

Proposed Rule Change by The Depository Trust Company
Pursuant to Rule 19b-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Initial <input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(A) <input type="checkbox"/>	Section 19(b)(3)(B) <input type="checkbox"/>
Pilot <input type="checkbox"/>			Rule		
Extension of Time Period for Commission Action <input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(4)	
Date Expires <input type="text"/>			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(5)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(3)	<input type="checkbox"/> 19b-4(f)(6)	

Exhibit 2 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper Document <input type="checkbox"/>
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Description
Provide a brief description of the proposed rule change (limit 250 characters).

Contact Information
Provide the name, telephone number and e-mail address of the person on the staff of the self-regulatory organization prepared to respond to questions and comments on the proposed rule change.

First Name Last Name
 Title
 E-mail
 Telephone Fax

Signature
Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

has duly caused this filing to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized officer.

Date
 By (Name)
 (Title)

NOTE: Clicking the button at right will digitally sign and lock this form. A digital signature is as legally binding as a physical signature, and once signed, this form cannot be changed.

- Underlined text indicates language added by this Amendment No. 1 to SR-DTC-2006-16.
- Text noted as “Deleted” in the right column below indicates language deleted by this Amendment No. 1 to SR-DTC-2006-16.

1. Text of the Proposed Rule Change.

(a) By this filing, DTC is proposing to update, standardize, and restate the requirements for the Fast Automated Securities Transfer Program (“FAST”), restate the requirements for transfer agents participating in the direct registration system (“DRS”)¹, and to delineate the responsibilities of DTC and the transfer agents with respect to the securities held by transfer agents as part of the FAST program.

Prior to the establishment of the FAST program, transfers of securities to or from the name of DTC’s nominee, Cede & Co, occurred as follows: (a) in the case of securities deposited with DTC, DTC sent the certificates to the transfer agent for registration of transfer into the name of Cede & Co., and the transfer agent returned the re-registered certificates to DTC, or (b) in the case of a withdrawal of securities from DTC, DTC sent securities registered in the name of Cede & Co. to the transfer agent for registration and transfer into a name designated by the withdrawing Participant and the transfer agent returned the new security to DTC for delivery to such Participant. This process exposed securities to risk of loss during transit between DTC and transfer agents, and resulted in the expense of making physical deliveries of securities.

For securities that are part of the FAST program, the transfer agents hold the securities registered in the name of DTC’s nominee, Cede & Co., in the form of balance certificates. As additional securities are deposited or withdrawn from DTC, the transfer agent adjusts the

¹ Transfer agents participating in DRS are referred to as DRS Limited Participants.

denomination of the certificate as appropriate, and electronically confirms these changes with DTC. Such "FAST agents" are holding in custody those securities or securities that would otherwise be held at DTC for the benefit of DTC's Participants. As such, the program reduces the movement of certificates between DTC and the transfer agents and therefore reduces the costs and risks to DTC, its Participants, issuers, and agents associated with the creation, movement, and storing of certificates.²

The FAST program has grown substantially since first being introduced in 1975.³ The Commission's recent approval of changes to the Rules of the major securities exchanges is expected to further accelerate this growth. Those Rules require, as a listing prerequisite, that issues become eligible for processing through DRS. Deleted: , and that Since becoming a FAST agent is a criterion for transfer agents' eligibility for participation in DRS,⁴ we anticipate significant growth in the FAST program as DRS becomes more widely used and/or becomes mandatory.

DRS allows investors to hold a security as the registered owner in electronic form on the books of the issuer rather than: (1) indirectly through a financial intermediary that holds the security in "street name" or in an account with a depository or (2) in the form of a certificate. Through the utilization of FAST, DRS also allows for the transfer of the position from the books of the issuer to a financial intermediary through the facilities of

² For a description of DTC's current rules relating to FAST, see Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 34-13342 (March 8, 1977) [File No. SR-DTC-76-3]; 34-14997 (July 26, 1978) [File No. SR-DTC-78-11]; 34-21401 (October 16, 1984) [File No. SR-DTC-84-8]; 34-31941 (March 3, 1993) [SR-DTC-92-15]; and 34-46956 (December 6, 2002) [File No. SR-DTC-2002-15].

³ DTC introduced the FAST program in 1975 with 400 issues and 10 agents. Currently, there are over 930,000 issues and approximately 90 agents.

⁴ On August 8, 2006, the Commission concurrently approved similar rule changes in this regard proposed by the New York Stock Exchange LLC (the "NYSE"), the American Stock Exchange LLC, and The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC. Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 34-54289 (August 8, 2006) [File No. SR-NYSE-2006-29]; 34-54290 (August 8, 2006) [File No. SR-Amex-2006-40]; and 34-54288 (August 8, 2006) [File No. SR-NASDAQ-2006-008].

DTC. In the alternative, an investor may request a paper share certificate if certificates are available from the issuer.⁵

Despite the FAST program's robust past growth and expected future growth, the transfer agent eligibility requirements for FAST have not substantially changed since its inception and do not: (i) take into account the increased volume and value of securities processed, (ii) reflect the current availability of improved technology and other safeguards which would enhance the safety and soundness of securities held in FAST in the name of Cede & Co. on behalf of participant accounts, and (iii) consider the availability of standardized audit reports to certify processes and controls.

In light of this growth, DTC has re-examined the requirements of the FAST program with a view toward ensuring that the assets in the custody of agents, which ultimately belong to DTC's Participants and their customers, are adequately protected.

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As more fully described below, DTC has identified aspects of the program's requirements that need updating, including: (i) insurance requirements (to take into account transaction volumes and values conducted by agents), (ii) safekeeping requirements (to clarify and enhance security and fire protection standards and take into consideration technological advances that allow for economical security improvements), (iii) regulatory and bookkeeping requirements (to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations and utilize standardized audit reports certifying as to processes and controls), and (iv) fees (to clarify agents' responsibility in this regard). Taking the above into account, DTC proposes to amend and restate the requirements for FAST transfer

⁵ For a description of DTC's rules relating to DRS, see Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 34-37931 (November 7, 1996) [File No. SR-DTC-96-15]; 34-41862 (September 10, 1999) [File No. SR-DTC-99-16]; 34-42366 (January 28, 2000) [File No. SR-DTC-00-01]; 34-42704 (April 19, 2000) [File No. SR-DTC-00-04]; 34-43586 (November 17, 2000) [File No. SR-DTC-00-09]; 34-44969 (August 14, 2001) [File No. SR-DTC-2001-07]; 34-45232 (January 3, 2002) [SR-DTC-2001-18]; 34-45430 (February 11, 2002) [File No. SR-DTC-2002-01]; and 34-48885 (December 5, 2003) [File No. SR-DTC-2002-17]; 34-52422 (September 14, 2005) [File No. SR-DTC-2005-11].

agents as set forth below in order to: (1) improve the soundness and safety of securities assets held for DTC participant accounts, and (2) provide better defined requirements as more issuers and agents participate in the immobilization and dematerialization process. As a result, DTC proposes the following minimum requirements for transfer agents participating in FAST (note: the following requirements must be incorporated into the transfer agent's internal procedures, which are subject to SEC examination)⁶:

1. Transfer agent must be registered with the Commission, except where the transfer agent's participation in the FAST program is limited to acting solely for municipal issues (and provide DTC with evidence of such), and follow all applicable rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") as well as all other applicable Federal and state laws, rules, and regulations, applicable to transfer agents, including OFAC regulations. In addition, the transfer agent must provide DTC with a written notification as soon as practicable, if its regulator has taken any regulatory action against the transfer agent with respect to an alleged violation of such laws, rules, or regulations. Any information furnished to DTC pursuant to the requirements set forth herein shall be held in at least the same degree of confidence as may be required by law or the rules and regulations of the Commission.
2. The transfer agent must execute and fulfill the requirements of the appropriate form of Balance Certificate Agreement with DTC (in the appropriate form as set forth in Exhibit 2).⁷

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⁶ Please note that in addition to the following, these minimum requirements incorporate by reference the Balance Certificate Agreement between the Transfer Agent and DTC, the Operational Criteria for FAST Transfer Agent Processing, and all applicable terms in DTC's Operational Arrangements.

⁷ DTC currently maintains three forms of Balance Certificate Agreement: one for transfer agents, one for issuers acting as their own agent, and the third for parties using a processing agent. DTC is consolidating these forms into a single form as attached in Exhibit 2.

3. When applying for FAST status, the transfer agent must include the name and CUSIP of a minimum of one issue it wishes to add to the FAST program. Issues eligible for the FAST program must be: (i) traded on an exchange registered under Section 6 of the Exchange Act, (ii) municipal securities, or (iii) transferred by a transfer agent that already acts as a FAST transfer agent for at least five (5) other issues that are traded on an exchange. The above provisions notwithstanding, DTC reserves the complete discretion to include or exclude any particular issue in the FAST program.
4. The transfer agent must sign and fulfill requirements of the Operational Criteria for the FAST Transfer Agent Processing (as set forth in Exhibit 2(b)) and must comply with all applicable provisions of DTC's Operational Arrangements (OA)⁸, as amended from time to time.
5. In order to provide for the operational proficiency and efficiency of the program, on being accepted as a FAST transfer agent, the transfer agent must complete training by DTC on FAST functionality.
6. In order to protect against a risk of loss, the transfer agent must carry and provide evidence of a minimum of the following Bankers Blanket Bond Standard Form 24, or similar coverage, in proportion to transaction volume the agent processes, as follows:
 - a. \$10 million, with a deductible of no more than \$50,000, for a transfer agent with 25,000 or fewer transfer transactions per year as reported to the SEC.

Deleted: <#>By signing the Balance Certificate Agreement, the transfer agent represents and warrants to DTC, among other things, that it is following the rules and procedures specified by Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) and is in compliance with all applicable laws and rules under the Exchange Act. The transfer agent must provide DTC with a written notification within three (3) business days if: (a) its regulator has notified the transfer agent with respect to any issues of non-compliance or alleged violations in this regard, or (b) if the transfer agent notifies its regulator with respect to any violations or issues of non-compliance in this regard.¶

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⁸ For more information relating to DTC's OA, see Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 34-45994 (May 29, 2002), 67 FR 39452 [File No. SR-DTC-2002-02]; 34-24818 (August 19, 1987), 52 FR 31833 [File No. DTC-87-10]; 34-25948 (July 27, 1988), 53 FR 29294 [File No. DTC-88-13]; 34-30625 (April 23, 1992), 57 FR 18534 [File No. DTC-92-06]; 34-35649 (April 26, 1995), 60 FR 21576 [File No. DTC-94-19]; and 34-39894 (April 21, 1998), 63 FR 23310 [File No. DTC-97-23].

b. \$25 million, with a deductible of no more than \$100,000, for transfer agents

with over 25,000 transfer transactions per year as reported to the SEC.

In addition, the transfer agent must: (i) carry a minimum of \$1 million in Errors

and Omissions insurance, with a deductible of no more than \$25,000 and show

evidence of the policy on applying for FAST status, and (ii) have "mail"

insurance policy of \$10 million or more and show evidence of the policy on

applying for FAST status. The Errors and Omissions coverage shall identify DTC

as an additional insured. The "mail" coverage shall identify DTC as a loss payee

but shall not be invalidated by any act or neglect of the insured.

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In the event that a transfer agent can demonstrate that its existing coverage and/or

capitalization would provide similar protections to DTC as the requirements set

forth herein, it may apply to DTC for a waiver of the deductibles set out above.

DTC shall have sole discretion as to whether or not to grant any such waiver.

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7. In order to facilitate consistent protection against losses relating to securities in a

transfer agent's control, the transfer agent must notify DTC as soon as practicable

of notice of any actual lapse in insurance coverage or change in business

practices, such as increasing volumes, or other business changes that would result

in the transfer agent requiring additional insurance coverage as outlined above.

Such notice shall be delivered to:

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DTC
Inventory Management – 1SL
55 Water Street
New York, New York 10041

And with a copy to:

DTC
General Counsel's Office
55 Water Street – 22nd Floor
New York, New York 10041

8. The transfer agent must provide proof to DTC of the new or substitute policy for all required insurance at least 30 days prior to any expiration or change in insurance limits of a previous insurance policy.
9. To further facilitate Item No. 7 above, the terms of the insurance coverage noted above must state that the insurance provider must notify DTC within five (5) days of notice of any threatened or actual lapse in the above coverage requirements.
10. The transfer agent must establish and maintain electronic communications with DTC to balance FAST positions on a daily schedule.
11. The transfer agent must provide, on an annual basis to DTC, within 10 business days of filing with the SEC, an accountant's report (pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 17Ad -13 (Annual Study of Evaluation of Internal Accounting Controls)) attesting to the soundness of controls to safeguard securities assets and reliability and integrity of computer systems, including confidentiality of customer account, or other non-public, information. To the extent that a transfer agent obtains a SAS-70 audit report, it shall be made available to DTC.

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In addition, the transfer agent must provide, within the same time frame as required for such report, a report from an external certified public accountant:

- a. certifying that the transfer agent is complying with all of DTC's requirements relating to FAST agents including, without limitation, (a)

those listed herein, (b) the Operational Criteria for FAST Transfer Agent Processing, (c) the OA, and (d) the Balance Certificate Agreement,

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b. certifying that the agent meets any SEC requirements for business continuity planning, and

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c. containing an SSAE 10 report (or the equivalent), attesting to the soundness of the transfer agent's control in meeting the requirements set forth herein.

12. FAST agents must safeguard all the securities assets as stated under SEC Rule 17Ad-12, and with at least the following additional DTC requirements:

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a. Maintaining a theft and fireproof safe of no less than 350 pounds, with a minimum anti-theft test rating of UL 687, and a minimum fire rating of UL 72.

b. Maintaining a theft and fire central monitoring alarm system protecting the entire premises.

c. All certificates will be maintained in a secure location, accessible only by authorized personnel.

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d. Certificates shall not be left unattended unless stored in a secure location or a "locked" safe.

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13. Personnel with access to the safe and the codes for the centralized monitoring system will be governed by SEC Rule 17f-2, which includes but is not limited to rules for fingerprinting staff that physically handle certificates.

14. The transfer agent must provide DTC with: (i) a copy of the two most recent SEC examination reports as well as any follow-up correspondence, and, (ii) upon request, copies of any additional examination reports issued by the SEC.

15. During regular business hours, upon advance notice, DTC reserves the right to visit and inspect, to the extent pertaining to their position, the agent's facilities, books and records, but is not obligated to do so.

16. The transfer agent may only charge DTC fees (i.e., deposit, withdrawal, "rush" cancellation, registration, or other transfer fees) that: (a) are contractually agreed to by the issuer, (b) are the same for all other registered holders, and (c) do not violate the regulations of the relevant securities exchange relating to transfer agent fees.

Deleted: <#>The transfer agent must participate in the Paperless Legal transfer program.¶

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17. Existing FAST agents shall have a period of six (6) months from the date of the Commission's approval of this rule filing within which they must comply with these requirements, including the submission to DTC of a signed Balance Certificate Agreement, signed Operational Criteria, and all supporting documentation referenced herein. If an agent is non-compliant with these requirements upon the expiration of such period, DTC shall have the sole discretion to terminate or continue the agent's FAST status.

Deleted: <#>If, for any existing agent, three (3) or more reported FAST out-of-balances remain open for longer than 15 days, or one (1) FAST out-of-balance for 45 days, DTC reserves the right to prohibit security issues serviced by that agent from being added to FAST and/or to terminate that agent's continued participation in FAST.¶

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18. An agent acting on behalf of a transfer agent, or an issuer acting on its own behalf, shall have the same rights and responsibilities under these requirements as if it were the transfer agent.

In addition, DTC is proposing the following restatement of the eligibility requirements for DRS Limited Participants⁹ and the DRS eligibility requirements for DRS issues to promote consistency with the FAST program requirements as well as further ensure the soundness of the DRS system as follows:

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Proposed Amended and Restated Eligibility Requirements for DRS Limited Participants:

In order to be eligible for membership as a DRS Limited Participant, a party must:

1. participate in the FAST program and abide by the rules outlined in the FAST requirements above,
2. execute a DTC Limited Participant Account agreement,
3. deliver transaction advices directly to investors relating to DRS Withdrawal-by-Transfer requests, and provide DTC with a file (in a format and using functionality as specified by DTC from time to time) containing the transaction advice delivery date,
4. complete training by DTC on DRS and Profile functionality,
5. participate in Profile surety or insurance programs to initiate Profile Modification System transactions¹⁰,
6. ~~program changes as agreed to by the DRS Committee or any industry group or committee~~ to support and expand DRS processing capabilities,
7. ~~mail a transfer advice or statement to shareholders within 3 business days of~~ each DRS account transaction that affects the shareholder's position, or more often as required by the Commission's regulations, and
8. Existing DRS Limited Participants shall have a period of six (6) months from the date of the Commission's approval of this rule filing within which they must comply with these requirements. If an agent is non-compliant with these requirements upon the expiration of such period, DTC shall have the sole discretion to terminate or continue the agent's status as a DRS Limited Participants.

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Eligibility Requirements for DRS Issues:

⁹ DRS Limited Participants, by signing an agreement with DTC, are bound to certain the provisions of the DTC rules. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-37931 (November 7, 1996) [File No. SR-DTC-96-15].

¹⁰ In DRS, instructions to transfer shares are sent by a broker-dealer that is a DTC participant or a transfer agent via the DRS Profile Modification System ("Profile"), which provides for screen based

In order to be eligible as a DRS issue, a security must:

1. be transferred by an agent accepted as a DTC DRS Limited Participant,
2. participate in the FAST program. Issues may not be added to DRS if “out of balance” positions exist, and
3. have a transfer agent or issuer that mails a transaction advice or statement within 3 business days of each DRS account transaction that affects the shareholders position, or more often as required by Commission regulations,

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Delineation of Responsibility with respect to FAST

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DTC is establishing a clearer demarcation of responsibility and liability with respect to the FAST program. Historically, the Commission has left to user-governed clearing agencies the question of how to allocate losses associated with, among other things, clearing agency functions.¹¹ In conjunction with its approval of these standards the Commission noted that while it had “called on registered clearing agencies to undertake, by rule, to deliver all fully-paid securities in their control to, or as directed by, the participant for whom the securities are held”, given that registered clearing agencies had demonstrated a high level of responsibility in safeguarding securities and funds, a standard of care based on a strict standard of liability was not required either with respect to failures of the clearing agency or a sub-custodian.

DTC notes that securities in the FAST program are held by a transfer agent and not within the immediate custody and control of DTC. As such, after a transfer agent is accepted to the FAST program, DTC is proposing the addition of a clarifying provision to Rule 6 to state that DTC will not be liable for the acts or omissions of

indemnification against false instructions from the party submitting instructions through DRS. The indemnity is supported by either a surety bond or an insurance policy.

¹¹ Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 34-20221 (September 23, 1983) and 34-22940 (February 24, 1986). In this regard, DTC adopted a uniform standard with respect to certain of its procedures, or Service Guides, such that DTC is not liable for any loss incurred by a participant other than one caused directly by

FAST Agents or other third parties, unless caused directly by DTC's gross negligence, willful misconduct, or violation of Federal securities laws for which there is a private right of action. In addition, under no circumstance shall DTC be liable for selecting or accepting any third party as an agent of DTC, including as a transfer agent participating in the FAST Program (see Exhibit 5 for the proposed provision).

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

2. Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization.

a) DTC's Board of Directors has not taken, and is not required to take, action on the proposed rule change.

3. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change.

(a) The purpose of this rule filing is to amend and restate requirements for participation in DTC's FAST and DRS programs.

(b) The proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), and the rules and regulations thereunder, because it improves standards relating to the eligibility of agents and issues for its FAST and DRS programs. As such, it assures the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in the custody or control of DTC or for which it is responsible.

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

DTC does not believe that the proposed rule change will have any impact, or impose any undue burden, on competition.

5. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others.

Written comments relating to the proposed rule change have not yet been solicited or received. DTC will notify the Commission of any written comments received by DTC.

6. Extension of Time Period for Commission Action.

DTC does not consent to an extension of the time period specified in Section 19(b)(2) of the Act for Commission action.

7. Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) or Section 19(b)(7)(D).

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) Not applicable.

8. Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization or of the Commission.

The proposed rule change is not based on the rules of another self-regulatory organization or the Commission.

9. Exhibits

Exhibit 1 - Notice of proposed rule change for publication in the Federal Register

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(Revised to incorporate the changes indicated in Item No. 1 above).

Exhibit 2 -

(a) Form of Balance Certificate Agreement (incorporated by reference from the original rule filing).

(b) Operational Criteria for FAST Transfer Agent Processing (incorporated by reference from the original rule filing).

Exhibit 3 - n/a

Exhibit 4 - n/a

Exhibit 5 - Text of Proposed Rule Change (incorporated by reference from the original rule filing).

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EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

(Release No. 34-_____ ; File No. SR-DTC-2006-16)

SELF-REGULATORY ORGANIZATIONS

Proposed Rule Change by THE DEPOSITORY COMPANY (“DTC”) relating to amending the rules of DTC to update, standardize, and restate the requirements for the Fast Automated Securities Transfer Program (“FAST”), restate the requirements for transfer agents participating in the direct registration system (“DRS”), and to delineate the responsibilities of DTC and the transfer agents with respect to the securities held by transfer agents as part of the FAST program.

Comments requested within ____ days after the date of this publication.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Act”), 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1), notice is hereby given that on _____, DTC 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 DTC. 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 text of the proposed rule change is attached hereto as Exhibit 5.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, DTC included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. DTC 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

By this filing, DTC is proposing to update, standardize, and restate the requirements for the Fast Automated Securities Transfer Program (“FAST”), restate the requirements for transfer agents participating in the direct registration system (“DRS”)¹, and to delineate the responsibilities of DTC and the transfer agents with respect to the securities held by transfer agents as part of the FAST program.

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DRS allows investors to hold a security as the registered owner in electronic form on the books of the issuer rather than: (1) indirectly through a financial intermediary that holds the security in “street name” or in an account with a depository or (2) in the form of a certificate. Through the utilization of FAST, DRS also allows for the transfer of the position from the books of the issuer to a financial intermediary through the facilities of DTC. In the alternative, an investor may request a paper share certificate if certificates are available from the issuer.⁵

Despite the FAST program’s robust past growth and expected future growth, the transfer agent eligibility requirements for FAST have not substantially changed since its inception and do not: (i) take into account the increased volume and value of securities processed, (ii) reflect the current availability of improved technology and other safeguards which would enhance the safety and soundness of securities held in FAST in the name of Cede & Co. on behalf of participant accounts, and (iii) consider the availability of standardized audit reports to certify processes and controls.

In light of this growth, DTC has re-examined the requirements of the FAST program with a view toward ensuring that the assets in the custody of agents, which ultimately belong to DTC’s Participants and their customers, are adequately protected. As more fully described below, DTC has identified aspects of the program’s requirements that need updating, including: (i) insurance requirements (to take into account transaction volumes and values conducted by agents), (ii) safekeeping requirements (to clarify and enhance security and fire protection standards and take into consideration technological advances that allow for economical security improvements), (iii) regulatory and bookkeeping requirements (to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations and utilize standardized audit reports certifying as to processes and controls), and (iv) fees (to clarify agents’ responsibility in this regard). Taking the above into account, DTC proposes to amend and restate the requirements for FAST transfer agents as set forth below in order to: (1) improve the soundness and safety of securities assets held for DTC participant accounts, and (2) provide better defined requirements as more issuers and agents participate in the immobilization and dematerialization process. As a result, DTC proposes the following minimum requirements for transfer agents

SR-NYSE-2006-29]; 34-54290 (August 8, 2006) [File No. SR-Amex-2006-40]; and 34-54288 (August 8, 2006) [File No. SR-NASDAQ-2006-008].

⁵ For a description of DTC’s rules relating to DRS, see Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 34-37931 (November 7, 1996) [File No. SR-DTC-96-15]; 34-41862 (September 10, 1999) [File No. SR-DTC-99-16]; 34-42366 (January 28, 2000) [File No. SR-DTC-00-01]; 34-42704 (April 19, 2000) [File No. SR-DTC-00-04]; 34-43586 (November 17, 2000) [File No. SR-DTC-00-09]; 34-44969 (August 14, 2001) [File No. SR-DTC-2001-07]; 34-45232 (January 3, 2002) [SR-DTC-2001-18]; 34-45430 (February 11, 2002) [File No. SR-DTC-2002-01]; and 34-48885 (December 5, 2003) [File No. SR-DTC-2002-17]; 34-52422 (September 14, 2005) [File No. SR-DTC-2005-11].

participating in FAST (note: the following requirements must be incorporated into the transfer agent's internal procedures, which are subject to SEC examination)⁶:

1. Transfer agent must be registered with the Commission, except where the transfer agent's participation in the FAST program is limited to acting solely for municipal issues (and provide DTC with evidence of such), and follow all applicable rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") as well as all other applicable Federal and state laws, rules, and regulations, applicable to transfer agents, including OFAC regulations. In addition, the transfer agent must provide DTC with a written notification as soon as practicable, if its regulator has taken any regulatory action against the transfer agent with respect to an alleged violation of such laws, rules, or regulations. Any information furnished to DTC pursuant to the requirements set forth herein shall be held in at least the same degree of confidence as may be required by law or the rules and regulations of the Commission.
2. The transfer agent must execute and fulfill the requirements of the appropriate form of Balance Certificate Agreement with DTC (in the appropriate form as set forth in Exhibit 2).⁷
3. When applying for FAST status, the transfer agent must include the name and CUSIP of a minimum of one issue it wishes to add to the FAST program. Issues eligible for the FAST program must be: (i) traded on an exchange registered under Section 6 of the Exchange Act, (ii) municipal securities, or (iii) transferred by a transfer agent that already acts as a FAST transfer agent for at least five (5) other issues that are traded on an exchange. The above provisions notwithstanding, DTC reserves the complete discretion to include or exclude any particular issue in the FAST program.
4. The transfer agent must sign and fulfill requirements of the Operational Criteria for the FAST Transfer Agent Processing (as set forth in Exhibit 2(b)) and must comply with all applicable provisions of DTC's Operational Arrangements (OA)⁸, as amended from time to time.

⁶ Please note that in addition to the following, these minimum requirements incorporate by reference the Balance Certificate Agreement between the Transfer Agent and DTC, the Operational Criteria for FAST Transfer Agent Processing, and all applicable terms in DTC's Operational Arrangements.

⁷ DTC currently maintains three forms of Balance Certificate Agreement: one for transfer agents, one for issuers acting as their own agent, and the third for parties using a processing agent. DTC is consolidating these forms into a single form as attached in Exhibit 2.

⁸ For more information relating to DTC's OA, see Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 34-45994 (May 29, 2002), 67 FR 39452 [File No. SR-DTC-2002-02]; 34-24818 (August 19, 1987), 52 FR 31833 [File No. DTC-87-10]; 34-25948 (July 27, 1988), 53 FR 29294 [File No. DTC-88-13]; 34-30625 (April 23, 1992), 57

5. In order to provide for the operational proficiency and efficiency of the program, on being accepted as a FAST transfer agent, the transfer agent must complete training by DTC on FAST functionality.
6. In order to protect against a risk of loss, the transfer agent must carry and provide evidence of a minimum of the following Bankers Blanket Bond Standard Form 24, or similar coverage, in proportion to transaction volume the agent processes, as follows:
 - a. \$10 million, with a deductible of no more than \$50,000, for a transfer agent with 25,000 or fewer transfer transactions per year as reported to the SEC.
 - b. \$25 million, with a deductible of no more than \$100,000, for transfer agents with over 25,000 transfer transactions per year as reported to the SEC.

In addition, the transfer agent must: (i) carry a minimum of \$1 million in Errors and Omissions insurance, with a deductible of no more than \$25,000 and show evidence of the policy on applying for FAST status, and (ii) have “mail” insurance policy of \$10 million or more and show evidence of the policy on applying for FAST status. The Errors and Omissions coverage shall identify DTC as an additional insured. The “mail” coverage shall identify DTC as a loss payee but shall not be invalidated by any act or neglect of the insured.

In the event that a transfer agent can demonstrate that its existing coverage and/or capitalization would provide similar protections to DTC as the requirements set forth herein, it may apply to DTC for a waiver of the deductibles set out above. DTC shall have sole discretion as to whether or not to grant any such waiver.

7. In order to facilitate consistent protection against losses relating to securities in a transfer agent’s control, the transfer agent must notify DTC as soon as practicable of notice of any actual lapse in insurance coverage or change in business practices, such as increasing volumes, or other business changes that would result in the transfer agent requiring additional insurance coverage as outlined above. Such notice shall be delivered to:

DTC
Inventory Management – 1SL
55 Water Street
New York, New York 10041

And with a copy to:

DTC
General Counsel's Office
55 Water Street – 22nd Floor
New York, New York 10041

8. The transfer agent must provide proof to DTC of the new or substitute policy for all required insurance at least 30 days prior to any expiration or change in insurance limits of a previous insurance policy.
9. To further facilitate Item No. 7 above, the terms of the insurance coverage noted above must state that the insurance provider must notify DTC within five (5) days of notice of any threatened or actual lapse in the above coverage requirements.
10. The transfer agent must establish and maintain electronic communications with DTC to balance FAST positions on a daily schedule.
11. The transfer agent must provide, on an annual basis to DTC, within 10 business days of filing with the SEC, an accountant's report (pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 17Ad -13 (Annual Study of Evaluation of Internal Accounting Controls)) attesting to the soundness of controls to safeguard securities assets and reliability and integrity of computer systems, including confidentiality of customer account, or other non-public, information. To the extent that a transfer agent obtains a SAS-70 audit report, it shall be made available to DTC.

In addition, the transfer agent must provide, within the same time frame as required for such report, a report from an external certified public accountant:

- a. certifying that the transfer agent is complying with all of DTC's requirements relating to FAST agents including, without limitation, (a) those listed herein, (b) the Operational Criteria for FAST Transfer Agent Processing, (c) the OA, and (d) the Balance Certificate Agreement,
- b. certifying that the agent meets any SEC requirements for business continuity planning, and
- c. containing an SSAE 10 report (or the equivalent), attesting to the soundness of the transfer agent's control in meeting the requirements set forth herein.

12. FAST agents must safeguard all the securities assets as stated under SEC Rule 17Ad-12, and with at least the following additional DTC requirements:
 - a. Maintaining a theft and fireproof safe of no less than 350 pounds, with a minimum anti-theft test rating of UL 687, and a minimum fire rating of UL 72.
 - b. Maintaining a theft and fire central monitoring alarm system protecting the entire premises.
 - c. All certificates will be maintained in a secure location, accessible only by authorized personnel.
 - d. Certificates shall not be left unattended unless stored in a secure location or a “locked” safe.
13. Personnel with access to the safe and the codes for the centralized monitoring system will be governed by SEC Rule 17f-2, which includes but is not limited to rules for fingerprinting staff that physically handle certificates.
14. The transfer agent must provide DTC with: (i) a copy of the two most recent SEC examination reports as well as any follow-up correspondence, and, (ii) upon request, copies of any additional examination reports issued by the SEC.
15. During regular business hours, upon advance notice, DTC reserves the right to visit and inspect, to the extent pertaining to their position, the agent’s facilities, books and records, but is not obligated to do so.
16. The transfer agent may only charge DTC fees (i.e., deposit, withdrawal, “rush”, cancellation, registration, or other transfer fees) that: (a) are contractually agreed to by the issuer, (b) are the same for all other registered holders, and (c) do not violate the regulations of the relevant securities exchange relating to transfer agent fees.
17. Existing FAST agents shall have a period of six (6) months from the date of the Commission’s approval of this rule filing within which they must comply with these requirements, including the submission to DTC of a signed Balance Certificate Agreement, signed Operational Criteria, and all supporting documentation referenced herein. If an agent is non-compliant with these requirements upon the expiration of such period, DTC shall have the sole discretion to terminate or continue the agent’s FAST status.
18. An agent acting on behalf of a transfer agent, or an issuer acting on its own behalf, shall have the same rights and responsibilities under these requirements as if it were the transfer agent.

In addition, DTC is proposing the following restatement of the eligibility requirements for DRS Limited Participants⁹ and the DRS eligibility requirements for DRS issues to promote consistency with the FAST program requirements as well as further ensure the soundness of the DRS system as follows:

Proposed Amended and Restated Eligibility Requirements for DRS Limited Participants:

In order to be eligible for membership as a DRS Limited Participant, a party must:

1. participate in the FAST program and abide by the rules outlined in the FAST requirements above,
2. execute a DTC Limited Participant Account agreement,
3. deliver transaction advices directly to investors relating to DRS Withdrawal-by-Transfer requests, and provide DTC with a file (in a format and using functionality as specified by DTC from time to time) containing the transaction advice delivery date,
4. complete training by DTC on DRS and Profile functionality,
5. participate in Profile surety or insurance programs to initiate Profile Modification System transactions¹⁰,
6. program changes as agreed to by the DRS Committee or any industry group or committee to support and expand DRS processing capabilities,
7. mail a transfer advice or statement to shareholders within 3 business days of each DRS account transaction that affects the shareholder's position, or more often as required by the Commission's regulations, and
8. Existing DRS Limited Participants shall have a period of six (6) months from the date of the Commission's approval of this rule filing within which they must comply with these requirements. If an agent is non-compliant with these requirements upon the expiration of such period, DTC shall have the sole discretion to terminate or continue the agent's status as a DRS Limited Participants.

Eligibility Requirements for DRS Issues:

In order to be eligible as a DRS issue, a security must:

⁹ DRS Limited Participants, by signing an agreement with DTC, are bound to certain the provisions of the DTC rules. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-37931 (November 7, 1996) [File No. SR-DTC-96-15].

¹⁰ In DRS, instructions to transfer shares are sent by a broker-dealer that is a DTC participant or a transfer agent via the DRS Profile Modification System ("Profile"), which provides for screen based indemnification against false instructions from the party submitting instructions through DRS. The indemnity is supported by either a surety bond or an insurance policy.

1. be transferred by an agent accepted as a DTC DRS Limited Participant,
2. participate in the FAST program. Issues may not be added to DRS if “out of balance” positions exist, and
3. have a transfer agent or issuer that mails a transaction advice or statement within 3 business days of each DRS account transaction that affects the shareholders position, or more often as required by Commission regulations.

Delineation of Responsibility with respect to FAST

DTC is establishing a clearer demarcation of responsibility and liability with respect to the FAST program. Historically, the Commission has left to user-governed clearing agencies the question of how to allocate losses associated with, among other things, clearing agency functions.¹¹ In conjunction with its approval of these standards the Commission noted that while it had “called on registered clearing agencies to undertake, by rule, to deliver all fully-paid securities in their control to, or as directed by, the participant for whom the securities are held”, given that registered clearing agencies had demonstrated a high level of responsibility in safeguarding securities and funds, a standard of care based on a strict standard of liability was not required either with respect to failures of the clearing agency or a sub-custodian. DTC notes that securities in the FAST program are held by a transfer agent and not within the immediate custody and control of DTC. As such, after a transfer agent is accepted to the FAST program, DTC is proposing the addition of a clarifying provision to Rule 6 to state that DTC will not be liable for the acts or omissions of FAST Agents or other third parties, unless caused directly by DTC’s gross negligence, willful misconduct, or violation of Federal securities laws for which there is a private right of action. In addition, under no circumstance shall DTC be liable for selecting or accepting any third party as an agent of DTC, including as a transfer agent participating in the FAST Program (see Exhibit 5 for the proposed provision).

(ii) The proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), and the rules and regulations thereunder, because it improves standards relating to the eligibility of agents and issues for its FAST and DRS programs. As such, it assures the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in the custody or control of DTC or for which it is responsible.

¹¹ Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 34-20221 (September 23, 1983) and 34-22940 (February 24, 1986). In this regard, DTC adopted a uniform standard with respect to certain of its procedures, or Service Guides, such that DTC is not liable for any loss incurred by a participant other than one caused directly by gross negligence or willful misconduct on the part of DTC. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34-44719 (August 17, 2001) [File No. SR-DTC-2001-01].

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

DTC does not believe that the proposed rule change will have any impact, or impose any burden, on competition.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others.

Written comments relating to the proposed rule change have not been solicited or received.

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

Within 35 days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

- (A) by order approve such proposed rule change, or
- (B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed 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 may be submitted by using the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>), or by sending an e-mail to rule-comment@sec.gov. Please include File No. SR-DTC-2006-16 on the subject line.
- Paper comments should be sent in triplicate to Nancy M. Morris, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington D.C. 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-DTC-2006-16. 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 Web site (<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 inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, NE, Washington D.C. 20549-9303. Copies of such filing also will be available for inspection and copying at DTC's principal office and on DTC's Web site at www.DTC.com. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to the file number above and should be submitted within _____ days after the date of publication.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.

Nancy M. Morris