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Page 1 of 20       SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549       File No. SR - 2008 (63) Amendment 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)(2)         Section 19(b)(3)(A)       Section 19(b)(3)(A)         Pilot       Extension of Time Period         Or commission Action       Data Expires         Pilot       Extension of Time Period         Or commission Action       Data Expires         Pilot       Extension of Time Period         Or commission Action       Data Expires         Pilot       Extension of the proposed rule change (limit 250 characters).         Proposed Rule Change to Amend Section 4(c) of Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws to Increase Certain Qualification         Examination Fees       Examination Fees         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       Erika.       Last Name       Last Name         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 Na									1	Estimated average burden
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Piot for Commission Action       Date Expires       19b-4(f)(1)       19b-4(f)(2)         Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document       19b-4(f)(2)       19b-4(f)(3)       19b-4(f)(6)         Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document       Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document       19b-4(f)(2)       19b-4(f)(6)         Provide a brief description       Provide a brief description of the proposed rule change (limit 250 characters).       Proposed Rule Change to Amend Section 4(c) of Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws to Increase Certain Qualification Examination Fees         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       Erika       Last Name       Lazar         Title       Senior Attorney	_		Amendm	ient	Withdrawal		o)(2)	Section 19(b)(3)(A	)	Section 19(b)(3)(B)
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Provide a brief description of the proposed rule change (limit 250 characters).          Proposed Rule Change to Amend Section 4(c) of Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws to Increase Certain Qualification Examination Fees         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       Erika         Last Name       Lazar         Title       Senior Attorney         E-mail       erika.lazar@finra.org         Telephone       (646) 315-8512       Fax         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 officer.	Descri	ntion								
Proposed Rule Change to Amend Section 4(c) of Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws to Increase Certain Qualification Examination Fees         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       Erika         Last Name       Lazar         Title       Senior Attorney         E-mail       erika.lazar@finra.org         Telephone       (646) 315-8512         Fax       (646) 315-8783         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 officer.         Date       10/15/2008         By       Patrice Gliniecki         (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				on of the pr	oposed rule change	(limit 250 charact	ers)			
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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 Erika Last Name Lazar  Title Senior Attorney E-mail erika.lazar@finra.org Telephone (646) 315-8512 Fax (646) 315-8783  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 officer. Date 10/15/2008 By Patrice Gliniecki (Name)  NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical  Patrice Gliniecki,	Examin	nation	i Fees							
prepared to respond to questions and comments on the proposed rule change.  First Name Erika Erika Last Name Lazar  Title Senior Attorney E-mail erika.lazar@finra.org Telephone (646) 315-8512 Fax (646) 315-8783  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 officer. Date 10/15/2008 By Patrice Gliniecki (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  Patrice Gliniecki,	Contac	ct Inf	ormation							
First Name       Erika       Last Name       Lazar         Title       Senior Attorney       Email       erika.lazar@finra.org         Telephone       (646) 315-8512       Fax       (646) 315-8783         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 officer.         Date       10/15/2008         By       Patrice Gliniecki         (Name)       (Title)         NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock tris form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical       Patrice Gliniecki,	Provide	the r	ame, teleph	one numb	er and e-mail addres	s of the person o	n the staf	f of the self-regulatory o	rganizat	ion
Title       Senior Attorney         E-mail       erika.lazar@finra.org         Telephone       (646) 315-8512       Fax         (646) 315-8512       Fax       (646) 315-8783         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 officer.         Date       10/15/2008         By       Patrice Gliniecki         (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       Patrice Gliniecki,	prepare	ed to r	respond to c	uestions a	ind comments on the	e proposed rule c	hange.			
E-mail erika.lazar@finra.org Telephone (646) 315-8512 Fax (646) 315-8783 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 officer. Date 10/15/2008 By Patrice Gliniecki (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 Patrice Gliniecki,	First Na	ame	Erika			Last Name	Lazar			
Telephone       (646) 315-8512       Fax       (646) 315-8783         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 officer.         Date       10/15/2008         By       Patrice Gliniecki         (Name)       (Title)         (Title)	Title		Senior Atto	orney						
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(Name) (Title)	Date	10/15	5/2008							
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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549						
For complete Form 19b-4 i	For complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.					
Form 19b-4 Information       Add     Remove       View	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 Add Remove View	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         Add       Remove         View         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         Add       Remove         View         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       Add     Remove       View	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         Add       Remove         View	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       Add     Remove     View	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.					

### 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 amend Section 4(c) of Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws ("Schedule A") to increase certain qualification examination fees.

Below is the text of the proposed rule change. Proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are in brackets.

\* \* \* \* \*

### SCHEDULE A TO THE BY-LAWS OF THE CORPORATION

\* \* \* \* \*

### Section 4—Fees

(a) and (b) No change

(c) The following fees shall be assessed to each individual who registers to take an examination as described below. These fees are in addition to the registration fee described in paragraph (b).

Series 4	Registered Options Principal	[\$80] <u>\$90</u>
Series 6	Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative	[\$75] <u>\$85</u>
Series 7	General Securities Representative	[\$250] <u>\$265</u>
Series 9	General Securities Sales Supervisor — Options Module	[\$60] <u>\$70</u>

15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

1

Series 10 General Securities Sales Supervisor — General Module	[\$100] <u>\$110</u>
Series 11 Assistant Representative — Order Processing	[\$60] <u>\$70</u>
Series 14 Compliance Official	[\$300] <u>\$320</u>
Series 16 Supervisory Analyst	[\$200] <u>\$210</u>
Series 17 Limited Registered Representative	[\$65] <u>\$70</u>
Series 22 Direct Participation Programs Representative	[\$75] <u>\$85</u>
Series 23 General Securities Principal Sales Supervisor Module	[\$75] <u>\$85</u>
Series 24 General Securities Principal	[\$95] <u>\$105</u>
Series 26 Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Principal	[\$75] <u>\$85</u>
Series 27 Financial and Operations Principal	[\$95] <u>\$105</u>
Series 28 Introducing Broker[/]-Dealer Financial and Operations Principal	[\$75] <u>\$85</u>
Series 37 Canada Module of S7 (Options Required)	[\$150] <u>\$160</u>
Series 38 Canada Module of S7 (No Options Required)	[\$150] <u>\$160</u>
Series 39 Direct Participation Programs Principal	[\$75] <u>\$80</u>
Series 42 Registered Options Representative	[\$60] <u>\$65</u>
Series 55 Limited Representative — Equity Trader	[\$85] <u>\$95</u>
Series 62 Corporate Securities Limited Representative	[\$75] <u>\$80</u>
Series 72 Government Securities Representative	[\$85] <u>\$95</u>
Series 82 Limited Representative — Private Securities Offering	[\$75] <u>\$80</u>
Series 86 Research Analyst — Analysis	[\$150] <u>\$160</u>
Series 87 Research Analyst — Regulatory	[\$105] <u>\$115</u>

(1) through (3) No change

(d) through (h) No change

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

### 2. <u>Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization</u>

At its meeting on September 16, 2008, the FINRA Board of Governors authorized the filing of the rule change with the SEC. No other action by FINRA is necessary for the filing of the proposed rule change.

The effective date of the proposed rule change would be January 2, 2009. Specifically, the proposed examination fees would become effective for "120-day examination windows" opened in the Central Registration Depository (CRD<sup>®</sup>) on or after January 2, 2009.<sup>2</sup>

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

(a) Purpose

Any person associated with a member firm who is engaged in the securities business of the firm must register with FINRA. As part of the registration process, securities professionals must pass a qualification examination to demonstrate competence in each area in which they intend to work. These mandatory qualification examinations cover a broad range of subjects on the markets, products, a person's responsibilities in a given position, securities industry rules and the regulatory structure. Some qualification

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The published fee represents the fee that will be charged at the time the individual registers for the examination. The individual then has 120 days to take the examination.

#### Page 6 of 20

examinations are sponsored (<u>i.e.</u>, developed) solely by FINRA while others are sponsored by the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB"), the North American Securities Administrators Association ("NASAA"), the National Futures Association ("NFA"), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), other self-regulatory organizations ("SROs") or jointly among these entities.<sup>3</sup>

FINRA administers qualification examinations via computer through the PROCTOR<sup>®</sup> system<sup>4</sup> at test centers operated by vendors under contract with FINRA. FINRA charges an examination fee to candidates for FINRA-sponsored and co-sponsored examinations. For qualification examinations sponsored by a FINRA client and administered/delivered by FINRA, FINRA charges a delivery fee that represents either a portion of or the entire examination fee for a particular examination.

The proposed rule change would amend Schedule A to increase certain qualification examination fees.<sup>5</sup> Each year, FINRA conducts a comprehensive review of the examination fee structure, including an analysis of the costs of developing, administering and delivering qualification examinations. FINRA's 2008 review revealed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For example, FINRA administers and delivers the Series 6, 24 and 27 examinations, which are sponsored by FINRA. FINRA also administers and delivers client-sponsored examinations, such as the Series 9 and 10, which are sponsored jointly by several SROs (NYSE Alternext US LLC ("NYSE Alternext") (formerly American Stock Exchange), Chicago Board Options Exchange ("CBOE"), MSRB, FINRA, NYSE Arca, Inc. ("NYSE Arca") (formerly Pacific Stock Exchange, Inc.) and NASDAQ OMX PHLX, Inc. ("Phlx") (formerly Philadelphia Stock Exchange)).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> **PROCTOR**<sup>®</sup> is a technology system that supports computer-based testing and training.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Schedule A sets forth examination fees for those examinations that are sponsored or co-sponsored by FINRA and/or that may be required by FINRA for its members.

that certain operational costs have increased and will continue to increase over the next few years. In particular, these costs consist of: (1) the cost of providing the extensive network of test delivery centers; and (2) technology costs required to maintain the PROCTOR<sup>®</sup> system. Based on these findings, the proposed rule change would increase examination fees with no single examination increasing more than \$20. FINRA believes that the proposed rule change would result in a better alignment of program fees to associated operating costs.

Specifically, the proposed rule change would amend Schedule A as follows:

Series 4	Registered Options Principal (Sponsored jointly by NYSE Altern CBOE, FINRA, NYSE Arca and Ph	ext,
Series 6	Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative	From \$75 to \$85
Series 7	General Securities Representative	From \$250 to \$265
Series 9	General Securities Sales Supervisor – Options Module (Sponsored jointly by NYSE Altern CBOE, FINRA, MSRB, NYSE Arca and Phlx)	
Series 10	General Securities Sales Supervisor – General Module (Sponsored jointly by NYSE Altern CBOE, FINRA, MSRB, NYSE Arca and Phlx)	
Series 11	Assistant Representative – Order Processing	From \$60 to \$70
Series 14	Compliance Official	From \$300 to \$320
Series 16	Supervisory Analyst	From \$200 to \$210

Series 17	Limited Registered Representative	From \$65 to \$70
Series 22	Direct Participation Programs Representative	From \$75 to \$85
Series 23	General Securities Principal Sales Supervisor Module	From \$75 to \$85
Series 24	General Securities Principal	From \$95 to \$105
Series 26	Investment Company Products/ Variable Contracts Principal	From \$75 to \$85
Series 27	Financial and Operations Principal	From \$95 to \$105
Series 28	Introducing Broker-Dealer Financial and Operations Principal	From \$75 to \$85
Series 37	Canada Module of S7 (Options Required)	From \$150 to \$160
Series 38	Canada Module of S7 (No Options Required)	From \$150 to \$160
Series 39	Direct Participation Programs Principal	From \$75 to \$80
Series 42	Registered Options Representative	From \$60 to \$65
Series 55	Limited Representative- Equity Trader	From \$85 to \$95
Series 62	Corporate Securities Limited Representative	From \$75 to \$80
Series 72	Government Securities Representative	From \$85 to \$95
Series 82	Limited Representative – Private Securities Offering	From \$75 to \$80
Series 86	Research Analyst - Analysis	From \$150 to \$160
Series 87	Research Analyst - Regulatory	From \$105 to \$115

As noted in Section 2 of this filing, the effective date of the proposed rule change would be January 2, 2009. Specifically, the proposed examination fees would become effective for "120-day examination windows" opened in the CRD<sup>®</sup> on or after January 2, 2009.

(b) Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system that FINRA operates or controls. FINRA believes that the proposed rule change to increase certain qualification examination fees in the fee table in Schedule A reflects FINRA's increased costs in developing, administering and delivering qualification examinations.

#### 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.

#### 6. <u>Extension of Time Period for Commission Action</u>

FINRA does not consent at this time to an extension of the time period for

Commission action specified in Section 19(b)(2) of the Act.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 15 U.S.C. 780–3(b)(5).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

# 9. <u>Exhibits</u>

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

Federal Register.

### EXHIBIT 1

#### **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION** (Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-FINRA-2008-053)

Self-Regulatory Organizations: Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change to Amend Section 4(c) of Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws to Increase Certain Qualification Examination Fees

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 October 15, 2008, 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. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit

comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

FINRA is proposing to amend Section 4(c) of Schedule A to the FINRA By-Laws

("Schedule A") to increase certain qualification examination fees. Below is the text of

the proposed rule change. Proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are

in brackets.

\* \* \* \* \*

### SCHEDULE A TO THE BY-LAWS OF THE CORPORATION

\* \* \* \* \*

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

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

## Section 4—Fees

(a) and (b) No change

(c) The following fees shall be assessed to each individual who registers to take an examination as described below. These fees are in addition to the registration fee described in paragraph (b).

Series 4 Registered Options Principal	[\$80] <u>\$90</u>
Series 6 Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative	e [\$75] <u>\$85</u>
Series 7 General Securities Representative	[\$250] <u>\$265</u>
Series 9 General Securities Sales Supervisor — Options Module	[\$60] <u>\$70</u>
Series 10 General Securities Sales Supervisor — General Module	[\$100] <u>\$110</u>
Series 11 Assistant Representative — Order Processing	[\$60] <u>\$70</u>
Series 14 Compliance Official	[\$300] <u>\$320</u>
Series 16 Supervisory Analyst	[\$200] <u>\$210</u>
Series 17 Limited Registered Representative	[\$65] <u>\$70</u>
Series 22 Direct Participation Programs Representative	[\$75] <u>\$85</u>
Series 23 General Securities Principal Sales Supervisor Module	[\$75] <u>\$85</u>
Series 24 General Securities Principal	[\$95] <u>\$105</u>
Series 26 Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Principal	[\$75] <u>\$85</u>
Series 27 Financial and Operations Principal	[\$95] <u>\$105</u>
Series 28 Introducing Broker[/]-Dealer Financial and Operations Principal	[\$75] <u>\$85</u>
Series 37 Canada Module of S7 (Options Required)	[\$150] <u>\$160</u>

Series 38	Canada Module of S7 (No Options Required)	[\$150] <u>\$160</u>
Series 39	Direct Participation Programs Principal	[\$75] <u>\$80</u>
Series 42	Registered Options Representative	[\$60] <u>\$65</u>
Series 55	Limited Representative — Equity Trader	[\$85] <u>\$95</u>
Series 62	Corporate Securities Limited Representative	[\$75] <u>\$80</u>
Series 72	Government Securities Representative	[\$85] <u>\$95</u>
Series 82	Limited Representative — Private Securities Offering	[\$75] <u>\$80</u>
Series 86	Research Analyst — Analysis	[\$150] <u>\$160</u>
Series 87	Research Analyst — Regulatory	[\$105] <u>\$115</u>
(1)	through (3) No change	
(d	) through (h) No change	

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 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</u> <u>Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

1. Purpose

Any person associated with a member firm who is engaged in the securities business of the firm must register with FINRA. As part of the registration process, securities professionals must pass a qualification examination to demonstrate competence in each area in which they intend to work. These mandatory qualification examinations cover a broad range of subjects on the markets, products, a person's responsibilities in a given position, securities industry rules and the regulatory structure. Some qualification examinations are sponsored (<u>i.e.</u>, developed) solely by FINRA while others are sponsored by the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board ("MSRB"), the North American Securities Administrators Association ("NASAA"), the National Futures Association ("NFA"), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), other self-regulatory organizations ("SROs") or jointly among these entities.<sup>3</sup>

FINRA administers qualification examinations via computer through the PROCTOR<sup>®</sup> system<sup>4</sup> at test centers operated by vendors under contract with FINRA. FINRA charges an examination fee to candidates for FINRA-sponsored and co-sponsored examinations. For qualification examinations sponsored by a FINRA client and administered/delivered by FINRA, FINRA charges a delivery fee that represents either a portion of or the entire examination fee for a particular examination.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For example, FINRA administers and delivers the Series 6, 24 and 27 examinations, which are sponsored by FINRA. FINRA also administers and delivers client-sponsored examinations, such as the Series 9 and 10, which are sponsored jointly by several SROs (NYSE Alternext US LLC ("NYSE Alternext") (formerly American Stock Exchange), Chicago Board Options Exchange ("CBOE"), MSRB, FINRA, NYSE Arca, Inc. ("NYSE Arca") (formerly Pacific Stock Exchange, Inc.) and NASDAQ OMX PHLX, Inc. ("Phlx") (formerly Philadelphia Stock Exchange)).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> **PROCTOR**<sup>®</sup> is a technology system that supports computer-based testing and training.

The proposed rule change would amend Schedule A to increase certain qualification examination fees.<sup>5</sup> Each year, FINRA conducts a comprehensive review of the examination fee structure, including an analysis of the costs of developing, administering and delivering qualification examinations. FINRA's 2008 review revealed that certain operational costs have increased and will continue to increase over the next few years. In particular, these costs consist of: (1) the cost of providing the extensive network of test delivery centers; and (2) technology costs required to maintain the PROCTOR<sup>®</sup> system. Based on these findings, the proposed rule change would increase examination fees with no single examination increasing more than \$20. FINRA believes that the proposed rule change would result in a better alignment of program fees to associated operating costs.

Specifically, the proposed rule change would amend Schedule A as follows:

Series 4	Registered Options Principal (Sponsored jointly by NYSE Alterno CBOE, FINRA, NYSE Arca and Ph	·
Series 6	Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative	From \$75 to \$85
Series 7	General Securities Representative	From \$250 to \$265
Series 9	General Securities Sales Supervisor – Options Module (Sponsored jointly by NYSE Alterno CBOE, FINRA, MSRB, NYSE Arca and Phlx)	·

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Schedule A sets forth examination fees for those examinations that are sponsored or co-sponsored by FINRA and/or that may be required by FINRA for its members.

Series 10	General Securities Sales Supervisor – General Module (Sponsored jointly by NYSE Alterne CBOE, FINRA, MSRB, NYSE Arca and Phlx)	
Series 11	Assistant Representative – Order Processing	From \$60 to \$70
Series 14	Compliance Official	From \$300 to \$320
Series 16	Supervisory Analyst	From \$200 to \$210
Series 17	Limited Registered Representative	From \$65 to \$70
Series 22	Direct Participation Programs Representative	From \$75 to \$85
Series 23	General Securities Principal Sales Supervisor Module	From \$75 to \$85
Series 24	General Securities Principal	From \$95 to \$105
Series 26	Investment Company Products/ Variable Contracts Principal	From \$75 to \$85
Series 27	Financial and Operations Principal	From \$95 to \$105
Series 28	Introducing Broker-Dealer Financial and Operations Principal	From \$75 to \$85
Series 37	Canada Module of S7 (Options Required)	From \$150 to \$160
Series 38	Canada Module of S7 (No Options Required)	From \$150 to \$160
Series 39	Direct Participation Programs Principal	From \$75 to \$80
Series 42	Registered Options Representative	From \$60 to \$65
Series 55	Limited Representative- Equity Trader	From \$85 to \$95

Series 62	Corporate Securities Limited Representative	From \$75 to \$80
Series 72	Government Securities Representative	From \$85 to \$95
Series 82	Limited Representative – Private Securities Offering	From \$75 to \$80
Series 86	Research Analyst - Analysis	From \$150 to \$160
Series 87	Research Analyst - Regulatory	From \$105 to \$115

The effective date of the proposed rule change would be January 2, 2009. Specifically, the proposed examination fees would become effective for "120-day examination windows" opened in the CRD<sup>®</sup> on or after January 2, 2009.

2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(5) of the Act,<sup>6</sup> which requires, among other things, that FINRA rules provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility or system that FINRA operates or controls. FINRA believes that the proposed rule change to increase certain qualification examination fees in the fee table in Schedule A reflects FINRA's increased costs in developing, administering and delivering qualification examinations.

#### 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.

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<sup>15</sup> U.S.C. 78o–3(b)(5).

### 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</u> <u>Commission Action</u>

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, 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-2008-053 on the subject line.

#### Paper Comments:

 Send paper comments in triplicate to Florence Harmon, Acting Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2008-053. 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 (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 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-2008-053 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>7</sup>

Florence Harmon Acting Secretary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).