

AUTO-X orders were executed against a "shadow account" for which the specialist was ultimately responsible. The execution was immediately reported back to the sending firm and the specialist was then required to manually input the contra-side interest representing the booked order that became due as a result of the AUTO-X trade.

At this time, the Phlx proposes to extend the pilot program, a system enhancement to the electronic book that matches incoming AUTO-X orders with booked orders, for an additional six months. The matching ability allows the specialist to match two participants directly, without the specialist participating in the trade, by dropping the order to manual status. The match is not automatic, as the specialist must ensure that crowd participation under current parity/priority rules is not due before executing the trade; thus, the specialist must "select" the orders to execute the trade. Since the AUTO-X order drops to manual status (meaning it is not automatically executed), the sending firm will only receive an execution report after the specialist selects and executes the trade.

The enhancement implemented through the current pilot program affords specialists relief from the manual burden of inserting trade participant and clearing information by writing an order ticket for the booked order. Without the X-Station itself, the booked order appeared on an actual order ticket, which the specialist submitted for key punch entry. Thus, implementing the X-Station without the matching feature is more burdensome than the process required without the existence of the X-Station because the X-Station requires more ticket-writing. The enhancement has reduced the amount of paper processed on the options floor, which in turn has reduced handling and processing time, including the likelihood of errors, thereby facilitating more prompt and accurate trade reporting.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) <sup>5</sup> of the Act, in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5), <sup>6</sup> in particular, in that it is designed 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, as well as to protect investors and the public interest by enhancing efficiency through automation in the market.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any inappropriate burden on competition.

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

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received written comments on the proposed rule change.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act <sup>7</sup> and subparagraph (e)(5) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder. <sup>8</sup> The proposal effects a change in an existing order-entry or trading system of a self-regulatory organization that (i) does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) does not have the effect of limiting the access to or availability of the system. <sup>9</sup>

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the 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.

## **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. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. 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 will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Phlx. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-PHLX-98-41 and should be submitted by November 30, 1998.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority. <sup>10</sup>

**Jonathan G. Katz,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-29974 Filed 11-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

## **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

### **Bureau of Consular Affairs**

[Public Notice 2920]

### **Extension of Passport Validity**

In accordance with the Immigration and Nationality Act, an alien who makes an application, either for a visa or for admission into the United States, is required to possess a passport that: (1) Is valid for a minimum of six months beyond the date of the expiration of the initial period of the alien's admission into the United States or contemplated initial period of stay and, (2) authorizes the alien to return to the place from which he or she came, or to proceed to and enter some other country during such period. Because of the foregoing requirement, certain competent authorities have agreed that their passports will be recognized as valid for the return of the bearer for a period of six months beyond the expiration date specified in the passport, thereby effectively extending the validity period of the foreign passport an additional six months beyond its expiration date.

This public notice adds Slovenia to the list of countries that have concluded passport-extension agreements with the Government of the United States. In addition, the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States have reached such an agreement with respect to passports issued by their respective authorities. The updated list of competent authorities is set forth below:

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(e)(5).

<sup>9</sup> In reviewing this rule, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

<sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

**Table of Foreign Passports Recognized for Extended Validity**

ALGERIA  
 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
 ARGENTINA  
 AUSTRALIA  
 AUSTRIA  
 BAHAMAS, THE  
 BANGLADESH  
 BARBADOS  
 BELGIUM  
 BRAZIL  
 CANADA  
 CHILE  
 COLOMBIA  
 COSTA RICA  
 COTE D'IVOIRE  
 CUBA  
 CYPRUS  
 CZECH REPUBLIC  
 DENMARK  
 DOMINICA  
 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
 ECUADOR  
 EGYPT  
 EL SALVADOR  
 ETHIOPIA  
 FINLAND  
 FRANCE  
 GERMANY  
 GREECE  
 GRENADA  
 GUINEA  
 HONG KONG (Certificates of identity & passports)  
 HUNGARY  
 ICELAND  
 INDIA  
 IRELAND  
 ISRAEL  
 ITALY  
 JAMAICA  
 JAPAN  
 JORDAN  
 KOREA  
 KUWAIT  
 LAOS  
 LEBANON  
 LIECHTENSTEIN  
 LUXEMBOURG  
 MADAGASCAR  
 MALAYSIA  
 MALTA  
 MAURITIUS  
 MEXICO  
 MONACO  
 NETHERLANDS  
 NEW ZEALAND  
 NICARAGUA (Diplomatic & official only)  
 NIGERIA  
 NORWAY  
 OMAN  
 PAKISTAN  
 PANAMA  
 PARAGUAY  
 PERU  
 PHILIPPINES  
 POLAND  
 PORTUGAL  
 QATAR  
 SENEGAL  
 SINGAPORE  
 SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
 SLOVENIA (ADDED)  
 SOUTH AFRICA

SPAIN  
 SRI LANKA  
 ST. KITTS & NEVIS  
 ST. LUCIA  
 ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES  
 SUDAN  
 SURINAME  
 SWEDEN  
 SWITZERLAND  
 SYRIA  
 TAIWAN (ADDED)  
 THAILAND  
 TOGO  
 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO  
 TUNISIA  
 TURKEY  
 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
 UNITED KINGDOM  
 URUGUAY  
 VENEZUELA

Public Notice 2902 of October 9, 1998 issued at 63 FR 54512 is hereby superseded.

Dated: October 24, 1998.

**Mary A. Ryan,**

*Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 98-29861 Filed 11-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-06-P

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

[Public Notice 2923]

**Fine Arts Committee; Notice of Meeting**

The Fine Arts Committee of the Department of State will meet on Friday, November 13, 1998 at 2:00 p.m. in the John Quincy Adams State Drawing Room. The meeting will last until approximately 3:00 p.m. and is open to the public.

The agenda for the committee meeting will include a summary of the work of the Fine Arts Office since its last meeting on April 4, 1998 and the announcement of gifts and loans of furnishings as well as financial contributions from January 1, 1998 through September 30, 1998. Public access to the Department of State is strictly controlled. Members of the public wishing to take part in the meeting should telephone the Fine Arts Office by Monday, November 9, 1998, telephone (202) 647-1990 to make arrangements to enter the building. The public may take part in the discussion as long as time permits and at the discretion of the chairman.

Dated: October 28, 1998.

**Gail F. Serfaty,**

*Vice Chairman, Fine Arts Committee.*

[FR Doc. 98-29860 Filed 11-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-38-M

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

[Public Notice #2928]

**Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy; Public Meeting Notice**

Members of the Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy (ACIEP) will meet from 9:00-11:30 am on Monday, November 23, 1998, in Room 1105, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20520 to discuss on-going work in the OECD on multilateral rules on investment. The Department regrets shorter notice necessitated by last minute conflicts in schedule of senior officials.

Admittance of public members will be limited to the seating available. As access to the Department of State is controlled, persons wishing to attend the meeting should notify the ACIEP Executive Secretary by Thursday, November 21, 1998.

Each person must provide his or her name, company or organization affiliation, date of birth, and social security number and a valid photo ID (U.S. driver's license with picture, U.S. passport, or U.S. government identification) for entrance into the building at the C Street diplomatic entrance, to the ACIEP Secretariat at (202) 647-5968 or fax (202) 647-5713 (Attn: Sharon Rogers). A list will be made and the Reception personnel will direct attendees to Room 1105.

For further notification or information, contact Sharon Rogers, ACIEP Secretariat, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Room 6828, Main State, Washington, DC 20520. She may be reached at telephone (202) 647-5968 or fax number (202) 647-5713.

Dated: November 4, 1998.

**Alan P. Larson,**

*Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 98-30101 Filed 11-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-M

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE****Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues**

**AGENCY:** Trade Policy Staff Committee, USTR.

**ACTION:** Request for written comments on "Information for Evaluation of the Consistency of Foreign Trade Measures with the Provisions of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures."