

for reasons other than those set forth in the rule. Wells Fargo, MN currently holds of record in its name more than 25% of the outstanding voting securities of each Target Fund. Specifically, Wells Fargo, MN holds more than 25% of the outstanding voting securities of the International Fund for the benefit of the Cash Balance Pension Plan ("CBPP") and also holds more than 5% of the outstanding voting securities of the Small Cap Value Fund for the benefit of the Voluntary Employee's Beneficiary Association ("VEBA"), a trust that is used to fund employee benefits for employees of Wells Fargo & Company and its subsidiaries. (CBPP and VEBA are collectively referred to as the "Affiliated Accounts.") Applicants state that by virtue of the Affiliated Accounts' ownership and Wells Fargo, MN's voting control and economic interest in the Affiliated Accounts, each Target Fund may be deemed to be an affiliated person of an affiliated person of its corresponding Acquiring Fund, and vice versa, for reasons not based solely on their common adviser, common directors/trustees and/or common officers. Wells Fargo, MN intends to engage an independent fiduciary to vote the shares of the Affiliated Accounts.

4. Section 17(b) of the Act provides that the Commission may exempt a transaction from the provisions of section 17(a) if the evidence establishes that the terms of the proposed transaction, including the consideration to be paid, are reasonable and fair and do not involve overreaching on the part of any person concerned, and that the proposed transaction is consistent with the policy of each registered investment company concerned and with the general purposes of the Act.

5. Applicants request an order under section 17(b) of the Act exempting them from section 17(a) of the Act to the extent necessary to complete the Reorganization. Applicants submit that the Reorganization satisfies the standards of section 17(b) of the Act. Applicants state that the Board, including all of the Independent Trustees, has determined that participation in the Reorganization is in the best interests of each Fund, and that the interests of the Funds' shareholders will not be diluted as a result of the Reorganization. The applicants also state that the Reorganization will be based on the Funds' relative net asset values.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-10463 Filed 4-26-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-45790; File No. SR-NASD-2002-22]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change and Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 Thereto by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Relating to the Expansion From Three to Five the Levels of Aggregated Price and Size Information Displayed in Nasdaq's Future Order Display and Collector Facility

April 19, 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 April 18, 2002, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD"), through its subsidiary, the Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. ("Nasdaq"), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by Nasdaq.³ The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change, as amended, from interested persons.

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

Nasdaq proposes to expand, from three to five, the levels of aggregated price and size information displayed in Nasdaq's future Order Display and Collector Facility ("SuperMontage"). Nasdaq will implement this rule change

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ On April 5, 2002, the Commission received an amendment from Nasdaq which made conforming changes to NASD Rules 4707(d) and 4710(f). See letter from Thomas P. Moran, Associate General Counsel, Nasdaq, to Katherine A. England, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, dated April 5, 2002 ("Amendment No. 1"). Subsequently, on April 18, 2002, the Commission received an amendment from Nasdaq which corrected a citation in its rule text and replaced Amendment No. 1 in its entirety. See letter from Thomas P. Moran, Associate General Counsel, Nasdaq, to Katherine A. England, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, dated April 18, 2002 ("Amendment No. 2"). This proposed rule change is treated as filed on the date that Amendment No. 2 was received.

within 30 days after successful completion of SuperMontage user acceptance testing. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Office of the Secretary, Nasdaq, and at the Commission.

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

In its filing with the Commission, Nasdaq 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. Nasdaq 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

As part of its ongoing preparation for the launch of SuperMontage, Nasdaq is engaging in a continuing review of the system's functionality and rules with a view to constant improvement. As a result of this review, and in consultation with industry professionals, Nasdaq has determined to expand to five the number of price levels aggregated and displayed via the SuperMontage.

As approved by the Commission, SuperMontage would only display the top three price levels of aggregated price and size information for both the bid and offer side of the market for a particular security. As a result of discussions with market participants and Nasdaq's experience with decimalization, Nasdaq has determined to expand the availability of aggregated price and share amount information around the inside price by displaying, and disseminating through data vendors, five price levels (the inside price plus four additional price levels away) of trading interest on both the bid and offer side of the market.

Nasdaq believes that expanding the amount of aggregated trading interest information available through SuperMontage to five price levels will further increase transparency and assist market participants in making informed trading decisions.

2. Statutory Basis

Nasdaq believes the proposed rule change, as amended, is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of

the Act⁴ in that the proposal is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

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

Nasdaq does not believe that the proposed rule change, as amended, will result in any burden on competition that is 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

Nasdaq neither solicited nor received any written comments.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The proposed rule change, as amended, has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act⁵ and subparagraph (f)(5) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder⁶ because it effects a change in an existing order-entry or trading system of a self-regulatory organization that does not: (1) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (2) impose any significant burden on competition; and (3) have the effect of limiting the access to or availability of the system. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, as amended, 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 proposal, as amended, 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 in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NASD. All submissions should refer to file number SR-NASD-2002-22 and should be submitted by May 20, 2002.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁷

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-10393 Filed 4-26-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-U

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-45801; File No. SR-NASD-2002-48]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Relating to Revisions to the Limited Principal—Financial and Operations (Series 27) Examination Program

April 22, 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 April 10, 2002, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD"), through its wholly owned subsidiary, NASD Regulation, Inc. ("NASD Regulation"), 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 NASD Regulation. NASD Regulation has designated this proposed rule change as one constituting a stated policy, practice, or interpretation with respect to the meaning, administration, or enforcement of an existing rule of the self-regulatory organization under Section 19(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Act,³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(1)⁴ thereunder, which

renders the proposal effective upon filing with the Commission.⁵ 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

NASD Regulation is proposing revisions to the Limited Principal—Financial and Operations (Series 27) examination program. The proposed revisions update the Series 27 examination study outline,⁶ selection specifications,⁷ and question bank⁸ to reflect changes to the laws, rules, and regulations covered by the examination and to reflect more accurately the duties and responsibilities of a Series 27 principal. Additionally, the proposed revisions change the format of the Series 27 examination. The proposed revisions do not result in any textual changes to the By-Laws, Schedules to the By-Laws, or Rules of NASD Regulation or the NASD.

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

In its filing with the Commission, NASD Regulation 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. NASD Regulation has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

⁵ See Letter to Alden S. Adkins, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, NASD Regulation, from Belinda Blaine, Associate Director, Division of Market Regulation, SEC, dated July 24, 2000.

⁶ The text of the Series 27 study outline is available at NASD Regulation and at the Commission.

⁷ NASD Regulation has requested confidential treatment for the Series 27 examination, and thus the specifications are omitted from this filing. The specifications have been filed separately with the Commission pursuant to Rule 24b-2 under the Act. 17 CFR 240.24b-2.

⁸ Based upon instruction from the Commission staff, NASD Regulation is not filing the question bank for Commission review. See Letter to Alden S. Adkins, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, NASD Regulation, from Belinda Blaine, Associated Director, Division of Market Regulation, SEC, dated July 24, 2000.

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(5).

⁷ 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)(i).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(1).