

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270–026, OMB Control No. 3235–0033]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension: Rule 17a–3

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 17a–3 (17 CFR 240.17a–3), 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 17a–3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 establishes minimum standards with respect to business records that broker-dealers registered with the Commission must make and keep current. These records are maintained by the broker-dealer (in accordance with a separate rule), so they can be used by the broker-dealer and reviewed by Commission examiners, as well as other regulatory authority examiners, during inspections of the broker-dealer.

The collections of information included in Rule 17a–3 are necessary to enable Commission, self-regulatory organization (“SRO”), and state examiners to conduct effective and efficient examinations to determine whether broker-dealers are complying with relevant laws, rules, and regulations. If broker-dealers were not required to create these baseline, standardized records, Commission, SRO, and state examiners could be unable to determine whether broker-dealers are in compliance with the Commission’s antifraud and anti-manipulation rules, financial responsibility program, and other Commission, SRO, and State laws, rules, and regulations.

As of December 31, 2021 there were 3,528 broker-dealers registered with the Commission. The Commission estimates that these broker-dealer respondents incur a total hour burden of approximately 8,342,195 hours per year to comply with Rule 17a–3.

In addition, Rule 17a–3 contains ongoing operation and maintenance costs for broker-dealers, including the

cost of postage to provide customers with account information, and costs for equipment and systems development. The Commission estimates that the total cost burden associated with Rule 17a–3 would be approximately \$105,320,999 per year.

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 estimate 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 by October 3, 2022.

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 27, 2022.

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270–537, OMB Control No. 3235–0597]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Extension: Rule 31 and Form R31

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 extension of the previously approved collection of information provided for in Rule 31 (17

CFR 240.31) and Form R31 (17 CFR 249.11) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78ee) (“Exchange Act”).

Section 31 of the Exchange Act requires the Commission to collect fees and assessments from national securities exchanges and national securities associations (collectively, “self-regulatory organizations” or “SROs”) based on the volume of their securities transactions. To collect the proper amounts, the Commission adopted Rule 31 and Form R31 under the Exchange Act whereby each SRO must report to the Commission the volume of its securities transactions and the Commission, based on those data, calculates the amount of fees and assessments that each SRO owes pursuant to Section 31. Rule 31 and Form R31 require each SRO to provide these data on a monthly basis.

Currently, there are 27 respondents under Rule 31 that are subject to the collection of information requirements of Rule 31: 24 national securities exchanges, one national securities association, and two registered clearing agencies that are required to provide certain data in their possession needed by the SROs to complete Form R31, although these two clearing agencies are not themselves required to complete and submit Form R31.¹ The Commission estimates that the total burden for all 27 respondents is 432 hours per year. The Commission estimates that, based on previous and current experience, three additional national securities exchanges will become registered and subject to the reporting requirements of Rule 31 over the course of the authorization period and collectively incur a burden of 18 hours per year. Thus, the Commission estimates the collective burden for all respondents (existing and new added together) to be 450 hours per year. The SEC does not believe that the 27 existing or 3 expected new respondents will have to incur any capital or start-up costs, or any additional operational or maintenance costs (other than as already discussed in this paragraph), to comply with the collection of information requirements imposed by Rule 31 and Form R31. The SEC estimates that the average annual cost to the SEC of processing all of these filings would be \$20,307.48 (90.1 hours at an average of \$225.39 per hour).

¹ Since the last renewal period, when there was one security futures exchange that reported transactions, that exchange has ceased operation. Therefore, currently, no security futures exchanges report any transaction in security futures on Form R31.