

Securities and Exchange Commission

§ 240.11Ac1-6

or transactions, from any provision or provisions of this section, if the Commission determines that such exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, and is consistent with the protection of investors.

[65 FR 75436, Dec. 1, 2000]

§ 240.11Ac1-6 Disclosure of order routing information.

(a) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this section:

(1) The term *covered security* shall mean:

(i) Any national market system security and any other security for which a transaction report, last sale data or quotation information is disseminated through an automated quotation system as defined in Section 3(a)(51)(A)(ii) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(51)(A)(ii)); and

(ii) Any option contract traded on a national securities exchange for which last sale reports and quotation information are made available pursuant to an effective national market system plan.

(2) The term *customer order* shall mean an order to buy or sell a covered security that is not for the account of a broker or dealer, but shall not include any order for a quantity of a security having a market value of at least \$50,000 for a covered security that is an option contract and a market value of at least \$200,000 for any other covered security.

(3) The term *directed order* shall mean a customer order that the customer specifically instructed the broker or dealer to route to a particular venue for execution.

(4) The term *make publicly available* shall mean posting on an Internet web site that is free and readily accessible to the public, furnishing a written copy to customers on request without charge, and notifying customers at least annually in writing that a written copy will be furnished on request.

(5) The term *non-directed order* shall mean any customer order other than a directed order.

(6) The term *effective national market system plan* shall have the meaning provided in § 240.11Aa3-2(a)(2).

(7) The term *national market system security* shall have the meaning provided in § 240.11Aa2-1.

(8) The term *payment for order flow* shall have the meaning provided in § 240.10b-10(d)(9).

(9) The term *profit-sharing relationship* shall mean any ownership or other type of affiliation under which the broker or dealer, directly or indirectly, may share in any profits that may be derived from the execution of non-directed orders.

(10) The term *time of the transaction* shall have the meaning provided in § 240.10b-10(d)(3).

(b) *Quarterly report on order routing.*

(1) Every broker or dealer shall make publicly available for each calendar quarter a report on its routing of non-directed orders in covered securities during that quarter. For covered securities other than option contracts, such report shall be divided into three separate sections for securities that are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., securities that are qualified for inclusion in the Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc., and securities that are listed on the American Stock Exchange LLC or any other national securities exchange. Such report also shall include a separate section for covered securities that are option contracts. Each of the four sections in a report shall include the following information:

(i) The percentage of total customer orders for the section that were non-directed orders, and the percentages of total non-directed orders for the section that were market orders, limit orders, and other orders;

(ii) The identity of the ten venues to which the largest number of total non-directed orders for the section were routed for execution and of any venue to which five percent or more of non-directed orders were routed for execution, the percentage of total non-directed orders for the section routed to the venue, and the percentages of total non-directed market orders, total non-directed limit orders, and total non-directed other orders for the section that were routed to the venue; and

(iii) A discussion of the material aspects of the broker's or dealer's relationship with each venue identified

pursuant to paragraph (b)(1)(ii) of this section, including a description of any arrangement for payment for order flow and any profit-sharing relationship.

(2) A broker or dealer shall make the report required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section publicly available within one month after the end of the quarter addressed in the report.

(c) *Customer requests for information on order routing.* (1) Every broker or dealer shall, on request of a customer, disclose to its customer the identity of the venue to which the customer's orders were routed for execution in the six months prior to the request, whether the orders were directed orders or non-directed orders, and the time of the transactions, if any, that resulted from such orders.

(2) A broker or dealer shall notify customers in writing at least annually of the availability on request of the information specified in paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(d) *Exemptions.* The Commission may, by order upon application, conditionally or unconditionally exempt any person, security, or transaction, or any class or classes of persons, securities, or transactions, from any provision or provisions of this section, if the Commission determines that such exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, and is consistent with the protection of investors.

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SECURITIES EXEMPTED FROM
REGISTRATION

§ 240.12a-4 Exemption of certain warrants from section 12(a).

(a) When used in this section, the following terms shall have the meaning indicated unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) The term *warrant* means any warrant or certificate evidencing a right to subscribe to or otherwise acquire another security, issued or unissued.

(2) The term *beneficiary security* means a security to the holders of which a warrant or right to subscribe to or otherwise acquire another security is granted.

(3) The term *subject security* means a security which is the subject of a war-

rant or right to subscribe to or otherwise acquire such security.

(4) The term *in the process of admission to dealing*, in respect of a specified security means that (i) an application has been filed pursuant to section 12 (b) and (c) of the Act for the registration of such security on a national securities exchange; or (ii) the Commission has granted an application made pursuant to section 12(f) of the Act to continue or extend unlisted trading privileges to such security on a national securities exchange; or (iii) written notice has been filed with the Commission by a national securities exchange to the effect that such security has been approved for admission to dealing as a security exempted from the operation of section 12(a) of the Act.

(b) Any issued or unissued warrant granted to the holders of a security admitted to dealing on a national securities exchange, shall be exempt from the operation of section 12(a) of the Act to the extent necessary to render lawful the effecting of transactions therein on any national securities exchange (i) on which the beneficiary security is admitted to dealing or (ii) on which the subject security is admitted to dealing or is in the process of admission to dealing, subject to the following terms and conditions:

(1) Such warrant by its terms expires within 90 days after the issuance thereof;

(2) A registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 is in effect as to such warrant and as to each subject security, or the applicable terms of any exemption from such registration have been met in respect to such warrant and each subject security; and

(3) Within five days after the exchange has taken official action to admit such warrant to dealing, it shall notify the Commission of such action.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this section, no exemption pursuant to this section shall be available for transactions in any such warrant on any exchange on which the beneficiary security is admitted to dealing unless:

(1) Each subject security is admitted to dealing or is in process of admission to dealing on a national securities exchange; or