

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁶

Florence E. Harmon,

Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-61160; File No. SR-FINRA-2009-088]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Waiver and Credit of Certain FINRA/Nasdaq Trade Reporting Facility and OTC Reporting Facility Fees

December 14, 2009.

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 December 7, 2009, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II and III below, which Items have been prepared by FINRA. FINRA has designated the proposed rule change as “establishing or changing a due, fee or other charge” under Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder,⁴ which renders the proposal effective upon receipt of this filing by the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

FINRA is proposing to waive and issue a credit for fees that were charged to FINRA members under FINRA Rules 7620A and 7710 for the submission of “as/of” trade reports to the FINRA/Nasdaq Trade Reporting Facility (“FINRA/Nasdaq TRF”) and the OTC Reporting Facility (“ORF”), respectively, for eight days in the months of August and September 2009. The proposed rule change does not require amendments to any FINRA rules.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, FINRA 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. FINRA 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

Pursuant to FINRA Rules 7620A and 7710, members are charged fees for trade reporting to the FINRA/Nasdaq TRF and ORF, respectively, and the fee for the submission of late trade reports, including “as/of” reports, is higher than the fee for the submission of timely trade reports. “As/of” reports are reports of trades that were executed on a date prior to the date they were reported.

During the months of August and September 2009, various Automated Confirmation Transaction Service (“ACT”) technology issues impacted trade reporting to the FINRA/Nasdaq TRF and the ORF for a period of eight days: August 3, August 4, August 5, August 17, August 21, September 16, September 25 and September 28. Due to the ACT technology issues, members were unable to report trades on trade date and thus incurred higher than normal reporting charges due to the higher number of “as/of” reports that they were compelled to submit.

Because the higher charges were the result of an ACT technology issue and not the fault of the member, FINRA is proposing to waive the fees for “as/of” trade reports submitted on each day following the day on which the ACT technology issues occurred. Specifically, FINRA will waive the “as/of” report fees for the following days in 2009: August 4, August 5, August 6, August 18, August 24, September 17, September 28 and September 29. Members will be issued a credit for the “as/of” trade report fees charged on these dates on a future invoice.⁵ FINRA

has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. The operative date will be the date of filing.

2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 15A(b)(5) of the Act,⁶ which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system that FINRA operates or controls. FINRA believes that the proposed waiver and credit of the “as/of” reporting fees is fair and equitable in that it will apply uniformly to all FINRA members that submitted “as/of” trade reports to the FINRA/Nasdaq TRF and ORF on the designated dates.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Burden on Competition

FINRA does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were either solicited or received.

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)(ii) of the Act⁷ and paragraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.⁸ At any time within 60 days of the filing of the 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.

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:

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(5).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

¹⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(iii).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(2).

⁵ FINRA notes that a similar proposal to waive and issue a credit for certain cancel fees was the subject of a recent filing by NASDAQ OMX PHLX, Inc. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 60853 (October 21, 2009), 74 FR 55594 (October 28, 2009) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-PHLX-2009-89).

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-FINRA-2009-088 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-FINRA-2009-088. 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 Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). 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 in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of FINRA. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make publicly available. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2009-088 and should be submitted on or before January 8, 2010.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.⁹

Florence E. Harmon,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-61155; File No. SR-MSRB-2009-18]

**Self-Regulatory Organizations;
Municipal Securities Rulemaking
Board; Notice of Filing of Proposed
Rule Change Consisting of
Amendments to Rule G-37 (Political
Contributions and Prohibitions on
Municipal Securities Business) and
Rule G-8 (Books and Records To Be
Made by Brokers, Dealers and
Municipal Securities Dealers)**

December 11, 2009.

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 December 4, 2009, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission" or "SEC") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the MSRB. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

The MSRB has filed with the Commission a proposed rule change consisting of proposed amendments to Rule G-37 (political contributions and prohibitions on municipal securities business) and Rule G-8 (books and records to be made by brokers, dealers and municipal securities dealers). The MSRB requested that the proposed rule change become effective on, and would apply solely to contributions made on or after, the first business Monday at least five business days after Commission approval.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the MSRB's Web site (<http://www.msrb.org/msrb1/sec.asp>), at the MSRB's principal office, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

**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 MSRB included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The MSRB 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 proposed amendments to Rule G-37 would require the public disclosure of contributions to bond ballot campaigns made by dealers, municipal finance professionals ("MFPs"), their political action committees ("PACs") and non-MFP executive officers on MSRB Form G-37. Dealers would be required to report on revised Form G-37 the official name of each bond ballot campaign receiving contributions during such calendar quarter, the jurisdiction (including city/county/State or political subdivision) by or for which municipal securities, if approved, would be issued, the contribution amount made and the category of contributor. The proposal would provide a *de minimis* exception from the reporting of contributions on Form G-37 made by an MFP or non-MFP executive officer to a bond ballot campaign for a ballot initiative with respect to which such person is entitled to vote if all contributions by such person to such bond ballot campaign, in total, do not exceed \$250 per ballot initiative. The amendments would parallel the existing disclosure requirements for contributions to issuer officials and State and local political parties. Such amendments would not, however, provide for a ban on municipal securities business as a result of contributions to bond ballot campaigns.

The proposed amendments to Rule G-8 would require dealers to create and maintain records of the non-*de minimis* contributions to bond ballot campaigns that would be required to be disclosed on Form G-37 under the proposed amendments to Rule G-37.

2. Statutory Basis

The MSRB has adopted the proposed rule change pursuant to Section 15B(b)(2)(C) of the Act,³ which provides that the MSRB's rules shall:

[B]e designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in municipal securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78o-4(b)(2)(C).

⁹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).