

Section 6(c)(3)(B) of the Act<sup>8</sup> provides, among other things, that a national securities exchange may examine and verify the qualifications of applicants who desire to become associated with a member and may require any person associated with a member to be registered with the exchange in accordance with established procedures. This section also provides that the exchange may bar a person from becoming a member if such person does not meet standards of training, experience, and competence as are prescribed by the rules of the exchange.

The Commission finds that the Series 25 Examination satisfies Section 6(c)(3)(B) because it provides the Exchange with a means to measure a Trading Assistant's ability and qualifications. The Exchange has the responsibility to ensure that its members and persons associated with members meet standards of training, experience, and competence. By requiring all current and potential Trading Assistants to pass the Series 25 Examination, the Exchange ensure that the Trading Assistants admitted to the Exchange's trading floor are duly trained and qualified to competently perform their duties and functions.

Moreover, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with the requirements of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>9</sup> which provides, among other things, that the rules of the Exchange be designed, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. The proposed rule change ensures that the Trading Assistants admitted to the Exchange trading floor are qualified to effectively perform in their positions. By ensuring the qualifications and abilities of trading assistants, the Commission believes that the integrity of the Exchange is maintained, which should protect investors and the public interest.

#### IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,<sup>10</sup> that the proposed rule change (SR-NYSE-98-36) is approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>11</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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#### SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

##### [Declaration of Disaster #3151]

##### State of Florida

Palm Beach and Pasco Counties and the contiguous Counties of Broward, Hendry, Hernando, Hillsborough, Martin, Pinellas, Polk, and Sumter in the State of Florida constitute a disaster area as a result of damages caused by severe storms and flooding that occurred on January 2 and 3, 1999. Applications for loans for physical damages from this disaster may be filed until the close of business on March 15, 1999 and for economic injury until the close of business on October 12, 1999 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 2 Office, One Baltimore Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30308.

The interest rates are:

	Percent
For Physical Damage:	
Homeowners with credit available elsewhere .....	6.750
Homeowners without credit available elsewhere .....	3.375
Businesses with credit available elsewhere .....	8.000
Businesses and non-profit organizations without credit available elsewhere .....	4.000
Others (including non-profit organizations) with credit available elsewhere .....	7.000
For Economic Injury:	
Businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere .....	4.000

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 315106 and for economic injury the number is 9A7200.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: January 12, 1999.

**Aida Alvarez,**

*Administrator.*

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#### SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

##### [Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9A70]

##### Commonwealth of Massachusetts (and a Contiguous County in the State of New Hampshire)

Middlesex County and the contiguous counties of Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Worcester in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and Hillsborough

County in the State of New Hampshire constitute an economic injury disaster loan area as a result of a fire that occurred on January 2, 1999 at the Mill Village Shopping Center in Sudbury, Massachusetts. Eligible small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere may file applications for economic injury assistance as a result of this disaster until the close of business on Oct. 12, 1999 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 1 Office, 360 Rainbow Blvd, South 3rd Floor, Niagara Falls, NY 14303.

The interest rate for eligible small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives is 4 percent.

The numbers assigned for economic injury for this disaster are 9A7000 for Massachusetts and 9A7100 for New Hampshire.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 59002)

Dated: January 11, 1999.

**Fred Hochberg,**

*Acting Administrator.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

##### [Public Notice #2956]

##### United States International Telecommunication Advisory Committee—Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITAC-T) National Committee & Study Groups B & D; Notice of Meeting

The Department of State announces meetings of the U.S. International Telecommunication Advisory Committee—Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITAC-T). The purpose of the Committee and its Study Groups is to advise the Department on policy and technical issues with respect to international telecommunication standardization. All meetings will be held at the Department of State, 2201 "C" Street, NW, Washington, DC from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The ITAC-T National Committee will meet January 13, 1999. ITAC-T Study Group D will meet on January 14, 1999. ITAC-T Study Group B will meet January 27, 1999.

The National Committee will receive a debrief of the recently completed ITU Plenipotentiary Convention and begin preparations for the ITU Telecommunication Sector Advisory Group (TSAG) of the International Telecommunication Union in April 1999.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).