

**EXHIBIT 5**Text of the Proposed Rule Change<sup>1</sup>

New language is underlined; deletions are in [brackets].

**5605. Board of Directors and Committees****(a) Definitions****(1) No change.**

**(2)** “Independent Director” means a person other than an Executive Officer or employee of the Company or any other individual having a relationship which, in the opinion of the Company’s board of directors, would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director. For purposes of this rule, “Family Member” means a person’s spouse, parents, children and siblings, whether by blood, marriage or adoption, or anyone residing in such person’s home. The following persons shall not be considered independent:

**(A) – (B) No change.**

**(C)** a director who is a Family Member of an individual who is, or at any time during the past three years was, employed by the [c]Company as an Executive Officer;

**(D) – (G) No change.*****IM-5605. Definition of Independence — Rule 5605(a)(2)***

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*Paragraph (G) of the Rule provides a different measurement for independence for investment companies in order to harmonize with the Investment Company Act of 1940. In particular, in lieu of paragraphs (A)-(F), a director who is an “interested person” of the [c]Company as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, other than in his or her capacity as a member of the board of directors or any board committee, shall not be considered independent.*

**(b) No change.****(c) Audit Committee Requirements**

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<sup>1</sup> Changes are marked to the rule text that appears in the electronic Nasdaq Manual found at <http://nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com>.

**(1) Audit Committee Charter**

Each Company must certify that it has adopted a formal written audit committee charter and that the audit committee [has reviewed and reassessed]will review and reassess the adequacy of the formal written charter on an annual basis. The charter must specify:

(A) the scope of the audit committee's responsibilities, and how it carries out those responsibilities, including structure, processes[, ] and membership requirements;

(B) the audit committee's responsibility for ensuring its receipt from the outside auditors of a formal written statement delineating all relationships between the auditor and the Company, actively engaging in a dialogue with the auditor with respect to any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the auditor and for taking, or recommending that the full board take, appropriate action to oversee the independence of the outside auditor; [and]

(C) the committee's purpose of overseeing the accounting and financial reporting processes of the Company and the audits of the financial statements of the Company; and

(D) the specific audit committee responsibilities and authority set forth in Rule 5605(c)(3).

**IM-5605-3. No change.**

**(2) Audit Committee Composition**

(A) Each Company must have, and certify that it has and will continue to have, an audit committee of at least three members, each of whom must: (i) be [independent]an Independent Director as defined under Rule 5605(a)(2); (ii) meet the criteria for independence set forth in Rule 10A-3(b)(1) under the Act (subject to the exemptions provided in Rule 10A-3(c) under the Act); (iii) not have participated in the preparation of the financial statements of the Company or any current subsidiary of the Company at any time during the past three years; and (iv) be able to read and understand fundamental financial statements, including a Company's balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement. Additionally, each Company must certify that it has, and will continue to have, at least one member of the audit committee who has past employment experience in finance or accounting,

requisite professional certification in accounting, or any other comparable experience or background which results in the individual's financial sophistication, including being or having been a chief executive officer, chief financial officer or other senior officer with financial oversight responsibilities.

**(B) Non-Independent Director for Exceptional and Limited Circumstances**

Notwithstanding paragraph (2)(A)(i), one director who: (i) is not [independent]an Independent Director as defined in Rule 5605(a)(2); (ii) meets the criteria set forth in Section 10A(m)(3) under the Act and the rules thereunder; and (iii) is not currently an Executive Officer or employee or a Family Member of an Executive Officer, may be appointed to the audit committee, if the board, under exceptional and limited circumstances, determines that membership on the committee by the individual is required by the best interests of the Company and its Shareholders. A Company, other than a Foreign Private Issuer, that relies on this exception must comply with the disclosure requirements set forth in Item 407(d)(2) of Regulation S-K. A Foreign Private Issuer that relies on this exception must disclose in its next annual report (e.g., Form 20-F or 40-F) the nature of the relationship that makes the individual not independent and the reasons for the board's determination. A member appointed under this exception may not serve longer than two years and may not chair the audit committee.

***IM-5605-4. Audit Committee Composition***

*Audit committees are required to have a minimum of three members and be comprised only of Independent Directors. In addition to satisfying the Independent Director requirements under Rule 5605(a)(2), audit committee members must meet the criteria for independence set forth in Rule 10A-3(b)(1) under the Act (subject to the exemptions provided in Rule 10A-3(c) under the Act): they must not accept any consulting, advisory, or other compensatory fee from the Company other than for board service, and they must not be an affiliated person of the Company. As described in Rule 10A-3(d)(1) and (2), a Company must disclose reliance on certain exceptions from Rule 10A-3 and disclose an assessment of whether, and if so, how, such reliance would materially adversely affect the ability of the audit committee to act independently and to satisfy the other requirements of Rule 10A-3. It is recommended also that a Company disclose in its annual proxy (or, if the Company does not file a proxy, in its Form 10-K or 20-F) if any director is deemed [independent]eligible to serve on the audit committee but falls outside the safe harbor provisions of Rule 10A-3(e)(1)(ii) under the Act. A director who qualifies as an audit committee financial expert under Item 407(d)(5)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation S-K is presumed to qualify as a financially sophisticated audit committee member under Rule 5605(c)(2)(A).*

### **(3) Audit Committee Responsibilities and Authority**

The audit committee must have the specific audit committee responsibilities and authority necessary to comply with Rule 10A-3(b)(2), (3), (4) and (5) under the Act (subject to the exemptions provided in Rule 10A-3(c) under the Act), concerning responsibilities relating to: (i) registered public accounting firms, (ii) complaints relating to accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, (iii) authority to engage [advisors]advisers, and (iv) funding as determined by the audit committee. Audit committees for investment companies must also establish procedures for the confidential, anonymous submission of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters by employees of the investment adviser, administrator, principal underwriter, or any other provider of accounting related services for the investment company, as well as employees of the investment company.

#### ***IM-5605-5. The Audit Committee Responsibilities and Authority***

*Audit committees must have the specific audit committee responsibilities and authority necessary to comply with Rule 10A-3(b)(2), (3), (4) and (5) under the Act (subject to the exemptions provided in Rule 10A-3(c) under the Act), concerning responsibilities relating to registered public accounting firms; complaints relating to accounting; internal accounting controls or auditing matters; authority to engage [advisors]advisers; and funding. Audit committees for investment companies must also establish procedures for the confidential, anonymous submission of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters by employees of the investment adviser, administrator, principal underwriter, or any other provider of accounting related services for the investment company, as well as employees of the investment company.*

**(4) – (5) No change.**

#### **[(d) Independent Director Oversight of Executive Officer Compensation**

**(1)** Compensation of the chief executive officer of the Company must be determined, or recommended to the Board for determination, either by:

**(A)** Independent Directors constituting a majority of the Board's Independent Directors in a vote in which only Independent Directors participate; or

**(B)** a compensation committee comprised solely of Independent Directors.

The chief executive officer may not be present during voting or deliberations.

(2) Compensation of all other Executive Officers must be determined, or recommended to the Board for determination, either by:

(A) Independent Directors constituting a majority of the Board's Independent Directors in a vote in which only Independent Directors participate; or

(B) a compensation committee comprised solely of Independent Directors.

**(3) Non-Independent Committee Member under Exceptional and Limited Circumstances**

Notwithstanding paragraphs 5605(d)(1)(B) and 5605(d)(2)(B) above, if the compensation committee is comprised of at least three members, one director who is not independent as defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) and is not currently an Executive Officer or employee or a Family Member of an Executive Officer, may be appointed to the compensation committee if the board, under exceptional and limited circumstances, determines that such individual's membership on the committee is required by the best interests of the Company and its Shareholders. A Company that relies on this exception must disclose either on or through the Company's website or in the proxy statement for the next annual meeting subsequent to such determination (or, if the Company does not file a proxy, in its Form 10-K or 20-F), the nature of the relationship and the reasons for the determination. In addition, the Company must provide any disclosure required by Instruction 1 to Item 407(a) of Regulation S-K regarding its reliance on this exception. A member appointed under this exception may not serve longer than two years.

***IM-5605-6. Independent Director Oversight of Executive Compensation***

*Independent director oversight of executive officer compensation helps assure that appropriate incentives are in place, consistent with the board's responsibility to maximize shareholder value. The rule is intended to provide flexibility for a Company to choose an appropriate board structure and to reduce resource burdens, while ensuring Independent Director control of compensation decisions.]*

**(d) Compensation Committee Requirements**

**(1) Compensation Committee Charter**

Each Company must certify that it has adopted a formal written compensation committee charter and that the compensation committee

will review and reassess the adequacy of the formal written charter on an annual basis. The charter must specify:

(A) the scope of the compensation committee's responsibilities, and how it carries out those responsibilities, including structure, processes and membership requirements;

(B) the compensation committee's responsibility for determining, or recommending to the board for determination, the compensation of the chief executive officer and all other Executive Officers of the Company;

(C) that the chief executive officer may not be present during voting or deliberations on his or her compensation; and

(D) the specific compensation committee responsibilities and authority set forth in Rule 5605(d)(3).

## **(2) Compensation Committee Composition**

(A) Each Company must have, and certify that it has and will continue to have, a compensation committee of at least two members, each of whom must: (i) be an Independent Director as defined under Rule 5605(a)(2); and (ii) not accept directly or indirectly any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from the Company or any subsidiary thereof. Compensatory fees shall not include: (i) fees received as a member of the compensation committee, the board of directors or any other board committee; or (ii) the receipt of fixed amounts of compensation under a retirement plan (including deferred compensation) for prior service with the Company (provided that such compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service). In determining whether a director is eligible to serve on the compensation committee, a Company's board also must consider whether the director is affiliated with the Company, a subsidiary of the Company or an affiliate of a subsidiary of the Company to determine whether such affiliation would impair the director's judgment as a member of the compensation committee.

### **(B) Non-Independent Committee Member under Exceptional and Limited Circumstances**

Notwithstanding paragraph 5605(d)(2)(A) above, if the compensation committee is comprised of at least three members, one director who does not meet the requirements of paragraph 5605(d)(2)(A) and is not currently an Executive Officer or

employee or a Family Member of an Executive Officer, may be appointed to the compensation committee if the board, under exceptional and limited circumstances, determines that such individual's membership on the committee is required by the best interests of the Company and its Shareholders. A Company that relies on this exception must disclose either on or through the Company's website or in the proxy statement for the next annual meeting subsequent to such determination (or, if the Company does not file a proxy, in its Form 10-K or 20-F), the nature of the relationship and the reasons for the determination. In addition, the Company must provide any disclosure required by Instruction 1 to Item 407(a) of Regulation S-K regarding its reliance on this exception. A member appointed under this exception may not serve longer than two years.

### **(3) Compensation Committee Responsibilities and Authority**

The compensation committee must have the specific compensation committee responsibilities and authority necessary to comply with Rule 10C-1(b)(2), (3) and (4)(i)-(vi) under the Act relating to the: (i) authority to retain compensation consultants, independent legal counsel and other compensation advisers; (ii) authority to fund such advisers; and (iii) responsibility to consider certain independence factors before selecting such advisers, other than in-house legal counsel.

### **(4) Cure Period for Compensation Committee**

If a Company fails to comply with the compensation committee composition requirement under Rule 5605(d)(2)(A) due to one vacancy, or one compensation committee member ceases to be independent due to circumstances beyond the member's reasonable control, the Company shall regain compliance with the requirement by the earlier of its next annual shareholders meeting or one year from the occurrence of the event that caused the failure to comply with this requirement; provided, however, that if the annual shareholders meeting occurs no later than 180 days following the event that caused the failure to comply with this requirement, the Company shall instead have 180 days from such event to regain compliance. A Company relying on this provision shall provide notice to Nasdaq immediately upon learning of the event or circumstance that caused the noncompliance.

### **(5) Smaller Reporting Companies**

A Smaller Reporting Company, as defined in Rule 12b-2 under the Act, is not subject to the requirements of Rule 5605(d), except that a Smaller Reporting Company must have, and certify that it has and will continue to

have, a compensation committee of at least two members, each of whom must be an Independent Director as defined under Rule 5605(a)(2). A Smaller Reporting Company may rely on the exception in Rule 5605(d)(2)(B) and the cure period in Rule 5605(d)(4). In addition, a Smaller Reporting Company must certify that it has adopted a formal written compensation committee charter or board resolution that specifies the content set forth in Rule 5605(d)(1)(A)-(C). A Smaller Reporting Company does not need to include in its formal written compensation committee charter or board resolution the specific compensation committee responsibilities and authority set forth in Rule 5605(d)(3).

#### **(6) Effective Dates/Transition**

The provisions of Rule 5605(d)(3) shall be effective immediately; to the extent a Company does not have a compensation committee, the provisions of this rule shall apply to the Independent Directors who determine, or recommend to the board for determination, the compensation of the chief executive officer and all other Executive Officers of the Company. Companies should consider under state corporate law whether to grant the specific responsibilities and authority referenced in Rule 5605(d)(3) through a charter, resolution or other board action; however, Nasdaq requires only that compensation committees immediately have such responsibilities and authority. While Companies must eventually have a written compensation committee charter that includes, among others, these responsibilities and authority, Companies may implement such a charter on the schedule discussed below.

In order to allow Companies to make necessary adjustments in the course of their regular annual meeting schedule, the remaining provisions of Rule 5605(d) and IM-5605-6 shall be implemented by the Company's second annual meeting held after the date of approval of Nasdaq's rule proposal contained in SR-NASDAQ-2012-109, but no later than December 31, 2014. A Company must certify to Nasdaq, no later than 30 days after the implementation deadline applicable to it, that it has complied with the amended listing rules on compensation committees. During the transition period, Companies that are not yet required to comply with revised Rule 5605(d) and IM-5605-6 must continue to comply with Rule 5605A(d) and IM-5605A-6.

#### **IM-5605-6. Independent Director Oversight of Executive Compensation**

*Independent oversight of executive officer compensation helps assure that appropriate incentives are in place, consistent with the board's responsibility to act in the best interests of the corporation. Compensation committees are required to have a minimum of two members and be comprised only of Independent Directors.*

In addition to satisfying the Independent Director requirements under Rule 5605(a)(2), compensation committee members must not accept any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from the Company, other than fees received for board or committee service or fixed amounts of compensation received under a retirement plan (including deferred compensation) for prior service with the Company (provided that such compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service). In addition, a Company's board must consider, in determining whether a director is eligible to serve on the compensation committee, whether the director is affiliated with the Company, a subsidiary of the Company or an affiliate of a subsidiary of the Company to determine whether such affiliation would impair the director's judgment as a member of the compensation committee. In that regard, while a board may conclude differently with respect to individual facts and circumstances, Nasdaq does not believe that ownership of Company stock by itself, or possession of a controlling interest through ownership of Company stock by itself, precludes a board finding that it is appropriate for a director to serve on the compensation committee. In fact, it may be appropriate for certain affiliates, such as representatives of significant stockholders, to serve on compensation committees since their interests are likely aligned with those of other stockholders in seeking an appropriate executive compensation program.

A Smaller Reporting Company must have a compensation committee with a minimum of two members who are Independent Directors as defined under Rule 5605(a)(2) and a formal written compensation committee charter or board resolution that specifies the committee's responsibilities and authority. However, in recognition of the fact that Smaller Reporting Companies may have fewer resources than larger Companies, Smaller Reporting Companies are not required to adhere to the additional compensation committee eligibility requirements in Rule 5605(d)(2)(A), or to incorporate into their formal written compensation committee charter or board resolution the specific compensation committee responsibilities and authority set forth in Rule 5605(d)(3).

#### **(e) Independent Director Oversight of Director Nominations**

**(1) – (2) No change.**

#### **(3) Non-Independent Committee Member under Exceptional and Limited Circumstances**

Notwithstanding paragraph 5605(e)(1)(B) above, if the nominations committee is comprised of at least three members, one director, who is not [independent]an Independent Director as defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) and is not currently an Executive Officer or employee or a Family Member of an Executive Officer, may be appointed to the nominations committee if the board, under exceptional and limited circumstances, determines that such individual's membership on the committee is required by the best interests of the Company and its Shareholders. A Company that relies on this exception must disclose either on or through the Company's website or in the proxy statement for next annual meeting subsequent to such

determination (or, if the Company does not file a proxy, in its Form 10-K or 20-F), the nature of the relationship and the reasons for the determination. In addition, the Company must provide any disclosure required by Instruction 1 to Item 407(a) of Regulation S-K regarding its reliance on this exception. A member appointed under this exception may not serve longer than two years.

**(4) – (5) No change.**

**IM-5605-7. No change.**

**Rule 5605A. Sunsetting Provisions.**

**The provisions of this Rule 5605A shall apply until a Company is subject to the corresponding provisions of Rule 5605.**

**(a) Reserved.**

**(b) Reserved.**

**(c) Reserved.**

**(d) Independent Director Oversight of Executive Officer Compensation**

**(1) Compensation of the chief executive officer of the Company must be determined, or recommended to the Board for determination, either by:**

**(A) Independent Directors constituting a majority of the Board's Independent Directors in a vote in which only Independent Directors participate; or**

**(B) a compensation committee comprised solely of Independent Directors.**

**The chief executive officer may not be present during voting or deliberations.**

**(2) Compensation of all other Executive Officers must be determined, or recommended to the Board for determination, either by:**

**(A) Independent Directors constituting a majority of the Board's Independent Directors in a vote in which only Independent Directors participate; or**

**(B) a compensation committee comprised solely of Independent Directors.**

### **(3) Non-Independent Committee Member under Exceptional and Limited Circumstances**

Notwithstanding paragraphs 5605A(d)(1)(B) and 5605A(d)(2)(B) above, if the compensation committee is comprised of at least three members, one director who is not independent as defined in Rule 5605(a)(2) and is not currently an Executive Officer or employee or a Family Member of an Executive Officer, may be appointed to the compensation committee if the board, under exceptional and limited circumstances, determines that such individual's membership on the committee is required by the best interests of the Company and its Shareholders. A Company that relies on this exception must disclose either on or through the Company's website or in the proxy statement for the next annual meeting subsequent to such determination (or, if the Company does not file a proxy, in its Form 10-K or 20-F), the nature of the relationship and the reasons for the determination. In addition, the Company must provide any disclosure required by Instruction 1 to Item 407(a) of Regulation S-K regarding its reliance on this exception. A member appointed under this exception may not serve longer than two years.

### **IM-5605A-6. Independent Director Oversight of Executive Compensation**

Independent director oversight of executive officer compensation helps assure that appropriate incentives are in place, consistent with the board's responsibility to maximize shareholder value. The rule is intended to provide flexibility for a Company to choose an appropriate board structure and to reduce resource burdens, while ensuring Independent Director control of compensation decisions.

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### **5615. Exemptions from Certain Corporate Governance Requirements**

This rule provides the exemptions from the corporate governance rules afforded to certain types of Companies, and sets forth the phase-in schedules for initial public offerings, Companies emerging from bankruptcy, [and ]Companies transferring from other markets and Companies ceasing to be Smaller Reporting Companies. This rule also describes the applicability of the corporate governance rules to Controlled Companies and sets forth the phase-in schedule afforded to Companies ceasing to be Controlled Companies. During the transition period before Companies are subject to revised Rule 5605(d) and IM-5605-6, a reference in this Rule 5615 to Rule 5605(d) or IM-5605-6 shall be deemed to refer to Rule 5605A(d) or IM-5605A-6.

#### **(a) Exemptions to the Corporate Governance Requirements**

##### **(1) Asset-backed Issuers and Other Passive Issuers**

[The following are exempt from the requirements relating to Majority Independent Board [Rule 5605(b)], Audit Committee [Rule 5605(c)], Independent Director Oversight of Executive Officer Compensation [Rule 5605(d)] and Director Nominations [Rule 5605(e)], the Controlled Company Exemption [Rule 5615(c)(2)], and Code of Conduct [Rule 5610]:]The following are exempt from the requirements relating to Majority Independent Board (Rule 5605(b)), Audit Committee (Rule 5605(c)), Compensation Committee (Rule 5605(d)), Director Nominations (Rule 5605(e)), the Controlled Company Exemption (Rule 5615(c)(2)), and Code of Conduct (Rule 5610):

**(A) – (B) No change.**

**IM-5615-1. No change.**

**(2) No change.**

**IM-5615-2. No change.**

**(3) Foreign Private Issuers**

(A) A Foreign Private Issuer may follow its home country practice in lieu of the requirements of the Rule 5600 Series, the requirement to distribute annual and interim reports set forth in Rule 5250(d), and the Direct Registration Program requirement set forth in Rules 5210(c) and 5255, provided, however, that such a Company shall: comply with the Notification of Noncompliance requirement ([ ]Rule 5625), the Voting Rights requirement ([ ]Rule 5640), have an audit committee that satisfies Rule 5605(c)(3), and ensure that such audit committee's members meet the independence requirement in Rule 5605(c)(2)(A)(ii). Except as provided in this paragraph, a Foreign Private Issuer must comply with the requirements of the Rule 5000 Series.

**(B) Disclosure Requirements**

(i) A Foreign Private Issuer that follows a home country practice in lieu of one or more of the Listing Rules shall disclose in its annual reports filed with the Commission each requirement that it does not follow and describe the home country practice followed by the Company in lieu of such requirements. Alternatively, a Foreign Private Issuer that is not required to file its annual report with the Commission on Form 20-F may make this disclosure only on its website. A Foreign Private Issuer that follows a home

country practice in lieu of the requirement in Rule 5605(d)(2) to have an independent compensation committee must disclose in its annual reports filed with the Commission the reasons why it does not have such an independent committee.

(ii) No change.

**IM-5615-3. No change.**

**(4) No change.**

**(5) Management Investment Companies**

Management investment companies (including business development companies) are subject to all the requirements of the Rule 5600 Series, except that management investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 are exempt from the Independent Directors requirement, the Compensation Committee requirement, the Independent Director Oversight of [Executive Officer Compensation and] Director Nominations requirement[s], and the Code of Conduct requirement, set forth in Rules 5605(b), (d) and (e) and 5610, respectively. In addition, management investment companies that are Index Fund Shares and Managed Fund Shares, as defined in Rules 5705(b) and 5735, are exempt from the Audit Committee requirements set forth in Rule 5605(c), except for the applicable requirements of SEC Rule 10A-3.

**IM-5615-4. No change.**

**(b) Phase-In Schedules**

**(1) Initial Public Offerings**

A Company listing in connection with its initial public offering shall be permitted to phase in its compliance with the independent committee requirements set forth in Rules 5605(d)(2) and (e)(1)(B) on the same schedule as it is permitted to phase in its compliance with the independent audit committee requirement pursuant to Rule 10A-3(b)(1)(iv)(A) under the Act. Accordingly, a Company listing in connection with its initial public offering shall be permitted to phase in its compliance with the [independent ]committee composition requirements set forth in Rule 5605(d)(2) and (e)(1)(B) as follows: (1) one [independent ]member must satisfy the requirement at the time of listing; (2) a majority of [independent ]members must satisfy the requirement within 90 days of listing; and (3) all [independent ]members must satisfy the requirement within one year of listing. Furthermore, a Company listing in connection

with its initial public offering shall have twelve months from the date of listing to comply with the majority independent board requirement in Rule 5605(b). It should be noted, however, that pursuant to Rule 10A-3(b)(1)(iii) under the Act investment companies are not afforded the exemptions under Rule 10A-3(b)(1)(iv) under the Act. Companies may choose not to adopt a [compensation or ]nomination committee and may instead rely upon a majority of the Independent Directors to discharge responsibilities under Rule 5605(b). For purposes of the Rule 5600 Series other than Rules 5605(c)(2)(A)(ii) and 5625, a Company shall be considered to be listing in conjunction with an initial public offering if, immediately prior to listing, it does not have a class of common stock registered under the Act. For purposes of Rule 5605(c)(2)(A)(ii) and Rule 5625, a Company shall be considered to be listing in conjunction with an initial public offering only if it meets the conditions in Rule 10A-3(b)(1)(iv)(A) under the Act, namely, that the Company was not, immediately prior to the effective date of a registration statement, required to file reports with the Commission pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Act.

**(2) – (3) No change.**

**(4) Phase-In Schedule for a Company Ceasing to be a Smaller Reporting Company**

A Company that has ceased to be a Smaller Reporting Company shall be permitted to phase-in a compensation committee meeting the additional eligibility requirements of Rule 5605(d)(2)(A) relating to compensatory fees and affiliation on the same schedule as Companies listing in conjunction with their initial public offering. Since a Smaller Reporting Company is required to have a compensation committee comprised of at least two Independent Directors, a Company that has ceased to be a Smaller Reporting Company may not use the phase-in schedule for the requirements of Rule 5605(d)(2)(A) relating to minimum committee size or that the committee consist only of Independent Directors. The phase-in schedule will start to run on the due date of the SEC filing in which the Company is required to report that it is an issuer other than a Smaller Reporting Company. During this phase-in schedule, a Company that has ceased to be a Smaller Reporting Company must continue to comply with Rule 5605(d)(5). Within 30 days after the start of its phase-in schedule, a Company that has ceased to be a Smaller Reporting Company must certify to Nasdaq that: (i) it has complied with the requirement in Rule 5605(d)(1) to adopt a formal written compensation committee charter including the content specified in Rule 5605(d)(1)(A)-(D); and (ii) it has, or will within the applicable phase-in schedule, comply with the requirement in Rule 5605(d)(2) regarding compensation committee composition.

**(c) No change.**

**IM-5615-5. No change.**

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