Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Filing by The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Proposal to clarify Rule 5635(d)(1)(A)

Proposal to clarify Rule 5635(d)(1)(A)

Contact Information
Provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the action.

First Name * Amma
Title * Assistant General Counsel
E-mail * amma.anaman@nasdaq.com
Telephone * (301) 978-8011 Fax

Signature
Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date 01/14/2020
By John Zecca

NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form 19b-4 Information *</th>
<th>The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change *</td>
<td>The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit 1A - Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advance Notice by Clearing Agencies *</td>
<td>The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change, security-based swap submission, or advance notice being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit 2 - Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications</td>
<td>Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire</td>
<td>Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies</td>
<td>The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text</td>
<td>The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial Amendment</td>
<td>If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes are being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment shall be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. **Text of the Proposed Rule Change**

(a) The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq” or “Exchange”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)\(^1\) and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,\(^2\) is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) a proposal to clarify Rule 5635(d)(1)(A) without changing its substance.

A notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register is attached as Exhibit 1. The text of the proposed rule change is set forth below. Proposed new language is underlined; deleted text is in brackets.

* * * * *

The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC Rules

* * * * *

5635. Shareholder Approval

This Rule sets forth the circumstances under which shareholder approval is required prior to an issuance of securities in connection with: (i) the acquisition of the stock or assets of another company; (ii) equity-based compensation of officers, directors, employees or consultants; (iii) a change of control; and (iv) transactions other than public offerings. General provisions relating to shareholder approval are set forth in Rule 5635(e), and the financial viability exception to the shareholder approval requirement is set forth in Rule 5635(f). Nasdaq-listed Companies and their representatives are encouraged to use the interpretative letter process described in Rule 5602.

(a) No change.

(b) No change.

(c) No change.

IM-5635-1. No change.

(d) **Transactions other than Public Offerings**


(1) For purposes of this Rule 5635(d):

(A) “Minimum Price” means a price that is the lower of: (i) the [Nasdaq Official Closing Price [closing price] (as reflected on Nasdaq.com) immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement; or (ii) the average [Nasdaq Official Closing Price [closing price] of the common stock (as reflected on Nasdaq.com) for the five trading days immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement.

(B) No change.

(2) No change.

IM-5635-2. No change.

IM-5635-3. No change.

(e) No change.

(f) No change.

IM-5635-4. No change.

* * * * *

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization

The proposed rule change was approved by senior management of the Exchange pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors of the Exchange (the “Board”) on September 25, 2019. Exchange staff will advise the Board of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action is necessary for the filing of the rule change.

Questions and comments on the proposed rule change may be directed to:

Amma Anaman
Assistant General Counsel
Nasdaq, Inc.
301-978-8011
3. **Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change**

   **a. Purpose**

   On September 26, 2018, the Exchange amended Rule 5635(d)(1)(A) to change the definition of market value for purposes of the shareholder approval rule and eliminate the requirement for shareholder approval of issuances at a price less than book value but greater than market value (the “Amendment”). As revised, Rule 5635(d) requires a Nasdaq-listed company to obtain shareholder approval prior to the issuance of securities in connection with a transaction other than a public offering involving the sale, issuance or potential issuance by the company of common stock (or securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock), which alone or together with sales by officers, directors or Substantial Shareholders of the company, equals 20% or more of the common stock or 20% or more of the voting power outstanding before the issuance (a “20% Issuance”) at a price that is less than the Minimum Price. Rule 5635(d)(1)(A) defines “Minimum Price” as a price that is the lower of: (i) the closing price (as reflected on Nasdaq.com) immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement; or (ii) the average closing price of the common stock (as reflected on Nasdaq.com) for the five trading days immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement.

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4 See Nasdaq Rule IM–5635–3 (Definition of a Public Offering).

5 An interest consisting of less than either 5% of the number of shares of common stock or 5% of the voting power outstanding of a Company or party will not be considered a substantial interest or cause the holder of such interest to be regarded as a “Substantial Shareholder.” See Nasdaq Rule 5635(e)(3).
Prior to the Amendment, shareholder approval was required for a 20% Issuance at a price less than the greater of book or market value. In the Exchange’s proposal to use the closing price reported on Nasdaq.com, rather than the market value, the Exchange explained that “[t]he closing price reported on Nasdaq.com is the Nasdaq Official Closing Price, which is derived from the closing auction on Nasdaq and reflects actual sale prices at one of the most liquid times of the day.” At the time, Nasdaq believed that “codify[ing] within the rule that Nasdaq.com is the appropriate source of the closing price information” would “assure that companies and investors use the Nasdaq Official Closing Price when pricing transactions.” However, Rule 5635(d)(1)(A) does not specify that the closing price refers to the Nasdaq Official Closing Price, which may create confusion. Nasdaq proposes to amend Rule 5635(d)(1)(A) to revise “closing price (as reflected on Nasdaq.com)” to “Nasdaq Official Closing Price (as reflected on Nasdaq.com).”

6 “Market value” is defined in Nasdaq Rule 5005(a)(23) as the consolidated closing bid price multiplied by the measure to be valued (e.g., a company’s market value of publicly held shares is equal to the consolidated closing bid price multiplied by a company’s publicly held shares). See Nasdaq Rule 5005(a)(23).

7 See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 82702 (February 13, 2018), 83 FR 7269 (February 20, 2018) at 7270. See also Approval Order at 49602 (“the proposal to use the Nasdaq Official Closing Price for purposes of market value should help to ensure transparency to investors in calculating market value for purposes of the rule.”).

8 Id.

9 See Nasdaq Rule 4754(b)(4) (“All orders executed in the Nasdaq Closing Cross will be executed at the Nasdaq Closing Cross price, trade reported anonymously, and disseminated via the consolidated tape. The Nasdaq Closing Cross price will be the Nasdaq Official Closing Price for stocks that participate in the Nasdaq Closing Cross. Fifteen minutes after the close of trading, Nasdaq will disseminate via the network processor a trade message setting the Nasdaq Official Closing Price as the official Consolidated Last Sale Price in each Nasdaq-listed security in which one round lot or more is executed in the Nasdaq Closing Cross where the closing price differs from the Consolidated Last Sale Price.”).
The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,\(^{10}\) in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,\(^{11}\) in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general to protect investors and the public interest, by eliminating potential confusion and enhancing clarity and transparency in its rules. The proposal is consistent with the Exchange’s original intent as approved by the Commission and does not have any substantive effect on the rule.

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

   The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed change is designed to more clearly describe the current operation and original intent of an existing rule without changing its substance and, therefore, Nasdaq believes that the proposed change will not impose a burden on competition.

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

   No written comments were either solicited or received.

6. **Extension of Time Period for Commission Action**

   Not applicable.

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\(^{10}\) 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

7. Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(iii)\(^\text{12}\) of the Act and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)\(^\text{13}\) thereunder in that it effects a change that: (i) does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) by its terms, does not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest.

Nasdaq believes that the proposed rule change does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest because the proposal is designed to promote fair and orderly markets by clarifying that the closing price referred to on Nasdaq.com is the Nasdaq Official Closing Price, thus eliminating potential confusion. The proposal is consistent with the Exchange’s original intent as approved by the Commission and does not have any substantive effect on the rule.

Nasdaq further believes that the change does not impose any significant burden on competition because the change does not impact the ability of any market participant or trading venue to compete, but rather is intended to clarify existing rule language.

Furthermore, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii)\(^\text{14}\) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file a proposed rule change under that


\(^{13}\) 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

subsection at least five business days prior to the date of filing, or such shorter time as
designated by the Commission. The Exchange has provided such notice.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the
Commission summarily may temporarily suspend 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. If the
Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine
whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

A proposed rule change filed under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) normally does not become
operative prior to 30 days after the date of filing. Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii), however, permits
the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection
of investors and the public interest. The Exchange requests that the Commission waive
the 30-day operative delay contained in Rule 19b-4(f)(6)(iii) so that Rule 5635(d)(1)(A)
may be amended to reflect the Exchange’s original intent and reduce potential confusion
for companies and investors.

or of the Commission
Not applicable.

9. Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act
Not applicable.

10. Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and
Settlement Supervision Act
Not applicable.

11. Exhibits

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Clarify Rule 5635(d)(1)(A)

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on January 14, 2020, The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III, below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

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

The Exchange proposes to clarify Rule 5635(d)(1)(A) without changing its substance.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s Website at http://nasdaq.cchwallstreet.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

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

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

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

1. **Purpose**

On September 26, 2018, the Exchange amended Rule 5635(d)(1)(A) to change the definition of market value for purposes of the shareholder approval rule and eliminate the requirement for shareholder approval of issuances at a price less than book value but greater than market value (the “Amendment”).³ As revised, Rule 5635(d) requires a Nasdaq-listed company to obtain shareholder approval prior to the issuance of securities in connection with a transaction other than a public offering⁴ involving the sale, issuance or potential issuance by the company of common stock (or securities convertible into or exercisable for common stock), which alone or together with sales by officers, directors or Substantial Shareholders⁵ of the company, equals 20% or more of the common stock

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⁴ See Nasdaq Rule IM–5635–3 (Definition of a Public Offering).

⁵ An interest consisting of less than either 5% of the number of shares of common stock or 5% of the voting power outstanding of a Company or party will not be considered a substantial interest or cause the holder of such interest to be regarded as a “Substantial Shareholder.” See Nasdaq Rule 5635(e)(3).
or 20% or more of the voting power outstanding before the issuance (a “20% Issuance”) at a price that is less than the Minimum Price. Rule 5635(d)(1)(A) defines “Minimum Price” as a price that is the lower of: (i) the closing price (as reflected on Nasdaq.com) immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement; or (ii) the average closing price of the common stock (as reflected on Nasdaq.com) for the five trading days immediately preceding the signing of the binding agreement.

Prior to the Amendment, shareholder approval was required for a 20% Issuance at a price less than the greater of book or market value. In the Exchange’s proposal to use the closing price reported on Nasdaq.com, rather than the market value, the Exchange explained that “[t]he closing price reported on Nasdaq.com is the Nasdaq Official Closing Price, which is derived from the closing auction on Nasdaq and reflects actual sale prices at one of the most liquid times of the day.” At the time, Nasdaq believed that “codify[ing] within the rule that Nasdaq.com is the appropriate source of the closing price information” would “assure that companies and investors use the Nasdaq Official Closing Price when pricing transactions.” However, Rule 5635(d)(1)(A) does not specify that the closing price refers to the Nasdaq Official Closing Price, which may create confusion. Nasdaq proposes to amend Rule 5635(d)(1)(A) to revise “closing price (as reflected on

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6 “Market value” is defined in Nasdaq Rule 5005(a)(23) as the consolidated closing bid price multiplied by the measure to be valued (e.g., a company’s market value of publicly held shares is equal to the consolidated closing bid price multiplied by a company’s publicly held shares). See Nasdaq Rule 5005(a)(23).

7 See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 82702 (February 13, 2018), 83 FR 7269 (February 20, 2018) at 7270. See also Approval Order at 49602 (“the proposal to use the Nasdaq Official Closing Price for purposes of market value should help to ensure transparency to investors in calculating market value for purposes of the rule.”).

8 Id.
Nasdaq.com)’” to “Nasdaq Official Closing Price (as reflected on Nasdaq.com).” The Exchange believes that this change will reflect the Exchange’s original intention in adopting the Amendment.

2. **Statutory Basis**

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act, in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general to protect investors and the public interest, by eliminating potential confusion and enhancing clarity and transparency in its rules. The proposal is consistent with the Exchange’s original intent as approved by the Commission and does not have any substantive effect on the rule.

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

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed change is designed to more clearly describe the current operation and

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9 See Nasdaq Rule 4754(b)(4) (“All orders executed in the Nasdaq Closing Cross will be executed at the Nasdaq Closing Cross price, trade reported anonymously, and disseminated via the consolidated tape. The Nasdaq Closing Cross price will be the Nasdaq Official Closing Price for stocks that participate in the Nasdaq Closing Cross. Fifteen minutes after the close of trading, Nasdaq will disseminate via the network processor a trade message setting the Nasdaq Official Closing Price as the official Consolidated Last Sale Price in each Nasdaq-listed security in which one round lot or more is executed in the Nasdaq Closing Cross where the closing price differs from the Consolidated Last Sale Price.”).


original intent of an existing rule without changing its substance and, therefore, Nasdaq believes that the proposed change will not impose a burden on competition.

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

No written comments were either solicited or received.

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)(iii) of the Act\(^\text{12}\) and subparagraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.\(^\text{13}\)

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend 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. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

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\(^{13}\) 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.
IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission’s Internet comment form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2020-004 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2020-004. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission’s Internet Web site (http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml).

Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission’s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Copies of the filing
also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASDAQ-2020-004 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.14

Jill M. Peterson
Assistant Secretary