

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-102053; File No. SR-FINRA-2024-023)

December 30, 2024

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Amend FINRA Rule 6897 (Consolidated Audit Trail Funding Fees) to Establish Fees for Industry Members Related to Prospective Costs of the National Market System Plan Governing the Consolidated Audit Trail

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 December 20, 2024, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Item I below, which Item has been substantially prepared by FINRA. FINRA has designated this proposal for immediate effectiveness pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f) 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

FINRA is proposing to amend FINRA Rule 6897 (Consolidated Audit Trail Funding Fees) to establish fees for Industry Members⁵ related to reasonably budgeted Consolidated Audit

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f). 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 will institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

⁵ An “Industry Member” is defined as “a member of a national securities exchange or a member of a national securities association.” See FINRA Rule 6810(u). See also Section 1.1 of the CAT NMS Plan. Unless otherwise specified, capitalized terms used in this rule filing are defined as set forth in the CAT NMS Plan and/or the CAT Compliance Rule. See FINRA Rule 6800 Series (Consolidated Audit Trail Compliance Rule).

Trail (“CAT”) costs of the National Market System Plan Governing the Consolidated Audit Trail (the “CAT NMS Plan” or “Plan”) for 2025. These fees would be payable to Consolidated Audit Trail, LLC (“CAT LLC” or the “Company”) and referred to as “CAT Fee 2025-1.”

The fee rate for CAT Fee 2025-1 would be \$0.000022 per executed equivalent share. CAT Executing Brokers will receive their first monthly invoice for CAT Fee 2025-1 in February 2025 calculated based on their transactions as CAT Executing Brokers for the Buyer (“CEBB”) and/or CAT Executing Brokers for the Seller (“CEBS”) in January 2025. CAT Fee 2025-1 is anticipated to be in place for six months, and is anticipated to recover approximately one-half of the costs set forth in the reasonably budgeted CAT costs for 2025. CAT LLC intends for CAT Fee 2025-1 to replace CAT Fee 2024-1 (which has a fee rate of \$0.000035).⁶

The proposed rule change, including FINRA’s statement of the purpose of, and statutory basis for, the proposed rule change, is available on FINRA’s website at <https://www.finra.org>, at the principal office of FINRA and on the Commission’s website at https://www.sec.gov/rules-regulations/self-regulatory-organization-rulemaking/finra?file_number=SR-FINRA-2024-023.

II. 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.⁷

Comments may be submitted electronically by using the Commission’s internet comment form

⁶ See FINRA Rule 6897(a)(1)(C) of FINRA Rule Series 6800 (Consolidated Audit Trail Compliance Rule). See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 100881 (August 30, 2024), 89 FR 72478 (September 5, 2024) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of File No. SR-FINRA-2024-011) (“Fee Filing for CAT Fee 2024-1”).

⁷ 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 the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of SRO.

https://www.sec.gov/rules-regulations/self-regulatory-organization-rulemaking/finra?file_number=SR-FINRA-2024-023) or by sending an email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include file number SR-FINRA-2024-023 on the subject line.

Alternatively, paper comments may be sent to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090. All submissions should refer to file number SR-FINRA-2024-023. 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 (https://www.sec.gov/rules-regulations/self-regulatory-organization-rulemaking/finra?file_number=SR-FINRA-2024-023). Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-FINRA-2024-023 and should be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.⁸

Stephanie J. Fouse,
Assistant Secretary.

⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).