OMB APPROVAL

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Page 1 of 15		SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4				File No. SR - 2010 - 008 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(I	\checkmark	19(b)(3)(A) Rule	Section 19(b)(3)(B)	
Pilot	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action	Date Expires		19b-4(f)(1) 19b-4(f)(2) 19b-4(f)(3))		
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 Amend Incorporated NYSE Rule 312(g)(1)							
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		····	Last Name Arkel				
Title E-mail	adam.arkel@finra.org	Assistant General Counsel					
Telepho		Fax (202) 728-826	4				
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 02/04/2010							
Ву	Patrice Gliniecki	rice Gliniecki Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel					
(Name) (Title)							
this form	Clicking the button at right will dig . A digital signature is as legally e, and once signed, this form can	binding as a physical		Patrice Gliniecki,			

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" or "SEA"), Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") a proposed rule change to make a technical change to the FINRA rulebook. FINRA proposes to amend Incorporated NYSE Rule 312(g)(1) so as to delete certain provisions that are rendered obsolete by the adoption of new FINRA Rule 4110 in FINRA's consolidated rulebook ("Consolidated FINRA Rulebook").

The text of the proposed rule change is attached as Exhibit 5.

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

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

At its meeting on April 17, 2008, the FINRA Board of Governors authorized the filing of the proposed rule change with the SEC. No other action by FINRA is necessary for the filing of the proposed rule change.

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and has requested that the SEC waive the requirement that the proposed rule change not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, such that FINRA can implement the proposed rule change on February 8, 2010.²

¹⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

See Regulatory Notice 09-71 (December 2009) (SEC Approves Consolidated FINRA Rules Governing Financial Responsibility). FINRA announced in Regulatory Notice 09-71 that the new financial responsibility rules will be implemented on February 8, 2010. See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 60933 (November 4, 2009), 74 FR 58334 (November 12, 2009) (Order Granting Approval to Proposed Rule Change; File No. SR-FINRA-2008-067); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 61408 (January 22, 2010), 75 FR 4596 (January 28, 2010) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change; File No. SR-FINRA-2010-004).

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

(a) Purpose

FINRA proposes to make a technical change to the FINRA rulebook.³ FINRA proposes to delete from Incorporated NYSE Rule 312(g)(1) the phrases that read "[r]educe its capital or purchase or redeem any shares of any class of its stock or" and "and the Exchange may at any time in its discretion require the corporation to restore or increase capital or surplus, or both." FINRA is proposing the rule change because the Commission has approved for inclusion in the Consolidated FINRA Rulebook a set of new financial responsibility rules that, among other things, regulate withdrawals of equity capital. Accordingly, the new FINRA rules render the above-mentioned Incorporated NYSE rule provisions obsolete.⁴ Specifically:

• New FINRA Rule 4110(c)(1) prohibits a member from withdrawing equity capital for a period of one year from the date such equity capital is contributed, unless otherwise permitted by FINRA in writing. The rule provides that, subject to the requirements of FINRA Rule 4110(c)(2), members are not precluded from withdrawing profits earned. FINRA Rule 4110(c)(2) prohibits any carrying or

The current FINRA rulebook consists of (1) FINRA Rules; (2) NASD Rules; and (3) rules incorporated from NYSE ("Incorporated NYSE Rules") (together, the NASD Rules and Incorporated NYSE Rules are referred to as the "Transitional Rulebook"). While the NASD Rules generally apply to all FINRA members, the Incorporated NYSE Rules apply only to those members of FINRA that are also members of the NYSE ("Dual Members"). The FINRA Rules apply to all FINRA members, unless such rules have a more limited application by their terms. For more information about the rulebook consolidation process, see Information Notice, March 12, 2008 (Rulebook Consolidation Process).

See note 2.

clearing member,⁵ without the prior written approval of FINRA, from withdrawing capital, paying a dividend or effecting a similar distribution that would reduce the member's equity, or making any unsecured advance or loan to a stockholder, partner, sole proprietor, employee or affiliate, where such withdrawals, payments, reductions, advances or loans in the aggregate, in any 35 rolling calendar day period, on a net basis, would exceed 10 percent of the member's excess net capital.

• New FINRA Rule 4110(a) provides that, when necessary for the protection of investors or in the public interest, FINRA may, at any time or from time to time with respect to a particular carrying or clearing member or all carrying or clearing members, pursuant to authority exercised by FINRA's Executive Vice President charged with oversight for financial responsibility, or his or her written officer delegate, prescribe greater net capital or net worth requirements than those otherwise applicable, including more stringent treatment of items in computing net capital or net worth, or require such member to restore or increase its net worth. The rule provides that, in any such instance, FINRA shall issue a notice pursuant to new FINRA Rule 9557.

As noted in Item 2 of this filing, FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and has requested that the SEC waive the requirement that the proposed rule

FINRA Rule 4110.02 provides that, for purposes of the rule, all requirements that apply to a member that clears or carries customer accounts also apply to any member that, operating pursuant to the exemptive provisions of SEA Rule 15c3-3(k)(2)(i), either clears customer transactions pursuant to such exemptive provisions or holds customer funds in a bank account established thereunder.

change not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, such that FINRA can implement the proposed rule change on February 8, 2010.

(b) Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,⁶ which requires, among other things, that FINRA 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. FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the purposes of the Act because it will provide greater clarity to members and the public regarding FINRA's rules.

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 Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

6. 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 Act⁷ and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder, 8 in that the proposed rule change does not

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 780–3(b)(6).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3).

⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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 or such shorter time as the Commission may designate.

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), such that FINRA can implement the proposed rule change on February 8, 2010, the date on which the previously approved rule change will be implemented. FINRA requests that the Commission waive the five-day pre-filing notice requirement specified in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) under the Act. 10

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

Not applicable.

9. Exhibits

Exhibit 1. Completed notice of proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal</u> Register.

Exhibit 5. Text of proposed rule change.

⁹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

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EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-FINRA-2010-008)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Amend Incorporated NYSE Rule 312(g)(1)

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 , Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II 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,³ 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.

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

FINRA proposes to make a technical change to the FINRA rulebook. FINRA proposes to amend Incorporated NYSE Rule 312(g)(1) so as to delete certain provisions that are rendered

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

obsolete by the adoption of new FINRA Rule 4110 in FINRA's consolidated rulebook ("Consolidated FINRA Rulebook").⁴

The text of the proposed rule change is available on FINRA's Web site at http://www.finra.org, at the principal office of FINRA and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

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

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</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change
- 1. Purpose

FINRA proposes to make a technical change to the FINRA rulebook.⁵ FINRA proposes to delete from Incorporated NYSE Rule 312(g)(1) the phrases that read "[r]educe its capital or

See Regulatory Notice 09-71 (December 2009) (SEC Approves Consolidated FINRA Rules Governing Financial Responsibility). FINRA announced in Regulatory Notice 09-71 that the new financial responsibility rules will be implemented on February 8, 2010. See also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 60933 (November 4, 2009), 74 FR 58334 (November 12, 2009) (Order Granting Approval to Proposed Rule Change; File No. SR-FINRA-2008-067); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 61408 (January 22, 2010), 75 FR 4596 (January 28, 2010) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change; File No. SR-FINRA-2010-004).

The current FINRA rulebook consists of (1) FINRA Rules; (2) NASD Rules; and (3) rules incorporated from NYSE ("Incorporated NYSE Rules") (together, the NASD Rules and Incorporated NYSE Rules are referred to as the "Transitional Rulebook"). While the NASD Rules generally apply to all FINRA members, the Incorporated NYSE Rules apply only to those members of FINRA that are also members of the NYSE ("Dual

purchase or redeem any shares of any class of its stock or" and "and the Exchange may at any time in its discretion require the corporation to restore or increase capital or surplus, or both." FINRA is proposing the rule change because the Commission has approved for inclusion in the Consolidated FINRA Rulebook a set of new financial responsibility rules that, among other things, regulate withdrawals of equity capital by members. Accordingly, the new FINRA rules render the above-mentioned Incorporated NYSE rule provisions obsolete. Specifically:

• New FINRA Rule 4110(c)(1) prohibits a member from withdrawing equity capital for a period of one year from the date such equity capital is contributed, unless otherwise permitted by FINRA in writing. The rule provides that, subject to the requirements of FINRA Rule 4110(c)(2), members are not precluded from withdrawing profits earned. FINRA Rule 4110(c)(2) prohibits any carrying or clearing member, without the prior written approval of FINRA, from withdrawing capital, paying a dividend or effecting a similar distribution that would reduce the member's equity, or making any unsecured advance or loan to a stockholder, partner, sole proprietor, employee or affiliate, where such withdrawals, payments, reductions, advances or loans in the aggregate, in any 35

Members"). The FINRA Rules apply to all FINRA members, unless such rules have a more limited application by their terms. For more information about the rulebook consolidation process, see <u>Information Notice</u>, March 12, 2008 (Rulebook Consolidation Process).

See note 4.

FINRA Rule 4110.02 provides that, for purposes of the rule, all requirements that apply to a member that clears or carries customer accounts also apply to any member that, operating pursuant to the exemptive provisions of SEA Rule 15c3-3(k)(2)(i), either clears customer transactions pursuant to such exemptive provisions or holds customer funds in a bank account established thereunder.

rolling calendar day period, on a net basis, would exceed 10 percent of the member's excess net capital.

• New FINRA Rule 4110(a) provides that, when necessary for the protection of investors or in the public interest, FINRA may, at any time or from time to time with respect to a particular carrying or clearing member or all carrying or clearing members, pursuant to authority exercised by FINRA's Executive Vice President charged with oversight for financial responsibility, or his or her written officer delegate, prescribe greater net capital or net worth requirements than those otherwise applicable, including more stringent treatment of items in computing net capital or net worth, or require such member to restore or increase its net worth. The rule provides that, in any such instance, FINRA shall issue a notice pursuant to new FINRA Rule 9557.

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and has requested that the SEC waive the requirement that the proposed rule change not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, such that FINRA can implement the proposed rule change on February 8, 2010.

2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,⁸ which requires, among other things, that FINRA 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. FINRA believes that the

^{8 15} U.S.C. 780–3(b)(6).

proposed rule change is consistent with the purposes of the Act because it will provide greater clarity to members and the public regarding FINRA's rules.

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 Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

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 Act⁹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹⁰

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:

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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-2010-008 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2010-008. 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, 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. 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-

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2010-008 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹¹

Florence E. Harmon

Deputy Secretary

¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

EXHIBIT 5

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

* * * * *

Rule 312. Changes Within Member Organizations

- (a) through (f) No Change.
- (g) A member corporation shall not without the prior written approval of the Exchange:
- (1) [Reduce its capital or purchase or redeem any shares of any class of its stock or] I[i]n any way amend its charter, certificate of incorporation or by-laws[, and the Exchange may at any time in its discretion require the corporation to restore or increase capital or surplus, or both].
 - (2) through (3) No Change.

The Exchange will approve any action described in (1), (2) or (3) above unless it determines that such action will impair the financial responsibility or operational capability of the member corporation.

(h) through (j) No Change.

* * * * *