

policy will be effective for a six-month pilot period to permit the Exchange to determine the effectiveness of the new policy before implementing it on a permanent basis.

II. Discussion

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, and in particular, the requirements of Sections 6(b)(5)⁵ in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent, manipulative acts and practices and to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and to remove impediments to and protect the mechanism of a free and open market and to protect investors and the public interest.⁶

The Commission believes that allowing floor brokers or market makers to clear the post for cabinet securities while remaining at their post will ensure that these floor brokers or market makers will be at their posts when they need to respond to orders in more liquid securities at a much faster pace.

The Commission believes that approving the proposed rule change on a pilot basis is reasonable under the Act because it will serve to protect investors and the public interest by providing the Exchange with the opportunity to evaluate the effects of allowing floor brokers and market makers to clear the post for cabinet securities by phone instead of in person, and to determine whether any modifications are necessary. The pilot program will expire on July 6, 1998. The Commission requests that the CHX submit a report on the effectiveness of the pilot program by June 6, 1998.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act⁷ that the proposed rule change (SR-CHX-97-28) is approved on a pilot basis through July 6, 1998.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁸

Jonathan G. Katz,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-722 Filed 1-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

⁵ 15 U.S.C. § 78f(b)(5).

⁶ In approving this rule, the Commission notes that it has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #2999]

The Territory of Guam; Amendment #1

In accordance with a notice from the Federal Emergency Management Agency dated December 29, 1997, the above-numbered Declaration is hereby amended to establish the incident period for this disaster as beginning on December 16, 1997 and continuing through December 17, 1997.

All other information remains the same, i.e., the deadline for filing applications for physical damage is February 17, 1998 and for economic injury the termination date is September 17, 1998.

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

Dated: December 30, 1997.

Bernard Kulik,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 98-740 Filed 1-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster Loan Area #3042]

New York and Contiguous Counties in Connecticut and New Jersey

Westchester County and the contiguous counties of Bronx, Putnam, and Rockland in New York; Fairfield County in Connecticut; and Bergen County in New Jersey constitute a disaster area as a result of damages caused by a fire in the Village of Dobbs Ferry which occurred on December 15, 1997. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on March 2, 1998 and for economic injury until the close of business on September 30, 1998 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 1 Office, 360 Rainbow Boulevard South, 3rd Floor, Niagara Falls, NY 14303.

The interest rates are:

	Percent
For Physical Damage:	
Homeowners With Credit Available Elsewhere	7.625
Homeowners Without Credit Available Elsewhere	3.812
Businesses With Credit Available Elsewhere	8.000
Businesses and Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere	4.000

	Percent
Others (Including Non-Profit Organizations) With Credit Available Elsewhere	7.125
For Economic Injury:	
Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives Without Credit Available Elsewhere	4.000

The numbers assigned to this disaster for physical and economic injury damage are 304205 and 969700 for New York, 304305 and 969800 for Connecticut, and 304405 and 969900 for New Jersey.

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

Dated: December 31, 1997.

Paul N. Weech,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-738 Filed 1-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3041]

Northern Mariana Islands

As a result of the President's major disaster declaration on December 24, 1997, I find that the Island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands constitutes a disaster area as a result of damages caused by Typhoon Paka and associated torrential rains, high winds, high surf, and tidal surges beginning on December 16, 1997 and continuing. Applications for loans for physical damages as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on February 26, 1998 and for economic injury until the close of business on September 24, 1998 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 4 Office, P.O. Box 13795, Sacramento, CA 95853-4795.

The interest rates are:

	Percent
For Physical Damage:	
Homeowners With Credit Available Elsewhere	7.625
Homeowners Without Credit Available Elsewhere	3.812
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	7.125
For Economic Injury:	