

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. 34-54420; File No. SR-NASDAQ-2006-033)

September 11, 2006

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Eliminate Certain Transitional Corporate Governance Rules

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on August 25, 2006, The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq”), 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 by Nasdaq. Nasdaq has designated the proposed rule change as one constituting a non-controversial rule change under Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the Act<sup>3</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder,<sup>4</sup> which renders the proposal effective upon filing with the Commission. 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

Nasdaq proposes to eliminate certain transitional provisions of its Rules that have expired and to clarify the applicability of Nasdaq Rule 4320(a). Nasdaq proposes to implement the proposed rule change immediately.

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<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

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

The text of the proposed rule change is available on Nasdaq's Web site at <http://www.nasdaq.com>, at Nasdaq's principal office, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

In its filing with the Commission, Nasdaq 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. Nasdaq has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

1. Purpose

Nasdaq proposes to delete Nasdaq Rules 4200-1 and 4350-1 and to amend Nasdaq Rule 4350(a)(5) and IM 4350-6 to remove transitional rules that are no longer applicable to any listed companies. The rules replacing these provisions were fully phased-in as of December 31, 2005. In addition, Nasdaq proposes to modify Nasdaq Rule 4320(a) to clarify the applicability of that section to newly-issued securities. This rule currently excludes a "newly issued security" from the registration requirements contained in Rule

4320(a).<sup>5</sup> Nonetheless, pursuant to Section 12(a) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> all securities must be registered under, or subject to an exemption from, Section 12(b)<sup>7</sup> to be listed on Nasdaq. As a result, Nasdaq proposes to eliminate this exclusion, consistent with the comparable provision of Rule 4310(a).<sup>8</sup>

## 2. Statutory Basis

Nasdaq believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6 of the Act,<sup>9</sup> in general, and with Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>10</sup> in particular, in that the proposal is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. Nasdaq believes the proposed rule change clarifies its rules.

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<sup>5</sup> Nasdaq Rule 4320(a) currently provides that a security of a non-Canadian foreign issuer or an American Depositary Receipt or similar security issued in respect of a security of a foreign issuer, “other than a newly issued security,” shall be considered for listing on Nasdaq provided that, among other things, it is: (1) registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act; or (2) subject to an exemption issued by the Commission that permits the listing of the security notwithstanding its failure to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b).

<sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78l(a).

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78l(b).

<sup>8</sup> Nasdaq Rule 4310(a) currently provides that a security of a domestic or Canadian issuer shall be considered for listing on Nasdaq provided that, among other things, it is: (1) registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act; or (2) subject to an exemption issued by the Commission that permits the listing of the security notwithstanding its failure to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b).

<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f.

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

B. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Burden on Competition

Nasdaq does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended.

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 with respect to the proposed rule change.

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>11</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>12</sup>

Nasdaq has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day pre-operative period requirement for “non-controversial” proposals because the provisions to be deleted have no current application, and the proposed changes to the rule text merely clarify the existing text. In light of the foregoing, the Commission believes that waiver of the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Accordingly, the Commission has determined to waive the operative delay, and the

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<sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>12</sup> 17 C.F.R. 240.19b-4(f)(6).

proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act,<sup>13</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder,<sup>14</sup> with no operative delay.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate 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.

#### 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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2006-033 on the subject line.

##### Paper comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Nancy M. Morris, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Station Place, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2006-033. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process

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<sup>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>14</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (<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 inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of Nasdaq. 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-NASDAQ-2006-033 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>15</sup>

Nancy M. Morris  
Secretary

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<sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).