

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-101955; File No. SR-FICC-2024-013)

December 18, 2024

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Fixed Income Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change to Modify the Clearing Agency Operational Risk Management Framework

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 December 11, 2024, 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 by the clearing agency. FICC filed the proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(4) thereunder.⁴ 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 consists of amendments to the Clearing Agency Operational Risk Management Framework (“ORM Framework” or “Framework”) of FICC and its affiliates National Securities Clearing Corporation (“NSCC”) and The Depository Trust Company (“DTC,” and together with NSCC and FICC, the “Clearing

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)(4).

Agencies”) in order to reflect recent changes to group names and make other nonmaterial clarifying edits.

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 Clearing Agencies adopted the ORM Framework⁵ to provide an outline for how each of the Clearing Agencies manages its operational risks. In this way, the Framework supports the Clearing Agencies’ compliance with Rule 17ad-22(e)(17) under the Act,⁶ as described in the Initial Filing. In addition to setting forth the way each of the Clearing Agencies addresses these requirements, the ORM Framework also contains a section titled “Framework Ownership and Change Management” that, among other matters, describes the Framework ownership and the required governance process for review and approval of changes to the Framework.

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 81745 (Sept. 28, 2017), 82 FR 46332 (Oct. 4, 2017) (SR-DTC-2017-014; SR-NSCC-2017-013; SR-FICC-2017-017) (“Initial Filing”).

⁶ 17 CFR 240.17ad-22(e)(17).

In connection with the annual review and approval of the Framework by the Board of Directors of each of the Clearing Agencies, the Clearing Agencies are proposing to make certain revisions to the Framework. Such proposed changes would include updating the ORM Framework to reflect recent changes to group names and making other nonmaterial clarifying edits. The proposed changes are described in greater detail below.

i. Proposed Amendments to Update Organizational Name Changes

The Framework is owned and managed by an officer within the Operational Risk group within the Group Chief Risk Office of DTCC,⁷ who works with the Technology Risk Management group within the Group Chief Risk Office in administration of the Framework. The Technology Risk Management group's name has changed to the Cyber Security & Technology Risk Management group. The proposed changes to the Framework would reflect the recent organizational name change.

ii. Proposed Changes to Make Nonmaterial Clarifying Edits

The proposed rule change would make additional immaterial edits to the Framework that include (a) the removal of a defined term not used in the Framework and therefore unnecessary, and (b) adding additional context in Section 6 related to data centers. The proposed changes to Section 6 add context around data centers, specifically the out-of-region centers, to allow for greater understanding of configurations, parameters, and limitations. This proposed change also provides consistency across the Clearing Agencies disclosures. These immaterial changes do not alter how the Clearing

⁷ The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation ("DTCC") is the parent company of the Clearing Agencies.

Agencies comply with the applicable requirements of Rule 17ad-22(e)(17) under the Act.⁸

2. Statutory Basis

The Clearing Agencies believe that the proposed changes are consistent with Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act⁹ for the reasons described below.

Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act requires, in part, that the rules of a registered clearing agency be designed to promote the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions, and to assure the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in the custody or control of the clearing agency or for which it is responsible.¹⁰ The proposed changes to update the ORM Framework to reflect recent changes to group names and making other nonmaterial clarifying edits would update and clarify the Framework and would make it more comprehensive in how it describes the methods and tools currently used by the Clearing Agencies to manage operational risks and therefore comply with Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act.¹¹ By creating clearer, updated and more comprehensive descriptions, the Clearing Agencies believe the proposed changes would make the ORM Framework more effective in providing an overview of the important risk management activities described therein. Therefore, the Clearing Agencies believe that

⁸ 17 CFR 240.17ad-22(e)(17).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).

¹⁰ Id.

¹¹ Id.

the proposed changes are consistent with the requirements of Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Act.¹²

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

The Clearing Agencies do not believe that the proposed changes to the ORM Framework described above would have any impact, or impose any burden, on competition. The proposed changes would enhance the Framework by providing additional clarity and accuracy concerning the Clearing Agencies' operational risk management processes. The proposed changes to the Framework would not advantage or disadvantage any participant or user of the Clearing Agencies' services or unfairly inhibit access to the Clearing Agencies' services. As such, the Clearing Agencies do not believe that the proposed rule changes would have any impact on competition.

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

The Clearing Agencies have not received or solicited any written comments relating to this proposal. If any written comments are received, they will be publicly filed as an Exhibit 2 to this filing, as required by Form 19b-4 and the General Instructions thereto.

Persons submitting comments are cautioned that, according to Section IV (Solicitation of Comments) of the Exhibit 1A in the General Instructions to Form 19b-4, the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. Commenters should submit only information that they wish to make

¹² Id.

available publicly, including their name, email address, and any other identifying information.

All prospective commenters should follow the Commission's instructions on how to submit comments, available at <https://www.sec.gov/regulatory-actions/how-to-submitcomments>. General questions regarding the rule filing process or logistical questions regarding this filing should be directed to the Main Office of the Commission's Division of Trading and Markets at tradingandmarkets@sec.gov or 202-551-5777.

The Clearing Agencies reserve the right to not respond to any comments received.

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)¹³ of the Act and paragraph (f)¹⁴ 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:

¹³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

¹⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f).

Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-FICC-2024-013 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-2024-013. 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 (<https://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 (dtcc.com/legal/sec-rule-filings). Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold

entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to File Number SR-FICC-2024-013 and should be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁵

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,

Deputy Secretary.

¹⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).