SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

(Release No. 34-62987; File No. SR-NYSEAmex-2010-92)

September 24, 2010

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by NYSE Amex LLC Amending Rule 4560 – NYSE Amex Equities to Correspond with a Rule Change Filed by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)<sup>1</sup> of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act")<sup>2</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>3</sup> notice is hereby given that on September 13, 2010, NYSE Amex LLC (the "Exchange" or "NYSE Amex") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 4560 – NYSE Amex Equities to correspond with a rule change filed by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") and approved by the Commission.<sup>4</sup> The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Exchange, <a href="www.nyse.com">www.nyse.com</a>, the Commission's Public Reference Room, and on the Commission's website at <a href="www.sec.gov">www.sec.gov</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C.78s(b)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78a.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 61979 (April 23, 2010), 75 FR 23316 (May 3, 2010) (order approving SR-FINRA-2010-003).

## II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization 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 those 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 parts of such statements.

# A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u> <u>Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

#### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend Rule 4560 – NYSE Amex Equities (Short-Interest Reporting) to correspond with a rule change filed by FINRA and approved by the Commission.

#### **Background**

On July 30, 2007, FINRA's predecessor, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD"), and NYSE Regulation, Inc. ("NYSER") consolidated their member firm regulation operations into a combined organization, FINRA. Pursuant to Rule 17d-2 under the Act, the New York Stock Exchange LLC ("NYSE"), NYSER and FINRA entered into an agreement (the "Agreement") to reduce regulatory duplication for their members by allocating to FINRA certain regulatory responsibilities for certain

NYSE rules and rule interpretations ("FINRA Incorporated NYSE Rules"). The Exchange became a party to the Agreement effective December 15, 2008.<sup>5</sup>

As part of its effort to reduce regulatory duplication and relieve firms that are members of FINRA, NYSE and NYSE Amex of conflicting or unnecessary regulatory burdens, FINRA is now engaged in the process of reviewing and amending the NASD and FINRA Incorporated NYSE Rules in order to create a consolidated FINRA rulebook.<sup>6</sup>

### Current Rule 4560 – NYSE Amex Equities

The Exchange adopted Rule 4560 – NYSE Amex Equities in May 2009.<sup>7</sup> Rule 4560 – NYSE Amex Equities requires each member organization to maintain a record of the total short positions in its customer and proprietary accounts in securities listed on a national securities exchange and that such information must be reported to FINRA. Rule 4560 – NYSE Amex Equities is based on, and is substantially the same as, FINRA Rule 4560 (Short-Interest Reporting). The principal distinction between the two rules is that,

or NYSE Amex to the substance of any of the Common Rules.

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See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 56148 (July 26, 2007), 72 FR 42146 (August 1, 2007) (order approving the Agreement); 56147 (July 26, 2007), 72 FR 42166 (August 1, 2007) (SR-NASD-2007-054) (order approving the incorporation of certain NYSE Rules as "Common Rules"); and 60409 (July 30, 2009), 74 FR 39353 (August 6, 2009) (order approving the amended and restated Agreement, adding NYSE Amex LLC as a party). Paragraph 2(b) of the Agreement sets forth procedures regarding proposed changes by FINRA, NYSE

FINRA's rulebook currently has three sets of rules: (1) NASD Rules, (2) FINRA Incorporated NYSE Rules, and (3) consolidated FINRA Rules. The FINRA Incorporated NYSE Rules apply only to those members of FINRA that are also members of the NYSE, while the consolidated FINRA Rules apply to all FINRA members. For more information about the FINRA rulebook consolidation process, see FINRA Information Notice, March 12, 2008.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59975 (May 26, 2009), 74 FR 26449 (June 2, 2009) (order approving NYSEAmex 2009-26).

as adopted by the Exchange, Rule 4560 – NYSE Amex Equities does not apply to OTC Equity Securities (as defined in FINRA Rule 6420) since the Exchange does not trade OTC Equity Securities.

#### Proposed Conforming Amendments to Rule 4560 – NYSE Amex Equities

In April 2010, FINRA amended FINRA Rule 4560 to provide, in part, that it applies to all equity securities (other than Restricted Equity Securities as defined in FINRA Rule 6420) and not just to OTC Equity Securities or securities listed on a national securities exchange. The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 4560 – NYSE Amex Equities, as applicable, to conform with FINRA's amendments to FINRA Rule 4560 so that Rule 4560 – NYSE Amex Equities applies to all equity securities (other than Restricted Equity Securities as defined in FINRA Rule 6420).

#### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act, 9 in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, 10 in particular, in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change supports the objectives of the Act by providing greater harmonization between NYSE Amex Equities Rules and

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

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See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 61979 (April 23, 2010), 75 FR 23316 (May 3, 2010).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

FINRA Rules of similar purpose, resulting in less burdensome and more efficient regulatory compliance for joint members. To the extent the Exchange has proposed changes that differ from the FINRA version of the Rule, such changes are technical in nature and do not change the substance of the proposed NYSE Amex Equities Rule.

#### 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. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

### III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission</u> Action

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not:

- (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest;
- (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and
- (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>11</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>12</sup>

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

<sup>17</sup> CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) requires the self-regulatory organization to submit to the Commission written 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

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend 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. 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 <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number
   SR-NYSEAmex-2010-92 on the subject line.

#### Paper Comments:

Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary,
 Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEAmex-2010-92. 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 website (<a href="http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent

proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

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 website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information

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that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSEAmex-2010-92 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.  $^{13}$ 

Florence E. Harmon Deputy Secretary

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