

clearly articulated in an approved rule, and that the implications of that rule be clearly understood by all market participants and investors. The proposal is designed to codify Nasdaq's existing authority and not to modify or expand it any manner.

## 2. Statutory Basis

Nasdaq believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of section 15A of the Act,<sup>11</sup> including section 15A(b)(6) of the Act,<sup>12</sup> which requires, among other things, that a registered national securities association's rules must be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. The proposed rule change provides Nasdaq with clearer authority to respond to and alleviate market disruptions and thereby protect investors and the public interest.

In addition, section 15A(b)(11) of the Act<sup>13</sup> requires that the rules of a registered national securities association be designed to produce fair and informative quotations, prevent fictitious or misleading quotations and to promote orderly procedures for collecting, distributing, and publishing quotations. Nasdaq believes the proposal is designed to protect investors and to produce fair and informative quotations, prevent fictitious or misleading quotations and to promote orderly procedures for collecting, distributing, and publishing quotations.

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

Nasdaq does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate 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 were neither solicited nor received with respect to the proposed rule change.

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

Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not:

- (i) significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest;
- (ii) impose any significant burden on competition; and

(iii) become operative for 30 days from the date on which it was filed, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act<sup>14</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(6) thereunder.<sup>15</sup> At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change,<sup>16</sup> the Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

Nasdaq has asked the Commission to waive the 30-day operative delay. The Commission believes waiving the 30-day operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest. Such waiver will allow Nasdaq to immediately codify its existing authority to implement a Period before the start of trading in IPOs. For these reasons, the Commission designates the proposal to be effective and operative upon filing with the Commission.<sup>17</sup>

## IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposal is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. 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 inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NASD. All submissions should refer to file number SR-NASD-2003-113 and should be submitted by October 7, 2003.

<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

<sup>15</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

<sup>16</sup> The Commission considers the 60-day abrogation period to have commenced on September 2, 2003, the date Nasdaq filed Amendment No. 1.

<sup>17</sup> For purposes only of accelerating the operative date of this proposal, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>18</sup>

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### [Declaration of Disaster #3543]

#### State of Florida

Palm Beach County and the contiguous counties of Broward, Glades, Hendry, and Martin Counties in the State of Florida constitute a disaster area due to damages caused by severe storms and tornadoes on August 7, 2003. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on November 10, 2003 and for economic injury until the close of business on June 9, 2004 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 2 Office, One Baltimore Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30308.

*The interest rates are:*

	Percent
For Physical Damage:	
Homeowners with Credit Available Elsewhere .....	5.125
Homeowners without Credit Available Elsewhere .....	2.562
Businesses with Credit Available Elsewhere .....	6.199
Businesses and Non-Profit Organizations without Credit Available Elsewhere .....	3.100
Others (Including Non-Profit Organizations) with Credit Available Elsewhere .....	5.500
For Economic Injury:	
Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives without Credit Available Elsewhere .....	3.100

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 354311 and the number for economic injury is 9W8700.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008.)

Dated: September 9, 2003.

**Hector V. Barreto,**

*Administrator.*

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<sup>18</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78o-3.

<sup>12</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

<sup>13</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(11).