

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-88277; File No. SR-FICC-2020-001)

February 25, 2020

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Fixed Income Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Adopt the Interpretive Guidance With Respect to Settlement Finality

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 February 13, 2020, Fixed Income Clearing Corporation (“FICC”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II and III below, which Items have been prepared primarily by the clearing agency. FICC filed the proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)³ of the Act and subparagraph (f)(1)⁴ of Rule 19b-4 thereunder. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Clearing Agency’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The proposed rule change of Fixed Income Clearing Corporation (“FICC”) is annexed [sic] hereto as Exhibit 5. The proposed rule change would amend the FICC Government Securities Division (“GSD”) Rulebook (the “GSD Rules”) and the FICC Mortgage-Backed Securities Division (“MBSD”) Clearing Rules (“MBSD Rules” and collectively with the GSD Rules, the “Rules”) in order to adopt the Interpretive Guidance

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(1).

with respect to Settlement Finality (“Interpretive Guidance”), which would provide greater transparency to FICC Members regarding settlement finality in the Rules, as described in greater detail below.⁵

II. Clearing Agency’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the clearing agency 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 clearing agency has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

(A) Clearing Agency’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

(1) Purpose

The proposed rule change would add the Interpretive Guidance into the Rules, which would provide greater transparency to FICC Members relating to settlement finality in the Rules.

(i) Background

FICC is a clearing agency registered with, and under the supervision of, the Commission and it is a “covered clearing agency” under the Commission’s Standards for

⁵ Capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined shall have the meaning assigned to such terms in the GSD Rules or the MBSD Rules, as applicable, available at <http://www.dtcc.com/legal/rules-and-procedures>.

Covered Clearing Agencies.⁶ Rule 17Ad-22(e)(8) of the Act requires FICC to establish, implement, maintain and enforce written policies and procedures reasonably designed to define the point at which settlement is final to be no later than the end of the day on which the payment or obligation is due and, where necessary or appropriate, intraday or in real time.⁷ It is FICC's policy to ensure that the point of settlement finality is defined in the Rules in compliance with Rule 17Ad-22(e)(8) of the Act and that the point of settlement finality is transparent to FICC's Members. The proposed rule change would add the Interpretive Guidance to the Rules to provide greater transparency regarding settlement finality in the Rules.

A. *FICC Money and Securities Settlement*

Through GSD, FICC processes two types of settlements: (1) the funds-only settlement process that consists of the transfer of cash for (a) changes in the value of securities when they are marked to market, (b) cash adjustments related to securities trades, (c) the pass-through of coupon payments for term repurchase agreements ("repos") or trade obligations that cross a coupon date, and (d) other items, such as billing invoices and (2) the settlement process associated with securities deliveries and related payment obligations.

Through MBSD, FICC processes two types of settlements: (1) the cash settlement process that that consists of the transfer of cash for (a) the TBA Transaction Adjustment Payment, (b) Net Pool Transaction Adjustment Payment, (c) principal and interest

⁶ See Standards for Covered Clearing Agencies, Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78961, 81 Fed. Reg. 70786 (Oct. 13, 2016).

⁷ 17 CFR 240.17Ad-22(e)(8).

payments for failing net pool settlement obligations (to the extent that they are not handled by the Fedwire Securities Service Automated Claims Adjustment Process), and (d) other items, such as Factor Update Adjustments, CPR Claim payments and billing invoices and (2) the settlement associated with securities deliveries and related payment obligations.

B. *Point of Settlement Finality for GSD Funds-Only Settlement and MBSD Cash Settlement*

1. *Funds-Only/Cash Settlement Processes*

GSD funds-only settlement and MBSD cash settlement are governed by GSD Rule 13 and MBSD Rule 11, respectively,⁸ which require the settling banks to use the FRB's⁹ National Settlement Service ("NSS")¹⁰ to complete GSD funds-only settlement and MBSD cash settlement.¹¹

GSD funds-only settlement and MBSD cash settlement are each a daily process of generating a net credit or debit cash amount for each Member and settling those cash amounts between Members and FICC. The GSD funds-only settlement and MBSD cash

⁸ GSD Rule 13 and MBSD Rule 11, supra note 5.

⁹ FRB means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and each Federal Reserve Bank, as appropriate. GSD Rule 1 and MBSD Rule 1, supra note 5.

¹⁰ NSS is a multilateral settlement service owned and operated by the FRB. The service is offered to depository institutions that settle for participants in clearinghouses, financial exchanges and other clearing and settlement groups. Settlement agents, acting on behalf of those depository institutions in a settlement arrangement, electronically submit settlement files to the FRB. Files are processed on receipt, and entries are automatically posted to the depository institutions' FRB accounts.

¹¹ GSD Rule 13, Section 5(i) and MBSD Rule 11, Section 9(i), supra note 5.

settlement processes are primarily cash pass-through processes; i.e., those Members that are in a net debit position are obligated to submit payments that are then used to pay Members in a net credit position.¹² Net debits and credits of all Members using the same settling bank are further netted and reported¹³ to the settling bank which is required to acknowledge the net-net debits or credits.¹⁴ The settling banks then debit or credit the Members' accounts for which they settle.¹⁵

FICC has a settlement interface with its affiliate, The Depository Trust Company ("DTC"). DTC acts as Settlement Agent for FICC and for the Members' settling banks with respect to GSD funds-only settlement and MBSD cash settlement.¹⁶ In submitting the NSS file, DTC, as Settlement Agent, submits instructions to cause the FRB accounts of the settling banks to be charged for their net-net debit balances and credited with their net-net credit balances. Members are required to engage a settling bank that meets FICC's settling bank limited membership criteria to effect money settlement via NSS on

¹² Certain amounts, such as billing amounts owed by Members to FICC, are credited and paid to FICC through the funds-only/cash settlement processes rather than passed on to other Members.

¹³ GSD Rule 13, Sections 2 and 5(a) and MBSD Rule 11, Section 9(a), supra note 5.

¹⁴ GSD Rule 13, Section 5(b) and MBSD Rule 11, Section 9(b), supra note 5.

¹⁵ Each Member is required to enter into a settling bank agreement with the settling bank that settles its account. GSD Rule 13, Section 4 and MBSD Rule 3A, Section (a), supra note 5. In the settling bank agreement, the settling bank undertakes to perform settlement services on behalf of the Member which would include debiting or crediting the Member's account upon settlement.

¹⁶ GSD Rule 13, Section 5(h) and MBSD Rule 11, Section 9(h), supra note 5.

behalf of the Members.¹⁷ Each settling bank is required to acknowledge the daily settlement balances and their intention to settle with FICC by the applicable deadlines or its refusal to settle by the applicable deadlines.¹⁸ Once a settling bank has acknowledged the balances and its intention to settle, it must settle such amounts pursuant to the process set forth in the Rules by the payment deadline established by FICC on FICC's posted time schedules.¹⁹

FICC processes GSD funds-only settlement debit and credit payments via the NSS twice daily at 10:00 a.m. and 3:15 p.m.²⁰ FICC processes MBSD cash settlement debits via NSS in the morning at 10:00 a.m. daily and settlement credits via NSS in the afternoon at 2:45 p.m. daily.²¹

2. *Interpretive Guidance With Respect to Settlement Finality – Funds-Only/Cash Settlement*

The point of finality for GSD funds-only settlement and MBSD cash settlement is defined by the Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circular 12,²² which governs NSS processing by the FRB. FICC and each Member's settling bank is a "Settler" and together are in a "Settlement Arrangement" (each term as defined in Operating Circular

¹⁷ GSD Rule 13, Section 4(a) and MBSD Rule 3A, Section (a), supra note 5.

¹⁸ GSD Rule 13, Section 5(b) and MBSD Rule 11, Section 9(b), supra note 5.

¹⁹ GSD Rule 13, Section 5(g) and MBSD Rule 11, Section 9(g), supra note 5.

²⁰ Schedule of Timeframes in the GSD Rules, supra note 5.

²¹ The schedule of funds only settlement for MBSD is posted on its website at <http://www.dtcc.com>. See MBSD Rule 11, Section 9(g), supra note 5.

²² Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circular 12 (Multilateral Settlement), Effective June 30, 2016 ("Operating Circular 12"), available at <https://www.frbservices.org>.

12) for purposes of GSD funds-only settlement and MBSD cash settlement.²³ DTC, as the Settlement Agent (as defined in the Rules and in Operating Circular 12), provides the Settlement File (as defined in Operating Circular 12) to the FRB. Each Settler maintains a Master Account (as defined in Operating Circular 12) with the FRB.²⁴ The point of finality in accordance with Operating Circular 12 is, for debits, the time at which the Settler's Master Account is debited by the FRB,²⁵ and, for credits, the time at which the Settler's Master Account is credited by the FRB.²⁶

Therefore, the point of finality with respect to settlement for GSD funds-only settlement and MBSD cash settlement is the point at which each of the Master Accounts for FICC and the settling banks designated by each of the Members have been debited

²³ For purposes of Operating Circular 12, the following definitions apply:

“**Balance**” means the amount listed on a Settlement File that a Settler owes (debit Balance) or is due (credit Balance) as a result of the clearing activities of the Settlement Arrangement.

“**Master Account**” means the Master Account (as that term is defined in the Reserve Banks’ Operating Circular 1, Account Relationships) of a Settler on the books of a Reserve Bank.

“**Settler**” means an entity that has established an account with a Reserve Bank and settles its own Balances, settles Balances for the account of another Participant, or both.

“**Settlement Agent**” means the entity authorized to act on behalf of the Settlers under Operating Circular 12.

“**Settlement File**” means the instructions submitted by a Settlement Agent showing the debit and credit Balances of the Settlers.

See Section 1.2 of Operating Circular 12, supra note 22. See also Federal Reserve Banks Operating Circular 1 (Account Relationships), Effective February 1, 2013, available at <https://www.frbservices.org>.

²⁴ See id.

²⁵ See Section 5.4 of Operating Circular 12, supra note 22.

²⁶ See Section 5.6 of Operating Circular 12, supra note 22.

and credited through NSS pursuant to the Settlement File provided by the Settlement Agent.

C. *Point of Finality for GSD and MBSD Settlement of Securities Deliveries and Related Payment Obligations*

1. *Securities Settlement Processes*

(a) *GSD Securities Settlement/MBSD Securities Settlement*

GSD and MBSD settlement for securities deliveries and related payment obligations (other than GCF Repo Transactions and CCIT Transactions) are governed by GSD Rule 12 and MBSD Rule 9, respectively.²⁷ Settlement for securities deliveries and related payment obligations occurs on a delivery-versus-payment basis on the books of FICC’s clearing bank²⁸ or via Fedwire Securities Service (“Fedwire”).²⁹

FICC designates a clearing bank to act on its behalf in the delivery and receipt of securities to or from the Members for securities settlement.³⁰ FICC shall notify each GSD Member and MBSD Member, as applicable, of the clearing bank or banks that FICC will use to deliver eligible securities to Members and to receive eligible securities from Members, and by product, the types of securities that each such clearing bank will

²⁷ GSD Rule 12 and MBSD Rule 9, *supra* note 5.

²⁸ FICC currently uses The Bank of New York Mellon (“BNY Mellon”) as its clearing bank for this purpose.

²⁹ Fedwire Securities Service is an electronic securities service owned and operated by the FRB that provides issuance, maintenance, transfer and settlement services for all marketable U.S. Treasury securities, as well as certain securities issued by other federal government agencies, government-sponsored enterprises and international organizations. See <https://frbsecurities.org/financial-services/securities/index.html>.

³⁰ GSD Rule 12, Section 2 and MBSD Rule 9, Section 2, *supra* note 5.

so deliver and receive.³¹ In turn, each Member (prior to activating its membership) must notify FICC of the clearing bank or banks that the Member has designated to act on its behalf in the delivery and receipt of securities to or from FICC.³² Such designation is subject to FICC's determination that such clearing bank (a) has and will maintain access to Fedwire, (b) has and will maintain the operational capability to interact satisfactorily with the clearing banks that act on behalf of FICC, and (c) has agreed to act on behalf of such Member in accordance with the Rules.³³

If the Member's designated clearing bank for securities settlement is the same as FICC's clearing bank, obligations for securities deliveries and related payment obligations will be settled for a Member on the books of FICC's designated clearing bank. If the Member's designated clearing bank is not the same as FICC's clearing bank, obligations for securities deliveries and related payment obligations will be settled between the clearing banks using Fedwire. All deliveries are made against full payment.³⁴

(b) *GCF Repo® Service and the CCIT Service Settlement*

Settlement for securities deliveries and related payment obligations relating to the GCF Repo® Service and the CCIT Service are governed by GSD Rule 20 and GSD Rule

³¹ Id.

³² Id.

³³ Id.

³⁴ GSD Rule 12, Section 1 and MBSD Rule 9, Section 1, supra note 5.

3B.³⁵ FICC and each Member settling transactions through the GCF Repo Service and CCIT Service maintain accounts at FICC’s designated clearing bank for settlement of securities deliveries and related payment obligations with respect to the GCF Repo Service and the CCIT Service.³⁶ Settlement for securities deliveries and related payment obligations³⁷ for the GCF Repo Service and the CCIT Service occurs on the books of FICC’s designated clearing bank.³⁸

2. *Interpretive Guidance With Respect to Settlement Finality – Settlement for Securities Deliveries and Related Payment Obligations*

Settlement for securities deliveries and related payment obligations occurs (i) on the books of FICC’s designated clearing bank for each Member whose designated

³⁵ The GCF Repo service is primarily governed by GSD Rule 20 and enables Netting Members to trade general collateral finance repurchase agreement transactions based on rate, term, and underlying product throughout the day with brokers on a blind basis. GSD Rule 20, supra note 5. The CCIT Service is governed by GSD Rule 3B and enables tri-party repurchase agreement transactions in GCF Repo Securities between Netting Members that participate in the GCF Repo Service and institutional cash lenders (other than investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended). GSD Rule 3B, supra note 5. Section 11 of GSD Rule 3B provides that GSD Rule 20 shall apply to the netting and settlement obligations of FICC and each party to a CCIT Transaction in the same way in which such provisions apply to GCF Repo Transactions. GSD Rule 3B, Section 11, supra note 5.

³⁶ See GSD Rule 3B, Section 9(b), supra note 5 (requiring each CCIT Member to maintain two accounts at the GCF Clearing Agent Bank, one of which, the CCIT Account, is for the CCIT Member’s activity in respect of CCIT Transactions).

³⁷ GSD Rule 3B, Section 13 provides that certain payment obligations relating to CCIT Transactions are processed pursuant to GSD funds-only settlement described in Item II.(A)(1)(i)B. above. See GSD Rule 3B, Section 13, supra note 5.

³⁸ The clearing bank for this purpose is defined as the GCF Clearing Agent Bank. See GSD Rule 3B and GSD Rule 20, supra note 5. FICC currently uses BNY Mellon as the GCF Clearing Agent Bank.

clearing bank for such settlement is the same as FICC's designated clearing bank and (ii) through the Fedwire system, for each Member whose designated clearing bank for such settlement is not the same as FICC's designated clearing bank.

(a) Point of Finality on the Books of FICC's Clearing Bank

The point of finality relating to settlement of securities deliveries and related payment obligations that occurs on the books of FICC's clearing bank is the point at which FICC's clearing bank has acted upon a settlement instruction from FICC.

Pursuant to the agreement between FICC and FICC's clearing bank, a settlement instruction is an instruction by FICC to the clearing bank in respect of settlement that:

(1)(a) instructs the clearing bank to direct delivery, from the FICC account to the Member account(s) designated in such settlement instruction, of securities specified for each such Member account and (b) specifies the dollar amounts that the clearing bank is simultaneously to take collection of from each of the respective Member accounts designated in the settlement instruction for the FICC account; or (2)(a) instructs the clearing bank to direct payment, from the FICC account to the designated Member account(s), of the dollar amounts specified in the settlement instruction for each such Member account and (b) specifies the securities that the clearing bank is simultaneously to take receipt of from each of the Member accounts designated in the settlement instruction for the FICC account.

FICC's clearing bank has acted upon such instructions when the clearing bank (i)(a) directs delivery, from the FICC account to the Member account(s) designated in such settlement instruction, of securities specified for each such Member account and (b) simultaneously collects the dollar amounts from each of the respective Member accounts

designated in the settlement instruction for the FICC account; or (ii)(a) directs payment, from the FICC account to the designated Member account(s), of the dollar amounts specified in the settlement instruction for each such Member account and (b) simultaneously takes receipt of securities from each of the Member accounts designated in the settlement instruction for the FICC account.

Therefore, the point of finality of settlement of securities deliveries and related payment obligations that occur on the books of FICC's clearing bank is when each of the accounts held by FICC and the Members at the clearing bank for purposes of securities settlement have been debited and credited in accordance with the settlement instructions provided by FICC.

(b) Point of Finality on the Fedwire System

The point of finality relating to settlement of securities deliveries and related payment obligations that occurs through the Fedwire system is defined by the Federal Reserve Banks Operating Circular No. 7,³⁹ which governs book entry security account maintenance and transfers. FICC's clearing bank and each Member's clearing bank is a "Participant" and maintains a "Securities Account" and a "Master Account" with the FRB (each term as defined in Operating Circular 7).⁴⁰ Operating Circular 7 states that

³⁹ Federal Reserve Banks Operating Circular 7 (Book-Entry Securities Account Maintenance and Transfer Services), Effective October 29, 2017 ("Operating Circular 7"), available at <https://www.frbservices.org>.

⁴⁰ For purposes of Operating Circular 7, the following definitions apply:

"Book-Entry Security" means a marketable security issued in electronic form by the United States Government (the "Treasury"), any agency or instrumentality thereof, certain international organizations, or others, that the Reserve Banks have determined is eligible to be held in a Securities Account and is eligible for Transfer.

"Free Transfer" means a Transfer that does not involve any credit or debit to a

“[u]nless a Transfer is rejected in accordance with this Circular, all debits and credits in connection with a Transfer become final at the time the debits and credits are posted to the Sender’s and Receiver’s Securities Accounts and, in case of Transfer Against Payment, their corresponding Master Accounts.”⁴¹ For purposes of settlement of securities deliveries and related payment obligations, the clearing banks designated by FICC and each Member to deliver and receive securities and related funds on behalf of

Master Account other than a transaction fee.

“**Master Account**” means a “Master Account” (as defined in the Reserve Banks’ Operating Circular 1, Account Relationships) on the books of a Reserve Bank. A Master Account is a Funds Account for purposes of the regulations listed in Appendix A of Operating Circular 7. A Master Account does not contain Book-Entry Securities.

“**Participant**” means an entity that maintains a Securities Account with a Reserve Bank in the entity’s name.

“**Receiver**” means the Participant receiving a Book-Entry Security as a result of a Transfer.

“**Securities Account**” means an account at a Reserve Bank containing Book-Entry Securities.

“**Sender**” means the Participant sending a Transfer Message.

“**Transfer**” means the electronic movement over the Fedwire® Securities Service of a par amount of Book-Entry Securities by debit to the designated Securities Account of the Sender and by credit to the designated Securities Account of the Receiver, or by debit to one Securities Account of a Participant and credit to another Securities Account of that same Participant, in which case that Participant is both a Sender and a Receiver. A Transfer is either a Free Transfer or a Transfer Against Payment.

“**Transfer Against Payment**” means a Transfer that is effected with a credit to the Master Account of the Sender and a debit to the Master Account of the Receiver, for the amount of the payment.

“**Transfer Message**” means an instruction of a Participant to a Reserve Bank to effect a Transfer.

See Operating Agreement Circular 7, Section 3.0, supra note 39.

⁴¹ Operating Circular 7, Section 9.1.1, supra note 39. Capitalized terms are defined as set forth in Operating Circular 7. See supra note 40.

FICC and each Member, respectively, are the Senders and Receivers described in Operating Circular 7. Therefore, the point of finality of settlement of securities deliveries and related payment obligations is when each of the Securities Accounts and the Master Accounts of the clearing banks designated by FICC and each of the Members have been debited and credited through the Fedwire system in accordance with the settlement instructions provided by FICC.⁴²

(ii) Description of the Proposed Rule Change

In order to provide Members greater transparency regarding settlement finality, FICC is proposing to amend the Rules to include the Interpretive Guidance. The Interpretive Guidance would describe settlement finality as set forth above in Items II.(A)(1)(i)B.2. and II.(A)(1)(i)C.2. above.

(2) Statutory Basis

Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act⁴³ requires, in part, that the Rules be designed to promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions. The proposed rule change would provide additional transparency to FICC Members regarding settlement finality with respect to securities transactions processed through FICC.

Accordingly, the proposed rule change would ensure that the Rules are transparent and clear, which would enable all stakeholders to readily understand their respective rights

⁴² Each Business Day, FICC makes available to each Member a Report that provides settlement information that FICC deems sufficient to enable each such Member to be able to settle its securities deliveries and related payment obligations and each Member is obligated to provide the appropriate instructions to its clearing bank to deliver and/or receive securities and related payments as set forth in the Report. GSD Rule 12, Section 3 and MBSD Rule 9, Section 3, supra note 5.

⁴³ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).

and obligations in connection with FICC's clearance and settlement of securities transactions. Therefore, FICC believes that the proposed rule change would promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions, consistent with Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act.⁴⁴

Rule 17Ad-22(e)(8) under the Act⁴⁵ requires FICC to establish, implement, maintain and enforce written policies and procedures reasonably designed to define the point at which settlement is final to be no later than the end of the day on which the payment or obligation is due and, where necessary or appropriate, intraday or in real time. The proposed rule change to add the Interpretive Guidance would enhance the transparency with respect to the point at which settlement is final with respect to transactions processed through FICC. Having clear provisions in this regard would enable FICC Members to better identify the point at which settlement is final with respect to their cash and securities transactions. As such, FICC believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Rule 17Ad-22(e)(8) of the Act.⁴⁶

(B) Clearing Agency's Statement on Burden on Competition

FICC does not believe that the proposed rule change would impact competition.⁴⁷ The proposed rule change would provide interpretive guidance with respect to settlement finality relating to transactions processed through FICC. The proposed rule change would not change current practices of FICC and would not affect FICC Members' rights

⁴⁴ Id.

⁴⁵ 17 CFR 240.17Ad-22(e)(8).

⁴⁶ Id.

⁴⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(I).

or obligations. As such, FICC believes that the proposed rule change would not impact FICC Members or have any impact on competition.

(C) Clearing Agency's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

FICC has not received or solicited any written comments relating to this proposal.

FICC will notify the Commission of any written comments received by FICC.

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

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)⁴⁸ of the Act and paragraph (f)⁴⁹ of Rule 19b-4 thereunder. 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.

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

⁴⁸ 15 U.S.C 78s(b)(3)(A).

⁴⁹ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-FICC-2020-001 on the subject line.

Paper Comments:

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

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FICC-2020-001. 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 website (<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 FICC and on DTCC's website (<http://dtcc.com/legal/sec-rule-filings.aspx>). All comments received will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make

available publicly. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FICC-2020-001 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.⁵⁰

J. Matthew DeLesDernier
Assistant Secretary

⁵⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).