Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

er: 3235-0045 August 31, 2011 OMB Number:

OMB APPROVAL

Expires: August 31, 2011
Estimated average burden hours per response......38

Proposed Rule Change by Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Initial *
Initial * Amendment * Withdrawal Section 19(b)(2) * Section 19(b)(3)(A) * Section 19(b)(3) Rule Pilot Extension of Time Period for Commission Action * Date Expires * Dat
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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 * Adam Last Name * Arkel Title * Assistant General Counsel
E-mail * adam.arkel@finra.org
Telephone * (202) 728-6961 Fax (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 officer. Date 02/24/2011
By Patrice Gliniecki Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel
(Name *)
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. The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a Form 19b-4 Information (required) clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the Remove View 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 (required) as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Remove View Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all Add 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 Add Remove 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.

On November 12, 2010, FINRA filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") SR-FINRA-2010-061, a proposed rule change to adopt FINRA Rules 4150 (Guarantees by, or Flow Through Benefits for, Members), 4311 (Carrying Agreements), 4522 (Periodic Security Counts, Verifications and Comparisons) and 4523 (Assignment of Responsibility for General Ledger Accounts and Identification of Suspense Accounts) in the consolidated FINRA rulebook ("Consolidated FINRA Rulebook") and to delete NASD Rule 3230, Incorporated NYSE Rules 322, 382, 440.10 and 440.20 and Incorporated NYSE Rule Interpretations 382/01 through 382/05, 409(a)/01 and 440.20/01. The SEC published the proposed rule change for notice and comment on November 24, 2010¹ and received one comment letter.² FINRA is filing this Partial Amendment No. 1 to respond to the comment letter that was received by the Commission and to propose a clarifying change to proposed FINRA Rule 4311.

The commenter³ expressed concerns as to the scope of proposed FINRA Rule 4311. The proposed rule requires in part that, unless otherwise permitted by FINRA, a member may not enter into an agreement for the carrying, on an omnibus or fully disclosed basis, of any customer account in which securities transactions can be effected, unless such agreement is with a carrying firm that is a FINRA member. The commenter suggested that the rule as proposed is not clear as to whether a FINRA member firm that operates pursuant to the exemptive provisions of Securities Exchange Act ("SEA") Rule 15c3-3(k)(2)(i) is engaged in carrying activity and thereby subject to the rule.

In response, as FINRA stated in SR-FINRA-2010-061, FINRA has specified *in the rule text where appropriate* when the requirements of the proposed rules are intended to apply to firms that operate pursuant to the exemptive provisions of SEA Rule 15c3-3(k)(2)(i).⁴ Proposed FINRA Rule 4311 by its terms applies to arrangements to carry customer accounts. The rule does not apply to a FINRA member firm that operates pursuant to the exemptive provisions of SEA Rule 15c3-3(k)(2)(i).

The commenter further expressed concerns as to the status under proposed FINRA Rule 4311 of DVP/RVP clearance and settlement arrangements across international borders that may be structured as omnibus accounts where U.S.-registered broker-dealers seek to designate these accounts at a foreign affiliate as approved foreign control locations under SEA Rule 15c3-3. The commenter suggested that the proposed rule could render such

See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 63375 (November 24, 2010), 75 FR 74759 (December 1, 2010) (Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change; File No. SR-FINRA-2010-061).

See Letter from D. Grant Vingoe, Arnold & Porter LLP ("Arnold & Porter"), to Elizabeth M. Murphy, Secretary, SEC, dated December 22, 2010, available at http://www.sec.gov/comments/sr-finra-2010-061/finra2010061.shtml>.

All references to the commenter in this letter are to the commenter as set forth in note 2.

⁴ <u>See</u> note 6 at 75 FR 74760.

arrangements problematic. In response, FINRA notes, again, that the proposed rule by its terms applies to arrangements to carry customer accounts. The rule is not meant to address the substantive requirements of SEA Rule 15c3-3(c) as it applies to good control locations nor to apply to cross-border clearance and settlement arrangements that are structured on a basis that is permissible under and consistent with SEC rules.

FINRA notes that the propriety of structuring cross-border clearance and settlement arrangements in the manner described in the commenter's letter, and the propriety of a U.S.-registered broker-dealer's reliance on SEA Rule 15c3-3(k)(2)(i) for the business activities described in that letter, are beyond the scope of the proposed rule change.

Not in connection with the comment letter that was received by the Commission, FINRA is amending proposed FINRA Rule 4311 to add a clarifying Supplementary Material to remind members that, for purposes of paragraphs (c)(1)(F) and (c)(2) of Rule 4311, receipt and delivery of customers' funds and securities and the safeguarding of such funds and securities must comply with the requirements of the SEC's financial responsibility rules, in particular SEA Rule 15c3-3, and applicable SEC guidance. FINRA has made other minor changes to reflect the formatting conventions of the Consolidated FINRA Rulebook.

The amendments to the proposed rule change are set forth below. FINRA is including with this Partial Amendment No. 1 an Exhibit 4, which shows the text of the changes proposed in this Partial Amendment No. 1 to SR-FINRA-2010-061, with the proposed changes in the original filing shown as if adopted.

EXHIBIT 4

Exhibit 4 shows the text of the changes proposed in this Partial Amendment No. 1 to SR-FINRA-2010-061, with the proposed changes in the original filing shown as if adopted. Proposed additions in this Partial Amendment No. 1 are underlined; proposed deletions are in brackets.¹

* * * * *

4000. FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL RULES

4100. FINANCIAL CONDITION

* * * * *

4150. Guarantees by, or Flow Through Benefits for, Members

- (a) Prior written notice shall be given to FINRA whenever any member guarantees, endorses or assumes, directly or indirectly, the obligations or liabilities of another person.
- (b) Prior written approval must be obtained from FINRA whenever any member receives flow through capital benefits in accordance with Appendix C of SEA Rule 15c3-1.

• • • Supplementary Material: -----

.01 Financial and Operational Impact. The written notice required by paragraph (a) of this Rule shall be given to FINRA at least 10 business days prior to entering into such arrangement or relationship with another person. Both the written notice required by paragraph (a) of this Rule and the request for approval under paragraph (b) of this Rule shall include the address and general nature of business conducted by such person, a description of the relationship or arrangement between the parties, details regarding the capitalization of such person (including the percentage of ownership or profits by the member), as well as the

The text of Incorporated NYSE Rule 440 as set forth in this Exhibit reflects amendments adopted pursuant to proposed rule change SR-FINRA-2010-052, which was approved by the Commission. <u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 63784 (January 27, 2011), 76 FR 5850 (February 2, 2011) (Order Approving Proposed Rule Change; File No. SR-FINRA-2010-052).

actual and potential effect of the arrangement or relationship on the member's capital (including net capital) and operations and such other information as FINRA may require. A request for approval under paragraph (b) of this Rule shall further include an opinion of counsel where such is required in conformity with Appendix C of SEA Rule 15c3-1.

- **.02 Member Dealings**. A member may at any time be required to provide FINRA with information with respect to the arrangement, relationship and dealings with a person referred to in this Rule.
- **.03 Books and Records**. No member shall enter into an arrangement described in this Rule unless it has the authority to make available promptly the books and records of such other person for inspection by FINRA in the United States. The books and records of such person shall be kept separately from those of the member.
- .04 FOCUS Reporting Requirements. For persons referred to in this Rule that are registered broker-dealers, the member shall furnish to FINRA copies of such person's FOCUS Reports simultaneous with their being filed with the person's designated examining authority. For persons referred to in this Rule that are not registered broker-dealers, FINRA requires, in lieu of FOCUS, submission of financial and operational statements, in such format and at such time periods as may be required by FINRA, sufficient to gauge the capital and operational effects of the arrangement or relationship.
- **.05 Routine Guarantees**. Guarantees executed routinely in the normal course of business such as trade guarantees, signature guarantees, endorsement of securities and the writing of options, are not subject to the requirements of this Rule provided that, in regard to the guarantee of the writing of options, the transaction is appropriately recorded on the member's

books and records in accordance with SEA Rule 17a-3(a)(10) and is reflected in its net capital computation pursuant to SEA Rule 15c3-1.

.06 Guarantees Already in Effect. Within 30 days of [insert implementation date of the proposed rule change], each member shall advise FINRA, in writing, of any guarantees, endorsements, assumptions of obligations/liabilities, or flow through capital benefits, in effect as of [insert implementation date of the proposed rule change] not having otherwise been reported, in writing, to the appropriate Regulatory Coordinator.

* * * * *

4300. OPERATIONS

4310. Member Agreements and Contracts

4311. Carrying Agreements

- (a)(1) Unless otherwise permitted by FINRA, a member shall not enter into an agreement for the carrying, on an omnibus or fully disclosed basis, of any customer account in which securities transactions can be effected ("customer account" or "account"), unless such agreement is with a carrying firm that is a FINRA member. An introducing firm that acts as an intermediary for another introducing firm(s) for the purpose of obtaining clearing services from the carrying firm must notify such carrying firm of the existence of such arrangement(s) and the identity of the other introducing firm(s). Each such carrying agreement(s) shall identify and bind every direct and indirect recipient of clearing services as a party thereto.
 - (2) A carrying firm may enter into a carrying agreement(s) for the carrying of the customer accounts of a person other than a U.S. registered broker or dealer, subject to the conditions set forth in this Rule.

- (b)(1) The carrying firm shall submit to FINRA for prior approval any agreement for the carrying of accounts, whether on an omnibus or fully disclosed basis, before such agreement may become effective. The carrying firm also shall submit to FINRA for prior approval any material changes to an approved carrying agreement before such changes may become effective.
 - (2) A carrying firm may use a standardized form of agreement that has been approved by FINRA pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this Rule, to enter into new carrying arrangements with other U.S. registered brokers or dealers, without the resubmission and re-approval of such agreement. However, a carrying firm must submit to FINRA for approval each carrying agreement that includes a party that is not a U. S. registered broker or dealer.
 - (3) As early as possible, but not later than 10 business days, prior to the carrying of any accounts of a new introducing firm (including the accounts of any introducing firm(s) for which a new or existing introducing firm is acting as an intermediary in obtaining clearing services from the carrying firm) the carrying firm shall submit to FINRA a notice identifying each such introducing firm by name and CRD number and shall include such additional information as FINRA may require.
 - (4) Each carrying firm shall conduct appropriate due diligence with respect to any new introducing firm relationship to assess the financial, operational, credit and reputational risk that such arrangement will have upon the carrying firm. FINRA, in its review of any arrangement, may in its discretion require specific items to be addressed by the carrying firm as part of such firm's due diligence requirement under this Rule. The carrying firm shall maintain a record, in accordance with the

timeframes prescribed by SEA Rule 17a-4(b), of the due diligence conducted for each new introducing firm.

- (c)(1) Each carrying agreement in which accounts are to be carried on a fully disclosed basis shall specify the responsibilities of each party to the agreement, including at a minimum the allocation of the responsibilities set forth in paragraphs (c)(1)([a]A) through ([i]I) and (c)(2) of this Rule. The allocation of such responsibilities shall be subject to approval by FINRA pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this Rule.
 - ([a]A) Opening and approving accounts.
 - ([b]B) Acceptance of orders.
 - ([c]C) Transmission of orders for execution.
 - ([d]<u>D</u>) Execution of orders.
 - ([e]E) Extension of credit.
 - ([f]<u>F</u>) Receipt and delivery of funds and securities.
 - ([g]G) Preparation and transmission of confirmations.
 - ([h]H) Maintenance of books and records.
 - ([i]<u>I</u>) Monitoring of accounts.
 - (2) Each carrying agreement in which accounts are to be carried on a fully disclosed basis shall expressly allocate to the carrying firm the responsibility for the safeguarding of funds and securities for the purposes of SEA Rule 15c3-3 and for preparing and transmitting statements of account to customers. However, the carrying firm may authorize the introducing firm to prepare and/or transmit statements of account to customers on the carrying firm's behalf with the prior written approval of FINRA.

- (d) Each customer whose account is introduced on a fully disclosed basis shall be notified in writing upon the opening of the account of the existence of the carrying agreement and the responsibilities allocated to each respective party. The carrying firm shall be responsible for the content of such notification to the customer. The customer shall be notified promptly and in writing in the event of any change to any of the parties to the agreement or any material change to the allocation of responsibilities thereunder.
- (e) Each carrying agreement shall expressly state that to the extent that a particular responsibility is allocated to one party, the other party or parties will supply to the responsible organization all appropriate data in their possession pertinent to the proper performance and supervision of that responsibility.
- (f) A carrying agreement may authorize an introducing firm to issue negotiable instruments directly to its customers on the carrying firm's behalf, using instruments for which the carrying firm is the maker or drawer, provided that the parties comply with SEA Rule 15c3-3 and further that the introducing firm represents to the carrying firm in writing that such introducing firm maintains, and will enforce, supervisory policies and procedures with respect to the issuance of such negotiable instruments that are satisfactory to the carrying firm.
- (g)(1) Each carrying agreement shall expressly authorize and direct the carrying firm to:
 - (A) furnish promptly to the introducing firm and the introducing firm's designated examining authority (or, if none, to its appropriate regulatory agency or authority) any written customer complaint received

regarding the conduct of the introducing firm or firms and its associated persons; and

- (B) notify the complaining customer, in writing, that it has received the complaint and that such complaint has been furnished to the introducing firm and its designated examining authority (or, if none, to its appropriate regulatory agency or authority).
- (2) Upon a showing of good cause, FINRA, at its discretion, may exclude certain carrying firms from the requirements of paragraph (g)(1) in instances where the introducing firm is an affiliated entity of the carrying firm.
- (h)(1) At the commencement of the agreement and annually thereafter, the carrying firm must furnish to each of its introducing firms a list of all reports (e.g., exception reports) available to assist the introducing firm with the responsibilities allocated to it pursuant to the carrying agreement. The introducing firm must promptly request of the carrying firm, in writing, those offered reports that it requires.
 - (2) No later than July 1 of each year, the carrying firm shall notify the introducing firm's chief executive and chief compliance officer(s) in writing of the list of reports offered to, requested by and supplied to the introducing firm as of the date of the notice. A copy of this written notice must at the same time be provided to the introducing firm's designated examining authority (or if none, to its appropriate regulatory agency or authority).
 - (3) The carrying firm shall maintain as part of its books and records those reports requested by and supplied to the introducing firm. The carrying firm may satisfy the requirements of this paragraph by furnishing, upon request of the

introducing firm's designated examining authority (or if none, to its appropriate regulatory agency or authority):

- (A) a re_created copy of the report originally produced; or
- (B) the format of the report and the applicable data elements contained in the original report.
- (4) Upon a showing of good cause, FINRA, at its discretion, may exclude certain carrying firms from the requirements of this paragraph (h) in instances where the introducing firm is an affiliated entity of the carrying firm.
- (i) All carrying agreements shall require each introducing firm to maintain its proprietary and customer accounts, and the proprietary and customer accounts of any introducing firm for which it is acting as an intermediary in obtaining clearing services from the carrying firm, in such a manner as to enable the carrying firm and FINRA to specifically identify the proprietary and customer accounts belonging to each introducing firm. The requirements of this paragraph (i) shall apply to intermediary clearing arrangements that are established on or after February 20, 2006.

• • • Supplementary Material -----

.01 Material Changes. For purposes of paragraph (b)(1) of this Rule, material changes include, but are not limited to, changes to: (a) the allocation of responsibilities required by this Rule; (b) termination clauses applicable to the introducing firm; (c) any terms or provisions affecting the liability of the parties; and (d) the parties to the agreement (including, for example, the addition of a new party to the agreement, such as a "piggyback" arrangement, a new carrying firm or a new introducing firm, but not including a termination of the agreement).

- **.02 Notice of New Introducing Firm Arrangement.** For purposes of the notice requirements of paragraph (b)(3) of this Rule, the carrying firm shall submit a questionnaire in such form as to be specified by FINRA in a Regulatory Notice, which questionnaire may be updated from time to time as FINRA deems necessary.
- **.03 Due Diligence.** For purposes of paragraph (b)(4) of this Rule, the carrying firm's due diligence may include, without limitation, inquiry by the carrying firm into the introducing firm's business model and product mix, proprietary and customer positions, FOCUS and similar reports, audited financial statements and complaint and disciplinary history.
- Allocation of Responsibilities. For purposes of paragraphs (c)(1)(F) and (c)(2) of this Rule, members are reminded that receipt and delivery of customers' funds and securities and the safeguarding of such funds and securities must comply with the requirements of the SEC's financial responsibility rules, in particular SEA Rule 15c3-3, and applicable SEC guidance.
- .0[4]5 Notice to Customers. For purposes of paragraph (d) of this Rule, notification to customers of a change to any of the parties to the carrying agreement is not required in instances where, consistent with applicable FINRA rules and the federal securities laws, such customers' accounts are being transferred pursuant to: (a) ACATS using an authorized Transfer Instruction Form (TIF); or (b) a process outside of ACATS where notification to customers is provided by means of an alternative mechanism such as affirmative or negative response letters.

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4500. BOOKS, RECORDS AND REPORTS

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4520. Financial Records and Reporting Requirements

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4522. Periodic Security Counts, Verifications and Comparisons

- (a) Each member that is subject to the requirements of SEA Rule 17a-13 shall make the counts, examinations, verifications, comparisons and entries set forth in SEA Rule 17a-13.
- (b) Each carrying or clearing member subject to the requirements of SEA Rule 17a-13 shall make more frequent counts, examinations, verifications, comparisons and entries where prudent business practice would so require. In addition, each such carrying or clearing member shall:
 - (1) Receive position statements as frequently as good business practice requires, but no less than once per month with respect to securities held by clearing corporations, other organizations or custodians. Each such member shall at least once per month reconcile all such securities and money balances by comparison of the clearing corporations' or custodians' position statements to the member's books and records and promptly report differences to the contra organization and such differences shall be promptly resolved by both. Where there is a higher volume of activity, good business practice may require a more frequent exchange of statements and their reconciliation; and
 - (2) At a maximum of seven business days after each security count, enter all unresolved differences into a "Difference" account, for that security count. The

Difference account shall identify the unverified securities and reflect the number of shares or principal amount long or the number of shares or principal amount short of each security difference and the date of the security count that disclosed such difference. Thereafter, any adjustment of a difference position shall be made by entry into such account.

4523. Assignment of Responsibility for General Ledger Accounts and Identification of Suspense Accounts

- (a) Each member shall designate an associated person who shall be responsible for each general ledger bookkeeping account and account of like function used by the member and such associated person shall control and oversee entries into each such account and shall determine that the account is current and accurate as necessary to comply with all applicable FINRA rules and federal securities laws governing books and records and financial responsibility requirements. A supervisor shall, as frequently as is necessary considering the function of the account but, in any event, at least monthly, review each account to determine that it is current and accurate and that any items that become aged or uncertain as to resolution are promptly identified for research and possible transfer to a suspense account(s).
- (b) Each carrying or clearing member shall maintain a record of the names of the associated persons assigned primary and supervisory responsibility for each account as required by paragraph (a) of this Rule. All records made pursuant to this paragraph (b) shall be preserved for a period of not less than six years.
- (c) Each member must record, in an account that shall be clearly identified as a suspense account, money charges or credits and receipts or deliveries of securities whose ultimate disposition is pending determination. A record must be maintained of all

information known with respect to each item so recorded. Such suspense accounts include, but are not limited to, DK fails, unidentified fails, unallocable securities receipts versus payment, returned deliveries, and any other receivable or payable (money or securities) "suspended" because of doubtful ownership, collectibility or deliverability. To the extent that suspense items can be distinguished by type, separate accounts may be used provided that the word "suspense" is made a prominent part of the account title. All records made pursuant to this paragraph shall be preserved for a period of not less than six years.

• • • Supplementary Material -----

- **.01 Supervisory Responsibility**. For the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Rule, each member with only one associated person may assign primary and supervisory responsibility for each account to that associated person, subject to applicable registration requirements. Members of limited size and resources that have more than one associated person may seek FINRA's prior written approval to assign primary and supervisory responsibility for each account to the same associated person.
- .02 Members Operating Pursuant to the Exemptive Provisions of SEA Rule 15c3-3(k)(2)(i). For purposes of this Rule, all requirements that apply to a member that clears or carries customer accounts shall 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.

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Text of Incorporated NYSE Rule Interpretation to Remain in the Transitional Rulebook

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NYSE Rule Interpretation

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Rule 409 Statements of Accounts to Customers

- (a) Reserved.
- /02 through /06 No Change.
- (b) No Change.

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Text of Incorporated NYSE Rule to be Deleted in its Entirety from the Transitional Rulebook

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Incorporated NYSE Rule

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[Rule 440. Books and Records]

Entire text deleted.

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