

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-65632; File No. SR-FICC-2011-08)

October 26, 2011

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Fixed Income Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change to Expand the Applicability of the Fails Charge to Agency Debt Securities Transactions

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder² notice is hereby given that on October 20, 2011, the Fixed Income Clearing Corporation (“FICC”) 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 primarily by FICC. 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 purpose of the proposed rule change is to expand the applicability of the fails charge to Agency debt securities transactions.

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

In its filing with the Commission, FICC 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. FICC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.³

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ The Commission has modified the text of the summaries prepared by FICC.

(A) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

The Treasury Markets Practices Group (the "TMPG"), a group of market participants active in the Treasury securities market sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (the "FRBNY"), has been addressing the persistent settlement fails in Agency debt securities transactions that have arisen, in part, due to low interest rates.

To encourage market participants to resolve fails promptly, the TMPG recommends expanding the applicability of the fails charge (which currently applies to Treasury securities transactions) to Agency debt with the objective of reducing the incidence of delivery failures and supporting liquidity in this market.

The TMPG had previously recommended a charge for fails on Treasury securities, which the Government Securities Division (the "GSD") implemented pursuant to rule filing 2009-03.⁴ At that time, the TMPG recommendation did not extend to Agency securities and, therefore, the GSD's 2009 rule filing did not cover Agency debt. However, the TMPG recently has expanded its recommendation to cover certain Agency securities and, therefore, the GSD is proposing to apply the existing fails charge regime to Agency debt transactions as recommended by the TMPG. Specifically, transactions in debentures issued by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Banks now will be subject to this charge. The proposed fails charge for Agencies will be the same as that currently in place for Treasuries and is equal to the greater of: (a) 0 percent and (b) 3 percent per annum minus the federal funds target rate. The charge will accrue each calendar day a fail is outstanding.

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-59802 (April 20, 2009), 74 FR 19248 (April 28, 2009).

The following examples illustrate the manner in which the proposed fails charge will apply:

Example 1: A settlement obligation fails and the next calendar date is a valid FICC business date. The GSD calculates the TMPG fail charge from the date the fail occurs to the next valid FICC business date. As the next valid business date is the next calendar date, the member's credit/debit resulting from the TMPG fail charge is assessed for one day.

Example 2: A settlement obligation fails and the next calendar date is a holiday occurring on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. The GSD calculates the TMPG fail charge from the date the fail occurs to the next valid FICC business date. The TMPG fail charge is assessed for two days; the day the fail occurs and the date of the holiday.

Example 3: A settlement obligation fails on Friday and the following Monday is not a holiday. The GSD calculates the TMPG fail charge from the date the fail occurs to the next valid FICC business date. The TMPG fail charge is assessed for three days; Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

FICC's Board of Directors (or appropriate Committee thereof) will retain the right to revoke application of the proposed charges if industry events or practices warrant such revocation.

The expansion of the fails charge trading practice to the Agency debt market would require that Rule 11 (Netting System), Section 14 (Fails Charge) of the GSD rulebook be amended to make such rule applicable to debentures issued by any of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or the Federal Home Loan Banks. The current GSD rule states that the fails charge shall be the product of the (i) funds associated with a failed position and (ii) 3 percent per annum minus the target fed funds rate that is effective at 5 p.m. EST on the business day prior to the originally scheduled settlement date, capped at 3 percent per annum. FICC is proposing to restate the

formula to make it clearer by amending section (ii) of the formula to read “the greater of (a) 0 percent or (b) 3 percent per annum minus the target fed funds rate . . .” This change is not meant to affect the result of the formula in any way but rather is a more precise way of stating the formula.

The proposed rule change makes clear that FICC will not guaranty fails charge proceeds in the event of a default (i.e., if a defaulting member does not pay its fail charge, members due to receive fails charge proceeds will have those proceeds reduced pro-rata by the defaulting member’s unpaid amount).

Timing of Implementation

The fails charges will apply to transactions in Agency debentures entered into on or after February 1, 2012, as well as to transactions that were entered into, but remain unsettled as of, February 1, 2012. For transactions entered into prior to, and unsettled as of, February 1, 2012, the fails charge will begin accruing on the later of February 1, 2012, or the contractual settlement date.

FICC believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of Section 17A of the Act⁵ and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to FICC because it would facilitate the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions by discouraging persistent fails in the marketplace. The proposed rule change is not inconsistent with the existing rules of FICC, including any other rules proposed to be amended.

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

FICC does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any burden on competition.

(C) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants or Others

Written comments relating to the proposed rule change have not been solicited or received. FICC will notify the Commission of any written comments received by FICC.

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

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(A) by order approve or disapprove the proposed rule change or

(B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be 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 e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-FICC-2011-

08 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FICC-2011-08. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail 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 Section, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filings will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of FICC and on FICC's website at http://www.dtcc.com/downloads/legal/rule_filings/2011/ficc/2011-08.pdf

All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FICC-2011-08 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.⁶

Kevin O'Neill
Deputy Secretary

⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).