

Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Page 1 of * 28	SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4	File No.* SR - 2013 - * 006	Amendment No. (req. for Amendments *)
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Filing by Financial Industry Regulatory Authority  
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

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

Notice of proposed change pursuant to the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Act of 2010 Section 806(e)(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Section 806(e)(2) <input type="checkbox"/>	Security-Based Swap Submission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Section 3C(b)(2) <input type="checkbox"/>
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Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Description**

Provide a brief description of the action (limit 250 characters, required when Initial is checked \*).

Proposed Rule Change Relating to FINRA Rule 4530 (Reporting Requirements)

**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 action.

First Name \* Afshin      Last Name \* Atabaki

Title \* Associate General Counsel

E-mail \* Afshin.Atabaki@finra.org

Telephone \* (202) 728-8902      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.

(Title \*)

Date 01/14/2013      Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel

By Patrice M. Gliniecki      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 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 EFFF 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 1A- Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies**

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

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

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

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

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

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Exhibit Sent As Paper Document

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

**Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies**

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

**Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text**

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

**Partial Amendment**

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

**1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change**

(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”) is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) a proposed rule change to amend FINRA Rule 4530 (Reporting Requirements) to: (1) provide an exception from the rule for information disclosed on the Form U4 (Uniform Application for Securities Industry Registration or Transfer); (2) enable members to file required documents with FINRA online; and (3) provide an exception from the rule for findings and actions by FINRA.

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

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

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

At its meeting on July 12, 2012, 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. FINRA will announce the implementation date of the proposed rule change in a Regulatory Notice to be published no later than 60 days following the date of filing. The implementation date will be no later than 180 days after the date of filing.

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

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

(a) Purpose

FINRA Rule 4530, which became effective on July 1, 2011,<sup>2</sup> requires members to report to FINRA specified events (e.g., findings by a regulatory body) and quarterly statistical and summary information regarding written customer complaints.<sup>3</sup>

**Exception for Information Disclosed on the Form U4**

FINRA Rule 4530(e) currently provides that a firm is not required to report a specified event under the rule if it reports that event on the Form U5 (Uniform Termination Notice for Securities Industry Registration), consistent with the requirements of that form.<sup>4</sup> This provision is intended to eliminate duplicative reporting of information disclosed on the Form U5. FINRA proposes to provide a similar exception for certain specified events reported on the Form U4. The process applicable under the proposed Form U4 exception will, however, be slightly different, in part because of differences in the reporting criteria between Form U4 and FINRA Rule 4530 events.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> FINRA Rule 4530 replaced NASD Rule 3070 (Reporting Requirements) and the corresponding provisions in Incorporated NYSE Rule 351 (Reporting Requirements). See Regulatory Notice 11-06 (February 2011).

<sup>3</sup> The specified events and customer complaint information must be electronically reported to FINRA via an application on FINRA's Firm Gateway. See Regulatory Notice 11-10 (March 2011).

<sup>4</sup> This exception does not extend to the reporting of quarterly statistical and summary customer complaint information under the rule.

<sup>5</sup> For example, a registered person's Form U4 must be amended to report pending arbitration claims initiated by a customer where the registered person is the subject of such a claim, the customer alleges sales practice violations, and the customer claims damages in the amount of \$5,000 or more. A member must report such a matter promptly (in general, not later than 30 days after the member

Under the Form U4 exception process, a member will be required to affirmatively request through functionality on the Central Registration Depository (CRD<sup>®</sup> system) that the data reported on a Form U4 Disclosure Reporting Page (DRP) also be applied to satisfy its corresponding FINRA Rule 4530 reporting obligation. Specifically, FINRA proposes to enable filers to designate through the use of checkboxes in the CRD system that the data reported on certain Form U4 DRPs also be applied to satisfy the corresponding requirement under FINRA Rule 4530(a)(1).<sup>6</sup> FINRA expects that this affirmative designation by the member will facilitate the staff's review process by allowing the staff to continue to identify, categorize and review Rule FINRA 4530 reportable events in a timely fashion and reduce the number of staff inquiries to the member to confirm or clarify the firm's intention. FINRA proposes to enable firms to designate that data on the following Form U4 DRPs be applied to satisfy the applicable FINRA Rule 4530(a)(1) events: (1) Criminal; (2) Regulatory Action; (3) Civil Judicial; and (4) Customer Complaint/Arbitration/Civil Litigation.

The proposed rule change will be effected through functionality in the CRD system; FINRA is not proposing changes to the Form U4. Moreover, firms can continue to report an event via the FINRA Rule 4530 application on the Firm Gateway. Finally,

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is served with the customer claim) and before the claim has a final disposition. In contrast, FINRA Rule 4530(a)(1)(G) requires the reporting of such matters only when there has been a final disposition that results in an award or a settlement for an amount exceeding \$15,000.

<sup>6</sup> FINRA Rules 4530(a)(1)(A) through (H), which address the reporting of regulatory, criminal and civil actions, in general, correspond with information disclosed on the Form U4. There is no corresponding provision on the Form U4 for matters reportable under FINRA Rule 4530(a)(2) (disciplinary actions taken by a member against an associated person) or FINRA Rule 4530(b) (a member's internal conclusions of violations).

similar to the Form U5 exception, the proposed Form U4 exception will not extend to the reporting of quarterly statistical and summary customer complaint information pursuant to FINRA Rule 4530(d).

### **Availability of Online Filings**

FINRA Rule 4530(f) requires firms to promptly file with FINRA copies of certain criminal actions, civil complaints and arbitration claims.<sup>7</sup> Firms have the option of filing the required documents either electronically (as a scanned email attachment or scanned and saved on a disk) or in paper form. Currently, firms do not have the option of filing these documents with FINRA online. FINRA proposes to amend FINRA Rule 4530 to give members the option of filing the required documents online via FINRA's Firm Gateway.<sup>8</sup> This will provide firms an online platform to satisfy both their reporting and filing obligations under FINRA Rule 4530. The documents will be automatically uploaded in an existing centralized FINRA database. This change has the potential to reduce the burden on those firms that prefer to file documents electronically while also providing firms and FINRA with a more efficient audit trail and saving FINRA staff time currently spent uploading documents to the centralized database.

However, firms that choose to file their documents electronically using the Firm Gateway will be required to provide limited summary information regarding the

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<sup>7</sup> FINRA Rule 4530 provides an exception for any arbitration claim that is originally filed in the FINRA Dispute Resolution forum and for those documents that have already been requested by FINRA's Registration and Disclosure (RAD) staff, provided that the firm produces those requested documents to RAD staff within 30 days after receipt of such request.

<sup>8</sup> See proposed FINRA Rule 4530(g).

documents,<sup>9</sup> such as the name and telephone number of the contact person and the name of the complainant or plaintiff. The required summary information will also automatically populate the centralized database. This will allow FINRA staff to retrieve and analyze information contained in these submissions from a consolidated source. Further, because the summary information will automatically populate the centralized database, FINRA staff will not have to separately enter such information into the database, which will improve the efficiency of the review process.

In conjunction with the proposed rule change, FINRA proposes to create a new form, which will be available through the Firm Gateway.<sup>10</sup> Members that choose to file their documents online will be required to complete the mandatory fields on the new online form and attach to the form a scanned copy of the required documents, in a format such as Adobe PDF.

Firms will continue to have the option of filing the documents required under FINRA Rule 4530(f) via mail or email. In addition, the requirement to provide limited summary information regarding the documents only applies to firms that choose to file the documents with FINRA online using the new form; the requirement does not apply to firms that use other permissible electronic means (e.g., email) to file the documents with FINRA.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> See supra note 8.

<sup>10</sup> A copy of the proposed online form, including explanations of certain fields on the form, is attached as Exhibit 3.

<sup>11</sup> FINRA is not proposing to require firms that use other permissible electronic means to file the documents with FINRA to provide the summary information, because the functionality to prepopulate the centralized database with such information is limited to online filings.

### **Exception for FINRA Findings and Actions**

FINRA Rule 4530(a)(1)(A) requires a member to report external findings regarding the member or an associated person. FINRA Rules 4530(a)(1)(C) and (D) require a member to report regulatory actions against the member or an associated person. FINRA Rules 4530(a)(1)(A), (C) and (D) do not expressly exclude findings and actions by FINRA. However, since FINRA staff has access to such information through an enterprise-wide solution, FINRA proposes to add Supplementary Material .10 to FINRA Rule 4530 to provide that, for purposes of FINRA Rules 4530(a)(1)(A), (C) and (D) only, members are not required to report findings and actions by FINRA. This exception is, in general, consistent with the exception under FINRA Rule 4530(f) for arbitration claims filed in the FINRA Dispute Resolution forum.

As noted in Item 2, FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. FINRA will announce the implementation date of the proposed rule change in a Regulatory Notice to be published no later than 60 days following the date of filing. The implementation date will be no later than 180 days after the date of filing.

#### **(b) Statutory Basis**

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,<sup>12</sup> 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 will further these purposes by eliminating unnecessary duplicative reporting of information to FINRA and providing

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<sup>12</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).



firms with the option to file documents required under FINRA Rule 4530 online. FINRA believes that the proposed rule change will serve to reduce potential burdens imposed by the rule without compromising the regulatory information available to FINRA.

**4. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition**

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.

The proposed amendment to FINRA Rule 4530(e) to provide an exception for information disclosed on the Form U4 will eliminate the burden on firms of having to report the same event twice. While firms will be required to affirmatively request that the data reported on a Form U4 be applied to satisfy a corresponding FINRA Rule 4530 reporting obligation, FINRA believes any resulting burden will be less than the current burden of separately reporting an event via the FINRA Rule 4530 application. In addition, as noted above, FINRA expects the affirmative designation requirement to facilitate the staff's review process and reduce the need for follow-up communications with firms.

The proposed change to FINRA Rule 4530(g) to provide firms the option of filing required documents online will not impact or burden firms that wish to continue filing the required documents via mail or email. With respect to those firms that choose to file the required documents online, FINRA believes that the burden on them will be negligible for the following reasons. All members have an existing obligation to have online access

to FINRA, including a user ID and password, for purposes of other regulatory filings.<sup>13</sup>

In addition, with respect to the requirement to attach to the online form a scanned copy of the required documents, FINRA believes that the requirement does not create an unreasonable burden for members given the widespread use of scanning technology, such as PDF. Further, the proposed rule change will require that they provide limited summary information regarding the documents. However, FINRA believes that any administrative burden imposed upon such members by this requirement would be outweighed by the benefit to FINRA's regulatory program in allowing the staff to retrieve and analyze information contained in these submissions from a consolidated source that is prepopulated by the firms' submissions.

Moreover, FINRA does not believe that the proposed change to FINRA Rule 4530(g) places members that cannot submit their documents electronically because they lack scanning technology at a disadvantage to those members that have the capability to do so. As noted above, members that cannot submit their documents electronically can continue to submit their documents via mail without any interruption to their existing processes. In addition, while such members will not have the benefit of tracking their submissions electronically, they can use non-electronic means, such a return receipt, for tracking purposes.

Finally, the addition of Supplementary Material .10 to FINRA Rule 4530 eliminates the burden on firms of having to report findings and actions by FINRA for purposes of FINRA Rules 4530(a)(1)(A), (C) and (D). FINRA staff will continue to have access to such information through an enterprise-wide solution.

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<sup>13</sup> See, e.g., FINRA Rule 1010 (Electronic Filing Requirements for Uniform Forms).

5. **Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others**

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

6. **Extension of Time Period for Commission Action**

Not applicable.

7. **Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) or Section 19(b)(7)(D)**

The proposed rule change is effective upon filing pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) of the Act<sup>14</sup> and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>15</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 or such shorter time as the Commission may designate. FINRA submitted written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change, along with a brief description and text of the proposed rule change, at least five business days prior to the date of filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, as specified in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) under the Act.<sup>16</sup>

8. **Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission**

Not applicable.

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<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3).

<sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>16</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

**9. Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act**

Not applicable.

**10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and Settlement Supervision Act**

Not applicable.

**11. Exhibits**

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

Exhibit 3. Rule 4530(g) Proposed Online Form.

Exhibit 5. Text of the proposed rule change.

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
(Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-FINRA-2013-006)

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change Relating to FINRA Rule 4530 (Reporting Requirements)

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”) 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,<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.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

FINRA is proposing to amend FINRA Rule 4530 (Reporting Requirements) to:

(1) provide an exception from the rule for information disclosed on the Form U4 (Uniform Application for Securities Industry Registration or Transfer); (2) enable members to file required documents with FINRA online; and (3) provide an exception from the rule for findings and actions by FINRA.

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

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

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

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

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

1. Purpose

FINRA Rule 4530, which became effective on July 1, 2011,<sup>4</sup> requires members to report to FINRA specified events (e.g., findings by a regulatory body) and quarterly statistical and summary information regarding written customer complaints.<sup>5</sup>

**Exception for Information Disclosed on the Form U4**

FINRA Rule 4530(e) currently provides that a firm is not required to report a specified event under the rule if it reports that event on the Form U5 (Uniform Termination Notice for Securities Industry Registration), consistent with the requirements

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<sup>4</sup> FINRA Rule 4530 replaced NASD Rule 3070 (Reporting Requirements) and the corresponding provisions in Incorporated NYSE Rule 351 (Reporting Requirements). See Regulatory Notice 11-06 (February 2011).

<sup>5</sup> The specified events and customer complaint information must be electronically reported to FINRA via an application on FINRA's Firm Gateway. See Regulatory Notice 11-10 (March 2011).

of that form.<sup>6</sup> This provision is intended to eliminate duplicative reporting of information disclosed on the Form U5. FINRA proposes to provide a similar exception for certain specified events reported on the Form U4. The process applicable under the proposed Form U4 exception will, however, be slightly different, in part because of differences in the reporting criteria between Form U4 and FINRA Rule 4530 events.<sup>7</sup>

Under the Form U4 exception process, a member will be required to affirmatively request through functionality on the Central Registration Depository (CRD<sup>®</sup> system) that the data reported on a Form U4 Disclosure Reporting Page (DRP) also be applied to satisfy its corresponding FINRA Rule 4530 reporting obligation. Specifically, FINRA proposes to enable filers to designate through the use of checkboxes in the CRD system that the data reported on certain Form U4 DRPs also be applied to satisfy the corresponding requirement under FINRA Rule 4530(a)(1).<sup>8</sup> FINRA expects that this affirmative designation by the member will facilitate the staff's review process by

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<sup>6</sup> This exception does not extend to the reporting of quarterly statistical and summary customer complaint information under the rule.

<sup>7</sup> For example, a registered person's Form U4 must be amended to report pending arbitration claims initiated by a customer where the registered person is the subject of such a claim, the customer alleges sales practice violations, and the customer claims damages in the amount of \$5,000 or more. A member must report such a matter promptly (in general, not later than 30 days after the member is served with the customer claim) and before the claim has a final disposition. In contrast, FINRA Rule 4530(a)(1)(G) requires the reporting of such matters only when there has been a final disposition that results in an award or a settlement for an amount exceeding \$15,000.

<sup>8</sup> FINRA Rules 4530(a)(1)(A) through (H), which address the reporting of regulatory, criminal and civil actions, in general, correspond with information disclosed on the Form U4. There is no corresponding provision on the Form U4 for matters reportable under FINRA Rule 4530(a)(2) (disciplinary actions taken by a member against an associated person) or FINRA Rule 4530(b) (a member's internal conclusions of violations).

allowing the staff to continue to identify, categorize and review Rule FINRA 4530 reportable events in a timely fashion and reduce the number of staff inquiries to the member to confirm or clarify the firm's intention. FINRA proposes to enable firms to designate that data on the following Form U4 DRPs be applied to satisfy the applicable FINRA Rule 4530(a)(1) events: (1) Criminal; (2) Regulatory Action; (3) Civil Judicial; and (4) Customer Complaint/Arbitration/Civil Litigation.

The proposed rule change will be effected through functionality in the CRD system; FINRA is not proposing changes to the Form U4. Moreover, firms can continue to report an event via the FINRA Rule 4530 application on the Firm Gateway. Finally, similar to the Form U5 exception, the proposed Form U4 exception will not extend to the reporting of quarterly statistical and summary customer complaint information pursuant to FINRA Rule 4530(d).

#### **Availability of Online Filings**

FINRA Rule 4530(f) requires firms to promptly file with FINRA copies of certain criminal actions, civil complaints and arbitration claims.<sup>9</sup> Firms have the option of filing the required documents either electronically (as a scanned email attachment or scanned and saved on a disk) or in paper form. Currently, firms do not have the option of filing these documents with FINRA online. FINRA proposes to amend FINRA Rule 4530 to give members the option of filing the required documents online via FINRA's Firm

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<sup>9</sup> FINRA Rule 4530 provides an exception for any arbitration claim that is originally filed in the FINRA Dispute Resolution forum and for those documents that have already been requested by FINRA's Registration and Disclosure (RAD) staff, provided that the firm produces those requested documents to RAD staff within 30 days after receipt of such request.



Gateway.<sup>10</sup> This will provide firms an online platform to satisfy both their reporting and filing obligations under FINRA Rule 4530. The documents will be automatically uploaded in an existing centralized FINRA database. This change has the potential to reduce the burden on those firms that prefer to file documents electronically while also providing firms and FINRA with a more efficient audit trail and saving FINRA staff time currently spent uploading documents to the centralized database.

However, firms that choose to file their documents electronically using the Firm Gateway will be required to provide limited summary information regarding the documents,<sup>11</sup> such as the name and telephone number of the contact person and the name of the complainant or plaintiff. The required summary information will also automatically populate the centralized database. This will allow FINRA staff to retrieve and analyze information contained in these submissions from a consolidated source. Further, because the summary information will automatically populate the centralized database, FINRA staff will not have to separately enter such information into the database, which will improve the efficiency of the review process.

In conjunction with the proposed rule change, FINRA proposes to create a new form, which will be available through the Firm Gateway.<sup>12</sup> Members that choose to file their documents online will be required to complete the mandatory fields on the new online form and attach to the form a scanned copy of the required documents, in a format such as Adobe PDF.

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<sup>10</sup> See proposed FINRA Rule 4530(g).

<sup>11</sup> See supra note 10.

<sup>12</sup> A copy of the proposed online form, including explanations of certain fields on the form, is attached as Exhibit 3.

Firms will continue to have the option of filing the documents required under FINRA Rule 4530(f) via mail or email. In addition, the requirement to provide limited summary information regarding the documents only applies to firms that choose to file the documents with FINRA online using the new form; the requirement does not apply to firms that use other permissible electronic means (e.g., email) to file the documents with FINRA.<sup>13</sup>

### **Exception for FINRA Findings and Actions**

FINRA Rule 4530(a)(1)(A) requires a member to report external findings regarding the member or an associated person. FINRA Rules 4530(a)(1)(C) and (D) require a member to report regulatory actions against the member or an associated person. FINRA Rules 4530(a)(1)(A), (C) and (D) do not expressly exclude findings and actions by FINRA. However, since FINRA staff has access to such information through an enterprise-wide solution, FINRA proposes to add Supplementary Material .10 to FINRA Rule 4530 to provide that, for purposes of FINRA Rules 4530(a)(1)(A), (C) and (D) only, members are not required to report findings and actions by FINRA. This exception is, in general, consistent with the exception under FINRA Rule 4530(f) for arbitration claims filed in the FINRA Dispute Resolution forum.

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness. FINRA will announce the implementation date of the proposed rule change in a Regulatory Notice to be published no later than 60 days following the date of filing. The implementation date will be no later than 180 days after the date of filing.

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<sup>13</sup> FINRA is not proposing to require firms that use other permissible electronic means to file the documents with FINRA to provide the summary information, because the functionality to prepopulate the centralized database with such information is limited to online filings.

2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,<sup>14</sup> 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 will further these purposes by eliminating unnecessary duplicative reporting of information to FINRA and providing firms with the option to file documents required under FINRA Rule 4530 online. FINRA believes that the proposed rule change will serve to reduce potential burdens imposed by the rule without compromising the regulatory information available to FINRA.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

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.

The proposed amendment to FINRA Rule 4530(e) to provide an exception for information disclosed on the Form U4 will eliminate the burden on firms of having to report the same event twice. While firms will be required to affirmatively request that the data reported on a Form U4 be applied to satisfy a corresponding FINRA Rule 4530 reporting obligation, FINRA believes any resulting burden will be less than the current burden of separately reporting an event via the FINRA Rule 4530 application. In addition, as noted above, FINRA expects the affirmative designation requirement to

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<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q-3(b)(6).

facilitate the staff's review process and reduce the need for follow-up communications with firms.

The proposed change to FINRA Rule 4530(g) to provide firms the option of filing required documents online will not impact or burden firms that wish to continue filing the required documents via mail or email. With respect to those firms that choose to file the required documents online, FINRA believes that the burden on them will be negligible for the following reasons. All members have an existing obligation to have online access to FINRA, including a user ID and password, for purposes of other regulatory filings.<sup>15</sup> In addition, with respect to the requirement to attach to the online form a scanned copy of the required documents, FINRA believes that the requirement does not create an unreasonable burden for members given the widespread use of scanning technology, such as PDF. Further, the proposed rule change will require that they provide limited summary information regarding the documents. However, FINRA believes that any administrative burden imposed upon such members by this requirement would be outweighed by the benefit to FINRA's regulatory program in allowing the staff to retrieve and analyze information contained in these submissions from a consolidated source that is prepopulated by the firms' submissions.

Moreover, FINRA does not believe that the proposed change to FINRA Rule 4530(g) places members that cannot submit their documents electronically because they lack scanning technology at a disadvantage to those members that have the capability to do so. As noted above, members that cannot submit their documents electronically can continue to submit their documents via mail without any interruption to their existing

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<sup>15</sup> See, e.g., FINRA Rule 1010 (Electronic Filing Requirements for Uniform Forms).

processes. In addition, while such members will not have the benefit of tracking their submissions electronically, they can use non-electronic means, such as a return receipt, for tracking purposes.

Finally, the addition of Supplementary Material .10 to FINRA Rule 4530 eliminates the burden on firms of having to report findings and actions by FINRA for purposes of FINRA Rules 4530(a)(1)(A), (C) and (D). FINRA staff will continue to have access to such information through an enterprise-wide solution.

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

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 Act<sup>16</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>17</sup>

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend 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. If the

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<sup>16</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

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

Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or 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 [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-FINRA-2013-006 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2013-006. 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 website (<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 website viewing and printing 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-2013-006 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.<sup>18</sup>

Elizabeth M. Murphy

Secretary

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<sup>18</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

**EXHIBIT 3**

**Rule 4530(g) Proposed Online Form**

**Rule 4530(g) Filings – Criminal Actions, Civil Litigations and Non-FINRA Arbitrations**  
| Filing ID: 123456 |

All fields marked with \* are mandatory

**Firm Information:**

Firm Name:

Firm CRD:

These fields will be  
prepopulated.

**Contact Person Information: \***

Name:

Telephone:

Email:

**Party Information: \***

Complainant/Plaintiff:

Member Firm  Non-Member Firm/Entity  Associated Person  Other Person

Respondent/Defendant:

Member Firm  Non-Member Firm/Entity  Associated Person  Other Person

Members will be prompted to provide additional information depending on the selected checkbox. For instance, if they select *Member Firm*, they will be prompted to provide the firm's name and CRD number. The form also allows firms to enter additional complainants/plaintiffs and respondents/defendants.



**Matter Information:**

Type: \*

Civil-Class Action  
Civil-Other  
Criminal  
Non-FINRA Arbitration

Members will have to select from the following drop-down menu.

Court/Arbitration Case #:

Venue:

Allegation Activity Dates From: \*  To: \*

Exact  Explanation

If members select the *Explanation* radio button, they will be prompted to explain the activity dates.

Litigation Filing Date: \*

Problem Code: \*

Members will be able to select the appropriate Problem Code. The Problem Codes will be the same as those used to report quarterly statistical and summary information regarding written customer complaints.

Alleged Compensatory Damages? \*  Yes  No

If members select the *Yes* radio button, they will be prompted to indicate the amount.

Product Code \*

Members will be able to select the appropriate Product Code. The Product Codes will be the same as those used to report quarterly statistical and summary information regarding written customer complaints. The form also allows firms to enter additional products.

**Filings:**

Please attach Filing Here. \*

**Attached Documents:**

**Additional Information:**

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for providing additional information. It occupies the lower half of the page.

**EXHIBIT 5**

Exhibit 5 shows the text of the proposed rule change. Proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are in brackets.

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**4500. BOOKS, RECORDS AND REPORTS**

\* \* \* \* \*

**4530. Reporting Requirements**

(a) through (d) No Change.

(e) Nothing contained in this Rule shall eliminate, reduce or otherwise abrogate the responsibilities of a member or person associated with a member to promptly disclose required information on the Forms BD, U4 or U5, as applicable, to make any other required filings or to respond to FINRA with respect to any customer complaint, examination or inquiry. In addition, members are required to comply with the reporting obligations under paragraphs (a), (b) and (d) of this Rule, regardless of whether the information is reported or disclosed pursuant to any other rule or requirement, including the requirements of the Form[s] BD [or U4]. However, a member need not report: (1) an event otherwise required to be reported under paragraph (a)(1) of this Rule if the member discloses the event on the Form U4, consistent with the requirements of that form, and indicates, in such manner and format that FINRA may require, that such disclosure satisfies the requirements of paragraph (a)(1) of this Rule, as applicable; or (2) an event otherwise required to be reported under paragraphs (a) or (b) of this Rule if the member discloses the event on the Form U5, consistent with the requirements of that form.

(f) No Change.

(g) Members may file electronically, in such manner and format as specified by FINRA, the documents required by paragraph (f); provided, however, that the filings shall be accompanied by summary information regarding the documents in such detail as specified by FINRA.

[(g)] (h) Members shall not be required to comply separately with paragraph (f) in the event that any of the documents required by paragraph (f) have been the subject of a request by FINRA's Registration and Disclosure staff, provided that the member produces those requested documents to the Registration and Disclosure staff not later than 30 days after receipt of such request. This paragraph does not supersede any FINRA rule or policy that requires production of documents specified in paragraph (f) sooner than 30 days after receipt of a request by the Registration and Disclosure staff.

**••• Supplementary Material: -----**

.01 through .09 No Change.

**.10 Findings and Actions by FINRA.** For purposes of paragraphs (a)(1)(A), (C) and (D) of this Rule only, members are not required to report findings and actions by FINRA.

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