



March 24, 2017

SEC Adopts T+2 Settlement Cycle for Securities Transactions

On March 22, 2017, the Securities and Exchange Commission adopted an amendment to shorten by one business day the standard settlement cycle for most broker-dealer securities transactions. Currently, the standard settlement cycle for these transactions is three business days, known as T+3. The amended rule shortens the settlement cycle to two business days, T+2.

The amended rule is designed to enhance efficiency, reduce risk, and facilitate a coordinated and expeditious transition by market participants to a shortened standard settlement cycle.

“As technology improves, new products emerge, and trading volumes grow, it is increasingly obvious that the outdated T+3 settlement cycle is no longer serving the best interests of the American people,” said SEC Acting Chairman Michael Piwowar, “The SEC remains committed to ensuring that U.S. securities regulation is reflective of modern times, and in shortening the settlement cycle by one day we aim to increase efficiency and reduce risk for market participants.”

Broker-dealers will be required to comply with the amended rule beginning on Sept. 5, 2017.

To assist broker-dealers, other securities professionals and the investing public in their preparation for the implementation of a T+2 settlement cycle, the Commission has established an e-mail address – T2settlement@sec.gov – for the submission of inquiries to SEC staff.

Shortening the Trade Settlement Cycle

SEC Open Meeting – Fact Sheet March 22, 2017

The amended Rule 15c6-1(a) would prohibit a broker-dealer from effecting or entering into a contract for the purchase or sale of a security that provides for payment of funds and delivery of securities later than T+2, unless otherwise expressly agreed to by the parties at the time of the transaction. As stated in the rule, the T+2 requirement would not apply to certain categories of securities, such as exempted securities.

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- Generally, this change would mean that when an investor buys a security, the brokerage firm must receive payment from the investor no later than two business days after the trade is executed. When an investor sells a security, the investor must deliver to the brokerage firm the investor's security no later than two business days after the sale. For example, if an investor sells shares of a particular stock on Monday, the transaction would settle on Wednesday.
 - The amended rule would apply the T+2 settlement cycle to the same securities transactions currently covered by the T+3 settlement cycle. These include transactions for stocks, bonds, municipal securities, exchange-traded funds, certain mutual funds, and limited partnerships that trade on an exchange.
 - The compliance date for the amendment to Rule 15c6-1(a) is Sept. 5, 2017, which is consistent with the target implementation date set by the Industry Steering Committee.

<https://www.sec.gov/news/press-release/2017-68-0>

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