

2. Statutory Basis

The rule change is authorized by, and consistent with, Section 15A(k) of the Act.⁵

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

The rule change will not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act and the Commodity Exchange Act. In fact, the rule change will level the playing field for CTAs and investment advisers with little, if any, competitive impact on carrying firms.

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

NFA did not publish the rule changes to the membership for comment. NFA did not receive comment letters concerning the rule changes.

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

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(7)(B) of the Act,⁶ the proposed rule change became effective on December 9, 2002.

Within 60 days of the date of effectiveness of the proposed rule change, the Commission, after consultation with the CFTC, may summarily abrogate the proposed rule change and require that the proposed rule change be refiled in accordance with the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Act.⁷

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change conflicts with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file nine copies of the submission with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Comments also may be submitted electronically to the following e-mail address: rule-comments@sec.gov. 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 these filings also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of NFA.

Electronically submitted comments will be posted on the Commission's Web site (<http://www.sec.gov>). All submissions should refer to File No. SR-NFA-2002-06 and should be submitted by February 6, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁸

J. Lynn Taylor,

Assistant Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-47158; File No. SR-NASD-2002-178]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Relating to Short Interest Reporting

January 10, 2003.

Pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on December 16, 2002, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which items have been prepared by NASD. NASD has designated the proposed rule change as "constituting a stated policy, practice, or interpretation with respect to the meaning, administration or enforcement of an existing rule" under paragraph (f)(1) 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. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

NASD is proposing to amend NASD Rule 3360 to clarify member firms'

reporting requirements of short positions held on behalf of other broker/dealers. Below is the text of the proposed rule change. The proposed new language is in *italics*; the proposed deletions are in *brackets*.

* * * * *

3360. Short-Interest Reporting

(a) Each member shall maintain a record of total "short" positions in all customer and proprietary firm accounts in securities included in The Nasdaq Stock Market and in each other security listed on a registered national securities exchange and not otherwise reported to another self-regulatory organization and shall regularly report such information to [the Association] *NASD* in such a manner as may be prescribed by [the Association] *NASD*. *For the purposes of this rule, the term "customer" includes a broker/dealer.* Reports shall be made as of the close of the settlement date designated by [the Association] *NASD*. Reports shall be received by [the Association] *NASD* no later than the second business day after the reporting settlement date designated by [the Association] *NASD*.

(b) No change.

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

In its filing with the Commission, NASD 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. NASD 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

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to clarify members' short interest reporting requirements for short positions held on behalf of other broker/dealers. NASD Rule 3360(a) requires members to maintain a record of total short positions in all customer and proprietary firm accounts in Nasdaq securities (and listed securities if not reported to another self-regulatory organization ("SRO")) and requires members to report such information to NASD on a monthly basis. Rule 3360(b) provides that short positions required to

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(k).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(7)(B).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(75).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(1).