

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, please call the RRB Clearance Officer at (312) 751-3363 or send an e-mail request to Charles.Mierzwa@RRB.GOV. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092 or send an e-mail to Ronald.Hodapp@RRB.GOV. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Charles Mierzwa,
Clearance Officer.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Pubic Law 94-409, that the Securities and Exchange Commission will hold the following meeting during the week of November 22, 2004:

A Closed Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 23, 2004 at 2 p.m.

Commissioners, Counsel to the Commissioners, the Secretary to the Commission, and recording secretaries will attend the Closed Meeting. Certain staff members who have an interest in the matters may also be present.

The General Counsel of the Commission, or his designee, has certified that, in his opinion, one or more of the exemptions set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(3), (5), (6), (7), (9)(B), and (10) and 17 CFR 200.402(a)(3), (5), (7), 9(ii) and (10), permit consideration of the scheduled matters at the Closed Meeting.

Commissioner Campos, as duty officer, voted to consider the items listed for the closed meeting in closed session.

The subject matter of the Closed Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 23, 2004 will be:

Formal orders of investigations;
Institution and settlement of injunctive actions;
Institution and settlement of administrative proceedings of an enforcement nature; and
Adjudicatory matters.

At times, changes in Commission priorities require alterations in the scheduling of meeting items. For further information and to ascertain what, if any, matters have been added, deleted or postponed, please contact:

The Office of the Secretary at (202) 942-7070.

Dated: November 16, 2004.

Jonathan G. Katz,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-25797 Filed 11-17-04; 11:36 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-50659; File No. SR-FICC-2004-11]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Fixed Income Clearing Corporation; Order Granting Approval of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Rules of the Government Securities Division To Modify the Penalty Assessment Process for Violations of Minimum Financial Standards and for Failures of Members To Submit Requisite Financial Reports on a Timely Basis

November 15, 2004.

I. Introduction

On May 17, 2004, the Fixed Income Clearing Corporation ("FICC") filed

with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") and on August 4, 2004, amended proposed rule change File No. SR-FICC-2004-11 pursuant to section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act").¹ Notice of the proposed rule change was published in the **Federal Register** on October 4, 2004.² No comment letters were received. For the reasons discussed below, the Commission is now granting approval of the proposed rule change.

II. Description

The proposed rule change amends the rules of its Government Securities Division ("GSD") by modifying the penalty assessment process for violations of minimum financial standards and for failure to submit requisite financial reports on a timely basis.

(A) Violations of Minimum Financial Standards

The rules of the GSD require netting members and clearing members to meet and maintain certain minimum financial standards at all times. While the majority of GSD members consistently satisfy their minimum financial requirements, occasionally members do breach these requirements and create undue risk for FICC and its GSD members. FICC has decided that a more uniform system of enforcing minimum financial requirements within the GSD would enhance the ability of FICC to minimize risk to itself and its members in a fair and effective manner.

Currently, the GSD Rules provide clearing fund consequences for the various categories of netting members that fall out of compliance with minimum financial requirements as follows:

Netting membership category	Current clearing fund consequence for falling below minimum financial standard ³
Bank Member	Treated as a Category 2 Dealer. ⁴
Category 1 Dealer Member	Treated as a Category 2 Dealer.
Category 2 Dealer Netting Member	Impose Required Fund Deposit equal to 150 percent of the normal calculation of Required Fund Deposit.
Category 1 Futures Commission Merchant Member.	Treated as a Category 2 Futures Commission Merchant.
Category 2 Futures Commission Merchant Member.	Impose Required Fund Deposit equal to 150 percent of the normal calculation of Required Fund Deposit.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² Securities Exchange Act Release No. 50457 (September 27, 2004), 69 FR 59283.

³ Each consequence remains effective for a period beginning on the date on which the member fell below such level and continuing until the ninetieth calendar day after the date on which such member

returned to compliance with the applicable standard. If the consequence consists of a reclassification and the member does not return to compliance with its original minimum financial requirements within 90 calendar days of falling out of compliance, then the reclassification becomes permanent.

⁴ Treating a bank or other non-Inter-Dealer Broker Category 1 Member as a Category 2 non-Inter-Dealer Broker Member for clearing fund purposes results in a higher clearing fund requirement for such a member because higher margin rates are imposed on non-Inter-Dealer Broker Category 2 Dealer Members than are imposed on banks and non-Inter-Dealer Broker Category 1 Members.