In Canada, as in the United States, individuals can invest a portion of their earnings in tax-deferred retirement savings accounts ("Canadian retirement accounts"). These accounts, which operate in a manner similar to individual retirement accounts in the United States, encourage retirement savings by permitting savings on a tax-deferred basis. Individuals who establish Canadian retirement accounts while living and working in Canada and who later move to the United States ("Canadian-U.S. Participants" or "participants") often continue to hold their retirement assets in their Canadian retirement accounts rather than prematurely withdrawing (or "cashing out") those assets, which would result in immediate taxation in Canada.

Once in the United States, however, these participants historically have been unable to manage their Canadian retirement account investments. Most investment companies ("funds") that are "qualified companies" for Canadian retirement accounts are not registered under the U.S. securities laws.

Securities of those unregistered funds, therefore, generally cannot be publicly offered and sold in the United States without violating the registration requirement of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Investment Company Act"). As a result of this registration requirement, Canadian-U.S. Participants previously were not able to purchase or exchange securities for their Canadian retirement accounts as needed to meet their changing investment goals or income needs.

The Commission issued a rulemaking in 2000 that enabled Canadian-U.S. Participants to manage the assets in their Canadian retirement accounts by providing relief from the U.S. registration requirements for offers of securities of foreign issuers to Canadian-U.S. Participants and sales to Canadian retirement accounts. Rule 7d–2 of the Investment Company Act permits foreign funds to offer securities to Canadian-U.S. Participants and sell securities to Canadian retirement accounts without registering as investment companies under the Investment Company Act.

Rule 7d–2 contains a "collection of information" requirement within the meaning of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Rule 7d–2 requires written offering materials for securities offered or sold in reliance on that rule to disclose prominently that those securities and the fund issuing those securities are not registered with the Commission, and that those securities and the fund issuing those securities are exempt from registration under U.S. securities laws. Rule 7d–2 does not require any documents to be filed with the Commission.

Rule 7d–2 requires written offering documents for securities offered or sold in reliance on the rule to disclose prominently that the securities are not registered with the Commission and may not be offered or sold in the United States unless registered or exempt from registration under the U.S. securities laws, and also to disclose prominently that the fund that issued the securities is not registered with the Commission.

For additional information regarding the rulemaking, see the Commission's release on the rulemaking at 65 FR 37672 (June 15, 2000) [65 FR 37672 (June 15, 2000)]. This rulemaking also included new rule 237 under the Securities Act, permitting securities of foreign issuers to be offered to Canadian-U.S. Participants and sold to Canadian retirement accounts without being registered under the Securities Act.

__NOTES__

1 U.S.C. 80a. In addition, the offering and selling of securities that are not registered pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act") is generally prohibited by U.S. securities laws. 15 U.S.C. 77.

2 See Offer and Sale of Securities to Canadian Tax-Deferred Retirement Savings Accounts, Release Nos. 33–7860, 34–42905, IC–24491 [June 7, 2000] [65 FR 37672 (June 15, 2000)]. This rulemaking also included new rule 237 under the Securities Act, permitting securities of foreign issuers to be offered to Canadian-U.S. Participants and sold to Canadian retirement accounts without being registered under the Securities Act. 17 CFR 230.237.


those securities, for a total of 312 offering documents. The staff therefore estimates that 104 respondents would make 312 responses by adding the new disclosure statement to approximately 312 written offering documents. The staff therefore estimates that the annual burden associated with the rule 7d–2 disclosure requirement would be 52 hours (312 offering documents × 10 minutes per document). The total annual cost of these burden hours is estimated to be $16,432 (52 hours × $316 per hour of attorney time).6

These burden hour estimates are based upon the Commission staff’s experience and discussions with the fund industry. The estimates of average burden hours are made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act. These estimates are not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules.

Compliance with the collection of information requirements of the rule is mandatory and is necessary to comply with the requirements of the rule in general. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission’s estimate of the burdens of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burdens of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Charles Boucher, Director/CIO, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA, 22312; or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

6 The Commission’s estimate concerning the wage rate for attorney time is based on salary information for the securities industry compiled by the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (“SIFMA”). The $316 per hour figure for an attorney is from SIFMA’s Management & Professional Earnings in the Securities Industry 2009, modified by Commission staff to account for an 1800-hour work-year and multiplied by 5.35 to account for bonuses, firm size, employee benefits, and overhead.

Dated: August 9, 2010.

Florence E. Harmon,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change To Amend FINRA Rule 5190 (Notification Requirements for Offering Participants)

August 9, 2010.

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 July 27, 2010, 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 and II below, which Items have substantially been prepared by FINRA. 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 amend FINRA Rule 5190 (Notification Requirements for Offering Participants) relating to the notice requirements applicable to distributions of “actively traded” securities, as defined under SEC Regulation M. The text of the proposed rule change is available on FINRA’s Web site at http://www.finra.org, at the principal office of FINRA 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, 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

FINRA Rule 5190 imposes certain notice requirements on members participating in distributions of listed and unlisted securities and is designed to ensure that FINRA receives pertinent distribution-related information from its members in a timely fashion to facilitate its Regulation M compliance program.

Rule 5190(d) sets forth the notice requirements applicable to distributions of securities that are considered “actively traded” and thus are not subject to a restricted period under Rule 101 of Regulation M.3 In connection with such distributions, pursuant to Rule 5190(d)(1), members are required to provide written notice to FINRA of the member’s determination that no restricted period applies and the basis for such determination. Members must provide such notice at least one business day prior to the pricing of the distribution, unless later notification is necessary under specific circumstances.

Rule 5190(d)(2) requires that upon pricing a distribution of an “actively traded” security, members provide written notice to FINRA, along with pricing-related information such as the offering price, the last sale before the distribution and the pricing basis.

Notice of pricing must be provided no later than the close of business the next business day following the pricing of the distribution, unless later notification is necessary under specific circumstances.

FINRA is proposing to amend Rule 5190(d) to require that notice under subparagraphs (1) and (2) be provided at the same time; specifically, no later than the close of business the next business day following the pricing of the distribution. While the timing of notice under subparagraph (1) would change, the information required would not change. Thus, pursuant to the proposed rule change, members will be required to provide a single notice after pricing of the distribution and will be required to provide all of the same information that they provide today.

FINRA has determined that it will be sufficient for members to provide notice

3 The exclusion for “actively traded” securities removes from Rule 101 of Regulation M securities with an “ADTV” value, as defined in Rule 100 of Regulation M, of at least $1 million where the issuer’s common equity securities have a public float value of at least $150 million.