

response to the comment letter from Griffin, Kubik.⁵ This order approves the proposed rule change.

The proposed rule change would more fully conform Rule G-20 to NASD requirements relating to gifts and gratuities, and add new provisions governing non-cash compensation and sales incentives in connection with municipal fund securities and other primary offerings of municipal securities, based on NASD requirements for non-cash compensation and sales incentives. A full description of the proposal is contained in the Commission's Notice.

Griffin, Kubik stated in its comment letter that they agree with the MSRB that the regulation of gifts and gratuities ought to be consistent across those regulators governing the conduct of broker-dealers. Nonetheless, Griffin, Kubik's Letter states that they believe that adoption of any changes to Rule G-20 is premature because they understand that the NASD, the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE") and other regulators are currently considering the question of appropriate rules and standards for gifts and because the status of the NASD's current rule and interpretation is less than clear. The Commission's Notice noted that the NYSE has a pending rule filing with the Commission on gifts and gratuities that is currently being reviewed, and that the MSRB has agreed to consider filing further amendments to Rule G-20 or other rules, as necessary, to make its rules on gifts and gratuities consistent with future rule changes made by other self-regulatory organizations (SROs) overseen by the Commission.

The MSRB's Response Letter stated that the MSRB determined that provisions comparable to current NASD requirements governing gifts and gratuities and the payment of non-cash compensation are appropriate for dealers effecting transactions in municipal securities. The MSRB's Response Letter also stated that, as the commentator noted, the MSRB has undertaken to make its rules on gifts and gratuities consistent with other self-regulatory organizations where appropriate for the municipal securities market.

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the MSRB⁶ and, in

particular, the requirements of Section 15B(b)(2)(C) of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.⁷ Section 15B(b)(2)(C) of the Act requires, among other things, that the MSRB's rules be 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 market in municipal securities, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.⁸ In particular, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act because it will provide for more consistent treatment across the securities markets regarding gifts, gratuities, non-cash compensation and sales incentives, thereby facilitating dealer understanding of, and compliance with, these requirements.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act⁹ that the proposed rule change (SR-MSRB-2005-02) be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁰

Jonathan G. Katz,
Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-52547; File No. SR-NASD-2005-110]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Revisions to the Series 6 Examination Program

September 30, 2005.

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 September 13, 2005, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD") filed with the Securities and

efficiency, competition and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78o-4(b)(2)(C).

² *Id.*

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by NASD. NASD has designated the proposed rule change as constituting a stated policy, practice, or interpretation with respect to the meaning, administration, or enforcement of an existing rule of the self-regulatory organization pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(1) thereunder,⁴ which renders the proposal effective upon filing with 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

NASD is filing revisions to the study outline and selection specifications for the Limited Representative—Investment Company and Variable Contracts Products (Series 6) examination program.⁵ The proposed revisions update the material to reflect changes to the laws, rules, and regulations covered by the examination, as well as modify the content of the examination program to track more closely the functional workflow of a Series 6 limited representative. NASD is not proposing any textual changes to the By-Laws, Schedules to the By-Laws, or Rules of NASD.

The revised study outline is available on NASD's Web site (<http://www.nasd.com>), at NASD, and at the Commission.⁶ However, NASD has omitted the Series 6 selection specifications from this filing and has submitted the specifications under separate cover to the Commission with a request for confidential treatment pursuant to Rule 24b-2 under the Act.⁷

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(i).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(1).

⁵ NASD also is proposing corresponding revisions to the Series 6 question bank, but based upon instruction from the Commission staff, NASD is submitting SR-NASD-2005-110 for immediate effectiveness pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(1) thereunder, and 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, Associate Director, Division of Market Regulation ("Division"), Commission, dated July 24, 2000. The question bank is available for Commission review.

⁶ Telephone conversation between Mia Zur, Attorney, Jan Woo, Attorney, Division, Commission, and Afshin Atabaki, Counsel, NASD, dated September 23, 2005.

⁷ 17 CFR 240.24b-2.

⁵ See letter from Jill C. Finder, Assistant General Counsel, MSRB, to Martha M. Haines, Chief, Office of Municipal Securities, Commission, dated September 22, 2005 ("MSRB's Response Letter").

⁶ In approving this rule the Commission notes that it has considered the proposed rule's impact on

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 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 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 Section 15A(g)(3) of the Act,⁸ which requires NASD to prescribe standards of training, experience, and competence for persons associated with NASD members, NASD has developed examinations, and administers examinations developed by other self-regulatory organizations, that are designed to establish that persons associated with NASD members have attained specified levels of competence and knowledge. NASD periodically reviews the content of the examinations to determine whether revisions are necessary or appropriate in view of changes pertaining to the subject matter covered by the examinations.

The Series 6 examination qualifies persons seeking registration with NASD as investment company and variable contracts products limited representatives. NASD Rule 1032(b)⁹ states that registered representatives in this limited category are permitted solely to engage in transactions involving redeemable securities of companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Investment Company Act"), securities of closed-end companies registered under the Investment Company Act during the period of original distribution only, and variable contracts and insurance premium funding programs and other contracts issued by an insurance company except contracts that are exempt securities pursuant to Section 3(a)(8) of the Securities Act of 1933.¹⁰

A committee of industry representatives, together with NASD

staff, recently undertook a review of the Series 6 examination program. As a result of this review, NASD is proposing to update the study outline to cover Regulation S-P,¹¹ anti-money laundering rules, municipal fund securities (e.g., 529 college savings plans), Regulation D,¹² and exchange-traded funds. In addition, as part of an ongoing effort to align the examination more closely to the functions of a Series 6 limited representative, NASD is proposing to modify the content of the study outline to track the functional workflow of a Series 6 representative. NASD also is proposing to increase the number of sections covered by the Series 6 outline from four to six. Finally, NASD is proposing to modify the section headings and the number of questions on each section of the outline as follows: Section 1, Securities Markets, Investment Securities, and Economic Factors, 8 questions; Section 2, Securities and Tax Regulations, 23 questions; Section 3, Marketing, Prospecting, and Sales Presentations, 18 questions; Section 4, Evaluation of Customers, 13 questions; Section 5, Product Information: Investment Company Securities and Variable Contracts, 26 questions; and Section 6, Opening and Servicing Customer Accounts, 12 questions.

NASD is proposing these changes to the entire content of the Series 6 examination, including the selection specifications and question bank. The number of questions on the Series 6 examination will remain at 100, and candidates will continue to have 2 hours and 15 minutes to complete the exam. Also, each question will continue to count as one point, and each candidate must correctly answer 70 percent of the questions to receive a passing grade.

2. Statutory Basis

NASD believes that the proposed revisions to the Series 6 examination program are consistent with the provisions of Sections 15A(b)(6)¹³ and 15A(g)(3) of the Act,¹⁴ which authorize NASD to prescribe standards of training, experience, and competence for persons associated with NASD members.

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

NASD does not believe that the proposed rule change 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

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

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

The proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Act¹⁵ and Rule 19b-4(f)(1) thereunder,¹⁶ in that the proposed rule change constitutes a stated policy, practice, or interpretation with respect to the meaning, administration, or enforcement of an existing rule of the self-regulatory organization. NASD proposes to implement the revised Series 6 examination program no later than November 30, 2005. NASD will announce the implementation date in a Notice to Members to be published no later than 60 days after Notice of this filing.

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:

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-NASD-2005-110 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549-9303.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASD-2005-110. This file

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(g)(3).

⁹ Telephone conversation between Katherine England, Assistant Director, Mia Zur, Attorney, Jan Woo, Attorney, Division, Commission, and Afshin Atabaki, Counsel, NASD, dated September 23, 2005.

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 77c(a)(8).

¹¹ 17 CFR 248.1-18; 17 CFR 248.30; and 17 CFR 248, Appendix A.

¹² 17 CFR 230.501-230.508.

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(g)(3).

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(i).

¹⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(1).

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. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NASD. 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 available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASD-2005-110 and should be submitted on or before November 1, 2005.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁷

Jonathan G. Katz,
Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-52546; File No. SR-NASD-2005-109]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Revisions to the Series 4 Examination Program

September 30, 2005.

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 September 13, 2005, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD") 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 NASD. NASD has designated the proposed rule change as constituting a stated policy, practice, or interpretation with respect to the meaning, administration, or enforcement of an existing rule of the self-regulatory organization pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(1) thereunder,⁴ which renders the proposal effective upon filing with 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

NASD is filing revisions to the study outline and selection specifications for the Limited Principal—Registered Options (Series 4) examination program.⁵ The proposed revisions update the material to reflect changes to the laws, rules, and regulations covered by the examination, as well as modify the content of the examination program to track more closely the functional workflow of a Series 4 limited principal. NASD is not proposing any textual changes to the By-Laws, Schedules to the By-Laws, or Rules of NASD. The revisions that NASD is submitting with this filing supersede all prior revisions to the Series 4 examination program submitted by NASD.

The revised study outline is available on NASD's Web site (<http://www.nasd.com>), at NASD, and at the Commission.⁶ However, NASD has omitted the Series 4 selection specifications from this filing and has submitted the specifications under separate cover to the Commission with a request for confidential treatment pursuant to Rule 24b-2 under the Act.⁷

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(i).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(1).

⁵ NASD also is proposing corresponding revisions to the Series 4 question bank, but based upon instruction from the Commission staff, NASD is submitting SR-NASD-2005-109 for immediate effectiveness pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(1) thereunder, and 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, Associate Director, Division of Market Regulation ("Division"), Commission, dated July 24, 2000. The question bank is available for Commission review.

⁶ Telephone conversation between Mia Zur, Attorney, Jan Woo, Attorney, Division, Commission, and Afshin Atabaki, Counsel, NASD, dated September 23, 2005.

⁷ 17 CFR 240.24b-2.

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 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 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 Section 15A(g)(3) of the Act,⁸ which requires NASD to prescribe standards of training, experience, and competence for persons associated with NASD members, NASD has developed examinations, and administers examinations developed by other self-regulatory organizations ("SROs"), that are designed to establish that persons associated with NASD members have attained specified levels of competence and knowledge. NASD periodically reviews the content of the examinations to determine whether revisions are necessary or appropriate in view of changes pertaining to the subject matter covered by the examinations.

NASD Rule 1022(f) states that member firms engaged in, or intending to engage in, transactions in security futures or put or call options with the public must have at least one Registered Options and Security Futures Principal. In addition, every individual engaged in the management of the day-to-day options or security futures activities of a firm must be registered as a Registered Options and Security Futures Principal. The Series 4 examination, an industry-wide examination, qualifies an individual to function as a Registered Options and Security Futures Principal, but only for purposes of supervising a member firm's options activities.⁹ The Series 4 examination tests a candidate's knowledge of options trading generally, the industry rules applicable to trading of option contracts, and the rules of registered clearing agencies for options. The Series 4 examination covers, among

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(g)(3).

⁹ A Registered Options and Security Futures Principal also must complete a firm-element continuing education program that addresses security futures and a principal's responsibilities for security futures before such person can supervise security futures activities.

¹⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.