SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


On November 22, 2011, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”) 1 and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,2 a proposed rule change related to post-trade transparency for agency pass-through mortgage-backed securities traded “to be announced” (“MBS TBA Transactions”). The proposed rule change was published for comment in the Federal Register on December 8, 2011.3 The Commission received one comment letter on the proposal.4

Section 19(b)(2) of the Act 5 provides that, within 45 days of the publication of notice of the filing of a proposed rule change, or within such longer period up to 90 days as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission shall either approve or disapprove the proposed rule change, or institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved. The 45th day for this filing is January 22, 2012. The Commission is extending this 45-day time period.

The Commission finds that it is appropriate to designate a longer period within which to take action on the proposed rule change so that it has sufficient time to consider the proposed rule change, the comment received, and any response to the comment submitted by FINRA. The proposed rule change would, among other things, provide for post-trade transparency of MBS TBA Transactions that are reported to the Trade Reporting and Compliance Engine (“TRACE”). Accordingly, the Commission, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,6 designates March 7, 2012, as the date by which the Commission should either approve or disapprove or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove the proposed rule change.

For the Commission, by delegation of authority, pursuant to delegated authority.7

Kevin M. O’Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; The NASDAQ–Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend Rules 4613(a)(2)(F) and (G) To Allow Exchange Market Makers To Opt Out of the Automated Quote Management Service


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 January 11, 2012, The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC (the “Exchange” or “NASDAQ”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by NASDAQ. 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

The Exchange proposes to amend Rules 4613(a)(2)(F) and (G) to reflect changes to the Automated Quote Management service that will allow market makers to opt out of the service.

The text of the proposed rule change is below. Proposed new language is in italics; proposed deletions are in brackets.  

Approximately in

4613. Market Maker Obligations

A member registered as a Market Maker shall engage in a course of dealings for its own account to assist in the maintenance, insofar as reasonably practicable, of fair and orderly markets in accordance with this Rule.

(a) Quotation Requirements and Obligations

(1) No change.

(2) Pricing Obligations. For NMS stocks (as defined in Rule 600 under Regulation NMS) a Market Maker shall adhere to the pricing obligations established by this Rule during Regular Trading Hours: provided, however, that such pricing obligations (i) shall not commence during any trading day until after the first regular way transaction on the primary listing market in the security, as reported by the responsible single plan processor, and (ii) shall be suspended during a trading halt, suspension, or pause, and shall not re-commence until after the first regular way transaction on the primary listing market in the security following such halt, suspension, or pause, as reported by the responsible single plan processor (A)–(E) No change.

(F) Quotation Creation and Adjustment. For each issue in which a Market Maker is registered, the System shall, in the absence of a quotation that complies with this Rule entered by that Market Maker, automatically create a quotation for display to comply with this Rule. System-created compliant displayed quotations will thereafter be allowed to rest and not be further adjusted by the System unless the relationship between the quotation and its related National Best Bid or National Best Offer, as appropriate, shrinks to the greater of: (a) 4 percentage points, or, (b) one-quarter the applicable percentage necessary to trigger an individual stock trading pause as described in NASDAQ Rule 4120(a)(11), or expands to within that same percentage less 0.5%, whereupon the System will immediately re-adjust and display the Market Maker’s quote to the appropriate Designated Percentage Contingent on section (D) above. Quotations originally entered by Market Makers which have not been modified by the System upon entry or after resting on the book shall be allowed to move freely towards the National Best Bid or National Best Offer, as appropriate, for potential execution. A Market Maker may opt out of this service at any time by informing Nasdaq of its desire to cease the service. Nasdaq will reinitiate service upon a Market Maker’s request.

(G) Quotation Refresh After Execution. In the event of an execution

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3 See letter from Chris Killian, Managing Director, Securitization, Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Commission, dated December 22, 2011.