

management and thereby enhance the stability of the clearing house and its ability to continue to provide clearing services in the case of liquidity stresses.

*C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants or Others*

Written comments relating to the proposed change to the rules have not been solicited or received. ICE Clear Europe will notify the Commission of any written comments received by ICE Clear Europe.

**III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action**

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

- (A) By order approve or disapprove the proposed rule change or
- (B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be 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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR-ICEEU-2014-12 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-ICEEU-2014-12. 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 Web site (<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 Web site 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 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of such filings also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of ICE Clear Europe and on ICE Clear Europe's Web site at <https://www.theice.com/clear-europe/regulation>.

All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-ICEEU-2014-12 and should be submitted on or before September 2, 2014.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>8</sup>

**Kevin M. O'Neill,**  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2014-18877 Filed 8-8-14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34-72762; File No. SR-ICC-2014-12]

**Self-Regulatory Organizations; ICE Clear Credit LLC; Notice of Filing and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change To Revise the ICC Treasury Policies and Procedures**

August 5, 2014.

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 July 21, 2014, ICE Clear Credit LLC ("ICC") 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 primarily by ICC. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested

persons and to approve the proposed rule change on an accelerated basis.

**I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change**

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to revise the ICC Treasury Policies and Procedures to correct an error in order to properly describe ICC's policy regarding permitted counterparties to ICC's repurchase agreement transactions ("Repo Transactions").<sup>3</sup> This revision does not require any changes to the ICC Clearing Rules.

**II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change**

In its filing with the Commission, ICC 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 III below. ICC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.

*A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change*

The proposed revision to ICC's Treasury Policies and Procedures is intended to correct an error in order to properly describe ICC's policy regarding permitted counterparties to ICC's Repo Transactions.

ICC believes such revision will facilitate the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and derivative agreements, contracts, and transactions for which it is responsible. The proposed revision is described in detail as follows.

Currently, the ICC Treasury Policies and Procedures state that ICC may not enter in Repo Transactions with counterparties that are affiliates of ICC Clearing Participants. This statement contains an error, and does not accurately reflect ICC's policy in regards to prohibited repo counterparties. Such provision in the ICC Treasury Policies and Procedures was intended to prohibit the use of affiliates of ICC as repo counterparties, consistent with the prohibition contained in CFTC Regulation 1.25(d)(3), which states, in

<sup>3</sup> Generally, Repo Transactions are the purchase or sale of U.S. Treasury securities with the simultaneous agreement to sell or buy back the securities with the same counterparty on the next business day.

<sup>8</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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

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

relevant part, “A . . . derivatives clearing organization shall not enter into an agreement to repurchase or resell with a counterparty that is an affiliate of the . . . derivatives clearing organization.” However, ICC’s policy language inadvertently included the phrase “affiliates of ICE Clear Credit Clearing Participants” rather than the proper language “affiliates of ICE Clear Credit.” ICC proposes revising the ICC Treasury Policies and Procedures to accurately reflect ICC’s policy in regards to prohibited repo counterparties. ICC proposes amending the policy to clarify that ICC prohibits the use of repo counterparties that are affiliates of ICC, rather than affiliates of ICC Clearing Participants. This revision to the Treasury Policies and Procedures does not require any operational changes.

Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act<sup>4</sup> requires, among other things, that the rules of a clearing agency be designed to promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and, to the extent applicable, derivative agreements, contracts, and transactions and to comply with the provisions of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder. ICC believes that the proposed revision is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to ICC, in particular, to Section 17A(b)(3)(F),<sup>5</sup> because ICC believes that the proposed rule changes will facilitate the prompt and accurate settlement of swaps and contribute to the safeguarding of securities and funds associated with swap transactions which are in the custody or control of ICC or for which it is responsible. The revision to the ICC Treasury Policies and Procedures corrects an error in order to properly describe ICC’s policy regarding permitted counterparties to ICC’s Repo Transactions. As such, the proposed rule changes will facilitate the prompt and accurate settlement of swaps and contribute to the safeguarding of customer funds and securities within the control of ICC within the meaning of Section 17A(b)(3)(F)<sup>6</sup> of the Act.

#### *B. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Burden on Competition*

ICC does not believe the proposed revision would have any impact, or impose any burden, on competition. The revision to ICC’s Treasury Policies and Procedures to correct an error in order to properly describe ICC’s policy

regarding permitted counterparties to ICC’s Repo Transactions applies uniformly across all CPs. Therefore, ICC does not believe the proposed revision imposes any burden on competition that is inappropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

#### *C. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants or Others*

Written comments relating to the proposed rule change have not been solicited or received. ICC will notify the Commission of any written comments received by ICC.

### **III. 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](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include File Number SR–ICC–2014–12 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–ICC–2014–12. 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 Web site (<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 Web site 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 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal

office of ICC and on ICC’s Web site at <https://www.theice.com/clear-credit/regulation>.

All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR–ICC–2014–12 and should be submitted on or before September 2, 2014.

### **IV. Commission’s Findings and Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Change**

Section 19(b)(2)(C) of the Act<sup>7</sup> directs the Commission to approve a proposed rule change of a self-regulatory organization if it finds that such proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to such organization. Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act<sup>8</sup> requires, among other things, that the rules of a registered clearing agency be designed to promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and, to the extent applicable, derivative agreements, contracts, and transactions, to assure the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in the custody or control of the clearing agency or for which it is responsible, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The Commission finds that the proposed revision to ICC’s Treasury Policies and Procedures is consistent with the requirements of the Act, in particular the requirements of Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act,<sup>9</sup> and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to ICC. As currently written, ICC’s Treasury Policies and Procedures prohibit ICC from engaging in Repo Transactions, including reverse Repo Transactions, with affiliates of ICC Clearing Participants. The proposed rule change would allow ICC to engage additional repo counterparties and, therefore, expand its capacity to manage its cash deposits pursuant to its cash management program. The Commission finds that the proposed rule change promotes the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions and, to the extent applicable, derivative agreements, contracts, and transactions, and is consistent with the requirement of

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(C).

<sup>8</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q–1(b)(3)(F).

<sup>9</sup> Id. In approving the proposed rule change, the Commission considered the proposal’s impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q–1(b)(3)(F).

<sup>5</sup> Id.

<sup>6</sup> Id.

safeguarding securities and funds in the custody or control of the clearing agency or for which it is responsible in Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act.

ICC has requested that the Commission approve the proposed rule change on an accelerated basis for good cause shown. ICC states that, as a result of recent contractions in the repo marketplace that have decreased its capacity to engage in reverse Repo Transactions, it has a pressing need to timely engage additional reverse repo counterparties so it has sufficient repo counterparty relationships and transaction capacity to collateralize its cash deposits pursuant to its cash management program. ICC further represented that maintaining sufficient repo counterparty relationships and transaction capacity is critical for risk mitigation purposes, and delaying the effectiveness of this proposed rule change may result in ICC being unable to timely secure additional repo counterparties. The Commission finds good cause, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)(C)(iii) of the Act,<sup>10</sup> for approving the proposed rule change on an accelerated basis.

## V. Conclusion

*It is therefore ordered* pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act that the proposed rule change (SR-ICC-2014-12) be, and hereby is, approved on an accelerated basis.

For the Commission by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>11</sup>

**Kevin M. O'Neill,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2014-18878 Filed 8-8-14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-72765; File No. SR-FINRA-2014-034]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Revise the Series 23 Examination Program

August 5, 2014.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act” or “SEA”) <sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on July 29, 2014, 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, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by FINRA. FINRA has designated the proposed rule change as “constituting a stated policy, practice, or interpretation with respect to the meaning, administration, or enforcement of an existing rule” under Section 19(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Act<sup>3</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(1) thereunder,<sup>4</sup> 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 filing revisions to the content outline and selection specifications for the General Securities Principal Sales Supervisor Module (Series 23) examination program.<sup>5</sup> The proposed revisions update the material to reflect changes to the laws, rules and regulations covered by the examination and to incorporate the functions and associated tasks currently performed by a General Securities Principal. In addition, FINRA is proposing to make changes to the format of the content outline. FINRA is not proposing any textual changes to the By-Laws, Schedules to the By-Laws or Rules of FINRA.

The revised content outline is attached. The Series 23 selection specifications have been submitted to the Commission under separate cover with a request for confidential treatment pursuant to SEA Rule 24b-2.<sup>6</sup>

The text of the proposed rule change is available on FINRA's Web site at <http://www.finra.org>, at the principal office of FINRA and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

<sup>3</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(i).

<sup>4</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(1).

<sup>5</sup> FINRA also is proposing corresponding revisions to the Series 23 question bank. Based on instruction from SEC staff, FINRA is submitting this filing for immediate effectiveness pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(1) thereunder, and is not filing the question bank for review. See Letter to Alden S. Adkins, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, NASD Regulation, from Belinda Blaine, Associate Director, Division of Market Regulation, SEC, dated July 24, 2014. The question bank is available for SEC review.

<sup>6</sup> 17 CFR 240.24b-2. The Commission notes that the content outline is an exhibit to the filing, not to this Notice.

### 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

Section 15A(g)(3) of the Act<sup>7</sup> authorizes FINRA to prescribe standards of training, experience, and competence for persons associated with FINRA members. In accordance with that provision, FINRA has developed examinations that are designed to establish that persons associated with FINRA members have attained specified levels of competence and knowledge, consistent with applicable registration requirements under FINRA rules. FINRA periodically reviews the content of the examinations to determine whether revisions are necessary or appropriate in view of changes pertaining to the subject matter covered by the examinations.

NASD Rule 1022(a) (General Securities Principal) sets forth the registration requirements for a General Securities Principal.<sup>8</sup> Among other requirements, a person registering as a General Securities Principal must pass the General Securities Principal (Series 24) qualification examination or an alternative examination. The Series 23 examination, in combination with the General Securities Sales Supervisor (Series 9/10) examination,<sup>9</sup> is an acceptable qualification alternative to the Series 24 examination for associated persons who are required to register and qualify as General Securities Principals with FINRA. The Series 23 examination tests material from the Series 24

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(g)(3).

<sup>8</sup> See SR-FINRA-2014-035 (Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Revise the Series 24 Examination Program) for a discussion of the requirements for a General Securities Principal.

<sup>9</sup> As a prerequisite to the Series 23 examination, FINRA also recognizes the Series 8 examination, the historical equivalent to the Series 9/10 examination, and the former Series 12 examination, a subset of the Series 9/10 examination omitting questions on options and municipal securities.

<sup>10</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(C)(iii).

<sup>11</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

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

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