

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-52768; File No. SR-NYSE-2005-64)

November 10, 2005

Self-Regulatory Organizations; New York Stock Exchange, Inc.; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change to Add Rules Regarding Time Tracking Requirements of Specialists and Specialist Organizations to its Minor Rule Violation Plan

On September 22, 2005, the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. (“NYSE” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² a proposed rule change to amend its Minor Rule Violation Plan (“MRVP”) to include NYSE Rule 103.12, which requires specialists and specialist organizations to record and report the actual time spent working as a specialist or clerk while on the trading floor of the Exchange. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the Federal Register on October 7, 2005.³ The Commission received no comments regarding the proposal.

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange.⁴ In particular, the Commission believes that the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b)(5) of the

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 52550 (October 3, 2005), 70 FR 58770.

⁴ In approving this proposed rule change, the Commission notes that it has considered the proposed rule’s impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

Act,⁵ because a rule that is reasonably designed to encourage specialists and clerks to report accurately the time they work on the trading floor should help the Exchange carry out its supervisory responsibilities and thereby help protect investors and the public interest. The Commission also believes that handling violations of NYSE Rule 103.12 pursuant to the MRVP is consistent with Sections 6(b)(1) and 6(b)(6) of the Act,⁶ which require that the rules of an exchange enforce compliance with, and provide appropriate discipline for, violations of Commission and Exchange rules. In addition, because existing NYSE Rule 476A provides procedural rights to a person fined under the MRVP to contest the fine and permits a hearing on the matter, the Commission believes the MRVP, as amended by this proposal, provides a fair procedure for the disciplining of members and persons associated with members, consistent with Sections 6(b)(7) and 6(d)(1) of the Act.⁷

Finally, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with the public interest, the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as required by

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(1) and 78f(b)(6).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(7) and 78f(d)(1).

Rule 19d-1(c)(2) under the Act⁸ which governs minor rule violation plans. The Commission believes that the change to the MRVP will strengthen its ability to carry out its oversight and enforcement responsibilities as a self-regulatory organization in cases where full disciplinary proceedings are unsuitable in view of the minor nature of the particular violation.

In approving this proposed rule change, the Commission in no way minimizes the importance of compliance with NYSE rules and all other rules subject to the imposition of fines under the MRVP. The Commission believes that the violation of any self-regulatory organization's rules, as well as Commission rules, is a serious matter. However, the MRVP provides a reasonable means of addressing rule violations that do not rise to the level of requiring formal disciplinary proceedings, while providing greater flexibility in handling certain violations. The Commission expects that NYSE will continue to conduct surveillance with due diligence and make a determination based on its findings, on a case-by-case basis, whether a fine of more or less than the recommended amount is appropriate for a violation under the MRVP or whether a violation requires formal disciplinary action under NYSE Rule 476.

⁸ 17 CFR 240.19d-1(c)(2).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act⁹ and Rule 19d-1(c)(2) under the Act,¹⁰ that the proposed rule change (SR-NYSE-2005-64) be, and hereby is, approved and declared effective.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹¹

Jonathan G. Katz
Secretary

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 240.19d-1(c)(2).

¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12); 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(44).