

comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NYSE-2021-42 and should be submitted by December 30, 2021. Rebuttal comments should be submitted by January 13, 2022.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>47</sup>

**J. Matthew DeLesDernier,**  
Assistant Secretary.

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270-586, OMB Control No. 3235-0647]

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

*Upon Written Request, Copies Available From:* Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-2736

*Extension:*  
Rule 204

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (“PRA”) (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) is soliciting comments on the collection of information provided for in Rule 204 (17 CFR 242.204) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*). The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) for extension and approval.

Rule 204(a) provides that a participant of a registered clearing agency must deliver securities to a registered clearing agency for clearance and settlement on a long or short sale in any equity security by settlement date, or if a participant of a registered clearing agency has a fail to deliver position at a registered clearing agency in any equity security for a long or short sale transaction in the equity security, the participant shall, by no later than the beginning of regular trading hours on the applicable close-out date, immediately close out its fail to deliver positions by borrowing or purchasing securities of like kind and quantity. For a short sale transaction, the participant must close out a fail to deliver by no later than the beginning of regular trading hours on the settlement day

following the settlement date. If a participant has a fail to deliver that the participant can demonstrate on its books and records resulted from a long sale, or that is attributable to bona-fide market making activities, the participant must close out the fail to deliver by no later than the beginning of regular trading hours on the third consecutive settlement day following the settlement date. Rule 204 is intended to help further the Commission’s goal of reducing fails to deliver by maintaining the reductions in fails to deliver achieved by the adoption of temporary Rule 204T, as well as other actions taken by the Commission. In addition, Rule 204 is intended to help further the Commission’s goal of addressing potentially abusive “naked” short selling in all equity securities.

The information collected under Rule 204 will continue to be retained and/or provided to other entities pursuant to the specific rule provisions and will be available to the Commission and self-regulatory organization (“SRO”) examiners upon request. The information collected will continue to aid the Commission and SROs in monitoring compliance with these requirements. In addition, the information collected will aid those subject to Rule 204 in complying with its requirements. These collections of information are mandatory.

Several provisions under Rule 204 will impose a “collection of information” within the meaning of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

#### *I. Allocation Notification*

*Requirement:* As of December 31, 2020, there were 3,551 registered broker-dealers.<sup>1</sup> Each of these broker-dealers could clear trades through a participant of a registered clearing agency and, therefore, become subject to the notification requirements of Rule 204(d). If a participant allocates a fail to deliver position to a broker or dealer pursuant to Rule 204(d), the broker or dealer that has been allocated the fail to deliver position in an equity security must determine whether such fail to deliver position was closed out in accordance with Rule 204(a). If such broker or dealer does not comply with the provisions of Rule 204(a), such broker or dealer must immediately notify the participant that it has become subject to the requirements of Rule 204(b). The Commission estimates that a broker or dealer could have to make such determination and notification

with respect to approximately 2.1 equity securities per day.<sup>2</sup> The Commission estimates a total of 1,886,646 potential notifications in accordance with Rule 204(d) across all registered broker-dealers that could be allocated responsibility to close out a fail to deliver position per year (3,551 registered broker-dealers notifying participants once per day<sup>3</sup> on 2.1 equity securities, multiplied by 253 trading days in 2020). The total estimated annual burden hours per year will be approximately 301,864 burden hours (1,886,646 multiplied by 0.16 hours/notification).<sup>4</sup>

*II. Demonstration Requirement for Fails to Deliver on Long Sales:* As of December 31, 2020, there were 127 participants of NSCC that were registered as broker-dealers. If a participant of a registered clearing agency has a fail to deliver position in an equity security at a registered clearing agency and determined that such fail to deliver position resulted from a long sale, the Commission estimates that a participant of a registered clearing agency will have to make such a determination with respect to approximately 29 securities per day.<sup>5</sup> The Commission estimates a total of 931,799 potential demonstrations in accordance with Rule 204(a)(1) across all broker-dealer participants per year (127 participants checking for compliance once per day on 29 securities, multiplied by 253 trading days in 2020). The total approximate estimated annual burden hours per year will be approximately 149,088 burden

<sup>2</sup> DERA estimates that there were approximately 7,450 average daily fail to deliver positions during 2020. Across 3,551 registered broker-dealers, the number of securities per registered broker-dealer per trading day is approximately 2.1 ( $7,450 \div 3,551$ ) equity securities.

<sup>3</sup> Because failure to comply with the close-out requirements of Rule 204(a) is a violation of the rule, the Commission believes that a broker or dealer would make the notification to a participant that it is subject to the borrowing requirements of Rule 204(b) at most once per day.

<sup>4</sup> See Amendments to Regulation SHO, Exchange Act Release No. 60388 (July 27, 2009), 74 FR 38265 (July 31, 2009) (“Rule 204 Adopting Release”) (July 27, 2009) (making permanent the amendments to Regulation SHO contained in Interim Final Temporary Rule 204T and incorporating by reference the time estimates from the Rule 204T Adopting Release for compliance with the notification, demonstration, and certification requirements of Rule 204).

<sup>5</sup> DERA estimates that during 2020 approximately 49.2% of trade volume was long. DERA estimates that there were approximately 7,450 average daily fail to deliver positions during 2020. Across 127 broker-dealer participants of the NSCC, the number of securities per participant per day is approximately 59 ( $7,450 \div 127$ ) equity securities. 49.2% of 59 equity securities per trading day equals approximately 29 securities per day.

<sup>1</sup> The Commission’s Division of Economic Risk and Analysis (“DERA”) estimates that there were approximately 3,551 registered broker-dealers as of December 31, 2020.

hours (931,799 multiplied by 0.16 hours/demonstration).<sup>6</sup>

### *III. Pre-Borrow Notification*

*Requirement:* As of December 31, 2020, there were 127 participants of NSCC that were registered as broker-dealers. If a participant of a registered clearing agency has a fail to deliver position in an equity security, the participant must determine whether the fail to deliver position was closed out in accordance with Rule 204(a). The Commission estimates that a participant of a registered clearing agency will have to make such determination with respect to approximately 59 equity securities per day.<sup>7</sup> The Commission estimates a total of 1,895,729 potential notifications in accordance with Rule 204(c) across all participants per year (127 broker-dealer participants notifying broker-dealers once per day on 59 securities, multiplied by 253 trading days in 2020). The total estimated annual burden hours per year will be approximately 303,317 burden hours (1,895,729 multiplied by 0.16 hours/notification).<sup>8</sup>

*IV. Certification Requirement:* As of December 31, 2020, there were 3,551 registered broker-dealers. Each of these broker-dealers may clear trades through a participant of a registered clearing agency. If the broker-dealer determines that it has not incurred a fail to deliver position on settlement date for a long or short sale in an equity security for which the participant has a fail to deliver position at a registered clearing agency or has purchased or borrowed securities in accordance with the pre-fail credit provision of Rule 204(e), the Commission estimates that a broker-dealer could have to make such determination with respect to approximately 2.1 securities per day.<sup>9</sup> The Commission estimates that each such registered broker-dealer could have to certify to a participant that the broker-dealer has not incurred a fail to deliver position on settlement date for a long or short sale in an equity security for which the participant has a fail to deliver position at a registered clearing agency or, alternatively, that the broker-dealer is in compliance with the requirements set forth in the pre-fail credit provision of Rule 204(e), 1,886,646 times per year (3,551 registered broker-dealers certifying once per day on 2.1 securities, multiplied by 253 trading days in 2020). The total approximate estimated annual burden hours per year will be approximately 301,864 burden hours (1,886,646

multiplied by 0.16 hours/certification).<sup>10</sup>

### *V. Pre-Fail Credit Demonstration*

*Requirement:* As of December 31, 2020, there were 3,551 registered broker-dealers. If a broker-dealer purchased or borrowed securities in accordance with the conditions specified in Rule 204(e) and determined that it had a net long position or net flat position on the settlement day for which the broker-dealer is claiming pre-fail credit, the Commission estimates that a broker-dealer could have to make such determination with respect to approximately 2.1 securities per day.<sup>11</sup> The Commission estimates that the total number of times per year that such registered broker-dealers could have to demonstrate on their respective books and records that the broker-dealer has a net long position or net flat position on the settlement day for which the broker-dealer is claiming pre-fail credit is 1,886,646 times per year (3,551 registered broker-dealers checking for compliance once per day on 2.1 equity securities, multiplied by 253 trading days in 2020). The total approximate estimated annual burden hours per year will be 301,864 burden hours (1,886,646 multiplied by 0.16 hours/demonstration).<sup>12</sup>

The total aggregate annual burden for the collection of information undertaken pursuant to all five provisions is thus 1,357,997 hours per year (301,864 + 149,088 + 303,317 + 301,864 + 301,864).

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information under the PRA unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Please direct your written comments to: David Bottom, Director/Chief

Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o John Pezzullo, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, or send an email to: [PRA\\_Box@sec.gov](mailto:PRA_Box@sec.gov).

Dated: December 6, 2021.

**J. Matthew DeLesDernier,**  
*Assistant Secretary.*

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## **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**[Release No. 34 93713 File No. SR-NASDAQ-2021-091]**

### **Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Modify Certain Annual Listing Fees To Be Implemented on January 1, 2022**

December 3, 2021.

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 November 22, 2021, The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq" or "Exchange") 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 the Exchange. 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**

The Exchange proposes to modify certain listing fees. While changes proposed herein are effective upon filing, the Exchange has designated the proposed amendments to be operative on January 1, 2022.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at <https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/nasdaq/rules>, at the principal office of the Exchange, 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, the Exchange 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

<sup>6</sup> See *supra* note 4.

<sup>7</sup> See *supra* note 5.

<sup>8</sup> See *supra* note 4.

<sup>9</sup> See *supra* note 2.

<sup>10</sup> See *supra* note 4.

<sup>11</sup> See *supra* note 2.

<sup>12</sup> See *supra* note 4.

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

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