OMB APPROVAL

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Page 1 of 13		WASHING	WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549			o. SR - 2007 - 038 dment No.	
Proposed Rule Change by Financial Industry Regulatory Authority							
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934							
Initial ✓	Amendment	Withdrawal	Section 19(b	o)(2) Se ✓	ection 19(b)(3)(A) Rule	Section 19(b)(3)(B)	
Pilot	Extension of Time Perio for Commission Action	Date Expires		19b	0-4(f)(1)	5)	
Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document  Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document  Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document							
Description  Provide a brief description of the proposed rule change (limit 250 characters).  Proposed rule change to delay the final implementation date of the rule changes approved in SR-NASD-2005-146, which is currently scheduled for January 14, 2008, until 60 days after Commission approval of SR-NASD-2007-041.							
Provide prepar	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 N Title	Andrea Assistant General C	Councel	Last Name	Orr			
E-mail		andrea.orr@finra.org					
Telephone (202) 728-8156 Fax (202) 728-8264							
	ant to the requirements of the	Ū		ereunto duly aut	horized officer.		
Ву	By Stephanie Dumont			Vice President and Associate General Counsel			
(Name)							
			(Title)				
	NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical			Stephanie Dumont,			
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. The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a Form 19b-4 Information clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the Remove proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act. The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for **Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change** 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 Add Remove (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) Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments. documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall **Transcripts, Other Communications** be filed in accordance with Instruction G. Add Remove View Exhibit Sent As Paper Document Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire 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 Add Remove View referred to by the proposed rule change. Exhibit Sent As Paper Document The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and **Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies** 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 Add Remove View it has been working. The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed **Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text** 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 Add Remove View considered part of the proposed rule change. If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy **Partial Amendment** 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 View 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.

### 1. <u>Text of Proposed Rule Change</u>

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), <sup>1</sup> Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") (f/k/a National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD")) is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposed rule change to delay the final implementation date of the rule changes approved in SR-NASD-2005-146, <sup>2</sup> which is currently scheduled for January 14, 2008, until 60 days after Commission approval of SR-NASD-2007-041.

There are no new changes to the text of FINRA rules.

- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.

### 2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

The proposed rule change was approved by the Board of Directors of NASD Regulation, Inc. at its meeting on September 21, 2005, which authorized the filing of the rule change with the Commission. The Board of Governors of FINRA (then known as NASD) had an opportunity to review the proposed rule change at its meeting on September 22, 2005. No other action by FINRA is necessary for the filing of the proposed rule change.

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

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 55351 (February 26, 2007), 72 FR 9810 (March 5, 2007) (order approving SR-NASD-2005-146). See also NASD Notice to Members 07-19 (April 2007) (announcing the effective date of the rule changes in SR-NASD-2005-146).

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. FINRA proposes to implement the proposed rule change as described herein.

# 3. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory</u> Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

#### (a) Purpose

On February 26, 2007, the Commission approved SR-NASD-2005-146, which, among other things, amended IM-2110-2<sup>3</sup> to expand the scope to apply to OTC equity securities and modify the minimum price-improvement standards for securities trading in decimals. The amendments relating to OTC equity securities and the minimum price-improvement provisions are scheduled to become effective on January 14, 2008.<sup>4</sup>

On June 27, 2007, FINRA filed a proposed rule change (SR-NASD-2007-041) to amend the minimum price-improvement standards in IM-2110-2 that were approved as part of SR-NASD-2005-146.<sup>5</sup> FINRA has proposed to implement the changes in SR-NASD-2007-041 on the final implementation date of SR-NASD-2005-146. SR-NASD-2007-041 remains pending at the Commission.

To provide additional time for the Commission to consider and act upon the proposed changes in SR-NASD-2007-041 and, if SR-NASD-2007-041 is approved, allow

Currently, IM-2110-2 generally prohibits a member from trading for its own account in an exchange-listed security at a price that is equal to or better than an unexecuted customer limit order in that security, unless the member immediately thereafter executes the customer limit order at the price at which it traded for its own account or better.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 56822 (November 20, 2007), 72 FR 67326 (November 28, 2007) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of SR-FINRA-2007-023).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See File No. SR-NASD-2007-041.

firms sufficient time to make the required technological changes to implement the proposed changes in SR-NASD-2007-041, FINRA is proposing that the final implementation date of SR-NASD-2005-146, currently scheduled for January 14, 2008, be delayed until 60 days after Commission approval of SR-NASD-2007-041. In doing so, the proposed minimum price-improvement provisions in SR-NASD-2007-041, if approved, would also become effective on the final implementation date of SR-NASD-2005-146. FINRA will announce the final implementation date of SR-NASD-2005-146 and the effective date of the changes in SR-NASD-2007-041 in a Regulatory Notice.

As noted in Item 2 of this rule filing, FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. FINRA proposes to implement the proposed rule change as described herein.

### (b) Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,<sup>7</sup> which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules 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. FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of the Act noted above because extending the final implementation date of SR-NASD-2005-146 will ensure that the SEC has adequate time to act on the proposed changes in SR-NASD-

Certain other rule changes that were approved as part of SR-NASD-2005-146 became effective on July 26, 2007 and are not effected by this proposed rule change. See FINRA Member Alert, dated June 20, 2007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 780-3(b)(6).

2007-041 and, if SR-NASD-2007-041 is approved, ensure firms have sufficient time to make the necessary changes to comply with the new price-improvement standards.

### 4. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

FINRA 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.

# 5. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

### **Extension of Time Period for Commission Action**

Not applicable.

# 7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)</u>

The proposed rule change is effective upon filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) of the Act and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>8</sup> in that the proposed rule change does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; does not impose any significant burden on competition; and does not become operative for 30 days after filing (subject to waiver). FINRA requests that the Commission waive the requirement that the rule change, by its terms, not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing as set forth in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii).<sup>9</sup> FINRA also requests that the

<sup>8 17</sup> CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

Commission waive the five-day pre-filing notice requirement specified in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) under the Act.<sup>10</sup>

# 8. <u>Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory</u> <u>Organization or of the Commission</u>

Not applicable.

### 9. Exhibits

Exhibit 1. Completed notice of proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

#### **EXHIBIT 1**

#### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

(Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-FINRA-2007-038)

Self-Regulatory Organizations: Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change Relating to Delay Implementation of Certain Rule Changes Approved in SR-NASD-2005-146

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 , Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") (f/k/a National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD")) 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 FINRA. FINRA has designated the proposed rule change as constituting a "non-controversial" rule change under paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 under the Act,<sup>3</sup> which renders the proposal effective upon receipt of this filing by the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

# I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

FINRA is proposing to delay the final implementation date of the rule changes approved in SR-NASD-2005-146, <sup>4</sup> which is currently scheduled for January 14, 2008, until 60 days after Commission approval of SR-NASD-2007-041.

There are no new changes to the text of FINRA rules.

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

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

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

#### 1. Purpose

On February 26, 2007, the Commission approved SR-NASD-2005-146, which, among other things, amended IM-2110-2<sup>5</sup> to expand the scope to apply to OTC equity securities and modify the minimum price-improvement standards for securities trading in

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 55351 (February 26, 2007), 72 FR 9810 (March 5, 2007) (order approving SR-NASD-2005-146). See also NASD Notice to Members 07-19 (April 2007) (announcing the effective date of the rule changes in SR-NASD-2005-146).

Currently, IM-2110-2 generally prohibits a member from trading for its own account in an exchange-listed security at a price that is equal to or better than an unexecuted customer limit order in that security, unless the member immediately thereafter executes the customer limit order at the price at which it traded for its own account or better.

decimals. The amendments relating to OTC equity securities and the minimum priceimprovement provisions are scheduled to become effective on January 14, 2008.<sup>6</sup>

On June 27, 2007, FINRA filed a proposed rule change (SR-NASD-2007-041) to amend the minimum price-improvement standards in IM-2110-2 that were approved as part of SR-NASD-2005-146.<sup>7</sup> FINRA has proposed to implement the changes in SR-NASD-2007-041 on the final implementation date of SR-NASD-2005-146. SR-NASD-2007-041 remains pending at the Commission.

To provide additional time for the Commission to consider and act upon the proposed changes in SR-NASD-2007-041 and, if SR-NASD-2007-041 is approved, allow firms sufficient time to make the required technological changes to implement the proposed changes in SR-NASD-2007-041, FINRA is proposing that the final implementation date of SR-NASD-2005-146, currently scheduled for January 14, 2008, be delayed until 60 days after Commission approval of SR-NASD-2007-041. In doing so, the proposed minimum price-improvement provisions in SR-NASD-2007-041, if approved, would also become effective on the final implementation date of SR-NASD-2005-146. FINRA will announce the final implementation date of SR-NASD-2005-146 and the effective date of the changes in SR-NASD-2007-041 in a Regulatory Notice.

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 56822 (November 20, 2007), 72 FR 67326 (November 28, 2007) (notice of filing and immediate effectiveness of SR-FINRA-2007-023).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> <u>See</u> File No. SR-NASD-2007-041.

Certain other rule changes that were approved as part of SR-NASD-2005-146 became effective on July 26, 2007 and are not effected by this proposed rule change. See FINRA Member Alert, dated June 20, 2007.

As noted above, FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. FINRA proposes to implement the proposed rule change as described herein.

#### 2. Statutory Basis

FINRA 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 FINRA rules 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. FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of the Act noted above because extending the final implementation date of SR-NASD-2005-146 will ensure that the SEC has adequate time to act on the proposed changes in SR-NASD-2007-041 and, if SR-NASD-2007-041 is approved, ensure firms have sufficient time to make the necessary changes to comply with the new price-improvement standards.

### B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

FINRA 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.

# C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the</u> <u>Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or</u> <u>Others</u>

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

## III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action</u>

<sup>9 15</sup> U.S.C. 780-3(b)(6).

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>10</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>11</sup>

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 <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include File Number
   SR-FINRA-2007-038 on the subject line.

#### Paper Comments:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2007-038. 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 Web site (<a href="http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml">http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</a>). 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 FINRA.

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-FINRA-2007-038 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the <u>Federal Register</u>].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority. <sup>12</sup>

Nancy M. Morris Secretary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).