

will apply equally to all Industry Members that trade NMS Securities and OTC Equity Securities. In addition, FINRA and all national securities exchanges are proposing these amendments to their Compliance Rules. Therefore, this is not a competitive rule filing and does not impose a burden on competition.

*C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others*

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

**III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action**

Because the foregoing proposed rule change 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, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>38</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>39</sup>

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)<sup>40</sup> normally does not become operative prior to 30 days after the date of the filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii),<sup>41</sup> the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. FINRA has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposal may become operative by June 22, 2020. The Commission believes that waiver of the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because it implements exemptive relief from the CAT NMS Plan granted by the Commission and facilitates the start of Industry Member reporting on June 22, 2020. In addition, as noted by the FINRA, the proposed rule change is based on a filing recently approved by the Commission.<sup>42</sup> Accordingly, the Commission waives the 30-day operative delay and

designates the proposed rule change operative as of June 22, 2020.<sup>43</sup>

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. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

**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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-FINRA-2020-018 on the subject line.

*Paper Comments*

• Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2020-018. 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 website (<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 available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of such filing

also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of FINRA. All comments received will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2020-018 and should be submitted on or before July 17, 2020.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>44</sup>

**J. Matthew DeLesDernier,**  
*Assistant Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

[Public Notice 11147]

**Notice of Department of State Sanctions Actions Pursuant to Executive Order 13894 of October 14, 2019, Blocking Property and Suspending Entry of Certain Persons Contributing to the Situation in Syria**

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of State imposed sanctions on fifteen individuals pursuant to E.O. 13894, Blocking Property and Suspending Entry of Certain Persons Contributing to the Situation in Syria.

**DATES:** The Secretary of State's determination and selection of certain sanctions to be imposed upon the one individual identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section are effective on June 17, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Taylor Ruggles, Director, Office of Economic Sanctions Policy and Implementation, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520, tel.: (202) 647 7677, email: [RugglesTV@state.gov](mailto:RugglesTV@state.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to Section 2(a) of E.O. 13894, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the United States Trade Representative, and with the President of the Export-Import Bank, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and other agencies and officials as appropriate, is authorized to impose on a person any of the sanctions described in sections 2(b) and 2(c) of E.O. 13894

<sup>38</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>39</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. FINRA has satisfied this requirement.

<sup>40</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>41</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

<sup>42</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 89108 (June 19, 2020).

<sup>43</sup> For purposes only of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

<sup>44</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

upon determining that the person met any criteria set forth in section 2(a)(i)(A), 2(a)(i)(D), or 2(a)(ii) of E.O. 13894.

The Secretary of State has determined, pursuant to Section 2(a)(i)(A) of E.O. 13894, that Bashar al-Assad, Maher al-Assad, Ghassan Bilal, Samer al-Dana, and the Fourth Division of the Syrian Arab Army are responsible for or complicit in, have directly or indirectly engaged in, attempted to engage in, or financed, the obstruction, disruption, or prevention of a ceasefire in northern Syria.

The Secretary of State determined, pursuant to Section 2(a)(i)(D) of E.O. 13894, that Mohamed Hamsho and the Fatemiyoun Division are responsible for or complicit in, have directly or indirectly engaged in, attempted to engage in, or financed, the obstruction, disruption, or prevention of efforts to promote a political solution to the conflict in Syria.

The Secretary of State determined, pursuant to Section 2(a)(ii) of E.O. 13894, that Asma al-Assad, and Bushra al-Assad are adult family members of Bashar al-Assad; Manal al-Assad is an adult family member of Maher al-Assad; and Ahmed Hamsho, Amre Hamsho, Ali Hamsho, Rania al-Dabbas, and Sumaia Hamcho are adult family members of Mohamed Hamsho.

Pursuant to Sections 2(b) and 2(c) of E.O. 13894, the Secretary of State has selected the following sanctions to be imposed upon Bashar al-Assad, Asma al-Assad, Bushra al-Assad, Maher al-Assad, Ghassan Bilal, Samer al-Dana, Manal al-Assad, the Fourth Division of the Syrian Arab Army, Mohamed Hamsho, Ahmed Hamsho, Amre Hamsho, Ali Hamsho, Rania al-Dabbas, Sumaia Hamcho, and the Fatemiyoun Division:

- Agencies shall not procure, or enter into a contract for the procurement of, any goods or services from the individuals and entities. (Section 2(b)(i) of E.O. 13894);

- prohibit any United States financial institution that is a U.S. person from making loans or providing credits to the individuals and entities totaling more than \$10,000,000 in any 12-month period, unless the individuals and entities are engaged in activities to relieve human suffering and the loans or credits are provided for such activities (Section 2(c)(i) of E.O. 13894);

- prohibit any transactions in foreign exchange that are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and in which the individuals and entities have any interest (Section 2(c)(ii) of E.O. 13894);

- prohibit any transfers of credit or payments between banking institutions or by, through, or to any banking institution, to the extent that such transfers or payments are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and involve any interest of the individuals and entities (Section 2(c)(iii) of E.O. 13894);

- block all property and interests in property that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of any United States person of the individuals and entities, and provide that such property and interests in property may not be transferred, paid, exported, withdrawn, or otherwise dealt in (Section 2(c)(iv) of E.O. 13894);

- prohibit any United States person from investing in or purchasing significant amounts of equity or debt instruments of the individuals and entities (Section 2(c)(v) of E.O. 13894); and

- restrict or prohibit imports of goods, technology, or services, directly or indirectly, into the United States from the individuals and entities (Section 2(c)(vi) of E.O. 13894).

**Taylor V. Ruggles,**

*Director, Office of Economic Sanctions Policy and Implementation, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Department of State.*

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## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket Number USTR-2020-0027]

### Request for Comments Concerning the Extension of Particular Exclusions Granted Under the \$300 Billion Action Pursuant to Section 301: China's Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** On August 20, 2019, at the direction of the President, the U.S. Trade Representative determined to modify the action being taken in the Section 301 investigation of China's acts, policies, and practices related to technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation by imposing additional duties of 10 percent *ad valorem* on goods of China with an annual trade value of approximately \$300 billion. The additional duties on

products in List 1, which is set out in Annex A of that action, became effective on September 1, 2019. On August 30, 2019, at the direction of the President, the U.S. Trade Representative determined to increase the rate of the additional duty applicable to the tariff subheadings covered by the action announced in the August 20 notice from 10 to 15 percent. On January 22, 2020, the U.S. Trade Representative determined to reduce the rate from 15 to 7.5 percent. The U.S. Trade Representative initiated a product exclusion process in October 2019, and as of June 12, 2020, had issued five product exclusion notices under this action. The product exclusions granted under these notices are scheduled to expire on September 1, 2020. The U.S. Trade Representative has decided to consider a possible extension for up to 12 months of particular exclusions granted under these initial five product exclusion notices. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) invites public comment on whether to extend particular exclusions.

**DATES:** July 1, 2020: The public docket on the web portal at <https://comments.USTR.gov> will open for parties to submit comments on the possible extension of particular exclusions.

July 30, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. ET: To be assured of consideration, submit written comments on the public docket by this deadline.

**ADDRESSES:** You must submit all comments through the online portal: <https://comments.USTR.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Associate General Counsel Philip Butler or Assistant General Counsel Benjamin Allen at (202) 395-5725.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### A. Background

For background on the proceedings in this investigation, please see prior notices including 82 FR 40213 (August 24, 2017), 83 FR 14906 (April 6, 2018), 84 FR 22564 (May 17, 2019), 84 FR 43304 (August 20, 2019), 84 FR 45821 (August 30, 2019), 84 FR 57144 (October 24, 2019), 84 FR 69447 (December 18, 2019), 85 FR 3741 (January 22, 2020), 85 FR 13970 (March 10, 2020), 85 FR 15244 (March 17, 2020), 85 FR 17936 (March 31, 2020), 85 FR 28693 (May 13, 2020), 85 FR 32099 (May 28, 2020), and 85 FR 35975 (June 12, 2020).

In a notice published on August 20, 2019, the U.S. Trade Representative, at the direction of the President, announced a determination to modify the action being taken in the Section 301 investigation by imposing an