

which may result in trading at a price that may not reflect their true market value.

Less liquid securities also may be more susceptible to price manipulation, as a relatively small amount of trading activity can have an inordinate effect on market prices. Price manipulation is a particular concern when insiders retain a significant ownership portion of the company. The risk of price manipulation due to insider trading is more acute when a company principally administers its business in a Restrictive Market and management lacks familiarity or experience with U.S. securities laws. Therefore, Nasdaq believes that it is not unfairly discriminatory to treat Restrictive Market Companies differently under this proposal because it will help ensure that securities of a Restrictive Market Company listed on Nasdaq have sufficient public float, investor base, and trading interest to provide the depth and liquidity necessary to promote fair and orderly markets, thereby promoting investor protection and the public interest.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule changes will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. While the proposed rule changes will apply only to companies primarily operating in Restrictive Markets, Nasdaq and the SEC have identified specific concerns with such companies that make the imposition of additional initial listing criteria on such companies appropriate to enhance investor protection, which is a central purpose of the Act. Any impact on competition, either among listed companies or between exchanges, is incidental to that purpose.

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

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the Exchange consents, the Commission shall: (a) By order approve or

disapprove such proposed rule change, or (b) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

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 email to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-NASDAQ-2020-027 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-2020-027. This file number should be included on the subject line if email 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 the Exchange. 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-NASDAQ-2020-027 and should be submitted on or before July 6, 2020.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁸

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-12685 Filed 6-11-20; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, 2020.

PLACE: The meeting will be held via remote means and/or at the Commission's headquarters, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549.

STATUS: This meeting will be closed to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Commissioners, Counsel to the Commissioners, the Secretary to the Commission, and recording secretaries will attend the closed meeting. Certain staff members who have an interest in the matters also may be present.

In the event that the time, date, or location of this meeting changes, an announcement of the change, along with the new time, date, and/or place of the meeting will be posted on the Commission's website at <https://www.sec.gov>.

The General Counsel of the Commission, or his designee, has certified that, in his opinion, one or more of the exemptions set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(3), (5), (6), (7), (8), 9(B) and (10) and 17 CFR 200.402(a)(3), (a)(5), (a)(6), (a)(7), (a)(8), (a)(9)(ii) and (a)(10), permit consideration of the scheduled matters at the closed meeting.

The subject matter of the closed meeting will consist of the following topic:

Institution and settlement of injunctive actions;

Institution and settlement of administrative proceedings;

Resolution of litigation claims; and

Other matters relating to enforcement proceedings.

At times, changes in Commission priorities require alterations in the scheduling of meeting agenda items that may consist of adjudicatory, examination, litigation, or regulatory matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For further information; please contact Vanessa A. Countryman from the Office of the Secretary at (202) 551-5400.

²⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

Dated: June 10, 2020.

Vanessa A. Countryman,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020–12888 Filed 6–10–20; 4:15 pm]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–89028; File No. SR–NASDAQ–2020–026]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change To Adopt a New Requirement Related to the Qualification of Management for Companies From Restrictive Markets

June 8, 2020.

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 May 29, 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 and II 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 adopt a new requirement related to the qualification of management for certain companies.

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.

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

Under federal securities laws, a company’s management is responsible for preparing financial statements and for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting.³ Nasdaq’s listing requirements include transparent quantitative criteria, which are based on the company’s financial statements and market information. They also impose disclosure obligations (along with applicable federal securities laws) and establish minimum corporate governance requirements, which are designed to protect investors and the public interest. A company’s management is also responsible for ensuring compliance with these listing requirements on an ongoing basis.⁴ For these reasons, Nasdaq believes that it is critically important for companies to have management that is familiar with these responsibilities, or an advisor to guide the company in fulfilling these obligations, in order to protect investors and the public interest.

Accordingly, Nasdaq has observed instances where it appears that management lacked familiarity with the requirements to be a Nasdaq-listed

public company in the U.S. or was otherwise unprepared for the rigors of operating as a public company. The risks arising from these situations are heightened when a company’s business is principally administered in a jurisdiction that has secrecy laws, blocking statutes, national security laws or other laws or regulations restricting access to information by regulators of U.S.-listed companies in such jurisdiction (a “Restrictive Market”).⁵

Accordingly, Nasdaq proposes to adopt a new listing standard in Rule 5210(c) to require that listing applicants from Restrictive Market countries have, and certify to Nasdaq that they will continue to have, a member of senior management or a director with relevant past employment experience at a U.S.-listed public company or other experience, training or background which results in the individual’s general familiarity with the regulatory and reporting requirements applicable to a U.S.-listed public company under Nasdaq rules and federal securities laws. Alternatively, in the absence of such an individual, the company could retain on an ongoing basis an advisor or advisors, acceptable to Nasdaq, that will provide such guidance to the company.

It is expected that the member of senior management, director or advisor would be a resource to the company on matters such as the Nasdaq corporate governance requirements, disclosure of material information, SEC reporting obligations including financial reporting obligations, internal controls over financial reporting, related party transactions, insider trading restrictions, whistleblower protections and investor communications. As such, Nasdaq expects this proposed requirement will heighten compliance by companies from Restrictive Markets and enhance investor protection. The proposed requirement is similar to the requirements of other global markets, which also include qualification requirements for management.⁶

³ See, e.g., SEC Chairman Jay Clayton, PCAOB Chairman William D. Duhnke III, SEC Chief Accountant Sagar Teotia, SEC Division of Corporation Finance Director William Hinman, SEC Division of Investment Management Director Dalia Blass, *Emerging Market Investments Entail Significant Disclosure, Financial Reporting and Other Risks; Remedies are Limited* (April 21, 2020), available at <https://www.sec.gov/news/public-statement/emerging-market-investments-disclosure-reporting> (“Emerging Market Risks Statement”) (“Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, including responsibility for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (“DCP”) and internal control over financial reporting (“ICFR”), and for maintaining accountability for the company’s assets, among other things . . . Management . . . must determine that the financial statements, and other financial information included in the report filed with the SEC, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the company.”) See also Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes Oxley Act, 15 U.S.C. 7262(b).

⁴ For example, Nasdaq Rules require prompt notification to Nasdaq after an executive officer of the company, or a person performing an equivalent role, becomes aware of any noncompliance with Nasdaq’s corporate governance requirements. Rule 5625. Similarly, SEC rules and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act impose a heightened obligation on the CEO and CFO of a public company, including the requirement to certify the company’s periodic financial statements. See, e.g., Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act, Public Law 107–204, 116 Stat. 745 (2002), and Rules 13a–14 and 15d–14 under the Act, 17 CFR 240.13a–14 and 240.15d–14. See also Section 906 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act.

⁵ See Emerging Market Risks Statement (“As a result, in many emerging markets, including China, there is substantially greater risk that disclosures will be incomplete or misleading and, in the event of investor harm, substantially less access to recourse, in comparison to U.S. domestic companies.”)

⁶ For example, the Toronto Stock Exchange requires management to have “adequate public company experience which demonstrates that they are able to satisfy all of their reporting and public company obligations.” See Section 311 of the TSX Company Manual. The Hong Kong Stock Exchange requires business experience and management continuity, which can achieve similar objectives to the proposed requirement. See Rule 8.05A of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange Main Board Listing Rules. Nasdaq’s main markets in the Nordics

Continued

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b–4.