

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FORUM

October 25, 2024

By electronic mail to rule-comments@sec.gov

Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, NE
Washington, DC 20549-1090
Attn: Secretary

Re: File Number 4-698: Joint Industry Plan; Notice of Filing of Partial Amendment No. 1 to the National Market System Plan Governing the Consolidated Audit Trail Regarding Cost Savings Measures

Dear Secretary,

The Financial Information Forum (“FIF”)¹ appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced Notice of Filing of Partial Amendment No. 1 (the “Notice of Filing of Partial Amendment No. 1”) published by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) on October 1, 2024.² The Commission published the Notice of Filing of Partial Amendment No. 1 in response to a filing by the Participants (the “CAT Plan Participants”) in the National Market System Plan Governing the Consolidated Audit Trail (the “CAT NMS Plan”) on September 20, 2024 (the “partial amendment”).³ The partial amendment proposes a partial amendment to a filing by the CAT Plan Participants on March 27, 2024 of a proposed amendment to the CAT NMS Plan to reduce the costs of operating the consolidated audit trail system (the “initial filing”).⁴ FIF is submitting this letter on behalf of our broker-dealer members and technology vendors that support these members.

¹ FIF (www.fif.com) was formed in 1996 to provide a centralized source of information on the implementation issues that impact the securities industry across the order lifecycle. Our participants include broker-dealers, exchanges, back office service bureaus, and market data, regulatory reporting and other technology vendors in the securities industry. Through topic-oriented working groups, FIF participants focus on critical issues and productive solutions to technology developments, regulatory initiatives, and other industry changes.

² Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-101225 (Oct. 1, 2024), 89 FR 81120 (Oct. 7, 2024) (Joint Industry Plan; Notice of Filing of Partial Amendment No. 1 to an Amendment to the National Market System Plan Governing the Consolidated Audit Trail Regarding Cost Savings Measures).

³ Letter from Brandon Becker, CAT NMS Plan Operating Committee Chair, to Vanessa Countryman, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission (Sept. 20, 2024), available at <https://catnmsplan.com/sites/default/files/2024-09/09.20.2024-Cost-Savings-Amendment-OIP-Response.pdf>.

⁴ Letter from Brandon Becker, CAT NMS Plan Operating Committee Chair, to Vanessa Countryman, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission (Mar. 27, 2024), available at

FIF is submitting this comment letter as a follow-up to the comment letter that FIF submitted on May 7, 2024 in support of the initial filing.⁵ This letter reaffirms the points set forth in the May FIF comment letter, including the following:

- FIF members continue to support the proposal to exclude Options Maker Quotes from linkage requirements.
- FIF members continue to recommend that Options Market Maker Quotes be removed from CAT.
- FIF members continue to support the proposed change to move Operational Data older than 15 days to a more cost-effective storage tier.
- FIF members continue to recommend that Operational Data not be stored in CAT after T+5.
- FIF members continue to support the proposed amendment to provide for delivery of an interim CAT Order ID on as requested basis, rather than on a regular basis. FIF members disagree with the Commission's insistence that the CAT Plan Participants remove this proposed amendment from the rule filing.
- FIF members continue to support the proposal to exempt the CAT Plan Participants from retaining test data for the CAT Customer and Account Information System beyond three months.
- FIF members continue to recommend that all test data be deleted from CAT after one week.

Please refer to the May FIF comment letter for additional detail on each of the points set forth above.

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FIF appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Filing of Partial Amendment #1. If you would like clarification on any of the items discussed in this letter or would like to discuss further, please contact me at howard.meyerson@fif.com.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Howard Meyerson

Howard Meyerson
Managing Director, Financial Information Forum

<https://catnmsplan.com/sites/default/files/2024-03/03.27.24-Proposed-CAT-NMS-Plan-Amendment-Cost-Savings-Amendment.pdf>.

⁵ Letter from Howard Meyerson, Financial Information Forum, to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, available at <https://www.sec.gov/comments/4-698/4698-467591-1256394.pdf> (May 7, 2024).