

(44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) is soliciting comments on the existing collection of information provided for in Rule 17Ac2-1 (17 CFR 240.17Ac2-1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*) (“Exchange Act”). The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) for extension and approval.

Rule 17Ac2-1, pursuant to Section 17A(c) of the Exchange Act, generally requires transfer agents to register with their Appropriate Regulatory Agency (“ARA”), whether the Commission, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or the Office of Thrift Supervision, and to amend their registrations if the information becomes inaccurate, misleading, or incomplete.

Paragraph 1 of Rule 17Ac2-1, requires transfer agents to file a Form TA-1 application for registration with the Commission where the Commission is their ARA. Transfer agents must also file an amended Form TA-1 application for registration if the existing Form TA-1 becomes inaccurate, misleading, or incomplete. The Form TA-1s must be filed with the Commission electronically, absent an exemption, on EDGAR pursuant to Regulation S-T (17 CFR part 232).

The Commission receives on an annual basis approximately 190 applications for registration on Form TA-1 from transfer agents required to register with the Commission. Included in this figure are amendments to Form TA-1 as required by Paragraph (c) of Rule 17Ac2-1 to address information that has become inaccurate, misleading, or incomplete. Based on past submissions, the staff estimates that the average number of hours necessary to comply with the requirements of Rule 17Ac2-1 and Form TA-1 is one and one-half hours with a total burden of 285 hours per year.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission’s estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted within 60 days of this publication.

The Commission may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number. Please direct your written comments to: Thomas Bayer, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: November 18, 2011.

Kevin M. O’Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extension:

Rule 12d2-1; OMB Control No. 3235-0081; SEC File No. 270-98.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) is soliciting comments on the collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

- Rule 12d2-1 (17 CFR 240.12d2-1) Suspension of Trading.

On February 12, 1935, the Commission adopted Rule 12d2-1,¹ under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78b *et seq.*) (“Act”), to establish the procedures by which a national securities exchange may suspend from trading a security that is listed and registered on the exchange under Section 12(d) of the Act.² Under Rule 12d2-1, an exchange is permitted to suspend from trading a listed security in accordance with its rules, and must

promptly notify the Commission of any such suspension, along with the effective date and the reasons for the suspension.

Any such suspension may be continued until such time as the Commission may determine that the suspension is designed to evade the provisions of Section 12(d) of the Act and Rule 12d2-2 thereunder.³ During the continuance of such suspension under Rule 12d2-1, the exchange is required to notify the Commission promptly of any change in the reasons for the suspension. Upon the restoration to trading of any security suspended under Rule 12d2-1, the exchange must notify the Commission promptly of the effective date of such restoration.

The trading suspension notices serve a number of purposes. First, they inform the Commission that an exchange has suspended from trading a listed security or reintroduced trading in a previously suspended security. They also provide the Commission with information necessary for it to determine that the suspension has been accomplished in accordance with the rules of the exchange, and to verify that the exchange has not evaded the requirements of Section 12(d) of the Act and Rule 12d2-2 thereunder by improperly employing a trading suspension. Without Rule 12d2-1, the Commission would be unable to fully implement these statutory responsibilities.

There are 15 national securities exchanges that are subject to Rule 12d2-1. The burden of complying with Rule 12d2-1 is not evenly distributed among the exchanges, however, since there are many more securities listed on the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the NASDAQ Stock Market, and the American Stock Exchange LLC than on the other exchanges.⁴ However, for purposes of this filing, the Commission staff has assumed that the number of responses is evenly divided among the exchanges. There are approximately 1,500 responses under Rule 12d2-1 for the purpose of suspension of trading from the national securities exchanges each year, and the resultant aggregate annual reporting hour burden would be, assuming on average one-half reporting hour per response, 750 annual burden hours for all exchanges. The related

³ Rule 12d2-2 prescribes the circumstances under which a security may be delisted from an exchange and withdrawn from registration under Section 12(b) of the Act, and provides the procedures for taking such action.

⁴ In fact, some exchanges do not file any trading suspension reports in a given year.

¹ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 98 (February 12, 1935).

² See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 7011 (February 5, 1963), 28 FR 1506 (February 16, 1963).

costs associated with these burden hours are \$145,125.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden 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.

The Commission may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

Comments should be directed to: Thomas Bayer, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, Virginia 22312 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted within 60 days of this notice.

Dated: November 18, 2011.

Kevin M. O'Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2011-30219 Filed 11-22-11; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Extension of Existing Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available

From: U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extension:

Rule 9b-1; OMB Control No. 3235-0480; SEC File No. 270-429.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the existing collection of information provided for the following rule: Rule 9b-1, Options Disclosure Document (17

CFR 240.9b-1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78 *et seq.*). The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") for extension and approval.

Rule 9b-1 (17 CFR 240.9b-1) sets forth the categories of information required to be disclosed in an options disclosure document ("ODD") and requires the options markets to file an ODD with the Commission 60 days prior to the date it is distributed to investors. In addition, Rule 9b-1 provides that the ODD must be amended if the information in the document becomes materially inaccurate or incomplete and that amendments must be filed with the Commission 30 days prior to the distribution to customers. Finally, Rule 9b-1 requires a broker-dealer to furnish to each customer an ODD and any amendments, prior to accepting an order to purchase or sell an option on behalf of that customer.

There are 9 options markets that must comply with Rule 9b-1. These respondents work together to prepare a single ODD covering options traded on each market, as well as amendments to the ODD. These respondents file approximately 3 amendments per year. The staff calculates that the preparation and filing of amendments should take no more than eight hours per options market. Thus, the total compliance burden for options markets per year is 216 hours (9 options markets × 8 hours per amendment × 3 amendments). The estimated cost for an in-house attorney is \$354 per hour,¹ resulting in a total cost of compliance for these respondents of \$76,464 per year (216 hours at \$354 per hour).

In addition, approximately 1,500 broker-dealers must comply with Rule 9b-1. Each of these respondents will process an average of 3 new customers for options each week and, therefore, will have to furnish approximately 156 ODDs per year. The postal mailing or electronic delivery of the ODD takes respondents no more than 30 seconds to complete for an annual compliance burden for each of these respondents of 78 minutes or 1.3 hours. Thus, the total compliance burden per year is 1,950 hours (1,500 broker-dealers × 1.3 hours). The estimated cost for a general clerk of a broker-dealer is \$50 per hour,²

¹ The \$354 per hour figure for an Attorney is from SIFMA's *Management & Professional Earnings in the Securities Industry 2010*, 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.

² The \$50 per hour figure for a General Clerk is from SIFMA's *Office Salaries in the Securities Industry 2010*, modified by Commission staff to

resulting in a total cost of compliance for these respondents of \$97,500 per year (1,950 hours at \$50 per hour).

The total compliance burden for all respondents under this rule (both options markets and broker-dealers) is 2,166 hours per year (216 + 1,950), and the total compliance cost is \$173,964 (\$76,464 + \$97,500).

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden 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.

The Commission may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

Comments should be directed to: Thomas Bayer, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, Virginia 22312 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted within 60 days of this notice.

Dated: November 18, 2011.

Kevin M. O'Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

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account for an 1800-hour work-year and multiplied by 2.93 to account for bonuses, firm size, employee benefits and overhead. The staff believes that the ODD would be mailed or electronically delivered to customers by a general clerk of the broker-dealer or some other equivalent position.