

March 19, 2014

Via Electronic Submission: <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>

Elizabeth M. Murphy Secretary U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission 100 F Street, NE Washington, DC 20549-1090

Re: File Number SR-FINRA-2014-008, Proposed Rule Change Relating to Protecting Personal Confidential Information in Documents Filed with FINRA Dispute Resolution

Dear Ms. Murphy:

We have reviewed the proposed rule change to amend the Customer and Industry Code of Arbitration Procedure, announced in File Number SR-FINRA-2014-008 and currently out for comment until 3/21/14. We write to bring your attention to some ambiguities in the deadlines to correct deficiencies and to refile documents with FINRA.

Proposed Rules 12307(c) and 13307(c) provide:

The Director will notify the party making the counterclaim, cross claim or third party claim of any deficiencies in writing. If the deficiency is corrected within 30 days, the counterclaim, cross claim or third party claim will be considered filed on the date the initial counterclaim, cross claim or third party claim was filed with the Director. If all deficiencies are not corrected within 30 days from the time the party making the counterclaim, cross claim or third party claim receives notice of the deficiency, the panel will proceed with the arbitration as though the deficient counterclaim, cross claim or third party claim had not been made. [Emphasis added.]

As proposed, it is unclear what event triggers the 30-day deadline for the deficiency to be corrected in order to be considered filed on the date the initial claim was filed. Is the triggering event the date of the Director's written notice of the deficiencies (referenced in the preceding sentence)? Or is it the date of the party's receipt of the notice (referenced in the following sentence)?

We suggest that the final rule be changed to clarify this issue. For example, if the Commission intended to reference the same 30-day deadline throughout the Rule,

perhaps the Rule could be revised as follows (proposed new language is underlined; proposed deletions are in brackets):

The Director will notify the party making the counterclaim, cross claim or third party claim of any deficiencies in writing. If the deficiency is corrected within 30 days from the time the party receives the written notice of the deficiency, the counterclaim, cross claim or third party claim will be considered filed on the date the initial counterclaim, cross claim or third party claim was filed with the Director. If all deficiencies are not corrected within 30 days [from the time the party making the counterclaim, cross claim or third party claim receives notice of the deficiency], the panel will proceed with the arbitration as though the deficient counterclaim, cross claim or third party claim had not been made.

Similarly, Proposed Rules 12300(g)(1) and 13300(g)(1) provide in part: "If a party files with FINRA any document not covered by Rule [12307/13307], that contains full numbers as referenced above, FINRA will deem the filing improper and will request that the party refile the document within 30 days." [Emphasis added.]

Again, it is somewhat unclear what event triggers the 30-day deadline for the party to refile the document. Is it 30 days from the date FINRA deems the filing improper, 30 days from the request, or should it be 30 days from the time the party receives notice to refile the document (similar to Rules 12307(c) and 13307(c))?

Aderant CompuLaw is a software-based court rules publisher providing deadline information to many law firms practicing before FINRA. These firms use our software to calendar deadlines based on the rules. Thus, this issue is very important to us.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Kara Cain, Esq.

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