

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-46996; File No. SR-Amex-2002-98]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the American Stock Exchange LLC To Extend the Suspension of Exchange Transaction Charges for Certain Exchange-Traded Funds

December 13, 2002.

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 November 29, 2002, the American Stock Exchange

LLC ("Amex") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change.

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

The Amex proposes to extend until December 31, 2002 the suspension of Exchange transaction charges for specialist, Registered Trader and broker-dealer orders for the iShares Lehman 1-3 year Treasury Bond Fund; iShares Lehman 7-10 year Treasury Bond Fund;

Treasury 10 FITR ETF; Treasury 5 FITR ETF; Treasury 2 FITR ETF; and Treasury 1 FITR ETF. Proposed new language is *italicized*; proposed deletions are in [brackets].

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Amex Equity Fee Schedule

I. Transaction Charges

No change.

II. Regulatory Fee

No Change.

Notes:

1. and 2. No change.

3. Customer transaction charges for the following Portfolio Depositary Receipts, Index Fund Shares, and Trust Issued Receipts have been suspended:

DIA—DIAMONDS®
 QQQ—Nasdaq-100® Index Tracking Stock
 SPY—SPDRs®
 IVV—iShares S&P 500
 MDY—MidCap SPDRs
 XLY—Select Sector SPDR—Consumer Discretionary
 XLP—Select Sector SPDR—Consumer Staples
 XLE—SPDR—Energy
 XLF—Select Sector SPDR—Financial
 XLV—Select Sector SPDR—Health Care
 XLI—Select Sector SPDR—Industrial
 XLB—Select Sector SPDR—Materials
 XLK—Select Sector SPDR—Technology
 XLU—Select Sector SPDR—Utilities

BHH—B2B Internet HOLDRs™
 BBH—Biotech HOLDRs
 BDH—Broadband HOLDRs
 EKH—Europe 2001 HOLDRs
 IAH—Internet Architecture HOLDRs
 HHH—Internet HOLDRs
 IIH—Internet Infrastructure HOLDRs
 MKH—Market 2000+ HOLDRs
 OIH—Oil Service HOLDRs
 PPH—Pharmaceutical HOLDRs
 RKH—Regional Bank HOLDRs
 RTH—Retail HOLDRs
 SMH—Semiconductor HOLDRs
 SWH—Software HOLDRs
 TTH—Telecom HOLDRs
 UTH—Utilities HOLDRs
 WMH—Wireless HOLDRs
 SHY—iShares Lehman 1-3 Year Treasury Bond Fund
 IEF—iShares Lehman 7-10 Year Treasury Bond Fund
 TLT—iShares Lehman 20+ Year Treasury Bond Fund
 LQD—iShares GS \$ InvesTop Corporate Bond Fund
 TFT—Treasury 1 FITR ETF
 TOU—Treasury 2 FITR ETF
 TFI—Treasury 5 FITR ETF
 TTE—Treasury 10 FITR ETF

Until [November 30] *December 31*, 2002, transaction charges also have been suspended in SHY, IEF, TFT, TOU, TFI and TTE for specialist, Registered Trader and broker dealer orders.

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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 Amex 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 Exchange 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

The Exchange proposes to extend until December 31, 2002 the suspension of transaction charges in iShares Lehman 1-3 year Treasury Bond Fund (Symbol: SHY); iShares Lehman 7-10 year Treasury Bond Fund (Symbol: IEF);

Treasury 10 FITR ETF (Symbol: TTE); Treasury 5 FITR ETF (TFI); Treasury 2 FITR ETF (TOU); and Treasury 1 FITR ETF (TFT) for specialist, Registered Trader and broker-dealer orders. The Exchange previously filed a suspension in such charges until November 30, 2002.³

The Exchange believes a suspension of fees for these securities is appropriate to enhance the competitiveness of executions in these securities on the Amex. The Exchange will reassess the fee suspension as appropriate, and will file any modification to the fee suspension with the Commission

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 46765 (November 1, 2002), 67 FR 68893 (November 13, 2002)(SR-Amex-2002-91).

pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the 1934 Act.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with section 6(b) of the Act⁴ in general, and furthers the objectives of section 6(b)(4)⁵ in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among its members and other persons using its facilities.

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.

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 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 Act⁶ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)⁷ thereunder because the proposal: (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 become operative prior to 30 days after the date of filing or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest; provided that the Exchange has given the Commission notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such short time as designated by 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.

The Amex has requested that the Commission waive the five-day pre-filing notice and the 30-day operative

delay. The Commission believes that waiving the five-day pre-filing notice and the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. The Commission notes that fee suspensions for the exchange-trade funds that are the subject of this filing have been previously filed with the Commission.⁸ Further, extension of the fee suspension for specialist, Registered Trader, and broker-dealer orders will permit the fee suspensions to continue uninterrupted. For these reasons, the Commission designates the proposal to be effective and operative upon filing with the Commission.⁹

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 20549-0609. 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 at the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-Amex-2002-98 and should be submitted by January 13, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁰

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-32186 Filed 12-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3469]

State of Alaska; Amendment #1

In accordance with a notice received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, dated December 11, 2002, the above numbered declaration is hereby amended to include Delta/Greely Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA) and Fairbanks North Star Borough in the State of Alaska as a disaster area due to damages caused by an earthquake occurring on November 3, 2002 and continuing through November 10, 2002.

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in Yukon-Koyukuk REAA and Denali Borough in the State of Alaska may be filed until the specified date at the previously designated location. All other counties contiguous to the above named primary counties have been previously declared.

All other information remains the same, *i.e.*, the deadline for filing applications for physical damage is January 17, 2003, and for economic injury the deadline is August 18, 2003.

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

Dated: December 12, 2002.

Herbert L. Mitchell,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 02-32254 Filed 12-20-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #P002]

State of North Carolina

As a result of the President's major disaster declaration for Public Assistance on December 12, 2002, the U.S. Small Business Administration is activating its disaster loan program only for private non-profit businesses that provide essential services of a governmental nature. I find that Alamance, Alexander, Anson, Burke, Cabarrus, Catawba, Chatham, Cleveland, Davidson, Durham, Franklin, Gaston, Granville, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Iredell, Lee, Lincoln, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rowan, Rutherford, Stanly, Union, Vance, and Wake Counties in the State of North Carolina constitute a disaster area due to damages caused by a severe ice storm occurring from December 4, 2002, and continuing through December 6, 2002. Applications for loans for

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

⁸ See *supra* note 3.

⁹ For purposes only of accelerating the operative date of this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).