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April 2, 2004

Katherine A. England
Assistant Director
Division of Market Regulation
Securities and Exchange Commission
450 Fifth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20549-1001

Re: File No. SR-NASD-2004-001 – Amendment No. 1 to the Arbitrator Training Fees

Dear Ms. England:

Pursuant to conversations with Division of Market Regulation staff (“staff”), NASD is filing this letter as Amendment No. 1 (“Amendment”) to the above-numbered proposed rule change. NASD is also submitting a replacement exhibit (“Exhibit”), which supersedes all previous exhibits to this proposed rule change. NASD is enclosing copies of the Exhibit and a 3-1/2" disk containing the Exhibit in Microsoft Word 7.0 to facilitate production of the Federal Register release.

This Amendment removes the portions of the rule filing that proposed to charge a fee for arbitrators to take online training courses, because these courses are voluntary. Since there were numerous references to the voluntary courses, NASD is submitting a completely revised Exhibit 1 rather than highlighting each change. The revised proposal relates only to the increased fee for arbitrator panel training, which is required in order for arbitrators to be appointed to a case.

As a result of this Amendment, the Miscellaneous Submission, filed on March 3, 2004, is hereby withdrawn.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (202) 728-8151 or by email at Mignon.McLemore@NASD.com.

Very truly yours,

Mignon McLemore

Enclosures

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-NASD-2004-001)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change by National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Relating to Arbitrator Training Fees

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 _____, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (“NASD”), through its wholly owned subsidiary, NASD Dispute Resolution (“NASD Dispute Resolution”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by NASD Dispute Resolution. 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

NASD Dispute Resolution is proposing to increase the fee for arbitrator panel training.

NASD is not proposing any textual changes to the By-Laws or Rules of NASD.

II SELF-REGULATORY ORGANIZATION'S STATEMENT OF THE PURPOSE OF, AND STATUTORY BASIS FOR, THE PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

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

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

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

(a) **Purpose**

NASD proposes to raise the fee for panel member training from \$100 to \$125 for all applicants who register for the training after the proposed rule change becomes effective. This increase is intended to offset increased costs of providing the panel member training program, due primarily to increased room rental and staff travel costs. The proposed increase of \$25 per trainee also will allow NASD to increase the honorarium provided to arbitrators who serve as co-trainers for the programs.

Dispute Resolution staff plans to extend the length of the current four-hour training program to cover additional subject matter. Following approval of the proposed rule change, the usual panel member training program will consist of a four-hour morning session, followed by a two-hour afternoon session.³ During the afternoon session, staff and the designated co-trainer, who is an arbitrator on the roster, will facilitate a videotaped training on civility. In light of the increased length of the training session, NASD plans to raise the honorarium of each co-trainer from \$300 for a four-hour program to \$400 for a six-hour program.

NASD believes the increase in the training fee will enable it to provide in-depth arbitrator training, which will improve the quality of the arbitrator roster. Moreover, NASD believes this nominal increase is an equitable allocation of reasonable fees among persons using an NASD system or facility.

³ NASD room rental expenses will not increase, because rates quoted are for the entire business day.

(b) Statutory Basis

NASD believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act, which requires, among other things, that the Association's rules must be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. NASD believes that the minimal increase in the in-person panel member training fee will help NASD improve the knowledge and experience of arbitrators and thus, improve the quality of the NASD arbitration forum.

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

NASD Dispute Resolution 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.

III. DATE OF EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROPOSED RULE CHANGE AND TIMING FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Within 35 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date 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 such 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. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. 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 will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of NASD. All submissions should refer to the file number in the caption above and should be submitted by [insert date 21 days from the date of publication].

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority, 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

Jonathan G. Katz
Secretary