

Proposed Rule Change by National Association of Securities Dealers  
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Initial <input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(A) <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(B) <input type="checkbox"/>
Pilot <input type="checkbox"/>			Rule		
Extension of Time Period for Commission Action <input type="checkbox"/>		Date Expires <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(5)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(3)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6)	

Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Description**  
Provide a brief description of the proposed rule change (limit 250 characters).

**Contact Information**  
Provide the name, telephone number and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the proposed rule change.

First Name	<input type="text" value="Kathleen"/>	Last Name	<input type="text" value="O'Mara"/>
Title	<input type="text" value="Associate General Counsel"/>		
E-mail	<input type="text" value="kathleen.omara@nasd.com"/>		
Telephone	<input type="text" value="(202) 728-8056"/>	Fax	<input type="text" value="(202) 728-8264"/>

**Signature**  
Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date

By  (Name)  
 (Title)  
Vice President and Associate General Counsel

NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.

**Form 19b-4 Information**

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The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.

**Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change**

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The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)

**Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications**

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.

**Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire**

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.

**Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies**

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The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.

**Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text**

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The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change.

**Partial Amendment**

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If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.

On February 11, 2004, National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (“NASD”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) SR-NASD-2004-026, proposing amendments to NASD 2320(a). Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 to SR-NASD-2004-026 were filed with the Commission on May 11, 2004 and February 9, 2005, respectively. The proposed rule change was published in the Federal Register on February 25, 2005.<sup>1</sup> Amendment Nos. 3 and 4 to SR-NASD-2004-026 were filed with the Commission on June 22, 2005 and September 22, 2005, respectively. Amendment Nos. 3 and 4 were published in the Federal Register on October 26, 2005.<sup>2</sup>

NASD is filing this Partial Amendment No. 5 to SR-NASD-2004-026 to codify interpretive guidance previously provided in Amendment Nos. 3 and 4 to SR-NASD-2004-026 as a new interpretive material section to NASD Rule 2320. NASD did not make any changes to the text of the proposed rule change in Amendment No. 4 to SR-NASD-2004-026. Accordingly, Partial Amendment No. 5 includes Exhibit 4 (below), which shows the rule text changes proposed pursuant to this Partial Amendment No. 5 as though the changes from Amendment No. 3 to SR-NASD-2004-026 were approved.

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#### **EXHIBIT 4**

Proposed new language pursuant to this Partial Amendment No. 5 is underlined.

#### **2300. TRANSACTIONS WITH CUSTOMERS**

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **2320. Best Execution and Interpositioning**

(a) through (g) No Change.

#### **IM-2320. Interpretive Guidance with Respect to Best Execution Requirements**

Rule 2320(a) requires, among other things, that a member or person associated with a member comply with Rule 2320(a) when customer orders are routed to it from

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<sup>1</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51229 (Feb. 18, 2005), 70 FR 9416 (Feb. 25, 2005).

<sup>2</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 52637 (Oct. 19, 2005), 70 FR 61861 (Oct. 26, 2005).

another broker/dealer for execution. This Interpretive Material addresses certain interpretive questions concerning the applicability of the best execution rule.

The term “market” has been in the text of Rule 2320 since its adoption, but it is an undefined term. For the purposes of Rule 2320, the term “market” or “markets” is to be construed broadly and it encompasses a variety of different venues, including, but not limited to, market centers that are trading a particular security. This expansive interpretation is meant to both inform broker/dealers as to the breadth of the scope of venues that must be considered in the furtherance of their best execution obligations and to promote fair competition among broker/dealers, exchange markets, and markets other than exchange markets, as well as any other venue that may emerge, by not mandating that certain trading venues have less relevance than others in the course of determining a firm’s best execution obligations.

Rule 2320(a)(4) provides that one of the factors used to determine if a member has used reasonable diligence in exercising best execution is the “location and accessibility to the customer’s broker/dealer of primary markets and quotations sources.” In the context of the debt market, this means that, when quotations are available, NASD will consider the “accessibility of such quotations” when examining whether a member has used reasonable diligence. For purposes of debt securities, the term “quotation” refers to either dollar (or other currency) pricing or yield pricing. NASD notes, however, that accessibility is only one of the non-exhaustive reasonable diligence factors set out in Rule 2320. In the absence of accessibility, members are not relieved from taking reasonable steps and employing their market expertise in achieving the best execution of customer orders.

Lastly, NASD is clarifying that a member's duty to provide best execution in any transaction "for or with a customer of another broker/dealer" does not apply in instances when another broker/dealer is simply executing a customer order against the member's quote. Stated in another manner, the duty to provide best execution to customer orders received from other broker/dealers arises only when an order is routed from the broker/dealer to the member for the purpose of order handling and execution. This clarification is intended to draw a distinction between those situations in which the member is acting solely as the buyer or seller in connection with orders presented by a broker/dealer against the member's quote, as opposed to those circumstances in which the member is accepting order flow from another broker/dealer for the purpose of facilitating the handling and execution of such orders.