

The text of the proposed rule change is below. Proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are bracketed.

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5250. Obligations for Companies Listed on The Nasdaq Stock Market

(a) Obligation to Provide Information to Nasdaq

(1) Nasdaq may request any additional information or documentation, public or non-public, deemed necessary to make a determination regarding a Company's continued listing, including, but not limited to, any material provided to or received from the Commission or Other Regulatory Authority. A Company may be denied continued listing if it fails to provide such information within a reasonable period of time or if any communication to Nasdaq contains a material misrepresentation or omits material information necessary to make the communication to Nasdaq not misleading. The Company shall provide full and prompt responses to requests by Nasdaq or by FINRA acting on behalf of Nasdaq for information related to unusual market activity or to events that may have a material impact on trading of its securities in Nasdaq.

(2) As set forth in Rule 5625, a Company must provide Nasdaq with prompt notification after an Executive Officer of the Company becomes aware of any noncompliance by the Company with the requirements of the Rule 5600 Series.

(b) Obligation to Make Public Disclosure

(1) Disclosure of Material Information

Except in unusual circumstances, a Nasdaq-listed Company shall make prompt disclosure to the public through any Regulation FD compliant method (or combination of methods) of disclosure of any material information that would reasonably be expected to affect the value of its securities or influence investors' decisions. The Company shall, prior to the release of the information, provide notice of such disclosure to Nasdaq's MarketWatch Department at least ten minutes prior to public announcement if the information involves any of the events set forth in IM-5250-1 and the public release of the material information is made between 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. If the public release of the material information is made outside the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m, Nasdaq Companies must notify MarketWatch of the material information prior to 6:50 a.m. ET. As described in IM-5250-1, prior notice to the MarketWatch Department must be made through the electronic disclosure submission system available at www.nasdaq.net, except in emergency situations.

(2) Disclosure of Notification of Deficiency

As set forth in Rule 5810(b) and IM-5810-1, a Company that receives a notification of deficiency from Nasdaq is required to make a public announcement by filing a Form 8-K, where required by SEC rules, or by issuing a

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press release disclosing receipt of the notification and the Rule(s) upon which the deficiency is based, and describing each specific basis and concern identified by Nasdaq in reaching its determination that the Company does not meet the listing standard. However, note that in the case of a deficiency related to the requirement to file a periodic report contained in Rule 5250(c)(1) or (2), the Company is required to make the public announcement by issuing a press release. As described in Rule 5250(b)(1) and IM-5250-1, the Company must notify Nasdaq's MarketWatch Department about the announcement through the electronic disclosure submission system available at www.nasdaq.net, except in emergency situations when notification may instead be provided by telephone or facsimile. If the public announcement is made between 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., the Company must notify MarketWatch at least ten minutes prior to the announcement. If the public announcement is made outside 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., the Company must notify MarketWatch of the announcement prior to 6:50 a.m. ET.

(3) Disclosure of Third Party Director and Nominee Compensation

Companies must disclose all agreements and arrangements in accordance with this rule by no later than the date on which the Company files or furnishes a proxy or information statement subject to Regulation 14A or 14C under the Act in connection with the Company's next shareholders' meeting at which directors are elected (or, if they do not file proxy or information statements, no later than when the Company files its next Form 10-K or Form 20-F).

(A) A Company shall disclose either on or through the Company's website or in the proxy or information statement for the next shareholders' meeting at which directors are elected (or, if the Company does not file proxy or information statements, in its Form 10-K or 20-F), the material terms of all agreements and arrangements between any director or nominee for director, and any person or entity other than the Company (the "Third Party"), relating to compensation or other payment in connection with such person's candidacy or service as a director of the Company. A Company need not disclose pursuant to this rule agreements and arrangements that: (i) relate only to reimbursement of expenses in connection with candidacy as a director; (ii) existed prior to the nominee's candidacy (including as an employee of the other person or entity) and the nominee's relationship with the Third Party has been publicly disclosed in a proxy or information statement or annual report (such as in the director or nominee's biography); or (iii) have been disclosed under Item 5(b) of Schedule 14A of the Act or Item 5.02(d)(2) of Form 8-K in the current fiscal year. Disclosure pursuant to Commission rule shall not relieve a Company of its annual obligation to make disclosure under subparagraph (B).

(B) A Company must make the disclosure required in subparagraph (A) at least annually until the earlier of the resignation of the director or one year following the termination of the agreement or arrangement.

(C) If a Company discovers an agreement or arrangement that should have been disclosed pursuant to subparagraph (A) but was not, the Company must promptly make the required disclosure by filing a Form 8-K or 6-K, where required by SEC rules, or by issuing a press release. Remedial disclosure under this subparagraph, regardless of its timing, does not satisfy the annual disclosure requirements under subparagraph (B).

(D) A Company shall not be considered deficient with respect to this paragraph for purposes of Rule 5810 if the Company has undertaken reasonable efforts to identify all such agreements or arrangements, including asking each director or nominee in a manner designed to allow timely disclosure, and makes the disclosure required by subparagraph (C) promptly upon discovery of the agreement or arrangement. In all other cases, the Company must submit a plan sufficient to satisfy Nasdaq staff that the Company has adopted processes and procedures designed to identify and disclose relevant agreements or arrangements.

(E) A Foreign Private Issuer may follow its home country practice in lieu of the requirements of Rule 5250(b)(3) by utilizing the process described in Rule 5615(a)(3).

(c) Obligation to File Periodic Financial Reports

(1) A Company shall timely file all required periodic financial reports with the Commission through the EDGAR System or with the Other Regulatory Authority. A Company that does not file through the EDGAR System shall supply to Nasdaq two (2) copies of all reports required to be filed with the Other Regulatory Authority or email an electronic version of the report to Nasdaq at continuedlisting@nasdaq.com. All required reports must be filed with Nasdaq on or before the date they are required to be filed with the Commission or Other Regulatory Authority. Annual reports filed with Nasdaq shall contain audited financial statements.

(2) Foreign Private Issuer Interim Reports

Each Foreign Private Issuer shall submit on a Form 6-K an interim balance sheet and income statement as of the end of its second quarter. This information, which must be presented in English, but does not have to be reconciled to U.S. GAAP, must be provided no later than six months following the end of the Company's second quarter. In the case of a Foreign Private Issuer that is a limited partnership,

such information shall be distributed to limited partners if required by statute or regulation in the jurisdiction in which the limited partnership is formed or doing business or by the terms of the partnership's limited partnership agreement.

(3) Auditor Registration

Each listed Company shall be audited by an independent public accountant that is registered as a public accounting firm with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, as provided for in Section 102 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 [15 U.S.C. 7212].

(d) Distribution of Annual and Interim Reports

(1) Distribution of Annual Reports

Each Company (including a limited partnership) shall make available to Shareholders an annual report containing audited financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries (which, for example, may be on Form 10-K, 20-F, 40-F or N-CSR) within a reasonable period of time following the filing of the annual report with the Commission. A Company may comply with this requirement either:

(A) by mailing the report to Shareholders;

(B) by satisfying the requirements for furnishing an annual report contained in Rule 14a-16 under the Act; or

(C) by posting the annual report to Shareholders on or through the Company's website (or, in the case of a Company that is an investment company that does not maintain its own website, on a website that the Company is allowed to use to satisfy the website posting requirement in Rule 16a-3(k) under the Act), along with a prominent undertaking in the English language to provide Shareholders, upon request, a hard copy of the Company's annual report free of charge. A Company that chooses to satisfy this requirement pursuant to this paragraph (C) must, simultaneous with this posting, issue a press release stating that its annual report has been filed with the Commission (or Other Regulatory Authority). This press release shall also state that the annual report is available on the Company's website and include the website address and that Shareholders may receive a hard copy free of charge upon request. A Company must provide such hard copies within a reasonable period of time following the request.

(2) Distribution of Interim Reports

Nasdaq Companies that distribute interim reports to Shareholders should distribute such reports to both registered and beneficial Shareholders. Nasdaq Companies are also encouraged to consider additional technological methods to communicate such information to Shareholders in a timely and less costly manner as such technology becomes available.

(3) Access to Quarterly Reports

(A) Each Company that is not a limited partnership (limited partnerships are governed by paragraph (B) below) and is subject to Rule 13a-13 under the Act shall make available copies of quarterly reports including statements of operating results to Shareholders either prior to or as soon as practicable following the Company's filing of its Form 10-Q with the Commission. If the form of such quarterly report differs from the Form 10-Q, the Company shall file one copy of the report with Nasdaq in addition to filing its Form 10-Q pursuant to Rule 5250(c)(1). The statement of operations contained in quarterly reports shall disclose, at a minimum, any substantial items of an unusual or non-recurrent nature and net income before and after estimated federal income taxes or net income and the amount of estimated federal taxes.

(B) Each Company that is limited partnership and is subject to Rule 13a-13 under the Act shall make available copies of quarterly reports including statements of operating results to limited partners either prior to or as soon as practicable following the partnership's filing of its Form 10-Q with the Commission. Such reports shall be distributed to limited partners if required by statute or regulation in the state in which the limited partnership is formed or doing business or by the terms of the partnership's limited partnership agreement. If the form of such quarterly report differs from the Form 10-Q, the Company shall file one copy of the report with Nasdaq in addition to filing its Form 10-Q pursuant to Rule 5250(c)(1). The statement of operations contained in quarterly reports shall disclose, at a minimum, any substantial items of an unusual or non-recurrent nature and net income before and after estimated federal income taxes or net income and the amount of estimated federal taxes.

(4) Access to Interim Reports

(A) Each Company that is not a limited partnership and is not subject to Rule 13a-13 under the Act and that is required to file with the Commission, or Other Regulatory Authority, interim reports relating primarily to operations and financial position, shall make available to Shareholders reports which reflect the information contained in those interim reports. Such reports shall be made available to Shareholders either before or as soon as practicable following filing with the appropriate regulatory authority. If the form of the interim report provided to

Shareholders differs from that filed with the regulatory authority, the Company shall file one copy of the report to Shareholders with Nasdaq in addition to the report to the regulatory authority that is filed with Nasdaq pursuant to Rule 5250(c)(1).

(B) Each Company that is a limited partnership that is not subject to Rule 13a-13 under the Act and is required to file with the Commission, or Other Regulatory Authority, interim reports relating primarily to operations and financial position, shall make available to limited partners reports which reflect the information contained in those interim reports. Such reports shall be distributed to limited partners if required by statute or regulation in the state in which the limited partnership is formed or doing business or by the terms of the partnership's limited partnership agreement. Such reports shall be distributed to limited partners either before or as soon as practicable following filing with the appropriate regulatory authority. If the form of the interim report provided to limited partners differs from that filed with the regulatory authority, the Company shall file one copy of the report to limited partners with Nasdaq in addition to the report to the regulatory authority that is filed with Nasdaq pursuant to Rule 5250(c)(1).

(5) A Foreign Private Issuer may follow its home country practice in lieu of the requirements of Rule 5250(d)(1), (2), (3) or (4) by utilizing the process described in Rule 5615(a)(3).

(6) The Company shall comply with any obligation of any person regarding filing or disclosure of information material to the Company or the security, whether such obligation arises under the securities laws of the United States or the Company's country of domicile, or other applicable federal or state statutes or rules.

(e) Nasdaq Notification Requirements

Various corporate events resulting in material changes will trigger the requirement for Companies to submit certain forms and applicable fees to Nasdaq as specified below.

All applicable forms can be found at
http://www.nasdaq.com/about/listing_information.stm#forms.

(1) Change in Number of Shares Outstanding

The Company shall file, on a form designated by Nasdaq no later than 10 days after the occurrence, any aggregate increase or decrease of any class of securities listed on Nasdaq that exceeds 5% of the amount of securities of the class outstanding.

(2) Listing of Additional Shares

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A Company shall be required to notify Nasdaq, except for a Company solely listing American Depositary Receipts, at least 15 calendar days prior to:

(A)

(i) establishing or materially amending a stock option plan, purchase plan or other equity compensation arrangement pursuant to which stock may be acquired by officers, directors, employees, or consultants without shareholder approval;

(ii) Nasdaq recognizes that when a Company makes an equity grant to induce an individual to accept employment, as permitted by the exception contained in Rule 5635(c)(4), it may not be practical to provide the advance notice otherwise required by this Rule. Therefore, when a Company relies on that exception to make such an inducement grant without shareholder approval, it is sufficient to notify Nasdaq about the grant and the use of the exception no later than the earlier of: (x) five calendar days after entering into the agreement to issue the securities; or (y) the date of the public announcement of the award required by Rule 5635(c)(4); or

(B) issuing securities that may potentially result in a change of control of the Company; or

(C) issuing any common stock or security convertible into common stock in connection with the acquisition of the stock or assets of another company, if any officer or director or Substantial Shareholder of the Company has a 5% or greater interest (or if such persons collectively have a 10% or greater interest) in the Company to be acquired or in the consideration to be paid; or

(D) issuing any common stock, or any security convertible into common stock in a transaction that may result in the potential issuance of common stock (or securities convertible into common stock) greater than 10% of either the total shares outstanding or the voting power outstanding on a pre-transaction basis.

The notifications required by this paragraph must be made on the Notification Form: Listing of Additional Shares and Nasdaq encourages Companies to file this form as soon as practicable, even if all of the relevant terms are not yet known. Nasdaq reviews these forms to determine compliance with applicable Nasdaq rules, including the shareholder approval requirements. Therefore, if a Company fails to file timely the form required by this paragraph, Nasdaq may issue either a Public Reprimand Letter or a Delisting Determination (pursuant to the Rule 5800 Series).

(3) Record Keeping Change

(A) The Company shall file on a form designated by Nasdaq notification of any change to its name, the par value or title of its security, its symbol, or a similar change, no later than 10 days after the change. The Company shall also pay the appropriate Record-Keeping Fee as referenced in the Rule 5900 Series.

(B) The Company shall also notify Nasdaq promptly in writing, absent any fees, of any change in the general character or nature of its business and any change in the address of its principal executive offices.

(4) Substitution Listing

The Company shall notify Nasdaq of a Substitution Listing Event (other than a re-incorporation or a change to a Company's place of organization) no later than 15 calendar days prior to the implementation of such event by filing the appropriate form as designated by Nasdaq. For a re-incorporation or change to a Company's place of organization, a Company shall notify Nasdaq as soon as practicable after such event has been implemented by filing the appropriate form as designated by Nasdaq. The Company shall also pay the appropriate Substitution Listing Fee as referenced in the Rule 5900 Series. The Substitution Listing Fee shall not apply to securities that are listed on a national securities exchange other than Nasdaq and not designated by Nasdaq as Nasdaq national market system securities.

(5) Transfer Agent, Registrar, ADR Bank Changes

The issuer of any class of securities listed on Nasdaq, except for American Depositary Receipts, shall notify Nasdaq promptly in writing of any change in the Company's transfer agent or registrar.

(6) Dividend Action or Stock Distribution

In the case of any dividend action or action relating to a stock distribution of a listed stock the Company shall, no later than 10 calendar days prior to the record date of such action:

- (i) notify Nasdaq by filing the appropriate form as designated by Nasdaq;
and
- (ii) provide public notice using a Regulation FD compliant method.

Notice to Nasdaq should be given as soon as possible after declaration and, in any event, no later than simultaneously with the public notice.

(f) Obligation to Pay Fees

The Company is required to pay all applicable fees as described in the Rule 5900 Series.

Adopted March 12, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-018); amended Apr. 27, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-040); amended Nov. 5, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-094), operative Dec. 7, 2009; amended Jan. 15, 2010 (SR-NASDAQ-2010-008); amended Mar. 15, 2010 (SR-NASDAQ-2010-006); amended Mar. 26, 2010 (SR-NASDAQ-2010-041); amended May 14, 2010 (SR-NASDAQ-2010-060), operative June 13, 2010; amended Dec. 3, 2012 (SR-NASDAQ-2012-118); amended Mar. 5, 2013 (SR-NASDAQ-2013-033), operative Mar. 18, 2013; amended Nov. 7, 2014 (SR-NASDAQ-2014-087), operative Jan. 1, 2015; **amended July 1, 2016 (SR-NASDAQ-2016-013), operative Aug. 1, 2016.**

IM-5250-1. Disclosure of Material Information

Rule 5250(b)(1) requires that, except in unusual circumstances, Nasdaq Companies disclose promptly to the public through any Regulation FD compliant method (or combination of methods) of disclosure any material information that would reasonably be expected to affect the value of their securities or influence investors' decisions. Nasdaq Companies must notify Nasdaq at least ten minutes prior to the release to the public of material information that involves any of the events set forth below when the public release of the information is made between 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 pm. ET. If the public release of the material information is made outside of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Nasdaq Companies must notify MarketWatch of the material information prior to 6:50 a.m. ET. Under unusual circumstances Companies may not be required to make public disclosure of material events; for example, where it is possible to maintain confidentiality of those events and immediate public disclosure would prejudice the ability of the Company to pursue its legitimate corporate objectives. However, Nasdaq Companies remain obligated to disclose this information to Nasdaq upon request pursuant to Rule 5250(a).

Whenever unusual market activity takes place in a Nasdaq Company's securities, the Company normally should determine whether there is material information or news which should be disclosed. If rumors or unusual market activity indicate that information on impending developments has become known to the investing public, or if information from a source other than the Company becomes known to the investing public, a clear public announcement may be required as to the state of negotiations or development of Company plans. Such an announcement may be required, even though the Company may not have previously been advised of such information or the matter has not yet been presented to the Company's Board of Directors for consideration. In certain circumstances, it may also be appropriate to publicly deny false or inaccurate rumors, which are likely to have, or have had, an effect on the trading in its securities or would likely have an influence on investment decisions.

Notification to Nasdaq MarketWatch Department

Nasdaq Companies must notify Nasdaq's MarketWatch Department prior to the distribution of certain material news at least ten minutes prior to public announcement of

the news when the public release of the information is made from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET. If the public release of the material information is made outside of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Nasdaq Companies must notify MarketWatch of the material information prior to 6:50 a.m. ET. Except in emergency situations, this notification must be made through Nasdaq's electronic disclosure submission system available at www.nasdaq.net. In emergency situations, Companies may instead provide notification by telephone or facsimile. Examples of an emergency situation include: lack of computer or internet access; technical problems on either the Company or Nasdaq system or an incompatibility between those systems; and a material development such that no draft disclosure document exists, but immediate notification to MarketWatch is important based on the material event.

If a Nasdaq Company repeatedly fails to either notify Nasdaq at least ten minutes prior to the distribution of material news from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. or prior to 6:50 a.m. ET for material news distributed outside of market hours, or repeatedly fails to use the electronic disclosure submission system when Nasdaq finds no emergency situation existed, Nasdaq may issue a Public Reprimand Letter (as defined in Rule 5805(j)) or, in extreme cases, a Staff Delisting Determination (as defined in Rule 5805(h)). In determining whether to issue a Public Reprimand Letter, Nasdaq will consider whether the Company has demonstrated a pattern of failures, whether the Company has been contacted concerning previous violations, and whether the Company has taken steps to assure that future violations will not occur.

Trading Halts

A trading halt benefits current and potential Shareholders by halting all trading in any Nasdaq securities until there has been an opportunity for the information to be disseminated to the public. This decreases the possibility of some investors acting on information known only to them. A trading halt provides the public with an opportunity to evaluate the information and consider it in making investment decisions. It also alerts the marketplace to the fact that news has been released.

Nasdaq's MarketWatch Department monitors real time trading in all Nasdaq securities during the trading day for price and volume activity. In the event of certain price and volume movements, the MarketWatch Department may contact a Company and its Market Makers in order to ascertain the cause of the unusual market activity. The MarketWatch Department treats the information provided by the Company and other sources in a highly confidential manner, and uses it to assess market activity and assist in maintaining fair and orderly markets. A Nasdaq listing includes an obligation to disclose to the MarketWatch Department information that the Company is not otherwise disclosing to the investing public or the financial community. On, occasion, changes in market activity prior to the Company's release of material information may indicate that the information has become known to the investing public. Changes in market activity also may occur when there is a release of material information by a source other than the Company, such as when a Nasdaq Company is subject to an unsolicited take-over bid by another company. Depending on the nature of the event and the Company's views

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regarding the business advisability of disclosing the information, the MarketWatch Department may work with the Company to accomplish a timely release of the information. Furthermore, depending on the materiality of the information and the anticipated affect of the information on the price of the Company's securities, the MarketWatch Department may advise the Company that a temporary trading halt is appropriate to allow for full dissemination of the information and to maintain an orderly market. The institution of a temporary trading halt pending the release of information is not a reflection on the value of the securities halted. Such trading halts are instituted, among other reasons, to insure that material information is fairly and adequately disseminated to the investing public and the marketplace, and to provide investors with the opportunity to evaluate the information in making investment decisions. A trading halt normally lasts one half hour but may last longer if a determination is made that news has not been adequately disseminated or that the original or an additional basis under Rule 4120 exists for continuing the trading halt.

The MarketWatch Department is required to keep non-public information, confidential and to use such information only for regulatory purposes.

Companies are required to notify the MarketWatch Department of the release of material information included in the following list of events at least ten minutes prior to the release of such information to the public when the public release of the information is made from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 pm. ET. If the public release of the material information is made outside of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m, Nasdaq Companies must notify MarketWatch of the material information prior to 6:50 a.m. ET. It should also be noted that every development that might be reported to Nasdaq in these areas would not necessarily be deemed to warrant a trading halt. In addition to the following list of events, Nasdaq encourages Companies to avail themselves of the opportunity for advance notification to the MarketWatch Department in situations where they believe, based upon their knowledge of the significance of the information, that a temporary trading halt may be necessary or appropriate.

- (a) Financial-related disclosures, including quarterly or yearly earnings, earnings restatements, pre-announcements or "guidance."*
- (b) Corporate reorganizations and acquisitions, including mergers, tender offers, asset transactions and bankruptcies or receiverships.*
- (c) New products or discoveries, or developments regarding customers or suppliers (e.g., significant developments in clinical or customer trials, and receipt or cancellation of a material contract or order).*
- (d) Senior management changes of a material nature or a change in control.*
- (e) Resignation or termination of independent auditors, or withdrawal of a previously issued audit report.*

(f) *Events regarding the Company's securities — e.g., defaults on senior securities, calls of securities for redemption, repurchase plans, stock splits or changes in dividends, changes to the rights of security holders, or public or private sales of additional securities.*

(g) *Significant legal or regulatory developments. Regulation FD*

(h) *Any event requiring the filing of a Form 8-K.*

Use of Regulation FD Compliant Methods in the Disclosure of Material Information

Regardless of the method of disclosure that a Company chooses to use, Companies are required to notify the MarketWatch Department of the release of material information that involves any of the events set forth above at least ten minutes prior to its release to the public when the public release of the information is made from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET. If the public release of the material information is made outside of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Nasdaq Companies must notify MarketWatch of the material information prior to 6:50 a.m. ET. When a Company chooses to utilize a Regulation FD compliant method for disclosure other than a press release or Form 8-K, the Company will be required to provide prior notice to the MarketWatch Department of: 1) the press release announcing the logistics of the future disclosure event; and 2) a descriptive summary of the material information to be announced during the disclosure event if the press release does not contain such a summary.

Depending on the materiality of the information and the anticipated effect of the information on the price of the Company's securities, the MarketWatch Department may advise the Company that a temporary trading halt is appropriate to allow for full dissemination of the information and to maintain an orderly market. The MarketWatch Department will assess with Companies using methods of disclosure other than a press release or Form 8-K the timing within the disclosure event when the Company will cover the material information so that the halt can be commenced accordingly. Companies will be responsible for promptly alerting the MarketWatch Department of any significant changes to the previously outlined disclosure timeline. Companies are reminded that the posting of information on the company's website may not by itself be considered a sufficient method of public disclosure under Regulation FD and SEC guidance and releases thereunder, and as a result, under Nasdaq rules.

Adopted March 12, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-018); amended Nov. 5, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-094), operative Dec. 7, 2009; amended Jan. 15, 2010 (SR-NASDAQ-2010-008); amended Mar. 5, 2013 (SR-NASDAQ-2013-033), operative Mar. 18, 2013.

IM-5250-2. Disclosure of Third Party Director and Nominee Compensation

Rule 5250(b)(3) requires listed companies to publicly disclose the material terms of all agreements and arrangements between any director or nominee and any person or

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entity (other than the Company) relating to compensation or other payment in connection with that person's candidacy or service as a director. The terms "compensation" and "other payment" as used in this rule are not limited to cash payments and are intended to be construed broadly.

Subject to exceptions provided in the rule, the disclosure must be made on or through the Company's website or in the proxy or information statement for the next shareholders' meeting at which directors are elected in order to provide shareholders with information and sufficient time to help them make meaningful voting decisions. A Company posting the requisite disclosure on or through its website must make it publicly available no later than the date on which the Company files a proxy or information statement in connection with such shareholders' meeting (or, if they do not file proxy or information statements, no later than when the Company files its next Form 10-K or Form 20-F). Disclosure made available on the Company's website or through it by hyperlinking to another website, must be continuously accessible. If the website hosting the disclosure subsequently becomes inaccessible or that hyperlink inoperable, the company must promptly restore it or make other disclosure in accordance with this rule.

Rule 5250(b)(3) does not separately require the initial disclosure of newly entered into agreements or arrangements, provided that disclosure is made pursuant to this rule for the next shareholders' meeting at which directors are elected. In addition, for publicly disclosed agreements and arrangements that existed prior to the nominee's candidacy and thus not required to be disclosed in accordance with Rule 5250(b)(3)(A)(ii) but where the director or nominee's remuneration is thereafter materially increased specifically in connection with such person's candidacy or service as a director of the Company, only the difference between the new and previous level of compensation or other payment obligation needs be disclosed.

All references in this rule to proxy or information statements are to the definitive versions thereof.

Adopted July 1, 2016 (SR-NASDAQ-2016-013), operative Aug. 1, 2016

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5615. Exemptions from Certain Corporate Governance Requirements

(a) Exemptions to the Corporate Governance Requirements

(1) Asset-backed Issuers and Other Passive Issuers

The following are exempt from the requirements relating to Majority Independent Board (Rule 5605(b)), Audit Committee (Rule 5605(c)), Compensation Committee (Rule 5605(d)), Director Nominations (Rule 5605(e)), the Controlled Company Exemption (Rule 5615(c)(2)), and Code of Conduct (Rule 5610):

(A) asset-backed issuers; and

(B) issuers, such as unit investment trusts, including Portfolio Depository Receipts, which are organized as trusts or other unincorporated associations that do not have a board of directors or persons acting in a similar capacity and whose activities are limited to passively owning or holding (as well as administering and distributing amounts in respect of) securities, rights, collateral or other assets on behalf of or for the benefit of the holders of the listed securities.

IM-5615-1. Asset-backed Issuers and Other Passive Issuers

Because of their unique attributes, Rules 5605(b), 5605(c), 5605(d), 5605(e) and 5610 do not apply to asset-backed issuers and issuers, such as unit investment trusts, that are organized as trusts or other unincorporated associations that do not have a board of directors or persons acting in a similar capacity and whose activities are limited to passively owning or holding (as well as administering and distributing amounts in respect of) securities, rights, collateral or other assets on behalf of or for the benefit of the holders of the listed securities. This is consistent with Nasdaq's traditional approach to such issuers.

Adopted Mar. 12, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-018).

(2) Cooperatives

Cooperative entities, such as agricultural cooperatives, that are structured to comply with relevant state law and federal tax law and that do not have a publicly traded class of common stock are exempt from Rules 5605(b), (d), (e), and 5615(c)(2). However, such entities must comply with all federal securities laws, including without limitation those rules required by Section 10A(m) of the Act and Rule 10A-3 thereunder.

IM-5615-2. Cooperatives

Certain member-owned cooperatives that list their preferred stock are required to have their common stock owned by their members. Because of their unique structure and the fact that they do not have a publicly traded class of common stock, such entities are exempt from Rule 5605(b), (d), and (e). This is consistent with Nasdaq's traditional approach to such Companies.

Adopted Mar. 12, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-018); amended Apr. 27, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-040).

(3) Foreign Private Issuers

(A) A Foreign Private Issuer may follow its home country practice in lieu of the requirements of the Rule 5600 Series, **the requirement to disclose third party director and nominee compensation set forth in Rule**

5250(b)(3), and the requirement to distribute annual and interim reports set forth in Rule 5250(d), provided, however, that such a Company shall: comply with the Notification of Noncompliance requirement (Rule 5625), the Voting Rights requirement (Rule 5640), have an audit committee that satisfies Rule 5605(c)(3), and ensure that such audit committee's members meet the independence requirement in Rule 5605(c)(2)(A)(ii). Except as provided in this paragraph, a Foreign Private Issuer must comply with the requirements of the Rule 5000 Series.

(B) Disclosure Requirements

(i) A Foreign Private Issuer that follows a home country practice in lieu of one or more of the Listing Rules shall disclose in its annual reports filed with the Commission each requirement that it does not follow and describe the home country practice followed by the Company in lieu of such requirements. Alternatively, a Foreign Private Issuer that is not required to file its annual report with the Commission on Form 20-F may make this disclosure only on its website. A Foreign Private Issuer that follows a home country practice in lieu of the requirement in Rule 5605(d)(2) to have an independent compensation committee must disclose in its annual reports filed with the Commission the reasons why it does not have such an independent committee.

(ii) A Foreign Private Issuer making its initial public offering or first U.S. listing on Nasdaq shall disclose in its registration statement or on its website each requirement that it does not follow and describe the home country practice followed by the Company in lieu of such requirements.

IM-5615-3. Foreign Private Issuers

*A Foreign Private Issuer (as defined in Rule 5005) listed on Nasdaq may follow the practice in such Company's home country (as defined in General Instruction F of Form 20-F) in lieu of the provisions of the Rule 5600 Series, **Rule 5250(b)(3)**, and Rule 5250(d), subject to several important exceptions. First, such an issuer shall comply with Rule 5625 (Notification of Noncompliance). Second, such a Company shall have an audit committee that satisfies Rule 5605(c)(3). Third, members of such audit committee shall meet the criteria for independence referenced in Rule 5605(c)(2)(A)(ii) (the criteria set forth in Rule 10A-3(b)(1) under the Act, subject to the exemptions provided in Rule 10A-3(c) under the Act). Finally, a Foreign Private Issuer that elects to follow home country practice in lieu of a requirement of Rules 5600, **5250(b)(3)**, or 5250(d) shall submit to Nasdaq a written statement from an independent counsel in such Company's home country certifying that the Company's practices are not prohibited by the home country's laws. In the case of new listings, this*

certification is required at the time of listing. For existing Companies, the certification is required at the time the Company seeks to adopt its first noncompliant practice. In the interest of transparency, the rule requires a Foreign Private Issuer to make appropriate disclosures in the Company's annual filings with the Commission (typically Form 20-F or 40-F), and at the time of the Company's original listing in the United States, if that listing is on Nasdaq, in its registration statement (typically Form F-1, 20-F, or 40-F); alternatively, a Company that is not required to file an annual report on Form 20-F may provide these disclosures in English on its website in addition to, or instead of, providing these disclosures on its registration statement or annual report. The Company shall disclose each requirement that it does not follow and include a brief statement of the home country practice the Company follows in lieu of these corporate governance requirement(s). If the disclosure is only available on the website, the annual report and registration statement should so state and provide the web address at which the information may be obtained. Companies that must file annual reports on Form 20-F are encouraged to provide these disclosures on their websites, in addition to the required Form 20-F disclosures, to provide maximum transparency about their practices.

Adopted Mar. 12, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-018); amended Apr. 27, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-040); amended May 20, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-049); amended June 16, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-052); amended May 14, 2010 (SR-NASDAQ-2010-060), operative June 13, 2010; amended Nov. 7, 2012 (SR-NASDAQ-2012-128).

(4) Limited Partnerships

A limited partnership is not subject to the requirements of the Rule 5600 Series, except as provided in this Rule 5615(a)(4). A limited partnership may request a written interpretation pursuant to Rule 5602.

(A) No provision of this Rule shall be construed to require any foreign Company that is a partnership to do any act that is contrary to a law, rule or regulation of any public authority exercising jurisdiction over such Company or that is contrary to generally accepted business practices in the Company's country of domicile. Nasdaq shall have the ability to provide exemptions from applicability of these provisions as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out this intent.

(B) Corporate General Partner

Each Company that is a limited partnership shall maintain a corporate general partner or co-general partner, which shall have the authority to manage the day-to-day affairs of the partnership.

(C) Independent Directors/Audit Committee

The corporate general partner or co-general partner shall maintain a sufficient number of Independent Directors on its board to satisfy the audit committee requirements set forth in Rule 5605(c).

(D) Partner Meetings

A Company that is a limited partnership shall not be required to hold an annual meeting of limited partners unless required by statute or regulation in the state in which the limited partnership is formed or doing business or by the terms of the partnership's limited partnership agreement.

(E) Quorum

In the event that a meeting of limited partners is required pursuant to paragraph (D), the quorum for such meeting shall be not less than 33-1/3 percent of the limited partnership interests outstanding.

(F) Solicitation of Proxies

In the event that a meeting of limited partners is required pursuant to paragraph (D), the Company shall provide all limited partners with proxy or information statements and if a vote is required, shall solicit proxies thereon.

(G) Review of Related Party Transactions

Each Company that is a limited partnership shall conduct an appropriate review of all related party transactions on an ongoing basis and shall utilize the Audit Committee or a comparable body of the Board of Directors for the review of potential material conflict of interest situations where appropriate.

(H) Shareholder Approval

Each Company that is a limited partnership must obtain shareholder approval when a stock option or purchase plan is to be established or materially amended or other equity compensation arrangement made or materially amended, pursuant to which stock may be acquired by officers, directors, employees, or consultants, as would be required under Rule 5635(c) and IM-5635-1.

(I) Auditor Registration

Each Company that is a limited partnership must be audited by an independent public accountant that is registered as a public accounting

firm with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, as provided for in Section 102 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 [15 U.S.C. 7212].

(J) Notification of Noncompliance.

Each Company that is a limited partnership must provide Nasdaq with prompt notification after an Executive Officer of the Company, or a person performing an equivalent role, becomes aware of any noncompliance by the Company with the requirements of this Rule 5600 Series.

(5) Management Investment Companies

Management investment companies (including business development companies) are subject to all the requirements of the Rule 5600 Series, except that management investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 are exempt from the Independent Directors requirement, the Compensation Committee requirement, the Independent Director Oversight of Director Nominations requirement, and the Code of Conduct requirement, set forth in Rules 5605(b), (d) and (e) and 5610, respectively. In addition, management investment companies that issue Index Fund Shares, Managed Fund Shares, and NextShares, as defined in Rules 5705(b), 5735, and 5745 are exempt from the Audit Committee requirements set forth in Rule 5605(c), except for the applicable requirements of SEC Rule 10A-3.

IM-5615-4. Management Investment Companies

Management investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 are already subject to a pervasive system of federal regulation in certain areas of corporate governance covered by 5600. In light of this, Nasdaq exempts from Rules 5605(b), (d), (e) and 5610 management investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Business development companies, which are a type of closed-end management investment company defined in Section 2(a)(48) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 that are not registered under that Act, are required to comply with all of the provisions of the Rule 5600 Series. Management investment companies that issue Index Fund Shares, Managed Fund Shares, and NextShares, are exempt from the Audit Committee requirements set forth in Rule 5605(c), except for the applicable requirements of SEC Rule 10A-3.

Adopted Mar. 12, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-018); amended Aug. 18, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-078); amended Mar. 11, 2010 (SR-NASDAQ-2010-036); amended Nov. 7, 2014 (SR-NASDAQ-2014-020); amended Oct. 13, 2015 (SR-NASDAQ-2015-121).

(b) Phase-In Schedules

(1) Initial Public Offerings

A Company listing in connection with its initial public offering shall be permitted to phase in its compliance with the independent committee requirements set forth in Rules 5605(d)(2) and (e)(1)(B) on the same schedule as it is permitted to phase in its compliance with the independent audit committee requirement pursuant to Rule 10A-3(b)(1)(iv)(A) under the Act. Accordingly, a Company listing in connection with its initial public offering shall be permitted to phase in its compliance with the committee composition requirements set forth in Rule 5605(d)(2) and (e)(1)(B) as follows: (1) one member must satisfy the requirement at the time of listing; (2) a majority of members must satisfy the requirement within 90 days of listing; and (3) all members must satisfy the requirement within one year of listing. Furthermore, a Company listing in connection with its initial public offering shall have twelve months from the date of listing to comply with the majority independent board requirement in Rule 5605(b). It should be noted, however, that pursuant to Rule 10A-3(b)(1)(iii) under the Act investment companies are not afforded the exemptions under Rule 10A-3(b)(1)(iv) under the Act. Companies may choose not to adopt a nomination committee and may instead rely upon a majority of the Independent Directors to discharge responsibilities under Rule 5605(b). For purposes of the Rule 5600 Series other than Rules 5605(c)(2)(A)(ii) and 5625, a Company shall be considered to be listing in conjunction with an initial public offering if, immediately prior to listing, it does not have a class of common stock registered under the Act. For purposes of Rule 5605(c)(2)(A)(ii) and Rule 5625, a Company shall be considered to be listing in conjunction with an initial public offering only if it meets the conditions in Rule 10A-3(b)(1)(iv)(A) under the Act, namely, that the Company was not, immediately prior to the effective date of a registration statement, required to file reports with the Commission pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Act.

(2) Companies Emerging from Bankruptcy

Companies that are emerging from bankruptcy shall be permitted to phase-in independent nomination and compensation committees and majority independent boards on the same schedule as Companies listing in conjunction with their initial public offering.

(3) Transfers from other Markets

Companies transferring from other markets with a substantially similar requirement shall be afforded the balance of any grace period afforded by the other market. Companies transferring from other listed markets that do not have a substantially similar requirement shall be afforded one year from the date of listing on Nasdaq. This transition period is not intended to supplant any applicable requirements of Rule 10A-3 under the Act.

(4) Phase-In Schedule for a Company Ceasing to be a Smaller Reporting Company

Pursuant to Rule 12b-2 under the Act, a Company tests its status as a Smaller Reporting Company on an annual basis as of the last business day of its most recently completed second fiscal quarter (for purposes of this Rule, the "Determination Date"). A Company with a public float of \$75 million or more as of the Determination Date will cease to be a Smaller Reporting Company as of the beginning of the fiscal year following the Determination Date (the "Start Date").

By six months from the Start Date, a Company must comply with Rule 5605(d)(3) and certify to Nasdaq that: (i) it has complied with the requirement in Rule 5605(d)(1) to adopt a formal written compensation committee charter including the content specified in Rule 5605(d)(1)(A)-(D); and (ii) it has complied, or within the applicable phase-in schedule will comply, with the additional requirements in Rule 5605(d)(2)(A) regarding compensation committee composition.

A Company shall be permitted to phase in its compliance with the additional compensation committee eligibility requirements of Rule 5605(d)(2)(A) relating to compensatory fees and affiliation as follows: (i) one member must satisfy the requirements by six months from the Start Date; (ii) a majority of members must satisfy the requirements by nine months from the Start Date; and (iii) all members must satisfy the requirements by one year from the Start Date.

Since a Smaller Reporting Company is required to have a compensation committee comprised of at least two Independent Directors, a Company that has ceased to be a Smaller Reporting Company may not use the phase-in schedule for the requirements of Rule 5605(d)(2)(A) relating to minimum committee size or that the committee consist only of Independent Directors as defined under Rule 5605(a)(2).

During this phase-in schedule, a Company that has ceased to be a Smaller Reporting Company must continue to comply with Rule 5605(d)(5).

(c) How the Rules Apply to a Controlled Company

(1) Definition

A Controlled Company is a Company of which more than 50% of the voting power for the election of directors is held by an individual, a group or another company.

(2) Exemptions Afforded to a Controlled Company

A Controlled Company is exempt from the requirements of Rules 5605(b), (d) and (e), except for the requirements of subsection (b)(2) which pertain to executive sessions of Independent Directors. A Controlled Company, other than a Foreign Private Issuer, relying upon this exemption must comply with the disclosure requirements set forth in Instruction 1 to Item 407(a) of Regulation S-

K. A Foreign Private Issuer must disclose in its next annual report (e.g., Form 20-F or 40-F) that it is a Controlled Company and the basis for that determination.

(3) Phase-In Schedule for a Company Ceasing to be a Controlled Company

A Company that has ceased to be a Controlled Company within the meaning of Rule 5615(c)(1) shall be permitted to phase-in its independent nomination and compensation committees and majority independent board on the same schedule as Companies listing in conjunction with their initial public offering. It should be noted, however, that a Company that has ceased to be a Controlled Company within the meaning of Rule 5615(c)(1) must comply with the audit committee requirements of Rule 5605(c) as of the date it ceased to be a Controlled Company. Furthermore, the executive sessions requirement of Rule 5605(b)(2) applies to Controlled Companies as of the date of listing and continues to apply after it ceases to be controlled.

IM-5615-5. Controlled Company Exemption

This exemption recognizes that majority Shareholders, including parent companies, have the right to select directors and control certain key decisions, such as executive officer compensation, by virtue of their ownership rights. In order for a group to exist for purposes of this rule, the Shareholders must have publicly filed a notice that they are acting as a group (e.g., a Schedule 13D). A Controlled Company not relying upon this exemption need not provide any special disclosures about its controlled status. It should be emphasized that this controlled company exemption does not extend to the audit committee requirements under Rule 5605(c) or the requirement for executive sessions of Independent Directors under Rule 5605(b)(2).

Adopted Mar. 12, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-018); amended Apr. 27, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-040).

Adopted Mar. 12, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-018); amended Apr. 27, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-040); amended May 20, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-049); amended Aug. 18, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-78); amended Mar. 11, 2010 (SR-NASDAQ-2010-036); amended Mar. 15, 2010 (SR-NASDAQ-2010-006); amended May 14, 2010 (SR-NASDAQ-2010-060), operative June 13, 2010; amended June 9, 2011 (SR-NASDAQ-2011-082), operative July 9, 2011; amended Nov. 7, 2012 (SR-NASDAQ-2012-128); amended Jan. 11, 2013 (SR-NASDAQ-2012-109); amended Nov. 7, 2014 (SR-NASDAQ-2014-020); amended Oct. 13, 2015 (SR-NASDAQ-2015-121); **amended July 1, 2016 (SR-NASDAQ-2016-013), operative Aug. 1, 2016.**

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5810. Notification of Deficiency by the Listing Qualifications Department

When the Listing Qualifications Department determines that a Company does not meet a listing standard set forth in the Rule 5000 Series, it will immediately notify the Company

of the deficiency. As explained in more detail below, deficiency notifications are of four types:

- (1) Staff Delisting Determinations, which are notifications of deficiencies that, unless appealed, subject the Company to immediate suspension and delisting;
- (2) notifications of deficiencies for which a Company may submit a plan of compliance for staff review;
- (3) notifications of deficiencies for which a Company is entitled to an automatic cure or compliance period; and
- (4) Public Reprimand Letters, except such notification type is not available for unresolved deficiencies from the standards of Rules 5250(c) {Obligation to File Periodic Financial Reports}, 5615(a)(4)(D) {Partner Meetings of Limited Partnerships} and 5620(a) {Meetings of Shareholders}.

Notifications of deficiencies that allow for submission of a compliance plan or an automatic cure or compliance period may result, after review of the compliance plan or expiration of the cure or compliance period, in issuance of a Staff Delisting Determination or a Public Reprimand Letter.

(a) Information Contained in Deficiency Notification and Delisting Determination

Deficiency notifications and Delisting Determinations will:

- (1) inform the Company of the factual bases for Staff's determination of deficiency or delisting, and the quantitative or qualitative standard the Company has failed to satisfy;
- (2) provide the Company with instructions regarding its obligations to disclose the deficiency under Nasdaq Listing Rules; and
- (3) inform the Company:
 - (A) in the case of a Staff Delisting Determination, that the Company's securities will be suspended as of a date certain; the Company has a right to request review of the Delisting Determination by a Hearings Panel; and that a request for review within seven days (as set forth in Rule 5815(a)(1)) will stay the suspension;
 - (B) in the case of a deficiency for which the Company may submit a plan of compliance for review by Staff, the deadline by which a plan must be submitted;

(C) in the case of a deficiency for which the Company is entitled to an automatic cure or compliance period, the expiration date of the cure or compliance period; and

(D) in the case of a Public Reprimand Letter, an explanation of why Staff concluded the letter is appropriate and the Company's right to request review of the Letter by a Hearings Panel.

(b) Company Disclosure Obligations

A Company that receives a notification of deficiency, Staff Delisting Determination, or Public Reprimand Letter is required to make a public announcement disclosing receipt of the notification and the Rule(s) upon which the deficiency is based, and describing each specific basis and concern identified by Nasdaq in reaching its determination that the Company does not meet the listing standard. If the deficiency or Staff Delisting Determination relates to the requirement to file a periodic report contained in Rule 5250(c)(1) or (2), the Company is required to make the public announcement by issuing a press release, in addition to filing any Form 8-K required by SEC rules. In all other cases, the Company may make the public announcement either by filing a Form 8-K, where required by SEC rules, or by issuing a press release. Additional information about this disclosure obligation is provided in IM-5810-1.

As described in Rule 5250(b)(1) and IM-5250-1, the Company must notify Nasdaq's MarketWatch Department about the announcement through the electronic disclosure submission system available at www.nasdaq.net, except in emergency situations when notification may instead be provided by telephone or facsimile. If the public announcement is made during Nasdaq market hours, the Company must notify MarketWatch at least ten minutes prior to the announcement. If the public announcement is made outside of Nasdaq market hours, the Company must notify MarketWatch of the announcement prior to 6:50 a.m. ET. The Company should make the public announcement as promptly as possible but not more than four business days following receipt of the notification.

IM-5810-1. Disclosure of Written Notice of Staff Determination

Rule 5810(b) requires that a Company make a public announcement by filing a Form 8-K, where required by SEC rules, or by issuing a press release disclosing the receipt of (i) a notice that the Company does not meet a listing standard set forth in the Rule 5000 Series, (ii) a Staff Delisting Determination to limit or prohibit continued listing of the Company's securities under Rule 5810 as a result of the Company's failure to comply with the continued listing requirements, or (iii) a Public Reprimand Letter; provided, however, that if the notification relates to a failure to meet the requirements of Rules 5250(c)(1) or (2), the Company must make the public announcement by issuing a press release. Such public announcement shall be made as promptly as possible, but not more than four business days following the receipt of the notification, Staff Delisting Determination, or Public Reprimand Letter, as applicable. In addition to containing all

disclosure required by Form 8-K, if applicable, the public announcement must describe each specific basis and concern identified by Nasdaq in its determination that the Company does not meet the listing standard and identify the Rules upon which the deficiency is based. For example, if the Listing Qualifications Department determines to delist a Company based on its discretionary authority under Rule 5101, the Company must include in its public announcement the specific concerns cited in the Staff Delisting Determination. In addition, a Company may provide its own analysis of the issues raised in the Staff Delisting Determination.

If the public announcement is not made by the Company within the time allotted or does not include all of the required information, trading of its securities shall be halted (if not already halted), even if the Company appeals the Staff Delisting Determination or Public Reprimand Letter as set forth in Rule 5815, and Nasdaq may make a public announcement with the required information. If the company's failure to make this public announcement is the only basis for a trading halt, Nasdaq would ordinarily resume trading if Nasdaq makes the public announcement. If the Company fails to make the public announcement by the time that the Hearings Panel issues its Decision, that Decision will also determine whether to delist the Company's securities for failure to make the public announcement.

Rule 5810(b) does not relieve a Company of its disclosure obligation under the federal securities laws, nor should it be construed as providing a safe harbor under the federal securities laws. It is suggested that the Company consult with corporate/securities counsel in assessing its disclosure obligations under the federal securities laws.

Adopted by SR-NASDAQ-2009-018 eff. March 12, 2009; amended Mar. 15, 2010 (SR-NASDAQ-2010-006); amended Dec. 3, 2012 (SR-NASDAQ-2012-118).

(c) Types of Deficiencies and Notifications

The type of deficiency at issue determines whether the Company will be immediately suspended and delisted, or whether it may submit a compliance plan for review or is entitled to an automatic cure or compliance period before a Staff Delisting Determination is issued. In the case of a deficiency not specified below, Staff will issue the Company a Staff Delisting Determination or a Public Reprimand Letter.

(1) Deficiencies that Immediately Result in a Staff Delisting Determination

Staff's notice will inform the Company that its securities are immediately subject to suspension and delisting when:

- a Company fails to timely solicit proxies; or
- Staff has determined, under its discretionary authority in the Rule 5100 Series, that the Company's continued listing raises a public interest concern.

(2) Deficiencies for which a Company may Submit a Plan of Compliance for Staff Review

(A) Unless the Company is currently under review by an Adjudicatory Body for a Staff Delisting Determination, the Listing Qualifications Department may accept and review a plan to regain compliance when a Company is deficient with respect to one of the standards listed in subsections (i) through ~~[(iv)](v)~~ below. In accordance with Rule 5810(c)(2)(C), plans provided pursuant to subsections (i) through ~~[(iii)](iv)~~ below must be provided generally within 45 calendar days, and in accordance with Rule 5810(c)(2)(F), plans provided pursuant to subsection ~~[(iv)](v)~~ must be provided generally within 60 calendar days. If a Company that is not subject to the All-Inclusive Annual Listing Fee described in IM-5910-1 or IM-5920-1 submits a plan of compliance under subsections (i), (iii), ~~[or](iv)~~, ~~or (v)~~, it must also pay a compliance plan review fee of \$5,000. If a Company's plan consists of transferring from the Nasdaq Global or Global Select Market to the Nasdaq Capital Market, the Company should submit its application and the applicable application fee at the same time as its plan to regain compliance, but does not need to also pay the compliance plan review fee.

(i) all quantitative deficiencies from standards that do not provide a compliance period;

(ii) deficiencies from the standards of Rules 5605 {Board of Directors and Committees} or 5615(a)(4)(C) {Independent Directors/Audit Committee of Limited Partnerships} where the cure period of the Rule is not applicable;

(iii) deficiencies from the standards of Rules 5620(a) {Meetings of Shareholders}, 5620(c) {Quorum}, 5630 {Review of Related Party Transactions}, 5635 {Shareholder Approval}, 5250(c)(3) {Auditor Registration}, 5255(a) {Direct Registration Program}, 5610 {Code of Conduct}, 5615(a)(4)(D) {Partner Meetings of Limited Partnerships}, 5615(a)(4)(E) {Quorum of Limited Partnerships}, 5615(a)(4)(G) {Related Party Transactions of Limited Partnerships}, or 5640 {Voting Rights}; or

(iv) **failure to make the disclosure required by Rule 5250(b)(3).**

(v) failure to file periodic reports as required by Rules 5250(c)(1) or (2).

IM-5810-2. Staff Review of Deficiencies

As provided in Rule 5810(c)(2)(A)(i), the Staff may accept a plan to regain compliance with respect to quantitative deficiencies from standards that do not themselves provide a compliance period. Such standards include:

Rules 5550(b)(1) {Stockholders' Equity} and 5550(b)(3) {Net Income from Continuing Operations}

Rule 5550(a)(3) {Public Holders}

Rule 5550(a)(4) {Publicly Held Shares}

Rules 5350(b)(1)(B) {Publicly Held Shares}, 5450(b)(1)(A) {Stockholders' Equity}, and 5450(a)(2) {Total Holders}

Rules 5450(b)(3)(A) {Total Assets/Total Revenue}, 5450(b)(2)(B) {Publicly Held Shares}, and 5450(a)(2) {Total Holders}, and

Rules 5460(a)(1) {Publicly Held Shares} and 5460(a)(4) {Public Holders}.

Adopted by SR-NASDAQ-2009-018 eff. March 12, 2009.

(B) Staff Alternatives Upon Review of Plan

Staff may request such additional information from the Company as is necessary to make a determination, as described below. In cases other than filing delinquencies and annual meeting deficiencies, which are governed by Rules 5810(c)(2)(F) and 5810(c)(2)(G), respectively, upon review of a plan of compliance, Staff may either:

- (i) grant an extension of time to regain compliance not greater than 180 calendar days from the date of Staff's initial notification, unless the Company is currently under review by an Adjudicatory Body for a Staff Delisting Determination. If Staff grants an extension, it will inform the Company in writing of the basis for granting the extension and the terms of the extension;
- (ii) issue a Staff Delisting Determination letter that includes a description of the basis for denying the extension; or
- (iii) issue a Public Reprimand Letter, as defined in Rule 5805(j).

(C) Timeline for Submission of Compliance Plans

Except for deficiencies from the standards of Rule 5250(c)(1) or (2), Staff's notification of deficiencies that allow for compliance plan review will inform the Company that it has 45 calendar days to submit a plan to regain compliance with Nasdaq's listing standard(s). Staff may extend this deadline for up to an additional 5 calendar days upon good cause shown and may request such additional information from the Company as is necessary to make a determination regarding whether to grant such an extension.

(D) Restrictions on Compliance Plans for Certain Deficiencies

Staff will not accept a plan to achieve compliance with deficiencies in net income from continuing operations or total assets and total revenue, since compliance requires stated levels of net income or assets and revenues during completed fiscal years and therefore can only be demonstrated through audited financial statements. Similarly, a Company may not submit a plan relying on partial-year performance to demonstrate compliance with these standards. A Company may, however, submit a plan that demonstrates current or near-term compliance with the listing requirement relating to stockholders' equity or Market Value of Listed Securities.

(E) Failure to Meet the Terms of a Staff Extension

If the Company does not regain compliance within the time period provided by all applicable Staff extensions, Staff will immediately issue a Staff Delisting Determination indicating the date on which the Company's securities will be suspended unless it requests review by a Hearings Panel.

(F) Filing Delinquencies

In the case of deficiencies from the standards of Rule 5250(c)(1) or (2):

- (i) Staff's notice shall provide the Company with 60 calendar days to submit a plan to regain compliance with the listing standard; provided, however, that the Company shall not be provided with an opportunity to submit such a plan if review under the Rule 5800 Series of a prior Staff Delisting Determination with respect to the Company is already pending. Staff may extend this deadline for up to an additional 15 calendar days upon good cause shown and may request such additional information from the Company as is necessary to make a determination regarding whether to grant such an extension.
- (ii) The maximum additional time provided by all exceptions granted by Staff for a deficiency described in paragraph (i) above

is 180 calendar days from the due date of the first late periodic report (as extended by Rule 12b-25 under the Act, if applicable). In determining whether to grant an exception, and the length of any such exception, Staff will consider, and the Company should address in its plan of compliance, the Company's specific circumstances, including the likelihood that the filing can be made within the exception period, the Company's past compliance history, the reasons for the late filing, corporate events that may occur within the exception period, the Company's general financial status, and the Company's disclosures to the market. This review will be based on information provided by a variety of sources, which may include the Company, its audit committee, its outside auditors, the staff of the SEC and any other regulatory body.

(G) Annual Meeting

In the case of deficiencies from the standards of Rules 5620(a) and 5615(a)(4)(D):

(i) Staff's notice shall provide the Company with 45 calendar days to submit a plan to regain compliance with the listing standard; provided, however, that the Company shall not be provided with an opportunity to submit such a plan if review under the Rule 5800 Series of a prior Staff Delisting Determination with respect to the Company is already pending. Staff may extend this deadline for up to an additional 15 calendar days upon good cause shown and may request such additional information from the Company as is necessary to make a determination regarding whether to grant such an extension.

(ii) The maximum additional time provided by all exceptions granted by Staff is 180 calendar days from the deadline to hold the annual meeting (one year after the end of the Company's fiscal year). In determining whether to grant an exception, and the length of any such exception, Staff will consider, and the Company should address in its plan of compliance, the Company's specific circumstances, including the likelihood that the Company would be able to hold an annual meeting within the exception period, the Company's past compliance history, the reasons for the failure to hold the annual meeting timely, corporate events that may occur within the exception period, the Company's general financial status, and the Company's disclosures to the market. This review will be based on information provided by a variety of sources, which may include the Company, its audit committee, its outside auditors, the staff of the SEC and any other regulatory body.

(3) Deficiencies for which the Rules Provide a Specified Cure or Compliance Period

With respect to deficiencies related to the standards listed in (A) - (E) below, Staff's notification will inform the Company of the applicable cure or compliance period provided by these Rules and discussed below. If the Company does not regain compliance within the specified cure or compliance period, the Listing Qualifications Department will immediately issue a Staff Delisting Determination letter.

(A) Bid Price

A failure to meet the continued listing requirement for minimum bid price shall be determined to exist only if the deficiency continues for a period of 30 consecutive business days. Upon such failure, the Company shall be notified promptly and shall have a period of 180 calendar days from such notification to achieve compliance. Compliance can be achieved during any compliance period by meeting the applicable standard for a minimum of 10 consecutive business days during the applicable compliance period, unless Staff exercises its discretion to extend this 10 day period as discussed in Rule 5810(c)(3)(F).

(i) Global Select Market and Global Market

If a Company listed on The Nasdaq Global Market has not been deemed in compliance prior to the expiration of the 180 day compliance period, it may transfer to The Nasdaq Capital Market, provided that it meets the applicable market value of publicly held shares requirement for continued listing and all other applicable requirements for initial listing on the Capital Market (except for the bid price requirement) based on the Company's most recent public filings and market information and notifies Nasdaq of its intent to cure this deficiency. Following a transfer to The Nasdaq Capital Market, the Company will be afforded the remainder of the applicable compliance period set forth in Rule 5810(c)(3)(A)(ii), unless it does not appear to Nasdaq that it is possible for the Company to cure the deficiency. The Company may also request a hearing to remain on The Nasdaq Global Market pursuant to the Rule 5800 Series. Any time spent in the hearing process will not extend the length of the remaining applicable compliance periods on The Nasdaq Capital Market afforded by this rule.

(ii) Capital Market

If a Company listed on the Capital Market is not deemed in compliance before the expiration of the 180 day compliance

period, it will be afforded an additional 180 day compliance period, provided that on the 180th day of the first compliance period it meets the applicable market value of publicly held shares requirement for continued listing and all other applicable standards for initial listing on the Capital Market (except the bid price requirement) based on the Company's most recent public filings and market information and notifies Nasdaq of its intent to cure this deficiency. If a Company does not indicate its intent to cure the deficiency, or if it does not appear to Nasdaq that it is possible for the Company to cure the deficiency, the Company will not be eligible for the second grace period. If the Company has publicly announced information (e.g., in an earnings release) indicating that it no longer satisfies the applicable listing criteria, it shall not be eligible for the additional compliance period under this rule.

(B) Market Makers

A failure to meet the continued listing requirement for a number of Market Makers shall be determined to exist only if the deficiency continues for a period of 10 consecutive business days. Upon such failure, the Company shall be notified promptly and shall have a period of 30 calendar days from such notification to achieve compliance. Compliance can be achieved by meeting the applicable standard for a minimum of 10 consecutive business days during the 30 day compliance period.

(C) Market Value of Listed Securities

A failure to meet the continued listing requirements for Market Value of Listed Securities shall be determined to exist only if the deficiency continues for a period of 30 consecutive business days. Upon such failure, the Company shall be notified promptly and shall have a period of 180 calendar days from such notification to achieve compliance. Compliance can be achieved by meeting the applicable standard for a minimum of 10 consecutive business days during the 180 day compliance period, unless Staff exercises its discretion to extend this 10 day period as discussed in Rule 5810(c)(3)(F).

(D) Market Value of Publicly Held Shares

A failure to meet the continued listing requirement for Market Value of Publicly Held Shares shall be determined to exist only if the deficiency continues for a period of 30 consecutive business days. Upon such failure, the Company shall be notified promptly and shall have a period of 180 calendar days from such notification to achieve compliance. Compliance can be achieved by meeting the applicable standard for a minimum of 10 consecutive business days during the 180 day compliance period, unless

Staff exercises its discretion to extend this 10 day period as discussed in Rule 5810(c)(3)(F).

(E) Independent Director and Audit Committee Rules

If a Company fails to meet the majority board independence requirement in Rule 5605(b)(1) due to one vacancy, or because one director ceases to be independent for reasons beyond his/her reasonable control, the Listing Qualifications Department will promptly notify the Company and inform it has until the earlier of its next annual shareholders meeting or one year from the event that caused the deficiency to cure the deficiency. However, if the Company's next annual shareholders' meeting is held sooner than 180 days after the event that caused the deficiency, then the Company has 180 days from the event that caused the deficiency to cure it.

If a Company fails to meet the audit committee composition requirements in Rule 5605(c)(2) because an audit committee member ceases to be independent for reasons outside his/her control, the Listing Qualifications Department will promptly notify the Company and inform it that has until the earlier of its next annual shareholders meeting or one year from the occurrence of the event that caused the failure, to cure the deficiency. If the Company fails to meet the audit committee composition requirement due to one vacancy on the audit committee, and the Company is not relying upon a cure period for another member, the Listing Qualifications Department will promptly notify the Company and inform it that it has until the earlier of its next annual shareholders meeting or one year from the event that caused the failure to cure the deficiency. However, if the Company's next annual shareholders' meeting is held sooner than 180 days after the event that caused the deficiency, then the Company has 180 days from the event that caused the deficiency to cure it.

(F) Staff Discretion Relating to the Price-based Requirements

If a Company fails to meet the Market Value of Listed Securities, Market Value of Publicly Held Shares, or Bid Price requirements, each of which is related to the Company's security price and collectively called the "Price-based Requirements," compliance is generally achieved by meeting the requirement for a minimum of ten consecutive business days. However, Staff may, in its discretion, require a Company to satisfy the applicable Price-based Requirement for a period in excess of ten consecutive business days, but generally no more than 20 consecutive business days, before determining that the Company has demonstrated an ability to maintain long-term compliance. In determining whether to require a Company to meet the applicable Price-based-requirement beyond ten business days, Staff may consider all relevant facts and circumstances, including without limitation:

- (i) the margin of compliance (the amount by which a Company exceeds the applicable Price-based Requirement);
- (ii) the trading volume (a lack of trading volume may indicate a lack of bona fide market interest in the security at the posted bid price);
- (iii) the Market Maker montage (the number of Market Makers quoting at or above \$1.00 or the minimum price necessary to satisfy another Price-based Requirement; and the size of their quotes); and
- (iv) the trend of the stock price (is it up or down).

(4) Public Reprimand Letter

Staff's notification may be in the form of a Public Reprimand Letter in cases where the Company has violated a Nasdaq corporate governance or notification listing standard (other than one required by Rule 10A-3 of the Act) and Staff determines that delisting is an inappropriate sanction. In determining whether to issue a public reprimand letter, the Listing Qualifications Department will consider whether the violation was inadvertent, whether the violation materially adversely affected shareholders' interests, whether the violation has been cured, whether the Company reasonably relied on an independent advisor and whether the Company has demonstrated a pattern of violations.

(d) Additional Deficiencies

The Listing Qualifications Department continues to evaluate the compliance of Companies while they are under review by Adjudicatory Bodies and may identify additional deficiencies. Upon identification of an additional deficiency, Staff will issue an additional notification of deficiency to the Company and send a copy to the appropriate Adjudicatory Body.

(1) Staff's notification of the additional deficiency will conform to the requirements set forth in Rule 5810(a) if:

(A) the matter under review by an Adjudicatory Body is a Public Reprimand Letter; or

(B) the additional deficiency identified is one that has an automatic cure or compliance period.

(2) If the additional deficiency is one that would in the normal course result in immediate suspension and delisting, or one for which the Company may submit a compliance plan to Staff for review, Staff's notification will instruct the Company to address the issue to the Hearings Panel at its hearing, unless the hearing for the

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original deficiency has already taken place. If the hearing has already taken place, Staff's notification will instruct the Company to provide in writing, within a specified time period, a submission that addresses the deficiency to the Adjudicatory Body before which its matter is pending.

Adopted March 12, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-018); amended June 16, 2009 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-052); amended Jan. 29, 2010 (SR-NASDAQ-2009-077); amended Mar. 15, 2010 (SR-NASDAQ-2010-006); amended Mar. 26, 2010 (SR-NASDAQ-2010-041); amended Oct. 14, 2010 (SR-NASDAQ-2010-107); amended Dec. 3, 2012 (SR-NASDAQ-2012-118); amended Sep. 26, 2013 (SR-NASDAQ-2013-128), operative Oct. 26, 2013; amended Oct. 2, 2013 (SR-NASDAQ-2013-130); amended Nov. 7, 2014 (SR-NASDAQ-2014-087), operative Jan. 1, 2015; amended Feb. 12, 2016 (SR-NASDAQ-2015-144); **amended July 1, 2016 (SR-NASDAQ-2016-013), operative Aug. 1, 2016.**