

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–90852; File No. SR–FINRA–2020–046]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Extend the Implementation Date of Certain Amendments to FINRA Rule 4210 Approved Pursuant to SR–FINRA– 2015–036

January 5, 2021.

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 December 22, 2020, the 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,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

FINRA is proposing to extend, to October 26, 2021, the implementation date of the amendments to FINRA Rule 4210 (Margin Requirements) pursuant to SR–FINRA–2015–036, other than the amendments pursuant to SR–FINRA–2015–036 that were implemented on December 15, 2016. The proposed rule change would not make any changes to the text of FINRA rules.

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

On October 6, 2015, FINRA filed with the Commission proposed rule change SR–FINRA–2015–036, which proposed to amend FINRA Rule 4210 to establish margin requirements for (1) To Be Announced (“TBA”) transactions, inclusive of adjustable rate mortgage (“ARM”) transactions; (2) Specified Pool Transactions; and (3) transactions in Collateralized Mortgage Obligations (“CMOs”), issued in conformity with a program of an agency or Government-Sponsored Enterprise (“GSE”), with forward settlement dates, as defined more fully in the filing (collectively, “Covered Agency Transactions”). The Commission approved SR–FINRA–2015–036 on June 15, 2016 (the “Approval Date”).⁴

Pursuant to Partial Amendment No. 3 to SR–FINRA–2015–036, FINRA announced in *Regulatory Notice* 16–31 that the rule change would become effective on December 15, 2017, 18 months from the Approval Date, except that the risk limit determination requirements as set forth in paragraphs (e)(2)(F), (e)(2)(G) and (e)(2)(H) of Rule 4210 and in new Supplementary Material .05, each as respectively amended or established by SR–FINRA–2015–036 (collectively, the “risk limit determination requirements”), would become effective on December 15, 2016, six months from the Approval Date.⁵

Industry participants sought clarification regarding the implementation of the requirements pursuant to SR–FINRA–2015–036. Industry participants also requested additional time to make system changes necessary to comply with the requirements, including time to test the system changes, and requested additional time to update or amend

margin agreement and related documentation. In response, FINRA made available a set of Frequently Asked Questions & Guidance⁶ and, pursuant to SR–FINRA–2017–029,⁷ extended the implementation date of the requirements of SR–FINRA–2015–036 to June 25, 2018, except for the risk limit determination requirements, which, as announced in *Regulatory Notice* 16–31, became effective on December 15, 2016.

Industry participants requested that FINRA reconsider the potential impact of certain requirements pursuant to SR–FINRA–2015–036 on smaller and medium-sized firms. Industry participants also requested that FINRA extend the implementation date pending such reconsideration to reduce potential uncertainty in the Covered Agency Transaction market. In response to these concerns, FINRA further extended the implementation date of the requirements of SR–FINRA–2015–036, other than the risk limit determination requirements, to March 25, 2021 (the “March 25, 2021 implementation date”).⁸ FINRA noted that, as FINRA stated in Partial Amendment No. 3 to SR–FINRA–2015–036, FINRA would monitor the impact of the requirements pursuant to that rulemaking and, if the requirements prove overly onerous or otherwise are shown to negatively impact the market, FINRA would consider revisiting such requirements as may be necessary to mitigate the rule’s impact.⁹

FINRA is considering, in consultation with industry participants and other regulators, potential amendments to the requirements of SR–FINRA–2015–036, and anticipates submitting a proposed rule change to the SEC. FINRA believes that this is appropriate in the interest of avoiding unnecessary disruption to the Covered Agency Transaction market. As

⁶ Available at: www.finra.org/rules-guidance/guidance/faqs. Further, staff of the SEC’s Division of Trading and Markets made available a set of Frequently Asked Questions regarding Exchange Act Rule 15c3–1 and Rule 15c3–3 in connection with Covered Agency Transactions under FINRA Rule 4210, also available at: www.finra.org/rules-guidance/guidance/faqs.

⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 81722 (September 26, 2017), 82 FR 45915 (October 2, 2017) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Delay the Implementation Date of Certain Amendments to FINRA Rule 4210 Approved Pursuant to SR–FINRA–2015–036; File No. SR–FINRA–2017–029); see also *Regulatory Notice* 17–28 (September 2017).

⁸ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 87441 (November 1, 2019), 84 FR 60132 (November 7, 2019) (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Extend the Implementation Date of Certain Amendments to FINRA Rule 4210 Approved Pursuant to SR–FINRA–2015–036; File No. SR–FINRA–2019–026).

⁹ See Partial Amendment No. 3 to SR–FINRA–2015–036, available at: www.finra.org.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

³ 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f)(6).

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78081 (June 15, 2016), 81 FR 40364 (June 21, 2016) (Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 3 and Order Granting Accelerated Approval to a Proposed Rule Change to Amend FINRA Rule 4210 (Margin Requirements) to Establish Margin Requirements for the TBA Market, as Modified by Amendment Nos. 1, 2, and 3; File No. SR–FINRA–2015–036).

⁵ See Partial Amendment No. 3 to SR–FINRA–2015–036 and *Regulatory Notice* 16–31 (August 2016), both available at: www.finra.org.

such, FINRA is proposing to extend the March 25, 2021 implementation date to October 26, 2021 while FINRA considers potential amendments. FINRA notes that the risk limit determination requirements pursuant to SR-FINRA-2015-036 became effective on December 15, 2016 and, as such, the implementation of such requirements is not affected by the proposed rule change.

FINRA has filed the proposed rule change for immediate effectiveness and has requested that the Commission waive the requirement that the proposed rule change not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing. The operative date will be the date of filing of the proposed rule change.

2. Statutory Basis

FINRA believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,¹⁰ 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 provides FINRA additional time to consider potential amendments to the requirements pursuant to SR-FINRA-2015-036 and helps to reduce potential uncertainty in the Covered Agency Transaction market while FINRA considers such amendments. FINRA believes that providing additional time is consistent with the Act because this provides FINRA, in consultation with industry participants and other regulators, additional opportunity to consider whether amendments to the requirements would improve their effectiveness and thereby protect investors and the public interest by helping to promote stability in the Covered Agency Transaction market.

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. FINRA believes that extending the March 25, 2021 implementation date to October 26, 2021, so as to provide additional time for FINRA to consider, in consultation with industry participants and other regulators, whether any amendments to the requirements pursuant to SR-FINRA-2015-036 are appropriate will benefit all parties.

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 Act¹¹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.¹²

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6)¹³ normally does not become operative for 30 days after the date of filing. However, pursuant to Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii),¹⁴ the Commission may designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. FINRA has requested that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay so that the proposal may become operative upon filing. FINRA has stated that the purpose of the proposed rule change is to allow FINRA additional time to consider potential revisions to the requirements of SR-FINRA-2015-036, and to consult with industry participants and other regulators whether any revisions are appropriate, in the interest of avoiding unnecessary disruption to the Covered Agency Transaction market. The Commission believes that waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because the proposal to extend the implementation date of the requirements of Rule 4210 does not raise any new or novel issues and will help to facilitate the implementation of the margin requirements for Covered Agency Transactions. Therefore, the Commission hereby waives the 30-day operative delay requirement and designates the proposed rule change as operative upon filing.¹⁵

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

¹¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹² 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹³ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6)(iii).

¹⁵ For purposes of waiving the 30-day operative delay, the Commission has also considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. See 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

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 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 email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-FINRA-2020-046 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.
- All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2020-046. This file number should be included on the subject line if email 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. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FINRA-2020-046 and should be submitted on or before February 1, 2021.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁶

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2021-00198 Filed 1-8-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration #16706 and #16707; LOUISIANA Disaster Number LA-00105]

Presidential Declaration Amendment of a Major Disaster for the State of Louisiana

AGENCY: Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Amendment 2.

SUMMARY: This is an amendment of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of Louisiana (FEMA-4570-DR), dated 10/16/2020.

Incident: Hurricane Delta.

Incident Period: 10/06/2020 through 10/10/2020.

DATES: Issued on 12/23/2020.

Physical Loan Application Deadline Date: 12/15/2020.

Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date: 07/16/2021.

ADDRESSES: Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A. Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW, Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416, (202) 205-6734.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of the President's major disaster declaration for the State of Louisiana, dated 10/16/2020, is hereby amended to include the following areas as adversely affected by the disaster:

Primary Parishes (Physical Damage and Economic Injury Loans): Allen, Iberia.

Contiguous Parishes (Economic Injury Loans Only): None

All other information in the original declaration remains unchanged.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59008)

Cynthia Pitts,
Acting Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 2021-00228 Filed 1-8-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8026-03-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration #16547 and #16548; NORTH DAKOTA Disaster Number ND-00081]

Presidential Declaration Amendment of a Major Disaster for Public Assistance Only for the State of North Dakota

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Amendment 1.

SUMMARY: This is an amendment of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for Public Assistance Only for the State of North Dakota (FEMA-4553-DR), dated 07/09/2020.

Incident: Flooding.

Incident Period: 04/01/2020 through 04/25/2020.

DATES: Issued on 07/09/2020.

Physical Loan Application Deadline Date: 09/08/2020.

Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date: 04/09/2021.

ADDRESSES: Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A. Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW, Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416, (202) 205-6734.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of the President's major disaster declaration for Private Non-Profit organizations in the State of North Dakota, dated 07/09/2020, is hereby amended to include the following areas as adversely affected by the disaster.

Primary Counties: Kidder, Wells

All other information in the original declaration remains unchanged. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59008)

Cynthia Pitts,
Acting Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 2021-00224 Filed 1-8-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8026-03-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration #16826 and #16827; OKLAHOMA Disaster Number OK-00144]

Presidential Declaration of a Major Disaster for Public Assistance Only for the State of Oklahoma

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a Notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for Public Assistance Only for the State of OKLAHOMA (FEMA-4575-DR), dated 12/21/2020.

Incident: Severe Winter Storm.

Incident Period: 10/26/2020 through 10/29/2020.

DATES: Issued on 12/21/2020.

Physical Loan Application Deadline Date: 02/19/2021.

Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date: 09/21/2021.

ADDRESSES: Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A. Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW, Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416, (202) 205-6734.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that as a result of the President's major disaster declaration on 12/21/2020, Private Non-Profit organizations that provide essential services of a governmental nature may file disaster loan applications at the address listed above or other locally announced locations.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:

Primary Counties: Caddo, Canadian, Cleveland, Dewey, Grady, Kingfisher, Kiowa, Logan, Noble, Oklahoma, Payne, Pottawatomie, Roger Mills

The Interest Rates are:

	Percent
<i>For Physical Damage:</i>	
Non-Profit Organizations with Credit Available Elsewhere ...	2.750
Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere	2.750
<i>For Economic Injury:</i>	
Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere	2.750

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 16826B and for economic injury is 168270.

¹⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).