

Title: Can the short sellers really not get around the stock split dividend?

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Obviously, we've all seen the news...STOCK SPLIT AS A DIVIDEND!!! Anyway, everyone is emphasizing that this is different from a normal stock split since the SHFs can't simply deliver shareholders the share dividend, so they have no choice but to close their shorts.

My question is: can't they just create more phantom shares (set up more naked short positions) and deliver those phantom shares to shareholders instead of closing their shorts? I'm obviously a smooth brain, so someone with a wrinkle or two who could clear this up would be very helpful. Thank you all in advance, and see you on the moon! Also, DRS your shares if you haven't.