3642 and 3632(b)(3), on January 23, 2025, it filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission a *USPS Request to Add Priority Mail & USPS Ground Advantage® Contract 602 to Competitive Product List.* Documents are available at *www.prc.gov,* Docket Nos. MC2025–1153, K2025–1153.

Sean Robinson,

Attorney, Corporate and Postal Business Law.

[FR Doc. 2025–01918 Filed 1–29–25; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL SERVICE

Product Change—Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, and USPS Ground Advantage® Negotiated Service Agreement

AGENCY: Postal Service™.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service gives notice of filing a request with the Postal Regulatory Commission to add a domestic shipping services contract to the list of Negotiated Service Agreements in the Mail Classification Schedule's Competitive Products List.

DATES: *Date of required notice:* January 30, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sean C. Robinson, 202–268–8405.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States Postal Service® hereby gives notice that, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3632(b)(3), on January 23, 2025, it filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission a *USPS Request to Add Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & USPS Ground Advantage® Contract 1321 to Competitive Product List.* Documents are available at *www.prc.gov,* Docket Nos. MC2025–1152, K2025–1152.

Sean C. Robinson,

Attorney, Corporate and Postal Business Law.

[FR Doc. 2025–01913 Filed 1–29–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–12–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270–450, OMB Control No. 3235–0505]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Extension: Rule 303 of Regulation ATS

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

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'') has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (''OMB'') a request for approval of extension of the previously approved collection of information provided for in Rule 303 of Regulation ATS (17 CFR 242.303) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*) (''Exchange Act'').

Regulation ATS sets forth a regulatory regime for ''alternative trading systems'' (''ATSs''), which are entities that carry out exchange functions but are not required to register as national securities exchanges under the Act. In lieu of exchange registration, an ATS can instead opt to register with the Commission as a broker-dealer and, as a condition to not having to register as an exchange, must instead comply with Regulation ATS. Rule 303 of Regulation ATS (17 CFR 242.303) describes the record preservation requirements for ATSs. Rule 303 also describes how such records must be maintained, what entities may perform this function, and how long records must be preserved. Under Rule 303, ATSs are required to preserve all records made pursuant to Rule 302, which includes information relating to subscribers, trading summaries, and time-sequenced order information. Rule 303 also requires ATSs to preserve any notices provided to subscribers, including, but not limited to, notices regarding the ATSs operations and subscriber access. For an ATS subject to the fair access requirements described in Rule 301(b)(5)(ii) of Regulation ATS, Rule 303 further requires the ATS to preserve at least one copy of its standards for access to trading, all documents relevant to the ATS's decision to grant, deny, or limit access to any person, and all other documents made or received by the ATS in the course of complying with Rule 301(b)(5) of Regulation ATS. For an ATS subject to the capacity, integrity, and security requirements for automated systems under Rule 301(b)(6) of Regulation ATS, Rule 303 requires an ATS to preserve all documents made or received by the ATS related to its compliance, including all correspondence, memoranda, papers, books, notices, accounts, reports, test scripts, test results and other similar records. Rule 303(a)(1)(v) of Regulation ATS requires every ATS to preserve the written safeguards and written procedures mandated under Rule 301(b)(10). As provided in Rule 303(a)(1), ATSs are required to keep all of these records, as applicable, for a period of at least three years, the first two in an easily accessible place. In addition, Rule 303 requires ATSs to preserve records of partnership articles, articles of incorporation or charter, minute books, stock certificate books, copies of reports filed pursuant to Rule 301(b)(2) and Rule 304, and records made pursuant to Rule 301(b)(5) for the life of the ATS. ATSs that trade both NMS Stock and securities other than NMS Stock are required to file, and also preserve under Rule 303, both Form ATS and related amendments and Form ATS–N and related amendments.

The information contained in the records required to be preserved by Rule 303 will be used by examiners and other representatives of the Commission, state securities regulatory authorities, and the self-regulatory organizations (''SROs'') to ensure that ATSs are in compliance with Regulation ATS as well as other applicable rules and regulations. Without the data required by the Rule, regulators would be limited in their ability to comply with their statutory obligations, provide for the protection of investors, and promote the maintenance of fair and orderly markets.

Respondents consist of ATSs that choose to register as broker-dealers and comply with the requirements of Regulation ATS. There are currently 107 respondents. The Commission believes that the average ongoing hourly burden for a respondent to comply with the baseline record preservation requirements under Rule 303 is approximately 15 hours per year. We thus estimate that the average aggregate ongoing burden to comply with the baseline Rule 303 record preservation requirements is approximately 1,605 hours per year. (107 ATSs × 15 hours = 1,605 hours) In addition, there are currently two ATSs that transact in both NMS stock and non-NMS stock on their ATSs. These two ATSs have a slightly greater burden because they have to keep both Form ATS and Form ATS–N and related documents (*e.g.,* amendments). For these two ATSs, we estimate that the ongoing burden above the current baseline estimate for preserving records will be approximately 1 hour annually per ATS for a total annual burden above the current baseline burden estimate of 2 hours for all respondents. Thus, the estimated average annual aggregate burden for alternative trading systems to comply with Rule 303 is approximately 1,607 hours (1,605 hours + 2 hours).

Compliance with Rule 303 is mandatory. The information required by Rule 303 is available only for the examination of the Commission staff,

state securities authorities and the SROs. Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 522 (''FOIA''), and the Commission's rules thereunder (17 CFR 200.80(b)(4)(iii)), the Commission does not generally publish or make available information contained in any reports, summaries, analyses, letters, or memoranda arising out of, in anticipation of, or in connection with an examination or inspection of the books and records of any person or any other investigation.

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.

The public may view and comment on this information collection request at: *https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAViewICR?ref_nbr=202411-3235-003* or send an email comment to *MBX.OMB.OIRA.SEC_desk_officer@omb.eop.gov* within 30 days of the day after publication of this notice by March 3, 2025.

Dated: January 27, 2025.

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2025–01965 Filed 1–29–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270–188, OMB Control No. 3235–0212]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension: Rule 12b–1

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

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (the ''Commission'') is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget (''OMB'') for extension and approval.

Section 12(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the ''Act'') [1] prohibits a registered open-end investment company (''fund''), other than a fund complying with Section 10(d) of the Act,[2] from acting as a distributor of securities that it has issued, except through an underwriter, in contravention of Commission rules.[3] Rule 12b–1 under the Act permits a fund to bear expenses associated with the distribution of its shares, provided that the fund complies with certain requirements.[4]

Rule 12b–1 requires, among other things, that the fund adopt a written plan describing all material aspects of the proposed financing of distribution (''rule 12b–1 plan'').[5] The rule 12b–1 plan must be in writing and approved by the fund's board of directors, and separately by the ''independent'' directors (as described in the rule).[6] If the rule 12b–1 plan is being adopted after public offering of the fund's voting securities, it must also be approved initially by a vote of at least a majority of the fund's outstanding voting securities.[7] Similarly, any material amendments to the rule 12b–1 plan must be approved by the fund's directors, including the independent directors, and any material increase in the amount to be spent under the rule 12b–1 plan must be approved by the fund's shareholders.[8] In considering the implementation or continuance of a rule 12b–1 plan, the fund's board must request and evaluate information reasonably necessary to make an informed decision.[9] The board also must conclude, in the exercise of reasonable business judgment and in light of the directors' fiduciary duties, that there is a reasonable likelihood that the rule 12b–1 plan will benefit the fund and its shareholders.[10]

The rule 12b–1 plan and, in certain instances, any related agreements must incorporate certain specified provisions, including that: (i) the plan or agreement will continue in effect for more than one year only if the board, including the independent directors, approve the continuance at least annually; [11] (ii) the fund's board will review quarterly reports of the amounts spent under the plan; [12] and (iii) the plan may be terminated at any time by a majority vote of the independent directors or outstanding voting securities.[13] Rule 12b–1 also requires the fund to preserve for six years copies of the rule 12b–1 plan and any related agreements and reports, as well as minutes of board meetings that describe the factors considered and the basis for implementing or continuing the rule 12b–1 plan.[14]

Rule 12b–1 also prohibits funds from paying for distribution of fund shares with brokerage commissions on their portfolio transactions.[15] The rule requires funds that use broker-dealers that sell their shares to also execute their portfolio securities transactions, to implement policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent: (i) the persons responsible for selecting broker-dealers to effect transactions in fund portfolio securities from taking into account broker-dealers' promotional or sales efforts when making those decisions; and (ii) a fund, its adviser, or its principal underwriter, from entering into any agreement under which the fund directs brokerage transactions or revenue generated by those transactions to a broker-dealer to pay for distribution of the fund's (or any other fund's) shares.[16]

The board and shareholder approval requirements of the rule are designed to ensure that fund shareholders and directors receive adequate information to evaluate and approve a rule 12b–1 plan and, thus, are necessary for investor protection. The provisions that require the board to be provided with quarterly reports and termination authority are designed to ensure that the rule 12b–1 plan continues to benefit the fund and its shareholders. The recordkeeping requirements of the rule are necessary to enable Commission staff to oversee compliance with the rule. The requirement that funds or their advisers implement, and fund boards approve, policies and procedures in order to prevent persons charged with allocating fund brokerage from taking distribution efforts into account is designed to ensure that funds' selection of brokers to effect portfolio securities transactions is not influenced by considerations about the sale of fund shares.

Commission staff estimates that there are approximately 5,246 funds (for purposes of this estimate, registered open-end investment companies or series thereof) that have at least one share class subject to a rule 12b–1 plan and approximately 250 fund families with common boards of directors that have at least one fund with a 12b–1 plan. The Commission further estimates that the annual hour burden for complying with the rule is 425 hours for

[1] 15 U.S.C. 80a–1 *et seq.*

[2] 15 U.S.C. 80a–10(d).

[3] 15 U.S.C. 80a–12(b).

[4] 17 CFR 270.12b–1.

[5] 17 CFR 270.12b–1(b).

[6] 17 CFR 270.12b–1(b)(2).

[7] 17 CFR 270.12b–1(b)(1).

[8] 17 CFR 270.12b–1(b)(4).

[9] 17 CFR 270.12b–1(d).

[10] 17 CFR 270.12b–1(e).

[11] 17 CFR 270.12b–1(b)(3)(i).

[12] 17 CFR 270.12b–1(b)(3)(ii).

[13] 17 CFR 270.12b–1(b)(3)(iii).

[14] 17 CFR 270.12b–1(f).

[15] 17 CFR 270.12b–1(h)(1).

[16] 17 CFR 270.12b–1(h)(2)(ii).