

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 Association. All submissions should refer to file number SR-NASD-2003-120 and should be submitted by September 4, 2003.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁴

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-20767 Filed 8-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-48305; File No. SR-NASD-2003-99]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Order Granting Approval of Proposed Rule Change by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. To Amend Rule 6260 Regarding New Issue Notification Procedures for TRACE-Eligible Securities

August 8, 2003.

On June 19, 2003, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4

thereunder,² a proposed rule change to amend Rule 6260 of NASD's Trade Reporting and Compliance Engine ("TRACE") rules. Specifically, NASD is proposing to amend Rule 6260(a) and (b) to require members to provide additional, descriptive information in the notice that is sent to NASD that identifies the basic terms of a new TRACE-eligible security ("new issue notification"), and to provide the information required in Rule 6260(b) by email or facsimile. The proposal requires the managing underwriter of any newly issued TRACE-eligible security to provide to the TRACE Operations Center information, as determined by NASD, that is required to determine if a TRACE-eligible security must be disseminated under Rule 6250 (e.g., size of issue and rating). Notice of the proposed rule change, including a discussion of the proposal in greater detail, was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on July 8, 2003.³ The Commission received no comments regarding the proposal.

After careful consideration, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder applicable to a registered securities association and, in particular, with the requirements of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act.⁴ Specifically, the Commission finds that approval of the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act in that it is 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.⁵

The Commission believes that requiring NASD members to provide additional information about new TRACE-eligible securities is necessary for NASD to determine if those new securities are subject to dissemination, and that requiring that new issue information be provided by email or facsimile will provide NASD with written records about TRACE-eligible securities. The Commission also believes that the proposed rule change will improve the operation of TRACE which provides price transparency and provides regulators with heightened capabilities to regulate and provide surveillance of the debt securities

markets to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices. For the reasons discussed above, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to section 19(b)(2) of the Act,⁶ that the proposed rule change (SR-NASD-2003-99), be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁷

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-20769 Filed 8-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

[Public Notice 4442]

Notice: Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Requirement for all FY-2004 ECA Grants and Cooperative Agreements

SUMMARY: This announcement applies to all ECA Requests for Grant Proposals (RFGP) currently published in the **Federal Register**. An Office of Management and Budget (OMB) policy directive published in the **Federal Register** on Friday, June 27, 2003, requires that all organizations applying for Federal grants or cooperative agreements must provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number when applying for all Federal grants or cooperative agreements on or after October 1, 2003. This identifier will be used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point of contract information. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or by applying online at this address: http://www.dnb.com/us/duns_update/.

To comply with this directive, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) requests that all organizations submitting proposals for grants with a start date on or after October 1, 2003 include a DUNS number with each grant application. Please write in the DUNS number in box number five, next to the Employer Identification Number (EIN) on the ECA "Assistance Award Proposal Cover Sheet" contained in the Bureau's

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 48113 (June 30, 2003), 68 FR 40727.

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

⁵ In approving this proposed rule change, the Commission has considered the proposal's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).