Deleted text is [bracketed]. New text is underlined.

The Nasdaq Stock Market Rules

* * * *

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, 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.

(a) Exemptions to the Corporate Governance Requirements

(1) Asset-backed Issuers and Other Passive Issuers

No change.

IM-5615-1. Asset-backed Issuers and Other Passive Issuers

No change.

(2) Cooperatives

No change.

IM-5615-2. Cooperatives

No change.

(3) Foreign Private Issuers

No change.

IM-5615-3. Foreign Private Issuers

No change.

(4) Limited Partnerships

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 such management investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 are exempt from the requirements relating to the Independent Directors, [requirement] (as set forth in Rule 5605(b)), the Compensation Committee [requirement] (as set forth in Rule 5605(d)), [the] Independent Director Oversight of Director Nominations [requirement] (as set forth in Rule 5605(e)), and [the] Codes of Conduct [requirement] (as set forth in Rule 5610). In addition, management investment companies that issue Index Fund Shares, Managed Fund Shares, and NextShares, as defined in Rules 5705(b), 5735, and 5745 are exempt from the Audit Committee requirements set forth in Rule 5605(c), except for the applicable requirements of SEC Rule 10A-3.

Management investment companies defined as Derivative Securities are exempt from additional requirements of the Rule 5600 Series as outlined in Nasdaq Rule 5615(a)(6)(A) below.

IM-5615-4. Management Investment Companies

Management investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 are already subject to a pervasive system of federal regulation in certain areas of corporate governance covered by 5600. In light of this, Nasdaq exempts from Rules 5605(b), (d), (e), and 5610 management investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Business development companies, which are a type of closed-end management investment company defined in Section 2(a)(48) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 that are not registered under that Act, are required to comply with all of the provisions of the Rule 5600 Series. [Management investment companies that issue Index Fund Shares, Managed Fund Shares, and NextShares, are exempt from the Audit Committee requirements set forth in Rule 5605(c), except for the applicable requirements of SEC Rule 10A-3.]

Management investment companies defined as Derivative Securities are exempt from additional requirements of the Rule 5600 Series as outlined in Nasdaq Rule 5615(a)(6)(A) below.

(6) Issuers of Non-Voting Preferred Securities, Debt Securities and Derivative Securities

(A) Issuers whose only securities listed on Nasdaq are non-voting preferred securities, debt securities or Derivative Securities, are exempt from the requirements relating to Independent Directors (as set forth in Rule 5605(b)), Compensation Committees (as set forth in Rule 5605(d)), Director Nominations (as set forth in Rule 5605(e)), Codes of Conduct (as set forth in Rule 5610), and Meetings of Shareholders (as set forth in Rule 5620(a)).
addition, these issuers are exempt from the requirements relating to Audit Committees (as set forth in Rule 5605(c)), except for the applicable requirements of SEC Rule 10A-3. Notwithstanding, if the issuer also lists its common stock or voting preferred stock, or their equivalent on Nasdaq it will be subject to all the requirements of the Nasdaq 5600 Rule Series.

(B) For the purposes of this Rule 5600 Series only, the term “Derivative Securities” is defined as the following: Exchange Traded Funds consisting of Portfolio Depository Receipts and Index Fund Shares (Rule 5705); Equity Index-Linked Securities (Rule 5710(k)(i)), Commodity-Linked Securities (Rule 5710(k)(ii)), Fixed Income Index-Linked Securities (5710(k)(iii)), Futures-Linked Securities (5710(k)(iv)), Multifactor Index-Linked Securities (5710(k)(v)), Index-Linked Exchangeable Notes (Rule 5711(a)), Equity Gold Shares (Rule 5711(b)), Trust Certificates (Rule 5711(c)), Commodity-Based Trust Shares (Rule 5711(d)), Currency Trust Shares (Rule 5711(e)), Commodity Index Trust Shares (Rule 5711(f)), Commodity Futures Trust Shares (Rule 5711(g)), Partnership Units (Rule 5711(h)), Managed Trust Securities (Rule 5711(i)), SEEDS (Rule 5715), Trust Issued Receipts (Rule 5720), Managed Fund Shares (Rule 5735), and NextShares (Rule 5745). Derivative Securities are subject to certain exemptions to the Rule 5600 Series as described in Rule 5615(a)(6).

(b) – (c) No change.

* * * *

5620. Meetings of Shareholders

(a) Each Company listing common stock or voting preferred stock, and their equivalents, shall hold an annual meeting of Shareholders no later than one year after the end of the Company's fiscal year-end, unless such Company is a limited partnership that meets the requirements of Rule 5615(a)(4)(D).

IM-5620. Meetings of Shareholders or Partners

Rule 5620(a) requires that each Company listing common stock or voting preferred stock, and their equivalents, hold an annual meeting of Shareholders within one year of the end of each fiscal year. At each such meeting, Shareholders must be afforded the opportunity to discuss Company affairs with management and, if required by the Company's governing documents, to elect directors. A new listing that was not previously subject to a requirement to hold an annual meeting is required to hold its first meeting within one-year after its first fiscal year-end following listing. Of course, Nasdaq's meeting requirement does not supplant any applicable state or federal securities laws concerning annual meetings.

This requirement is not applicable to issuers whose only securities listed on Nasdaq are non-voting preferred securities, debt securities, Derivative Securities
as defined in Rule 5615(a)(6)(B) or [as a result of a Company listing the following types of securities:] securities listed pursuant to Rule 5730(a) (such as Trust Preferred Securities and Contingent Value Rights), unless the listed security is a common stock or voting preferred stock equivalent (e.g., a callable common stock); Portfolio Depository Receipts and Index Fund Shares listed pursuant to Rules 5705(a) and (b); and Trust Issued Receipts listed pursuant to Rule 5720]. Notwithstanding, if the Company also lists common stock or voting preferred stock, or their equivalent, the Company must still hold an annual meeting for the holders of that common stock or voting preferred stock, or their equivalent.

(b) – (c) No change.

* * * * *