Delegation of Authority to the Director of the Division of Trading and Markets

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) is amending its rules to delegate authority to the Director of the Division of Trading and Markets (“Division”) to disapprove a proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”); to temporarily suspend a proposed rule change of a self-regulatory organization (“SRO”); to notify an SRO that a proposed rule change does not comply with the rules of the Commission relating to the required form of a proposed rule change; and to determine that a proposed rule change is unusually lengthy and complex or raises novel regulatory issues and to inform the SRO of such determination. In addition, the Commission is amending its rules to delegate authority to the Director of the Division (“Director”) to determine the appropriateness of extending the time periods specified in Section 19(b) and publish the reasons for such determination as well as to effect any such extension; to update the references to proceedings to determine whether to disapprove a proposal and to provide to the SRO notice of the grounds for disapproval under consideration; to find good cause to approve a proposal on an accelerated basis and to publish the reasons for such determination; and to extend the period for consideration of a national market system plan or an amendment to such plan. This delegation is intended to conserve Commission resources and to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the Commission’s SRO rule filing process.

DATES: Effective Date: October 12, 2010


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act 1 amended Section 19 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2), so that there are new deadlines by which the Commission must publish and act upon proposed rule changes submitted by SROs. In recognition of the amendments to Section 19, the Commission is amending its rules governing delegations of authority to the Director of the Division. The amendments to Rule 30–3 (17 CFR 200.30–3) authorize the Director of the Division: (1) To disapprove an SRO proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2), provided that, with respect to a particular proposed rule change, if two (2) or more Commissioners object in writing to the Director within five (5) business days of being notified by the Director that the Division intends to exercise its authority to disapprove the particular proposed rule change, then the delegation of authority to approve or disapprove that proposal is withdrawn and the Director shall either present a recommendation to the Commission or institute pursuant to delegated authority proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved; 2 (2) pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2), and Section 19(b)(3) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3), to institute proceedings to determine whether a proposed rule change of a SRO should be approved and to provide to the SRO notice of the grounds for disapproval under consideration, and, in addition, if the Commission has not taken action on a proposal for which delegated authority has been withdrawn under subparagraph (12) prior to the expiration of the applicable time period specified in Section 19(b)(2), 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2), to require the Director to institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved; (3) pursuant to new Section 19(b)(10) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(10), to (a) notify an SRO that a proposed rule change does not comply with the rules of the Commission relating to the required form of a proposed rule change, and (b) determine that a proposed rule change is unusually lengthy and complex or raises novel regulatory issues and to inform the SRO of such determination; (4) pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(A), to extend for a period not exceeding 90 days from the date of publication of notice of the filing of a proposed rule change the period during which the Commission must by order disapprove the proposed rule change; (5) pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(A), to determine the appropriateness of extending the period during which the Commission must by order approve or disapprove a proposed rule change or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove the proposal and publish the reasons for such determination; (6) pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B), to extend for a period not exceeding 240 days from the date of publication of notice of the filing of a proposed rule change the period during which the Commission must conclude proceedings to determine whether to disapprove the proposal and to determine whether such longer period is appropriate and publish the reasons for such determination; (7) to temporarily suspend an SRO’s proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(C) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(C); (8) to update the references to proceedings to determine whether to disapprove a proposal and to provide to the SRO notice of the grounds for disapproval under consideration; 3 and (9) to find good cause to approve a proposal on an accelerated basis and to publish the reasons for such determination. In addition, the Commission is amending Rule 30–3(a)(42) to authorize the Director, pursuant to rule 608(b), 17 CFR 242.608(b), to extend for a period

1 Section 19(b)(2)(C) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(C), provides that the standards for Commission approval and disapproval of a proposed rule change. Under this paragraph, the Commission shall approve a proposed rule change if it finds that such proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder that are applicable to the self-regulatory organization, and the Commission shall disapprove a proposal if it does not make such finding. Additionally, this paragraph provides that the Commission may not approve a proposed rule change earlier than 30 days after the date of publication unless the Commission finds good cause for so doing and publishes the reason for the finding.

2 Section 19(b)(3)(C) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(C), provides that if the Commission temporarily suspends the change in the rules of a SRO, it shall “institute proceedings under paragraph (2)(B) to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.” The Commission is amending Rule 30–3(a)(57), which presently delegates authority to the Director of the Division to institute such proceedings, to clarify its applicability to all references to such proceedings contained in amended Sections 19(b)(2) and 19(b)(3) of the Exchange Act.
(31) Pursuant to section 19(b)(2)(A) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(A), to extend for a period not exceeding 90 days from the date of publication of notice of the filing of a proposed rule change pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1), the period during which the Commission must by order approve or disapprove the proposed rule change or institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved and to determine whether such longer period is appropriate and publish the reasons for such determination.

(57) Pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2), and section 19(b)(3) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3), to institute proceedings to determine whether a proposed rule change of a self-regulatory organization should be disapproved and to provide to the self-regulatory organization notice of the grounds for disapproval under consideration. If the Commission has not taken action on a proposed rule change for which delegated authority has been withdrawn under paragraph (a)(12) of this section prior to the expiration of the applicable time period specified in section 19(b)(2) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2), then the Director shall institute pursuant to delegated authority proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved. In addition, pursuant to section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B), to extend for a period not exceeding 240 days from the date of publication of notice of the filing of a proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1), the period during which the Commission must issue an order approving or disapproving the proposed rule change and to determine whether such longer period is appropriate and publish the reasons for such determination.


Dated: October 6, 2010.

By the Commission.

Elizabeth M. Murphy,
Secretary.

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