SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Provide a Web-Based Delivery Method for Completing the Regulatory Element of the Continuing Education Requirements Pursuant to Rule G–3(i)(i)

October 14, 2015.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act” or “Exchange Act”) and Rule 19b–4 thereunder, notice is hereby given that on September 29, 2015, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (the “MSRB” or “Board”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the MSRB. 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 MSRB filed with the Commission proposed amendments to Rule G–3(i)(i), Continuing Education Requirements, Regulatory Element, to facilitate the Web-based delivery method for meeting the requirements of Rule G–3(i)(i) (the “proposed rule change”). The proposed rule change, which is based on Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”) Rule 1250, has been filed for immediate effectiveness. In order to align the MSRB’s implementation for Web-based delivery of the Regulatory Element with FINRA’s, which begins on October 1, 2015, the MSRB requests that the Commission waive the 30 day operative requirement under Rule 19b–4(f)(6) and the proposed rule change become operative on October 1, 2015. The proposed rule change is not making any changes to the Firm Element component of the Continuing Education Requirements (Rule G–3(i)(iii)).


II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the MSRB 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. The MSRB 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

Background

The MSRB has established a professional qualifications program that establishes competency standards for municipal securities brokers and municipal securities dealers (collectively, “dealers”) and their associated persons. Section 15B(b)(2)(A) of the Act provides that the rules of the MSRB shall require associated persons of dealers to meet such standards of training, experience, competence, and such other qualifications as the MSRB finds necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors and municipal entities or obligated persons. The purpose of the continuing education requirements (“CE requirements”) is to keep registered persons of dealers informed of issues that affect their job responsibilities and of product and regulatory developments. MSRB Rule G–3(i) sets forth a two-pronged approach for CE requirements consisting of a Regulatory Element and a Firm Element; the proposed rule change would amend only the Regulatory Element.

The requirements for compliance with the Regulatory Element component of the MSRB’s CE requirements are identical to the requirements for the Regulatory Element component of FINRA’s CE requirements. Both the MSRB and FINRA require certain registered persons, subsequent to their initial qualification and registration with a registered securities association, to complete a periodic computer-based training program within 120 days of the second anniversary of their registration approval dates and every three years thereafter. The computer-based training program is developed by the Securities Industry Regulatory Council on Continuing Education (“CE Council”), of which both the MSRB and FINRA are members. The training developed by the CE Council is focused on compliance, regulatory, ethical and sales practice standards. The Regulatory Element’s content is derived from

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 58092 (July 3, 2008), 73 FR 40144 (July 11, 2008): The Commission believes that a proposed rule change appropriately may be filed as an immediately effective rule so long as it is based on and similar to another SRO’s rule and each policy issue raised by the proposed rule (i) has been considered previously by the Commission when the Commission approved another exchange’s rule (that was subject to notice and comment), and (ii) the rule change resolves such policy issue in a manner consistent with such prior approval.

Footnotes:

3 See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 58092 (July 3, 2008), 73 FR 40144 (July 11, 2008): The Commission believes that a proposed rule change appropriately may be filed as an immediately effective rule so long as it is based on and similar to another SRO’s rule and each policy issue raised by the proposed rule (i) has been considered previously by the Commission when the Commission approved another exchange’s rule (that was subject to notice and comment), and (ii) the rule change resolves such policy issue in a manner consistent with such prior approval.
6 The CE Council is composed of up to 20 industry members from broker-dealers, representing a broad cross section of industry firms, and representatives from the MSRB and other SROs as well as liaisons from the SEC and the North American Securities Administrators Association. See http://www.cecouncil.com.
industry rules and regulations, as well as widely accepted standards and practices within the industry. Although the specific requirements of certain rules may differ slightly among the various self-regulatory organizations ("SROs"), the programs are based on standards and principles applicable to all. Currently, the Regulatory Element computer-based training may be delivered in a test center or in-firm subject to specified procedures.

On June 11, 2015 FINRA proposed changes to its CE requirements under FINRA Rule 1250 (Continuing Education Requirements) to permit the Regulatory Element program to be administered through Web-based delivery or such other technological manner and format as specified by FINRA and to eliminate the requirements for in-firm and test center delivery of the Regulatory Element. After notice and comment, FINRA’s proposed rule was approved by the SEC.

Proposal

The CE Council believes that, with the advances in Web-based technology, in-firm delivery can be streamlined, making it easier for registered persons to complete the Regulatory Element without having to travel to a testing center. The Board supports the CE Council’s initiative and accordingly approved the proposed rule change. The proposed rule change is wholly consistent with FINRA’s rule proposal amending FINRA Rule 1250 (Continuing Education Requirements) to provide a Web-based delivery method for completing the Regulatory Element of the CE Requirements, which was filed with the SEC on June 4, 2015 and approved by the SEC on July 31, 2015.

The proposed Web-based delivery method will provide registered persons the flexibility to meet the Regulatory Element requirement of MSRB Rule G–3(i)(i) at a location of their choosing, including their private residence, at any time during their 120-day window for completion of the Regulatory Element. The MSRB believes that the same time constraints and rigorous security measures taken at the testing centers, while appropriate for qualification examinations, are not warranted for the completion of the Regulatory Element. The proposed rule change would remove burdens associated with the test center delivery method (e.g., the time spent traveling to a test center and the cost for time spent at a test center). The Web-based format of the Regulatory Element program, which will be administered by FINRA, is designed with safeguards to authenticate the identities of the CE candidates. For instance, prior to commencing a Web-based session, the candidate will be asked to provide a portion of their Social Security number (either first five or last four digits) and their date of birth. Each information will only be used by FINRA for matching data in the CRD system for authentication purposes and the Web CE system will discard this information after the matching process.

In its rule filing, FINRA outlined a timeline for phasing in Web-based delivery and guidance for any firms that currently utilize in-firm delivery for CE delivery. After the SEC’s approval of FINRA’s rule change, FINRA announced that it will launch the first phase of the Web-based delivery of Regulatory Element (“CE Online”), which will include the S106, S201 and S901 Regulatory Element programs, on October 1, 2015 and will launch the second phase of CE Online, which will include the S101 Regulatory Element program, on January 4, 2016. Before commencing a Web-based session, each candidate will be required to agree to

would modernize the CE requirements, remove burdens associated with the test center delivery method (e.g., the time spent traveling to a test center), and reduce the fees and other costs associated with the Regulatory Element.

Although the proposed rule change provides for flexibility, firms may impose additional conditions upon registered persons based on the firm’s supervisory obligations and compliance controls.

2. Statutory Basis

The MSRB believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15B(b)(2)(A) of the Act, which authorizes the MSRB, in part, to prescribe for municipal securities brokers or municipal securities dealers and/or municipal securities dealers and/or municip
III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)\(^{18}\) of the Act and Rule 19b–4(f)(6)\(^{19}\) thereunder, the MSRB has designated the proposed rule change as one that affects a change that does not: (i) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate. A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b–4(f)(6) normally does not become operative until 30 days after the date of filing.\(^{20}\) However, Rule 19b–4(f)(6)(iii) permits the Commission to waive the 30 day operative delay if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest.\(^{21}\) The MSRB has requested that the Commission designate the proposed rule change operative on October 1, 2015, which is less than 30 days after the date of filing of the proposed rule change, as specified in Rule 19b–4(f)(6)(iii).\(^{22}\) The MSRB has provided that the proposed rule change is based on FINRA Rule 1250, which was filed for effectiveness commencing October 1, 2015 and approved by the Commission on July 31, 2015.\(^{23}\) The MSRB believes that an October 1, 2015 implementation date of the proposed rule change is necessary in order to align the MSRB’s implementation for Web-based delivery of the Regulatory Element with FINRA’s, which begins on October 1, 2015.\(^{24}\) The MSRB has stated that the Regulatory Element component of the MSRB’s CE requirements is identical to the Regulatory Element component of FINRA’s CE requirements and that the proposed rule change will provide registered persons with time and cost savings by eliminating the need to visit test centers to complete the Regulatory Element. The Commission believes that waiving the 30 day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because it will allow for the consistent implementation of the Regulatory Element of the MSRB’s CE requirements with FINRA’s and permit persons registered with both the MSRB and FINRA to fulfill their respective CE requirements in a uniform manner. Therefore, the Commission hereby waives the 30 day operative delay and designates the proposed rule change operative on October 1, 2015.\(^{25}\)

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend 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 email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR–MSRB–2015–11 on the subject line.

**Paper Comments**
- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR–MSRB–2015–11. This file number should be included on the subject line if email 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

\(^{20}\) Id.
\(^{21}\) In addition, Rule 19b–4(f)(6)(iii) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file a proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of such proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Commission has designated a shorter time for delivery of such written notice.
\(^{22}\) See SR–MSRB–2015–11 (filed with the Commission on September 29, 2015).
\(^{23}\) See supra note 14.

\(^{24}\) For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay for this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule’s impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations;
Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to End of Week/End of Month Expirations Pilot Program

October 14, 2015.

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 October 1, 2015, Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated (the “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Exchange filed the proposal as a “non-controversial” proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act3 and Rule 19b–4(f)(6) thereunder.4 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

CBOE proposes to amend Rule 24.9(e) (End of Week/End of Month Expirations Pilot Program (“Program”)) by clarifying the maximum numbers of expirations permitted to be listed under the Program and by deleting outdated text from Rule 24.9(e). The Exchange is not proposing to change the substantive content of Rule 24.9(e).

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Web site (http://www.cboe.com/AboutCBOE/CBOELegalRegulatoryHome.aspx), at the Exchange’s Office of the Secretary, and at the Commission.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange 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. The Exchange 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

On September 14, 2010, the Commission approved CBOE’s proposal to establish a pilot program under which CBOE is permitted to list P.M.-settled options on broad-based indexes to expire on (a) any Friday of the month, other than the third Friday-of-the-month, and (b) the last trading day of the month.5 The terms of the Program are set forth in Rule 24.9(e) and End of Week Expirations (“EOWs”) and End of Month Expirations (“EOMs”) are permitted on any broad-based index that is eligible for standard options trading. EOWs and EOMs are cash-settled expirations with European-style exercise, and are subject to the same rules that govern the trading of standard index options.

Maximum Numbers of Expirations Permitted Under Program

This current filing proposes to amend Rule 24.9(e) by clarifying the maximum numbers of expirations permitted to be listed under the Program. In support of this change, CBOE states that EOWs and EOMs are subject to the same rules governing standard options on the same broad-based index class. In the filing to establish the Program, CBOE provided example expirations for EOWs and EOMs and cited to Rule 24.9(a)(2) as the specific rule governing the expiration months that may be listed for index options.6 Because Rule 24.9(a)(2) is phrased in terms of “standard monthly expirations” (vs. the more general term “expirations”), CBOE believes that some ambiguity may exist as to the maximum numbers of EOWs and EOMs that may be listed under the Program. In addition, CBOE believes that providing for the maximum numbers of expirations permitted under the Program within Rule 24.9(e) would make that Program clearer on its face by eliminating any potential ambiguity about the maximum numbers of expirations permitted under the Program. As a result, CBOE proposes to amend the Program as follows.

Respecting EOWs, CBOE proposes to amend Rule 24.9(e)(1) by adding the following rule text:

The maximum numbers of expirations that may be listed for EOWs is the same as the maximum numbers of expirations permitted in Rule 24.9(a)(2) for standard options on the same broad-based index. EOW expirations shall be for the nearest Friday expirations from the actual listing date, other than the third Friday-of-the-month or that coincide with an EOM expiration. If the last trading day of a month is a Friday, the Exchange will list an EOM and not an EOW. Other expirations in the same class are not counted as part of the maximum numbers of EOW expirations for a broad-based index class.

In support of this change, CBOE states that under Rule 24.9(a)(2), the maximum numbers of expirations varies depending on the type of class or by specific class. Therefore, the maximum number of expirations permitted for EOWs on a given class would be determined based on the specific broad-based index option class. For example, if the broad-based index option class is used to calculate a volatility index, the maximum number of EOWs permitted in that class would be 12 expirations (as is permitted in Rule 24.9(a)(2)). For EOWs, CBOE proposes to require that the expirations be for weeks that are in the nearest Friday from the actual listing date, other than the third Friday-of-the-month or that coincide with an EOM expiration. CBOE proposes to set forth the listing hierarchy described in the original Program filing, which provides that if the last trading day of a month