

such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act¹³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹⁴ 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 proposal is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the CHX. All submissions should refer to file number SR-CHX-2003-05 and should be submitted by July 8, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁵

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48016; File No. SR-GSCC-2002-11]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Government Securities Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change to Reduce the Permitted Use of Letters of Credit to Twenty-Five Percent of a Member's Required Clearing Fund Deposit

June 11, 2003.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ notice is hereby given that on October 10, 2002, the Government Securities Clearing Corporation ("GSCC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") and on April 1, 2003, amended the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which items have been prepared primarily by GSCC. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested parties.

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

GSCC is seeking to reduce the permitted use of letters of credit ("LCs") to twenty-five percent of a member's required clearing fund deposit.

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

In its filing with the Commission, GSCC 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. GSCC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.²

(A) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

One of GSCC's most important risk management tools is its maintenance of clearing fund collateral. Clearing fund is comprised of cash, certain netting-eligible securities, and eligible LCs. The purposes served by the clearing fund are (1) to have on deposit from each netting

member assets sufficient to satisfy any losses that may be incurred by GSCC as the result of the default by the member and the resultant close-out of that member's settlement positions and (2) to ensure that GSCC has sufficient liquidity at all times to meet its payment and delivery obligations.

The subject of the proposed rule change is the LC component of the clearing fund. Currently, GSCC's rules permit up to 70 percent of a member's required clearing fund deposit to be in the form of LCs. Although GSCC believes that it will always receive funds from the presentment of an LC for payment, GSCC has recognized that in a period of market crisis there is the potential that GSCC might not receive the funds on a timely basis. To ensure that GSCC can always meet its liquidity needs on a timely basis in the unlikely event of a member default and in a period of market crisis, GSCC is proposing to reduce the permitted use of LCs to 25 percent of a member's required clearing fund deposit. Thus, the minimum level of cash and securities required to be maintained on deposit would increase from 30 percent to 75 percent of a member's required clearing fund deposit.³

GSCC believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of section 17A of the Act⁴ and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to GSCC because it will protect GSCC and its members by ensuring that GSCC has adequate liquidity resources.

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

GSCC does not believe that the proposed rule change will have any impact or impose any burden on competition.

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

Written comments relating to the proposed rule change have not yet been solicited or received. GSCC will notify the Commission of any written comments received by GSCC.

³ The proposed LC requirement will not affect the requirement that certain non-US GSCC members post additional collateral in the form of LCs to protect GSCC against legal risk presented by the insolvency laws in their home countries. These members will not be required to increase the amount of their deposit that is in the form of cash and securities from 30 percent to 75 percent of their required clearing fund deposit.

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1.

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² The Commission has modified the text of the summaries prepared by GSCC.

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

Within thirty-five days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to ninety days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(A) by order approve such proposed rule change or

(B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. 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 Section, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of GSCC.

All submissions should refer to File No. SR-GSCC-2002-11 and should be submitted by July 8, 2003.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁵

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48015; File No. SR-NASD-2003-55]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Relating to Proposed Amendments to Article VIII (District Committees and District Nominating Committees) of the By-Laws of NASD Regulation, Inc.

June 11, 2003.

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 March 21, 2003, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II and III below, which Items have been prepared by NASD. NASD 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 filing with the Commission. On April 17, 2003, NASD submitted Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change to correct certain typographical errors in the proposed rule text.⁴ On April 28, 2003, NASD submitted Amendment No. 2 to the proposed rule change to correct certain typographical errors in the proposed rule text.⁵ On June 6, 2003, NASD submitted Amendment No. 3 to the proposed rule change to revise the proposed rule text.⁶ The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change, as amended, from interested persons.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

⁴ See letter from Kosha K. Dalal, Assistant General Counsel, NASD, to Katherine A. England, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, dated April 17, 2003.

⁵ See letter from Kosha K. Dalal, Assistant General Counsel, NASD, to Katherine A. England, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, dated April 28, 2003.

⁶ See letter from Kosha K. Dalal, Assistant General Counsel, NASD, to Katherine A. England, Assistant Director, Division of Market Regulation, Commission, dated June 6, 2003. For purposes of calculating the 60-day period within which the Commission may summarily abrogate the proposed rule change under Section 19(b)(3)(C) of the Act, the Commission considers that period to commence on June 6, 2003, the date the NASD filed Amendment No. 3. See 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(C).

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

NASD is proposing to amend Article VIII (District Committees and District Nominating Committees) of the By-Laws of NASD Regulation, Inc. ("NASD Regulation") to streamline the nomination and election processes governing District Committees and District Nominating Committees, modernize communication procedures, and improve the consistency among the Committees across all districts. The text of the proposed rule change is set forth below. Proposed new language is in *italics*; proposed deletions are in [brackets].

* * * * *

ARTICLE VIII

DISTRICT COMMITTEES AND DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEES

Establishment of Districts

Sec. 8.1 The Board shall establish boundaries for districts within the United States to assist NASD Regulation in administering its affairs in a manner that is consistent with applicable law, the Restated Certificate of Incorporation, these By-Laws, the Delegation Plan, and the Rules of the Association. The Board may make changes from time to time in the number or boundaries of the districts as it deems necessary or appropriate. The Board shall prescribe such policies and procedures as are necessary or appropriate to address the implementation of a new district configuration in the event of a change in the number or boundaries of the districts.

Composition of District Committees

Sec. 8.2 (a) A district created under Section 8.1 shall elect a District Committee pursuant to this Article. A District Committee shall consist of no fewer than five and no more than 20 members, unless otherwise provided by resolution of the Board. *Subject to the limitation set forth in the immediately preceding sentence, the authorized number of members of a District Committee shall be determined from time to time by the Board; provided, however, that no decrease in the authorized number of members of a District Committee shall shorten the term of office of any member thereof.* Each District Committee member shall: (1) Be employed [in the office of/by an NASD member eligible to vote in the district for *District Committee elections*, and (2) *work primarily from such NASD member's principal office or a branch*

⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).