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Stakeholders
Municipal Advisors

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Informational Notice

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Professional
Qualifications

Affected Rules
[Rule G-3](#)

MSRB Provides Interim Accommodation for the Municipal Advisor Principal Qualification Examination (Series 54 Exam)

Overview

To address the pandemic-related challenges facing individuals who need to become appropriately qualified as a municipal advisor principal¹ before the compliance date, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) is providing an interim accommodation to allow such individuals to take the Series 54 exam online.

Consistent with the MSRB's earlier statements² that it would continue to monitor the impact to regulated entities of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the MSRB recognizes that facilitating the remote proctoring of the Series 54 exam, on a temporary basis, as well as ongoing in-person

¹ The term "municipal advisor principal" means a natural person associated with a municipal advisor who is directly engaged in the management, direction or supervision of the municipal advisory activities of the municipal advisor and its associated persons. To become qualified as a municipal advisor principal a person must:

- as a pre-requisite take and pass the Municipal Advisor Representative Qualification Examination; and
- take and pass the Municipal Advisor Principal Qualification Examination.

² See MSRB Notice 2020-09 (April 9, 2020), MSRB Amends Certain Rules to Provide Regulatory Relief During COVID-19 Pandemic. See Release No. 34-88694 (April 20, 2020); 85 FR 23088 (April 24, 2020) (File No. SR-MSRB-2020-01).



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testing at Prometric testing centers³ would facilitate compliance with MSRB rules.⁴

The MSRB is working with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), the MSRB's test administrator, to develop an online testing request process for individuals seeking to take the Series 54 exam remotely. Beginning on Monday, August 23, 2021, individuals who need to take and pass the Series 54 exam, may schedule an online test appointment through Prometric test center after their interim accommodation request form is submitted and processed by FINRA.⁵ Next week, the MSRB will launch a dedicated webpage on [MSRB.org](https://www.msrb.org) to provide step-by-step information on the remote exam enrollment process and on exam day logistics.

The MSRB anticipates making a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) seeking approval to amend Supplementary Material .09, on temporary relief for municipal advisor principal, to further extend the current November 12, 2021,⁶ compliance date by roughly the same period of

³ Prometric is a leading provider of technology-enabled testing and assessment solutions to many of the world's most recognized licensing and certification organizations, academic institutions, and government agencies. See [Prometric](https://www.prometric.com).

⁴ MSRB Rule G-2 requires that no municipal advisor shall engage in municipal advisory activities unless such municipal advisor and every natural person associated with the municipal advisor is qualified in accordance with MSRB rules. Additionally, MSRB Rule G-3(e)(i) and (ii), prescribes that those individuals that are engaged in the management, direction or supervision of the municipal advisory activities of the municipal advisor and that of its associated persons pass both the Municipal Advisor Representative and the Series 54 exam prior to becoming qualified as a municipal advisor principal. Lastly, in accordance with MSRB Rule G-3(e)(iii), on numerical requirements, every municipal advisor shall have at least one municipal advisor principal.

⁵ On August 17, 2015, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) appointed FINRA to provide test administration services to the MSRB for the delivery of MSRB-owned municipal advisor examinations. [Order: Designation of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority to Administer Professional Qualification Tests for Associated Persons of Registered Municipal Advisors \(sec.gov\)](https://www.sec.gov/order-designation-of-the-financial-industry-regulatory-authority-to-administer-professional-qualification-tests-for-associated-persons-of-registered-municipal-advisors).

⁶ See Release No. 34-88694 (April 20, 2020), 85 FR 23088 (April 24, 2020) (File No. SR-MSRB-2020-01) ("April relief"); Release No. 34-88986 (June 1, 2020), 85 FR 34661 (June 5, 2020) ("June relief"); Release No. 34-90621 (December 9, 2020), 85 FR 81254 (December 15, 2020) ("December relief"). In November 2018, with the adoption of amendments to MSRB Rule G-3, to require individuals to take and pass the Series 54 exam, the MSRB established a one-year grace period for individuals to become appropriately qualified as a municipal advisor principal in order to provide sufficient time for individuals to prepare for and pass the Series 54 exam without considerable disruption to the business of the municipal advisor. See MSRB Notice 2018-30 (November 28, 2018), SEC Approves Amendments to MSRB Rule G-3 to

time taken to launch the Series 54 exam online. The initial one-year grace period by which individuals acting in the capacity of a municipal advisor principal were given to become appropriately qualified with the Series 54 exam was due to sunset on November 12, 2020. The MSRB extended the compliance date from November 12, 2020, to March 31, 2021; and a subsequent extension was provided until November 12, 2021. The MSRB will announce the new compliance date for the Series 54 exam in an MSRB Notice published on MSRB.org in the next 30 days.

Questions about this notice may be directed to Bri Joiner, Director, Regulatory Compliance, at 202-838-1347.

August 11, 2021

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Establish a Municipal Advisor Principal Qualification Examination. See Release No. 34- 84630 (November 20, 2018); 83 FR 60927 (November 27, 2018) (File No. SR-MSRB-2018-07).