



## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270-824; OMB Control No. 3235-0500]

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension: Rule 608

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”) is soliciting comments on the existing collection of information provided for in Rule 608 (17 CFR 242.608) 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 608 specifies procedures for filing or amending national market system plans (“NMS Plans”). Self-regulatory organizations (“SROs”) filing a new NMS Plan must submit the text of the NMS Plan to the Commission, along with a statement of purpose, and, if applicable, specified supporting materials that may include: (1) a copy of all governing or constituent documents, (2) a description of the manner in which the NMS Plan, and any facility or procedure contemplated by the NMS Plan, will be implemented, (3) a listing of all significant phases of development and implementation contemplated by the NMS Plan, including a projected completion date for each phase, (4) an analysis of the competitive impact of implementing the NMS Plan, (5) a description of any written agreements or understandings between or among plan participants or sponsors relating to interpretations of the NMS Plan or conditions for becoming a plan participant or sponsor, and (6) a description of the manner in which any facility

contemplated by the NMS Plan shall be operated. Participants or sponsors to the NMS Plan must ensure that a current and complete version of the NMS Plan is posted on a designated website or a plan website after being notified by the Commission that the NMS Plan is effective. Each plan participant or sponsor must also provide a link on its own website to the current website to the current version of the NMS Plan.

The Commission estimates that the creation and submission of a new NMS Plan and any related materials would result in an average aggregate burden of approximately 850 hours per year (25 SROs x 34 hours = 850 hours). The Commission further estimates an average aggregate burden of approximately 125 hours per year (25 SROs x 5 hours = 125 hours), for each of the SROs to keep a current and complete version of the NMS Plan posted on a designated website or a plan website, and to provide a link to the current version of the NMS Plan on its own website. In addition, the Commission estimates that the creation of a new NMS Plan and any related materials would result in an average aggregate cost of approximately \$150,000 per year (25 SROs x \$6,000 = \$150,000).

SROs proposing to amend an existing NMS Plan must submit the text of the amendment to the Commission, along with a statement of purpose, and, if applicable, the supporting materials described above, as well as a statement that the amendment has been approved by the plan participants or sponsors in accordance with the terms of the NMS Plan. Participants or sponsors to the NMS Plan must ensure that any proposed amendments are posted to a designated website or a plan website after filing the amendments with the Commission and that those websites are updated to reflect the current status of the amendment and the NMS Plan. Each plan participant or sponsor must also provide a link on its own website to the current version of the NMS Plan. The Commission estimates that the creation and submission of NMS Plan amendments and any related materials would result in an average aggregate burden of approximately 11,050 hours per year (25 SROs x 442 hours = 11,050 hours). The Commission further estimates an average aggregate burden of approximately 124 hours per year (25 SROs x

4.94 hours = 123.5 hours rounded up to 124) for SROs to post any pending NMS Plan amendments to a designated website or a plan website and to update such websites to reflect the current status of the amendment and the NMS Plan. In addition, the Commission estimates that the creation of an NMS Plan amendment and any related materials would result in an average aggregate cost of approximately \$325,000 per year (25 SROs x \$13,000 = \$325,000).

Finally, to the extent that a plan processor is required for any facility contemplated by a NMS Plan, the plan participants or sponsors must file with the Commission a statement identifying the plan processor selected, describing the material terms under which the plan processor is to serve, and indicating the solicitation efforts, if any, for alternative plan processors, the alternatives considered, and the reasons for the selection of the plan processor. The Commission estimates that the preparation and materials related to the selection of a plan processor would result in an average aggregate burden of approximately 283 hours per year (25 SROs x 11.33 hours = 283.33 rounded down to 233). In addition, the Commission estimates that the preparation and submission of materials related to the selection of a plan processor would result in an average aggregate cost of approximately \$8,333 per year (25 SROs x \$333.33 = \$8,333.33 rounded down to \$8,333).

The above estimates result in a total annual industry burden of approximately 12,432 hours (850 + 125 + 11,050 + 124 + 283) and a total annual industry cost of approximately \$483,333 (\$150,000 + \$325,000 + \$8,333).

Compliance with Rule 608 is mandatory. The text of the NMS Plans and any amendments will not be confidential but published on a designated website or a plan website. To the extent that Rule 608 requires the SROs to submit confidential information to the Commission, that information will be kept confidential subject to the provisions of applicable law.<sup>1</sup> The SROs are required by law to retain the records and information that are collected

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., 5 U.S.C. 552 et seq.; 15 U.S.C. 78x (governing the public availability of information obtained by the Commission).

pursuant to Rule 608 for a period of not less than 5 years, the first 2 years in an easily accessible place.<sup>2</sup> Rule 608 does not affect this existing requirement.

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 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 by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

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\_Mailbox@sec.gov.

**Dated:** July 21, 2023.

**Sherry R. Haywood**

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2023-15828 Filed: 7/25/2023 8:45 am; Publication Date: 7/26/2023]

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<sup>2</sup> See 17 CFR 240.17a-1(b).