

assure that purchases of securities in Affiliated Underwritings are in the best interests of shareholders.

7. Each Underlying Fund shall maintain and preserve permanently in an easily accessible place a written copy of the procedures described in the preceding condition, and any modifications to such procedures, and shall maintain and preserve for a period not less than six years from the end of the fiscal year in which any purchase in an Affiliated Underwriting occurred, the first two years in an easily accessible place, a written record of each purchase of securities in Affiliated Underwritings once an investment by an Unrelated Fund of Funds in the securities of an Underlying Fund exceeds the limit in section 12(d)(1)(A)(i) of the Act, setting forth from whom the securities were acquired, the identity of the underwriting syndicate's members, the terms of the purchase, and the information or materials upon which the Board's determinations were made.

8. Before investing in shares of an Underlying Fund in excess of the limits in section 12(d)(1)(A), each Unrelated Fund of Funds and Underlying Fund will execute a Participation Agreement stating, without limitation, that their boards of directors or trustees and their investment advisers understand the terms and conditions of the order and agree to fulfill their responsibilities under the order. At the time of its investment in shares of an Underlying Fund in excess of the limit in section 12(d)(1)(A)(i), an Unrelated Fund of Funds will notify the Underlying Fund of the investment. At such time, the Unrelated Fund of Funds will also transmit to the Underlying Fund a list of the names of each Unrelated Fund of Funds Affiliate and Underwriting Affiliate. The Unrelated Fund of Funds will notify the Underlying Fund of any changes to the list of the names as soon as reasonably practicable after a change occurs. The Underlying Fund and the Unrelated Fund of Funds will maintain and preserve a copy of the order, the Participation Agreement, and the list with any updated information for the duration of the investment and for a period of not less than six years thereafter, the first two years in an easily accessible place.

9. Prior to approving any advisory contract under section 15 of the Act, the board of directors or trustees of each Unrelated Fund of Funds, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, will find that the advisory fees charged under such advisory contracts are based on services provided that will be in addition to, rather than duplicative of, the services provided under the

advisory contract(s) of any Underlying Fund in which the Unrelated Fund of Funds may invest. These findings and their basis will be recorded fully in the minute books of the appropriate Unrelated Fund of Funds.

10. An Unrelated Fund of Funds Adviser will waive fees otherwise payable to it by the Unrelated Fund of Funds in an amount at least equal to any compensation (including fees received pursuant to any plan adopted by an Underlying Fund under rule 12b-1 under the Act) received from an Underlying Fund by the Unrelated Fund of Funds Adviser, or an affiliated person of the Unrelated Fund of Funds Adviser, other than any advisory fees paid to the Unrelated Fund of Funds Adviser or its affiliated person by the Underlying Fund, in connection with the investment by the Unrelated Fund of Funds in the Underlying Fund. Any Unrelated Fund of Funds Subadviser will waive fees otherwise payable to the Unrelated Fund of Funds Subadviser, directly or indirectly, by the Unrelated Fund of Funds in an amount at least equal to any compensation received from any Underlying Fund by the Unrelated Fund of Funds Subadviser, or an affiliated person of the Unrelated Fund of Funds Subadviser, other than any advisory fees paid to the Unrelated Fund of Funds Subadviser or its affiliated person by the Underlying Fund, in connection with the investment by the Unrelated Fund of Funds in the Underlying Fund made at the direction of the Unrelated Fund of Funds Subadviser. In the event that the Unrelated Fund of Funds Subadviser waives fees, the benefit of the waiver will be passed through to the Unrelated Fund of Funds.

11. With respect to registered separate accounts that invest in an Unrelated Fund of Funds, no sales load will be charged at the Unrelated Fund of Funds level or at the Underlying Fund level. Other sales charges and service fees, as defined in Rule 2830 of the NASD Conduct Rules, if any, will only be charged at the Unrelated Fund of Funds level or at the Underlying Fund level, not both. With respect to other investments in an Unrelated Fund of Funds, any sales charges and/or service fees charged with respect to shares of the Unrelated Fund of Funds will not exceed the limits applicable to a fund of funds as set forth in Rule 2830 of the NASD Conduct Rules.

12. No Underlying Fund will acquire securities of any other investment company or company relying on section 3(c)(1) or 3(c)(7) of the Act in excess of the limits contained in section 12(d)(1)(A) of the Act, except to the

extent that such Underlying Fund: (a) Acquires such securities in compliance with section 12(d)(1)(E) of the Act; (b) receives securities of another investment company as a dividend or as a result of a plan of reorganization of a company (other than a plan devised for the purpose of evading section 12(d)(1) of the Act); or (c) acquires (or is deemed to have acquired) securities of another investment company pursuant to exemptive relief from the Commission permitting such Underlying Fund to (i) acquire securities of one or more investment companies for short-term cash management purposes, or (ii) engage in interfund borrowing and lending transactions.

Other Investments by Related Funds of Funds

13. The Applicants will comply with all provisions of rule 12d1-2 under the Act, except for paragraph (a)(2), to the extent that it restricts any Related Fund of Funds from investing in Other Investments as described in the application.

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

Florence E. Harmon,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. E9-6209 Filed 3-20-09; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94-409, that the Securities and Exchange Commission will hold a Closed Meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 2 p.m.

Commissioners, Counsel to the Commissioners, the Secretary to the Commission, and recording secretaries will attend the Closed Meeting. Certain staff members who have an interest in the matters also may be present.

The General Counsel of the Commission, or his designee, has certified that, in his opinion, one or more of the exemptions set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(5), (6), (7), 9(B) and (10) and 17 CFR 200.402(a)(5), (6), (7), 9(ii) and (10), permit consideration of the scheduled matters at the Closed Meeting.

Commissioner Aguilar, as duty officer, voted to consider the items listed for the Closed Meeting in closed session.

The subject matter of the Closed Meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2009 will be:

- Institution and settlement of injunctive actions;
- Institution and settlement of administrative proceedings of an enforcement nature;
- Other matters relating to enforcement proceedings.

At times, changes in Commission priorities require alterations in the scheduling of meeting items.

For further information and to ascertain what, if any, matters have been added, deleted or postponed, please contact:

The Office of the Secretary at (202) 551-5400.

Dated: March 19, 2009.

Elizabeth M. Murphy,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E9-6434 Filed 3-19-09; 4:15 pm]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-59586; File No. SR-FINRA-2008-045]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1 Thereto, To Amend the FINRA Rule 9520 Series Regarding Eligibility Procedures for Persons Subject to Certain Disqualifications

March 17, 2009.

I. Introduction

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”) (f/k/a National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (“NASD”)) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) and amended on December 11, 2008,¹ pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)² and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,³ a proposed rule change relating to amendments to the FINRA Rule 9520 Series, which governs the eligibility procedures for persons subject to certain disqualifications, to comport with the amended definition of disqualification in the FINRA By-Laws. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal**

Register on January 13, 2009.⁴ The Commission received no comments on the proposed rule change. This order approves the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1.

II. Description of the Proposed Rule Change

In light of FINRA’s obligation to enforce the federal securities laws, and as part of the consolidation of the member firm regulatory functions of NASD and NYSE Regulation, Inc. and the formation of FINRA, FINRA adopted by Board and membership vote a revised By-Law definition of disqualification that is consistent with the federal securities laws, such that any person subject to a statutory disqualification under Section 3(a)(39) of the Act also is subject to disqualification under Article III, Section 4 of the FINRA By-Laws.⁵ Consequently, as further detailed in the proposed *Regulatory Notice* (filed with the Commission as Exhibit 2 to SR-FINRA-2008-045), FINRA’s revised definition of disqualification incorporates three additional categories of statutory disqualification, including willful violations of the federal securities or commodities laws, grounds for statutory disqualification that were enacted in the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, and associations with certain other persons subject to disqualification.

Absent the proposed rule change, all persons subject to any of the added categories of disqualification would be required to obtain approval from FINRA to enter or remain in the securities industry. The proposed rule change would both amend the text of the FINRA Rule 9520 Series generally to reflect the amended definition of disqualification in the By-Laws, as well as include the proposed *Regulatory Notice* that outlines in detail the applicable eligibility procedures. The amended FINRA Rule 9520 Series would incorporate by reference the procedures set forth in the *Regulatory Notice*. As further detailed in the *Regulatory Notice*, the need for a member to file an application with FINRA for approval notwithstanding the disqualification would depend on (1)

the type of the disqualification; (2) the date of the disqualification; and (3) whether the firm or individual is seeking admission, readmission or continuation in the securities industry.

The proposed rule change would amend FINRA Rule 9522 to address the initiation of eligibility proceedings and the authority of FINRA’s Department of Member Regulation (“Member Regulation”) to approve applications relating to a disqualification, where the disqualification arises from findings or orders specified in Section 15(b)(4)(D), (E) or (H) of the Act or arises under Section 3(a)(39)(E) of the Act (*i.e.*, the added categories of disqualification). Currently, FINRA Rule 9522(a)(1) provides, among other things, that if FINRA staff has reason to believe that a disqualification exists, FINRA staff will issue a written notice to the member or applicant for membership under NASD Rule 1013, specifying the grounds for such disqualification. The proposed amendments to FINRA Rule 9522(a)(1) provide that FINRA staff would issue such written notice with respect to the added categories of disqualification only when the member or applicant is required to file an application pursuant to the *Regulatory Notice*. Similarly, the proposed rule change would amend FINRA Rule 9522(b) to require a member to file an application with FINRA with respect to the added categories of disqualification only when instructed to submit one by the *Regulatory Notice*.

Moreover, under the current rules, Member Regulation is responsible for evaluating applications for relief from a disqualification filed by a disqualified member or sponsoring member. In certain circumstances, Member Regulation is authorized to approve the application, while in other cases, Member Regulation must make a recommendation to either approve or deny the applications to the National Adjudicatory Council (“NAC”). The proposed amendments to FINRA Rule 9522 would authorize Member Regulation to approve applications based on the added categories of disqualification. In the event Member Regulation does not approve these applications, the disqualified member or sponsoring member would have the right to have the matter decided by the NAC after a hearing and consideration by the Statutory Disqualification Committee under FINRA Rule 9524.

In addition, if Member Regulation determines that an application relating to a disqualification that arises from findings or orders specified in Section 15(b)(4)(D), (E), or (H) of the Act or arises under Section 3(a)(39)(E) of the

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59208 (January 6, 2009), 74 FR 1738 (January 13, 2009) (SR-FINRA-2008-045) (notice).

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 55495 (March 20, 2007), 72 FR 14149 (March 26, 2007) (SR-NASD-2007-023) (notice). See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 56145 (July 26, 2007), 72 FR 42169 (August 1, 2007) (SR-NASD-2007-023) (approval order), as amended by Securities Exchange Act Release No. 56145A (May 30, 2008), 73 FR 32377 (June 6, 2008). See also NASD, SEC No-Action Letter, 2007 SEC No-Act. LEXIS 540 (July 27, 2007).

¹ Amendment No. 1 to SR-FINRA-2008-045 replaced and superseded the original rule filing submitted to the Commission on September 8, 2008.

² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.