried forward unless the Directed ROT or specialist elects to have those funds rebated to the applicable ROT, Directed ROT or specialist on a pro rata basis, reflected as a credit on the monthly invoices.

See Appendix A for additional fees.

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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 Phlx 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 Phlx 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

According to the Phlx, currently, the following payment for order flow rates are in effect at the Exchange: (1) Equity options other than QQQQ⁶ and FXI Options are assessed \$.60 per contract; (2) options on QQQQ are assessed \$.75 per contract; and (3) no payment for order flow fees are assessed on FXI Options. Trades resulting from either Directed or non-Directed Orders that are delivered electronically over AUTOM and executed on the Exchange are assessed a payment for order flow fee, while non-electronically-delivered orders (*i.e.*, represented by a floor broker) are not assessed a payment for order flow fee.⁷ The Exchange also imposes a 500-contract cap per individual cleared side of a transaction.

At this time, the Exchange proposes to eliminate the 500-contract cap per

⁶ The Nasdaq-100®, Nasdaq-100 Index®, Nasdaq®, The Nasdaq Stock Market®, Nasdaq-100 SharesSM, Nasdaq-100 TrustSM, Nasdaq-100 Index Tracking StockSM, and QQQSM are trademarks or service marks of The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. ("Nasdaq") and have been licensed for use for certain purposes by the Phlx pursuant to a License Agreement with Nasdaq. The Nasdaq-100 Index® ("Index") is determined, composed, and calculated by Nasdaq without regard to the Licensee, the Nasdaq-100 TrustSM, or the beneficial owners of Nasdaq-100 SharesSM. The Exchange states that Nasdaq has complete control and sole discretion in determining, comprising, or calculating the Index or in modifying in any way its method for determining, comprising, or calculating the Index in the future.

⁷ The Phlx states that electronically-delivered orders do not include orders delivered through the Floor Broker Management System pursuant to Exchange Rule 1063.

¹⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 52568 (October 6, 2005), 70 FR 60120 (October 14, 2005) (SR-Phlx-2005-58).

individual cleared side of a transaction. The Phlx states that the purpose of this proposal is to remain competitive with other options payment for order flow programs in place at other exchanges that do not cap payment for order flow fees collected on a per order or trade basis.⁸ The Exchange represents that no other changes to the Exchange's payment for order flow program are being proposed at this time.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal to amend its schedule of fees is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act⁹ in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) of the Act¹⁰ in particular, in that it is an equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among the Phlx's members.

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

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. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were either solicited or received.

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

The foregoing proposed rule change has been designated as a fee change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act¹¹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2)¹² thereunder, because it establishes or changes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the Exchange. Accordingly, the proposal will take effect upon filing with the Commission. At any time within 60 days of the filing of such 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.

⁸ See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 52024 (July 13, 2005), 70 FR 41806 (July 20, 2005) (SR-PCX-2005-82). Telephone conversation between Cynthia K. Hoekstra, Director, Exchange, and Michou Nguyen, Attorney, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, on January 9, 2006.

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

¹² 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

IV. 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 (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-Phlx-2005-88 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 20549-9303.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-Phlx-2005-88. 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 Phlx. 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-Phlx-2005-88 and should be submitted on or before February 3, 2006.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹³

Nancy M. Morris,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 5272]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Degas, Sickert, and Toulouse-Lautrec: London and Paris"

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, Delegation of Authority No. 236 of October 19, 1999, as amended, and Delegation of Authority No. 257 of April 15, 2003 [68 FR 19875], I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibition "Degas, Sickert, and Toulouse-Lautrec: London and Paris, 1870-1910", imported from abroad for temporary exhibition within the United States, are of cultural significance. The objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with the foreign owners or custodians. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at The Phillips Collection, from on or about February 18, 2006, until on or about May 14, 2006, and at possible additional venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of the exhibit objects, contact Paul Manning, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202/453-8052). The address is U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th Street, SW., Room 700, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: January 9, 2006.

C. Miller Crouch,
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

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¹³ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).