



Code of Federal Regulations

12

Part 600 to End

Revised as of January 1, 2000

Banks and Banking

Containing a Codification of documents
of general applicability and future effect

As of January 1, 2000

With Ancillaries

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Cite this Code: CFR

*To cite the regulations in
this volume use title,
part and section num-
ber. Thus, 12 CFR
600.1 refers to title 12,
part 600, section 1.*

Explanation

The Code of Federal Regulations is a codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the Executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government. The Code is divided into 50 titles which represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation. Each title is divided into chapters which usually bear the name of the issuing agency. Each chapter is further subdivided into parts covering specific regulatory areas.

Each volume of the Code is revised at least once each calendar year and issued on a quarterly basis approximately as follows:

Title 1 through Title 16.....	as of January 1
Title 17 through Title 27.....	as of April 1
Title 28 through Title 41.....	as of July 1
Title 42 through Title 50.....	as of October 1

The appropriate revision date is printed on the cover of each volume.

LEGAL STATUS

The contents of the Federal Register are required to be judicially noticed (44 U.S.C. 1507). The Code of Federal Regulations is prima facie evidence of the text of the original documents (44 U.S.C. 1510).

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To determine whether a Code volume has been amended since its revision date (in this case, January 1, 2000), consult the “List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA),” which is issued monthly, and the “Cumulative List of Parts Affected,” which appears in the Reader Aids section of the daily Federal Register. These two lists will identify the Federal Register page number of the latest amendment of any given rule.

EFFECTIVE AND EXPIRATION DATES

Each volume of the Code contains amendments published in the Federal Register since the last revision of that volume of the Code. Source citations for the regulations are referred to by volume number and page number of the Federal Register and date of publication. Publication dates and effective dates are usually not the same and care must be exercised by the user in determining the actual effective date. In instances where the effective date is beyond the cut-off date for the Code a note has been inserted to reflect the future effective date. In those instances where a regulation published in the Federal Register states a date certain for expiration, an appropriate note will be inserted following the text.

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The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-511) requires Federal agencies to display an OMB control number with their information collection request.

Many agencies have begun publishing numerous OMB control numbers as amendments to existing regulations in the CFR. These OMB numbers are placed as close as possible to the applicable recordkeeping or reporting requirements.

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Provisions that become obsolete before the revision date stated on the cover of each volume are not carried. Code users may find the text of provisions in effect on a given date in the past by using the appropriate numerical list of sections affected. For the period before January 1, 1986, consult either the List of CFR Sections Affected, 1949–1963, 1964–1972, or 1973–1985, published in seven separate volumes. For the period beginning January 1, 1986, a “List of CFR Sections Affected” is published at the end of each CFR volume.

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What is incorporation by reference? Incorporation by reference was established by statute and allows Federal agencies to meet the requirement to publish regulations in the Federal Register by referring to materials already published elsewhere. For an incorporation to be valid, the Director of the Federal Register must approve it. The legal effect of incorporation by reference is that the material is treated as if it were published in full in the Federal Register (5 U.S.C. 552(a)). This material, like any other properly issued regulation, has the force of law.

What is a proper incorporation by reference? The Director of the Federal Register will approve an incorporation by reference only when the requirements of 1 CFR part 51 are met. Some of the elements on which approval is based are:

- (a) The incorporation will substantially reduce the volume of material published in the Federal Register.
- (b) The matter incorporated is in fact available to the extent necessary to afford fairness and uniformity in the administrative process.
- (c) The incorporating document is drafted and submitted for publication in accordance with 1 CFR part 51.

Properly approved incorporations by reference in this volume are listed in the Finding Aids at the end of this volume.

What if the material incorporated by reference cannot be found? If you have any problem locating or obtaining a copy of material listed in the Finding Aids of this volume as an approved incorporation by reference, please contact the agency that issued the regulation containing that incorporation. If, after contacting the agency, you find the material is not available, please notify the Director of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington DC 20408, or call (202) 523–4534.

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An index to the text of “Title 3—The President” is carried within that volume.

The Federal Register Index is issued monthly in cumulative form. This index is based on a consolidation of the “Contents” entries in the daily Federal Register.

A List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA) is published monthly, keyed to the revision dates of the 50 CFR titles.

REPUBLICATION OF MATERIAL

There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the Code of Federal Regulations.

INQUIRIES

For a legal interpretation or explanation of any regulation in this volume, contact the issuing agency. The issuing agency's name appears at the top of odd-numbered pages.

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RAYMOND A. MOSLEY,
Director,
Office of the Federal Register.

January 1, 2000.

THIS TITLE

Title 12—BANKS AND BANKING is composed of six volumes. The parts in these volumes are arranged in the following order: parts 1–199, 200–219, 220–299, 300–499, 500–599, and part 600–end. The first volume containing parts 1–199 is comprised of chapter I—Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury. The second and third volumes containing parts 200–299 are comprised of chapter II—Federal Reserve System. The fourth volume containing parts 300–499 is comprised of chapter III—Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and chapter IV—Export-Import Bank of the United States. The fifth volume containing parts 500–599 is comprised of chapter V—Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury. The sixth volume containing part 600–end is comprised of chapter VI—Farm Credit Administration, chapter VII—National Credit Union Administration, chapter VIII—Federal Financing Bank, chapter IX—Federal Housing Finance Board, chapter XI—Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, chapter XIV—Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, chapter XV—Department of the Treasury, chapter XVII—Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, Department of Housing and Urban Development and chapter XVIII—Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury. The contents of these volumes represent all of the current regulations codified under this title of the CFR as of January 1, 2000.

Redesignation tables appear in the volumes containing parts 1–199, parts 300–499, parts 500–599, and part 600–end.

For this volume, Shelley C. Featherson was Chief Editor. The Code of Federal Regulations publication program is under the direction of Frances D. McDonald, assisted by Alomha S. Morris.

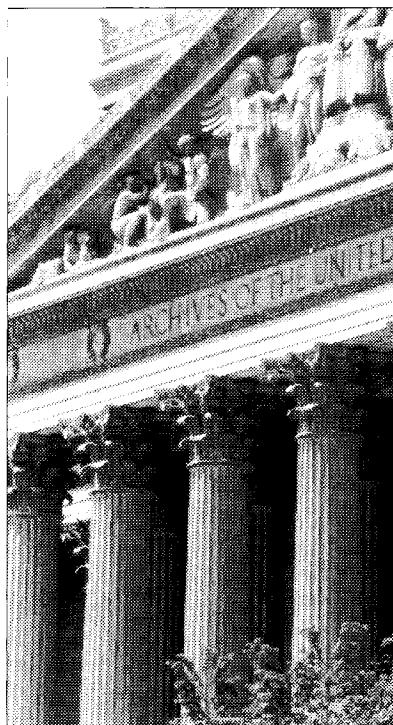
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SUBCHAPTER A—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

PART 600—ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS

Subpart A—Farm Credit Administration

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- 600.10 Service of Process.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10, 5.11, 5.17, 8.11 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2252, 2279aa-11).

SOURCE: 53 FR 16693, May 11, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Farm Credit Administration

§ 600.1 The Farm Credit Act.

The Farm Credit Act of 1971, Pub. L. 92-181 recodified and replaced the prior laws under which the Farm Credit Administration and the institutions of the Farm Credit System were organized and operated. The prior laws, which were repealed and superseded by the Act, are identified in section 5.40(a) of the Act. Subsequent amendments to the Act and enactment dates are as follows: Pub. L. 94-184, December 31, 1975; Pub. L. 95-443, October 10, 1978; Pub. L. 96-592, December 24, 1980; Pub. L. 99-190, December 19, 1985; Pub. L. 99-198, December 23, 1985; Pub. L. 99-205, December 23, 1985; Pub. L. 99-509, October 21, 1986; Pub. L. 100-233, January 6, 1988; Pub. L. 100-399, August 17, 1988; Pub. L. 100-460, October 1, 1988; Pub. L. 101-73, August 9, 1989; Pub. L. 101-220, December 12, 1989; Pub. L. 101-624, November 28, 1990; Pub. L. 102-237, December 13, 1991; Pub. L. 102-552, October 28, 1992. The law is codified at 12 U.S.C. 2000, *et seq.*

[53 FR 16693, May 11, 1988, as amended at 56 FR 2672, Jan. 24, 1991; 59 FR 21641, Apr. 26, 1994]

§ 600.2 Farm Credit Administration.

The Farm Credit Administration is an independent, non-appropriated fund agency in the executive branch of the Federal Government. It is composed of the Farm Credit Administration Board and such other personnel as are employed in carrying out the functions, powers, and duties vested in the Farm Credit Administration. The mailing address of the central offices of the Farm Credit Administration is McLean, Virginia 22102-5090. The hours of business in the central offices are 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (eastern time), Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

§ 600.3 Farm Credit Administration Board.

(a) *Organization.* The Farm Credit Administration Board (Board) is a full-time, three-member board entrusted with the responsibility to manage the Farm Credit Administration. The Board consists of three members appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Board may not contain more than two members of the same political party. One member is designated by the President as Chairman of the Board for the duration of such member's term. Each member of the Board shall serve a single 6-year term and cannot be reappointed except in the case of such members who are initially appointed for less than a 6-year term on initial formation of the Board or any member who is appointed to fill an unexpired term of less than 3 years. A member of the Board shall continue to serve subsequent to the expiration of that member's term until the point in time at which an eligible successor has taken his or her oath of office. A person appointed to the Board shall subscribe to the oath of office within 15 days after having received notice of appointment. Each Board member is assisted by a staff.

(b) *Functions and responsibilities.* The Board manages, administers, and establishes policies for the Farm Credit Administration. Specifically, the

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Board prescribes the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended, and provides for the examination of Farm Credit System institutions and for the performance of all the powers and duties vested in the Farm Credit Administration.

§ 600.4 Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration Board.

(a) The Chairman of the Board is the Chief Executive Officer of the Farm Credit Administration. The Chairman is responsible for directing the implementation of the policies and regulations adopted by the Board and, after consultation with the Board, the execution of the administrative functions and duties of the Farm Credit Administration. In carrying out policies as directed by the Board, the Chairman acts as the spokesperson for the Board and represents the Board and the Farm Credit Administration in their official relations within the Federal Government. Under policies adopted by the Board, the Chairman consults with the Secretary of Treasury, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and the Secretary of Agriculture on specific matters.

(b) The Chairman has the authority to appoint such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Farm Credit Administration, including the appointment of a Secretary to the Board and noncareer Office Directors. The Board has the authority to approve the appointment by the Chairman of a Chief Operating Officer and career Office Directors. Each Board member has the authority to appoint personnel employed regularly and full-time in his or her immediate office. The Chairman may not delegate powers specifically reserved to the Chairman by the Act without the approval of the Board. In carrying out authorities and responsibilities, the Chairman is governed by general policies adopted by the Board and by such regulatory decisions, findings, and determinations as the Board may by law be authorized to make.

(c) The Chairman as Chief Executive Officer is responsible for overseeing the agency's equal employment opportunity programs. An Equal Employ-

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ment Opportunity Manager reports directly to the Chairman as Chief Executive Officer.

(d) The Chairman, as head of the agency, has general supervisory authority over the Inspector General. The Inspector General has the authority to select, appoint, and employ such officers and employees as may be necessary to carry out the functions, powers, and duties of the Office of Inspector General. The Inspector General is also authorized to enter into contracts and other arrangements for audits, studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and private persons, and to obtain the temporary or intermittent services of experts or consultants or an organization of any such professionals. In exercising these authorities, the Inspector General is subject to applicable statutory and regulatory constraints, as well as agency and governmentwide administrative and budgetary limitations.

[53 FR 16693, May 11, 1988, as amended at 59 FR 21641, Apr. 26, 1994]

§ 600.5 Organization of the Farm Credit Administration.

(a) *Chief Operating Officer.* The Chief Operating Officer (COO) reports to and is subject to the direction of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) concerning administrative matters and to the Board regarding general planning and policy matters, budgetary issues, rulemaking issues, and other matters for which the Board is responsible. Within this context, the COO has responsibility for planning, organizing, directing, coordinating, and controlling agency operations.

(b) *Office Directors.* Each Office of the Farm Credit Administration is headed by a Director. The Director of the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs reports to the CEO. The Director of the Office of Secondary Market Oversight reports to the CEO on administrative matters and to the Board concerning general policy and rulemaking issues. The Directors of the Offices of Examination, Policy Development and Risk Control, and Resources Management

Farm Credit Administration

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report to the COO. The General Counsel reports to the COO on administrative matters and to the Board on matters of agency policy. Each Office Director may, with the approval of the CEO or COO, as appropriate, establish and fix the responsibilities of the divisions and such other units as the Director deems necessary for the efficient functioning of the Office.

(c) *Inspector General.* The Inspector General reports directly to the Chairman.

(d) *Offices and functions—(1) Office of Examination.* The Office of Examination plans and conducts examinations of System institutions and other institutions as required by law; prepares and issues reports of examination summarizing examination findings; recommends corrective action as appropriate; and oversees compliance with the borrower rights provisions of the Act and agency regulations. The Office of Examination recommends formal administrative action to correct deficiencies when System institutions are found to be operating in an unsafe or unsound manner or are in violation of law or regulation. The Office Director prepares examination schedules for approval by the Board and advises the Board on matters affecting policy, regulation, and legislation relating to examination activities. The Director, Office of Examination, is the Chief Examiner of the Farm Credit Administration.

(2) *Office of Policy Development and Risk Control.* The Office of Policy Development and Risk Control (OPDRC) develops policies and regulations for the FCA Board's consideration and promotes risk management policies and practices by the Farm Credit System. The OPDRC has primary responsibility for developing regulatory proposals and public policy statements that effectively implement applicable statutes and promote the safety and soundness of the System. Other major functions include evaluating requests for regulatory and charter approvals and managing the FCA's corporate activities; ensuring that risks associated with chartering activities are properly disclosed to System shareholders and the FCA Board; managing the FCA's formal enforcement activities and pro-

viding economic and financial analyses that identify risk and contribute to the effective management of such risks. The OPDRC also facilitates the FCA's strategic planning function.

(3) *Office of Resources Management.* The Office of Resources Management provides agency administrative management for the agency budget, accounting, human resources, training, procurement, electronic data processing, document processing, property, supply, facilities, records and other administrative services. The Chairman and the Board members have delegated to the Chief of the Human Resources Division the authority to serve as appointing officer, including the authority to classify or place positions in the appropriate pay plan and pay ranges.

(4) *Office of General Counsel.* The Office of General Counsel provides legal advice and services to the Board, the Chairman, and the agency staff. The Office interprets the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended, and other applicable laws; participates in the preparation of agency rules and regulations; and represents the agency in litigation, in enforcement proceedings brought by the agency, and in proceedings before other administrative bodies. The Office of General Counsel also has the responsibility to ensure that the agency meets all statutory and regulatory ethics requirements. The Director, Office of General Counsel, is the General Counsel of the Farm Credit Administration.

(5) *Office of Congressional and Public Affairs.* The Office of Congressional and Public Affairs coordinates and disseminates all communication by the agency with the Congress and plans and implements all public communications. The Office is the first source of information to the Farm Credit System and borrowers concerning the Farm Credit Administration and provides other representational services for the Board and the agency to the public.

(6) *Office of Inspector General.* The Office of Inspector General is an independent office established by the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988 to:

(i) Conduct and supervise audits and investigations relating to the programs

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and operations of the Farm Credit Administration;

(ii) Provide leadership and coordination and recommend policies for activities designed to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the administration of the Farm Credit Administration's programs and operations;

(iii) Prevent and detect fraud and abuse in the Farm Credit Administration's programs and operations; and

(iv) Provide a means to keep the Chairman and Congress fully and currently informed about problems and deficiencies relating to the Farm Credit Administration's programs and operations and the necessity for, and progress of, corrective actions.

(7) *Office of Secondary Market Oversight.* The Office of Secondary Market Oversight, a separate office within the Farm Credit Administration pursuant to section 8.11 of the Act, provides for:

(i) The examination of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation and its affiliates; and

(ii) The general supervision of the safe and sound performance of the powers, functions, and duties vested in the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation and its affiliates.

(e) *Additional Information.* Current information on the organization of the Farm Credit Administration may be obtained from the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, Virginia 22102-5090.

[53 FR 16693, May 11, 1988, as amended at 59 FR 21641, Apr. 26, 1994; 61 FR 67185, Dec. 20, 1996]

Subpart B—Rules and Procedures for Service Upon the Farm Credit Administration

§ 600.10 Service of Process.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in the Farm Credit Administration regulations, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or by order of a court with jurisdiction over the Farm Credit Administration, any legal process upon the Farm Credit Administration shall be duly issued and served upon the Secretary to the Farm Credit Administration Board, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102-5090.

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(b) Service of process upon the Secretary to the Farm Credit Administration Board may be effected by personally delivering a copy of the documents to the Secretary or by sending a copy of the documents to the Secretary by registered or certified mail.

(c) The Secretary shall promptly forward a copy of all documents to the General Counsel and to any Farm Credit Administration personnel named in the caption of the documents.

[54 FR 50736, Dec. 11, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 21642, Apr. 26, 1994]

PART 601—EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 7301; 12 U.S.C. 2243, 2252.

§ 601.100 Cross-references to employee ethical conduct standards and financial disclosure regulations.

Board members, officers, and other employees of the Farm Credit Administration are subject to the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch at 5 CFR part 2635, the Farm Credit Administration regulation at 5 CFR part 4101, which supplements the Executive Branch-wide Standards, and the executive branch-wide financial disclosure regulations at 5 CFR part 2634.

[60 FR 30782, June 12, 1995]

PART 602—RELEASING INFORMATION

Subpart A—Information and Records Generally

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602.2 Disclosing reports of examination.

Subpart B—Availability of Records of the Farm Credit Administration

602.3 Definitions.

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Subpart E—Release of Records in Public Rulemaking Files

- 602.25 General.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 5.9, 5.17; 12 U.S.C. 2243, 2252; 5 U.S.C. 301, 552; 52 FR 10012; E.O. 12600, 52 FR 23781, 3 CFR 1987, p. 235.

SOURCE: 64 FR 41770, Aug. 2, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Information and Records Generally

§ 602.1 Purpose and scope.

This part contains FCA's rules for disclosing our records or information; processing requests for records under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552, as amended)(FOIA); FOIA fees; disclosing otherwise exempt information in litigation when FCA is not a party; and getting documents in public rulemaking files. Part 603 of this chapter tells you how to get records about yourself under the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a.

§ 602.2 Disclosing reports of examination.

(a) *Disclosure by FCA.* Reports of examination are FCA property. We prepare them for our confidential use and the use of the institution examined. We do not give reports of examination to the public. Except as provided in this section, only the Chairman or the

Chairman's designee may consent to disclosing reports of examination of Farm Credit System institutions and other institutions subject to our examination. You may send a written request to our General Counsel that explains why we should give permission.

(b) *Disclosure by Farm Credit System institutions.* An institution that we have examined may disclose its report of examination to its officers, directors, and agents, such as its attorney or accountant, if they agree to keep the report confidential. In addition, banks may disclose their reports of examination to their affiliated associations, associations may disclose their reports to their supervisory bank, and service corporations may disclose their reports of examination to the institutions that own them. An institution may not disclose these institutions' reports of examination to any other person without our written permission.

(c) *Disclosure to governmental entities.* Without waiving any privilege, we will disclose reports of examination to other Federal government entities:

(1) In response to a Federal court order;

(2) In response to a request of either House or a Committee or Subcommittee of Congress; or

(3) When requested for confidential use in an official investigation by authorized representatives of other Federal agencies.

Subpart B—Availability of Records of the Farm Credit Administration

§ 602.3 Definitions.

Appeal means a request under the FOIA asking for the reversal of a decision.

Business information means trade secrets or other commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential.

Business submitter means any person or entity that gives business information to the Government.

FOIA request means a written request for FCA records, made by any person or entity that either directly or indirectly invokes the FOIA or this part.

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Record means all documentary materials, such as books, papers, maps, photographs, and machine-readable materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics (for example, electronic format) in our possession and control when we receive your FOIA request.

§ 602.4 How to make a request.

(a) *How to make and address a request.* Your request for records must be in writing and addressed to the FOIA Officer, Farm Credit Administration. You may send it:

(1) By mail to 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102-5090;

(2) By facsimile to (703) 790-0052; or

(3) By E-mail to "foiaofficer@fca.gov."

(b) *Description of requested records.* You must describe the requested records in enough detail to let us find them with a reasonable effort. If the description is inadequate, we will ask you to provide more information and the 20-day response period under § 602.5(a) will not begin until we receive your reply.

(c) *Faster response.* You may ask for a faster response to your FOIA request by giving us a statement, certified to be true, that you have a "compelling need." The FOIA Officer will tell you within 10 calendar days after receiving the request whether we will respond to it faster. If so, we will respond to your request as soon as we can. A *compelling need* means:

(1) Someone's life or physical safety may be in danger if we do not respond to the request faster; or

(2) You urgently need to tell the public about Federal government activity as a representative of the news media.

(d) *Request for personal information.* If you or your representative requests your personal information, we may require you to give us a notarized request, identify yourself under penalty of perjury, or provide other proof of your identity.

(e) *Fees.* When making a request, you must tell us the most you are willing to pay. Our charges are in the fee tables in §§ 602.11 and 602.12. You may also want to tell us the purpose of your request so we can classify your request for fee purposes.

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(f) *Other requests.* To ensure the public has timely information about our activities, the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs will make available copies of public documents, such as the FCA annual report and media advisories.

§ 602.5 FCA response to requests for records.

(a) *Response time.* Within 20 business days of receiving your request, the FOIA Officer will tell you whether we have granted or denied it. If you send your request to the wrong address, the 20-day response time will not begin until the FOIA Officer receives your request.

(b) *Extension of response time.* In "unusual circumstances," the FOIA Officer may extend the 20-day response time for up to 10 more business days by telling you in writing why we need more time and the date we will mail you our response. As used in this subpart, "unusual circumstances" means our need to:

(1) Search for and get the requested records from field offices or other locations;

(2) Search for, get, and review many records identified in a single request;

(3) Consult with another Federal agency having a substantial interest in the request; or

(4) Consult with two or more FCA offices having a substantial interest in the request.

(c) *Referrals.* If you ask for records we have that another Federal agency originated, we will refer the request to the originating agency and tell you about the referral. If you should have sent your request to another Federal agency, we will refer the request to that agency and so advise you.

§ 602.6 FOIA exemptions.

The FOIA allows agencies to withhold documents in certain categories. For instance, we do not have to give you documents that relate to our examination of institutions or that would violate the personal privacy of an individual. If we do not give you a document because the FOIA does not require us to, we will tell you which FOIA exemption applies to our decision.

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§ 602.7 Confidential business information.

(a) *FCA disclosure.* FCA may disclose business information from a business submitter only under this section. This section will not apply if:

(1) We decide the business submitter has no valid basis to object to disclosure;

(2) The information has been published lawfully or made available to the public; or

(3) Law (other than the FOIA) requires disclosure of the information.

(b) *Notice by FCA.* When we receive a request for confidential business information, the FOIA Officer will promptly tell the requester and the business submitter in writing that the responsive records may be free from disclosure under the FOIA. We will give the business submitter a reasonable time to object to the proposed disclosure of the responsive records and tell the requester whenever:

(1) The business submitter has in good faith labeled the information a trade secret or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential. We will provide such notice for 10 years after receiving the information unless the business submitter justifies the need for a longer period; or

(2) We believe that disclosing the information may result in commercial or financial injury to the business submitter.

(c) *Objection to release.* A business submitter who objects to our releasing the requested information should tell us in writing why the information is a trade secret or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential.

(d) *FCA response.* (1) We will consider carefully a business submitter's objections. If we decide to disclose business information over the submitter's objection, the FOIA Officer will explain to the submitter in writing why we disagreed with the submitter's objection and describe the business information to be disclosed.

(2) We will tell the requester and the submitter the proposed disclosure date at the same time.

(3) If a submitter sues to prevent release, we will promptly tell the requester and will not disclose the busi-

ness information until after the court's decision.

(4) If a requester sues to compel disclosure, we will promptly tell the business submitter.

§ 602.8 Appeals.

(a) *How to appeal.* You may appeal a total or partial denial of your FOIA request within 30 calendar days of the date of the denial letter. Your appeal must be in writing and addressed to the Director, Office of Resources Management (ORM), Farm Credit Administration. You may send it:

(1) By mail to 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102-5090;

(2) By facsimile to (703) 893-2608; or

(3) By E-mail to foiaappeal@fca.gov.

(b) *FCA action on appeal.* Within 20 business days of receiving your appeal, the ORM Director will tell you, in writing, whether we have granted or denied it. If you send your appeal to the wrong address, the 20-day response time will not begin until the ORM Director receives your appeal.

(c) *Unusual circumstances.* In unusual circumstances, the ORM Director may extend the 20-day response time by telling you in writing why we need more time and the date we will mail you our response. All extensions, including any extension of the response time for the first request, may not total more than 10 business days.

§ 602.9 Current FOIA index.

FCA will make a current index available for public inspection and copying, as required by the FOIA. We will give you an index for the cost of copying it. Because we rarely receive requests for an index, we have not published one in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

Subpart C—FOIA Fees

§ 602.10 Definitions.

Commercial use request means an information request by an individual or entity seeking information for a use or purpose that furthers the commercial, trade, or profit interests of that individual or entity.

Direct costs means the costs FCA incurs in searching for and reproducing documents to respond to a FOIA request. For a commercial use request, it

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also means the costs we incur in reviewing documents to respond to the request. Direct costs include the pro rated cost of the salary of the employee performing the work (based on the basic rate of pay plus 16 percent to cover benefits) and the cost of operating reproduction equipment. They do not include overhead expenses.

Educational institution means a preschool, a public or private elementary or secondary school, an institution of undergraduate or graduate higher education, an institution of professional education, or an institution of vocational education that runs a program of scholarly research.

Noncommercial scientific institution means a nonprofit institution that conducts scientific research that is not intended to promote any particular product or industry.

Pages mean 8–1/2 × 11 inch or 11 × 14 inch paper copies.

Representative of the news media means any person actively gathering news for an entity that publishes or broadcasts news to the public. *News* means information about current events or of current interest to the public.

Reproduce (or reproduction) means copying a record.

Review means looking at documents found in response to a FOIA request to decide whether any portion should be withheld. It does not include the time spent resolving legal or policy issues.

Search means all time spent looking for material responsive to a FOIA request, including page-by-page or line-by-line identification of material withheld in documents.

§ 602.11 Fees by type of requester.

Depending on your identity and the purpose of your request, the FCA may charge you the direct costs of searching for responsive records, reviewing the records, and reproducing them. If necessary, we will seek clarification before classifying the request.

(a) *Educational institutions and non-commercial scientific institutions.* We charge fees for reproduction costs only. The first 100 pages are free. You must show that the request is sanctioned by an educational or noncommercial scientific institution and that you seek the records for scholarly or scientific research, not for a commercial use.

(b) *Representatives of the news media.* We charge fees for reproduction costs only. The first 100 pages are free. You must be a representative of the news media, and the request must not be made for a commercial use. A request for records supporting news distribution is not a request for a commercial use.

(c) *Commercial use.* We charge the direct cost for search, review, and reproduction. Commercial use requesters are not entitled to free search time or free reproduction. We will charge you even if we do not disclose any records.

(d) *All others.* The first 2 hours of search time and the first 100 pages of reproduction are free. After that, we will charge you for search and reproduction costs. We will charge you for a search even if we do not disclose any records.

(e) *Fee table.* The fee information in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section is presented in the table to this paragraph. You may apply for a waiver if your request is not mostly in your commercial interest and the disclosure is in the public interest. See § 602.13.

FEE TABLE

Type of requester	Charges for		Reproduction
	Search time	Review time	
•Educational	No Charge	No charge	First 100 pages free, \$ 0.15 a page after that.
•Noncommercial scientific users			
•News media			
Commercial Users ¹	All direct costs	All direct costs	\$0.15 a page.
All others ¹	First 2 hours free, all direct costs after that.	No charge	First 100 pages free, \$0.15 a page after that.

¹ You are responsible for fees even if we do not disclose any records.

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§ 602.12 Fees.

(a) FCA may charge:

(1) For manual searches for records and for review, the pro rated cost of the salary of the employee doing the work.

(2) For computer searches for records, the direct costs of computer search time and supply or material costs.

(3) For each page made by photocopy or similar method, fifteen cents a page, and for other forms of copying, the direct costs.

(4) The direct costs of elective services, such as certifying records as true copies or sending records by special methods.

(b) We will not charge fees when total assessed fees are less than \$15.00.

(c) You must pay by personal check, bank draft drawn on a United States bank, or postal money order made payable to the Treasury of the United States.

(d) We treat a request about yourself under Privacy Act fee rules.

(e) The information in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section is presented in the table to this paragraph. Direct costs means the costs FCA incurs in searching for, reviewing, and reproducing documents to respond to a request. Direct costs include pro rated salary and reproduction costs. We will not charge fees when they total less than \$15.00.

FEE AMOUNTS TABLE

Type of fee	Amount of fee
Manual Search and Review	Pro rated Salary Costs.
Computer Search	Direct Costs.
Photocopy	\$0.15 a page.
Other Reproduction Costs	Direct Costs.
Elective Services	Direct Costs.

§ 602.13 Fee waiver.

We may waive or reduce fees if disclosure is not mostly in your commercial interest but, instead, is in the public interest because it will advance public understanding of the Federal government's operations or activities.

§ 602.14 Advance payments—notice.

(a) If fees will be more than \$25.00 and you have not told us in advance that you will pay estimated fees, we will tell you the estimated amount and ask that you agree to pay it. Except as noted in this section, we will begin processing the FOIA request when we receive your agreement to pay.

(b) If estimated fees exceed \$250.00 and you have a history of promptly paying fees charged for information requests, we may respond to your request based on your agreement to pay.

(c) If estimated fees exceed \$250.00 and you have no history of paying fees, we may require you to pay in advance.

(d) If you have previously failed to pay fees for information requests or paid them late, you must pay any fees still owed, plus interest calculated

under § 602.15, and the estimated fees before we will respond to a new or a pending request.

(e) If we require advance payment or an advance agreement to pay, we will not consider your request to be received and will not respond to it until you meet the requirement.

§ 602.15 Interest on unpaid fees.

If you fail to pay fees on time, FCA may charge you interest starting on the 31st calendar day following the date we bill you. We will charge you interest at the rate allowed by law (31 U.S.C. 3717) on the billing date.

§ 602.16 Combining requests.

You may not avoid paying fees by filing multiple requests at the same time. When FCA reasonably believes that you, alone or with others, are breaking down a request into a series of requests to avoid fees, we will combine the requests and charge accordingly. We will assume that multiple requests within a 30-day period have been made to avoid fees.

Subpart D—Testimony and Production of Documents in Legal Proceedings in Which FCA is Not a Named Party

§ 602.17 Policy.

(a) The rules in this subpart preserve the confidentiality of FCA's documents and information, conserve employees' time for official duties, uphold fairness in litigation, and help the Chairman decide when to allow testimony and to produce documents. This subpart does not affect access to documents under the FOIA or the Privacy Act. See subpart B of this part and part 603 of this chapter.

(b) Generally, we will not produce documents voluntarily and employees will not appear as witnesses voluntarily in any legal proceeding. However, in limited circumstances, the Chairman may allow the production of documents or testimony when the Chairman decides it would be in the best interest of FCA or the public. All privileged documents produced under this subpart remain our property. Any employee having information or privileged documents may disclose them only as allowed by the Chairman.

§ 602.18 Definitions.

Court means any entity conducting a legal proceeding.

Demand means any order, subpoena, or other legal process for testimony or documents.

Direct costs means FCA's costs to search for, review, and reproduce documents to respond to a request. Direct costs include the pro rated cost of the salary of the employee performing the work (based on the basic rate of pay plus 16 percent to cover benefits) and the cost of operating reproduction equipment.

Document means any record or other documentary materials, such as books, papers, maps, photographs, and machine-readable materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics (for example, electronic format) in our possession and control when we receive the request.

Employee means any present or former FCA employee, any present or former FCA Board member, any former

Federal Farm Credit Board member, any present or former FCA-appointed receiver or conservator, and any present or former agent or contractor.

FCA Counsel means the General Counsel, a Department of Justice attorney, or counsel authorized by FCA to act for the FCA or an employee.

General Counsel means the FCA's General Counsel or designee.

Legal proceeding means any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding, including a discovery proceeding, before a court when FCA is not a named party and has not instituted the legal proceeding.

§ 602.19 Request for testimony or production of documents.

(a) *How to make and address a request.* Your request for an employee's testimony about official matters or the production of documents must be in writing and addressed to the General Counsel, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102–5090.

(b) Your request must contain the following:

- (1) Title of the case;
- (2) Forum;
- (3) Your interest in the case;
- (4) Summary of the litigation issues;
- (5) Reasons for the request;
- (6) Why the confidential information is important; and
- (7) An explanation of why the testimony or document you want is not reasonably available from another source. If you want testimony, you must also state how you intend to use the testimony, provide a subject matter summary of the requested testimony, and explain why a document could not be used instead.

(c) The General Counsel may ask you to limit your request to make it less burdensome or to give us information to help us decide if providing documents or testimony is in the public interest.

§ 602.20 Testimony of FCA employees.

(a) An employee may testify only as the Chairman approves in writing. Generally, an employee may testify only by deposition or written interrogatory. An employee may give only factual testimony and may not give opinion testimony.

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(b) If, in response to your request, the Chairman decides that an employee may testify, you must serve the employee with a subpoena under applicable Federal or State rules of procedure and at the same time send a copy of the subpoena by registered mail to the General Counsel.

(c) Normally, depositions will be taken at the employee's office, at a time convenient to the employee and the FCA. FCA counsel may represent FCA's interests at the deposition.

(d) If you request the deposition, you must give the General Counsel a copy of the deposition transcript at no charge.

§ 602.21 Production of FCA documents.

(a) An FCA employee may produce documents only as the Chairman allows.

(b) Before we will release any documents, the requesting party must get an acceptable protective order from the court before which the action is pending that will preserve the confidentiality of the documents to be released.

(c) On request, we may provide certified or authenticated copies of documents.

§ 602.22 Fees.

(a) For documents released under this subpart, FCA will charge:

(1) The direct costs of searching for responsive records, including the use of a computer, reviewing the records, and reproducing them. We also will charge for the direct costs of any other services and materials that we provide at your request.

(2) Fifteen cents a copy for each page made by photocopy or similar process.

(3) The direct costs for each certification or authentication of documents.

(b) You must pay by personal check, bank draft drawn on a United States bank, or postal money order made payable to FCA. We will waive fees of \$15.00 or less. We will send the documents after we receive your payment.

§ 602.23 Responses to demands served on FCA employees.

(a) An employee served with a demand or a subpoena in a legal proceeding must immediately tell the

General Counsel of such service, the testimony or documents described in the demand, and all relevant facts.

(b) When the Chairman does not allow testimony or production of documents, FCA Counsel will provide the regulations in this subpart to the party or court issuing the demand and explain that the employee may not testify or produce documents without the Chairman's prior approval.

(c) If the court rules the employee must comply with the demand regardless of the Chairman's instructions not to do so, the employee must respectfully refuse to comply.

(d) FCA's decision under this subpart to comply or not to comply with any demand is not a waiver, an assertion of privilege, or an objection based on relevance, technical deficiency, or any other ground. We may oppose any demand on any legal ground.

§ 602.24 Responses to demands served on non-FCA employees or entities.

If you are not an employee and are served with a demand or a subpoena in a legal proceeding directing you to produce or testify about an FCA report of examination, other document created or adopted by FCA, or any related document, you must object and immediately tell the General Counsel of such service, the testimony or documents described in the demand, and all relevant facts. You also must object to the production of any documents on the basis that they are FCA's property and cannot be released without FCA's consent. You should tell the requester the production of documents or testimony must follow the procedures in this part.

Subpart E—Release of Records in Public Rulemaking Files

§ 602.25 General.

FCA has a public rulemaking file for each regulation. You may get copies of documents in the public rulemaking file by sending a written request to the Director, Regulation and Policy Division, Office of Policy and Analysis, Farm Credit Administration, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102-5090. We will charge fifteen cents a

copy for each page. We will waive fees of \$15.00 or less.

PART 603—PRIVACY ACT REGULATIONS

Sec.

603.300 Purpose and scope.

603.305 Definitions.

603.310 Procedures for requests pertaining to individual records in a record system.

603.315 Times, places, and requirements for identification of individuals making requests.

603.320 Disclosure of requested information to individuals.

603.325 Special procedures for medical records.

603.330 Request for amendment to record.

603.335 Agency review of request for amendment of record.

603.340 Appeal of an initial adverse determination of a request to amend a record.

603.345 Fees for providing copies of records.

603.350 Criminal penalties.

603.355 Exemptions.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 5.9, 5.17 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2243, 2252); 5 U.S.C. app. 3, 5 U.S.C. 552a (j)(2) and (k)(2).

SOURCE: 40 FR 40454, Sept. 2, 1975, unless otherwise noted.

§ 603.300 Purpose and scope.

(a) This part is published by the Farm Credit Administration pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93–579, 5 U.S.C. 552a) which requires each Federal agency to promulgate rules to establish procedures for notification and disclosure to an individual of agency records pertaining to that person, and for review of such records.

(b) The records covered by this part include:

(1) Personnel and employment records maintained by the Farm Credit Administration which are not covered by §§ 293.101 through 293.108 of the regulations of the Office of Personnel Management (5 CFR 293.101 through 293.108), and

(2) Other records contained in record systems maintained by the Farm Credit Administration.

[40 FR 40454, Sept. 2, 1975, as amended at 51 FR 41941, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 603.305 Definitions.

For the purposes of this part:

(a) *Agency* means the Farm Credit Administration.

(b) *Individual* means a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence;

(c) *Maintain* includes maintain, collect, use, or disseminate;

(d) *Record* means any item, collection, or grouping of information about an individual that is maintained by an agency including, but not limited to, that person's education, financial transactions, medical history, and criminal or employment history, and that contains that person's name, or the identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual, such as a finger or voice print or photograph;

(e) *Routine use* means, with respect to the disclosure of a record, the use of such record for a purpose that is compatible with the purpose for which it was collected;

(f) *Statistical record* means a record in a system of records maintained for statistical research or reporting purposes only and not used in whole or in part in making any determination about an identifiable individual, except as provided by 13 U.S.C. 8;

(g) *System of records* means a group of any records under the control of any agency from which information is retrieved by the name of an individual or by some identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual.

[51 FR 41941, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 603.310 Procedures for requests pertaining to individual records in a record system.

(a) Any present or former employee of the Farm Credit Administration seeking access to that person's official civil service records maintained by the Farm Credit Administration shall submit a request in such manner as is prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management.

(b) Individuals shall submit their requests in writing to the Privacy Act Officer, Office of General Counsel, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, Virginia 22102–5090, when seeking to obtain from the Farm Credit Administration:

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(1) Notification of whether the agency maintains a record pertaining to that person in a system of records;

(2) Notification of whether the agency has disclosed a record for which an accounting of disclosure is required to be maintained and made available to that person;

(3) A copy of a record pertaining to that person or the accounting of its disclosure;

(4) The review of a record pertaining to that person or the accounting of its disclosure. The request shall state the full name and address of the individual, and identify the system or systems of records believed to contain the information or record sought.

[51 FR 41941, Nov. 20, 1986, as amended at 61 FR 67185, Dec. 20, 1996]

§ 603.315 Times, places, and requirements for identification of individuals making requests.

The individual making written requests for information or records ordinarily will not be required to verify that person's identity. The signature upon such requests shall be deemed to be a certification by the requester that he or she is the individual to whom the record pertains, or the parent of a minor, or the duly appointed legal guardian of the individual to whom the record pertains. The Privacy Act Officer, however, may require such additional verification of identity in any instance in which the Privacy Act Officer deems it advisable.

[51 FR 41941, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 603.320 Disclosure of requested information to individuals.

(a) The Privacy Act Officer shall, within a reasonable period of time after the date of receipt of a request for information of records:

(1) Determine whether or not such request shall be granted,

(2) Notify the requester of the determination and, if the request is denied, of the reasons therefor, and

(3) Notify the requester that fees for reproducing copies of records may be charged as provided in § 603.345 of this part.

(b) If access to a record is denied because the information therein has been compiled by the Farm Credit Adminis-

tration in reasonable anticipation of a civil or criminal action proceeding, the Privacy Act Officer shall notify the requester of that person's right to judicial appeal under 5 U.S.C. 552a(g).

(c)(1) If access to a record is granted, the requester shall notify the Officer whether the requested record is to be copied and mailed to the requester or whether the record is to be made available for personal inspection.

(2) A requester who is an individual may be accompanied by an individual selected by the requester when the record is disclosed, in which case the requester may be required to furnish a written statement authorizing the discussion of the record in the presence of the accompanying person.

(d) If the record is to be made available for personal inspection, the requester shall arrange with the Privacy Act Officer a mutually agreeable time in the offices of the Farm Credit Administration for inspection of the record.

[40 FR 40454, Sept. 2, 1975, as amended at 51 FR 41941, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 603.325 Special procedures for medical records.

Medical records in the custody of the Farm Credit Administration which are not subject to Office of Personnel Management regulations shall be disclosed either to the individual to whom they pertain or that person's authorized or legal representative or to a licensed physician named by the individual.

[51 FR 41942, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 603.330 Request for amendment to record.

(a) If, after disclosure of the requested information, an individual believes that the record is not accurate, relevant, timely, or complete, that person may request in writing that the record be amended. Such a request shall be submitted to the Privacy Act Officer and shall contain identification of the system of records and the record or information therein, a brief description of the material requested to be changed, the requested change or changes, and the reason for such change or changes.

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(b) The Privacy Act Officer shall acknowledge receipt of the request within 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) and, if a determination has not been made, advise the individual when that person may expect to be advised of action taken on the request. The acknowledgment may contain a request for additional information needed to make a determination.

[51 FR 41942, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 603.335 Agency review of request for amendment of record.

Upon receipt of a request for amendment of a record, the Privacy Act Officer shall:

(a) Correct any portion of a record which the individual making the request believes is not accurate, relevant, timely, or complete and thereafter inform the individual in writing of such correction, or

(b) Inform the individual in writing of refusal to amend the record and of the reasons therefor, and advise that the individual may appeal such determination as provided in § 603.340 of this part.

[40 FR 40454, Sept. 2, 1975, as amended at 51 FR 41942, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 603.340 Appeal of an initial adverse determination of a request to amend a record.

(a) Not more than 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after receipt by an individual of an adverse determination on the individual's request to amend a record or otherwise, the individual may appeal to the Director, Office of Resources Management.

(b) The appeal shall be by letter, mailed or delivered to the Director, Office of Resources Management, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, Virginia 22102–5090. The letter shall identify the records involved in the same manner they were identified to the Privacy Act Officer, shall specify the dates of the request and adverse determination, and shall indicate the expressed basis for that determination. Also, the letter shall state briefly and succinctly the reasons why the adverse determination should be reversed.

(c) The review shall be completed and a final determination made by the Director not later than 30 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) from receipt of the request for such review, unless the Director extends such 30-day period for good cause. If the 30-day period is extended, the individual shall be notified of the reasons therefor.

(d) If the Director refuses to amend the record in accordance with the request, the individual shall be notified of the right to file a concise statement setting forth that person's disagreement with the final determination and that person's right under 5 U.S.C. 552a(g)(1)(A) to a judicial review of the final determination.

(e) If an amendment of a record as requested upon review is refused, there shall be included in the disputed portion of the record a copy of the concise statement filed by the individual together with a concise statement of the reasons for not amending the record as requested. Such statements will be included when disclosure of the disputed record is made to persons and agencies as authorized under 5 U.S.C. 552a.

[40 FR 40454, Sept. 2, 1975, as amended at 51 FR 41942, Nov. 20, 1986; 56 FR 2673, Jan. 24, 1991]

§ 603.345 Fees for providing copies of records.

Fees for providing copies of records shall be charged in accordance with §§ 602.267 and 602.269 of this chapter.

[40 FR 40454, Sept. 2, 1975, as amended at 56 FR 28479, June 21, 1991]

§ 603.350 Criminal penalties.

Section 552a (l) (3) of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a (i) (3)) makes it a misdemeanor, subject to a maximum fine of \$5,000, to knowingly and willfully request or obtain any record concerning any individual from an agency under false pretenses. Sections 552a (i) (1) and (2) of the Act (5 U.S.C. 552a (i) (1), (2)) provide penalties for violation by agency employees of the Act or regulations established thereunder.

§ 603.355 Exemptions.

(a) *Specific.* Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(2), the investigatory material

compiled for law enforcement purposes in the following systems of records is exempt from subsections (c)(3), (d), (e)(1), (e)(4) (G), (H), and (I) and (f) of 5 U.S.C. 552a and from the provisions of this part:

Farm Credit Bank loans—FCA.
 Production Credit Association loans—FCA.
 Agricultural Credit Association loans—FCA.
 Federal Land Credit Association loans—FCA.
 Agricultural Credit Bank loans—FCA.
 Office of Inspector General Investigative Files—FCA.

(b) *General.* (1) In addition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a (j)(2), investigatory materials compiled for criminal law enforcement in the system of records described in (b)(2) are exempt from all subsections of 5 U.S.C. 552a, except (b), (c) (1) and (2), (e)(4) (A) through (F), (e) (6), (7), (9), (10), and (11), and (i). Exemptions from the particular subsections are justified for the following reasons:

(i) From subsection (c)(3) because making available to a record subject the accounting of disclosures from records concerning him/her would reveal investigative interest on the part of the OIG. This would enable record subjects to impede the investigation by, for example, destroying evidence, intimidating potential witnesses, or fleeing the area to avoid inquiries or apprehension by law enforcement personnel.

(ii) From subsection (c)(4) because this system is exempt from the access provisions of subsection (d) pursuant to subsection (j)(2) of the Privacy Act.

(iii) From subsection (d) because the records contained in this system relate to official Federal investigations. Individual access to those records might compromise ongoing investigations, reveal confidential informants or constitute unwarranted invasions of the personal privacy of third parties who are involved in a certain investigation. Amendment of the records would interfere with ongoing criminal law enforcement proceedings and impose an impossible administrative burden by requiring criminal investigations to be continuously reinvestigated.

(iv) From subsections (e) (1) and (5) because in the course of law enforcement investigations, information may occasionally be obtained or introduced

the accuracy of which is unclear or which is not strictly relevant or necessary to a specific investigation. In the interests of effective law enforcement, it is appropriate to retain all information that may aid in establishing patterns of criminal activity. Moreover, it would impede the specific investigative process if it were necessary to assure the relevance, accuracy, timeliness and completeness of all information obtained.

(v) From subsection (e)(2) because in a law enforcement investigation the requirement that information be collected to the greatest extent possible from the subject individual would present a serious impediment to law enforcement in that the subject of the investigation would be informed of the existence of the investigation and would therefore be able to avoid detection, apprehension, or legal obligations or duties.

(vi) From subsection (e)(3) because to comply with the requirements of this subsection during the course of an investigation could impede the information gathering process, thus hampering the investigation.

(vii) From subsections (e)(4) (G), and (H), and (I), (e)(8), (f), (g) and (h) because this system is exempt from the access provisions of subsection (d) pursuant to subsection (j) of the Privacy Act.

(2) Office of Inspector General Investigative Files—FCA.

[56 FR 2673, Jan. 24, 1991, as amended at 57 FR 32421, July 22, 1992]

PART 604—FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION BOARD MEETINGS

Sec.

- 604.400 Definitions.
- 604.405 Notice of public observation.
- 604.410 Scope of application.
- 604.415 Open meetings.
- 604.420 Exemptive provisions.
- 604.425 Announcement of meetings.
- 604.430 Closure of meetings.
- 604.435 Record of closed meetings or closed portion of a meeting.
- 604.440 Requests for information.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 5.9, 5.17 of the Farm Credit Act; 12 U.S.C. 2243, 2252.

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§ 604.400 Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

(a) *Agency* means the Farm Credit Administration.

(b) *Board* means the Farm Credit Administration Board.

(c) *Exempt meeting* and *exempt portion of a meeting* mean, respectively, a meeting or that part of a meeting designated as provided in § 604.430 of this part as closed to the public by reason of one or more of the exemptive provisions listed in § 604.420 of this part.

(d) *Meeting* means the deliberations of at least two (quorum) members of the Board where such deliberations determine or result in joint conduct or disposition of official Farm Credit Administration business.

(e) *Member* means any one of the members of the Board.

(f) *Open meeting* means a meeting or portion of a meeting which is not an exempt meeting or an exempt portion of a meeting.

(g) *Public observation* means the right of any member of the public to attend and observe, but not participate or interfere in any way in, an open meeting of the Board, within the limits of reasonable and comfortable accommodations made available for such purpose by the Farm Credit Administration.

[51 FR 41942, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 604.405 Notice of public observation.

(a) A member of the public is not required to give advance notice to the Farm Credit Administration of an intention to exercise the right of public observation of an open meeting of the Board. However, in order to permit the Farm Credit Administration to determine the amount of space and number of seats which must be made available to accommodate individuals who desire to exercise the right of public observation, such individuals are requested to give notice to the Farm Credit Administration at least two business days before the start of the open meeting of the intention to exercise such right.

(b) Notice of intention to exercise the right of public observation may be given in writing, in person, or by telephone to the official designated in § 604.440 of this part.

(c) Individuals who have not given advance notice of intention to exercise the right of public observation will not be permitted to attend and observe the open meeting of the Board if the available space and seating are necessary to accommodate individuals who gave advance notice of such intention to the Farm Credit Administration.

[42 FR 12161, Mar. 3, 1977. Redesignated and amended at 51 FR 41942, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 604.410 Scope of application.

The provisions of this part apply to meetings of the Board, and do not apply to conferences or other gatherings of employees of the Farm Credit Administration who meet or join with others, except at meetings of the Board, to deliberate official agency business.

[51 FR 41942, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 604.415 Open meetings.

Every meeting and portion of a meeting of the Board shall be open to public observation unless the Board determines that such meeting or portion of a meeting will involve the discussion of matters which are within one or more of the exemptive provisions listed in § 604.420 of this part, and that the public interest is not served by the discussion of such matters in an open meeting.

[51 FR 41943, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 604.420 Exemptive provisions.

Except in a case where the Board determines that the public interest requires otherwise, a meeting or portion of a meeting may be closed to public observation where the Board determines that the meeting or portion of the meeting is likely to:

(a) Disclose matters that are:

(1) Specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or foreign policy, and

(2) In fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order;

(b) Relate solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Farm Credit Administration;

(c) Disclose matters specifically exempted from disclosure by statute

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(other than 5 U.S.C. 552): *Provided*, That such statute:

(1) Requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or

(2) Establishes particular types of matters to be withheld;

(d) Disclose trade secrets and privileged or confidential commercial or financial information obtained from a person;

(e) Involve accusing any person of a crime, or formally censuring any person;

(f) Disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(g) Disclose investigator records compiled for law enforcement purposes, or information which if written would be contained in such records, but only to the extent that the production of such records or information would:

(1) Interfere with enforcement proceedings;

(2) Deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;

(3) Constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(4) Disclose the identity of a confidential source and, in the case of a record compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, confidential information furnished only by the confidential source;

(5) Disclose investigative techniques and procedures; or

(6) Endanger the life or physical safety of law enforcement personnel;

(h) Disclose information contained in or related to examination, supervision, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of the Farm Credit Administration;

(i) Disclose information the premature disclosure of which would:

(1) Significantly endanger the stability of any Farm Credit System institution, including banks, associations, service organizations, the Funding Corporation, the Farm Credit System Assistance Board, or the Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation; or

(2) Be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed action of the Farm Credit Administration: *Provided*, said Administration has not already disclosed to the public the content or nature of its proposed action, or is not required by law to make such disclosure on its own initiative prior to taking final action on such proposal; or

(j) Specifically concern participation by the Farm Credit Administration in a civil action or proceeding otherwise involving a determination on the record before an opportunity for a hearing.

[51 FR 41943, Nov. 20, 1986, as amended at 56 FR 2673, Jan. 24, 1991]

§ 604.425 Announcement of meetings.

(a) The Board meets in the offices of the Farm Credit Administration, McLean, Virginia 22102-5090, on the second Thursday of each month.

(b) At any duly called meeting held previous to any meeting scheduled as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, the Board may fix a different time and place for a subsequent meeting.

(c) At the earliest practicable time, which is estimated to be not later than 8 days before the beginning of a meeting of the Board, the Farm Credit Administration shall make available for public inspection by posting notice on its public notice board in its offices, or pursuant to telephonic or written requests, the time, place, and subject matter of the meeting except to the extent that such information is exempt from disclosure under the provisions of § 604.420 of this part.

[42 FR 12161, Mar. 3, 1977. Redesignated and amended at 51 FR 41943, Nov. 20, 1986; 56 FR 9611, Mar. 7, 1991]

§ 604.430 Closure of meetings.

(a) A majority of the meetings or portions of a majority of the meetings of the board are exempt by reason of § 604.420 (d), (h), (i)(1), or (j) of this part. An exempt meeting or an exempt portion of a meeting shall be closed to the public when at least two members of the Board vote by a recorded vote of the Board at the beginning of the exempt meeting or exempt portion of a

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meeting to close such meeting or such exempt portion, and the General Counsel, Farm Credit Administration, publicly certifies that, in his or her opinion, the meeting or portion of the meeting may be closed to the public stating each relevant exemptive provision listed in § 604.420 of this part.

(b) A copy of the vote of the Board to close a meeting or an exempt portion thereof reflecting the vote of each member on the question, and a copy of the certification of General Counsel, shall be made available for public inspection in the offices of the Farm Credit Administration, or pursuant to telephonic or written requests.

(c) A copy of the certification of the General Counsel, together with a statement from the presiding officer of the meeting setting forth the time and place of an exempt meeting or an exempt portion of a meeting which was closed and the persons present, shall be retained by the Farm Credit Administration for a period of at least 2 years after the date of such closed meeting or closed portion of a meeting.

[42 FR 12161, Mar. 3, 1977. Redesignated and amended at 51 FR 41943, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 604.435 Record of closed meetings or closed portion of a meeting.

(a) The Farm Credit Administration shall maintain a complete transcript or electronic recording adequate to record fully the proceedings of each closed meeting or closed portion of a meeting, except that in the case of a meeting or portion of a meeting closed to the public pursuant to § 604.420 (d), (h), (i)(1), or (j) of this part, the Farm Credit Administration shall maintain either such transcript, recording, or a set of minutes.

(b) Any minutes so maintained shall fully and clearly describe all matters discussed and shall provide a full and accurate summary of any actions taken, and the reasons therefor, including a description of each of the views expressed on any item and the record of any roll call vote. All documents considered in connection with any action shall be identified in the minutes.

(c) The Farm Credit Administration shall promptly make available to the public, in its offices, the transcript, electronic recording, or minutes, of the

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discussion of any item on the agenda of a closed meeting, or closed portion of a meeting, except for such item or items of discussion which the Farm Credit Administration determines to contain information which may be withheld under § 604.420 of this part. Copies of such transcript or minutes, or a transcription of such recording disclosing the identity of each speaker, shall be furnished to any person at the actual cost of duplication or transcription.

(d) The Farm Credit Administration shall maintain a complete verbatim copy of the transcript, a complete copy of the minutes, or a complete electronic recording of each closed meeting or closed portion of a meeting for a period of 2 years after the date of such closed meeting or closed portion of a meeting.

(e) All actions required or permitted by this section to be undertaken by the Farm Credit Administration shall be by or under the authority of the Director, Office of Resources Management.

[42 FR 12161, Mar. 3, 1977. Redesignated and amended at 51 FR 41943, Nov. 20, 1986; 56 FR 2673, Jan. 24, 1991]

§ 604.440 Requests for information.

Requests to the Farm Credit Administration for information about the time, place, and subject matter of a meeting, whether it or any portion thereof is closed to the public, and any requests for copies of the transcript or minutes, or of a transcript of an electronic recording of a closed meeting, or closed portion of a meeting, to the extent not exempt from disclosure by the provisions of § 604.420 of this part, shall be addressed to the Secretary to the Board, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, Virginia 22102–5090.

[51 FR 41944, Nov. 20, 1986, as amended at 59 FR 21642, Apr. 26, 1994]

PART 605—INFORMATION

Sec.

605.500 Policy.

605.501 Information Security Officer.

605.502 Program and procedures.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 5.9, 5.12, 5.17 of the Farm Credit Act; 12 U.S.C. 2243, 2246, 2252.

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§ 605.500 Policy.

It is the policy of the Farm Credit Administration to act in matters relating to national security information in accordance with Executive Order 12356 and directives issued thereunder by the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO).

[49 FR 9859, Mar. 16, 1984]

§ 605.501 Information Security Officer.

(a) The Information Security Officer of the Farm Credit Administration shall be responsible for implementation and oversight of the information security program and procedures adopted by the Agency pursuant to the Executive order. This officer shall be the recipient of questions, suggestions, and complaints regarding all elements of this program and shall be solely responsible for changes to it and for the assurance that it is at all times consistent with the Executive order and ISOO directive.

(b) The Information Security Officer shall be the Farm Credit Administration's official contact for requests for declassification of materials submitted under the Executive order, regardless of the point of origin of such requests, and shall assure that such requests for records in the Farm Credit Administration's possession that were originated by another agency shall be forwarded to the originating agency. The Farm Credit Administration shall include a copy of the records requested together with its recommendation for action. Upon receipt, the originating agency shall process the request in accordance with 32 CFR 2001.32(a)(2)(i). Upon request, the originating agency shall communicate its declassification determination to the Farm Credit Administration. The Farm Credit Administration shall inform the requester of the determination within 1 year from the date of receipt, except in unusual circumstances. If an appeal is made on a denial of a mandatory declassification review request, the originating agency's appellate authority shall normally make a determination within 30 working days following the receipt of an appeal. If additional time is required to make a determination, the originating appellate authority shall notify the re-

quester of the additional time needed and provide the requester with the reason for extension. The originating agency's appellate authority shall notify the requester in writing of the final determination and of the reasons for any denial. Such officer shall also assure that requests for declassification submitted under the Freedom of Information Act are handled in accordance with that Act.

[49 FR 9859, Mar. 16, 1984]

§ 605.502 Program and procedures.

(a) The Farm Credit Administration has no authority for the original classification of information for national security purposes. Only those agencies described in the Executive order may so classify information.

(b) *Derivative classification.* "Derivative Classification" means a determination that information is in substance the same information that is currently classified under a designated level of classification. Derivative application of classification markings shall be the responsibility of the Information Security Officer who shall assure that the use of this authority is in accordance with ISOO directives.

(c) *Mandatory review.* All requests for review under the mandatory review provisions of the Executive order shall be handled by the Information Security Officer or his/her designee. Under no circumstances shall such official refuse to confirm the existence or nonexistence of a document requested under the Executive order or the Freedom of Information Act unless the fact of its existence or nonexistence would itself be classified under the Executive order.

(d) *Handling of classified documents.* All documents bearing the terms "Top Secret," "Secret," and "Confidential" shall be delivered to the Information Security Officer or his/her designee immediately upon receipt. All potential recipients of such documents shall be advised of the names of such designees. In the event that the Information Security Officer or his/her designee is not available to receive such documents, they shall be sent to the FCA mailroom and stored in the combination safe located in the Agency Services Branch and secured unopened until the

Information Security Officer is available. Under no circumstances shall classified materials that cannot be delivered be stored other than in the designated safe. All materials not immediately deliverable or able to be secured in the designated safe shall be returned to the sender, under appropriate cover, for redelivery to the FCA at the next earliest opportunity.

(e) *Reproduction.* Reproduction of classified materials shall take place only in accordance with section 4.1(b) of the Executive order and any limitations imposed by the originator. Should copies be made, they shall be subject to the same controls as the original document. Records showing the number and distribution of copies shall be maintained by the Information Security Officer or his/her designee, and the log stored with the original documents. These measures shall not restrict reproduction for the purposes of Mandatory Review.

(f) *Storage.* In accordance with 32 CFR 2001.43, all classified documents shall be stored in combination safes located at the primary headquarters and/or a Field Office, Office of Examination, Farm Credit Administration. The combinations shall be changed as required by directives issued by ISOO. The combinations shall be known only to the Information Security Officer and his/her designees who have appropriate security clearances.

(g) *Employee education.* All employees who have been granted a security clearance and who have occasion to handle classified materials shall be advised of handling, reproduction, and storage procedures and shall be required to review the Executive order and appropriate ISOO directives.

(h) *Agency terminology.* No official of the Farm Credit Administration shall use the terms “Top Secret”, “Secret”, or “Confidential” except in relation to materials classified for national security purposes. As a Federal regulatory agency, the Farm Credit Administration maintains certain internal documents that relate to its examination and supervision of the institutions of the Farm Credit System. Such documents are limited in use and distribution. Material that is of a sensitive nature to the Farm Credit Administra-

tion may be designated “Executive Document.”

(i) *Nondisclosure agreement.* In accordance with 32 CFR 2003.20, the Farm Credit Administration requires that any person whose position requires access to classified information must execute a nondisclosure agreement on Standard Form 189—Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement. Persons not executing such nondisclosure agreements are subject to sanctions of Executive Order 12356. It is the policy of the Farm Credit Administration that any employee authorized access to classified information holds a personal responsibility for safeguarding against unlawful disclosures, and such employees are prohibited from disclosure without consent of the FCA Information Security Officer. Any such unauthorized disclosure will be reported to the Information Security Oversight Office, the Department of Justice, the Department of State, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and to any other Federal agency for which the Farm Credit Administration has access to classified information, as such reportings are subject to interpretation as required by statute and Executive order. Any employee who knowingly disclosed classified information or who refuses to cooperate with an investigation may be subject to mandatory administrative sanctions, including as a minimum, denial of further access to classified information. Further sanctions could include demotion or dismissal depending on the circumstances of a particular case.

(j) *Freedom of Information request.* All inquiries regarding requests for classified information under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), including those from the news media, shall be referred to the FCA FOI Officer, Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, Farm Credit Administration, and shall be handled in accordance with provisions of that statute and applicable regulations.

[49 FR 9859, Mar. 16, 1984, as amended at 52 FR 18200, May 14, 1987; 59 FR 21643, Apr. 26, 1994]

**PART 606—ENFORCEMENT OF
NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE
BASIS OF HANDICAP IN PRO-
GRAMS OR ACTIVITIES CON-
DUCTED BY THE FARM CREDIT
ADMINISTRATION**

Sec.

- 606.601 Purpose.
- 606.602 Application.
- 606.603 Definitions.
- 606.604–606.609 [Reserved]
- 606.610 Self-evaluation.
- 606.611 Notice.
- 606.612–606.629 [Reserved]
- 606.630 General prohibitions against discrimination.
- 606.631–606.639 [Reserved]
- 606.640 Employment.
- 606.641–606.648 [Reserved]
- 606.649 Program accessibility: Discrimination prohibited.
- 606.650 Program accessibility: Existing facilities.
- 606.651 Program accessibility: New construction and alterations.
- 606.652–606.659 [Reserved]
- 606.660 Communications.
- 606.661–606.669 [Reserved]
- 606.670 Compliance procedures.
- 606.671–606.999 [Reserved]

AUTHORITY: 29 U.S.C. 794.

SOURCE: 53 FR 19889, June 1, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 606.601 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to effectuate section 119 of the Rehabilitation Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978, which amended section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of handicap in programs or activities conducted by Executive agencies or the United States Postal Service.

§ 606.602 Application.

(a) This part applies to all programs or activities conducted by the agency. For example, members of the public may participate in the following “programs and activities” of the FCA:

- (1) Attending open meetings of the Farm Credit Board.
- (2) Making inquiries or filing complaints.
- (3) Using the FCA library in McLean, Virginia.
- (4) Seeking employment with FCA.

(5) Attending any meeting, conference, seminar, or other program open to the public.

This list is illustrative only and failure to include an activity does not necessarily mean that it is not covered by this regulation.

(b) This regulation does not apply to the institutions that are regulated or examined by the FCA. However, this regulation governs the conduct of FCA personnel, in their interaction with employees of such institutions and employees of other Federal agencies, while discharging their official FCA duties.

§ 606.603 Definitions.

For purposes of this part, the term:

(a) *Agency* means the Farm Credit Administration.

(b) *Assistant Attorney General* means the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice.

(c) *Auxiliary aids* means services or devices that enable persons with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills to have an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, programs or activities conducted by the agency. For example, auxiliary aids useful for persons with impaired vision include readers, Brailled materials, audio recordings, and other similar services and devices. Auxiliary aids useful for persons with impaired hearing include telephone handset amplifiers, telephones compatible with hearing aids, telecommunication devices for deaf persons (TDDs), interpreters, note-takers, written materials, and other similar services and devices.

(d) *Complete complaint* means a written statement that contains the complainant's name and address and describes the agency's alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the agency of the nature and date of the alleged violation of section 504. It shall be signed by the complainant or by someone authorized to do so on his or her behalf. Complaints filed on behalf of classes or third parties shall describe or identify (by name, if possible) the alleged victims of discrimination.

(e) *Facility* means all or any portion of buildings, structures, equipment,

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roads, walks, parking lots, rolling stock or other conveyances, or other real or personal property.

(f) *Individual with handicaps* means any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment. As used in this definition, the phrase:

(1) *Physical or mental impairment* includes:

(i) Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: Neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genitourinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or

(ii) Any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities. The term *physical or mental impairment* includes, but is not limited to, such diseases and conditions as orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, mental retardation, emotional illness, and drug addiction and alcoholism.

(2) *Major life activities* includes functions such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.

(3) *Has a record of such an impairment* means has a history of, or has been misclassified as having, a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

(4) *Is regarded as having an impairment* means:

(i) Has a physical or mental impairment that does not substantially limit major life activities but is treated by the agency as constituting such a limitation;

(ii) Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits major life activities only as a result of the attitudes of others toward such impairment; or

(iii) Has none of the impairments defined in paragraph (f)(1) of this defini-

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tion but is treated by the agency as having such an impairment.

(g) *Qualified individual with handicaps* means an individual with handicaps who meets the essential eligibility requirements for participation in the program or activity conducted by the agency. With respect to employment, a qualified individual with handicaps is one who meets the definition of *qualified handicapped person* set forth in 29 CFR 1613.702(f), which is made applicable to this part by § 606.640 of this rule.

(h) *Section 504* means section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Pub. L. 93–112, 87 Stat. 394 (29 U.S.C. 794)), as amended by the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1974 (Pub. L. 93–516, 88 Stat. 1617); the Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978 (Pub. L. 95–602, 92 Stat. 2955); and the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1986 (Pub. L. 99–506, 100 Stat. 1810).

§§ 606.604–606.609 [Reserved]

§ 606.610 Self-evaluation.

(a) The agency shall, within one year of the effective date of this part, evaluate its current policies and practices, and the effects thereof, that do not or may not meet the requirements of this part, and, to the extent modification of any such policies and practices is required, the agency shall proceed to make the necessary modifications.

(b) The agency shall provide an opportunity to interested persons, including individuals with handicaps or organizations representing individuals with handicaps, to participate in the self-evaluation process by submitting comments (both oral and written).

(c) The agency shall, for at least three years following completion of the evaluation required under paragraph (a) of this section, maintain on file and make available for public inspection:

(1) A list of the interested persons who commented, with copies of comments received;

(2) A description of areas examined and any problems identified; and

(3) A description of any modifications made.

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§ 606.611 Notice.

The agency shall make available to employees, applicants, participants, beneficiaries, and other interested persons such information regarding the provisions of this part and its applicability to the programs or activities conducted by the agency, and make such information available to them in such manner as the agency head finds necessary to apprise such persons of the protections against discrimination assured them by section 504 and this regulation.

§§ 606.612–606.629 [Reserved]

§ 606.630 General prohibitions against discrimination.

(a) No qualified individual with handicaps, on the basis of handicap, shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of the agency.

(b)(1) The agency, in providing any aid, benefit, or service, may not, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, on the basis of handicap:

(i) Deny a qualified individual with handicaps the opportunity to participate in or benefit from the activity, aid, benefit, or service;

(ii) Afford a qualified individual with handicaps an opportunity to participate in or benefit from the aid, benefit, or service that is not equal to that afforded others;

(iii) Provide a qualified individual with handicaps with an aid, benefit, or service that is not as effective in affording equal opportunity to obtain the same result, to gain the same benefit, or to reach the same level of achievement as that provided to others;

(iv) Provide different or separate aid, benefits, or services to individuals with handicaps or to any class of individuals with handicaps than is provided to others unless such action is necessary to provide qualified individuals with handicaps with aid, benefits, or services that are as effective as those provided to others;

(v) Deny a qualified individual with handicaps the opportunity to participate as a member of planning or advisory boards;

(vi) Otherwise limit a qualified individual with handicaps in the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage, or opportunity enjoyed by others receiving the aid, benefit, or service.

(2) The agency may not deny a qualified individual with handicaps the opportunity to participate in programs or activities that are not separate or different, despite the existence of permissibly separate or different programs or activities.

(3) The agency may not, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, utilize criteria or methods of administration the purpose or effect of which would:

(i) Subject qualified individuals with handicaps to discrimination on the basis of handicap; or

(ii) Defeat or substantially impair accomplishment of the objectives of a program or activity with respect to individuals with handicaps.

(4) The agency may not, in determining the site or location of a facility, make selections the purpose or effect of which would:

(i) Exclude individuals with handicaps from, deny them the benefits of, or otherwise subject them to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by the agency; or

(ii) Defeat or substantially impair the accomplishment of the objectives of a program or activity with respect to individuals with handicaps.

(5) The agency, in the selection of procurement contractors, may not use criteria that subject qualified individuals with handicaps to discrimination on the basis of handicap.

(c) The exclusion of nonhandicapped persons from the benefits of a program limited by Federal statute or Executive order to individuals with handicaps or the exclusion of a specific class of individuals with handicaps from a program limited by Federal statute or Executive order to a different class of individuals with handicaps is not prohibited by this part.

(d) The agency shall administer programs and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with handicaps.

§§ 606.631–606.639 [Reserved]

§ 606.640 **Employment.**

No qualified individual with handicaps shall, on the basis of handicap, be subjected to discrimination in employment under any program or activity conducted by the agency. The definitions, requirements, and procedures of section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791), as established by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 29 CFR part 1613, shall apply to employment in the agency.

§§ 606.641–606.648 [Reserved]

§ 606.649 **Program accessibility: Discrimination prohibited.**

Except as otherwise provided in § 606.650, no qualified individual with handicaps shall, because the agency's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by individuals with handicaps, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by the agency.

§ 606.650 **Program accessibility: Existing facilities.**

(a) *General.* The agency shall operate each program or activity so that the program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with handicaps. This paragraph does not:

(1) Necessarily require the agency to make each of its existing facilities accessible to and usable by individuals with handicaps;

(2) Require the agency to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. In those circumstances where agency personnel believe that the proposed action would fundamentally alter the program or activity or would result in undue financial and administrative burdens, the agency has the burden of proving that compliance with paragraph (a) of this section would result in such alteration or burdens. The decision that compliance would result in such alteration or burdens must be made by the agency head or his or her

designee after considering all agency resources available for use in the funding and operation of the conducted program or activity, and must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. In preparing the report, the agency shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the person(s) to be accommodated has an opportunity to provide relevant information. If an action would result in such an alteration or such burdens, the agency shall take any other action that would not result in such an alteration or such burdens but would nevertheless ensure that individuals with handicaps receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.

(b) *Methods.* The agency may comply with the requirements of this section through such means as redesign of equipment, reassignment of services to accessible buildings, assignment of aides to beneficiaries, home visits, delivery of services at alternate accessible sites, alteration of existing facilities and construction of new facilities, or any other methods that result in making its programs or activities readily accessible to and usable by individuals with handicaps. The agency is not required to make structural changes in existing facilities where other methods are effective in achieving compliance with this section. The agency, in making alterations to existing buildings, shall meet accessibility requirements to the extent compelled by the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4151 through 4157), and any regulations implementing it. In choosing among available methods for meeting the requirements of this section, the agency shall give priority to those methods that offer programs and activities to qualified individuals with handicaps in the most integrated setting appropriate.

(c) *Time period for compliance.* The agency shall comply with the obligations established under this section within sixty days of the effective date of this part except that where structural changes in facilities are undertaken, such changes shall be made within three years of the effective date of this part, but in any event as expeditiously as possible.

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(d) *Transition plan.* In the event that structural changes to facilities will be undertaken to achieve accessibility, the agency shall develop, within six months of the effective date of this part, a transition plan setting forth the steps necessary to complete such changes. The agency shall provide an opportunity to interested persons, including individuals with handicaps or organizations representing individuals with handicaps, to participate in the development of the transition plan by submitting comments (both oral and written). A copy of the transition plan shall be made available for public inspection. The plan shall, at a minimum:

- (1) Identify physical obstacles in the agency's facilities that limit the accessibility of its programs or activities to individuals with handicaps;
- (2) Describe in detail the methods that will be used to make the facilities accessible;
- (3) Specify the schedule for taking the steps necessary to achieve compliance with this section, and if the time period of the transition plan is longer than one year, identify steps that will be taken during each year of the transition period;
- (4) Indicate the official responsible for implementation of the plan; and
- (5) Identify the persons or groups who commented on the plan.

§ 606.651 Program accessibility: New construction and alterations.

Each building or part of a building that is constructed or altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of the agency shall be designed, constructed, or altered so as to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with handicaps. The definitions, requirements, and standards of the Architectural Barriers Act (42 U.S.C. 4151 through 4157), as established in 41 CFR 101-19.600 to 101-19.607, apply to buildings covered by this section.

§§ 606.652-606.659 [Reserved]

§ 606.660 Communications.

(a) The agency shall take appropriate steps to ensure effective communication with applicants, participants, per-

sonnel of other Federal entities, and members of the public.

(1) The agency shall furnish appropriate auxiliary aids where necessary to afford an individual with handicaps an equal opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits of a program or activity conducted by the agency.

(i) In determining what type of auxiliary aid is necessary, the agency shall give primary consideration to the requests of the individual with handicaps.

(ii) The agency need not provide individually prescribed devices, readers for personal use or study, or other devices of a personal nature.

(2) Where the agency communicates with applicants and beneficiaries by telephone, telecommunication devices for deaf persons (TDDs) or equally effective telecommunication systems shall be used.

(b) The agency shall ensure that interested persons, including persons with impaired vision or hearing, can obtain information as to the existence and location of accessible services, activities, and facilities.

(c) The agency shall provide signage at a primary entrance to each of its inaccessible facilities directing users to a location at which they can obtain information about accessible facilities. The international symbol for accessibility shall be used at each primary entrance of an accessible facility.

(d) This section does not require the agency to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. In those circumstances where agency personnel believe that the proposed action would fundamentally alter the program or activity or would result in undue financial and administrative burdens, the agency has the burden of proving that compliance with this section would result in such alteration or burdens. The decision that compliance would result in such alteration or burdens must be made by the agency head or his or her designee after considering all agency resources available for use in the funding and operation of the conducted program or activity, and must be accompanied by a written

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statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. In preparing the report, the agency shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the person(s) to be accommodated has an opportunity to provide relevant information. If an action required to comply with this section would result in such an alteration or such burdens, the agency shall take any other action that would not result in such an alteration or such burdens but would nevertheless ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, individuals with handicaps receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.

§§ 606.661–606.669 [Reserved]

§ 606.670 Compliance procedures.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, this section applies to all allegations of discrimination on the basis of handicap in programs and activities conducted by the agency.

(b) The agency shall process complaints alleging violations of section 504 with respect to employment according to the procedures established by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 29 CFR part 1613 pursuant to section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791).

(c) Responsibility for implementation and operation of this section shall be vested in the Director, Office of Resources Management, Farm Credit Administration, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, VA 22102–5090.

(d) The agency shall accept and investigate all complete complaints for which it has jurisdiction. All complete complaints must be filed within 180 days of the alleged act of discrimination. The agency may extend this time period for good cause.

(e) If the agency receives a complaint over which it does not have jurisdiction, it shall promptly notify the complainant and shall make reasonable efforts to refer the complaint to the appropriate Government entity.

(f) The agency shall notify the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board upon receipt of any complaint alleging that a building or facility that is subject to the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4151 through 4157), is not

readily accessible to and usable by individuals with handicaps.

(g) Within 180 days of the receipt of a complete complaint for which it has jurisdiction, the agency shall notify the complainant of the results of the investigation in a letter containing:

(1) Findings of fact and conclusions of law;

(2) A description of a remedy for each violation found; and

(3) A notice of the right to appeal.

(h) Appeals of the findings of fact and conclusions of law or remedies must be filed by the complainant within 90 days of receipt from the agency of the letter required by this paragraph. The agency may extend this time for good cause.

(i) Timely appeals shall be accepted and processed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Manager, or his/her designee, Farm Credit Administration, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, VA 22102–5090.

(j) The head of the agency shall notify the complainant of the results of the appeal within 60 days of the receipt of the request. If the head of the agency determines that additional information is needed from the complainant, he or she shall have 60 days from the date of receipt of the additional information to make his or her determination on the appeal.

(k) The time limits cited in paragraphs (g) and (j) of this section may be extended with the permission of the Assistant Attorney General.

(l) The agency may delegate its authority for conducting complaint investigations to other Federal agencies, except that the authority for making the final determination may not be delegated to another agency.

[53 FR 19889, June 1, 1988, as amended at 56 FR 2674, Jan. 24, 1991]

§§ 606.671–606.999 [Reserved]

PART 607—ASSESSMENT AND AP- PORTIONMENT OF ADMINISTRA- TIVE EXPENSES

Sec.

607.1 Purpose and scope.

607.2 Definitions.

607.3 Assessment of banks, associations, and designated other System entities.

607.4 Assessment of other System entities.

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- 607.5 Notice of assessment.
- 607.6 Payment of assessment.
- 607.7 Late-payment charges on assessments.
- 607.8 Reimbursements for services to non-System entities.
- 607.9 Reimbursable billings.
- 607.10 Adjustments for overpayment or underpayment of assessments.
- 607.11 Report of assessments and expenses.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 5.15, 5.17 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2250, 2252) and 12 U.S.C. 3025.

SOURCE: 58 FR 10942, Feb. 23, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

§ 607.1 Purpose and scope.

The regulations in part 607 implement the provisions of section 5.15 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, 12 U.S.C. 2001 *et seq.* (Act) relating to Farm Credit Administration (FCA) assessments. The regulations prescribe the procedures for the equitable apportionment of FCA annual administrative expenses and necessary reserves among Farm Credit System (System) institutions. Pursuant to section 5.15(a) of the Act, the regulations also provide for the separate assessment of the FCA's costs of supervising and examining the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (FAMC). The regulations further provide for the reimbursement of expenses incurred in performing statutorily required examinations of non-System entities.

§ 607.2 Definitions.

For the purpose of this part, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Assessment* means the annual amount to be paid by each System institution to the Farm Credit Administration in accordance with section 5.15 of the Act.

(b) *Average risk-adjusted asset base* means the average of the risk-adjusted asset base (as determined in accordance with § 615.5210(f) of this chapter) of banks, associations, and designated other System entities, calculated as follows:

(1) For banks, associations, and designated other System entities with four quarters of risk-adjusted assets as of June 30 of each year, the sum of the average daily risk-adjusted assets as of the last day of the quarter as reported on each quarterly Call Report Schedule RC-G to the FCA for the most recent

four quarters immediately preceding each September 15, divided by four;

(2) Except as provided in paragraphs (b)(3) and (b)(4) of this section, for banks, associations, and designated other System entities with less than four quarters of risk-adjusted assets as of June 30 of each year, the sum of the average daily risk-adjusted assets as of the last day of the quarter reported on each quarterly Call Report Schedule RC-G to the FCA for the quarters in which it was in existence immediately preceding September 15, divided by the number of quarters for which the Call Report Schedule RC-G was received;

(3) For banks, associations, and designated other System entities that were formed through mergers, consolidations, or transfers of direct lending authority, and have less than four quarters of risk-adjusted assets as of June 30, the sum of the average daily risk-adjusted assets as of the last day of the quarter for the most recent four quarters immediately preceding September 15 as reported on each quarterly Call Report Schedule RC-G filed by the newly chartered institution and the institutions that were merged or consolidated or that received direct lending authority, divided by four;

(4) For banks, associations, and designated other System entities chartered during the period July 1 through September 30 of each year that were not formed by the merger or consolidation of existing System institutions or the transfer of direct lending authority from another System institution, the total of the average daily risk-adjusted assets as of the last day of the quarter as reported on Call Report Schedule RC-G for the quarter ending September 30.

(c) *Composite Financial Institution Rating System (FIRS) rating* means the composite numerical assessment of the financial condition of an institution assigned to the institution by the FCA based on its most recent examination of the institution. The FIRS factors are generally considered to be important indicators of an institution's financial health. Institutions are rated on each of the factors during an examination. The composite FIRS rating

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ranges from 1 to 5, with a lower number indicating a better financial condition than a higher number.

(d) *Delinquent amount* means an amount owed to the FCA that has not been paid by the date specified in the FCA's Notice of Assessment or billing.

(e) *Designated other System entities* means other System entities designated by the FCA in § 607.3(c) to be assessed on the same basis as banks and associations under § 607.3.

(f) *Direct expenses* means the expenses of the FCA attributable to the performance of examinations.

(g) *Indirect expenses* means all FCA expenses that are not attributable to the performance of examinations.

(h) *Non-System entities* means the National Consumer Cooperative Bank, the National Cooperative Bank Development Corporation, and any other entity that is required to be examined, supervised, or otherwise regulated by the FCA that is not a System institution.

(i) *Notice of Assessment* means a written notice to each System institution showing the total amount assessed and owing, the fiscal year covered by the assessment, the amounts of installment payments, and the due dates for such payments. For banks, associations, and designated other System entities, the Notice of Assessment shall also include an individualized assessment table showing the assessment under § 607.3(b)(2), where applicable.

(j) *Other System entities* means any service corporation chartered under section 4.25 of the Act, the Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation, FAMC, the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, the Farm Credit Finance Corporation of Puerto Rico, and any other entity statutorily designated as a System institution that is not a bank or association.

(k) *System institutions* means banks, associations, and other System entities.

[58 FR 10942, Feb. 23, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 37403, July 22, 1994; 63 FR 34268, June 24, 1998]

§ 607.3 Assessment of banks, associations, and designated other System entities.

(a) Banks, associations, and other System entities designated in para-

graph (c) of this section will be assessed annually pursuant to this section for funds to cover a portion of the FCA's administrative expenses and for such funds as may be required to maintain a necessary reserve. The total amount of the annual assessment of banks, associations, and designated other System entities shall be based on the FCA budget for each fiscal year plus such amount as may be required to maintain a necessary reserve, excluding amounts to be assessed against other System entities and reimbursements received from non-System entities.

(b) The assessment shall be apportioned among the banks, associations, and designated other System entities as follows:

(1) Thirty (30) percent of the assessment under this section shall be apportioned to each bank, association, and designated other System entity on the basis of each institution's pro rata share of the total average risk-adjusted asset base.

(2) Seventy (70) percent of the assessment under this section shall be apportioned to each bank, association, and designated other System entity based upon the amounts of the institution's average risk-adjusted assets that fall within the graduated risk-adjusted asset tiers contained in the following table. An institution's total assessment under this paragraph is the sum of the amounts assessed for risk-adjusted assets falling into each applicable tier, subject to adjustment for its FIRS rating as required in paragraphs (b)(2)(i) and (b)(2)(ii) of this section. The same assessment rate (designated as X_1 or a declining percentage of X_1 in the following table) will be applied to each dollar value of risk-adjusted assets falling within each tier, increased where applicable, by the amounts prescribed in paragraphs (b)(2)(i) and (b)(2)(ii) of this section. The actual assessment rate under this paragraph shall be determined annually based on relative average risk-adjusted asset bases, the FIRS ratings of individual institutions, and the FCA budget as adjusted pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, but the relationship between

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the rates applied to each tier shall remain constant as set forth in the following table.

Average risk-adjusted asset size range (in millions)		Assessment rate
Over	To	
\$0	\$25	X_1
25	50	$.85X_1$
50	100	$.75X_1$
100	500	$.60X_1$
500	1,000	$.50X_1$
1,000	7,000	$.35X_1$
7,000	10,000	$.20X_1$
10,000		$.10X_1$

Example: XYZ association has a FIRS rating of 2 and average risk-adjusted assets of \$500.4 million. The value of X_1 has been determined to be .000917, based on an FCA budget of \$40.29 million.

$X_1 = .000917$ therefore
 $\$25,000,000 \times .0917\% \dots\dots\dots = \$22,925$
 $.85X_1 = .000780$ therefore
 $\$25,000,000 \times .0780\% \dots\dots\dots = 19,500$
 $.75X_1 = .000688$ therefore
 $\$50,000,000 \times .0688\% \dots\dots\dots = 34,400$
 $.60X_1 = .000550$ therefore
 $\$400,000,000 \times .0550\% \dots\dots\dots = 220,000$
 $.50X_1 = .000458$ therefore
 $\$400,000 \times .0458\% \dots\dots\dots = 183$

Total Assessment
under § 607.3(b)(2) = 297,008

(i) If the FCA assigns a bank, association, or designated other System entity a composite FIRS rating of 3 following its most recent examination of the institution prior to the date of assessment, the assessment provided for in paragraph (b)(2) of this section shall be increased by 20 percent.

(ii) If the FCA assigns a bank, association, or designated other System entity a composite FIRS rating of 4 or 5 following its most recent examination of the institution prior to the date of assessment, the assessment provided for in paragraph (b)(2) of this section shall be increased by 40 percent.

(iii) Banks, associations, and designated other System entities that were formed through mergers or consolidations and have not been examined before their initial assessment under this section shall be deemed to have a composite FIRS rating equivalent to the best composite FIRS rating assigned to the merged or consolidated

institutions in the FCA's most recent examination of the individual institutions prior to the date of merger or consolidation. Newly chartered institutions not formed through mergers or consolidations that have not been examined before their initial assessment under this section shall be deemed to have a composite FIRS rating of 2.

(3) Each bank, association, and designated other System entity shall pay a minimum assessment of \$20,000 regardless of the result of the application of the assessment formula established by paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2) of this section. If such a minimum assessment is apportioned to an institution, that institution's average risk-adjusted asset base shall be deducted from the total average risk-adjusted asset base, and \$20,000 shall be deducted from the total assessment amount for purposes of determining the assessments of banks, associations, and designated other System entities paying more than the \$20,000 minimum assessment.

(c) Other System entities designated to be assessed in accordance with this section are:

The Farm Credit Services Leasing Corporation.

(d) Assessments may be adjusted periodically to reflect:

(1) Changes in the FCA budget and necessary reserve; and

(2) Any overpayment or underpayment by a bank, association, or designated other System entity in the prior fiscal year.

[58 FR 10942, Feb. 23, 1993, as amended at 63 FR 34268, June 24, 1998]

§ 607.4 Assessment of other System entities.

(a)(1) Unless otherwise designated to be assessed under § 607.3, and with the exception of FAMC as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, other System entities will be assessed for estimated direct expenses plus an allocated portion of FCA indirect expenses and such amount as may be required to maintain a necessary reserve. The estimate for direct expenses shall take into account the direct expenses incurred in the most recent examination of the entity preceding each September 15 and expected increases or decreases in examination work for the next fiscal

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year. A proportional amount of FCA indirect expenses will be allocated to each entity based on the estimated direct expenses related to the particular entity as a percentage of the total budgeted direct expenses of the agency (excluding direct expenses under paragraph (b) of this section) for the fiscal year covered by the assessment.

(2) Assessments of other System entities under paragraph (a)(1) of this section may be adjusted periodically to reflect:

(i) Changes in the FCA budget and necessary reserve; and

(ii) Any overpayment or underpayment by such other System entity in the prior fiscal year.

(b) *Assessment of Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.* The FCA shall assess FAMC for the estimated cost of FCA's regulation, supervision, and examination of FAMC, including reasonably related administrative and overhead expenses. FAMC's assessment may be adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the FCA budget and to reconcile differences between FAMC's assessment and FCA's actual expenditures for regulation of FAMC in the prior fiscal year.

§ 607.5 Notice of assessment.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, prior to September 15 of each year, the FCA shall determine the amount of assessment to be collected from each System institution for the next fiscal year under §§ 607.3 and 607.4 and shall provide each System institution with a Notice of Assessment. The total amount assessed each System institution in the Notice of Assessment shall be an obligation of each institution on October 1 of each fiscal year. The total amount assessed each System institution shall be payable not less often than quarterly in equal installments during each fiscal year, subject to adjustment pursuant to §§ 607.3(d), 607.4(a)(2), 607.4(b), and 607.10.

(b) For banks, associations and designated other System entities chartered during the period July 1 through September 30 of each year, the FCA shall, prior to December 15, determine the amount of assessment to be collected from each such institution for the remainder of the fiscal year and

provide the institution with a Notice of Assessment. The total amount of the assessment becomes an obligation of the institution on January 1 and shall be payable in equal installments, subject to adjustment pursuant to §§ 607.3(d) and 607.10, not less often than quarterly for the remainder of the fiscal year. The first installment shall be due on January 1. This paragraph shall not apply to banks, associations, and designated other System entities formed by merger, consolidation, or transfer of direct lending authority.

(c) In the event of the proposed cancellation of the charter of a System institution, the unpaid installments of the total amount of the institution's assessment shall be provided for prior to the cancellation of the charter.

§ 607.6 Payment of assessment.

(a) System institutions shall pay the amounts due as scheduled in the FCA Notice of Assessment. Payment shall be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT) for credit to the FCA's account in the Department of the Treasury, by check to the FCA for deposit, or by such other means as the FCA may authorize.

(b) Payments made by EFT that are not received by the close of business on the due date shall be considered delinquent in accordance with § 607.7.

(c) Payments made by check that are not received by the FCA before the close of business on the third workday preceding the due date shall be considered delinquent in accordance with § 607.7.

§ 607.7 Late-payment charges on assessments.

(a) If any portion of a scheduled installment of a System institution's total assessment or the reimbursement billed to a non-System entity is not paid by the due date, the overdue amount shall be considered delinquent.

(b) Delinquent amounts shall be charged late-payment interest at the United States Treasury Department's current value of funds rate published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Late payment interest shall be expressed as an annual rate of interest and shall accrue on a daily basis starting on the due date of the delinquent amount and continuing

through the date payment is received by the FCA.

(c) The FCA shall waive the collection of interest on the delinquent amounts if such amounts are paid within 30 days of the date interest begins to accrue. The FCA may waive interest due on delinquent amounts upon finding no fault with the performance of the remitter.

(d) The FCA shall charge an amount necessary to cover the administrative costs incurred as a result of collection of any delinquent amount.

(e) The FCA shall charge a penalty of 6 percent per annum on any portion of a delinquent amount that is more than 90 days past due. Such penalty shall accrue from the date the amount became delinquent.

§ 607.8 Reimbursements for services to non-System entities.

Non-System entities shall be assessed for direct expenses plus an amount for FCA indirect expenses reasonably related to the services rendered to the non-System entity. Such related indirect expenses shall be calculated as a percentage of the FCA's overall indirect expenses based on the extent of FCA activities with respect to the non-System entity during the period since the entity's most recent assessment.

§ 607.9 Reimbursable billings.

The FCA shall bill the amounts due for services to non-System entities each year subsequent to the issuance of their respective Reports of Examination. Amounts billed are due in full within 30 days from the date billed. If the billed amount or any portion thereof remains unpaid at close of business on the due date, such amount or portion shall be considered delinquent in accordance with § 607.7.

§ 607.10 Adjustments for overpayment or underpayment of assessments.

Where adjustments for overpayment or underpayment of assessments are made pursuant to §§ 607.3(d), 607.4(a)(2), and 607.4(b), credits for overpayments or charges for underpayments shall be based on FCA administrative operating expenses incurred in the applicable fiscal year and on funds required to be maintained pursuant to section 5.15 of

the Act. Such credits or charges shall be applied to the next applicable assessment payment due during the current or subsequent fiscal year. Where such adjustments are made, the FCA shall provide the institution with a statement of adjustment at least 15 days prior to the date when the institution's next assessment payment is due. Adjustments in assessments shall be made in principal amount only. Overdue amounts under § 607.7 are not underpayments for assessment adjustment purposes.

§ 607.11 Report of assessments and expenses.

By January 15 of each calendar year, the FCA shall provide each assessed System institution with a report of assessments and expenses for the preceding fiscal year showing total assessments and other income received as applied to expenses incurred by major budget category and amounts set aside for a necessary reserve.

PART 608—COLLECTION OF CLAIMS OWED THE UNITED STATES

Subpart A—Administrative Collection of Claims

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- 608.839 Procedures for salary offset.
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- 608.841 Requesting current paying agency to offset salary.
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- 608.843 Nonwaiver of rights by payments.

AUTHORITY: Sec. 5.17 of the Farm Credit Act; 12 U.S.C. 2252; 31 U.S.C. 3701–3719; 5 U.S.C. 5514; 4 CFR parts 101–105; 5 CFR part 550.

SOURCE: 59 FR 13187, Mar. 21, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Administrative Collection of Claims

§ 608.801 Authority.

The regulations of this part are issued under the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, as amended by the Debt Collection Act of 1982, 31 U.S.C. 3701–3719 and 5 U.S.C. 5514, and in conformity with the joint regulations issued under that Act by the General Accounting Office and the Department of Justice (joint regulations) prescribing standards for administrative collection, compromise, suspension, and termination of agency collection actions, and referral to the General Accounting Office and to the Department of Justice for litigation of civil claims for money or property owed to the United States (4 CFR parts 101–105).

§ 608.802 Applicability.

This part applies to all claims of indebtedness due and owing to the United States and collectible under procedures authorized by the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, as amended by the Debt Collection Act of 1982. The joint regulations and this part do not apply to conduct in violation of antitrust laws, tax claims, claims between Federal agencies, or to any claim which appears to involve fraud, presentation of a false claim, or misrepresentation on the part of the debtor or any other

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party having an interest in the claim, unless the Justice Department authorizes the Farm Credit Administration, pursuant to 4 CFR 101.3, to handle the claim in accordance with the provisions of 4 CFR parts 101–105. Additionally, this part does not apply to Farm Credit Administration assessments under part 607 of this chapter.

§ 608.803 Definitions.

In this part (except where the term is defined elsewhere in this part), the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Administrative offset* or *offset*, as defined in 31 U.S.C. 3701(a)(1), means withholding money payable by the United States Government to, or held by the Government for, a person to satisfy a debt the person owes the Government.

(b) *Agency* means a department, agency, or instrumentality in the executive or legislative branch of the Government.

(c) *Claim* or *debt* means money or property owed by a person or entity to an agency of the Federal Government. A “claim” or “debt” includes amounts due the Government from loans insured by or guaranteed by the United States and all other amounts due from fees, leases, rents, royalties, services, sales of real or personal property, overpayment, penalties, damages, interest, and fines.

(d) *Claim certification* means a creditor agency’s written request to a paying agency to effect an administrative offset.

(e) *Creditor agency* means an agency to which a claim or debt is owed.

(f) *Debtor* means the person or entity owing money to the Federal Government.

(g) *FCA* means the Farm Credit Administration.

(h) *Hearing official* means an individual who is responsible for reviewing a claim under § 608.810 of this part.

(i) *Paying agency* means an agency of the Federal Government owing money to a debtor against which an administrative or salary offset can be effected.

(j) *Salary offset* means an administrative offset to collect a debt under 5 U.S.C. 5514 by deductions at one or

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more officially established pay intervals from the current pay account of a debtor.

§ 608.804 Delegation of authority.

The FCA official(s) designated by the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration are authorized to perform all duties which the Chairman is authorized to perform under these regulations, the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, as amended, and the joint regulations issued under that Act.

§ 608.805 Responsibility for collection.

(a) The collection of claims shall be aggressively pursued in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, as amended, the joint regulations issued under that Act, and these regulations. Debts owed to the United States, together with charges for interest, penalties, and administrative costs, should be collected in one lump sum unless otherwise provided by law. If a debtor requests installment payments, the debtor, as requested by the FCA, shall provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the debtor is unable to pay the debt in one lump sum. When appropriate, the FCA shall arrange an installment payment schedule. Claims which cannot be collected directly or by administrative offset shall be either written off as administratively uncollectible or referred to the General Counsel for further consideration.

(b) The Chairman, or designee of the Chairman, may compromise claims for money or property arising out of the activities of the FCA, where the claim (exclusive of charges for interest, penalties, and administrative costs) does not exceed \$100,000. When the claim exceeds \$100,000 (exclusive of charges for interest, penalties, and administrative costs), the authority to accept a compromise rests solely with the Department of Justice. The standards governing the compromise of claims are set forth in 4 CFR part 103.

(c) The Chairman, or designee of the Chairman, may suspend or terminate the collection of claims which do not exceed \$100,000 (exclusive of charges for interest, penalties, and administrative costs) after deducting the amount of any partial payments or collections. If,

after deducting the amount of any partial payments or collections, a claim exceeds \$100,000 (exclusive of charges for interest, penalties, and administrative costs), the authority to suspend or terminate rests solely with the Department of Justice. The standards governing the suspension or termination of claim collections are set forth in 4 CFR part 104.

(d) The FCA shall refer claims to the Department of Justice for litigation or to the General Accounting Office (GAO) for claims arising from audit exceptions taken by the GAO to payments made by the FCA in accordance with 4 CFR part 105.

§ 608.806 Demand for payment.

(a) A total of three progressively stronger written demands at not more than 30-day intervals should normally be made upon a debtor, unless a response or other information indicates that additional written demands would either be unnecessary or futile. When necessary to protect the Government's interest, written demands may be preceded by other appropriate actions under Federal law, including immediate referral for litigation and/or administrative offset.

(b) The initial demand for payment shall be in writing and shall inform the debtor of the following:

(1) The amount of the debt, the date it was incurred, and the facts upon which the determination of indebtedness was made;

(2) The payment due date, which shall be 30 calendar days from the date of mailing or hand delivery of the initial demand for payment;

(3) The right of the debtor to inspect and copy the records of the agency related to the claim or to receive copies if personal inspection is impractical. The debtor shall be informed that the debtor may be assessed for the cost of copying the documents in accordance with § 608.807;

(4) The right of the debtor to obtain a review of the FCA's determination of indebtedness;

(5) The right of the debtor to offer to enter into a written agreement with the agency to repay the amount of the claim. The debtor shall be informed

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that the acceptance of such an agreement is discretionary with the agency;

(6) That charges for interest, penalties, and administrative costs will be assessed against the debtor, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3717, if payment is not received by the payment due date;

(7) That if the debtor has not entered into an agreement with the FCA to pay the debt, has not requested the FCA to review the debt, or has not paid the debt by the payment due date, the FCA intends to collect the debt by all legally available means, which may include initiating legal action against the debtor, referring the debt to a collection agency for collection, collecting the debt by offset, or asking other Federal agencies for assistance in collecting the debt by offset;

(8) The name and address of the FCA official to whom the debtor shall send all correspondence relating to the debt; and

(9) Other information, as may be appropriate.

(c) If, prior to, during, or after completion of the demand cycle, the FCA determines to collect the debt by either administrative or salary offset, the FCA shall follow, as applicable, the requirements for a Notice of Intent to Collect by Administrative Offset or a Notice of Intent to Collect by Salary Offset set forth in § 608.822.

(d) If no response to the initial demand for payment is received by the payment due date, the FCA shall take further action under this part, under the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, as amended, under the joint regulations (4 CFR parts 101–105), or under any other applicable State or Federal law. These actions may include reports to credit bureaus, referrals to collection agencies, termination of contracts, debarment, and salary or administrative offset.

§ 608.807 Right to inspect and copy records.

The debtor may inspect and copy the FCA records related to the claim. The debtor shall give the FCA reasonable advance notice that it intends to inspect and copy the records involved. The debtor shall pay copying costs unless they are waived by the FCA. Copy-

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ing costs shall be assessed pursuant to § 602.267 of this chapter.

§ 608.808 Right to offer to repay claim.

(a) The debtor may offer to enter into a written agreement with the FCA to repay the amount of the claim. The acceptance of such an offer and the decision to enter into such a written agreement is at the discretion of the FCA.

(b) If the debtor requests a repayment arrangement because payment of the amount due would create a financial hardship, the FCA shall analyze the debtor's financial condition. The FCA may enter into a written agreement with the debtor permitting the debtor to repay the debt in installments if the FCA determines, in its sole discretion, that payment of the amount due would create an undue financial hardship for the debtor. The written agreement shall set forth the amount and frequency of installment payments and shall, in accordance with § 608.812, provide for the imposition of charges for interest, penalties, and administrative costs unless waived by the FCA.

(c) The written agreement may require the debtor to execute a confession-judgment note when the total amount of the deferred installments will exceed \$750. The FCA shall provide the debtor with a written explanation of the consequences of signing a confession-judgment note. The debtor shall sign a statement acknowledging receipt of the written explanation. The statement shall recite that the written explanation was read and understood before execution of the note and that the debtor signed the note knowingly and voluntarily. Documentation of these procedures will be maintained in the FCA's file on the debtor.

§ 608.809 Right to agency review.

(a) If the debtor disputes the claim, the debtor may request a review of the FCA's determination of the existence of the debt or of the amount of the debt. If only part of the claim is disputed, the undisputed portion should be paid by the payment due date.

(b) To obtain a review, the debtor shall submit a written request for review to the FCA official named in the

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initial demand letter, within 15 calendar days after receipt of the letter. The debtor's request for review shall state the basis on which the claim is disputed.

(c) The FCA shall promptly notify the debtor, in writing, that the FCA has received the request for review. The FCA shall conduct its review of the claim in accordance with § 608.810.

(d) Upon completion of its review of the claim, the FCA shall notify the debtor whether the FCA's determination of the existence or amount of the debt has been sustained, amended, or canceled. The notification shall include a copy of the written decision issued by the hearing official pursuant to § 608.810(e). If the FCA's determination is sustained, this notification shall contain a provision which states that the FCA intends to collect the debt by all legally available means, which may include initiating legal action against the debtor, referring the debt to a collection agency for collection, collecting the debt by offset, or asking other Federal agencies for assistance in collecting the debt by offset.

§ 608.810 Review procedures.

(a) Unless an oral hearing is required by § 608.823(d), the FCA's review shall be a review of the written record of the claim.

(b) If an oral hearing is required under § 608.823(d), the FCA shall provide the debtor with a reasonable opportunity for such a hearing. The oral hearing, however, shall not be an adversarial adjudication and need not take the form of a formal evidentiary hearing. All significant matters discussed at the hearing, however, will be carefully documented.

(c) Any review required by this part, whether a review of the written record or an oral hearing, shall be conducted by a hearing official. In the case of a salary offset, the hearing official shall not be under the supervision or control of the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration.

(d) The FCA may be represented by legal counsel. The debtor may represent himself or herself or may be represented by an individual of the debtor's choice and at the debtor's expense.

(e) The hearing official shall issue a final written decision based on documentary evidence and, if applicable, information developed at an oral hearing. The written decision shall be issued as soon as practicable after the review but not later than 60 days after the date on which the request for review was received by the FCA, unless the debtor requests a delay in the proceedings. A delay in the proceedings shall be granted if the hearing official determines, in his or her sole discretion, that there is good cause to grant the delay. If a delay is granted, the 60-day decision period shall be extended by the number of days by which the review was postponed.

(f) Upon issuance of the written opinion, the FCA shall promptly notify the debtor of the hearing official's decision. Said notification shall include a copy of the written decision issued by the hearing official pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section.

§ 608.811 Special review.

(a) An employee subject to salary offset, under subpart C of this part, or a voluntary repayment agreement, may, at any time, request a special review by the FCA of the amount of the salary offset or voluntary repayment, based on materially changed circumstances such as, but not limited to, catastrophic illness, divorce, death, or disability.

(b) To determine whether an offset would prevent the employee from meeting essential subsistence expenses (costs incurred for food, housing, clothing, transportation, and medical care), the employee shall submit a detailed statement and supporting documents for the employee, his or her spouse, and dependents indicating:

- (1) Income from all sources;
- (2) Assets;
- (3) Liabilities;
- (4) Number of dependents;
- (5) Expenses for food, housing, clothing, and transportation;
- (6) Medical expenses; and
- (7) Exceptional expenses, if any.

(c) If the employee requests a special review under this section, the employee shall file an alternative proposed offset or payment schedule and a statement, with supporting documents,

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showing why the current salary offset or payments result in an extreme financial hardship to the employee.

(d) The FCA shall evaluate the statement and supporting documents, and determine whether the original offset or repayment schedule imposes an undue financial hardship on the employee. The FCA shall notify the employee in writing of such determination, including, if appropriate, a revised offset or payment schedule.

§ 608.812 Charges for interest, administrative costs, and penalties.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the FCA shall:

(1) Assess interest on unpaid claims;

(2) Assess administrative costs incurred in processing and handling overdue claims; and

(3) Assess penalty charges not to exceed 6 percent a year on any part of a debt more than 90 days past due. The imposition of charges for interest, administrative costs, and penalties shall be made in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3717.

(b)(1) Interest shall accrue from the date of mailing or hand delivery of the initial demand for payment or the Notice of Intent to Collect by either Administrative or Salary Offset if the amount of the claim is not paid within 30 days from the date of mailing or hand delivery of the initial demand or notice.

(2) The 30-day period may be extended on a case-by-case basis if the FCA reasonably determines that such action is appropriate. Interest shall only accrue on the principal of the claim and the interest rate shall remain fixed for the duration of the indebtedness, except, as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, in cases where a debtor has defaulted on a repayment agreement and seeks to enter into a new agreement, or if the FCA reasonably determines that a higher rate is necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

(c) If a debtor defaults on a repayment agreement and seeks to enter into a new agreement, the FCA may assess a new interest rate on the unpaid claim. In addition, charges for interest, administrative costs, and penalties which accrued but were not collected

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under the original repayment agreement shall be added to the principal of the claim to be paid under the new repayment agreement. Interest shall accrue on the entire principal balance of the claim, as adjusted to reflect any increase resulting from the addition of these charges.

(d) The FCA may waive charges for interest, administrative costs, and/or penalties if it determines that:

(1) The debtor is unable to pay any significant sum toward the claim within a reasonable period of time;

(2) Collection of charges for interest, administrative costs, and/or penalties would jeopardize collection of the principal of the claim;

(3) Collection of charges for interest, administrative costs, or penalties would be against equity and good conscience; or

(4) It is otherwise in the best interest of the United States, including the situation where an installment payment agreement or offset is in effect.

§ 608.813 Contracting for collection services.

The Chairman, or designee of the Chairman, may contract for collection services in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3718 and 4 CFR 102.6 to recover debts.

§ 608.814 Reporting of credit information.

The Chairman, or designee of the Chairman, may disclose to a consumer reporting agency information that an individual is responsible for a debt owed to the United States. Information will be disclosed to reporting agencies in accordance with the terms and conditions of agreements entered into between the FCA and the reporting agencies. The terms and conditions of such agreements shall specify that all of the rights and protection afforded to the debtor under 31 U.S.C. 3711(f) have been fulfilled. The FCA shall notify each consumer reporting agency, to which a claim was disclosed, when the debt has been satisfied.

§ 608.815 Credit report.

In order to aid the FCA in making appropriate determinations regarding the collection and compromise of

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claims; the collection of charges for interest, administrative costs, and penalties; the use of administrative offset; the use of other collection methods; and the likelihood of collecting the claim, the FCA may institute, consistent with the provisions of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681, *et seq.*), a credit investigation of the debtor immediately following a determination that the claim exists.

Subpart B—Administrative Offset

§ 608.820 Applicability.

(a) The provisions of this subpart shall apply to the collection of debts by administrative [or salary] offset under 31 U.S.C. 3716, 5 U.S.C. 5514, or other statutory or common law.

(b) Offset shall not be used to collect a debt more than 10 years after the Government's right to collect the debt first accrued, unless facts material to the Government's right to collect the debt were not known and could not reasonably have been known by the official or officials of the Government who were charged with the responsibility of discovering and collecting such debt.

(c) Offset shall not be used with respect to:

(1) Debts owed by other agencies of the United States or by any State or local government;

(2) Debts arising under or payments made under the Social Security Act, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or tariff laws of the United States; or

(3) Any case in which collection by offset of the type of debt involved is explicitly provided for or prohibited by another statute.

(d) Unless otherwise provided by contract or law, debts or payments which are not subject to offset under 31 U.S.C. 3716 or 5 U.S.C. 5514 may be collected by offset if such collection is authorized under common law or other applicable statutory authority.

§ 608.821 Collection by offset.

(a) Collection of a debt by administrative [or salary] offset shall be accomplished in accordance with the provisions of these regulations, of 4 CFR 102.3, and 5 CFR part 550, subpart K. It is not necessary for the debt to be re-

duced to judgment or to be undisputed for offset to be used.

(b) The Chairman, or designee of the Chairman, may determine that it is feasible to collect a debt to the United States by offset against funds payable to the debtor.

(c) The feasibility of collecting a debt by offset will be determined on a case-by-case basis. This determination shall be made by considering all relevant factors, including the following:

(1) The degree to which the offset can be accomplished in accordance with law. This determination should take into consideration relevant statutory, regulatory, and contractual requirements;

(2) The degree to which the FCA is certain that its determination of the existence and amount of the debt is correct;

(3) The practicality of collecting the debt by offset. The cost, in time and money, of collecting the debt by offset and the amount of money which can reasonably be expected to be recovered through offset will be relevant to this determination; and

(4) Whether the use of offset will substantially interfere with or defeat the purpose of a program authorizing payments against which the offset is contemplated. For example, under a grant program in which payments are made in advance of the grantee's performance, the imposition of offset against such a payment may be inappropriate.

(d) The collection of a debt by offset may not be feasible when there are circumstances which would indicate that the likelihood of collection by offset is less than probable.

(e) The offset will be effected 31 days after the debtor receives a Notice of Intent to Collect by Administrative Offset (or Notice of Intent to Collect by Salary Offset if the offset is a salary offset), or upon the expiration of a stay of offset, unless the FCA determines under § 608.824 that immediate action is necessary.

(f) If the debtor owes more than one debt, amounts recovered through offset may be applied to them in any order. Applicable statutes of limitation would be considered before applying the amounts recovered to any debts owed.

§ 608.822 Notice requirements before offset.

(a) Except as provided in § 608.824, the FCA will provide the debtor with 30 calendar days' written notice that unpaid debt amounts shall be collected by administrative [or salary] offset (Notice of Intent to Collect by Administrative [or Salary] Offset) before the FCA imposes offset against any money that is to be paid to the debtor.

(b) The Notice of Intent to Collect by Administrative [or Salary] Offset shall be delivered to the debtor by hand or by mail and shall provide the following information:

(1) The amount of the debt, the date it was incurred, and the facts upon which the determination of indebtedness was made;

(2) In the case of an administrative offset, the payment due date, which shall be 30 calendar days from the date of mailing or hand delivery of the Notice;

(3) In the case of a salary offset: (i) The FCA's intention to collect the debt by means of deduction from the employee's current disposable pay account until the debt and all accumulated interest is paid in full; and

(ii) The amount, frequency, proposed beginning date, and duration of the intended deductions;

(4) The right of the debtor to inspect and copy the records of the FCA related to the claim or to receive copies if personal inspection is impractical. The debtor shall be informed that the debtor shall be assessed for the cost of copying the documents in accordance with § 608.807;

(5) The right of the debtor to obtain a review of, and to request a hearing, on the FCA's determination of indebtedness, the propriety of collecting the debt by offset, and, in the case of salary offset, the propriety of the proposed repayment schedule (i.e., the percentage of disposable pay to be deducted each pay period). The debtor shall be informed that to obtain a review, the debtor shall deliver a written request for a review to the FCA official named in the Notice, within 15 calendar days after the debtor's receipt of the Notice. In the case of a salary offset, the debtor shall also be informed that the review shall be conducted by

an official arranged for by the FCA who shall be a hearing official not under the control of the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration, or an administrative law judge;

(6) That the filing of a petition for hearing within 15 calendar days after receipt of the Notice will stay the commencement of collection proceedings;

(7) That a final decision on the hearing (if one is requested) will be issued at the earliest practical date, but not later than 60 days after the filing of the written request for review unless the employee requests, and the hearing official grants, a delay in the proceedings;

(8) The right of the debtor to offer to enter into a written agreement with the FCA to repay the amount of the claim. The debtor shall be informed that the acceptance of such an agreement is discretionary with the FCA;

(9) That charges for interest, penalties, and administrative costs shall be assessed against the debtor, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3717, if payment is not received by the payment due date. The debtor shall be informed that such assessments must be made unless excused in accordance with the Federal Claims Collection Standards (4 CFR parts 103 and 104);

(10) The amount of accrued interest and the amount of any other penalties or administrative costs which may have been added to the principal debt;

(11) That if the debtor has not entered into an agreement with the FCA to pay the debt, has not requested the FCA to review the debt, or has not paid the debt prior to the date on which the offset is to be imposed, the FCA intends to collect the debt by administrative [or salary] offset or by requesting other Federal agencies for assistance in collecting the debt by offset. The debtor shall be informed that the offset shall be imposed against any funds that might become available to the debtor, until the principal debt and all accumulated interest and other charges are paid in full;

(12) The date on which the offset will be imposed, which shall be 31 calendar days from the date of mailing or hand delivery of the Notice. The debtor shall be informed that the FCA reserves the right to impose an offset prior to this

date if the FCA determines that immediate action is necessary;

(13) That any knowingly false or frivolous statements, representations, or evidence may subject the debtor to:

(i) Penalties under the False Claims Act, sections 3729 through 3731 of title 31, United States Code, or any other applicable statutory authority;

(ii) Criminal penalties under sections 286, 287, 1001, and 1002 of title 18, United States Code, or any other applicable statutory authority; and, with regard to employees,

(iii) Disciplinary procedures appropriate under chapter 75 of title 5, United States Code; part 752 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or any other applicable statute or regulation;

(14) The name and address of the FCA official to whom the debtor shall send all correspondence relating to the debt or the offset;

(15) Any other rights and remedies available to the debtor under statutes or regulations governing the program for which the collection is being made;

(16) That unless there are applicable contractual or statutory provisions to the contrary, amounts paid on or deducted for the debt, which are later waived or found not owed to the United States, will be promptly refunded to the employee; and

(17) Other information, as may be appropriate.

(c) When the procedural requirements of this section have been provided to the debtor in connection with the same debt or under some other statutory or regulatory authority, the FCA is not required to duplicate those requirements before effecting offset.

§ 608.823 Right to review of claim.

(a) If the debtor disputes the claim, the debtor may request a review of the FCA's determination of the existence of the debt, the amount of the debt, the propriety of collecting the debt by offset, and in the case of salary offset, the propriety of the proposed repayment schedule. If only part of the claim is disputed, the undisputed portion should be paid by the payment due date.

(b) To obtain a review, the debtor shall submit a written request for review to the FCA official named in the

Notice of Intent to Collect by Administrative [or Salary] Offset within 15 calendar days after receipt of the notice. The debtor's written request for review shall state the basis on which the claim is disputed and shall specify whether the debtor requests an oral hearing or a review of the written record of the claim. If an oral hearing is requested, the debtor shall explain in the request why the matter cannot be resolved by a review of the documentary evidence alone.

(c) The FCA shall promptly notify the debtor, in writing, that the FCA has received the request for review. The FCA shall conduct its review of the claim in accordance with § 608.810.

(d) The FCA's review of the claim, under this section, shall include providing the debtor with a reasonable opportunity for an oral hearing if:

(1) An applicable statute authorizes or requires the FCA to consider waiver of the indebtedness, the debtor requests waiver of the indebtedness, and the waiver determination turns on an issue of credibility or veracity; or

(2) The debtor requests reconsideration of the debt and the FCA determines that the question of the indebtedness cannot be resolved by reviewing the documentary evidence; for example, when the validity of the debt turns on an issue of credibility or veracity.

(e) A debtor waives the right to a hearing and will have his or her debt offset in accordance with the proposed offset schedule if the debtor:

(1) Fails to file a written request for review within the timeframe set forth in paragraph (b) of this section, unless the FCA determines that the delay was the result of circumstances beyond his or her control; or

(2) Fails to appear at an oral hearing of which he or she was notified unless the hearing official determines that the failure to appear was due to circumstances beyond the employee's control.

(f) Upon completion of its review of the claim, the FCA shall notify the debtor whether the FCA's determination of the existence or amount of the debt has been sustained, amended, or canceled. The notification shall include a copy of the written decision issued by the hearing official, pursuant to

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§ 608.810(e). If the FCA's determination is sustained, this notification shall contain a provision which states that the FCA intends to collect the debt by offset or by requesting other Federal agencies for assistance in collecting the debt.

(g) When the procedural requirements of this section have been provided to the debtor in connection with the same debt or under some other statutory or regulatory authority, the FCA is not required to duplicate those requirements before effecting offset.

§ 608.824 Waiver of procedural requirements.

(a) The FCA may impose offset against a payment to be made to a debtor prior to the completion of the procedures required by this part, if:

(1) Failure to impose the offset would substantially prejudice the Government's ability to collect the debt; and

(2) The timing of the payment against which the offset will be imposed does not reasonably permit the completion of those procedures.

(b) The procedures required by this part shall be complied with promptly after the offset is imposed. Amounts recovered by offset, which are later found not to be owed to the Government, shall be promptly refunded to the debtor.

§ 608.825 Coordinating offset with other Federal agencies.

(a)(1) Any creditor agency which requests the FCA to impose an offset against amounts owed to the debtor shall submit to the FCA a claim certification which meets the requirements of this paragraph. The FCA shall submit the same certification to any agency that the FCA requests to effect an offset.

(2) The claim certification shall be in writing. It shall certify the debtor owes the debt and that all of the applicable requirements of 31 U.S.C. 3716 and 4 CFR part 102 have been met. If the intended offset is to be a salary offset, a claim certification shall instead certify that the debtor owes the debt and that the applicable requirements of 5 U.S.C. 5514 and 5 CFR part 550, subpart K, have been met.

(3) A certification that the debtor owes the debt shall state the amount of the debt, the factual basis supporting the determination of indebtedness, and the date on which payment of the debt was due. A certification that the requirements of 31 U.S.C. 3716 and 4 CFR part 102 have been met shall include a statement that the debtor has been sent a notice of Intent to Collect by Administrative Offset at least 31 calendar days prior to the date of the intended offset or a statement that pursuant to 4 CFR 102.3(b)(5) said Notice was not required to be sent. A certification that the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 5514 and 5 CFR part 550, subpart K, have been met shall include a statement that the debtor has been sent a Notice of Intent to Collect by Salary Offset at least 31 calendar days prior to the date of the intended offset or a statement that pursuant to 4 CFR 102.3(b)(5) said Notice was not required to be sent.

(b)(1) The FCA shall not effect an offset requested by another Federal agency without first obtaining the claim certification required by paragraph (a) of this section. If the FCA receives an incomplete claim certification, the FCA shall return the claim certification with notice that a claim certification which complies with the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section must be submitted to the FCA before the FCA will consider effecting an offset.

(2) The FCA may rely on the information contained in the claim certification provided by a requesting creditor agency. The FCA is not authorized to review a creditor agency's determination of indebtedness.

(c) Only the creditor agency may agree to enter into an agreement with the debtor for the repayment of the claim. Only the creditor agency may agree to compromise, suspend, or terminate collection of the claim.

(d) The FCA may decline, for good cause, a request by another agency to effect an offset. Good cause includes that the offset might disrupt, directly or indirectly, essential FCA operations. The refusal and the reasons shall be sent in writing to the creditor agency.

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§ 608.826 Stay of offset.

(a)(1) When a creditor agency receives a debtor's request for inspection of agency records, the offset is stayed for 10 calendar days beyond the date set for the record inspection.

(2) When a creditor agency receives a debtor's offer to enter into a repayment agreement, the offset is stayed until the debtor is notified as to whether the proposed agreement is acceptable.

(3) When a review is conducted, the offset is stayed until the creditor agency issues a final written decision.

(b) When offset is stayed, the amount of the debt and the amount of any accrued interest or other charges will be withheld from payments to the debtor. The withheld amounts shall not be applied against the debt until the stay expires. If withheld funds are later determined not to be subject to offset, they will be promptly refunded to the debtor.

(c) If the FCA is the creditor agency and the offset is stayed, the FCA will immediately notify an offsetting agency to withhold the payment pending termination of the stay.

§ 608.827 Offset against amounts payable from Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund.

The FCA may request that monies payable to a debtor from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund be administratively offset to collect debts owed to the FCA by the debtor. The FCA must certify that the debtor owes the debt, the amount of the debt, and that the FCA has complied with the requirements set forth in this part, 4 CFR 102.3, and the Office of Personnel Management regulations. The request shall be submitted to the official designated in the Office of Personnel Management regulations to receive the request.

Subpart C—Offset Against Salary

§ 608.835 Purpose.

The purpose of this subpart is to implement section 5 of the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97-365)(5 U.S.C. 5514), which authorizes the collection

of debts owed by Federal employees to the Federal Government by means of salary offsets. These regulations provide procedures for the collection of a debt owed to the Government by the imposition of a salary offset against amounts payable to a Federal employee as salary. These regulations are consistent with the regulations on salary offset published by the Office of Personnel Management, codified in 5 CFR part 550, subpart K. Since salary offset is a type of administrative offset, this subpart supplements subpart B.

§ 608.836 Applicability of regulations.

(a) These regulations apply to the following cases:

(1) Where the FCA is owed a debt by an individual currently employed by another agency;

(2) Where the FCA is owed a debt by an individual who is currently employed by the FCA; or

(3) Where the FCA currently employs an individual who owes a debt to another Federal agency. Upon receipt of proper certification from the creditor agency, the FCA will offset the debtor-employee's salary in accordance with these regulations.

(b) These regulations do not apply to the following:

(1) Debts or claims rising under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (26 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*); the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*); the tariff laws of the United States; or to any case where collection of a debt by salary offset is explicitly provided for or prohibited by another statute (e.g., travel advances in 5 U.S.C. 5705 and employee training expenses in 5 U.S.C. 4108).

(2) Any adjustment to pay arising from an employee's election of coverage or a change in coverage under a Federal benefits program requiring periodic deductions from pay if the amount to be recovered was accumulated over four pay periods or less.

(3) A claim which has been outstanding for more than 10 years after the creditor agency's right to collect

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the debt first accrued, unless facts material to the Government's right to collect were not known and could not reasonably have been known by the official or officials charged with the responsibility for discovery and collection of such debts.

§ 608.837 Definitions.

In this subpart, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Agency* means:

(1) An executive agency as defined by 5 U.S.C. 105, including the United States Postal Service and the United States Postal Rate Commission;

(2) A military department as defined in 5 U.S.C. 102;

(3) An agency or court of the judicial branch, including a court as defined in 28 U.S.C. 610, the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Judicial Panel on Multi-district Litigation;

(4) An agency of the legislative branch, including the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives; or

(5) Other independent establishments that are entities of the Federal Government.

(b) *Disposable pay* means, for an officially established pay interval, that part of current basic pay, special pay, incentive pay, retired pay, retainer pay, or, in the case of an employee not entitled to basic pay, other authorized pay, remaining after the deduction of any amount required by law to be withheld. The FCA shall allow the deductions described in 5 CFR 581.105 (b) through (f).

(c) *Employee* means a current employee of the FCA or other agency, including a current member of the Armed Forces or Reserve of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(d) *Waiver* means the cancellation, remission, forgiveness, or nonrecovery of a debt allegedly owed by an employee to the FCA or another agency as permitted or required by 5 U.S.C. 5584 or 8346(b), 10 U.S.C. 2774, 32 U.S.C. 716, or any other law.

§ 608.838 Waiver requests and claims to the General Accounting Office.

(a) The regulations contained in this subpart do not preclude an employee

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from requesting a waiver of an overpayment under 5 U.S.C. 5584 or 8346(b), 10 U.S.C. 2774, 32 U.S.C. 716, or in any way questioning the amount or validity of a debt by submitting a subsequent claim to the General Accounting Office in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the General Accounting Office.

(b) These regulations also do not preclude an employee from requesting a waiver pursuant to other statutory provisions pertaining to the particular debts being collected.

§ 608.839 Procedures for salary offset.

(a) The Chairman, or designee of the Chairman, shall determine the amount of an employee's disposable pay and the amount to be deducted from the employee's disposable pay at regular pay intervals.

(b) Deductions shall begin within three official pay periods following the date of mailing or delivery of the Notice of Intent to Collect by Salary Offset.

(c)(1) If the amount of the debt is equal to or is less than 15 percent of the employee's disposable pay, such debt should be collected in one lump-sum deduction.

(2) If the amount of the debt is not collected in one lump-sum deduction, the debt shall be collected in installment deductions over a period of time not greater than the anticipated period of employment. The size and frequency of installment deductions will bear a reasonable relation to the size of the debt and the employee's ability to pay. However, the amount deducted from any pay period will not exceed 15 percent of the employee's disposable pay for that period, unless the employee has agreed in writing to the deduction of a greater amount.

(3) A deduction exceeding the 15-percent disposable pay limitation may be made from any final salary payment pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3716 in order to liquidate the debt, whether the employee is being separated voluntarily or involuntarily.

(4) Whenever an employee subject to salary offset is separated from the FCA and the balance of the debt cannot be liquidated by offset of the final salary check pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3716, the

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FCA may offset any later payments of any kind against the balance of the debt.

(d) In instances where two or more creditor agencies are seeking salary offsets against current employees of the FCA or where two or more debts are owed to a single creditor agency, the FCA, at its discretion, may determine whether one or more debts should be offset simultaneously within the 15-percent limitation. Debts owed to the FCA should generally take precedence over debts owed to other agencies.

§ 608.840 Refunds.

(a) In instances where the FCA is the creditor agency, it shall promptly refund any amounts deducted under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 5514 when:

(1) The debt is waived or otherwise found not to be owed to the United States (unless expressly prohibited by statute or regulations); or

(2) An administrative or judicial order directs the FCA to make a refund.

(b) Unless required or permitted by law or contract, refunds under this section shall not bear interest.

§ 608.841 Requesting current paying agency to offset salary.

(a) To request a paying agency to impose a salary offset against amounts owed to the debtor, the FCA shall provide the paying agency with a claim certification which meets the requirements set forth in § 608.825(a). The FCA shall also provide the paying agency with a repayment schedule determined under the provisions of § 608.839 or in accordance with a repayment agreement entered into with the debtor.

(b) If the employee separates from the paying agency before the debt is paid in full, the paying agency shall certify the total amount collected on the debt. A copy of this certification shall be sent to the employee and a copy shall be sent to the FCA. If the paying agency is aware that the employee is entitled to payments from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, or other similar payments, it must provide written notification to the agency responsible for making such payments that the debtor owes a debt (including the amount) and

that the provisions of this section have been fully complied with. However, the FCA must submit a properly certified claim to the agency responsible for making such payments before the collection can be made.

(c) When an employee transfers to another paying agency, the FCA is not required to repeat the due process procedures set forth in 5 U.S.C. 5514 and this part to resume the collection. The FCA shall, however, review the debt upon receiving the former paying agency's notice of the employee's transfer to make sure the collection is resumed by the new paying agency.

(d) If a special review is conducted pursuant to § 608.811 and results in a revised offset or repayment schedule, the FCA shall provide a new claim certification to the paying agency.

§ 608.842 Responsibility of the FCA as the paying agency.

(a) When the FCA receives a claim certification from a creditor agency, deductions should be scheduled to begin at the next officially established pay interval. The FCA shall send the debtor written notice which provides:

(1) That the FCA has received a valid claim certification from the creditor agency;

(2) The date on which salary offset will begin;

(3) The amount of the debt; and

(4) The amount of such deductions.

(b) If, after the creditor agency has submitted the claim certification to the FCA, the employee transfers to a different agency before the debt is collected in full, the FCA must certify the total amount collected on the debt. The FCA shall send a copy of this certification to the creditor agency and a copy to the employee. If the FCA is aware that the employee is entitled to payments from the Civil Service Retirement Fund and Disability Fund, or other similar payments, it shall provide written notification to the agency responsible for making such payments that the debtor owes a debt (including the amount).

§ 608.843 Nonwaiver of rights by payments.

An employee's involuntary payment of all or any portion of a debt being

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collected under this subpart shall not be construed as a waiver of any rights the employee may have under 5 U.S.C. 5514 or any other provisions of a writ-

ten contract or law unless there are statutory or contractual provisions to the contrary.

SUBCHAPTER B—FARM CREDIT SYSTEM

PART 611—ORGANIZATION

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AUTHORITY: Secs. 1.3, 1.13, 2.0, 2.10, 3.0, 3.21, 4.12, 4.15, 4.20, 4.21, 5.9, 5.10, 5.17, 7.0–7.13, 8.5(e) of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2011, 2021, 2071, 2091, 2121, 2142, 2183, 2203, 2208, 2209, 2243, 2244, 2252, 2279a–2279f–1, 2279aa–5(e)); secs. 411 and 412 of Pub. L. 100–233, 101 Stat. 1568, 1638; secs. 409 and 414 of Pub. L. 100–399, 102 Stat. 989, 1003, and 1004.

SOURCE: 37 FR 11415, June 7, 1972, unless otherwise noted.

Subparts A–B [Reserved]

Subpart C—Election of Directors and Other Voting Procedures

SOURCE: 53 FR 50392, Dec. 15, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

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§611.310 Eligibility for membership on bank and association boards and subsequent employment.

(a) No person shall be eligible for membership on a bank or association board who is or has been, within 1 year preceding the date the term of office begins, a salaried officer or employee of any bank or association in the System.

(b) No bank or association director shall be eligible to continue to serve in that capacity and his or her office shall become vacant if after election as a member of the board, he or she becomes legally incompetent or is convicted of a felony or held liable in damages for fraud.

(c) No bank director shall, within 1 year after the date when he or she ceases to be a member of the board, serve as a salaried officer or employee of such bank, or any association with which the bank has a discount or agent relationship.

(d) No director of an association shall, within 1 year after he or she ceases to be a member of the board, serve as a salaried officer or employee of such association.

[53 FR 50392, Dec. 15, 1988, as amended at 54 FR 37095, Sept. 7, 1989]

§611.320 Impartiality in the election of directors.

(a) Each System institution shall adopt policies and procedures that are designed to assure that the elections of board members are conducted in an impartial manner.

(b) No employee or agent of a System institution shall take any part, directly or indirectly, in the nomination or election of members to the board of directors of a System institution, or make any statement, either orally or in writing, which may be construed as intended to influence any vote in such nominations, or elections. This paragraph shall not prohibit employees or agents from providing biographical and other similar information or engaging in other activities pursuant to policies and procedures for nominations and elections. This paragraph does not affect the right of an employee or agent to nominate or vote for directors of an institution in which the employee or agent is a voting member.

(c) No property, facilities, or resources of any System institution shall be used by any candidate for nomination or election or by any other person for the benefit of any candidate for nomination or election, unless the same property, facilities, or resources are simultaneously available and made known to be available for use by all declared candidates.

(d) No director, employee, or agent of a System institution shall, for the purpose of furthering the interests of any candidates for nomination or election, furnish or make use of records that are not made available for use by all declared candidates.

(e) No System institution shall distribute or mail either directly or at the expense of the institution, any campaign materials for director candidates. Institutions shall request biographical information from all declared candidates who certify that they are eligible, restate such information in a standard format, and distribute or mail it with ballots or proxy ballots.

§611.330 Confidentiality in voting.

(a) No bank or association may use signed ballots in stockholder votes. Each bank and association must adopt policies and procedures to ensure that all information and materials regarding how or whether an individual stockholder has voted remain confidential, including with respect to the institution, its directors, stockholders, or employees, or any other person except:

(1) An independent third party tabulating the vote; or

(2) The Farm Credit Administration.

(b) A bank or association may use balloting procedures, such as an identity code on the ballot, that can be used to identify how or whether an individual stockholder has voted only if the votes are tabulated by an independent third party. In weighted voting, the votes must be tabulated by an independent third party. An independent third party that tabulates the votes must certify in writing that such party will not disclose to any person (including the institution, its directors, stockholders, or employees) any information about how or whether an

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individual stockholder has voted, except that the information must be disclosed to the Farm Credit Administration if requested.

(c) Once a bank or association receives a ballot, the vote of that stockholder is final, except that a stockholder may withdraw a proxy ballot before balloting begins at a stockholders' meeting.

(d) A bank or association may give a stockholder voting by proxy an opportunity to give voting discretion to the proxy of the stockholder's choice, provided that the proxy is also a stockholder eligible to vote.

[63 FR 64843, Nov. 24, 1998]

§ 611.340 Security in voting.

(a) Each bank and association must adopt policies and procedures that assure the security of all records and materials related to a stockholder vote including, but not limited to, ballots, proxy ballots, and other related materials.

(b) Bank and association procedures must assure that ballots and proxy ballots are provided only to stockholders who are eligible to vote.

(c) Ballots and proxy ballots must be safeguarded before the time of distribution or mailing to voting stockholders and after the time of receipt by the bank or association until disposal. In an election of directors, ballots, proxy ballots and election records must be retained at least until the end of the term of office of the director. In other stockholder votes, ballots, proxy ballots, and records must be retained for at least 3 years after the vote.

(d) The voting procedures of each institution must provide for the establishment of a tellers committee or other designated group of persons which must be responsible for validating ballots and proxies and tabulating voting results. An institution and its officers, directors, and employees may not make any public announcement of the results of a stockholder vote before the tellers committee or other designated persons have validated the results of the vote.

[53 FR 50392, Dec. 15, 1988, as amended at 63 FR 64843, Nov. 24, 1998]

§ 611.350 Application of cooperative principles to the election of directors.

In the election of directors, each System institution shall comply with the applicable cooperative principles set forth in § 615.5230 of this chapter.

[63 FR 39225, July 22, 1998]

Subpart D—Rules for Compensation of Board Members

§ 611.400 Compensation of bank board members.

(a) Farm Credit System banks are authorized to pay fair and reasonable compensation to directors for services performed in an official capacity at a rate not to exceed the level established in section 4.21 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended, unless the FCA determines that such a level adversely affects the safety and soundness of the institution.

(b) The bank director compensation level established in section 4.21 of the Act shall be adjusted to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all urban consumers, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in the following manner: Current year's maximum compensation = Prior year's maximum compensation adjusted by the prior year's annual average percent change in the CPI for all urban consumers. Adjustments will be made to the bank director statutory compensation limit beginning from October 28, 1992 (the date of enactment of the Farm Credit Banks and Associations Safety and Soundness Act of 1992). Additionally, each year the FCA will distribute a booklet to all FCS banks that communicates the CPI adjusted bank director statutory compensation limit.

(c)(1) A Farm Credit bank is authorized to pay a director up to 30 percent more than the statutory compensation limit in exceptional circumstances where the director contributes extraordinary time and effort in the service of the bank and its shareholders.

(2) Banks must document the exceptional circumstances justifying additional director compensation. The documentation must describe:

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(i) The exceptional circumstances justifying the additional director compensation, including the extraordinary time and effort the director devoted to bank business; and

(ii) The amount and the terms and conditions of the additional director compensation.

(d) Each bank board shall adopt a written policy regarding compensation of bank directors. The policy shall address, at a minimum, the following areas:

(1) The activities or functions for which attendance is necessary and appropriate and may be compensated, except that a Farm Credit System bank shall not compensate any director for rendering services on behalf of any other Farm Credit System institution or a cooperative of which the director is a member, or for performing other assignments of a non-official nature;

(2) The methodology for determining each director's rate of compensation; and

(3) The exceptional circumstances under which the board would pay additional compensation for any of its directors as authorized by paragraph (c) of this section.

(e) Directors may also be reimbursed for reasonable travel, subsistence, and other related expenses in accordance with the policy adopted pursuant to § 618.8270 of this chapter.

[59 FR 37411, July 22, 1994, as amended at 64 FR 16618, Apr. 6, 1999]

Subpart E—Transfer of Authorities

SOURCE: 53 FR 50393, Dec. 15, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 611.500 General.

Each Farm Credit Bank or Agricultural Credit Bank is authorized, in accordance with section 7.6 of the Act, to transfer certain authorities to Federal land bank associations. The regulations in this subpart set forth the procedures and voting and approval requirements applicable to such transfers.

§ 611.501 Procedures.

(a) The boards of directors of a bank and an association which seek to trans-

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fer authorities may adopt appropriate resolutions approving such transfer and providing for the submission of such a proposal to their respective stockholders for a vote.

(b) The resolutions accompanied by the following information shall be submitted to the Farm Credit Administration for review and approval:

(1) Any proposed amendments to the charters of the institutions;

(2) A copy of the transfer plan as required under § 611.520 of this part;

(3) An information statement that complies with the requirements of § 611.515;

(4) The proposed bylaws of the bank and the association, as applicable; and

(5) Any additional information the boards of directors wish to submit in support of the request or that the Farm Credit Administration requests.

§ 611.505 Farm Credit Administration review.

(a) Upon receipt of the board of directors resolution and the accompanying documents, the Farm Credit Administration shall review the request and either deny or give its preliminary approval to the request.

(b) If the request is denied, written notice stating the reasons for the denial shall be transmitted to the chief executive officer of the bank and the association who shall promptly notify their respective boards of directors.

(c) Upon approval of the proposed transfer of authorities by the stockholders as provided in § 611.510, the secretary of the bank and the secretary of the association shall forward to the Farm Credit Administration a certified record of the results of the stockholder votes.

(d) Each institution shall notify its stockholders not later than 30 days after the stockholder vote of the final results of the vote. If no petition for reconsideration is filed with the Farm Credit Administration in accordance with § 611.525, the transfer shall be effective on the date specified in the transfer plan, or at such later date as may be required by the Farm Credit Administration to grant final approval. Notice of final approval shall be transmitted to the institutions involved.

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(e) The effective date of a transfer may not be less than 35 days after mailing of the notification to stockholders of the results of the stockholder vote, or 15 days after the date of submission to the Farm Credit Administration of all required documents for the Agency's consideration of final approval, whichever occurs later. If a petition for reconsideration is filed within 35 days after the date of mailing of the notification of stockholder vote, the constituent institutions must agree on a second effective date to be used in the event the transfer is approved on reconsideration. The second effective date may not be less than 60 days after stockholder notification of the results of the first vote, or 15 days after the date of the reconsideration vote, whichever occurs later.

[53 FR 50393, Dec. 15, 1988, as amended at 63 FR 64844, Nov. 24, 1998]

§611.510 Approval procedures.

(a) Upon receipt of approval of a resolution by the Farm Credit Administration, the bank and the association shall call a meeting of their voting stockholders. Each institution shall notify each stockholder that the resolution has been filed and that a meeting will be held in accordance with the institution's bylaws. The stockholders meeting of the bank and the association shall be held within 60 days of receipt of the approval from the Farm Credit Administration.

(b) The notice of meeting to consider and act upon the directors' resolution shall be accompanied by an information statement that complies with the requirements of §611.515.

(c) The proposal shall be approved if agreed to by:

(1) A majority of the stockholders of the bank voting in person or by proxy, with each association entitled to cast a number of votes equal to the number of its voting stockholders;

(2) A majority of the stockholders of the association voting, in person or by proxy;

(3) The Farm Credit Administration.

§611.515 Information statement.

(a) The bank and association shall prepare an information statement which will inform stockholders about

the provisions of the proposed transfer of authorities and the effect of the proposal on the bank and the association.

(b) The information statement for each institution involved shall contain the following materials as applicable to the institution:

(1) A statement either on the first page of the materials or on the notice of the stockholders meeting, in capital letters and boldface type, that:

THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION HAS NEITHER APPROVED NOR PASSED UPON THE ACCURACY OR ADEQUACY OF THE INFORMATION ACCOMPANYING THE NOTICE OF MEETING OR PRESENTED AT THE MEETING AND NO REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY SHALL BE MADE OR RELIED UPON.

(2) A description of the material provisions of the plan under §611.520 and the effect of the transaction on the institution, its stockholders, and the territory to be served.

(3) A statement enumerating the potential advantages and disadvantages of the proposed transfer including, but not limited to, changes in operating efficiencies, one-stop service, branch offices, local control, and financial condition.

(4) A summary of the provisions of the charter and bylaws following the transfer that differ materially from the charter or bylaws currently existing.

(5) A brief statement by the board of directors of the institution setting forth the board's opinion on the advisability of the transfer.

(6) A presentation of the following financial data:

(i) An audited balance sheet and income statement and notes thereto of the bank or the association, as applicable, for the preceding 2 fiscal years.

(ii) If the transfer of authority includes any material transfer of assets, a balance sheet and income statement of the bank and the association showing its financial condition before the transfer of authority and a pro forma balance sheet and income statement for the bank or association, as applicable, showing its financial condition after the transfer. The statements shall meet the following conditions:

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(A) Such financial statements shall be presented in columnar form, showing the financial condition as of the end of the most recent quarter of the institution, and operating results since the end of the last fiscal year through the end of the most recent quarter of the institution.

(B) If the request is made within 90 days after the end of the fiscal year, the institution's financial statements shall be as of the most recent fiscal yearend.

(C) If the request is made within 45 days after the end of the most recent quarter, the institution's financial statements shall be as of the end of the quarter preceding the quarter just ended.

(D) If the request is made more than 45 days after the end of the most recent quarter, the institution's financial statements shall be as of the end of that quarter.

(E) The financial statements must be accompanied by appropriate notes, describing any assets being transferred and including data relating to high-risk assets and other property owned, allowance for loan losses, and current year-to-date chargeoffs.

(F) The amount and nature of start-up costs estimated to be associated with the transfer.

(7) A description of the type and dollar amount of any financial assistance that has been provided to the bank or the association, as applicable, during the past year; the conditions on which the financial assistance was extended, the terms of repayment or retirement, if any; and, the liability for repayment of this assistance by the bank or the association if the transfer were approved.

(8) A statement as to whether the bank or the association, as applicable, would require financial assistance during the first 3 years of operation, the estimated type and dollar amount of the assistance, and terms of repayment or retirement, if known.

(9) A statement indicating the possible tax consequences to stockholders and whether any legal opinion, ruling or external auditor's opinion has been obtained on the matter.

(10) A presentation of the association's interest rate and fee programs,

interest collection policy, capitalization plan and other factors that would affect a borrower's cost of doing business with the association.

(11) A description of any event subsequent to the date of the last quarterly report, but prior to the stockholder vote, that would have a material impact on the financial condition of the bank or the association.

(12) A statement of any other material fact or circumstances that a stockholder would need in order to make an informed and responsible decision, or that would be necessary in order to provide a disclosure that is not misleading.

(13) A form of written proxy, together with instructions on its purpose, use and authorization by the stockholder. The proxy instructions must ensure the secrecy of the stockholder's ballot if the stockholder votes by proxy.

(14) A copy of the plan of transfer provided for in §611.520 of this part.

(c) No bank or association director, officer, or employee shall make any untrue or misleading statement of a material fact, or fail to disclose any material fact necessary under the circumstances to make statements made not misleading, to a stockholder of the association in connection with a transfer under this subpart.

[53 FR 50393, Dec. 15, 1988, as amended at 58 FR 48790, Sept. 20, 1993]

§611.520 Plan of transfer.

The transfer of authorities and assets, as appropriate, shall occur pursuant to a written plan which shall be agreed to by the bank and the association involved. The written plan shall include the following:

(a) An explanation of the value of the equity ownership as of the last monthend held by stockholders of the bank and the association and the impact, if any, of the transfer on the value of that equity.

(b) If the plan provides for a transfer of assets, a description of the terms and conditions upon which such transfer will occur, including, but not limited to, any warranties or representations regarding the value of such assets.

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(c) A description of how the association would obtain loan funds after the transfer.

(d) A statement on how the expenses connected with the transfer are to be borne by the affected parties.

(e) A statement of any conditions which must be satisfied prior to the effective date of the transfer, including but not limited to approval by stockholders and approval by the Farm Credit Administration.

(f) A statement that prior to the effective date of the transfer the board of directors of the bank or the association may rescind its resolution and void the transfer, with the concurrence of the Farm Credit Administration, on the basis that:

(1) The information disclosed to stockholders contained material errors or omissions;

(2) Material misrepresentations were made to stockholders regarding the impact of the transfer;

(3) Fraudulent activities were used to obtain the stockholders' approval; or,

(4) An event occurred between the time of the vote and the transfer that would have a significant adverse impact on the future viability of the association.

(g) A designation of those persons who have authority to carry out the plan of transfer, including the authority to execute any documents necessary to perfect title, on behalf of the bank and the association.

§611.525 Stockholder reconsideration.

(a) Stockholders have the right to reconsider the approval of the transfer provided that a petition signed by 15 percent of the stockholders of either institution involved in the transfer is filed with the Farm Credit Administration within 35 days after the date of mailing of the notification of the final results of the stockholder vote required under §611.505(d) and such petition is approved by the Farm Credit Administration.

(b) A special stockholders meeting shall be called by the institution to vote on the reconsideration following the Farm Credit Administration's approval of a stockholder petition to reconsider the transfer. If a majority of stockholders of any institution in-

volved in the transfer votes against the transfer, the transfer is not approved.

Subpart F—Bank Mergers, Consolidations and Charter Amendments

SOURCE: 53 FR 50393, Dec. 15, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§611.1000 General authority.

(a) An amendment to a bank charter may relate to any provision that is properly the subject of a charter, including, but not limited to, the name of the bank, the location of its offices, or the territory served.

(b) The Farm Credit Administration may make changes in the charter of a bank as may be requested by that bank and approved by the Farm Credit Administration pursuant to §611.1010 of this part.

(c) The Farm Credit Administration may, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, make changes in the charter of a bank as may be necessary or expedient to implement the provisions of the Act.

§611.1010 Bank charter amendment procedures.

(a) A bank may recommend a charter amendment to accomplish any of the following actions:

(1) A merger or consolidation with any other bank or banks operating under title I or III of the Act;

(2) A transfer of territory with any other bank operating under the same title of the Act;

(3) A change to its name or location;

(4) Any other change that is properly the subject of a bank charter;

(b) Upon approval of an appropriate resolution by the bank board, the certified resolution, together with supporting documentation, shall be submitted to the Farm Credit Administration for preliminary or final approval, as the case may be.

(c) The Farm Credit Administration shall review the material submitted and either approve or disapprove the request. The Farm Credit Administration may require submission of any supplemental materials it deems appropriate. If the request is for merger, consolidation, or transfer of territory,

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the approval of Farm Credit Administration will be preliminary only, with final approval subject to a vote of the bank's stockholders.

(d) Following receipt of the Farm Credit Administration's written preliminary approval, the proposal shall be submitted for approval to the voting stockholders of the bank. A proposal shall be approved if agreed to by a majority of the stockholders of each bank voting, in person or by proxy, at a duly authorized stockholder meeting with each association entitled to cast a number of votes equal to the number of the association's voting shareholders.

(e) Upon approval by the stockholders of the bank, the request for final approval and issuance of the appropriate charter or amendments to charter for the banks involved shall be submitted to the Farm Credit Administration.

§611.1020 Requirements for mergers or consolidations of banks.

(a) As authorized under sections 7.0 and 7.12 of the Act, a bank may merge or consolidate with one or more banks operating under the same or different titles of the Act.

(b) Where two or more banks plan to merge or consolidate, the banks shall jointly submit to the Farm Credit Administration the documents itemized in §§611.1122(a)(1) through (4), (6), (7), 611.1122(e), and 611.1123. In interpreting those sections, the word "bank" shall be read for the word "association."

(c) No bank director, officer, or employee shall make any untrue or misleading statement of a material fact, or fail to disclose any material fact necessary under the circumstances to make statements made not misleading, to any stockholder of the bank in connection with a bank merger or consolidation.

(d) Upon approval of a proposed bank merger or consolidation by the stockholders of each constituent bank, the following documents shall be submitted from the constituent banks to the Farm Credit Administration for final approval and issuance of the appropriate charters or amendments to charter:

(1) A certified copy of the stockholders' resolution, on which the

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stockholders cast their votes, from each constituent bank;

(2) A certification of the stockholder vote from the corporate secretary of each bank or from an independent third party;

(3) An Agreement of Merger or Consolidation duly executed by those authorized to sign on behalf of each constituent bank.

§611.1030 Board of directors of an agricultural credit bank.

Each agricultural credit bank formed by the consolidation of a Farm Credit Bank and a bank for cooperatives shall elect a board of directors of such number, for such term, in such manner, and with such qualifications, as may be required in its bylaws, except that at least one member shall be elected by the other directors, which member shall not be a director, officer, employee, or stockholder of a System institution. In electing such directors each association shall be entitled to cast a number of votes equal to the number of its voting stockholders.

[53 FR 50393, Dec. 15, 1988, as amended at 61 FR 67185, Dec. 20, 1996]

§611.1040 Creation of new associations.

Any application for the issuance of a charter to a new production credit association or Federal land bank association shall meet the requirements of sections 2.0 or 2.10, respectively, of the Act. Any application for the issuance of a charter for an agricultural credit association shall meet the requirements of section 2.0 of the Act.

Subpart G—Mergers, Consolidations, and Charter Amendments of Associations

§611.1120 General authority.

(a) An amendment to an association charter may relate to any provision that is properly the subject of a charter, including, but not limited to, the name of the association, the location of its offices, or the territory served.

(b) The Farm Credit Administration may make changes in the charter of an association as may be requested by that association and approved by the

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Farm Credit Administration pursuant to §611.1121 of this part.

(c) The Farm Credit Administration may, by order of the Chairman and on its own initiative, make changes in the charter of a Federal land bank association or a production credit association where the Chairman determines that the change is necessary for the accomplishment of the purposes of the Act.

[50 FR 20400, May 16, 1985, as amended at 51 FR 41945, Nov. 20, 1986]

§611.1121 Charter amendment procedures.

This section shall apply to any request by an association to amend its charter.

(a) An association which proposes to amend its charter shall submit a request to its supervising bank containing the following information:

(1) A statement of the provision(s) of the charter that the association proposes to amend and the proposed amendment(s);

(2) A statement of the reasons for the proposed amendment(s), the impact of the amendment(s) on the association and its stockholders, and the requested effective date of the amendment(s);

(3) A certified copy of the resolution of the board of directors of the association approving the amendment(s);

(4) Any additional information or documents that the association wishes to submit in support of the request or that may be requested by the supervising bank.

(b) Upon receipt of a proposed amendment from an association, the district bank shall review the materials submitted and provide the association with its analysis of the proposal within a reasonable period of time. Concurrently, the bank shall communicate its recommendation on the proposal to the Farm Credit Administration, including the reasons for the recommendation, and any analysis the bank believes appropriate. Following review by the bank, the association shall transmit the proposed amendment with attachments to the Farm Credit Administration.

(c) Upon receipt of an association's request for a charter amendment, the Farm Credit Administration shall review the materials submitted and ei-

ther approve or disapprove the request. The Farm Credit Administration may require submission of any supplemental materials it deems appropriate.

(d) The Farm Credit Administration shall notify the association of its approval or disapproval of the amendment request, and provide a copy of such communication to the bank. A notification of approval shall be accompanied by a copy of the charter, as amended.

[50 FR 20400, May 16, 1985, as amended at 51 FR 32441, Sept. 12, 1986]

§611.1122 Requirements for mergers or consolidations.

This section shall apply to any request for approval of a proposed merger or consolidation of associations. A merger involves the combination of one or more associations into a continuing constituent association, which retains its charter and bylaws (except as amended to effect the merger proposal). A consolidation involves the combination of two or more associations into a newly organized association having a new charter and bylaws.

(a) Where two or more associations plan to merge or consolidate, or where the district board has adopted a reorganization plan for the associations in the district, the associations involved shall jointly submit a request to the district bank containing the following:

(1) In the case of a merger, a copy of the charter of the continuing association reflecting any proposed amendments. In the case of consolidation, a copy of the proposed charter of the new association;

(2) A statement of the reasons for the proposed merger or consolidation, the impact of the proposed transaction on the associations and their stockholders, and the planned effective date of the merger or consolidation;

(3)(i) A certified copy of the resolution of the board of directors of each association recommending approval of the merger or consolidation; or

(ii) In the case of a district reorganization plan, a certified copy of the resolution of the board of directors of each association recommending either approval or disapproval of the proposal.

(4) A copy of the agreement of merger or consolidation;

(5) Two signed copies of the continuing or proposed Articles of Association;

(6) All of the information specified in paragraph (e) of this section; and

(7) Any additional information or documents each association wishes to submit in support of the request or that the supervising bank or the Farm Credit Administration requests.

(b) Upon receipt of a request for approval of an association merger or consolidation, the district bank shall review the materials submitted to determine whether they comply with the requirements of these regulations and shall communicate with the associations concerning any deficiency. When the bank approves the request to merge or consolidate it shall notify the associations and the Farm Credit Administration of its approval together with the reasons for its approval and any supporting analysis the bank deems appropriate. The associations shall jointly submit the proposal together with required documentation to the Farm Credit Administration for preliminary approval.

(c) Upon receipt of an association merger or consolidation request, the Farm Credit Administration shall review the request and either deny or give its preliminary approval to the request. When a request is denied, written notice stating the reasons for the denial shall be transmitted to the associations and a copy provided to the bank. When a request is preliminarily approved, written notice of the preliminary approval shall be given to the associations and a copy provided to the bank. Preliminary approval by the Farm Credit Administration shall not constitute approval of the merger or consolidation. Approval of a merger or consolidation shall be only pursuant to paragraph (g) of this section.

(d) Upon receipt of preliminary approval by the Farm Credit Administration of a merger or consolidation request, each constituent association shall call a meeting of its voting stockholders. The meeting shall be called on written notice to each stockholder entitled to vote on the transaction, and held in accordance with the terms of each association's bylaws. The affirmative vote of a majority of the voting

stockholders of each association present and voting or voting by written proxy at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be required for stockholder approval of a merger or consolidation proposal.

(e) Notice of the meeting to consider and act upon a proposed merger or consolidation of associations shall be accompanied by the following information covering each constituent association.

(1) A statement either on the first page of the materials or on the notice of the stockholders' meeting, in capital letters and bold face type, that:

THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION HAS NEITHER APPROVED NOR PASSED UPON THE ACCURACY OR ADEQUACY OF THE INFORMATION ACCOMPANYING THE NOTICE OF MEETING OR PRESENTED AT THE MEETING AND NO REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY SHALL BE MADE OR RELIED UPON.

(2) A description of the material provisions of the agreement of merger or consolidation and the effect of the proposed merger or consolidation on the associations, their stockholders, the new or continuing board of directors, and the territory to be served. In addition, a copy of the agreement must be furnished with the notice to stockholders.

(3) A summary of the provisions of the charter and bylaws of the continuing or new association that differ materially from the existing charter or bylaw provisions of the constituent associations.

(4) A brief statement by the boards of directors of the constituent associations setting forth the basis for the boards' recommendation on the merger or consolidation.

(5) A description of any agreement or arrangement between a constituent association and any of its officers relating to employment or termination of employment and arising from the merger or consolidation.

(6) A presentation of the following financial data:

(i) A balance sheet and income statement for each constituent association for each of the 2 preceding fiscal years.

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(ii) A balance sheet for each constituent association as of a date within 90 days of the date the request for preliminary approval is forwarded to the Farm Credit Administration presented on a comparative basis with the corresponding period of the prior fiscal year.

(iii) An income statement for the interim period between the end of the last fiscal year and the date of the required balance sheet presented on a comparative basis with the corresponding period of the preceding fiscal year. The balance sheet and income statement format shall be that contained in the association's annual report to stockholders; shall contain any significant changes in accounting policies that differ from those in the latest association annual report to stockholders; and shall contain appropriate footnote disclosures, including data relating to high-risk assets and other property owned, and allowance for loan losses, including net chargeoffs as required in paragraph (e)(10) of this section.

(7) The financial statements (balance sheet and income statement) shall be in sufficient detail to show separately all significant categories of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities and the income or expense accrued thereon.

(8) Attached to the financial statements for each constituent association, either:

(i) A statement signed by the chief executive officer and each member of the board of directors of the association that the various financial statements are unaudited, but have been prepared in all material respects in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (except as otherwise disclosed therein) and are, to the best of the knowledge of the board, a fair and accurate presentation of the financial condition of the association; or

(ii) A signed opinion by an independent certified public accountant that the various financial statements have been examined in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as were considered necessary in the circumstances, and, as

of the date of the statements, present fairly the financial position of the association in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis, except as otherwise noted thereon.

(9) A presentation for each constituent association regarding its policy on accounting for loan performance, together with the number and dollar amount of loans in all performance categories, including those categorized as high-risk assets.

(10) Information of each constituent association concerning the amount of loans charged off in each of the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of the balance sheet, the current year-to-date net chargeoff amount, and the balance in the allowance for loan losses account and a statement regarding whether, in the opinion of management, the allowance for loan losses is adequate to absorb the risk currently existing in the loan portfolio. This information may be appropriately included in the footnotes to the financial statements.

(11) A management discussion and analysis of the financial condition and results of operation for the past 2 fiscal years for each constituent institution. This requirement can be satisfied by including the materials contained in the management discussion and analysis of each institution's most recent annual report.

(12) A discussion of any material changes in financial condition of each constituent institution from the end of the last fiscal year to the date of the interim balance sheet provided.

(13) A discussion of any material changes in the results of operations of each constituent institution with respect to the most recent fiscal-year-to-date period for which an income statement is provided.

(14) A discussion of any change in the tax status of the new institution from those of the constituent institutions as a result of merger or consolidation. A statement on any adverse tax consequences to the stockholders of the institution as a result of the change in tax status.

(15) A statement on the proposed institution's relationship with an independent public accountant, including

any change that may occur as a result of the merger or consolidation.

(16) A pro forma balance sheet of the continuing or consolidated association presented as if the merger or consolidation had occurred as of the date on the balance sheets required in paragraph (e)(6) of this section, as recommended to the stockholders. A pro forma summary of earnings for the continuing or consolidated association presented as if the merger or consolidation had been effective at the beginning of the interim period between the end of the last fiscal year and the date of the balance sheets.

(17) A description of the type and dollar amount of any financial assistance that has been provided during the past year or will be provided by the supervising bank or other party to assist the constituent or the continuing or new association(s), the conditions on which financial assistance has been or will be extended, the terms of repayment or retirement, if any, and the impact of the assistance on the subject association(s) or the stockholders.

(18) A presentation for each constituent association of interest rate comparisons for the last 2 fiscal years preceding the date of the balance sheet, together with a statement of the continuing or new association's proposed interest rate and fee programs, interest collection policies, capitalization rates, dividends or patronage refunds, and other factors that would affect a borrower's cost of doing business with the continuing or new association. Where agreement has not been reached on such matters, current related information shall be presented for each constituent association.

(19) A description for each constituent association of any event subsequent to the date of the financial statements, but prior to the merger or consolidation vote, that would have a material impact on the financial condition of the constituent or continuing or new association(s).

(20) A statement of any other material fact or circumstance that a stockholder would need in order to make an informed decision on the merger or consolidation proposal, or that is necessary to make the required disclosures not misleading.

(21) Where proxies are to be solicited, a form of written proxy, together with instructions on the purpose and authority for its use, and the proper method for signature by the stockholder.

(f) No bank or association, or director, officer, or employee thereof, shall make any untrue or misleading statement of a material fact, or fail to disclose any material fact necessary under the circumstances to make statements made not misleading, to a stockholder of any association in connection with an association merger or consolidation.

(g) Upon approval of a proposed merger or consolidation by the stockholders of the constituent associations, a certified copy of the stockholders' resolution shall be forwarded to the Farm Credit Administration. Each constituent association shall notify its stockholders not later than 30 days after the stockholder vote of the final results of the vote. If no petition is filed with the Farm Credit Administration to reconsider the vote, upon final approval by the FCA, the merger or consolidation shall be effective on the date specified in the merger agreement or at such later date as may be required by the Farm Credit Administration to grant final approval. Notice of final approval shall be transmitted to the associations and a copy provided to the affiliated bank.

(h) No director, officer, or employee of a bank or an association shall make an oral or written representation to any person that a preliminary or final approval by the Farm Credit Administration of an association merger or consolidation constitutes, directly or indirectly, either a recommendation on the merits of the transaction or an assurance concerning the adequacy or accuracy of any information provided to any association's stockholders in connection therewith.

(i) The notice and accompanying information required under paragraph (e) of this section shall not be sent to stockholders until preliminary approval of the merger or consolidation has been given by the Farm Credit Administration.

(j) Where a proposed merger or consolidation will involve more than three

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associations, the Farm Credit Administration may require the supplementation, or allow the condensation or omission of any information required under paragraph (e) of this section in furtherance of meaningful disclosure to stockholders. Any waiver sought under this paragraph shall be obtained before preparation of the financial statements and accompanying schedules required under paragraph (e) of this section.

(k) The effective date of a merger or consolidation may not be less than 35 days after the date of mailing of the notification to stockholders of the results of the stockholder vote, or 15 days after the date of submission to the Farm Credit Administration of all required documents for the Agency's consideration of final approval, whichever occurs later. If a petition for reconsideration is filed within 35 days after mailing of the notification to stockholders of the results of the stockholder vote, the constituent institutions must agree on a second effective date to be used in the event the merger or consolidation is approved on reconsideration. The second effective date may not be less than 60 days after stockholder notification of the results of the first vote, or 15 days after the date of the reconsideration vote, whichever occurs later.

[50 FR 20400, May 16, 1985; 50 FR 32165, Aug. 9, 1985, as amended at 51 FR 32441, Sept. 12, 1986; 53 FR 50396, Dec. 15, 1988; 56 FR 2674, Jan. 24, 1991; 58 FR 48790, Sept. 20, 1993; 63 FR 64844, Nov. 24, 1998]

§611.1123 Merger or consolidation agreements.

(a) Associations operating under the same title of the Act may merge or consolidate voluntarily only pursuant to a written agreement. The agreement shall set forth all of the terms of the transaction, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) The proposed effective date of the merger or consolidation.

(2) The proposed name and headquarters location of the continuing or consolidated association.

(3) The names of the persons nominated to serve as directors until the first regular annual meeting of the continuing or consolidated association to be held after the effective date of

the merger or consolidation. Any director of a constituent association may be designated in the agreement to serve as a director of the continuing or consolidated association for a period not to exceed his or her current term, after which he or she must stand for reelection. However, the terms of the agreement must provide for the election of at least one director at each annual meeting subsequent to the effective date of the merger or consolidation. The bylaws of the continuing or consolidated association shall reflect the provisions of the merger or consolidation agreement regarding director terms.

(4) A statement of the formula to be used to exchange the stock of the constituent associations for the stock of the continuing or consolidated association. No fractional shares of stock shall be issued.

(5) A statement of any conditions which must be satisfied prior to the effective date of the proposed transaction, including but not limited to approval by stockholders, the supervising bank, and the Farm Credit Administration.

(6) A statement of the representations or warranties, if any, made or to be made by any association, or its officers, directors, or employees that is a party to the proposed transactions.

(7) A statement that the board of directors of each constituent association can terminate the agreement before the effective date upon a determination by an association, with the concurrence of the Farm Credit Administration, that:

(i) The information disclosed to stockholders contained material errors or omissions;

(ii) Material misrepresentations were made to stockholders regarding the impact of the merger or consolidation;

(iii) Fraudulent activities were used to obtain stockholders' approval; or

(iv) An event occurred between the time of the vote and the merger that would have a significant adverse impact on the future viability of the continuing institution.

(8) A description of the legal opinions or rulings (including those related to tax matters), if any, that have been obtained or furnished by any party in

connection with the proposed transaction. Also, refer to paragraph (a)(5) of this section.

(9) The capitalization plan and capital structure for the new institution and a statement that the capitalization plan shall comply with applicable FCA regulations.

(10) Provision for the employee benefits plan, its subsequent continuation or adaptation by the board of directors of the proposed institution following the merger or consolidation.

(11) A statement of the authority of those persons designated to carry out the terms of the agreement, including the authority to waive provisions of the agreement and to execute any documents necessary to perfect title, on behalf of the constituent associations.

(b) As an attachment to the agreement, set forth those provisions of the charter and bylaws of the continuing or consolidated association which differ from the existing charter or bylaw provisions of the constituent associations.

(c) Stockholders have the right to reconsider the approval of the merger provided that a petition signed by 15 percent of the stockholders eligible to vote of one or more of the constituent institutions is filed with the Farm Credit Administration within 35 days after the date of mailing the notification of the final results of the stockholder vote required under §611.1122(g). The Farm Credit Administration will review the petition to determine whether it complies with the requirements of section 7.9 of the Act. Following a determination that the petition complies with the applicable requirements, a special stockholders meeting shall be called by the institution to reconsider the vote. If a majority of the stockholders voting, in person or by proxy, of any one of the constituent institutions that is a party to the merger vote against the merger, the merger shall not take place.

[50 FR 20400, May 16, 1985, as amended at 51 FR 32442, Sept. 12, 1986; 53 FR 50396, Dec. 15, 1988]

§611.1124 Territorial adjustments.

This section shall apply to any request submitted to the Farm Credit Administration to modify association

charters for the purpose of transferring territory from one association to another.

(a) Territorial adjustments, except as specified in paragraph (m) of this section, require approval of a majority of the voting stockholders of each association present and voting or voting by written proxy at a duly authorized meeting at which a quorum is present.

(b) When two or more associations agree to transfer territory, each association shall submit a proposal to the district bank containing the following:

(1) A statement of the reasons for the proposed transfer and the impact the transfer will have on its stockholders and holders of participation certificates;

(2) A certified copy of the resolution of the board of directors of each association approving the proposed territory transfer;

(3) A copy of the agreement to transfer territory that contains the following information:

(i) A description of the territory to be transferred.

(ii) Transferor association's plan to transfer loans and the types of loans to be transferred.

(iii) Transferor association's plan to retire and transferee association's plan to issue equities held by holders of stock, participation certificates, and allocated equities, if any, and a statement by each association that the book value of its equities is at least equal to par.

(iv) An inventory of the assets to be sold by the transferor association and purchased by the transferee association.

(v) An inventory of the liabilities to be assumed from the transferor association by the transferee association.

(vi) A statement that the holders of stock and participation certificates whose loans are subject to transfer have 60 days from the effective date of the territory transfer to inform the transferor association of their decision to remain with the transferor association for normal servicing until the current loan is paid.

(vii) A statement that the transfer is conditioned upon the approval of the stockholders of each constituent association.

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(viii) The effective date of the proposed territory transfer.

(4) A copy of the stockholder disclosure statement provided for in paragraph (f) of this section; and

(5) Any additional relevant information or documents that the association wishes to submit in support of its request or that may be required by the Farm Credit Administration.

(c) Upon receipt of documents supporting a proposed territory transfer, the district bank shall review the materials submitted and provide the associations with its analysis of the proposal within a reasonable period of time. The bank shall concurrently advise the Farm Credit Administration of its recommendation regarding the proposed territory transfer. Following review by the bank, the associations shall transmit the proposal to the Farm Credit Administration together with all required documents.

(d) Upon receipt of an association's request to transfer territory, the Farm Credit Administration shall review the request and either deny or give preliminary approval to the request. When a request is denied, written notice stating the reasons for the denial shall be transmitted to the associations, and a copy provided to the bank. When a request is preliminarily approved, written notice of the preliminary approval shall be transmitted to the associations, and a copy provided to the bank. Preliminary approval by the Farm Credit Administration shall not constitute approval of the territory transfer. Final approval shall be granted only in accordance with paragraph (h) of this section.

(e) Upon receipt of preliminary approval by the Farm Credit Administration, each constituent association shall, by written notice, and in accordance with its bylaws, call a meeting of its voting stockholders. The affirmative vote of a majority of the voting stockholders of each association present and voting or voting by written proxy at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be required for stockholder approval of a territory transfer.

(f) Notice of the meeting to consider and act upon a proposed territory transfer shall be accompanied by the

following information covering each constituent association:

(1) A statement either on the first page of the materials or on the notice of the stockholders' meeting, in capital letters and bold face type, that:

THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION HAS NEITHER APPROVED NOR PASSED UPON THE ACCURACY OR ADEQUACY OF THE INFORMATION ACCOMPANYING THE NOTICE OF MEETING OR PRESENTED AT THE MEETING AND NO REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY SHALL BE MADE OR RELIED UPON.

(2) A copy of the Agreement to Transfer Territory and a summary of the major provisions of the Agreement.

(3) The reason the territory transfer is proposed.

(4) A map of the association's territory as it would look after the transfer.

(5) A summary of the differences, if any, between the transferor and transferee associations' interest rates, interest rate policies, collection policies, service fees, bylaws, and any other items of interest that would impact a borrower's lending relationship with the institution.

(6) A statement that all loans of the transferor association that finance operations located in the transferred territory shall be transferred to the transferee association except as otherwise provided for in this section or in accordance with agreements between the associations as provided for in §614.4070 of this chapter.

(7) Where proxies are to be solicited, a form of written proxy, together with instructions on the purpose and authority for its use, and the proper method for signature by the stockholders.

(8) A statement that the associations' bylaws, financial statements for the previous 3 years, and any financial information prepared by the associations concerning the proposed transfer of territory are available on request to the stockholders of any association involved in the transaction.

(g) No bank or association, or director, officer, or employee thereof, shall make any untrue or misleading statement of a material fact, or fail to disclose any material fact necessary under the circumstances to make statements made not misleading, to a

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stockholder of any association in connection with a territory transfer.

(h) Upon approval of a proposed territory transfer by the stockholders of the constituent associations, a certified copy of the stockholders' resolution for each constituent association and one executed Agreement to Transfer Territory shall be forwarded to the Farm Credit Administration. The territory transfer shall be effective when thereafter finally approved and on the date as specified by the Farm Credit Administration. Notice of final approval shall be transmitted to the associations and a copy provided to the bank.

(i) No director, officer, or employee of a bank or an association shall make an oral or written representation to any person that a Preliminary or final approval by the Farm Credit Administration of a territory transfer constitutes, directly or indirectly, a recommendation on the merits of the transaction or an assurance concerning the adequacy or accuracy of any information provided to any association's stockholders in connection therewith.

(j) The notice and accompanying information required under paragraph (f) of this section shall not be sent to stockholders until preliminary approval of the territory transfer has been granted by the Farm Credit Administration.

(k) Where a territory transfer is proposed simultaneously with a merger or consolidation, both transactions may be voted on by stockholders at the same meeting. Only stockholders of a transferee or transferor association shall vote on a territory transfer.

(l) Each borrower whose real estate or operations is located in a territory that will be transferred shall be provided with a written Notice of Territory Transfer immediately after the Farm Credit Administration has given final approval of the territory transfer. The Notice shall inform the borrower of the transfer of the borrower's loan to the transferee association and the exchange of related equities for equities of like kinds and amounts in the transferee association. If a like kind of equity is not available in the transferee association, similar equities shall be offered that will not adversely affect

the interest of the owner. The Notice shall give the borrower 60 days from the effective date of the territory transfer to notify the transferor association in writing if the borrower decides to stay with the transferor association for normal servicing until the current loan is paid. Any application by the borrower for renewal or for additional credit shall be made to the transferee association, except as otherwise provided for by an agreement between associations in accordance with §614.4070 of this chapter.

(m) This section shall not apply to territory transfers initiated by order of the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration or to territory transfers due to the liquidation of the transferor association.

(n) Where a proposed action involves the transfer of a portion of an association's territory to an association operating in a different district, such proposal must comply with the provisions of this section and §611.1090 of this part.

[51 FR 32442, Sept. 12, 1986]

§611.1125 Treatment of associations not approving districtwide mergers.

(a) *Issuance of charters.* When issuing charters or certificates of territory for districtwide mergers or consolidations of associations, the Farm Credit Administration will not issue any charters or certificates of territory that include the territory of one or more associations whose stockholders voted to disapprove the merger or consolidation.

(b) A district bank shall not take any of the following actions with respect to an association that has determined to not participate in a districtwide merger or consolidation:

(1) Discriminate in the provision of any financial service and assistance, including, but not limited to, access to loan funds and rates of interest on loans and discounts offered by the district bank to associations and their member/borrowers;

(2) Discriminate in the provision of any related services that are offered by the district bank to associations and their member/borrowers;

(3) Discriminate in the provision of any professional assistance that may

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be normally provided by the district bank to associations; or

(4) Discriminate in the provision of any technical assistance that may be normally provided by the district bank to associations.

(c) This regulation does not prohibit a district bank from taking any action with respect to an association, including, but not limited to, charging different rates of interest or different prices for services, or declining to provide financial assistance; provided that any such action is fully documented and based on an objective analysis of applicable criteria that are uniformly and consistently applied by the district bank to all associations in the district.

[51 FR 32443, Sept. 12, 1986, as amended at 60 FR 34099, June 30, 1995]

Subpart H—Rules for Inter-System Fund Transfers

§611.1130 Inter-System transfer of funds and equities.

(a) Section 5.17(a)(6) of the Act authorizes the FCA to regulate the borrowing, repayment, and transfer of funds and equities between institutions of the System, including banks, associations, and service organizations organized under the Act. This section sets forth the circumstances and procedures under which the FCA may direct such a transfer of funds and equities based on its determination with respect to the financial condition of one or more institutions of the System. For purposes of this section, the term “bond” refers to long-term notes, bonds, debentures, or other similar obligations, or short-term discount notes issued by one or more banks pursuant to section 4.2 of the Act.

(b) The FCA may direct a transfer of funds or equities by one or more banks of the System to another bank of the System where it determines that:

(1) The receiving institution will not be able to make payments of principal or interest on bonds for which it is primarily liable within the meaning of section 4.4(a) of the Act; or

(2) The common or preferred stock, participation certificates, or allocated equities of the receiving institution have a book value less than their par or stated values; or

(3) The total bonds outstanding for which the receiving institution is primarily liable exceed 20 times the combined capital and surplus accounts of the bank; or

(4) Based on application to it of one or more of the following ratios, the receiving institution is not financially viable in that it will not be able to continue to extend new or additional credit or financial assistance to its eligible borrowers:

(i) The ratio of stock to earned net worth (including legal reserve, unallocated and reserved surplus, undistributed earnings, and allowance for losses) exceeds 2 to 1;

(ii) The ratio of the outstanding bonds to capital and surplus exceeds 15 to 1;

(iii) Nonearning assets (any non-interest-bearing assets, including but not limited to cash, noninterest-earning loans, net fixed assets, other property owned, accrued interest receivable, and accounts receivable) exceed 15 percent of total assets;

(iv) Lendable net worth (interest-earning assets less interest-bearing liabilities) is zero or less.

(c) The FCA may direct a transfer of funds or equities between two or more Federal land bank associations or two or more production credit associations in district where it determines that such transfer:

(1) Is necessary to provide financial support to the district bank in which those associations are stockholders based on application of the criteria to the bank as set forth in paragraph (b) of this section; or

(2) Is necessary to provide financial support to one or more other like associations in the district based on application of the criteria set forth in paragraph (b)(2) or (b)(4) of this section to the associations, provided that in applying paragraph (b)(4)(ii) of this section the ratio of outstanding indebtedness to capital and surplus of the receiving association(s) shall not exceed 9 to 1; or

(3) Is an integral part of a plan that has been adopted by other institutions of the System, and approved by the FCA, under which those institutions will extend financial assistance to the

district bank in which those associations are stockholders.

(d) A direction by the FCA for a transfer of funds or equities pursuant to this section shall be signed by the Chairman and shall establish the amount, timing, duration, repayment, and other terms of assessments necessary to accomplish such transfer, taking into consideration the financial condition of each institution to be assessed. Where the FCA directs a transfer of funds or equities between associations under paragraph (c) (1) or (2) of this section, it may authorize the district bank in which such associations are stockholders to accomplish the necessary assessments through debits and credits to the accounts of the bank.

[50 FR 36986, Sept. 11, 1985. Redesignated at 51 FR 8666, Mar. 13, 1986, as amended at 51 FR 41945, Nov. 20, 1986; 58 FR 48790, Sept. 20, 1993; 59 FR 21643, Apr. 26, 1994]

Subpart I—Service Organizations

§611.1135 Incorporation of service organizations.

(a) *General.* Any Farm Credit bank(s) or association(s) may organize a corporation to perform, for or on behalf of the bank(s) or association(s), any function or service that the bank(s) or association(s) is authorized to perform under the Act and the regulations, except extending credit and providing the sale of insurance services. The bank(s) or association(s) wishing to organize such a corporation shall submit an application to the Farm Credit Administration according to the application requirements of paragraph (b) of this section. If the proposal meets the requirements of the Act, the regulations, and any other conditions that the Farm Credit Administration may impose, the Agency may issue a charter for the service corporation making it a federally chartered instrumentality of the United States. Such service corporation shall be subject to examination, supervision, and regulation by the Farm Credit Administration. Only Farm Credit banks or associations are eligible to become stockholders in such a corporation. Each bank or association shall be eligible to become a

stockholder of each service corporation organized under this section.

(b) *Application.* The application for a corporate charter shall include:

(1) The certified resolution of the board of each organizing bank or association authorizing the incorporation.

(2) A request signed by the president(s) of the organizing bank(s) or association(s) to the Farm Credit Administration to issue a charter, supported by a detailed statement demonstrating the need and the justification for the proposed entity.

(3) The proposed articles of incorporation addressing, at a minimum, the following:

(i) The name of the corporation;

(ii) The city and State in which the principal offices of the corporation are to be located;

(iii) The general purposes for which the corporation is formed;

(iv) The general powers of the corporation;

(v) The procedures under which a bank or association may become a stockholder;

(vi) The procedures by which bylaws may be adopted and amended;

(vii) The title, par value, voting and other rights, and authorized amount of each class of stock to be issued by the corporation, and the procedures by which each class may be retired;

(viii) The notice and quorum requirement for a meeting of shareholders, and the vote required for shareholder action on various matters;

(ix) The procedures and shareholder voting requirements for the merger, voluntary liquidation, or dissolution of the corporation or the distribution of corporate assets;

(x) The standards and procedures for the application and distribution of corporate earnings;

(xi) The duration of the corporation.

(4) The proposed bylaws, which shall include the provisions required by §615.5220(b) of this chapter.

(5) A statement as to the proposed amounts and sources of capitalization and operating funds.

(6) Any agreements between the organizing banks or associations relating to the organization or the operation of the corporation.

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(7) Any other supporting documentation as may be requested by the Farm Credit Administration.

(c) *Approval.* The Farm Credit Administration may condition the issuance of a charter, including imposing minimum capital requirements, as it deems appropriate. For good cause, the Farm Credit Administration may deny the application. Upon approval by the Farm Credit Administration of a completed application, which shall be kept on file at the Farm Credit Administration, the Agency shall issue a charter for the service corporation which shall thereupon become a corporate body and a Federal instrumentality.

(d) *Amendment of articles of incorporation.* The articles of incorporation of a service corporation may be amended in either of two ways:

(1) The board of directors of the corporation may request that the Farm Credit Administration amend the articles of incorporation by sending with its request a certified resolution of the board of directors of the service corporation and stating:

(i) The section(s) to be amended;
(ii) The reason(s) for the amendment;
(iii) The language of the articles of incorporation provision, as amended; and

(iv) That the requisite shareholder approval has been obtained. The request shall be subject to the approval of the Farm Credit Administration as stated in paragraphs (a) and (c) of this section.

(2) The Farm Credit Administration may at any time make any and all changes in the articles of incorporation of a service corporation that are necessary and appropriate for the accomplishment of the purposes of the Act.

[47 FR 27061, June 23, 1982, as amended at 50 FR 46418, Nov. 8, 1985. Redesignated at 51 FR 8666, Mar. 13, 1986, as amended at 51 FR 41945, Nov. 20, 1986; 56 FR 2674, Jan. 24, 1991; 61 FR 67185, Dec. 20, 1996; 62 FR 13213, Mar. 19, 1997; 63 FR 39225, July 22, 1998]

§611.1136 Incorporated and unincorporated service organization—regulation and examination.

Incorporated and unincorporated service organizations shall be subject to regulations for the banks and asso-

ciations of the Farm Credit System, and shall be subject to examination by the Farm Credit Administration.

[53 FR 27155, July 19, 1988]

§611.1137 Title VIII service corporations.

(a) Service corporations may be organized by any Farm Credit institution(s) other than the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation or its affiliates for the purpose of exercising the authorities granted under title VIII of the Act to act as agricultural mortgage marketing facilities. The requirements of §§611.1135 and 611.1136 apply as if such organizing institutions were banks, except for good cause as determined by the Farm Credit Administration. Such service corporations may issue stock to Farm Credit institutions other than the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation or its affiliates and to persons that are not Farm Credit System institutions, provided at least 80 percent of the voting stock is at all times held by Farm Credit institutions other than the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation or its affiliates.

(b) For the purposes of this regulation, *person* means an individual or a legal entity organized under the laws of the United States or any State or territory thereof.

[57 FR 26992, June 17, 1992]

Subpart J—O [Reserved]

Subpart P—Termination of Farm Credit Status—Associations

SOURCE: 56 FR 3407, Jan. 30, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

§611.1200 General—Applicability.

(a) Each association is authorized, in accordance with sections 7.10 and 7.11 of the Act, to terminate the status of the association as a Farm Credit institution. The regulations in this subpart set forth the procedural, disclosure, voting and approval requirements applicable to such termination. The Farm Credit Administration may in its sole discretion grant a waiver in writing from any requirement of this subpart for good cause shown.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, these regulations are applicable to an association that seeks to terminate its status as a Farm Credit institution and to charter the institution as a bank, savings and loan association, or other type of financial institution. In the event that a receiver or conservator is appointed by the Farm Credit Administration in the case of a voluntary or involuntary liquidation of the association, the provisions of subpart L of part 611 apply, and the provisions of this subpart shall not apply.

(c) These regulations are not applicable to the termination of an association whose investment in the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank of which it is a member is in excess of 25 percent of the bank's capital as computed according to GAAP, or whose indebtedness to the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank of which it is a member is in excess of 25 percent of the total loans of the bank as of the quarter end preceding the adoption of the commencement resolution.

[56 FR 3407, Jan. 30, 1991, as amended at 61 FR 67186, Dec. 20, 1996]

§ 611.1205 Definitions.

For the purposes of this subpart, the following definitions apply:

(a) *Commencement resolution* means the resolution adopted pursuant to § 611.1210(a) to indicate the commencement of the termination process.

(b) *GAAP* means generally accepted accounting principles, which is that body of conventions, rules and procedures necessary to define accepted accounting practice at a particular time, as promulgated by the Financial Accounting Standards Board and other authoritative sources recognized as setting standards for the accounting profession in the United States. GAAP shall include not only broad guidelines of general application but also detailed practices and procedures that constitute standards against which financial presentations are evaluated. When the Farm Credit Administration's interpretation of how GAAP should be applied to a specific event or transaction differs from an association's interpretation, the interpretation of the

Farm Credit Administration shall prevail.

(c) *OFI* means an other financing institution that has established a funding and discount relationship with a Farm Credit Bank or an agricultural credit bank pursuant to section 1.7(b)(1) of the Act and the regulations in subpart P of part 614.

(d) *Reconsideration vote* means the vote at which the voting stockholders reconsider whether to terminate the terminating association's Farm Credit status.

(e) *Successor institution* means the institution to which the terminating association will convert when its Farm Credit charter is revoked.

(f) *Terminating association* means an association seeking to terminate its status as a Farm Credit institution and to charter the institution as a bank, savings and loan association, or other type of financial institution.

(g) *Termination resolution* means the resolution adopted pursuant to § 611.1211(a) approving the applications for termination and a new charter and providing for submission of the termination proposal to a stockholder vote.

(h) *Termination vote* means the stockholder vote at which the termination proposal is first submitted to the voting stockholders for their approval or disapproval.

[56 FR 3407, Jan. 30, 1991; 56 FR 11589, Mar. 19, 1991; 63 FR 36547, July 7, 1998]

§ 611.1210 Advance notification.

(a) An association's board of directors shall commence the process of termination by adopting a commencement resolution indicating the association's intention to terminate its Farm Credit status.

(b) Within 5 days of the adoption of the commencement resolution by the board of directors, the terminating association shall:

(1) Submit a certified copy of the commencement resolution to the Farm Credit Administration; and

(2) Mail a brief announcement to all holders of equity in the association which states that the board is taking steps to terminate its Farm Credit status and which describes the process of termination, the anticipated effect of

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termination on current holders of equity, and the type of institution the successor institution will be. If bylaws are adopted in accordance with paragraph (e) of this section, the announcement shall also state that, during the time period from the passage of the commencement resolution until the effective date of termination, new common stock and participation certificates either purchased from the association in connection with a loan or sold to the association prior to the termination will not entitle the holder to receive a share in the adjusted book value in excess of par of the association.

(c)(1) Within 15 days after submission of the commencement resolution pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the terminating association shall submit to the Farm Credit Administration a statement of its estimation of the exit fee together with an explanation of the computation of the exit fee pursuant to the requirements of §611.1240. For purposes of this estimate of the exit fee, the computation date set forth in §611.1240(c) shall be the quarter end preceding the date of the commencement resolution.

(2) Within 45 days of its receipt of the terminating association's estimated exit fee, the Farm Credit Administration shall either confirm the association's estimation of the exit fee or notify the association of any required revisions to the computation.

(3) In the event that the Farm Credit Administration requires adjustments to the estimated exit fee pursuant to paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the terminating association may request reconsideration of any revisions. Such request shall be in writing and shall set forth specific reasons why the revisions should not be made. The Farm Credit Administration shall reconsider the revisions and shall inform the terminating association of its determination within 15 days of the receipt of the reconsideration request.

(d) During the time period after the board of directors' adoption of the commencement resolution pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section and prior to the effective date of termination, the following conditions shall apply to

the terminating association's conduct of business:

(1) Each prospective new borrower shall be informed of the effect of the proposed termination upon the borrower's loan and shall be specifically informed whether the borrower will continue to have any of the borrower rights provided under the Act and regulations promulgated thereunder;

(2) Any common stockholders or participation certificate holders who seek to have such equity interest retired before termination shall be informed that the retirement would extinguish the holder's right to an interest in the successor institution if the termination is completed or to dissent from the termination and receive an amount equal to the adjusted book value of the holder's equity in the terminating association.

(e) Notwithstanding any provisions of §615.5230(b) to the contrary, an association may adopt bylaws which provide for the issuance of a special class of common stock and participation certificates in connection with loans granted during the time period subsequent to the adoption of the commencement resolution and prior to the termination. Such common stock or participation certificates, which shall be issued in accordance with section 4.3A of the Act, shall have characteristics identical to shares of the existing classes of common stock or participation certificates issued as a condition of the extension of a loan, except for the following:

(1) In the event of termination, the holder shall be entitled to receive the following:

(i) If the holder is eligible to vote and does not vote against the termination, an interest in the successor institution in an amount equal to the adjusted book value or the purchase price of the stock, whichever is less;

(ii) If the holder is not eligible to vote or is eligible to vote and votes against the termination, either an interest in the successor institution as set forth in paragraph (e)(1)(i) of this section, or, if such holder dissents pursuant to §611.1260, cash in the amount of the purchase price or the adjusted book value of the stock or participation certificate, whichever is less.

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(2) In the event that the termination does not occur, the special classes of stock or participation certificates shall automatically convert into shares of the otherwise identical classes of stock or participation certificates issued prior to the adoption of the commencement resolution.

[56 FR 3407, Jan. 30, 1991; 56 FR 11589, Mar. 19, 1991]

§611.1211 Filing of termination application.

(a) The board of directors of an association that seeks to terminate its status shall adopt an appropriate termination resolution approving an application for such termination, approving an application for a new charter for the successor institution, and providing for the submission of such termination proposal to its stockholders for a vote.

(b) An original and three copies of a termination application consisting of the following materials shall be submitted by the terminating association to the Farm Credit Administration for review and preliminary approval:

(1) A certified copy of the termination resolution adopted pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section;

(2) A copy of the plan of termination as required under §611.1230;

(3) An information statement that complies with the requirements of §611.1225;

(4) All other information that is to be submitted to the stockholders and other equity holders in connection with the contemplated action; and

(5) Any additional information the board of directors wishes to submit to the Farm Credit Administration in support of the request or that the Farm Credit Administration requests.

(c) The terminating association shall provide the Farm Credit Administration with any material revisions to information in the plan of termination, including updated financial information, that becomes available during the pendency of the termination application and prior to termination.

§611.1212 Filing date of termination application.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, the termination application will be given a filing date

which shall be the date on which it is determined to be technically complete. Within 10 business days after the Farm Credit Administration receives the termination application, the Farm Credit Administration shall determine that the application is technically complete and give it a filing date, or return the application to the terminating association if it is incomplete. If the Farm Credit Administration fails to make a determination or to return the application before the end of the 10-day review period, the application shall be deemed to be technically complete and shall receive a filing date which is the last day of the 10-day review period.

(b) A termination application is considered to be technically complete when it is determined upon preliminary review to contain responses to all items required to be submitted to the Farm Credit Administration under §611.1211.

(c) In the event the advance notification required in §611.1210 is not received by the Farm Credit Administration at least 60 days prior to the filing date which would otherwise be assigned to the termination application in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section, the filing date shall be the date that is 60 days following the date on which the terminating association first informs the Farm Credit Administration of the association's intention to terminate its Farm Credit status. During this 60-day period, the Farm Credit Administration shall contact other associations to determine their willingness to provide service to the territory of the terminating association or to determine if there are persons who wish to charter a new association to serve the territory. An inability of the Farm Credit Administration to arrange for a new service provider for the territory shall not be grounds for an extension of the 60-day period. However, the Farm Credit Administration may in its sole discretion reduce the required 60-day period in the event that a new service provider to serve the territory is determined. This paragraph shall not apply if the entire chartered territory of the terminating association is already included in the charter of one or more associations that are chartered to offer

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credit services of the same type as the terminating association.

[56 FR 3407, Jan. 30, 1991; 56 FR 11589, Mar. 19, 1991]

§611.1215 Farm Credit Administration review and approval.

(a) When the termination application has received a filing date, the Farm Credit Administration shall review the application and either disapprove or give its preliminary approval pursuant to section 7.11(a)(2) of the Act.

(b) The Farm Credit Administration Board shall have 30 days from the filing date, as defined in §611.1212, to approve or disapprove the termination application. If the Farm Credit Administration Board does not act within such 30-day period, the plan of termination may be submitted to the stockholders pursuant to section 7.11(a)(2) of the Act.

(c) If the application is disapproved, written notice specifying the reasons for disapproval shall be transmitted to the chief executive officer of the association, who shall promptly notify the association's board of directors. If the application is disapproved, it shall not be submitted to the stockholders for a vote.

(d) Upon stockholder approval of the proposed termination as provided in §611.1220, the secretary of the terminating association shall forward to the Farm Credit Administration a certified record of the results of the stockholder vote and shall notify its stockholders and other equity holders of the results of the vote as provided in §611.1220(e).

(e) Final approval by the Farm Credit Administration Board pursuant to section 7.10(a)(2) shall be conditioned upon the following:

(1) A termination vote in favor of termination and, if a reconsideration vote is held, a reconsideration vote in favor of termination;

(2) Receipt by the Farm Credit Administration of conformed executed copies of all contracts and agreements submitted pursuant to §611.1230;

(3) Satisfactory evidence of the terminating association's adequate provision for payment of debts and retirement of equities;

(4) Evidence of the grant of a new charter for the successor institution by

the appropriate Federal or State chartering authority;

(5) Payment of the exit fee by certified check or other means agreed upon by the Farm Credit Administration and the terminating association; and

(6) The fulfillment of any other condition of termination imposed by the Farm Credit Administration Board which is necessary and appropriate to provide for the equitable treatment of the parties affected by the termination.

(f) If the Farm Credit Administration grants final approval, the terminating association's charter shall be revoked, and the termination shall be effective on the last to occur of—

(1) The proposed termination date of the terminating association;

(2) Ninety (90) days after receipt by the Farm Credit Administration of the notice required to be submitted pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section; and

(3) Receipt of final payment of the exit fee.

[56 FR 3407, Jan. 30, 1991; 56 FR 11589, Mar. 19, 1991]

§611.1220 Voting record date and stockholder approval.

(a) Upon receipt of preliminary approval of the termination application by the Farm Credit Administration Board, or if the Board takes no action prior to the end of the 30-day review period, the association shall call a meeting of its voting stockholders. The stockholders meeting shall be held within 60 days of the last day of the 30-day review period. All holders of equity in the terminating association shall be permitted to attend the meeting. The stockholders eligible to vote shall be the stockholders who are eligible to vote on the voting record date as determined by the association's bylaws if such date is not more than 70 days prior to the stockholder vote, or on a date fixed by the board of directors which shall be not more than 70 days prior to the date of the stockholder vote. The association shall notify each stockholder that the resolution has been filed and that a meeting will be held in accordance with the association's bylaws.

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(b) The notice of meeting to consider and act upon the board of directors' resolutions shall be accompanied by an information statement that complies with the requirements of § 611.1225.

(c)(1) The terminating association shall establish voting security procedures that comply with the procedures for the election of directors in § 611.330, as applicable. Specifically, the terminating association shall ensure that all information regarding how or whether individual stockholders have voted and all materials such as ballots, proxy ballots, election records, and other relevant documentation related to the votes of stockholders is held in strict confidence.

(2) The terminating association may adopt procedures that require the stockholders to sign or otherwise verify their eligibility to vote on an envelope which contains a marked ballot in a sealed envelope. The terminating association may also use signed proxies or eligibility certificates that will accompany a ballot or instructions on how to vote the proxy in a separate sealed envelope.

(3) The terminating association shall use a form of identity code on the ballot enabling it to determine which stockholders are eligible to exercise dissenters' rights and shall require that the votes be tabulated by an independent party who is not a stockholder, director, or officer of the terminating association or the successor institution. When the terminating association receives notification pursuant to § 611.1260 that a stockholder intends to exercise dissenters' rights, the association will verify with the independent party that the stockholder voted against the termination. The terminating association shall be informed of the vote of a stockholder only in the event that stockholder exercises the right to retire stock in the association in accordance with § 611.1260.

(d) The proposal shall be approved by the stockholders if agreed to by a majority of the eligible voting stockholders of the association voting in person or by proxy at the stockholders' meeting.

(e) Upon approval of a proposed termination by the stockholders of the terminating association, a certified

statement showing the results of the stockholder vote shall be forwarded to the Farm Credit Administration within 10 days following the stockholders' meeting. The terminating association shall notify its stockholders and other holders of equity interests of the results of the vote not later than 30 days after the final vote. If the stockholder vote is in favor of termination, stockholders who voted against the termination and other equity holders shall be informed of their right to dissent as provided in § 611.1260(f). In addition, the terminating association shall further notify stockholders of their right to file a petition for reconsideration in accordance with § 611.1235 and that any petition for reconsideration must be filed on or before a date certain, which shall be 35 days after the date the terminating association mails notice to the stockholders of the results of the stockholder vote.

§ 611.1225 Requirements for information statement.

Notice of the meeting to consider and act upon a proposed termination shall be sent to all stockholders and other holders of equity interests and shall be accompanied by an information statement that contains the information and materials set forth in this regulation as follows:

(a) A statement on either the first page of the material or the notice of the stockholders' meeting, in capital letters and boldface type that:

THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION HAS NEITHER APPROVED NOR PASSED UPON THE ACCURACY OR ADEQUACY OF THE INFORMATION ACCOMPANYING THE NOTICE OF MEETING OR PRESENTED AT THE MEETING AND NO REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY SHALL BE MADE OR RELIED UPON.

(b) A statement on the first page of the material entitled "Executive Summary" and consisting of a concise description of the material changes in rights of the borrowers, stockholders, and holders of other equity interests to occur as a result of the termination,

the effect of such changes, and the potential benefits and disadvantages to them of the termination.

(c) A description of the plan of termination as required in §611.1230.

(d) A statement by the board of directors of the terminating association enumerating the potential benefits and disadvantages of the termination together with the basis for the board's recommendation for termination.

(e) A list of the initial board of directors and senior officers of the successor institution, together with a brief description of the business experience of each such person, including principal occupation and employment, during the past 5 years.

(f) A summary of the provisions of the organizational documents of the successor institution, including the articles of incorporation and bylaws, that differ materially from the charter and bylaws of the terminating association. The summary shall indicate both whether the maintenance of a borrowing relationship with the successor institution will be required as a condition for maintaining a stockholder's interest, and whether the maintenance of a stockholder's interest will be required as a condition for maintaining a borrowing relationship.

(g) An explanation of any changes in the nature of the stockholders' and other equity holders' investment in the association, including but not limited to any changes in dividends, patronage refunds, voting rights, preferences, retirement of equities, and priority upon liquidation. If any eligible borrower stock is outstanding, such explanation shall include a statement that the guaranty afforded to eligible borrower stock by section 4.9A of the Act shall be extinguished at termination and that any stock of the successor institution received in exchange for eligible borrower stock shall not be protected under section 4.9A of the Act.

(h) An explanation of the effect of termination on the rights that borrowers are afforded under the Act; the expiration date of those rights, if applicable, under the provisions of the plan of termination; a statement that borrowers may seek to have their loans sold to or refinanced with another lending institution, including the asso-

ciation(s) that will be chartered to serve the terminating association's territory or any other associations that already serve the territory, provided that any such Farm Credit institution is authorized to make such a loan in accordance with part 614 of this chapter; and an explanation of the procedure for a borrower to apply for the sale or refinancing of his loan to the association(s) that will be chartered to serve the terminating association's territory, if such designations have been made. The disclosure shall include the name, address and telephone number of such association(s), together with a statement that any such association is not obligated to accept any loans of the terminating association.

(i) An explanation of the formula and process by which equity of the terminating association will be exchanged for equity in the successor institution or other consideration.

(j) A description of any agreement or arrangement with any person, including any officers or directors of the terminating association, relating to employment or termination of employment with the terminating association or employment with the successor institution.

(k) An explanation of the computation of the exit fee and the estimated amount of the exit fee.

(l) A statement detailing the nature and type of financial institution that the successor institution will become after termination and the conditions of approval, if any, placed on the successor institution by the State or Federal financial regulator that will charter the successor institution.

(m) A summary of the differences, if any, between the terminating association and the successor institution with respect to interest rates, interest rate policies, collection policies, services provided, service fees, and any other item of interest that would affect a borrower's lending relationship with the successor institution including whether stockholders will be restricted in any way in their ability to borrow from the successor institution.

(n) A discussion of the expected capital requirements of the successor institution, and the amount and method

of capitalization for the successor institution.

(o) An explanation of the sources and manner of funding the operations of the successor institution.

(p) An explanation of the existence of any continuing contingent liability that will not be paid immediately upon termination and the manner in which this liability will be addressed by the successor institution.

(q) A summary of the differences in tax status of the terminating association and the successor institution, and an explanation of the effect of such changes on both the successor institution and the stockholders.

(r) A brief description of the regulatory environment for the successor institution and a summary of the differences from the current regulatory environment that affect the cost of doing business of the value of equity and that are not addressed elsewhere in the information statement.

(s) A statement describing those stockholders and other holders of equity that are entitled to dissenters' rights and an explanation of those rights as set forth in §611.1260, including the estimated value of the stock upon distribution, procedures for the exercise of dissenters' rights, and the time period during which such rights may be exercised, and a statement that eligible voting stockholders who do not vote against the termination will not receive dissenters' rights.

(t)(1) A presentation of the following financial data:

(i) A balance sheet and income statement for the terminating institution for each of the 2 preceding fiscal years;

(ii) A balance sheet for the terminating institution as of a date within 90 days of the date the termination application is forwarded to the Farm Credit Administration, presented on a comparative basis with the corresponding period of the prior fiscal year;

(iii) An income statement for the interim period between the end of the last fiscal year and the date of the required balance sheet presented on a comparative basis with the corresponding period of the prior fiscal year;

(iv) A pro forma balance sheet of the successor institution presented as if termination had occurred as of the date of the most current balance sheet presented in the statement; and

(v) A pro forma summary of earnings for the successor institution presented as if the termination has been effective at the beginning of the interim period between the end of the last fiscal year and the date of the balance sheet presented pursuant to paragraph (t)(1)(iv) of this section.

(2) The format for the balance sheet and income statement shall be the same as is contained in the institution's annual report to stockholders and shall contain appropriate footnote disclosures, including data relating to high-risk assets and other property owned, and allowance for losses.

(3) The financial statements shall include either of the following:

(i) A statement signed by the chief executive officer and each member of the board of directors of the terminating association that the various financial statements are unaudited, but have been prepared in all material respects in accordance with GAAP (except as otherwise disclosed therein) and are, to the best of each signer's knowledge, a fair and accurate presentation of the financial condition of the association; or

(ii) A signed opinion by an independent certified public accountant that the various financial statements have been examined in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and other such auditing procedures as were considered necessary in the circumstances, and, as of the date of the statements, present fairly the financial position of the terminating association in accordance with GAAP applied on a consistent basis, except as otherwise disclosed therein.

(u) A description of any event subsequent to the date of the financial statements, but prior to the date upon which the termination application is submitted to the Farm Credit Administration, that would have a material impact on the financial condition of the terminating association or the successor institution.

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(v) A description of any event subsequent to the submission of the termination application to the Farm Credit Administration that would have a material impact on any information in the termination application.

(w) A statement of any other material fact or circumstance that a stockholder would need to know in order to make an informed decision on the proposed plan of termination, or that is necessary to make the required disclosures not misleading.

(x) A proxy, together with instructions on the purpose and authority for its use, and the proper method for signature by the stockholder.

(y) A certification signed by the entire board of directors of the terminating association as to the truth, accuracy, and completeness of the information contained in the information statement. If any director refuses to sign the certification, the director shall inform the Farm Credit Administration of the reasons for such refusal.

[56 FR 3407, Jan. 30, 1991; 56 FR 11589, Mar. 19, 1991; 58 FR 48790, Sept. 20, 1993]

§611.1226 Prohibited acts.

(a) No terminating association or director, officer, employee or agent thereof, shall make any untrue or misleading statement of a material fact, or fail to disclose any material fact concerning the proposed plan of termination to a stockholder of the association.

(b) No director, officer, employee, or agent of a terminating association shall make an oral or written representation to any person that a preliminary or final approval by the Farm Credit Administration of an association's plan of termination constitutes, directly or indirectly, either a recommendation on the merits of the proposal or an assurance concerning the adequacy or accuracy of any information provided to the association's stockholders and other equity holders in connection therewith.

§611.1230 Plan of termination.

The plan of termination shall include the following information:

(a) Copies of all contracts, agreements and other documents pertaining

to the proposed termination and organization of the successor institution.

(b) A statement of the means by which the assets of the terminating association will be transferred to, and its liabilities assumed by, the successor institution.

(c) The terminating association's plan to retire, and the successor institution's plan to issue, equities held by holders of stock, participation certificates, and allocated equities, if any.

(d) A copy of the charter application filed with the appropriate Federal or State chartering authority, together with any exhibits or other supporting information that is submitted to such authority.

(e) A statement whether the successor institution will continue to have a credit relationship with the Farm Credit bank and the effect such status will have on the provision for payment of the terminating association's debts. The plan of termination shall include evidence of the agreement and plan for satisfaction of outstanding debts, whether contained in a general financing agreement or otherwise.

(f) The proposed effective date of the termination.

§611.1235 Stockholder reconsideration.

(a) Eligible voting stockholders have the right to reconsider the approval of the termination provided that—

(1) A petition signed by 15 percent of the eligible voting stockholders of the association is filed with the association, and a copy of such petition is filed with the Farm Credit Administration, within 35 days after the date of mailing of the notification to stockholders of the final results of the stockholder vote required under §611.1215; and

(2) Such petition is certified by the terminating association as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) Each petition shall include the signature, printed name and full address of each voting stockholder signing the petition. Within 5 days of its receipt of a timely filed stockholder petition, the association shall certify whether the signatures on the petition are the signatures of persons who were

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eligible voting stockholders of the terminating association on the voting record date, and the association shall notify the Farm Credit Administration of such certification.

(c) The petition shall include the name and address of a person who shall serve as petitioners' representative and who shall represent the interests of the petitioners in the reconsideration vote process.

(d) If the terminating association certifies that at least 15 percent of eligible voting stockholders have signed the petition, a special stockholders' meeting shall be called by the association to vote on the reconsideration. Such meeting shall be held within 60 days after the date on which the stockholders were notified of the final result of the termination vote. If a majority of stockholders of the association voting in person or by written proxy vote against the termination, the termination is not approved. If a majority of stockholders of the association voting in person or by written proxy do not vote against the termination, the termination shall be effective pursuant to the provisions of §611.1215(f), but not less than 15 days after the reconsideration vote.

(e) The petitioners, through the petitioners' representative, and board of directors of the terminating association shall each have the opportunity to present to the stockholders and other equity holders a written statement of their views regarding the reasons for calling a reconsideration vote. Such statements shall be reasonable in length and shall be mailed to stockholders and other equity holders along with the notice of stockholders' meeting for the reconsideration vote.

(f) The terminating association shall, at its expense, immediately provide the stockholders initiating the petition with a list of the names and addresses of all of the eligible voting stockholders of the association. All other expenses for the petition shall be borne by the petitioners. Reasonable expenses for the reconsideration vote shall be borne by the terminating association.

§611.1240 Exit fee.

(a) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) *Assets* means all assets less appropriate valuation reserves as determined in accordance with GAAP except where otherwise noted in this section.

(2) *Contingent liabilities* means those liabilities that, in accordance with GAAP, will materialize if certain events occur.

(3) *Total capital* means all capital stock, surplus and undivided profits accounts as determined in accordance with GAAP, except where otherwise noted in this section, and as adjusted pursuant to the requirements of §611.1240.

(b) A terminating association shall pay an exit fee equal to the amount by which the total capital of the association exceeds 6 percent of its assets. The exit fee shall be paid to the Farm Credit Assistance Fund if the effective date of termination is prior to January 1, 1992 or to the Farm Credit Insurance Fund if the effective date is after that date.

(c) The computation date for the exit fee shall be the quarter end preceding the filing date. A certified audit of the terminating association shall be performed by a qualified public accountant, as defined in §621.2(i), as of the computation date. The Farm Credit Administration may, in its complete discretion, waive this requirement if such an audit was performed as of a date within the 6 months preceding the computation date.

(d) The method of computation shall be as follows:

(1) The average daily balance of assets and total capital for the past 12 months preceding the computation date will be computed as a basis for determining the exit fee; and

(2) Account balances shall be computed in accordance with GAAP and adjusted in accordance with paragraphs (e), (f), (g), and (h) of this section.

(e) For purposes of determining the amount of the exit fee, the Farm Credit Administration will review the terminating association's transactions over a 3-year period prior to the date of the adoption of the termination resolution.

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If this review determines that the terminating association's account balances do not accurately reflect the value of its assets and liabilities, or that the association has retired capital outside the ordinary course of business, or that the association has taken any other actions unrelated to its core business that have the effect of increasing or decreasing the amount of the exit fee, the Farm Credit Administration may make adjustments to the association's assets, liabilities, or capital and recompute the exit fee based on these adjustments. The review by the Farm Credit Administration shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Additions to or subtractions from the allowance for loan losses;

(2) Additions to assets from transactions that are outside the terminating association's ordinary course of business;

(3) Dividends or patronage refunds exceeding the terminating association's usual practices;

(4) Changes in the terminating association's capitalization plan or implementation of that plan that increased or decreased the level of borrower investment;

(5) Contingent liabilities, such as loss-sharing obligations, that can be reasonably quantified; and

(6) Assets that may be overvalued, undervalued or not recorded on the books of the association.

(f) Capital of the terminating association owned by another Farm Credit institution or by the Financial Assistance Corporation shall not be included in capital for the purpose of determining the exit fee.

(g) In the event that GAAP requires that a liability be recorded on the balance sheet that will be offset by an unrecorded asset, the transaction recording the liability shall be reversed.

(h) In the event the terminating association has recorded expenses that would not have been recorded but for the termination, such transactions shall be reversed.

(i) The exit fee shall be paid by certified check, or other means agreed upon by the Farm Credit Administration and the terminating association.

[56 FR 3407, Jan. 30, 1991, as amended at 58 FR 48790, Sept. 20, 1993]

§611.1250 Repayment of debts.

(a) The terminating association shall provide for the payment or assumption by the successor institution of all outstanding debt obligations.

(b) The terminating association may establish and maintain an OFI relationship with the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank, subject to all applicable requirements of part 614, subpart P, of this chapter. The general financing agreement establishing the OFI relationship shall provide for the assumption by the successor institution of any direct loan or other obligation that a production credit association is authorized to incur and that is not repaid at the time of termination. Any part of the direct loan or other obligation that is not linked to a loan covered by the general financing agreement shall be repaid as provided in paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) A terminating association that will not become an OFI shall either repay its direct loan and any other obligations to the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank upon termination or shall arrange with the appropriate bank to repay the loan or obligation. The terminating association may, with the concurrence of the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank, repay the loan or obligation over a period that shall not exceed 3 years following termination.

(d) The terminating association shall pay or make provision for payment of obligations to any other Farm Credit institutions under any loss-sharing agreement or other agreement.

[56 FR 3407, Jan. 30, 1991, as amended at 61 FR 67186, Dec. 20, 1996]

§611.1255 Retirement of equities owned.

(a) The Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank may retire all equities of the bank that are owned by the terminating association on the termination date or may enter into an agreement with the terminating association that would provide for a phased retirement of the equities. Any such plan for phased retirement shall provide for such retirement to be completed by the earlier to occur of the date on which the terminating association repays all

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indebtedness to the bank or the date that is 3 years from the termination date, provided that no retirement shall occur during that period if any such retirement would result in the Bank's failure to meet minimum capital requirements.

(b) If the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank, and the terminating association are unable to reach agreement regarding the retirement of the bank's equities, either institution may send the most recent proposals to the Farm Credit Administration along with an explanation of the points of disagreement. The Farm Credit Administration may require the bank to retire terminating association equities under such conditions as the Farm Credit Administration may require.

(c) No retirement shall occur if the Farm Credit Administration determines that the retirement of equities of the Farm Credit Bank or the agricultural credit bank would threaten the viability of the bank.

(d) The amount to be paid to a terminating association in the retirement of equities owned in the Farm Credit Bank or the agricultural credit bank shall be equal to the amount of the allocated equities owned by the terminating association in the bank, less any impairment, at the date the request for retirement is made by the terminating association.

(e) If the terminating association has outstanding stock issued to another Farm Credit institution, the association shall retire all such investment prior to termination.

(f) A Farm Credit Bank's or agricultural credit bank's equities obligated to be retired under any agreement between the terminating association and the bank shall not be considered as part of the permanent capital of the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank for purposes of §615.5240.

[61 FR 67186, Dec. 20, 1996]

§611.1260 Dissenters' rights.

(a) Dissenting stockholders, at their discretion, may, but are not required to, have their stock or participation certificates in the terminating association retired as provided in paragraph (b) of this section. To be eligible to be a dissenting stockholder a person must

be the owner, other than a Farm Credit institution, of voting or non-voting stock or other equities of the terminating association who was either—

(1) Not eligible to vote on the termination resolution; or

(2) Eligible to vote on the termination resolution and voted, in person or by proxy, against such resolution.

(b) The terminating association shall pay dissenting stockholders in accordance with the priorities in liquidation set forth in the bylaws of the terminating association. Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (c) to the contrary, dissenting stockholders who hold eligible borrower stock shall receive not less than par value for their stock.

(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the price paid to dissenting stockholders who own common stock or participation certificates shall be the adjusted book value, which is the book value on the computation date adjusted to reflect—

(i) Any increase or decrease in asset value resulting from the appraisals required in §611.1240; and

(ii) Deduction of the amount of the exit fee.

(2) Payments made to dissenting stockholders who own common stock or participation certificates referred to in paragraph (c)(1) of this section shall be made on the following basis. If the adjusted book value of the common stock is less than or equal to the par or stated value of the stock, the full amount of the payment shall be in cash. If the adjusted book value of the common stock is greater than its par or stated value, the association:

(i) Shall pay in cash an amount equal to the par or stated value of the stock or participation certificate; and

(ii) Shall cause or otherwise provide for the successor institution to issue on the date of termination subordinated debt to the stockholder in an amount equal to the amount by which the book value exceeds the par or stated value of the stock or participation certificate. Such subordinated notes shall have a maturity date not in excess of 7 years after the date of issuance, shall have a priority on liquidation ahead of all equity shares but shall be subordinated to the claims of

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all other creditors, and shall carry a rate of interest that shall be not less than the rate for debt of comparable maturity issued by the Treasury of the United States plus 1 percent.

(d) If the association has adopted bylaws in accordance with §611.1210(e), dissenting stockholders who own common stock or participation certificates issued in accordance with such bylaws shall be paid in cash an amount equal to the lesser of the par or adjusted book value of such stock or certificates.

(e) For the purposes of this section, common stock consists of voting stock, non-voting stock that was formerly voting stock, and stock that has no priority of payment over any other class upon liquidation.

(f) The notice to stockholders and other holders of equity interests required in §611.1220(e) shall include the following information:

(1) A statement of the rights of dissenting stockholders as specified in paragraph (a) of this section;

(2) The current book and par value per share, and the expected book and market value of the stockholder's pro rata interest in the successor institution; and

(3) An explanation of the procedure by which stockholders may exercise dissenters' rights and the form they shall return to the terminating association informing it of their intent to exercise such rights. The notification form by which stockholders may exercise dissenters' rights shall include the date by which the form must be returned to the terminating association, as specified in paragraph (b) of this section, and a place for stockholders to mark or indicate that they intend to exercise dissenters' rights. The notification form shall be a convenient method for the stockholders to notify the association and may consist of, but is not limited to, a postcard or pre-printed return envelope.

(g) An explanation that dissenting stockholders shall have until 30 days following notification of their dissenters' rights to request retirement of their stock or participation certificates. The stockholders' election to retire stock shall be rescinded in a petition for reconsideration is successful.

(h) An explanation that maintenance of a borrowing relationship with the successor institution shall not be required as a condition for owning stock in the successor institution, unless otherwise directed by the bylaws of the successor institution.

[56 FR 3407, Jan. 30, 1991; 56 FR 11589, Mar. 19, 1991]

§611.1266 Loan refinancing by borrowers.

(a) All loans and loan assets of the terminating association shall become assets of the successor institution unless they have been sold by the terminating association to another lending institution or refinanced by the borrower.

(b) If an association has been designated to serve the territory of the terminating association prior to the mailing of the information statement, or if an association that offers credit services of the same type as the terminating association is already chartered to serve the territory, such association shall be identified in the information statement. In addition, such association shall provide the terminating association with the following information:

(1) The name and address of the association office that the borrower may contact;

(2) An explanation of the procedures to apply for financing with the association and the procedures by which the loan may be transferred to the association;

(3) An explanation of the stock purchase requirements of the new association; and

(4) Any other information the association wishes to include or routinely provides to new borrowers.

(c) If the terminating association receives the information required in paragraph (b) of this section prior to the mailing of the information statement to borrowers, the terminating association shall include such information in the information statement. If an association has not been designated to serve the territory or if the terminating association does not receive the information required in paragraph (b) of this section prior to the mailing of

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the information statement, the terminating association shall furnish each borrower with the address and telephone number of the funding bank with instructions that the bank may be contacted in the future to determine the name and address of the association(s) that will serve the territory in the future.

(d) The terminating association shall provide credit and loan information to the association designated to serve the territory upon the borrower's request, in accordance with §§618.8300 through 618.8325, and take such other steps as are necessary to facilitate the transfer of the loan to the association.

[56 FR 3407, Jan. 30, 1991, as amended at 61 FR 67186, Dec. 20, 1996]

§611.1270 Continuation of borrower rights.

Terminating associations which maintain an OFI relationship with the Farm Credit bank shall comply with borrower rights provisions contained in part 614, subparts K, L, M and N of this chapter. The terminating association may not require a waiver of applicable borrower rights provisions as a condition of ownership interest in and continued financing by the successor institution.

[56 FR 3407, Jan. 30, 1991; 56 FR 11589, Mar. 19, 1991]

PART 612—STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Sec.

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612.2270 Purchase of System obligations.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 5.9, 5.17, 5.19 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2243, 2252, 2254).

SOURCE: 59 FR 24894, May 13, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

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§612.2130 Definitions.

For purposes of this part, the following terms are defined:

(a) *Agent* means any person, other than a director or employee, who represents a System institution in contacts with third parties or who provides professional services to a System institution, such as legal, accounting, appraisal, and other similar services.

(b) A *conflict of interest* or the appearance thereof exists when a person has a financial interest in a transaction, relationship, or activity that actually affects or has the appearance of affecting the person's ability to perform official duties and responsibilities in a totally impartial manner and in the best interest of the employing institution when viewed from the perspective of a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts.

(c) *Controlled entity* and *entity controlled by* mean an entity in which the individual, directly or indirectly, or acting through or in concert with one or more persons:

(1) Owns 5 percent or more of the equity;

(2) Owns, controls, or has the power to vote 5 percent or more of any class of voting securities; or

(3) Has the power to exercise a controlling influence over the management of policies of such entity.

(d) *Director* means a member of a board of directors.

(e) *Employee* means any salaried officer or part-time, full-time, or temporary salaried employee.

(f) *Entity* means a corporation, company, association, firm, joint venture, partnership (general or limited), society, joint stock company, trust (business or otherwise), fund, or other organization or institution, except System institutions.

(g) *Family* means an individual and spouse and anyone having the following relationship to either: parents, spouse, son, daughter, sibling, step-parent, stepson, stepdaughter, step-brother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, grandparent, grandson, granddaughter, and the spouses of the foregoing.

(h) *Financial interest* means an interest in an activity, transaction, property, or relationship with a person or

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an entity that involves receiving or providing something of monetary value or other present or deferred compensation.

(i) *Financially obligated with* means having a joint legally enforceable obligation with, being financially obligated on behalf of (contingently or otherwise), having an enforceable legal obligation secured by property owned by another, or owning property that secures an enforceable legal obligation of another.

(j) *Material*, when applied to a financial interest or transaction or series of transactions, means that the interest or transaction or series of transactions is of such magnitude that a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts would question the ability of the person who has the interest or is party to such transaction(s) to perform his or her official duties objectively and impartially and in the best interest of the institution and its statutory purpose.

(k) *Mineral interest* means any interest in minerals, oil, or gas, including, but not limited to, any right derived directly or indirectly from a mineral, oil, or gas lease, deed, or royalty conveyance.

(l) *OFI* means other financing institutions that have established an access relationship with a Farm Credit Bank or an agricultural credit bank under section 1.7(b)(1)(B) of the Act.

(m) *Officer* means the chief executive officer, president, chief operating officer, vice president, secretary, treasurer, general counsel, chief financial officer, and chief credit officer of each System institution, and any person not so designated who holds a similar position of authority.

(n) *Ordinary course of business*, when applied to a transaction, means: (1) A transaction that is usual and customary between two persons who are in business together; or

(2) A transaction with a person who is in the business of offering the goods or services that are the subject of the transaction on terms that are not preferential. Preferential means that the transaction is not on the same terms as those prevailing at the same time for comparable transactions for other persons who are not directors or employees of a System institution.

(o) *Person* means individual or entity.

(p) *Relative* means any member of the family as defined in paragraph (g) of this section.

(q) *Service organization* means each service organization authorized by section 4.25 of the Act, and each unincorporated service organization formed by one or more System institutions.

(r) *Standards of Conduct Official* means the official designated under §612.2170 of these regulations.

(s) *Supervised institution* is a term which only applies within the context of a System bank or an employee of a System bank and refers to each association supervised by that bank.

(t) *Supervising institution* is a term that only applies within the context of an association or an employee of an association and refers to the bank that supervises that association.

(u) *System institution* and *institution* mean any bank, association, or service organization in the Farm Credit System, including the Farm Credit Banks, banks for cooperatives, agricultural credit banks, Federal land bank associations, agricultural credit associations, Federal land credit associations, production credit associations, the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, and service organizations.

§612.2135 Director and employee responsibilities and conduct—generally.

(a) Directors and employees of all System institutions shall maintain high standards of industry, honesty, integrity, impartiality, and conduct in order to ensure the proper performance of System business and continued public confidence in the System and each of its institutions. The avoidance of misconduct and conflicts of interest is indispensable to the maintenance of these standards.

(b) To achieve these high standards of conduct, directors and employees shall observe, to the best of their abilities, the letter and intent of all applicable local, state, and Federal laws and regulations and policy statements, instructions, and procedures of the Farm Credit Administration and System institutions and shall exercise diligence and good judgment in carrying out

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their duties, obligations, and responsibilities.

§ 612.2140 Directors—prohibited conduct.

A director of a System institution shall not:

(a) Participate, directly or indirectly, in deliberations on, or the determination of, any matter affecting, directly or indirectly, the financial interest of the director, any relative of the director, any person residing in the director's household, any business partner of the director, or any entity controlled by the director or such persons (alone or in concert), except those matters of general applicability that affect all shareholders/borrowers in a nondiscriminatory way, e.g., a determination of interest rates.

(b) Divulge or make use of, except in the performance of official duties, any fact, information, or document not generally available to the public that is acquired by virtue of serving on the board of a System institution.

(c) Use the director's position to obtain or attempt to obtain special advantage or favoritism for the director, any relative of the director, any person residing in the director's household, any business partner of the director, any entity controlled by the director or such persons (alone or in concert), any other System institution, or any person transacting business with the institution, including borrowers and loan applicants.

(d) Use the director's position or information acquired in connection with the director's position to solicit or obtain, directly or indirectly, any gift, fee, or other present or deferred compensation or for any other personal benefit on behalf of the director, any relative of the director, any person residing in the director's household, any business partner of the director, any entity controlled by the director or such persons (alone or in concert), any other System institution, or any person transacting business with the institution, including borrowers and loan applicants.

(e) Accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, fee, or other present or deferred compensation that is offered or could reasonably be viewed as being offered

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to influence official action or to obtain information that the director has access to by reason of serving on the board of a System institution.

(f) Knowingly acquire, directly or indirectly, except by inheritance or through public auction or open competitive bidding available to the general public, any interest in any real or personal property, including mineral interests, that was owned by the employing, supervising, or any supervised institution within the preceding 12 months and that had been acquired by any such institution as a result of foreclosure or similar action; provided, however, a director shall not acquire any such interest in real or personal property if he or she participated in the deliberations or decision to foreclose or to dispose of the property or in establishing the terms of the sale.

(g) Directly or indirectly borrow from, lend to, or become financially obligated with or on behalf of a director, employee, or agent of the employing, supervising, or a supervised institution or a borrower or loan applicant of the employing institution, unless:

(1) The transaction is with a relative or any person residing in the director's household;

(2) The transaction is undertaken in an official capacity in connection with the institution's discounting, lending, or participation relationships with OFIs and other lenders; or

(3) The Standards of Conduct Official determines, pursuant to policies and procedures adopted by the board, that the potential for conflict is insignificant because the transaction is in the ordinary course of business or is not material in amount and the director does not participate in the determination of any matter affecting the financial interests of the other party to the transaction except those matters affecting all shareholders/borrowers in a nondiscriminatory way.

(h) Violate an institution's policies and procedures governing standards of conduct.

§ 612.2145 Director reporting.

(a) Annually, as of the institution's fiscal year end, and at such other times as may be required to comply with

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paragraph (c) of this section, each director shall file a written and signed statement with the Standards of Conduct Official that fully discloses:

(1) The names of any immediate family members as defined in §620.1(e) of this chapter, or affiliated organizations, as defined in §620.1(a) of this chapter, who had transactions with the institution at any time during the year;

(2) Any matter required to be disclosed by §620.5(k) of this chapter; and

(3) Any additional information the institution may require to make the disclosures required by part 620 of this chapter.

(b) Each director shall, at such intervals as the institution's board shall determine is necessary to effectively enforce this regulation and the institution's standards-of-conduct policy adopted pursuant to §612.2165, file a written and signed statement with the Standards of Conduct Official that contains those disclosures required by the regulations and such policy. At a minimum, these requirements shall include:

(1) The name of any relative or any person residing in the director's household, business partner, or any entity controlled by the director or such persons (alone or in concert) if the director knows or has reason to know that such individual or entity transacts business with the institution or any institution supervised by the director's institution; and

(2) The name and the nature of the business of any entity in which the director has a material financial interest or on whose board the director sits if the director knows or has reason to know that such entity transacts business with:

(i) The director's institution or any institution supervised by the director's institution; or

(ii) A borrower of the director's institution or any institution supervised by the director's institution.

(c) Any director who becomes or plans to become involved in any relationship, transaction, or activity that is required to be reported under this section or could constitute a conflict of interest shall promptly report such involvement in writing to the Standards

of Conduct Official for a determination of whether the relationship, transaction, or activity is, in fact, a conflict of interest.

(d) Unless a disclosure as a director candidate under part 620 of this chapter has been made within the preceding 180 days, a newly elected or appointed director shall report matters required to be reported in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section to the Standards of Conduct Official within 30 days after the election or appointment and thereafter shall comply with the requirements of this section.

§612.2150 Employees—prohibited conduct.

An employee of a System institution shall not:

(a) Participate, directly or indirectly, in deliberations on, or the determination of, any matter affecting, directly or indirectly, the financial interest of the employee, any relative of the employee, any person residing in the employee's household, any business partner of the employee, or any entity controlled by the employee or such persons (alone or in concert), except those matters of general applicability that affect all shareholders/borrowers in a nondiscriminating way, e.g. a determination of interest rates.

(b) Divulge or make use of, except in the performance of official duties, any fact, information, or document not generally available to the public that is acquired by virtue of employment with a System institution.

(c) Use the employee's position to obtain or attempt to obtain special advantage or favoritism for the employee, any relative of the employee, any person residing in the employee's household, any business partner of the employee, any entity controlled by the employee or such persons (alone or in concert), any other System institution, or any person transacting business with the institution, including borrowers and loan applicants.

(d) Serve as an officer or director of an entity that transacts business with a System institution in the district or of any commercial bank, savings and loan, or other non-System financial institution, except employee credit

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unions. For the purposes of this paragraph, “transacts business” does not include loans by a System institution to a family-owned entity, service on the board of directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, or transactions with nonprofit entities or entities in which the System institution has an ownership interest. With the prior approval of the board of the employing institution, an employee of a Farm Credit Bank or association may serve as a director of a cooperative that borrows from a bank for cooperatives. Prior to approving an employee request, the board shall determine whether the employee’s proposed service as a director is likely to cause the employee to violate any regulations in this part or the institution’s policies, e.g., the requirements relating to devotion of time to official duties.

(e) Use the employee’s position or information acquired in connection with the employee’s position to solicit or obtain any gift, fee, or other present or deferred compensation or for any other personal benefit for the employee, any relative of the employee, any person residing in the employee’s household, any business partner of the employee, any entity controlled by the employee or such persons (alone or in concert), any other System institution, or any person transacting business with the institution, including borrowers and loan applicants.

(f) Accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, fee, or other present or deferred compensation that is offered or could reasonably be viewed as being offered to influence official action or to obtain information the employee has access to by reason of employment with a System institution.

(g) Knowingly acquire, directly or indirectly, except by inheritance, any interest in any real or personal property, including mineral interests, that was owned by the employing, supervising, or any supervised institution within the preceding 12 months and that had been acquired by any such institution as a result of foreclosure or similar action.

(h) Directly or indirectly borrow from, lend to, or become financially obligated with or on behalf of a director, employee, or agent of the employing,

supervising, or a supervised institution or a borrower or loan applicant of the employing institution, unless:

(1) The transaction is with a relative or any person residing in the employee’s household;

(2) The transaction is undertaken in an official capacity in connection with the institution’s discounting, lending, or participation relationships with OFIs and other lenders; or

(3) The Standards of Conduct Official determines, pursuant to policies and procedures adopted by the board, that the potential for conflict is insignificant because the transaction is in the ordinary course of business or is not material in amount and the employee does not participate in the determination of any matter affecting the financial interests of the other party to the transaction except those matters affecting all shareholders/borrowers in a nondiscriminatory way.

(i) Violate an institution’s policies and procedures governing standards of conduct.

(j) Act as a real estate agent or broker; provided that this paragraph shall not apply to transactions involving the purchase or sale of real estate intended for the use of the employee, a member of the employee’s family, or a person residing in the employee’s household.

(k) Act as an agent or broker in connection with the sale and placement of insurance; provided that this paragraph shall not apply to the sale or placement of insurance authorized by section 4.29 of the Act.

§612.2155 Employee reporting.

(a) Annually, as of the institution’s fiscal yearend, and at such other times as may be required to comply with paragraph (c) of this section, each senior officer, as defined in §620.1(o) of this chapter, shall file a written and signed statement with the Standards of Conduct Official that fully discloses:

(1) The names of any immediate family members, as defined in §620.1(e) of this chapter, or affiliated organizations, as defined in §620.1(a) of this chapter, who had transactions with the institution at any time during the year;

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(2) Any matter required to be disclosed by §620.5(k) of this chapter; and

(3) Any additional information the institution may require to make the disclosures required by part 620 of this chapter.

(b) Each employee shall, at such intervals as the Board shall determine necessary to effectively enforce this regulation and the institution's standards-of-conduct policy adopted pursuant to §612.2165, file a written and signed statement with the Standards of Conduct Official that contains those disclosures required by the regulation and such policy. At a minimum, these requirements shall include:

(1) The name of any relative or any person residing in the employee's household, any business partner, or any entity controlled by the employee or such persons (alone or in concert) if the employee knows or has reason to know that such individual or entity transacts business with the employing institution or any institution supervised by the employing institution; and

(2) The name and the nature of the business of any entity in which the employee has a material financial interest or on whose board the employee sits if the employee knows or has reason to know that such entity transacts business with:

(i) The employing institution or any institution supervised by the employing institution; or

(ii) A borrower of the employing institution or any institution supervised by the employing institution.

(c) Any employee who becomes or plans to become involved in any relationship, transaction, or activity that is required to be reported under this section or could constitute a conflict of interest shall promptly report such involvement in writing to the Standards of Conduct Official for a determination of whether the relationship, transaction, or activity is, in fact, a conflict of interest.

(d) A newly hired employee shall report matters required to be reported in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section to the Standards of Conduct Official within 30 days after accepting an offer for employment and thereafter shall comply with the requirements of this section.

§612.2157 Joint employees.

No officer of a Farm Credit Bank or an agricultural credit bank may serve as an employee of an association in its district and no employee of a Farm Credit Bank or an agricultural credit bank may serve as an officer of an association in its district. Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank employees other than officers may serve as employees other than officers of an association in its district provided each institution appropriately reflects the expense of such employees in its financial statements.

§612.2160 Institution responsibilities.

Each institution shall: (a) Ensure compliance with this part by its directors and employees and act promptly to preserve the integrity of and public confidence in the institution in any matter involving a conflict of interest, whether or not specifically addressed by this part or the policies and procedures adopted pursuant to §612.2165;

(b) Take appropriate measures to ensure that all directors and employees are informed of the requirements of this regulation and policies and procedures adopted pursuant to §612.2165;

(c) Adopt and implement policies and procedures that will preserve the integrity of and public confidence in the institution and the System pursuant to §612.2165;

(d) Designate a Standards of Conduct Official pursuant to §612.2170; and

(e) Maintain all standards-of-conduct policies and procedures, reports, investigations, determinations, and evidence of compliance with this part for a minimum of 6 years.

§612.2165 Policies and procedures.

(a) Each institution's board of directors shall issue, consistent with this part, policies and procedures governing standards of conduct for directors and employees.

(b) Board policies and procedures issued pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section shall reflect due consideration of the potential adverse impact of any activities permitted under the policies and shall at a minimum:

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(1) Establish such requirements and prohibitions as are necessary to promote public confidence in the institution and the System, preserve the integrity and independence of the supervisory process, and prevent the improper use of official property, position, or information. In developing such requirements and prohibitions, the institution shall address such issues as the hiring of relatives, political activity, devotion of time to duty, the exchange of gifts and favors among directors and employees of the employing, supervising, and supervised institution, and the circumstances under which gifts may be accepted by directors and employees from outside sources, in light of the foregoing objectives;

(2) Outline authorities and responsibilities of the Standards of Conduct Official;

(3) Establish criteria for business relationships and transactions not specifically prohibited by this part between employees or directors and borrowers, loan applicants, directors, or employees of the employing, supervised, or supervising institutions, or persons transacting business with such institutions, including OFIs or other lenders having an access or participation relationship;

(4) Establish criteria under which employees may accept outside employment or compensation;

(5) Establish conditions under which employees may receive loans from System institutions;

(6) Establish conditions under which employees may acquire an interest in real or personal property that was mortgaged to a System institution at any time within the preceding 12 months;

(7) Establish conditions under which employees may purchase any real or personal property of a System institution acquired by such institution for its operations. Farm Credit institutions must use open competitive bidding whenever they sell surplus property above a stated value (as established by the board) to their employees.

(8) Provide for a reasonable period of time for directors and employees to terminate transactions, relationships,

or activities that are subject to prohibitions that arise at the time of adoption or amendment of the policies.

(9) Require new directors and new employees involved at the time of election or hiring in transactions, relationships, and activities prohibited by these regulations or internal policies to terminate such transactions within the same time period established for existing directors or employees pursuant to paragraph (b)(8) of this section, beginning with the commencement of official duties, or such shorter time period as the institution may establish.

(10) Establish procedures providing for a director's or employee's recusal from official action on any matter in which he or she is prohibited from participating under these regulations or the institution's policies.

(11) Establish documentation requirements demonstrating compliance with standards-of-conduct decisions and board policy;

(12) Establish reporting requirements, consistent with this part, to enable the institution to comply with §620.5 of this chapter, monitor conflicts of interest, and monitor recusal compliance; and

(13) Establish appeal procedures available to any employee to whom any required approval has been denied.

[59 FR 24894, May 13, 1994, as amended at 64 FR 43048, Aug. 9, 1999]

§612.2170 Standards of Conduct Official.

(a) Each institution's board shall designate a Standards of Conduct Official who shall:

(1) Advise directors, director candidates, and employees concerning the provisions of this part;

(2) Receive reports required by this part;

(3) Make such determinations as are required by this part;

(4) Maintain records of actions taken to resolve and/or make determinations upon each case reported relative to provisions of this part;

(5) Make appropriate investigations, as directed by the institution's board; and

(6) Report promptly, pursuant to part 617 of this chapter, to the institution's

board and the Office of General Counsel, Farm Credit Administration, all cases where:

(i) A preliminary investigation indicates that a Federal criminal statute may have been violated;

(ii) An investigation results in the removal of a director or discharge of an employee; or

(iii) A violation may have an adverse impact on continued public confidence in the System or any of its institutions.

(b) The Standards of Conduct Official shall investigate or cause to be investigated all cases involving:

(1) Possible violations of criminal statutes;

(2) Possible violations of §§612.2140 and 612.2150, and applicable policies and procedures approved under §612.2165;

(3) Complaints received against the directors and employees of such institution; and

(4) Possible violations of other provisions of this part or when the activities or suspected activities are of a sensitive nature and could affect continued public confidence in the Farm Credit System.

(c) An association board may comply with this section by contracting with the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank in its district to provide a Standards of Conduct Official.

§612.2260 Standards of conduct for agents.

(a) Agents of System institutions shall maintain high standards of honesty, integrity, and impartiality in order to ensure the proper performance of System business and continued public confidence in the System and all its institutions. The avoidance of misconduct and conflicts of interest is indispensable to the maintenance of these standards.

(b) System institutions shall utilize safe and sound business practices in the engagement, utilization, and retention of agents. These practices shall provide for the selection of qualified and reputable agents. Employing System institutions shall be responsible for the administration of relationships with their agents, and shall take appropriate investigative and corrective action in the case of a breach of fidu-

ciary duties by the agent or failure of the agent to carry out other agent duties as required by contract, FCA regulations, or law.

(c) System institutions shall be responsible for exercising corresponding special diligence and control, through good business practices, to avoid or control situations that have inherent potential for sensitivity, either real or perceived. These areas include the employment of agents who are related to directors or employees of the institutions; the solicitation and acceptance of gifts, contributions, or special considerations by agents; and the use of System and borrower information obtained in the course of the agent's association with System institutions.

§612.2270 Purchase of System obligations.

(a) Employees and directors of System institutions, other than the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, may only purchase joint, consolidated, or Systemwide obligations that are:

(1) Part of an offering available to the general public; and

(2) Purchased through a dealer or dealer bank affiliated with a member of the selling group designated by the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation or purchased in the secondary market.

(b) No director or employee of the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation may purchase or otherwise acquire, directly or indirectly, except by inheritance, any joint, consolidated, or Systemwide obligation.

PART 613—ELIGIBILITY AND SCOPE OF FINANCING

Subpart A—Financing Under Titles I and II of the Farm Credit Act

Sec.

613.3000 Financing for farmers, ranchers, and aquatic producers or harvesters.

613.3005 Lending objective.

613.3010 Financing for processing or marketing operations.

613.3020 Financing for farm-related service businesses.

613.3030 Rural home financing.

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Subpart B—Financing for Banks Operating Under Title III of the Farm Credit Act

613.3100 Domestic lending.

613.3200 International lending.

Subpart C—Similar Entity Authority Under Sections 3.1(11)(B) and 4.18A of the Act

613.3300 Participations and other interests in loans to similar entities.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 1.5, 1.7, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 2.2, 2.4, 2.12, 3.1, 3.7, 3.8, 3.22, 4.18A, 4.25, 4.26, 4.27, 5.9, 5.17 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2073, 2075, 2093, 2122, 2128, 2129, 2143, 2206a, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2243, 2252).

Subpart A—Financing Under Titles I and II of the Farm Credit Act

SOURCE: 62 FR 4441, Jan. 30, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 613.3000 Financing for farmers, ranchers, and aquatic producers or harvesters.

(a) *Definitions.* For purposes of this subpart, the following definitions apply:

(1) *Bona fide farmer or rancher* means a person owning agricultural land or engaged in the production of agricultural products, including aquatic products under controlled conditions.

(2) *Legal entity* means any partnership, corporation, estate, trust, or other legal entity that is established pursuant to the laws of the United States, any State thereof, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, or any tribal authority and is legally authorized to conduct a business.

(3) *Person* means an individual who is a citizen of the United States or a foreign national who has been lawfully admitted into the United States either for permanent residency pursuant to 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20) or on a visa pursuant to a provision in 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15) that authorizes such individual to own property or operate or manage a business or a legal entity.

(4) *Producer or harvester of aquatic products* means a person engaged in producing or harvesting aquatic products for economic gain in open waters under uncontrolled conditions.

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(b) *Eligible borrower.* Farm Credit institutions that operate under titles I or II of the Act may provide financing to a bona fide farmer or rancher, or producer or harvester of aquatic products for any agricultural or aquatic purpose and for other credit needs.

§ 613.3005 Lending objective.

It is the objective of each bank and association, except for banks for co-operatives, to provide full credit, to the extent of creditworthiness, to the full-time bona fide farmer (one whose primary business and vocation is farming, ranching, or producing or harvesting aquatic products); and conservative credit to less than full-time farmers for agricultural enterprises, and more restricted credit for other credit requirements as needed to ensure a sound credit package or to accommodate a borrower's needs as long as the total credit results in being primarily an agricultural loan. However, the part-time farmer who needs to seek off-farm employment to supplement farm income or who desires to supplement off-farm income by living in a rural area and is carrying on a valid agricultural operation, shall have availability of credit for mortgages, other agricultural purposes, and family needs in the preferred position along with full-time farmers. Loans to farmers shall be on an increasingly conservative basis as the emphasis moves away from the full-time bona fide farmer to the point where agricultural needs only will be financed for the applicant whose business is essentially other than farming. Credit shall not be extended where investment in agricultural assets for speculative appreciation is a primary factor.

§ 613.3010 Financing for processing or marketing operations.

(a) *Eligible borrowers.* A borrower is eligible for financing for a processing or marketing operation under titles I and II of the Act, only if the borrower meets the following requirements:

(1) The borrower is either a bona fide farmer, rancher, or producer or harvester of aquatic products, or is a legal entity in which eligible borrowers under § 613.3000(b) own more than 50

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percent of the voting stock or equity; and

(2) The borrower or an owner of the borrowing legal entity regularly produces some portion of the throughput used in the processing or marketing operation.

(b) *Portfolio restrictions for certain processing and marketing loans.* Processing or marketing loans to eligible borrowers who regularly supply less than 20 percent of the throughput are subject to the following restrictions:

(1) *Bank limitation.* The aggregate of such processing and marketing loans made by a Farm Credit bank shall not exceed 15 percent of all its outstanding retail loans at the end of the preceding fiscal year.

(2) *Association limitation.* The aggregate of such processing and marketing loans made by all direct lender associations affiliated with the same Farm Credit bank shall not exceed 15 percent of the aggregate of their outstanding retail loans at the end of the preceding fiscal year. Each Farm Credit bank, in conjunction with all its affiliated direct lender associations, shall ensure that such processing or marketing loans are equitably allocated among its affiliated direct lender associations.

(3) *Calculation of outstanding retail loans.* For the purposes of this paragraph, "outstanding retail loans" includes loans, loan participations, and other interests in loans that are either bought without recourse or sold with recourse.

§613.3020 Financing for farm-related service businesses.

(a) *Eligibility.* An individual or legal entity that furnishes farm-related services to farmers and ranchers that are directly related to their agricultural production is eligible to borrow from a Farm Credit bank or association that operates under titles I or II of the Act.

(b) *Purposes of financing.* A Farm Credit Bank, agricultural credit bank, or direct lender association may finance:

(1) All of the farm-related business activities of an eligible borrower who derives more than 50 percent of its annual income (as consistently measured on either a gross sales or net sales basis) from furnishing farm-related

services that are directly related to the agricultural production of farmers and ranchers; or

(2) Only the farm-related services activities of an eligible borrower who derives 50 percent or less of its annual income (as consistently measured on either a gross sales or net sales basis) from furnishing farm-related services that are directly related to the agricultural production of farmers and ranchers.

§613.3030 Rural home financing.

(a) *Definitions.*

(1) *Rural homeowner* means an individual who is not a bona fide farmer, rancher, or producer or harvester of aquatic products.

(2) *Rural home* means a single-family moderately priced dwelling located in a rural area that will be the occupant's principal residence.

(3) *Rural area* means open country within a State or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, which may include a town or village that has a population of not more than 2,500 persons.

(4) *Moderately priced* means the price of any rural home that either:

(i) Satisfies the criteria in section 8.0 of the Act pertaining to rural home loans that collateralize securities that are guaranteed by the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation; or

(ii) Is otherwise determined to be moderately priced for housing values for the rural area where it is located, as documented by data from a credible, independent, and recognized national or regional source, such as a Federal, State, or local government agency, or an industry source. Housing values at or below the 75th percentile of values reflected in such data will be deemed moderately priced.

(b) *Eligibility.* Any rural homeowner is eligible to obtain financing on a rural home. No borrower shall have a loan from the Farm Credit System on more than one rural home at any one time.

(c) *Purposes of financing.* Loans may be made to rural homeowners for the purpose of buying, building, remodeling, improving, repairing rural homes, and refinancing existing indebtedness thereon.

(d) *Portfolio limitations.* (1) The aggregate of retail rural home loans by any Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank shall not exceed 15 percent of the total of all of its outstanding loans at any one time.

(2) The aggregate of rural home loans made by each direct lender association shall not exceed 15 percent of the total of its outstanding loans at the end of its preceding fiscal year, except with the prior approval of its funding bank.

(3) The aggregate of rural home loans made by all direct lender associations that are funded by the same Farm Credit bank shall not exceed 15 percent of the total outstanding loans of all such associations at the end of the funding bank's preceding fiscal year.

Subpart B—Financing for Banks Operating Under Title III of the Farm Credit Act

SOURCE: 62 FR 4442, Jan. 30, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§613.3100 Domestic lending.

(a) *Definitions.* For purposes of this subpart, the following definitions apply:

(1) *Cooperative* means any association of farmers, ranchers, producers or harvesters of aquatic products, or any federation of such associations, or a combination of such associations and farmers, ranchers, or producers or harvesters of aquatic products that conducts business for the mutual benefit of its members and has the power to:

(i) Process, prepare for market, handle, or market farm or aquatic products;

(ii) Purchase, test, grade, process, distribute, or furnish farm or aquatic supplies; or

(iii) Furnish business and financially related services to its members.

(2) *Farm or aquatic supplies and farm or aquatic business services* are any goods or services normally used by farmers, ranchers, or producers and harvesters of aquatic products in their business operations, or to improve the welfare or livelihood of such persons.

(3) *Public utility* means a cooperative or other entity that is licensed under Federal, State, or local law to provide electric, telecommunication, cable tel-

evision, water, or waste treatment services.

(4) *Rural area* means all territory of a State that is not within the outer boundary of any city or town having a population of more than 20,000 inhabitants based on the latest decennial census of the United States.

(5) *Service cooperative* means a cooperative that is involved in providing business and financially related services (other than public utility services) to farmers, ranchers, aquatic producers or harvesters, or their cooperatives.

(b) *Cooperatives and other entities that serve agricultural or aquatic producers.*

(1) *Eligibility of cooperatives.* A bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank may lend to a cooperative that satisfies the following requirements:

(i) Unless the bank's board of directors establishes by resolution a higher voting control threshold for any type of cooperative, the percentage of voting control of the cooperative held by farmers, ranchers, producers or harvesters of aquatic products, or cooperatives shall be 80 percent except:

(A) Sixty (60) percent for a service cooperative;

(B) Sixty (60) percent for local farm supply cooperatives that have historically served the needs of a community that would not be adequately served by other suppliers and have experienced a reduction in the percentage of membership by agricultural or aquatic producers due to changed circumstances beyond their control; and

(C) Sixty (60) percent for local farm supply cooperatives that provide or will provide needed services to a community, and are or will be in competition with a cooperative specified in §613.3100(b)(1)(i)(B);

(ii) The cooperative deals in farm or aquatic products, or products processed therefrom, farm or aquatic supplies, farm or aquatic business services, or financially related services with or for members in an amount at least equal in value to the total amount of such business it transacts with or for non-members, excluding from the total of member and non-member business, transactions with the United States, or any agencies or instrumentalities thereof, or services or supplies furnished by a public utility; and

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(iii) The cooperative complies with one of the following two conditions:

(A) No member of the cooperative shall have more than one vote because of the amount of stock or membership capital owned therein; or

(B) The cooperative restricts dividends on stock or membership capital to 10 percent per year or the maximum percentage per year permitted by applicable State law, whichever is less.

(iv) Any cooperative that has received a loan from a bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank shall, without regard to the requirements in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, continue to be eligible for as long as more than 50 percent (or such higher percentage as is established by the bank board) of the voting control of the cooperative is held by farmers, ranchers, producers or harvesters of aquatic products, or other eligible cooperatives.

(2) *Other eligible entities.* The following entities are eligible to borrow from banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks:

(i) Any legal entity that holds more than 50 percent of the voting control of a cooperative that is an eligible borrower under paragraph (b)(1) of this section and uses the proceeds of the loan to fund the activities of its cooperative subsidiary on the terms and conditions specified by the bank;

(ii) Any legal entity in which an eligible cooperative has an ownership interest, *provided that* if such interest is less than 50 percent, financing shall not exceed the percentage that the eligible cooperative owns in such entity multiplied by the value of the total assets of such entity; or

(iii) Any creditworthy private entity operated on a non-profit basis that satisfies the requirements for a service cooperative and complies with the requirements of either paragraphs (b)(1)(i)(A) and (b)(1)(iii) of this section, or paragraph (b)(1)(iv) of this section, and any subsidiary of such entity. An entity that is eligible to borrow under this paragraph shall be organized to benefit agriculture in furtherance of the welfare of the farmers, ranchers, and aquatic producers or harvesters who are its members.

(c) *Electric and telecommunication utilities.* (1) *Eligibility.* A bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank may lend to:

(i) Electric and telephone cooperatives as defined by section 3.8(a)(4)(A) of the Act that satisfy the eligibility criteria in paragraph (b)(1) of this section;

(ii) Cooperatives and other entities that:

(A) Have received a loan, loan commitment, insured loan, or loan guarantee from the Rural Utilities Service of the United States Department of Agriculture to finance rural electric and telecommunication services;

(B) Have received a loan or a loan commitment from the Rural Telephone Bank of the United States Department of Agriculture; or

(C) Are eligible under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended, for a loan, loan commitment, or loan guarantee from the Rural Utilities Service or the Rural Telephone Bank.

(iii) The subsidiaries of cooperatives or other entities that are eligible under paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section.

(iv) Any legal entity that holds more than 50 percent of the voting control of any public utility that is an eligible borrower under paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section, and uses the proceeds of the loan to fund the activities of the eligible subsidiary on the terms and conditions specified by the bank.

(v) Any legal entity in which an eligible utility under paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section has an ownership interest, *provided that* if such interest is less than 50 percent, financing shall not exceed the percentage that the eligible utility owns in such entity multiplied by the value of the total assets of such entity.

(2) *Purposes for financing.* A bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank may extend credit to entities that are eligible to borrow under paragraph (c)(1) of this section in order to provide electric or telecommunication services in a rural area. A subsidiary that is eligible to borrow under paragraph (c)(1)(iii) of this section may also obtain financing from a bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank to operate a licensed cable television utility.

(d) *Water and waste disposal facilities.* (1) *Eligibility.* A cooperative or a public agency, quasi-public agency, body, or other public or private entity that, under the authority of State or local law, establishes and operates water and waste disposal facilities in a rural area, as that term is defined by paragraph (a)(5) of this section, is eligible to borrow from a bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank.

(2) *Purposes for financing.* A bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank may extend credit to entities that are eligible under paragraph (d)(1) of this section solely for installing, maintaining, expanding, improving, or operating water and waste disposal facilities in rural areas.

(e) *Domestic lessors.* A bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank may lend to domestic parties to finance the acquisition of facilities or equipment that will be leased to shareholders of the bank for use in their operations located inside of the United States.

[62 FR 4442, Jan. 30, 1997; 62 FR 33746, June 23, 1997]

§ 613.3200 International lending.

(a) *Definition.* For the purpose of this section only, the term “farm supplies” refers to inputs that are used in a farming or ranching operation, but excludes agricultural processing equipment, machinery used in food manufacturing or other capital goods which are not used in a farming or ranching operation.

(b) *Import transactions.* The following parties are eligible to borrow from a bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank pursuant to section 3.7(b) of the Act for the purpose of financing the import of agricultural commodities or products therefrom, aquatic products, and farm supplies into the United States:

(1) An eligible cooperative as defined by § 613.3100(b);

(2) A counterparty with respect to a specific import transaction with a voting stockholder of the bank for the substantial benefit of the shareholder; and

(3) Any foreign or domestic legal entity in which eligible cooperatives hold an ownership interest.

(c) *Export transactions.* Pursuant to section 3.7(b)(2) of the Act, a bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank is authorized to finance the export (including the cost of freight) of agricultural commodities or products therefrom, aquatic products, or farm supplies from the United States to any foreign country. The board of directors of each bank for cooperatives and agricultural credit bank shall adopt policies that ensure that exports of agricultural products and commodities, aquatic products, and farm supplies which originate from eligible cooperatives are financed on a priority basis. The total amount of balances outstanding on loans made under this paragraph shall not, at any time, exceed 50 percent of the capital of any bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank for loans that:

(1) Finance the export of agricultural commodities and products therefrom, aquatic products, or farm supplies that are not originally sourced from an eligible cooperative; and

(2) At least 95 percent of the loan amount is not guaranteed by a department, agency, bureau, board, or commission of the United States or a corporation that is wholly owned directly or indirectly by the United States.

(d) *International business operations.* A bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank may finance a domestic or foreign entity which is at least partially owned by eligible cooperatives described in § 613.3100(b), and facilitates the international business operations of such cooperatives.

(e) *Restrictions.* (1) When eligible cooperatives own less than 50 percent of a foreign or domestic legal entity, the amount of financing that a bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank may provide to the entity for imports, exports, or international business operations shall not exceed the percentage of ownership that eligible cooperatives hold in such entity multiplied by the value of the total assets of such entity; and

(2) A bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank shall not finance the relocation of any plant or facility from the United States to a foreign country.

**Subpart C—Similar Entity Authority
Under Sections 3.1(11)(B) and
4.18A of the Act**

§613.3300 Participations and other interests in loans to similar entities.

(a) *Definitions.* (1) *Participate and participation*, for the purpose of this section, refer to multi-lender transactions, including syndications, assignments, loan participations, subparticipations, other forms of the purchase, sale, or transfer of interests in loans, or other extensions of credit, or other technical and financial assistance.

(2) *Similar entity* means a party that is ineligible for a loan from a Farm Credit bank or association, but has operations that are functionally similar to the activities of eligible borrowers in that a majority of its income is derived from, or a majority of its assets are invested in, the conduct of activities that are performed by eligible borrowers.

(b) *Similar entity transactions.* A Farm Credit bank or a direct lender association may participate with a lender that is not a Farm Credit System institution in loans to a similar entity that is not eligible to borrow directly under §613.3000, 613.3010, 613.3020, 613.3100, or 613.3200, for purposes similar to those for which an eligible borrower could obtain financing from the participating FCS institution.

(c) *Restrictions.* Participations by a Farm Credit bank or association in loans to a similar entity under this section are subject to the following limitations:

(1) *Lending limits.* (i) *Farm Credit banks operating under title I of the Act and direct lender associations.* The total amount of all loan participations that any Farm Credit bank, agricultural credit bank, or direct lender association has outstanding under paragraph (b) of this section to a single credit risk shall not exceed:

(A) Ten (10) percent of its total capital; or

(B) Twenty-five (25) percent of its total capital if a majority of the shareholders of the respective Farm Credit bank or direct lender association so approve.

(ii) *Farm Credit banks operating under title III of the Act.* The total amount of

all loan participations that any bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank has outstanding under paragraph (b) of this section to a single credit risk shall not exceed 10 percent of its total capital;

(2) *Percentage held in the principal amount of the loan.* The participation interest in the same loan held by one or more Farm Credit bank(s) or association(s) shall not, at any time, equal or exceed 50 percent of the principal amount of the loan; and

(3) *Portfolio limitations.* The total amount of participations that any Farm Credit bank or direct lender association has outstanding under paragraph (b) of this section shall not exceed 15 percent of its total outstanding assets at the end of its preceding fiscal year.

(d) *Approval by other Farm Credit System institutions.* (1) No direct lender association shall participate in a loan to a similar entity under paragraph (b) of this section without the approval of its funding bank. A funding bank shall deny such requests only for safety and soundness reasons affecting the bank.

(2) No Farm Credit bank or direct lender association shall participate in a loan to a similar entity that is eligible to borrow under §613.3100(b) without the prior approval of the bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank that, at the time the loan is made, has the greatest volume of loans made under title III of the Act in the State where the headquarters office of the similar entity is located.

(3) No bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank shall participate in a loan to a similar entity that is eligible to borrow under §613.3010 or 613.3020 without the prior consent of the Farm Credit bank(s) in whose chartered territory the similar entity conducts operations.

(4) All approvals required under paragraph (d) of this section may be granted on an annual basis and under such terms and conditions as the various Farm Credit System institutions may agree.

[62 FR 4444, Jan. 30, 1997]

PART 614—LOAN POLICIES AND OPERATIONS

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SAMPLE FORM OF NOTICE OF SPECIAL FLOOD
HAZARDS AND AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL DIS-
ASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 4012a, 4104a, 4104b, 4106, and 4128; secs. 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 2.0, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.10, 2.12, 2.13, 2.15, 3.0, 3.1, 3.3, 3.7, 3.8, 3.10, 3.20, 3.28, 4.12, 4.12A, 4.13, 4.13B, 4.14, 4.14A, 4.14C, 4.14D, 4.14E, 4.18, 4.18A, 4.19, 4.25, 4.26, 4.27, 4.28, 4.36, 4.37, 5.9, 5.10, 5.17, 7.0, 7.2, 7.6, 7.8, 7.12, 7.13, 8.0, 8.5 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2071, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2091, 2093, 2094, 2097, 2121, 2122, 2124, 2128, 2129, 2131, 2141, 2149, 2183, 2184, 2199, 2201, 2202, 2202a, 2202c, 2202d, 2202e, 2206, 2206a, 2207, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2219a, 2219b, 2243, 2244, 2252, 2279a, 2279a-2, 2279b, 2279c-1, 2279f, 2279f-1, 2279aa, 2279aa-5); sec. 413 of Pub. L. 100-233, 101 Stat. 1568, 1639.

Subpart A—Lending Authorities

SOURCE: 55 FR 24880, June 19, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

§ 614.4000 Farm Credit Banks.

(a) *Long-term real estate lending.* Except to the extent such authorities are transferred pursuant to section 7.6 of the Act, Farm Credit Banks are authorized, subject to the requirements in § 614.4200 of this part, to make real estate mortgage loans with maturities of not less than 5 years nor more than 40 years and continuing commitments to make such loans.

(b) *Extensions of credit to Farm Credit direct lender associations.* Farm Credit Banks are authorized to make loans

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and extend other similar financial assistance to associations with direct lending authority and discount for or purchase from such associations, with the association's endorsement or guaranty, any note, draft, and other obligations for loans that have been made in accordance with the provisions of subparts D and E of part 614 of these regulations. Such extensions of credit shall be made pursuant to a written financing agreement meeting the requirements of § 614.4125.

(c) *Extensions of credit to other financing institutions.* Farm Credit Banks are authorized to make loans and extend other similar financial assistance to any national bank, State bank, trust company, agricultural credit corporation, incorporated livestock loan company, savings institution, credit union, or any association of agricultural producers or any corporation engaged in the making of loans to farmers and ranchers or producers or harvesters of aquatic products (collectively, "other financing institutions"), for purposes eligible for financing by a production credit association in accordance with § 614.4130 and subpart P of this part. Farm Credit Banks are authorized to discount for or purchase from such institutions, with the institution's endorsement or guaranty, notes, drafts, and other obligations or loans made to persons and for purposes eligible for financing by a production credit association, in accordance with § 614.4130 and subpart P of this part.

(d) *Loan participations.* (1) Subject to the requirements of subpart H of part 614 and paragraph (d)(2) of this section, a Farm Credit Bank may enter into loan participation agreements with:

(i) Farm Credit banks and associations that are direct lenders and lenders that are not Farm Credit institutions on loans of the type it is authorized to make under title I of the Act;

(ii) Farm Credit banks and associations that are direct lenders on loans it is not authorized to make, provided the borrower eligibility, membership, term, amount, loan security, and stock or participation certificate requirements of the originating institution are met; and

(2) A Farm Credit Bank may participate in loans financing operations out-

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side its chartered territory only if the requirements of § 614.4070 are met.

(e) *Other interests in loans.* (1) Subject to the requirements of subpart H of this part, Farm Credit Banks may sell interests in loans only to:

(i) Farm Credit System institutions authorized to purchase such interests;

(ii) Other lenders that are not Farm Credit System institutions; and

(iii) Any certified agricultural mortgage marketing facility, as defined by section 8.0(3) of the Act, for the purpose of pooling and securitizing such loans under title VIII of the Act.

(2) Subject to the requirements of subpart H of this part, Farm Credit Banks may purchase interests other than participation interests in loans and nonvoting stock from other Farm Credit System institutions.

(3) Farm Credit Banks, in their capacity as certified agricultural mortgage marketing facilities under title VIII of the Act, may purchase interests in loans (other than participation interests authorized in paragraph (d) of this section) from institutions other than Farm Credit System institutions only for the purpose of pooling and securitizing such loans under title VIII of the Act.

(f) *Residual powers after the transfer of lending authority to an association.* After transferring its authority to make and participate in long-term real estate loans to an agricultural credit association or a Federal land credit association pursuant to section 7.6(a) of the Act and subpart E of part 611 of these regulations, a Farm Credit Bank retains residual authority to:

(1) Enter into loan participation agreements pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section;

(2) Purchase or sell other interests in loans in accordance with paragraph (e) of this section; and

(3) Make long-term real estate loans in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section in areas of its chartered territory where no active association operates.

[55 FR 24880, June 19, 1990, as amended at 57 FR 38246, Aug. 24, 1992; 57 FR 43290, Sept. 18, 1992; 62 FR 51013, Sept. 30, 1997; 63 FR 5723, Feb. 4, 1998; 64 FR 43049, Aug. 9, 1999]

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§614.4010 Agricultural credit banks.

(a) *Long-term real estate lending.* Except to the extent such authorities are transferred pursuant to section 7.6 of the Act, agricultural credit banks are authorized, subject to the requirements of §614.4200, to make real estate mortgage loans with maturities of not less than 5 years nor more than 40 years and continuing commitments to make such loans.

(b) *Extensions of credit to Farm Credit direct lender associations.* Agricultural credit banks are authorized to make loans and extend other similar financial assistance to associations with direct lending authority and discount for or purchase from such associations, with the association's endorsement or guaranty, any note, draft, and other obligations for loans made by the association in accordance with the provisions of this part. Such extensions of credit shall be made pursuant to a written financing agreement meeting the requirements of §614.4125.

(c) *Extensions of credit to other financing institutions.* Agricultural credit banks are authorized to make loans and extend other similar financial assistance to any national bank, State bank, trust company, agricultural credit corporation, incorporated livestock loan company, savings institution, credit union, or any association of agricultural producers or corporation engaged in the making of loans to farmers, ranchers, or producers or harvesters of aquatic products (collectively, "other financing institutions"), for purposes eligible for financing by a production credit association, in accordance with §614.4130 and subpart P of this part. Agricultural credit banks are authorized to discount for or purchase from such other financing institutions, with the institution's endorsement or guaranty, notes, drafts, and other obligations or loans made to persons and for purposes eligible for financing by a production credit association, in accordance with the requirements of §614.4130 and subpart P of this part.

(d) *Extensions of credit to or on behalf of eligible cooperatives.* Agricultural credit banks are authorized to make loans and commitments and extend other technical and financial assist-

ance, including but not limited to, collateral custody, discounting notes and other obligations, guarantees, and currency exchanges necessary to service transactions financed under paragraphs (d)(4) and (d)(5) of this section, to:

(1) Eligible cooperatives, as defined in §613.3110, in accordance with §§614.4200, 614.4231, 614.4232, 614.4233, and subpart Q of part 614;

(2) Other eligible entities, as defined in §613.3110(c), in accordance with §§614.4200, 614.4231, and 614.4232;

(3) Domestic lessors, for the purpose of providing leased assets to stockholders of the bank eligible to borrow under section 3.7(a) of the Act for use in such stockholders' operations in the United States, in accordance with §614.4232;

(4) Domestic or foreign parties with respect to a transaction with a voting stockholder of the bank, for the import of agricultural commodities, farm supplies, or aquatic products through purchases, sales or exchanges, provided such stockholder substantially benefits as a result of such extension of credit or assistance, in accordance with policies of the bank's board, §614.4233, and subpart Q of part 614; and

(5) Domestic or foreign parties in which a voting stockholder of the bank has a minimum ownership interest, for the purpose of facilitating such stockholder's import operations of the type described in paragraph (d)(4) of this section, provided the stockholder substantially benefits as a result of such extension of credit or assistance, in accordance with policies of the bank's board, §614.4233, and subpart Q of part 614.

(6) Any party, subject to the requirements in §613.3200(c) of this chapter, for the export (including the cost of freight) of agricultural commodities or products therefrom, aquatic products, or farm supplies from the United States to any foreign country, in accordance with §614.4233 and subpart Q of this part 614; and

(7) Domestic or foreign parties in which eligible cooperatives, as defined in §613.3100 of this chapter, hold an ownership interest, for the purpose of facilitating the international business

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operations of such cooperatives pursuant to the requirements of § 613.3200 (d) and (e) of this chapter.

(e) *Loan participations.* (1) Subject to the requirements of subpart H of this part and paragraph (d)(2) of this section, an agricultural credit bank may enter into loan participation agreements with:

(i) Farm Credit banks and associations that are direct lenders and lenders that are not Farm Credit institutions on loans of the type it is authorized to make under the Act;

(ii) Farm Credit banks and associations that are direct lenders on loans it is not authorized to make, provided the borrower eligibility, membership, term, amount, loan security, and stock or participation certificate requirements of the originating institution are met; and

(2) An agricultural credit bank may participate in loans under titles I and II financing operations outside its chartered territory only if the requirements of § 614.4070 are met.

(f) *Other interest in loans.* (1) Subject to subpart H of this part, agricultural credit banks may sell interests in real estate mortgage loans identified in paragraph (a) of this section to Farm Credit System institutions authorized to purchase such interests, other lenders, and certified agricultural mortgage marketing facilities for the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation. Agricultural credit banks may also sell interests in the types of loans listed in paragraph (d) of this section to other Farm Credit System institutions that are authorized to purchase such interests.

(2) Subject to the requirements of subpart H of this part, agricultural credit banks may purchase interests other than participation interests in loans and nonvoting stock from other Farm Credit System institutions.

(3) Agricultural credit banks, in their capacity as certified agricultural mortgage marketing facilities under title VIII of the Act, may purchase interests in loans (other than participation interests authorized in paragraph (e) of this section) from institutions other than Farm Credit System institutions only for the purpose of pooling and

securitizing such loans under title VIII of the Act.

(g) *Residual powers after the transfer of lending authority to an association.* After transferring its authority to make and participate in long-term real estate loans to an agricultural credit association or a Federal land credit association pursuant to section 7.6(a) of the Act and subpart E of part 611 of these regulations, an agricultural credit bank retains residual authority to:

(1) Enter into loan participation agreements pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section;

(2) Purchase or sell other interests in loans in accordance with paragraph (f) of this section; and

(3) Make long-term real estate loans in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section in areas of its chartered territory where no active association operates.

[55 FR 24880, June 19, 1990, as amended at 57 FR 38246, Aug. 24, 1992; 57 FR 43290, Sept. 18, 1992; 62 FR 4445, Jan. 30, 1997; 62 FR 51013, Sept. 30, 1997; 63 FR 5723, Feb. 4, 1998; 64 FR 43049, Aug. 9, 1999]

§ 614.4020 Banks for cooperatives.

(a) Banks for cooperatives are authorized to make loans and commitments and extend other technical and financial assistance, including but not limited to, collateral custody, discounting notes and other obligations, guarantees, and currency exchanges necessary to service transactions financed under paragraphs (a)(4) and (a)(5) of this section, to:

(1) Eligible cooperatives, as defined in § 613.3110, in accordance with §§ 614.4200, 614.4231, 614.4232, and 614.4233, and subpart Q of this part;

(2) Other eligible entities as defined in § 613.3110(c), in accordance with §§ 614.4200, 614.4231, and 614.4232;

(3) Domestic lessors, for the purpose of providing leased assets to stockholders of the bank eligible to borrow under section 3.7(a) of the Act for use in such stockholder's operations in the United States, in accordance with § 614.4232;

(4) Domestic or foreign parties with respect to a transaction with a voting stockholder of the bank, for the import

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of agricultural commodities, farm supplies, or aquatic products through purchases, sales or exchanges, provided such stockholder substantially benefits as a result of such extension of credit or assistance, in accordance with policies of the bank's board, §614.4233, and subpart Q of this part; and

(5) Domestic or foreign parties in which a voting stockholder of the bank has an ownership interest, for the purpose of facilitating the import operations of the type described in paragraph (a)(4) of this section, in accordance with policies of the bank's board, §614.4233, and subpart Q of this part.

(6) Any party, subject to the requirements in §613.3200(c) of this chapter, for the export (including the cost of freight) of agricultural commodities or products therefrom, aquatic products, or farm supplies from the United States to any foreign country, in accordance with §614.4233 and subpart Q of this part; and

(7) Domestic or foreign parties in which eligible cooperatives, as defined in §613.3100 of this chapter, hold an ownership interest, for the purpose of facilitating the international business operations of such cooperatives pursuant to the requirements in §613.3200 (d) and (e) of this chapter.

(b) *Loan participations.* Subject to the requirements of subpart H of this part, a bank for cooperatives may enter into loan participation agreements with:

(1) Farm Credit banks and associations that are direct lenders and lenders that are not Farm Credit institutions on loans of the type it is authorized to make under title III of the Act;

(2) Farm Credit banks and associations that are direct lenders on loans of the type it is not authorized to make, provided the borrower eligibility, membership, term, amount, loan security, and stock or participation certificate requirements of the originating institution are met.

[55 FR 24880, June 19, 1990, as amended at 62 FR 4445, Jan. 30, 1997; 62 FR 51013, Sept. 30, 1997]

§614.4030 Federal land credit associations.

(a) *Long-term real estate lending.* Federal land credit associations are authorized, subject to the requirements of

§614.4200, to make real estate mortgage loans with maturities of not less than 5 years nor more than 40 years and continuing commitments to make such loans.

(b) *Loan participations.* (1) Subject to the requirements of subpart H of this part and paragraph (b)(2) of this section, Federal land credit associations may enter into participation agreements with:

(i) Farm Credit banks and associations that are direct lenders and lenders that are not Farm Credit institutions on loans of the type it is authorized to make under title I of the Act;

(ii) Farm Credit banks and associations that are direct lenders on loans it is not authorized to make, provided the borrower eligibility, membership, term, amount, loan security, and stock or participation certificate requirements of the originating institution are met;

(2) A Federal land credit association may participate in loans financing operations outside its chartered territory only if the requirements of §614.4070 are met.

(c) *Other interests in loans.* (1) Subject to the requirements of subpart H of this part and the supervision of their respective funding banks, Federal land credit associations may sell interests in loans made under paragraph (a) of this section only to:

(i) Farm Credit System institutions, as authorized by their respective funding banks;

(ii) Other lenders that are not Farm Credit System institutions, as authorized by their respective funding banks; and

(iii) Any certified agricultural mortgage marketing facility, as defined by section 8.0(3) of the Act, for the purpose of pooling and securitizing such loans under title VIII of the Act.

(2) Subject to the requirements of subpart H of this part, Federal land credit associations may purchase interests in loans that comply with the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section and nonvoting stock from Farm Credit System institutions.

(3) Federal land credit associations, in their capacity as certified agricultural mortgage marketing facilities

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under title VIII of the Act, may purchase interests in loans (other than participation interests under paragraph (b) of this section) from institutions other than Farm Credit System institutions for the purpose of pooling and securitizing such loans under title VIII of the Act.

[55 FR 24880, June 19, 1990, as amended at 57 FR 38247, Aug. 24, 1992; 62 FR 51013, Sept. 30, 1997; 64 FR 43049, Aug. 9, 1999]

§ 614.4040 Production credit associations.

(a) *Loan terms.* (1) Production credit associations are authorized to make or guarantee loans and other similar financial assistance for the following terms:

- (i) Not more than 7 years
- (ii) More than 7 years, but not more than 10 years, subject to authorization in policies approved by the funding bank
- (iii) Not more than 15 years to producers or harvesters of aquatic products for major capital expenditures, including but not limited to the purchase of vessels, construction or purchase of shore facilities, and similar purposes directly related to the producing or harvesting operation

(2) Subject to policies approved by the funding bank, production credit associations may amortize loans over a period greater than the loan terms authorized under paragraph (a)(1) of this section, provided that:

- (i) The loan is amortized over a period not to exceed 15 years
- (ii) The loan may be refinanced only if the lender determines, at the time of refinancing, that the loan meets its loan policy and underwriting criteria;
- (iii) Any refinancing may not extend repayment beyond 15 years from the date of the original loan; and
- (iv) The loan is not being made solely for the purpose of acquiring unimproved real estate; and

(3) Short- and intermediate-term loans shall be made with maturities that are appropriate for the purpose and underlying collateral of the loan and that comply with an institution's loan underwriting standards adopted pursuant to § 614.4150 and the general requirements of § 614.4200 of this part.

(b) *Loan participations.* (1) Subject to the requirements of subpart H of this part and paragraph (b)(2) of this section, a production credit association may enter into participation agreements with:

(i) Farm Credit banks and associations that are direct lenders and lenders that are not Farm Credit institutions on loans of the type it is authorized to make under title II of the Act; and

(ii) Farm Credit banks and associations that are direct lenders on loans it is not authorized to make, provided the borrower eligibility, membership, term, amount, loan security, and stock or participation certificate requirements of the originating institution are met.

(2) A production credit association may participate in loans financing operations outside its chartered territory only if the requirements of § 614.4070 are met.

(c) *Other interests in loans.* (1) Subject to the requirements of subpart H of this part and the supervision of their respective funding banks, production credit associations may sell interests in loans that are made under paragraph (a) of this section to:

(i) Banks of the Farm Credit System, as authorized by their respective funding banks; and

(ii) Any certified agricultural mortgage marketing facility, as defined by section 8.0(3) of the Act, for the purpose of pooling and securitizing such loans under title VIII of the Act.

(2) Subject to the requirements of subpart H of this part, production credit associations, as authorized by their respective funding banks, may purchase interests in loans that comply with the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section and nonvoting stock from banks of the Farm Credit System.

(3) Production credit associations, in their capacity as certified mortgage marketing facilities under title VIII of the Act, may purchase from Farm Credit System institutions and institutions that are not Farm Credit System institutions interests in loans (other than participation interests authorized by paragraph (c) of this section) for the

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purpose of pooling and securitizing such loans under title VIII of the Act.

[55 FR 24880, June 19, 1990; 55 FR 28511, July 11, 1990, as amended at 57 FR 38247, Aug. 24, 1992; 62 FR 51013, Sept. 30, 1997; 64 FR 43049, Aug. 9, 1999]

§614.4050 Agricultural credit associations.

Agricultural credit associations are authorized to make or guarantee, subject to the requirements of §614.4200 of this part:

(a) *Long-term real estate mortgage loans* with maturities of not less than 5 nor more than 40 years, and continue commitments to make such loans; and

(b) *Short- and intermediate-term loans* and provide other similar financial assistance for a term of not more than 10 years (15 years for aquatic producers and harvesters).

(c) *Loan participations.* (1) Subject to the requirements of subpart H of this part and paragraph (c)(2) of this section, agricultural credit associations may enter into participation agreements with:

(i) Farm Credit banks and associations that are direct lenders and lenders that are not Farm Credit institutions on loans of the type it is authorized to make under titles I and II of the Act; and

(ii) Farm Credit banks and associations that are direct lenders on loans of the type it is not authorized to make, provided the borrower eligibility, membership, term, amount, loan security, and stock or participation certificate requirements of the originating institution are met.

(2) Agricultural credit associations may participate in loans financing operations outside its chartered territory only if the requirements of §614.4070 are met.

(d) *Other interests in loans.* (1) Subject to the requirements of subpart H of this part and the supervision of their respective funding banks, agricultural credit associations may sell:

(i) Interests in loans made under paragraph (a) of this section only to:

(A) Farm Credit System institutions, as authorized by their respective funding banks;

(B) Lenders that are not Farm Credit System institutions, as authorized by their respective funding banks; and

(C) Any certified agricultural mortgage marketing facility, as defined by section 8.0(3) of the Act, for the purpose of pooling and securitizing such loans under title VIII of the Act.

(ii) Interests in loans made under paragraph (b) of this part only to:

(A) Banks of the Farm Credit System, as authorized by their respective funding banks; and

(B) Any certified agricultural mortgage marketing facility, as defined by section 8.0(3) of the Act, for the purpose of pooling and securitizing such loans under title VIII of the Act.

(2) Subject to the requirements of subpart H of this part, agricultural credit associations may purchase:

(i) Interests in loans that comply with the requirements in paragraph (a) of this section from institutions of the Farm Credit System;

(ii) Interests in loans that comply with the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section from banks of the Farm Credit System; and

(iii) Nonvoting stock from institutions of the Farm Credit System.

(3) Agricultural credit associations, in their capacity as certified agricultural mortgage marketing facilities under title VIII of the Act, may purchase interests in loans, other than participation interests authorized by paragraph (c) of this section, from institutions other than Farm Credit System institutions for the purpose of pooling and securitizing such loans under title VIII of the Act.

[55 FR 24880, June 19, 1990; 55 FR 28511, July 11, 1990, as amended at 57 FR 38247, Aug. 24, 1992; 62 FR 51013, Sept. 30, 1997; 64 FR 43049, Aug. 9, 1999]

§614.4060 Affiliates established pursuant to section 8.5(e)(1) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971.

An affiliate established by one or more Farm Credit System institutions pursuant to section 8.5(e)(1) of the Act and §611.1137 of this chapter, as a certified agricultural mortgage marketing facility, may purchase loans from Farm Credit System institutions and institutions other than Farm Credit System institutions in accordance with

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title VIII of the Act and any applicable regulation promulgated thereunder.

[57 FR 38247, Aug. 24, 1992]

Subpart B—Chartered Territories

§ 614.4070 Loans and chartered territory—Farm Credit Banks, agricultural credit banks, Federal land bank associations, Federal land credit associations, production credit associations, and agricultural credit associations.

(a) A bank or association chartered under title I or II of the Act may finance eligible borrower operations conducted wholly within its chartered territory regardless of the residence of the applicant.

(b) A bank or association operating under title I or II of the Act may finance the operations of a borrower headquartered and operating in its territory even though the operation financed is conducted partially outside its territory, provided notice is given to all Farm Credit institutions providing similar credit in the territory(ies) in which the operations being financed are conducted. A bank or association operating under title I or II of the Act may lend to a borrower headquartered outside its territory to finance eligible borrower operations that are conducted partially within its territory and partially outside its territory only if the concurrence of Farm Credit institutions providing similar credit for the territories in which the operations are conducted is obtained.

(c) A bank or association chartered under title I or II of the Act may finance eligible borrower operations conducted wholly outside its chartered territory, provided such loans are authorized by the policies of the bank and/or association involved, do not constitute a significant shift in loan volume away from the bank or association's assigned territory, and are made and administered in accordance with paragraphs (c)(1) and (c)(2) of this section.

(1) If a loan is made to an eligible borrower whose operations are conducted wholly outside the chartered territory of the lending bank or association, the lending institution shall obtain concurrence of all Farm Credit

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institutions providing similar credit in the territory(ies) in which the operation being financed is conducted.

(2) Loans to finance eligible borrower operations conducted wholly outside a bank's or association's territory shall be appropriately designated by the bank or association to provide adequate identification of the number and volume of such loans, which shall be monitored by the bank or association.

[55 FR 24882, June 19, 1990]

§ 614.4080 Loans and chartered territory—banks for cooperatives.

Loans made under title III by banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks may be made to eligible domestic parties domiciled within any territory that may be served by Farm Credit institutions under section 1.2 of the Act and to eligible foreign parties without regard to domicile.

[55 FR 24882, June 19, 1990]

Subpart C—Bank/Association Lending Relationship

§ 614.4100 Policies governing lending through Federal land bank associations.

(a) Farm Credit Banks and agricultural credit banks may delegate authority to make credit decisions to Federal land bank associations that demonstrate the ability to extend and administer credit soundly, provided the association develops, implements and maintains adequate credit administration guidelines, standards, and practices.

(b) The board of directors of each Farm Credit Bank and each agricultural credit bank lending through Federal land bank associations shall adopt policies and procedures governing the exercise of statutory and delegated authorities by such associations. Policies governing the delegated authorities shall:

(1) Define authorities to be delegated;

(2) Require the documented evaluation of the capability and responsibility of individuals exercising delegated authorities;

(3) Provide for reporting of actions taken under delegated authority to the delegating bank;

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(4) Provide procedures for periodic review and enforcement;

(5) Provide for withdrawal of authority where appropriate; and

(6) Where redelegation from the association's board to association employees is authorized, require similar control measures to be used.

[55 FR 24883, June 19, 1990]

§614.4110 Transfer of direct lending authority to Federal land bank associations and agricultural credit associations.

(a) Upon the transfer of authority to make and participate in long-term agricultural real estate mortgage loans by a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank to a Federal land bank association pursuant to section 7.6(a) of the Act and subpart E of part 611 of these regulations, the association shall be designated a Federal land credit association and shall have the powers set forth in §614.4030.

(b) Upon the transfer of the authority to make and participate in long-term real estate loans by a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank to an agricultural credit association pursuant to section 7.6(d) of the Act, the association shall have all of the powers set forth in §614.4050.

(c) An association to which such long-term lending authority is to be transferred shall have in place, prior to the transfer, policies and procedures guiding the extension and administration of credit within its territory.

[55 FR 24883, June 19, 1990]

§614.4120 Policies governing extensions of credit to direct lender associations and OFIs.

The board of directors of each Farm Credit Bank and agricultural credit bank shall adopt policies and procedures governing the making of direct loans to and the discounting of loans for direct lender associations and OFIs. The policies and procedures shall prescribe lending policies and loan underwriting standards that are consistent with sound financial and credit practices. The policies shall require a periodic review of the lending relationship with each direct lender association and OFI at intervals consistent with the term of the general financing agree-

ment but in no case longer than 5 years. The policies shall require an evaluation of the creditworthiness of a direct lender association on the basis of credit factors and lending policies and loan underwriting standards set forth in part 614, subpart D, and may permit lending to such an institution on an unsecured basis only if the overall condition of the institution warrants. The stated term of a general financing agreement shall not exceed 5 years but may be automatically renewable for additional terms not to exceed 5 years if neither party objects at the time of renewal. The term of any general financing agreement that provides for unsecured lending to a direct lender association shall not exceed 1 year and may not be automatically renewed.

[63 FR 5724, Feb. 4, 1998]

§614.4125 Funding and discount relationships between Farm Credit Banks or agricultural credit banks and direct lender associations.

(a) A Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank shall not advance funds to, or discount loans for, any direct lender association except pursuant to a general financing agreement.

(b) The Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank shall deliver a copy of the executed general financing agreement and all related documents, such as a promissory note or security agreement, and all amendments of any of these documents, within 10 business days after any such document or amendment is executed, to the Chief Examiner, Farm Credit Administration, or to the Farm Credit Administration office that the Chief Examiner designates.

(c) The general financing agreement shall address only those matters that are reasonably related to the debtor/creditor relationship between the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank and the direct lender association.

(d) The total credit extended to a direct lender association, through direct loan or discounts, shall be consistent with the Farm Credit Bank's or agricultural credit bank's lending policies and loan underwriting standards and the creditworthiness of the direct lender association. The general financing

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agreement or promissory note shall establish a maximum credit limit determined by objective standards as established by the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank.

(e) A Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank that provides notice to a direct lender association that it is in material default of any covenant, term, or condition of the general financing agreement, promissory note, security agreement, or other related documents simultaneously shall provide written notification to the Chief Examiner, Farm Credit Administration, or to the Farm Credit Administration office that the Chief Examiner designates and the Director, Risk Management, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

(f) A direct lender association shall provide written notification to the Chief Examiner, Farm Credit Administration, or to the Farm Credit Administration office that the Chief Examiner designates, and the Director, Risk Management, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation immediately upon receipt of a notice that it is in material default under any general financing agreement, loan agreement, promissory note, security agreement, or other related documents with a Farm Credit Bank, agricultural credit bank or non-Farm Credit institution.

(g) A Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank shall obtain prior written consent of the Farm Credit Administration before it takes any action that leads to or could lead to the liquidation of a direct lender association.

(h) No direct lender association shall obtain financing from any party unless the parties agree to the requirements of this paragraph. No Farm Credit Bank, agricultural credit bank, or other party shall petition any Federal or State court to appoint a conservator, receiver, liquidation agent, or other administrator to manage the affairs of or liquidate a direct lender association.

[63 FR 5724, Feb. 4, 1998]

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§614.4130 Funding and discount relationships between Farm Credit Banks or agricultural credit banks and OFIs.

(a) A Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank shall not advance funds to, or discount loans for, an OFI, as defined in §611.1205(c) of this chapter, except pursuant to a general financing agreement.

(b) The Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank shall deliver a copy of the executed general financing agreement and all related documents, such as a promissory note or security agreement, and all amendments of any of these documents, within 10 business days after any such document or amendment is executed, to the Chief Examiner, Farm Credit Administration, or to the Farm Credit Administration office that the Chief Examiner designates.

(c) The total credit extended to the OFI, through direct loan or discounts, shall be consistent with the Farm Credit Bank's or agricultural credit bank's lending policies and loan underwriting standards and the creditworthiness of the OFI. The general financing agreement or promissory note shall establish a maximum credit limit determined by objective standards as established by the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank.

[63 FR 5724, Feb. 4, 1998]

Subpart D—General Loan Policies for Banks and Associations

§614.4150 Lending policies and loan underwriting standards.

Under the policies of its board, each institution shall adopt written standards for prudent lending and shall issue written policies, operating procedures, and control mechanisms that reflect prudent credit practices and comply with all applicable laws and regulations. Written policies and procedures shall, at a minimum, prescribe:

(a) The minimum supporting credit and financial information, frequency for collection of information, and verification of information required in

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relation to loan size, complexity and risk exposure

(b) The procedures to be followed in credit analysis

(c) The minimum standards for loan disbursement, servicing and collections

(d) Requirements for collateral and methods for its administration

(e) Loan approval delegations and requirements for reporting to the board

(f) Loan pricing practices

(g) Loan underwriting standards that include measurable standards:

(1) For determining that an applicant has the operational, financial, and management resources necessary to repay the debt from cashflow

(2) That are appropriate for each loan program and the institution's risk-bearing ability; and

(3) That consider the nature and type of credit risk, amount of the loan, and enterprises being financed

(h) Requirements that loan terms and conditions are appropriate for the loan; and

(i) Such other requirements as are necessary for the professional conduct of a lending organization, including documentation for each loan transaction of compliance with the loan underwriting standards or the compensating factors or extenuating circumstances that establish repayment of the loan notwithstanding the failure to meet any one or more loan underwriting standard.

[62 FR 51014, Sept. 30, 1997]

§614.4155 Interest rates.

Loans made by each bank and direct lender association shall bear interest at a rate or rates as may be determined by the institution board. The board shall set interest rates or approve individual interest rate changes either on a case-by-case basis or pursuant to an interest rate plan within which management may establish rates. Any interest rate plan shall set loan-pricing policies and objectives, provide guidance regarding the circumstances under which management may adjust rates, and provide the upper and lower limits on management authority. Any interest rate plan adopted shall be reviewed on a continuing basis by the board, as well as in conjunction with its review and

approval of the institution's operational and strategic business plan.

[62 FR 66818, Dec. 22, 1997]

§614.4160 Differential interest rate programs.

Pursuant to policies approved by the board of directors, differential interest rates may be established for loans based on a variety of factors that may include type, purpose, amount, quality, funding or operating costs, or similar factors or combinations of factors. Differential interest rate programs should achieve equitable rate treatment within categories of borrowers. In the adoption of differential interest rate programs, institutions may consider, among other things, the effect that such interest rate structures will have on the achievement of objectives relating to the special credit needs of young, beginning or small farmers.

[61 FR 67186, Dec. 20, 1996. Redesignated at 62 FR 66818, Dec. 22, 1997]

§614.4165 Special credit needs.

(a) The board of each direct lender institution shall adopt policies to establish programs to provide credit and related services to young, beginning, and small farmers, ranchers, and producers or harvesters of aquatic products.

(b) Each Farm Credit Bank and agricultural credit bank shall provide to the Farm Credit Administration an annual report summarizing the operations and achievements in its chartered territory under such programs. Such reports shall be based on the reports from each association providing services under these programs and shall be in a format prescribed by the Farm Credit Administration.

(c) *Specialized enterprises.* Consideration can be given by bank and association boards to organizing groups of similar specialized borrowers engaged in enterprises involving a high degree of risk into pools by which banks or associations may minimize the higher risk occasioned by financing such specialized enterprises. Where such programs are authorized, the direct lender institution board shall adopt appropriate policies that define criteria for

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the selection of specialized high-risk enterprises.

[46 FR 53022, Oct. 28, 1981, as amended at 55 FR 24883, June 19, 1990; 62 FR 51014, Sept. 30, 1997]

Subpart E—Loan Terms and Conditions

SOURCE: 55 FR 24884, June 19, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

§ 614.4200 General requirements.

(a) *Terms and conditions.* (1) The terms and conditions of each loan made by a Farm Credit bank or association shall be set forth in a written document or documents, such as a loan agreement, promissory note, or other instrument(s) appropriate to the type and amount of the credit extension, in order to establish loan conditions and performance requirements. Copies of all documents executed by the borrower in connection with the closing of a loan made under titles I or II of the Act shall be provided to the borrower at the time of execution and at any time thereafter that the borrower requests additional copies.

(2) The terms and conditions of all loans shall be adequately disclosed in writing to the borrower not later than loan closing. For loans made under titles I and II of the Act, the institution shall provide prompt written notice of the approval of the loan.

(3) Applicants shall be provided notification of the action taken on each credit application in compliance with the requirements of 12 CFR 202.9.

(b) *Security.* (1) Long-term real estate mortgage loans must be secured by a first lien interest in real estate, except that the loans may be secured by a second lien interest if the institution also holds the first lien on the property. No funds shall be advanced, under a legally binding commitment or otherwise, if the outstanding loan balance after the advance would exceed 85 percent (or 97 percent as provided in section 1.10(a) of the Act) of the appraised value of the real estate, except that a loan on which private mortgage insurance is obtained may exceed 85 percent of the appraised value of the real estate to the extent that the loan amount in

excess of 85 percent is covered by such insurance. The real estate that is used to satisfy the loan-to-value limitation must be comprised primarily of agricultural or rural property, including agricultural land and improvements thereto, a farm-related business, a marketing or processing operation, a rural residence, or real estate used as an integral part of an aquatic operation.

(2) Notwithstanding the requirements of paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the lending institution may advance funds for the payment of taxes or insurance premiums with respect to the real estate, reschedule loan payments, grant partial releases of security interests in the real estate, and take other actions necessary to protect the lender's collateral position. Any action taken that results in exceeding the loan-to-value limitation shall be in accordance with a policy of the institution's board of directors and adequately documented in the loan file.

(3) Short- and intermediate-term loans may be secured or unsecured as the documented creditworthiness of the borrower warrants.

(4) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, a long-term, non-farm rural home loan, including a revolving line of credit, shall be secured by a first lien on the property, except that it may be secured by a second lien if the institution also holds the first lien on the property. A short- or intermediate-term loan on a rural home, including a revolving line of credit, must be secured by a lien on the property unless the financing is provided exclusively for repairs, remodeling, or other improvements to the rural home, in which case the loan may be secured by other property or unsecured if warranted by the documented creditworthiness of the borrower.

(5) Except as provided in § 614.4231, loans made under title III of the Act may be secured or unsecured, as appropriate for the purpose of the loan and the documented creditworthiness of the borrower.

[62 FR 51014, Sept. 30, 1997]

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§614.4231 Certain seasonal commodity loans to cooperatives.

Loans on certain commodities that are part of government programs shall comply with the criteria established for those programs. Security taken on program commodities shall be consistent with prudent lending practices and ensure compliance with the government program. The bank shall provide for periodic review by bank officials of any custodial activities and shall provide notice to the custodians that their activities are subject to review and examination by the Farm Credit Administration.

[62 FR 51015, Sept. 30, 1997]

§614.4232 Loans to domestic lessors.

Loans and financial assistance extended by banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks to domestic lessors to finance equipment or facilities leased by a stockholder of the bank shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

(a) The term of the loan shall not be longer than the total period of the lease;

(b) The contract between the lessor and lessee shall establish that the leased assets are effectively under the control of the lessee and that such control shall continue in effect for essentially all of the term of the lease;

(c) The lessee must hold at least one share of stock or one participation certificate; and

(d) The leased equipment and facilities must be primarily for use in the lessee's operations in the United States.

[55 FR 24884, June 19, 1990, as amended at 64 FR 34517, June 28, 1999]

§614.4233 International loans.

Term loans made by banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks under the authority of section 3.7(b) of the Act and §613.3200 of this chapter to foreign or domestic parties who are not shareholders of the bank shall be subject to the following conditions:

(a) The loan shall be denominated in a currency to eliminate foreign exchange risk on repayment.

(b) The borrower's obligations shall be guaranteed or insured against default under such policies as are available in the United States and other countries. Exceptions may be made where a prospective borrower has had a longstanding successful business relationship with an eligible cooperative borrower or an eligible cooperative which is not a borrower if the prospective borrower has a high credit rating as determined by the bank.

(c) For a borrower in which a voting stockholder of the bank has a majority ownership interest, financing may be extended for the full value of the transaction; otherwise, financing may be extended only to approximate the percent of ownership.

[55 FR 24884, June 19, 1990, as amended at 55 FR 28886, July 16, 1990; 55 FR 50544, Dec. 7, 1990; 56 FR 5927, Feb. 14, 1991; 62 FR 4445, Jan. 30, 1997]

Subpart F—Collateral Evaluation Requirements

SOURCE: 59 FR 46730, Sept. 12, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§614.4240 Collateral definitions.

For the purposes of this part, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Abundance of caution*, when used to describe decisions to require collateral, means that the collateral is taken in circumstances in which:

(1) It is not required by statute, regulation, or the institution's policies; and

(2) A prudent lender would extend credit based on a borrower's income and/or other collateral, absent the real estate, and the decision to extend credit was, in fact, based on other sources of revenue or collateral.

(b) *Appraisal* means a written statement independently and impartially prepared by a qualified appraiser setting forth an opinion as to the market value of an adequately described property as of a specific date(s), supported by the presentation and analysis of relevant market information.

(c) *Appraisal Foundation* means the Appraisal Foundation established on

November 30, 1987, by professional appraisal organizations, as a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of Illinois, in order to enhance the quality of professional appraisals.

(d) *Appraisal Subcommittee* means the Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council.

(e) *Business loan* means a loan or other extension of credit to any corporation, general or limited partnership, business trust, joint venture, sole proprietorship, or other business entity (including entities and individuals engaged in farming enterprises).

(f) *Cost approach* means the process by which an evaluator establishes an indicated value by measuring the current market cost to construct a reproduction of or replacement for the improvements, minus the amount of depreciation (physical deterioration, or functional and/or external obsolescence) evident in the structure from all causes, plus the market value of the land.

(g) *Evaluation* means a study of the nature, quality, or utility of, interest in, or aspects of, an asset. An evaluation may take the form of a valuation or an appraisal.

(h) *Fee appraiser* means a qualified evaluator who is not an employee of the party contracting for the completion of the evaluation and who performs an evaluation on a fee basis. For purposes of this subpart, a fee appraiser may include a staff evaluator from another Farm Credit System institution only if the employing institution is not operating under joint management with the contracting institution. In addition, for purposes of personal and intangible collateral evaluations, the term "fee appraiser" includes, but is not limited to, certified public accountants, equipment dealers, grain buyers, livestock buyers, and auctioneers.

(i) *FIRREA* means the Financial Institutions Recovery, Reform, and Enforcement Act of 1989.

(j) *Highest and best use* means the reasonable and most probable use of the property that would result in the highest market value of vacant land or improved property, as of the date of valuation; or that use, from among reason-

ably probable and legally alternative uses, found to be physically possible, appropriately supported, financially feasible, and which results in the highest land value.

(k) *Income capitalization approach* means the procedure that values property by measuring the present value of the expected future benefits of property ownership. This value is derived from either:

(1) Capitalizing a single year's income expectancy or an annual average of several years' income expectancies at a market-derived capitalization rate that reflects a specific income pattern, return on investment, and change in the value of the investment; or

(2) Discounting the annual cashflows for the holding period and the reversion at a specified yield rate or specified yield rates which reflect market behavior.

(l) *Market value* means the most probable price that a property should bring in a competitive and open market under all conditions requisite to a fair sale, the buyer and seller each acting prudently, knowledgeably, and assuming neither is under duress. Implicit in this definition is the consummation of a sale as of a specified date and the passing of title from seller to buyer under conditions whereby:

(1) Buyer and seller are typically motivated;

(2) Both parties are well informed or well advised, and acting in what they consider their best interests;

(3) A reasonable time is allowed for exposure in the open market;

(4) Payment is made in terms of cash in United States dollars or in terms of financial arrangements comparable thereto; and

(5) The price represents the normal consideration for the property sold unaffected by special or creative financing or sales concessions granted by anyone associated with the sale.

(m) *Personal property*, for purposes of this subpart, means all tangible and movable property not considered real property or fixtures.

(n) *Qualified evaluator* means an individual who is competent, reputable, impartial, and has demonstrated sufficient training and experience to properly evaluate property of the type that

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is the subject of the evaluation. For the purposes of this definition, the term “qualified evaluator” includes an appraiser or valuator.

(o) *Real estate* means an identified parcel or tract of land, including improvements, if any.

(p) *Real estate-related financial transactions* means any transaction involving:

(1) The sale, lease, purchase, investment in, or exchange of real property, including interests in property or the financing thereof; or

(2) The refinancing of real property or interests in real property; or

(3) The use of real property or interests in real property as security for a loan or investment, including mortgage-backed securities.

(q) *Real property* means all interests, benefits, and rights inherent in the ownership of real estate.

(r) *Sales comparison approach* means the procedure that values property by comparing the subject property to similar properties located in relatively close proximity, having similar size and utility, and having been recently sold in arm’s-length transactions (comparable sales). The sales comparison approach requires the evaluator to estimate the degree of similarity and difference between the subject property and comparable sales. Such comparison shall be made on the basis of conditions of sale, financing terms, market conditions, location, physical characteristics, and income characteristics. Appropriate adjustments shall be made to the sales price of the comparable property based on the identified deficiencies or superiorities of the subject property to arrive at a probable price for which the subject property could be sold on the date of the collateral evaluation.

(s) *State certified appraiser* means any individual who has satisfied the requirements for and has been certified as a real estate appraiser by a State or territory whose requirements for certification currently meet or exceed the minimum criteria for certification issued by the Appraiser Qualification Board of the Appraisal Foundation. No individual shall be a State certified appraiser unless such individual has achieved a passing grade on a suitable

examination administered by a State or territory that is consistent with and equivalent to the Uniform State Certification Examination issued or endorsed by the Appraiser Qualification Board of the Appraisal Foundation. In addition, the Appraisal Subcommittee must not have issued a finding that the policies, practices, or procedures of the State or territory are inconsistent with title XI of FIRREA.

(t) *State licensed appraiser* means any individual who has satisfied the requirements for licensing and has been licensed as a real estate appraiser by a State or territory in which the licensing procedures comply with title XI of FIRREA and in which the Appraisal Subcommittee has not issued a finding that the policies, practices, or procedures of the State or territory are inconsistent with title XI of FIRREA.

(u) *Transaction value* means:

(1) For loans or other extensions of credit, the amount of the loan, loan commitment, or other extensions of credit;

(2) For sales, leases, purchases, investments in, or exchanges of real property, the market value of the property interest involved; and

(3) For the pools of loans or interests in real property, the transaction value of the individual loans or the market value of the real property interests comprising the pool.

(v) *USPAP* means the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice adopted by the Appraisal Foundation.

(w) *Valuation* means the process of estimating a defined value of an identified interest or interests in a specific asset or assets as of a given date. A valuation results from the completion of a collateral evaluation that does not require an appraisal.

§614.4245 Collateral evaluation policies.

(a) The board of directors of each Farm Credit System institution that engages in lending or leasing secured by collateral shall adopt well-defined and effective collateral evaluation policies and standards, that comply with the regulations in this subpart, to ensure that collateral evaluations are:

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(1) Sufficiently descriptive and detailed to provide ample support to the institution's related credit decisions;

(2) Performed based on criteria established for the purpose of determining the circumstances under which collateral evaluations will be required and when they will be required. Such criteria must, at a minimum:

(i) Establish when an institution will require a collateral appraisal completed under the USPAP rather than a collateral valuation; and

(ii) Take into account such factors as market trends, market volatility, and various types of credit, loan servicing, collection, and liquidation actions; and

(3) Completed by a qualified evaluator in an unbiased manner.

(b) The policies and standards required by this section shall, at a minimum, address the criteria outlined in §§ 614.4250 through 614.4267 of this subpart.

(c) A Federal land bank association shall, with the approval of its respective Farm Credit bank, adopt collateral evaluation policies that are consistent with the bank's policies and standards.

(d) An institution's board of directors may adopt specific collateral evaluation requirements, consistent with the regulations in this subpart, for loans designated as part of a minimum information program.

[59 FR 46730, Sept. 12, 1994, as amended at 62 FR 51015, Sept. 30, 1997]

§ 614.4250 Collateral evaluation standards.

(a) When real, personal, or intangible property is taken as security for a loan or is the subject of a lease, an evaluation of such property shall be performed in accordance with § 614.4260 and the institutions' policies and procedures. Such a collateral evaluation shall be identified as either a collateral valuation or a collateral appraisal. Specifically, all collateral evaluations must:

(1) Value the subject property based upon market value as defined in § 614.4240(1);

(2) Be presented in a written format;

(3) Consider the purpose for which the property will be used and the prop-

erty's highest and best use, if different from the intended use;

(4) Be sufficiently descriptive to enable the reader to ascertain the reasonableness of the estimated market value and the rationale for the estimate;

(5) Provide sufficient detail (including an identification and description of the property) and depth of analysis to reflect the relevant characteristics and complexity of the subject property;

(6) Analyze and report, as appropriate, for real, intangible, and/or personal property, on:

(i) The current income producing capacity of the property;

(ii) A reasonable marketing period for the property;

(iii) The current market conditions and trends that will affect projected income, to the extent such conditions will affect the value of the property;

(iv) The appropriate deductions and discounts as they would apply to the property, including but not limited to, those based on the condition of the property, as well as the specialization of the operation and property; and

(v) Potential liabilities, including those associated with any hazardous waste or other environmental concerns; and

(7) Include in the evaluation report a certification that the evaluation was not based on a requested minimum valuation or specific valuation or approval of a loan.

(b) For purposes of determining appraisal value as required in section 1.10(a) of the Act, the definition of market value and the requirements of this subpart shall apply.

§ 614.4255 Independence requirements.

(a) *Prohibitions.* For all personal and intangible property, and for all real property exempted under § 614.4260(c) of this subpart, no person may:

(1) Perform evaluations in connection with transactions in which such person has a direct or indirect interest, financial or otherwise, in the loan or subject property;

(2) As a director, vote on or approve a loan decision on which such person performed a collateral evaluation; or

(3) As a director, perform a collateral evaluation in connection with any transaction on which such person made

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or will be required to make a credit decision.

(b) *Officers and employees.* If the institution's internal control procedures required by §618.8430 of this chapter include requirements for either a prior approval or post-review of credit decisions, officers and employees may:

(1) Participate in a vote or approval involving assets on which they performed a collateral evaluation; or

(2) Perform a collateral evaluation in connection with a transaction on which they have made or will be required to make a credit decision.

(c) *Real estate appraiser.* Except as provided in §614.4260(c) of this subpart, all evaluations of real property that serve as the primary security for a loan shall be performed by a qualified real estate appraiser who has no direct or indirect interest, financial or otherwise, in the loan or subject property and is not engaged in the marketing, lending, collection, or credit decision processes of any of the following:

(1) A Farm Credit System institution making or originating the loan;

(2) A Farm Credit System institution operating under common management with the institution making or originating the loan; or

(3) A Farm Credit System institution purchasing an interest in the loan.

(d) *Fee appraisers.* Fee appraisers shall be engaged directly by the Farm Credit System institution or its agent, and shall have no direct or indirect interest, financial or otherwise, in the property or transaction. A Farm Credit System institution may accept a real estate appraisal that was prepared by an appraiser engaged directly by another Farm Credit System institution, by a United States Government agency, a Government-Sponsored Enterprise or by a financial institution subject to title XI of FIRREA.

(e) *Loan purchases.* No employee who, acting as a State licensed or State certified appraiser, performed a real estate appraisal on any collateral supporting a loan shall subsequently participate in any decision related to the loan purchase.

§614.4260 Evaluation requirements.

(a) *Valuation.* Valuations of personal and intangible property, as well as real

property exempted under paragraph (c) of this section, shall be performed by qualified individuals who meet the established standards of this subpart and the Farm Credit System institution obtaining the collateral valuation.

(b) *Appraisal.* (1) Appraisals for real estate-related financial transactions with transaction values of more than \$250,000 shall be performed by a qualified appraiser who is a State licensed or a State certified real estate appraiser.

(2) Appraisals for real estate-related financial transactions with transaction values of more than \$1,000,000 shall be performed by a qualified appraiser who is a State certified real estate appraiser.

(c) *Appraisals not required.* An appraisal performed by a State certified or State licensed appraiser is not required for any real estate-related financial transaction in which any of the following conditions are met:

(1) The transaction value is \$250,000 or less;

(2) The transaction is a "business loan" as defined in §614.4240(e) that:

(i) Has a transaction value of \$1,000,000 or less; and

(ii) Is not dependent on income derived from the sale or cash rental of real estate as the primary source of repayment;

(3) A lien on real property has been taken as collateral in an abundance of caution, and the application, when evaluated on the five basic credit factors, without considering the subject real estate, would support the credit decision that was based on other sources of repayment or collateral;

(4) A lien on real estate is not statutorily required and has been taken for purposes other than the real estate's value;

(5) Subsequent loan transactions (which include but are not limited to loan servicing actions, reamortizations, modifications of loan terms, and partial releases), provided that either:

(i) The transaction does not involve the advancement of new loan funds other than funds necessary to cover reasonable closing costs; or

(ii) There has been no obvious and material change in market conditions or physical aspects of the property that

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threatens the adequacy of the Farm Credit System institution's real estate collateral protection, even with the advancement of new loan funds;

(6) A Farm Credit System institution purchases a loan or an interest in a loan, pool of loans, or interests in real property, including mortgage-backed securities, provided that:

(i) The appraisal prepared for each loan, pooled loan, or real property interest, when originated, met the standards of this subpart, other Federal regulations adopted pursuant to FIRREA, or the requirements of the government-sponsored secondary market intermediaries under whose auspices the interest is sold; and

(ii) There has been no obvious and material change in market conditions or physical aspects of the property that would threaten the Farm Credit System institution's collateral position, or

(7) A Farm Credit System institution makes or purchases a loan secured by real estate, which loan is guaranteed by an agency of the United States Government and is supported by an appraisal that conforms to the requirements of the guaranteeing agency.

To qualify for exceptions in paragraphs (c)(1) through (c)(7) of this section from the requirements of this subpart, the institution must have documentation justifying the use of such exceptions in the applicable loan file(s). In addition, the institution must document that the repayment of a "business loan" is not dependent on income derived from the sale or cash rental of real estate.

(d) *FCA-required appraisals.* The FCA reserves the right to require an appraisal under this subpart whenever it believes it is necessary to address safety and soundness issues.

(e) *Reciprocity.* The requirements of this subpart are satisfied by the use of State certified or State licensed appraisers from any State provided that:

(1) The appraiser is qualified to perform such appraisals;

(2) The applicable Farm Credit System institution has established policies providing for such interstate appraisals; and

(3) The applicable State appraiser licensing and certification agency recognizes the certification or license of the

appraiser's State of permanent certification or licensure.

[59 FR 46730, Sept. 12, 1994, as amended at 60 FR 2687, Jan. 11, 1995]

§ 614.4265 Real property evaluations.

(a) Real estate shall be valued on the basis of market value.

(b) Market value shall be determined by a reasonable valuation method that:

(1) Considers the income capitalization approach, the sales comparison approach, and/or the cost approach, as appropriate, to determine market value;

(2) Explains and documents the elimination of any approach not used.

(3) Reconciles the market values of the applicable approaches; and

(c) Where real estate appraisals or real estate collateral valuations for business loans in excess of \$250,000 that would not otherwise be exempted under § 614.4260(c) are required, such evaluations shall be completed in accordance with the USPAP and shall include a legal description of the subject property.

(d) At a minimum, the institution shall develop and document the evaluation of the income and debt servicing capacity for the property and operation where the transaction value exceeds \$250,000 and the real estate taken as collateral:

(1) Is an integral part of and supports the principal source of loan repayment; or

(2) Is not an integral part of and does not support the principal source of loan repayment, but has demonstrable rental market appeal, is statutorily required, and fully or partially constitutes an integral part of an agricultural or aquatic operation.

(e) The income-earning and debt-servicing capacity established under paragraph (d) of this section on such properties shall be documented as part of the credit analysis for any related loan action, whether or not the income capitalization approach value is used as the basis for the market value conclusion stated in the evaluation report.

(f) Collateral closely aligned with, an integral part of, and normally sold with real estate (fixtures) may be included in the value of the real estate. All other collateral associated with the real estate, but designated as personal

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property, shall be evaluated as personal property in accordance with §§614.4250 and 614.4266.

(g) The evaluation shall properly identify all nonagricultural influences, including, but not limited to, urban development, mineral deposits, and commercial building development value, and the reasoning supporting the evaluator's highest and best-use conclusion.

(h) Where an evaluation of real property is completed by a fee appraiser, as defined in §614.4240(g), the institution's standards shall include provisions for periodic collateral inspections performed by the institution's account officer or appropriate designee.

§614.4266 Personal and intangible property evaluations.

(a) Personal property and intangibles shall be valued on the basis of market value in accordance with the institution's evaluation standards and policies.

(b) Personal property evaluations shall include a source of comparisons of value (i.e., equipment dealer listings, Blue Book, market sales reports, etc.) and a description of the property being evaluated, including location of the property and, where applicable, quantity, species/variety, measure/weight, value per unit and in total, type of identification (such as brand, bill of lading, or warehouse receipt), quality, condition, and date.

(c) Evaluations of intangibles shall include a review and description of the documents supporting the property interests and the marketability of the intangible property, including applicable terms, conditions, and restrictions contained in the document that would affect the value of the property.

(d) Where an evaluation of personal or intangible property is completed by a fee appraiser, as defined in §614.4240(g), the institution's standards shall include provisions for periodic collateral inspections and verification by the institution's account officer or appropriate designee.

(e) When a Farm Credit System institution deems an appraisal necessary, personal or intangible property shall be appraised in accordance with procedures and standards established by the

institution by individuals deemed qualified by the institution to complete the work under the USPAP Competency and Ethics Provisions.

[59 FR 46730, Sept. 12, 1994, as amended at 59 FR 50964, Oct. 6, 1994]

§614.4267 Professional association membership; competency.

(a) *Membership in appraisal organizations.* A State certified appraiser or a State licensed appraiser may not be excluded from consideration for an assignment for a real estate-related transaction solely by virtue of membership or lack of membership in any particular appraisal organization.

(b) *Competency.* All staff and fee evaluators, including appraisers, performing evaluations in connection with real, personal, or intangible property taken as collateral in connection with extensions of credit must meet the qualification requirements of this subpart. However, an evaluator (as defined in §614.4240(n)) may not be considered competent solely by virtue of being certified, licensed, or accredited. Any determination of competency shall be based on the individual's experience and educational background as they relate to the particular evaluation assignment for which such individual is being considered.

Subpart G [Reserved]

Subpart H—Loan Purchases and Sales

SOURCE: 57 FR 38247, Aug. 24, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

§614.4325 Purchase and sale of interests in loans.

(a) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this subpart, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) *Interests in loans* means ownership interests in the principal amount, interest payments, or any aspect of a loan transaction and transactions involving a pool of loans, including servicing rights.

(2) *Lead lender* means a lending institution having a direct contractual relationship with a borrower to advance

funds, which institution sells or assigns an interest or interests in such loan to one or more other lenders.

(3) *Loan* means any extension of credit or similar financial assistance of the type authorized under the Act, such as guarantees, letters of credit, and other similar transactions.

(4) *Loan participation* means a fractional undivided interest in the principal amount of a loan that is sold by a lead lender to a participating institution in accordance with the requirements of § 614.4330 of this subpart. The term “loan participation” does not include a subordinated participation interest.

(5) *Participating institution* means an institution that purchases a fractional undivided interest in the principal amount of a loan originated by another lender.

(6) *Sale with recourse* means a sale of a loan or an interest in a loan in which the seller:

(i) Retains some risk of loss from the transferred asset for any cause except the seller’s breach of usual and customary warranties or representations designed to protect the purchaser against fraud or misrepresentation; or

(ii) Has an obligation to make payments of principal or interest to any party resulting from:

(A) Default on the payment of principal or interest on the loan by the borrower or guarantor or any other deficiencies in the obligor’s performance;

(B) Changes in the market value of the assets after transfer;

(C) Any contractual relationship between the seller and purchaser incident to the transfer that, by its terms, could continue even after final payment, default, or other termination of the assets transferred; or

(D) Any other cause, except the retention at servicing rights alone shall not constitute recourse.

(7) *Subordinated participation interest* means an interest in a loan that bears the first risk of loss, including the retention of such an interest when a loan is sold to a pooler certified by the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation pursuant to title VIII of the Act, or an interest in a pool of subordinated participation interests purchased to satisfy the requirements of title VIII of

the Act with respect to a loan sold to such a certified pooler.

(b) *Authority to purchase and sell interests in loans.* Loans and interests in loans may only be sold in accordance with each institution’s lending authorities, as set forth in subpart A of this part. No Farm Credit System institution may purchase from an institution that is not a Farm Credit System institution any interest in a loan, except for the purpose of pooling and securitizing such loans under title VIII of the Act, unless such an interest is a participation interest that qualifies under the institution’s lending authority, as set forth in subpart A of this part, and meets the requirements of § 614.4330 of this subpart.

(c) *Policies.* Each Farm Credit System institution that is authorized to sell or purchase interests in loans under subpart A of this part shall exercise that authority in accordance with a policy adopted by its board of directors that addresses the following matters:

(1) The types of purchasers to which the institution is authorized to sell interests in loans;

(2) The types of loans in which the institution may purchase or sell an interest and the types of interests which may be purchased or sold;

(3) The underwriting standards to be applied in the purchase of interests in loans;

(4) Such limitations on the aggregate principal amount of interests in loans that the institution may purchase from a single institution as are necessary to diversify risk, and such limitations on the aggregate amount the institution may purchase from all institutions as are necessary to assure that service to the territory is not impeded;

(5) Provision for the identification and reporting of loans in which interests are sold or purchased;

(6) Requirements for providing and securing in a timely manner adequate credit and other information needed to make an independent credit judgment; and

(7) Any limitations or conditions to which sales or purchases are subject that the board deems appropriate, including arbitration.

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(d) *Purchase and sale agreements.* Agreements to purchase or sell an interest in a loan shall, at a minimum:

(1) Identify the particular loan(s) to be covered by the agreement;

(2) Provide for the transfer of credit and other borrower information on a timely and continuing basis;

(3) Provide for sharing, dividing, or assigning collateral;

(4) Identify the nature of the interest(s) sold or purchased;

(5) Set forth the rights and obligations of the parties and the terms and conditions of the sale; and

(6) Contain any terms necessary for the appropriate administration of the loan and the protection of the interests of the Farm Credit System institution.

(e) *Independent credit judgment.* Each institution that purchases an interest in a loan shall make a judgment on the creditworthiness of the borrower that is independent of the originating or lead lender and any intermediary seller or broker prior to the purchase of the interest and prior to any servicing action that alters the terms of the original agreement, which judgment shall not be delegated to any person(s) not employed by the institution. A Farm Credit System institution that purchases a loan or any interest therein may use information, such as appraisals or collateral inspections, furnished by the originating or lead lender, or any intermediary seller or broker; however, the purchasing Farm Credit System institution shall independently evaluate such information when exercising its independent credit judgment. No employee who performed a real estate appraisal on any collateral supporting a loan shall participate in the decision to purchase that loan. The independent credit judgment shall be documented by a credit analysis that considers factors set forth in the loan underwriting standards adopted pursuant to §614.4150 of this part and is independent of the originating institution and any intermediary seller or broker. The credit analysis shall consider such credit and other borrower information as would be required by a prudent lender and shall include an evaluation of the capacity and reliability of the servicer. Boards of directors of jointly managed institutions shall adopt pro-

cedures to ensure that the interests of their respective shareholders are protected in participation between such institutions.

(f) *Limitations.* The aggregate principal amount of interests in loans purchased from a single lead lender and the aggregate principal amount of interests in loans purchased from other institutions shall not exceed the limits set in the institution's policy.

(g) *Sales with recourse.* When a loan or interest in a loan is sold with recourse, it shall be accorded the following treatment:

(1) The loan shall be considered, to the extent of the recourse, an extension of credit by the purchaser to the seller, as well as an extension of credit from the seller to the borrower(s), for the purpose of determining whether credit extensions to a borrower are within the lending limits established in subpart J of this part.

(2) The amount of the loan subject to the recourse agreement shall be considered a loan sold with recourse for the purpose of computing permanent capital ratios.

(h) *Transactions through agents.* Transactions pertaining to purchases of loans, including the judgement on creditworthiness, may be performed through an agent, provided that:

(1) The institution establishes the necessary criteria in a written agency agreement that outlines, at a minimum, the scope of the agency relationship and obligates the agent to comply with the institution's underwriting standards;

(2) The institution periodically reviews the agency relationship to determine if the agent's actions are in the best interest of the institution;

(3) The agent must be independent of the seller or intermediate broker in the transaction; and

(4) If an association's funding bank serves as its agent, the agency agreement must provide that:

(i) The association can terminate the agreement upon no more than 60 days notice to the bank;

(ii) The association may, in its discretion, require the bank to purchase from the association any interest in a loan that the association determines does not comply with the terms of the

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agency agreement or the association's loan underwriting standards.

[57 FR 38247, Aug. 24, 1992, as amended at 58 FR 40321, July 28, 1993; 62 FR 51015, Sept. 30, 1997; 64 FR 34517, June 28, 1999]

§ 614.4330 Loan participations.

Agreements to purchase or sell a participation interest shall be subject to the provisions of § 614.4325 of this subpart, and, in addition, shall satisfy the requirements of this section.

(a) *Participation agreements.* Agreements to purchase or sell a participation interest in a loan shall, in addition to meeting the requirements of § 614.4325(d) of this subpart, at a minimum:

(1) Define the duties and responsibilities of the participating institution and the lead lender, and/or the servicing institution, if different from the lead lender.

(2) Provide for loan servicing and monitoring of the servicer;

(3) Set forth authorization and conditions for action in the event of borrower distress or default;

(4) Provide for sharing of risk;

(5) Set forth conditions for the offering and acceptance of the loan participation and termination of the agreement;

(6) Provide for sharing of fees, interest charges, and costs between participating institutions;

(7) Provide for a method of resolution of disagreements arising under the agreement between two or more institutions;

(8) Specify whether the contract is assignable by either party; and

(9) Provide for the issuance of certificates evidencing an undivided interest in a loan.

(b) *Retention requirement.* No participation interest may be purchased from an institution that is not a Farm Credit System institution unless the servicing institution has an ownership interest in the principal amount equal to the lesser of 10 percent of the principal amount or such lesser amount as represents the servicing institution's lending limit, which ownership interest cannot be assigned separately from the servicing rights.

(c) *Intrasystem participations.* Loans participated between or among Farm

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Credit System institutions shall meet the borrower eligibility, membership, loan term, loan amount, loan security, and stock purchase requirements of the originating lender.

§ 614.4335 Borrower stock requirements.

(a) *In general.* Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, a borrower shall meet the minimum borrower stock purchase requirements as a condition of obtaining a loan.

(b) *Loans designated for sale into a secondary market.* (1) An institution's bylaws may provide that the institution's minimum borrower stock purchase requirements do not apply if a loan is designated, at the time it is made, for sale into a secondary market.

(2) If a loan designated for sale under paragraph (b)(1) of this section is not sold into a secondary market during the 180-day period that begins on the date of designation, the institution's minimum borrower stock purchase requirements shall apply.

(c) *Retirement of borrower stock.* (1) *In general.* Borrower stock may be retired only if the institution meets the minimum permanent capital requirements imposed by the FCA pursuant to the Act or regulations and, except as provided in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, in accordance with the following:

(i) Borrower stock may be retired if the entire loan is sold without recourse, provided that when the loan is sold without recourse to another Farm Credit System institution, the borrower may elect to hold stock in either the selling or purchasing institution.

(ii) Borrower stock may not be retired when the entire loan is sold with recourse.

(iii) When an interest in a loan is sold without recourse, a proportionate amount of borrower stock may be retired, but in no event may stock be retired below the institution's minimum stock purchase requirements for the interest retained.

(iv) If an institution repurchases a loan on which the stock has been retired, the borrower shall be required to repurchase stock in the amount of the minimum stock purchase requirement.

(2) *Loans sold into a secondary market.* An institution's bylaws may provide

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that all outstanding voting stock held by a borrower with respect to a loan shall be retired when the loan is sold into a secondary market.

(d) *Applicability.* In the case of a loan sold into a secondary market under title VIII of the Act, paragraphs (b)(1) and (c)(2) of this section apply regardless of whether the institution retains a subordinated participation interest in a loan or pool of loans or contributes to a cash reserve.

[62 FR 63646, Dec. 2, 1997]

§614.4336 Borrower rights in connection with loan sales.

(a) *Loan sales to Farm Credit System institutions.* Loans made by qualified lenders (as defined in section 4.14A(a)(6) of the Act) and interests in such loans that are sold to other qualified lenders are subject to the borrower rights provisions of title IV of the Act.

(b) *Loans designated for sale into a secondary market.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, the borrower rights provisions of sections 4.14, 4.14A, 4.14B, 4.14C, 4.14D, and 4.36 of the Act do not apply to a loan made on or after February 10, 1996, that is designated for sale into a secondary market at the time it is made.

(2) If a loan designated for sale under paragraph (b)(1) of this section is not sold into a secondary market during the 180-day period that begins on the date of designation, the borrower rights provisions specified as inapplicable pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this section shall apply, PROVIDED THAT if the loan is subsequently sold into a secondary market, the borrower rights specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section become inapplicable beginning on the date of the subsequent sale.

(c) *Other loan sales.* (1) Except for loans sold to another Farm Credit institution or designated for sale into a secondary market, a qualified lender must comply with one of the following two requirements before selling a loan or interest in a loan that is subject to the borrower rights provisions of title IV of the Act:

(i) Include provisions in the contract with the borrower, or a written modification thereto, that ensure that the purchaser of the loan will be obligated to accord the borrower the same rights

qualified lenders must provide under the Act; or

(ii) Obtain from the borrower a signed written consent to the sale that explicitly states that the borrower relinquishes the statutory borrower rights. The consent to the loan sale and the relinquishment of the borrower rights shall have no effect until the loan is actually sold and shall be ineffective in the event that the lender or any other Farm Credit System institution repurchases the loan or any interest therein.

(2) Before obtaining the borrower's consent to the sale of the loan and the relinquishment of borrower rights pursuant to paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section, the lending institution shall disclose in writing to the borrower:

(i) A full and complete description of the statutory rights that the borrower is asked to relinquish;

(ii) Any changes in the loan terms or conditions that will occur if the loan is not sold; and

(iii) The fact that the relinquishment of the statutory borrower rights will not become effective unless the loan is actually sold and shall become ineffective in the event that the lender or any other Farm Credit System institution repurchases the loan or any interest therein.

(3) The making of a loan may not be conditioned on the borrower's consent to its sale and relinquishment of statutory borrower rights.

[62 FR 63647, Dec. 2, 1997]

§614.4337 Disclosure to borrowers.

When a loan or an interest in a loan other than a participation interest is sold with servicing rights, the disclosure shall be made to the borrower in accordance with this section:

(a) The selling institution shall disclose to the borrower at least 10 days prior to the borrower's next payment date;

(1) The name, address, and telephone number of the purchasing institution;

(2) The name and address of the party to whom payment is to be made;

(3) A description of the impact of the sale on statutory borrower rights after the sale;

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(4) Any terms in the agreement that would permit a purchaser to change the terms or conditions of the loan.

(b) A Farm Credit System institution that purchases a loan or a non-participation interest therein shall not take any servicing action that adversely affects the borrower until it ensures that disclosure has been made to the borrower of:

(1) The name, address, and telephone number of the purchasing institution; and

(2) The address where the payment should be sent.

Subpart I—Loss-Sharing Agreements

§ 614.4340 General.

(a) Upon the approval of the board of directors of the respective Farm Credit System institutions, any System bank, association, or service corporation or service association may enter into an agreement to share loan and other losses with any other institution(s) of the System. As appropriate, a loss-sharing agreement may contain provisions relating to definitions of terms, terms and conditions for activation, determinations of assessment formulas, limitations on assessments, reimbursements, administration, arbitration, and provisions for amendment and termination.

(b) System institutions may agree among themselves to share losses for the purpose of protecting against the impairment of capital stock or participation certificates, or for any other purpose. Agreements may provide for sharing losses that arise in the future or that were recognized by one or more of the signatory institutions before the date of the agreement. Agreements may contain provisions that are not entirely reciprocal among the signatories to the agreement. Loss-sharing agreements can provide for the sharing of loan losses, operating losses, casualty losses, losses on high risk assets, or any other losses.

[49 FR 48910, Dec. 17, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 1151, Jan. 12, 1989; 54 FR 50736, Dec. 11, 1989]

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§ 614.4341 Financial assistance.

No institution shall reverse any financial assistance provided under the 37-Bank Capital Preservation Agreement, or any other capital preservation/loss-sharing program that was received or accrued prior to July 1, 1986.

[53 FR 3191, Feb. 4, 1988]

§ 614.4345 Guaranty agreements.

Guaranty agreements under which a percentage of the risk associated with specific loans is assumed may be entered into by or among System banks and associations.

[49 FR 48910, Dec. 17, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 1151, Jan. 12, 1989; 54 FR 50736, Dec. 11, 1989]

Subpart J—Lending and Leasing Limits

SOURCE: 58 FR 40321, July 28, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

§ 614.4350 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Borrower* means an individual, partnership, joint venture, trust, corporation, or other business entity to which an institution has made a loan or a commitment to make a loan either directly or indirectly. Excluded are a Farm Credit System association or other financing institution that comply with the criteria in section 1.7(b) of the Act and the regulations in subpart P of this part. For the purposes of this subpart, the term “borrower” includes any customer to whom an institution has made a lease or a commitment to make a lease.

(b) *Commitment* means a legally binding obligation to extend credit, enter into lease financing, purchase or participate in loans or leases, or pay the obligation of another, which becomes effective at the time such commitment is made.

(c) *Loan* means any extension of, or commitment to extend, credit authorized under the Act whether it results from direct negotiations between a lender and a borrower or is purchased from or discounted for another lender. This includes participation interests.

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The term “loan” includes loans and leases outstanding, obligated but undisbursed commitments to lend or lease, contracts of sale, notes receivable, other similar obligations, guarantees, and all types of leases. An institution “makes a loan or lease” when it enters into a commitment to lend or lease, advances new funds, substitutes a different borrower or lessee for a borrower or lessee who is released, or where any other person’s liability is added to the outstanding loan, lease or commitment.

(d) *Primary liability* means an obligation to repay that is not conditioned upon an unsuccessful prior demand on another party.

(e) *Secondary liability* means an obligation to repay that only arises after an unsuccessful demand on another party.

[58 FR 40321, July 28, 1993, as amended at 64 FR 34517, June 28, 1999]

§614.4351 Computation of lending and leasing limit base.

(a) *Lending and leasing limit base.* An institution’s lending and leasing limit base is composed of the permanent capital of the institution, as defined in §615.5201(l) of this chapter, with adjustments provided for in §615.5210(d), (e)(1), (e)(2), (e)(3), (e)(4), and (e)(6) of this chapter, and with the following further adjustments:

(1) Where one institution invests in another institution in connection with the sale of a loan participation interest, the amount of investment in the institution purchasing this participation interest that is owned by the institution originating the loan shall be counted in the lending and leasing limit base of the originating institution and shall not be counted in the lending and leasing limit base of the purchasing institution.

(2) Stock protected under section 4.9A of the Act may be included in the lending and leasing limit base until January 1, 1998.

(b) *Timing of calculation.* The lending limit base will be calculated on a monthly basis as of the preceding month end.

[58 FR 40321, July 28, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 37403, July 22, 1994; 64 FR 34517, June 28, 1999]

§614.4352 Farm Credit Banks and agricultural credit banks.

(a) *Farm Credit Banks.* No Farm Credit Bank may make or discount a loan to a borrower, if the consolidated amount of all loans outstanding and undisbursed commitments to that borrower exceed 25 percent of the bank’s lending and leasing limit base.

(b) *Agricultural credit banks.* (1) No agricultural credit bank may make or discount a loan to a borrower under the authority of title I of the Act, if the consolidated amount of all loans outstanding and undisbursed commitments to that borrower exceeds 25 percent of the bank’s lending and leasing limit base.

(2) No agricultural credit bank may make or discount a loan to a borrower under the authority of title III of the Act, if the consolidated amount of all loans outstanding and undisbursed commitments to that borrower exceeds the lending and leasing limits prescribed in §614.4355 of this subpart.

[58 FR 40321, July 28, 1993, as amended at 64 FR 34517, June 28, 1999]

§614.4353 Direct lender associations.

No association may make a loan to a borrower, if the consolidated amount of all loans outstanding and undisbursed commitments to that borrower exceeds 25 percent of the association’s lending and leasing limit base.

[58 FR 40321, July 28, 1999, as amended at 64 FR 34517, June 28, 1999]

§614.4354 Federal land bank associations.

No Federal land bank association may assume endorsement liability on any loan if the total amount of the association’s endorsement liability on loans outstanding and undisbursed commitments to that borrower would exceed 25 percent of the association’s lending and leasing limit base.

[58 FR 40321, July 28, 1999, as amended at 64 FR 34517, June 28, 1999]

§614.4355 Banks for cooperatives.

No bank for cooperatives may make a loan if the consolidated amount of all loans outstanding and undisbursed commitments to that borrower exceeds

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the following percentages of the lending and leasing limit base of the bank:

(a) *Basic limit.* (1) Term loans to eligible cooperatives: 25 percent.

(2) Term loans to foreign and domestic parties: 10 percent.

(3) Lease loans qualifying under § 614.4020(a)(3) and applying to the lessee: 25 percent.

(4) Standby letters of credit qualifying under § 614.4810: 35 percent.

(5) Guarantees qualifying under § 614.4800: 35 percent.

(6) Seasonal loans exclusive of commodity loans qualifying under § 614.4231: 35 percent.

(7) Foreign trade receivables qualifying under § 614.4700: 50 percent.

(8) Bankers' acceptances held qualifying under § 614.4710 and commodity loans qualifying under § 614.4231: 50 percent.

(9) Export and import letters of credit qualifying under § 614.4321: 50 percent.

(b) *Total limit.* (1) The sum of term and seasonal loans exclusive of commodity loans qualifying under § 614.4231: 35 percent.

(2) The sum of paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(9) of this section: 50 percent.

[58 FR 40321, July 28, 1993, as amended at 62 FR 51015, Sept. 30, 1997; 64 FR 34517, June 28, 1999]

§ 614.4356 Farm Credit Leasing Services Corporation.

The Farm Credit Leasing Services Corporation may enter into a lease agreement with a lessee if the consolidated amount of all leases and undisbursed commitments to that lessee or any related entities does not exceed 25 percent of its lending and leasing limit base.

[64 FR 34517, June 28, 1999]

§ 614.4357 Banks for cooperatives look-through notes.

Where a bank for cooperatives makes a loan to an eligible borrower that is secured by notes of individuals or business entities, the basic lending limits provided in § 614.4355 may be applied to each original notemaker rather than to the loan to the eligible borrower, if:

(a) Each note is current and carries a full recourse endorsement or unconditional guarantee by the borrower;

(b) The bank determines the financial condition, repayment capacity, and other credit factors of the loan to the original maker reasonably justify the credit granted by the endorser; and

(c) The loans are fully supported by documented loan files, which include, at a minimum:

(1) A credit report supporting the bank's finding that the financial condition, repayment capacity, and other factors of the maker of the notes being pledged justify the credit extended by the bank and/or endorser;

(2) A certification by a bank officer designated for that purpose by the loan or executive committee that the financial responsibility of the original notemaker has been evaluated by the loan committee and the bank is relying primarily on each such maker for the payment of the obligation; and

(3) Other credit information normally required of a borrower when making and administering a loan.

[58 FR 40321, July 28, 1993. Redesignated at 64 FR 34517, June 28, 1999]

§ 614.4358 Computation of obligations.

(a) *Inclusions.* The computation of total loans to each borrower for the purpose of computing their lending and leasing limit shall include:

(1) The total unpaid principal of all loans and lease balances outstanding and the total amount of undisbursed commitments except as excluded by paragraph (b) of this section. This amount shall include loans that have been charged off on the books of the institution in whole or in part but have not been collected, except to the extent that such amounts are not legally collectible;

(2) Purchased interests in loans, including participation interests, to the extent of the amount of the purchased interest, including any undisbursed commitment;

(3) Loans attributed to a borrower in accordance with § 614.4359.

(b) *Exclusions.* The following loans when adequately documented in the loan file, may be excluded from loans to a borrower subject to the lending and leasing limit:

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(1) Any loan or portion of a loan that carries a full faith and credit performance guaranty or surety of any department, agency, bureau, board, commission, or establishment of the United States government, provided there is no evidence to suggest that the guaranty has become unenforceable and the institution can demonstrate that it is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the guaranty.

(2) Any loan or portion of a loan guaranteed by a Farm Credit System institution, pursuant to the provisions of §614.4345 on guaranty agreements. This exclusion does not apply to the institution providing the guaranty.

(3) Any loan or portion of a loan that is secured by bonds, notes, certificates of indebtedness, or Treasury bills of the United States or by other obligations guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States government, provided the loans are fully secured by the current market value of such obligations. If the market value of the collateral declines to below the balance of the loan, and the entire loan, individually, or when combined with other loans and undisbursed commitments to or attributed to the borrower, causes the borrower's total indebtedness to exceed the institution's lending limit, the institution shall have 5 business days to bring the loan into conformance before it shall be deemed to be in violation of the lending limit.

(4) Interests in loans sold, including participation interests, when the sale agreement meets the following requirements:

(i) The interest sold must be an undivided interest in the principal amount of the loan and in the collateral securing the loan; and

(ii) The interest must be sold without recourse; and

(iii) The agreement under which the interest is sold must provide for the sharing of all payments of principal, collection expenses, collateral proceeds, and risk of loss on a pro rata basis according to the percentage interest in the principal amount of the loan. Agreements that provide for the pro rata sharing to commence at the time of default or similar event, as defined in the agreement under which the

interest is sold, shall be considered to be pro rata agreements, notwithstanding the fact that advances are made and payments are distributed on a basis other than pro rata prior to that time.

(5) Interests in leases sold when the sale agreement provides that:

(i) The interest sold must be:

(A) An undivided interest in all the lease payments or the residual value of all the leased property; or

(B) A fractional undivided interest in the total lease transaction;

(ii) The interest must be sold without recourse; and

(iii) Sharing of all lease payments must be on a pro rata basis according to the percentage interest in the lease payments.

(6) Loans sold in their entirety to a pooler certified by the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, if an interest in a pool of subordinated participation interests is purchased to satisfy the requirements of title VIII of the Act.

[58 FR 40321, July 28, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 64 FR 34517, June 28, 1999]

§614.4359 Attribution rules.

(a) For the purpose of applying the lending and leasing limit to the indebtedness of a borrower, loans to a related borrower shall be combined with loans outstanding to the borrower and attributed to the borrower when any one of the following three conditions exist:

(1) *Liability.* (i) The borrower has primary or secondary liability on a loan made to the related borrower. The amount of such loan attributable to the borrower is limited to the amount of the borrower's liability.

(ii) This section does not require attribution of a guarantee taken out of an abundance of caution. To qualify for the abundance of caution exception to the requirements of this subpart, the institution must document in the loan file that the loan, when evaluated under the loan underwriting standards adopted pursuant to §614.4150 of this part without considering the guarantee, would support the credit decision under the same basic terms and conditions.

(iii) For the banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks operating

under title III authorities of the Act, look-through notes are exempt from the lending limit provisions provided they meet the criteria of § 614.4357.

(2) *Financial interdependence.* The operations of a borrower and related borrower are financially interdependent. Financial interdependence exists if the borrower is the primary source of repayment for a related borrower's loan, or if the operations of the borrower and the related borrower are commingled.

(i) The borrower shall be considered the primary source of repayment on the loan to the related borrower if the borrower is obligated to supply 50 percent or more of the related borrower's annual gross receipts, *and* reliance on the income from one another is such that, regardless of the solvency and liquidity of the borrower's operations, the debt service obligation of the related borrower could not be met if income flow from the borrower is interrupted or terminated. For the purpose of this paragraph, gross receipts include, but are not limited to, revenues, intercompany loans, dividends and capital contributions.

(ii) The assets or operations of the borrower and related borrower are considered to be commingled if they cannot be separated without materially impacting the economic survival of the individual operations and their ability to repay their loans.

(3) *Control.* The borrower directly or indirectly controls the related borrower. A borrower is deemed to control a related borrower if either paragraph (a)(3)(i) or (a)(3)(ii) of this section exist:

(i) The borrower, directly or acting through one or more other persons, owns 50 percent or more of the stock of the related borrower; or

(ii) The borrower, directly or acting through one or more other persons, owns or has the power to vote 25 percent or more of the voting stock of a related borrower, and meets at least one of the following three conditions:

(A) The borrower shares a common directorate or management with a related borrower. A common directorate is deemed to exist when a majority of the directors, trustees, or other persons performing similar functions of one borrower also serves the other borrower in a like capacity. A common management is deemed to exist if any employee of the borrower holds the position of chief executive officer, chief operating officer, chief financial officer, or an equivalent position in the related borrower's organization.

(B) The borrower controls in any manner the election of a majority of directors of a related borrower.

(C) The borrower exercises or has the power to exercise a controlling influence over management of a related borrower's operations through the provisions of management placement or marketing agreements, or providing services such as insurance carrier or bookkeeping.

(b) Each institution shall make provisions for appropriately designating loans to a related borrower that are combined with the borrower's loan and attributed to the borrower to ensure that loans to the borrower are within the lending and leasing limits.

(c) *Attribution rules table.* For the purposes of applying the lending and leasing limit to the indebtedness of a borrower, loans to a related borrower shall be combined with loans outstanding to the borrower and attributed to the borrower when any one of three attribution rules are met as outlined in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Attribution rule	Criteria per § 614.4359	Attribute
(A) Liability	Borrower has primary or secondary liability	Yes.*
to the extent of the borrower's liability.	Borrower's liability is taken out of an abundance of caution	No.
(B) Financial Interdependence	Look-through notes (BC only)	No.
(Economic survival of the borrower's operation will materially impact economic survival of the related borrowers operation).	Source of Repayment: Borrower is obligated to supply 50 percent or more of related borrower's annual gross receipts, <i>and</i> reliance on the income from one another is such that the debt service of the related borrower could not be met if income flow from the borrower is interrupted or terminated. Commingled Operations:	Yes.

TABLE 1—Continued

Attribution rule	Criteria per §614.4359	Attribute
	Assets or operations of the borrowers are commingled and cannot be separated without materially impacting the borrowers' repayment capacity	Yes.
(C) Control	The borrower owns 50 percent or more of the stock of the related borrower.	Yes.
(The borrower, directly or indirectly, controls the related borrower).	The borrower owns or has the power to vote 25 percent or more of the voting stock of a related borrower, and (1) Shares a common directorate or management with a related borrower, or (2) Controls the election of a majority of directors of a related borrower, or (3) Exercises a controlling influence over management of a related borrower's operations through the provisions of management placement or marketing agreements, or providing services such as insurance carrier or bookkeeping.	Yes.

[58 FR 40321, July 28, 1993, as amended at 62 FR 51015, Sept. 30, 1997. Redesignated and amended at 64 FR 34517, June 28, 1999]

§614.4360 Lending and leasing limit violations.

(a) Each loan, except loans that are grandfathered under the provisions of §614.4361, shall be in compliance with the lending and leasing limit on the date the loan is made, and at all times thereafter. Except as provided for in paragraph (b) of this section, loans which are in violation of the lending and leasing limit shall comply with the provisions of §615.5090 of this chapter.

(b) Under the following conditions a loan that violates the lending and leasing limit shall be exempt from the provisions of §615.5090 of this chapter:

(1) A loan in which the total amount of principal outstanding and undisbursed commitments exceed the lending and leasing limit because of a decline in permanent capital after the loan was made.

(2) Loans on which funds are advanced pursuant to a commitment that was within the lending and leasing limit at the time the commitment was made, even if the lending and leasing limit subsequently declines.

(3) A loan that exceeds the lending and leasing limit as a result of the consolidation of the debt of two or more borrowers as a consequence of a merger or the acquisition of one borrower's operations by another borrower. Such a loan may be extended or renewed, for a period not to exceed 1 year from the date of such merger or acquisition, during which period the institution may

advance and/or readvance funds not to exceed the greater of:

- (i) 110 percent of the advances to the borrower in the prior calendar year; or
- (ii) 110 percent of the average of the advances to the borrower in the past 3 calendar years.

(c) For all lending and leasing limit violations except those exempted under §614.4360(b)(3), within 90 days of the identification of the violation, the institution must develop a written plan prescribing the specific actions that will be taken by the institution to bring the total amount of loans and commitments outstanding or attributed to that borrower within the new lending and leasing limit, and must document the plan in the loan file.

(d) All leases, except those permitted under §614.4361, reading "effective date of this subpart" in §614.4361(a) and "effective date of these regulations" in §614.4361(b) as "effective date of this amendment," must comply with the lending and leasing limit on the date the lease is made, and at all times after that.

(e) Nothing in this section limits the authority of the FCA to take administrative action, including, but not limited to, monetary penalties, as a result of lending and leasing limit violations.

[58 FR 40321, July 28, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 64 FR 34517, June 28, 1999]

§614.4361 Transition.

(a) A loan (not including a commitment) made or attributed to a borrower prior to the effective date of this subpart, which does not comply with the

limits contained in this subpart, will not be considered a violation of the lending and leasing limits during the existing contract terms of such loans. A new loan must conform with the rules set forth in this subpart. A new loan includes but is not limited to:

(1) Funds advanced in excess of existing commitment;

(2) A different borrower is substituted for a borrower who is subsequently released; or

(3) An additional person becomes an obligor on the loan.

(b) A commitment made prior to the effective date of these regulations which exceeds the lending and leasing limit may be funded to the full extent of the legal commitment. Any advances that exceed the lending and leasing limit are subject to the provisions prescribed in § 614.4360.

[58 FR 40321, July 28, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 64 FR 34517, 34518, June 28, 1999]

Subpart K—Disclosure of Loan Information

SOURCE: 53 FR 35451, Sept. 14, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 614.4365 Applicability.

This subpart applies only to loans from qualified lenders if the loans are not subject to the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*).

§ 614.4366 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Adjustable rate loan* means a loan on which the interest rate payable over the term of the loan may be changed by a qualified lender. The term includes loans which are titled *adjustable rate* or *variable rate* or any other similar designation.

(b) *Effective interest rate* means the interest rate applicable to the loan at a point in time, adjusted to take into consideration the amount of any stock or participation certificates which the borrower must purchase pursuant to bylaw, policy or regulation in order to obtain the loan, and any loan origination charges.

(c) *Fixed rate loan* means any loan on which the interest rate is not subject

to adjustment or variation over the term of the loan, even though the effective interest rate on the loan may be so subject.

(d) *Interest rate* means the stated contract rate of interest applicable to the loan at a point in time, excluding any charges payable by the borrower in obtaining the loan.

(e) *Loan* means a loan made to a farmer, rancher, or producer or harvester of aquatic products, for any agricultural or aquatic purpose and other credit needs of the borrower, including financing for basic processing and marketing directly related to the borrower's operations and those of other eligible farmers, ranchers, and producers or harvesters of aquatic products.

(f) *Loan origination charges* mean initial one-time transaction charges or fees, which may or may not be computed as a percentage of the transaction amount, and which are imposed on a borrower by a qualified lender to obtain a loan, but do not include charges imposed by someone other than the lender for services that are not required by the lender.

(g) *Qualified lender* means:

(1) A System institution that makes loans (as defined in paragraph (e) of this section) except a bank for cooperatives; and

(2) Each bank, institution, corporation, company, union, and association described in section 1.7(b)(1)(B) of the Act but only with respect to loans discounted or pledged under section 1.7(b)(1) of the Act.

(h) *Standard adjustments factors* means those financial elements, including but not limited to, a qualified lender's cost of funds, operating expenses, provision for loan losses, and changes in retained earnings, which are typically taken into consideration by a qualified lender in adjusting the interest rate on loans.

§ 614.4367 Required disclosures—in general.

(a) Each qualified lender shall furnish the following information in writing to a prospective borrower not later than the time of the loan closing:

(1) The current rate of interest on the loan;

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(2) In the case of an adjustable rate loan:

(i) The amount and frequency by which the interest rate can be adjusted during the term of the loan or, if there are no limitations on the amount or frequency of such adjustments, a statement to that effect; and

(ii) An identification of the specific standard adjustment factors that are taken into account in making adjustments to the interest rate on the loan;

(3) The current effective interest rate on the loan with one or more representative examples of the impact of stock or participation certificate ownership and applicable loan origination charges on the current interest rate computed on an annualized basis;

(4) A statement indicating that stock that is purchased is at risk;

(5) A statement indicating the various types of loan options available to borrowers, with an explanation of the terms and borrower's rights that apply to each type of loan.

(b) Each qualified lender that adjusts the interest rate on an outstanding loan shall furnish the following information in writing to the borrower:

(1) The new interest rate on the loan;

(2) The date on which the new rate is effective; and

(3) A statement of any factors other than standard adjustment factors which were taken into account in establishing the new interest rate. The notice required by this paragraph shall be made not later than 10 days after the effective date of a change in the interest rate. However, if the interest rate is directly tied to an external index that is widely publicized, the notice of change must be made promptly but not later than 30 days after the change in interest rate.

(c) Each qualified lender that takes any action which changes the amount of stock or participation certificates which borrowers are required to own and that modifies the effective interest rate on a loan shall furnish the following information in writing to the borrower at least 10 days before the date on which such action takes effect:

(1) The impact on the effective interest rate by disclosing the new effective

interest rate or by a representative example;

(2) The date on which the new rate is effective; and

(3) A statement of the action(s) taken by the qualified lender that have resulted in the new effective interest rate.

(d) In the case of a loan involving more than one primary obligor, the requirements of paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section will be satisfied by providing the disclosure to any one of such parties.

[53 FR 35451, Sept. 14, 1988, as amended at 63 FR 63647, Dec. 2, 1997]

APPENDIX TO 12 CFR 614.4367—REQUIRED DISCLOSURE

MODEL DISCLOSURE FORMS

GENERAL

The following are model disclosure forms which qualified lenders may use to satisfy the notification requirements of section 4.13(a) of the Act and of 12 CFR 614.4367. The forms have been developed in order to give qualified lenders an idea of the type and extent of information that should be contained therein. Qualified lenders are not required to follow the format of the sample forms. Qualified lenders may develop and use other forms provided the statements contain comparable disclosures in clear, understandable English and otherwise meet the requirements of the Act and regulations.

Form 1

This loan is *NOT* subject to the Truth in Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. 1601, *et seq.* The following disclosure is made in accordance with section 4.13(a) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 2199.

INTEREST RATE DISCLOSURE

Date:

Lender:

(Name)

Borrower:

(Name)

STATED INTEREST RATE

The rate of interest currently applicable to your loan

(Percentage)

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EFFECTIVE INTEREST RATE¹

The stated rate of interest adjusted to take into account loan origination charges and purchase of stock

(Percentage)

Check Applicable Box

This is a **FIXED RATE LOAN**—the stated rate of interest is not subject to change during the life of the loan.

This is an **ADJUSTABLE RATE LOAN**—the stated rate of interest is subject to change during the life of the loan.

If an Adjustable Rate Loan—

The interest rate on the loan may be changed (*Period*).

The interest rate may be changed a maximum $\pm$ (*Percentage*).

You will be notified 10 days prior to any increase in the effective rate or simultaneously with any decrease in the effective rate.

The Standard Adjustment Factor(s) which the institution takes into account in making adjustments to the interest rate is (are) (*list the factors*).

The Standard Adjustment Factors may or may not be changed during the life of the loan.

Except with respect to eligible borrower stock under section 4.9A of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, stock that is purchased in this institution is at risk.

See your contract documents for further information on loan terms and conditions.

Should you have any questions concerning the information contained in this form please contact us at (*Telephone Number*).

Form 2

This loan is not subject to the Truth in Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. 1601, *et seq.* The following disclosure is made in accordance with section 4.13(a) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 2199.

DISCLOSURE OF A CHANGE IN THE EFFECTIVE INTEREST RATE

Date:

Lender:

(Name)

Borrower:

(Name)

This is to inform you that on (*loan and loan number*),

¹This is a projection subject to change should particular loan provisions be modified during the term of the loan, such as the amount of stock or participation certificates held or the timing of repayment. For example, if the amount of stock or participation certificates held is increased to _____, the effective interest rate will be _____.

The effective rate of interest will be adjusted effective (*Date*).

The effective rate of interest on your loan is changed to (*Percentage*) from (*Percentage*). This change resulted from a:

1. Change in the amount of stock borrowers are required to hold in the lender to (*Percentage*) from (*Percentage*).

2. Change in the stated rate of interest on your loan effective (*Date*).

The stated rate of interest on your loan changed to (*Percentage*) from (*Percentage*).

The change was computed based on the:

Standard adjustment factors—factors mentioned on the initial interest rate disclosure.

Other—describe.

3. Change for other reasons—describe.

Should you have any questions concerning the information contained herein, please contact us at (*Telephone Number*).

[53 FR 35451, Sept. 14, 1988, as amended at 54 FR 1153, Jan. 12, 1989; 54 FR 50736, Dec. 11, 1989; 61 FR 11304, Mar. 20, 1996]

§ 614.4368 Disclosure of differential interest rates.

(a) A qualified lender offering more than one rate of interest to borrowers shall, at the request of a borrower:

(1) Provide a review of the loan to determine if the proper interest rate has been established;

(2) Explain to the borrower in writing the basis for the interest rate charged; and

(3) Explain to the borrower in writing how the credit status of the borrower may be improved to receive a lower interest rate on the loan.

(b) A qualified lender offering more than one rate of interest as described in paragraph (a) of this section, shall notify prospective borrowers not later than the time of loan closing of their right to request a review under paragraph (a) of this section.

Subpart L—Actions on Applications; Review of Credit Decisions

SOURCE: 53 FR 35452, Sept. 14, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 614.4440 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Adverse credit decision* means a decision to deny the credit applied for, or

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approve an extension of credit in an amount less than the amount applied for; to deny an application for restructuring;

(b) *Applicant* means any person who completes and executes a formal application for an extension of credit from a qualified lender, or a borrower who completes an application for restructuring;

(c) *Application for restructuring* means a written request—

(1) From a borrower for the restructuring of a distressed loan in accordance with a preliminary restructuring plan proposed by the borrower as a part of the application;

(2) Submitted on the appropriate forms prescribed by the qualified lender; and

(3) Accompanied by sufficient financial information and repayment projections, where appropriate, as required by the qualified lender to support a sound credit decision.

(d) *Application for a loan or loan application* means a formal application for an extension of credit from a qualified lender;

(e) *Distressed loan* means a loan for which the borrower does not have the financial capacity, as determined by the lender, to pay according to its terms and which exhibits one or more of the following characteristics:

(1) The borrower is demonstrating adverse financial and repayment trends;

(2) The loan is delinquent or past due under the terms of the loan contract; and

(3) One or both of the factors listed in paragraphs (e) (1) and (2) of this section, together with inadequate collateralization, present a high probability of loss to the lender.

(f) *Independent evaluator*, for the purposes of this subpart, means an individual who is a qualified evaluator and who satisfies the standards established by §614.4260 of subpart F of this part and by the Farm Credit System institution for the type of property to be evaluated. The independent evaluator may not be a Farm Credit System institution employee or have a relationship with the institution or any of its officers or directors that contravenes the provisions of part 612, subpart B of this chapter.

(g) *Loan* means a loan made to a farmer, rancher, or producer or harvester of aquatic products, for any agricultural or aquatic purpose and other credit needs of the borrower, including financing for basic processing and marketing directly related to the borrower's operations and those of other eligible farmers, ranchers, and producers or harvesters of aquatic products.

(h) *Qualified lender* means:

(1) A System institution that makes loans (as defined in paragraph (g) of this section) except a bank for cooperatives; and

(2) Each bank, institution, corporation, company, union, and association described in section 1.7(b)(1)(B) of the Act, but only with respect to loans discounted or pledged under section 1.7(b)(1).

(i) *Restructure and restructuring* means rescheduling, reamortization, renewal, deferral of principal or interest, monetary concessions, or the taking of any other action to modify the terms of, or forbear on, a loan in any way that will make it probable that the operations of the borrower will become financially viable.

[53 FR 35452, Sept. 14, 1988, as amended at 57 FR 54699, Nov. 20, 1992; 57 FR 58860, Dec. 11, 1992; 61 FR 67187, Dec. 20, 1996]

§614.4441 Notice of action on loan application.

Each qualified lender shall render its decision on a loan application in as expeditious a manner as is practicable. Upon reaching a decision on a loan application, the qualified lender shall provide prompt written notice of its decision to the applicant. In the case of a loan application involving more than one primary obligor, the notice may be provided to any one of such parties. Where the qualified lender makes an adverse credit decision on a loan application, the notice shall include:

(a) The specific reasons for the qualified lender's action;

(b) Notification that the applicant can request a review of the decision;

(c) Notification that any request for review must be made in writing within 30 days after the applicant's receipt of the qualified lender's notice; and

(d) A brief explanation of the process for seeking review of the decision, including the appraisal process, whom to contact at the lender for access to the relevant information, and the right to appear before the credit review committee.

§ 614.4442 Credit Review Committee.

The board of directors of each qualified lender shall establish one or more credit review committees to review adverse credit decisions made by the lender with ultimate decision-making authority on the loan. The membership of each committee shall include at least one member from the lender's board. In no case shall a loan officer involved in the adverse credit decision on the loan being reviewed serve on the credit review committee when the committee reviews such loan. The duties of the members of the credit review committee may not be delegated to any other person, except that the credit review committee duties of the board member may be performed from time to time by an alternate designated by the board who shall also be a board member.

§ 614.4443 Review process.

(a) *Personal appearance.* Each applicant or borrower who is entitled to and has requested a review may appear in person before the credit review committee. The applicant or borrower may be accompanied by counsel or by any other representative of such person's choice, to seek a reversal of the decision on the application under review.

(b) *Documentation.* An applicant may submit any documents or other evidence to support the information contained in the unsuccessful loan or restructuring application which the applicant believes will demonstrate that the loan or restructuring applied for is an eligible loan or eligible restructuring plan that satisfies the credit standards of the lender.

(c) *Independent collateral evaluations.* (1) An applicant for a loan that has been denied may, as part of the request for a review, request an independent collateral evaluation by an independent evaluator, as defined in § 614.4440 of this subpart, of any interests in property securing the loan

(other than the stock or participation certificates of the lender held by the borrower).

(2) Within 30 days after a request for a collateral evaluation, the credit review committee shall present the applicant or borrower with a list of three independent evaluators approved by the qualified lender. The borrower shall select and engage the services of an evaluator from the list to perform the collateral evaluation. The collateral evaluation must be completed within a reasonable period of time. The cost of the evaluation shall be borne by the applicant or borrower.

(3) The credit review committee shall consider the results of any such collateral evaluation in any final determination with respect to the loan or restructuring, provided the applicant's or borrower's evaluator has provided a copy of the evaluation report to the lender not less than 15 business days prior to any scheduled meeting of the credit review committee.

(4) Any such collateral evaluations that are not completed in conformance with the collateral evaluation requirements described in subpart F of this part, relative to collateral evaluation standards, independence requirements, and qualification requirements, need not be considered by the credit review committee. To facilitate the proper completion of such collateral evaluations, a copy of part 614, subpart F, shall be provided to the borrower for presentation to the borrower's evaluator, and a copy signed by the borrower's evaluator shall be a required exhibit in the subsequent evaluation report.

(d) *Decision.* The credit review committee shall reach a decision on the application in its sole discretion, and such decision shall be the final decision of the lender. The credit review committee shall make every reasonable effort to conduct reviews and render decisions in as expeditious a manner as possible. Promptly after a review by the credit review committee, the committee shall notify the applicant or borrower in writing of the decision of the committee and the reasons for the decision.

[53 FR 35452, Sept. 14, 1988, as amended at 59 FR 46734, Sept. 12, 1994]

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§614.4444 Records.

A qualified lender shall maintain a complete file of all requests for reviews by the credit review committee, including participation in State mediation programs, and the disposition of each review by the committee. The file shall include minutes of each credit review committee meeting, and sufficient documentation of the basis for each determination not to restructure a loan to permit the institution or the FCA to review each determination.

[53 FR 35452, Sept. 14, 1988, as amended at 61 FR 67187, Dec. 20, 1996]

Subpart M—Loan Approval Requirements

§614.4450 General requirements.

Authority for loan approval is vested in the Farm Credit banks and associations.

[51 FR 41947, Nov. 20, 1986]

§614.4460 Loan approval responsibility.

Approval of the following loans is the responsibility of each district board of directors. The responsibility may be discharged by prior approval of such loans by the appropriate bank board, or establishment of a policy under which the authority to approve such loans is delegated to bank management (except paragraphs (d) and (e) of this section which cannot be delegated to management). If the approval of such loans is to be delegated to bank management, the loans are to be submitted promptly for post review by the bank board and a report disclosing all material facts relating to the credit relationship involved shall be submitted annually by bank management to the district board.

(a) Loans to a member of the Farm Credit Administration Board.

(b) Loans to a member of the district board.

(c) Loans to a cooperative of which a member of a bank board of directors is a member of the board of directors, an officer, or employee.

(d) Loans to the president of a Farm Credit bank.

(e) Loans to employees of the Farm Credit Administration.

(f) Loans where directors, officers or employees designated above:

(1) Are to receive proceeds of the loan in excess of an amount prescribed by an appropriate bank board, or

(2) Are stockholders or owners of equity in a legal entity to which the loan is to be made wherein they have a significant personal or beneficial interest in the loan proceeds thereof or the security, or

(3) Are endorsers, guarantors or co-makers in excess of an amount prescribed by an appropriate bank board.

[38 FR 27837, Oct. 9, 1973, as amended at 39 FR 29585, Aug. 16, 1974. Redesignated at 46 FR 51878, Oct. 22, 1981, and amended at 51 FR 41947, Nov. 20, 1986; 54 FR 1151, Jan. 12, 1989; 54 FR 50736, Dec. 11, 1989; 56 FR 2674, Jan. 24, 1991]

§614.4470 Loans subject to bank approval.

(a) The following loans (unless such loans are of a type prohibited under part 612) shall be subject to prior approval of the bank supervising the association in which the loan application originates:

(1) Loans to a director of the association.

(2) Loans to a director of an association which is under joint management when the application originates in one of the associations.

(3) Loans to an employee of the association.

(4) Loans to an employee of an association which is under joint management when the application originates in one of the associations.

(5) Loans to bank employees when the application originates in one of the associations supervised by the employing bank.

(b) Loans to any borrower shall be subject to the prior approval of the bank supervising the association in which the loan application originates whenever a director or an employee of the association or an employee of the bank supervising the association:

(1) Will receive proceeds of the loan in excess of the amount prescribed by the supervising bank board, or

(2) Has a significant personal or beneficial interest in the loan, the proceeds, or the security, or controls the borrower, or

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(3) Is an endorser, guarantor, or comaker with respect to the loan in excess of an amount prescribed by the supervising bank board.

(c) Any loan which will result in any one borrower being obligated (as defined in subpart J of this part) in excess of an amount established by the supervising bank under its policies for delegation of authority to associations shall be subject to prior approval of the supervising bank.

[47 FR 49832, Nov. 3, 1982, as amended at 58 FR 40324, July 28, 1993; 60 FR 20010, Apr. 24, 1995]

Subpart N—Loan Servicing Requirements; State Agricultural Loan Mediation Programs; Right of First Refusal

§ 614.4510 General.

Direct lenders shall be responsible for the servicing of the loans that they make. However, loan participation agreements may designate specific loan servicing efforts to be accomplished by a participating institution. Each direct lender shall adopt loan servicing policies and procedures to assure that loans will be serviced fairly and equitably for the borrower while minimizing the risk for the lender. Procedures shall include specific plans that help preserve the quality of sound loans and that help correct credit deficiencies as they develop.

(a) The Farm Credit Bank shall provide guidelines for the servicing of loans by the Federal land bank associations. The servicing may be accomplished either under the direct supervision of the bank or under delegated authority.

(b) The servicing of loans which are participated in by Farm Credit System institutions shall be in accordance with § 614.4325.

(c) In the development of loan servicing policies and procedures, the following criteria shall be included:

(1) *Term loans.* The objective shall be to provide borrowers with prompt and efficient service with respect to actions in such areas as personal liability, partial release of security, insurance requirements or adjustments, loan divisions or transfers, or conditional pay-

ments. Procedures shall provide for adequate inspections, reanalyses, reappraisals, controls on payment of insurance and taxes (and for payment when necessary), and prompt exercise of legal options to preserve the lender's collateral position or guard against loss. Loan servicing policies for rural home loans shall recognize the inherent differences between agricultural and rural home lending.

(2) *Operating loans.* The objective shall be to service such loans to assure disbursement in accordance with the basis of approval, repayment from the sources obligated or pledged, and to minimize risk exposure to the lender. Procedures shall require:

(i) The procurement of periodic operating data essential for maintaining control, for the proper analysis of such data, and prompt action as needed;

(ii) Inspections, reappraisals, and borrower visits appropriate to the nature and quality of the loan; and

(iii) Controls on insurance, margin requirements, warehousing, and the prompt exercise of legal options to preserve the lender's collateral position and guard against loss.

(3) *Legal entity loans.* In addition to the foregoing servicing objectives for term and operating loans, procedures for servicing these loans shall require procurement of data on changes in ownership, control, and management; review of business objectives, financing programs, organizational structure, and operating methods, and appropriate analysis of such changes with provision for action as needed.

[37 FR 11424, June 7, 1972, as amended at 40 FR 17745, Apr. 22, 1975. Redesignated at 46 FR 51878, Oct. 22, 1981 and amended at 48 FR 54475, Dec. 5, 1983; 51 FR 39502, Oct. 28, 1986; 57 FR 38250, Aug. 24, 1992; 61 FR 67187, Dec. 20, 1996]

§ 614.4511 Federal land bank association compensation.

Bank financial policies on Federal land bank association compensation are subject to the approval of the bank board. Compensation may be paid to associations in an amount which reflects the value of the services being

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rendered for the bank and other financial policies and objectives. Compensation plans and changes thereto shall be approved by the bank board.

[47 FR 12146, Mar. 22, 1982, as amended at 54 FR 1151, Jan. 12, 1989; 54 FR 50736, Dec. 11, 1989]

§614.4512 Definitions.

For the purposes of this subpart, the following definitions apply:

(a) *Application for restructuring* means a written request—

(1) From a borrower for the restructuring of a distressed loan in accordance with a preliminary restructuring plan proposed by the borrower as a part of the application;

(2) Submitted on the appropriate forms prescribed by the qualified lender; and

(3) Accompanied by sufficient financial information and repayment projections, where appropriate, as required by the qualified lender to support a sound credit decision.

(b) *Certified lender* means a qualified lender that has been certified for financial assistance under section 6.4 of the Act.

(c) *Cost of foreclosure* means:

(1) The difference between the outstanding balance due as provided by the loan documents on a loan made by a qualified lender and the liquidation value of the loan, taking into consideration the borrower's repayment capacity and the liquidation value of the collateral used to secure the loan;

(2) The estimated cost of maintaining a loan classified as a high-risk asset;

(3) The estimated cost of administrative and legal actions necessary to foreclose a loan and dispose of property acquired as the result of the foreclosure, including attorneys' fees and court costs;

(4) The estimated cost of changes in the value of collateral used to secure a loan during the period beginning on the date of the initiation of an action to foreclose or liquidate the loan and ending on the date of the disposition of the collateral; and

(5) All other costs incurred as the result of the foreclosure or liquidation of a loan.

(d) *Distressed loan* means a loan for which the borrower does not have the

financial capacity, as determined by the lender, to pay according to its terms and which exhibits one or more of the following characteristics:

(1) The borrower is demonstrating adverse financial and repayment trends;

(2) The loan is delinquent or past due under the terms of the loan contract;

(3) One or both of the factors listed in paragraphs (d) (1) and (2) of this section, together with inadequate collateralization, present a high probability of loss to the lender.

(e) *Foreclosure proceeding* means:

(1) A foreclosure or similar legal proceeding to enforce a lien on property, whether real or personal, that secures a noninterest-earning asset or distressed loan; or

(2) The seizing of and realizing on non-real property collateral, other than collateral subject to a statutory lien arising under title I or II of the Act to effect collection of a nonaccrual or distressed loan.

(f) *Loan* means a loan made to a farmer, rancher, or producer or harvester of aquatic products, for any agricultural or aquatic purpose and other credit needs of the borrower, including financing for basic processing and marketing directly related to the borrower's operations and those of other eligible farmers, ranchers, and producers or harvesters of aquatic products.

(g) *Qualified lender* means:

(1) A System institution that makes loans (as defined in paragraph (f) of this section) except a bank for cooperatives; and

(2) Each bank, institution, corporation, company, union, and association described in section 1.7(b)(1)(B) of the Act, but only with respect to loans discounted or pledged under section 1.7(b)(1) of the Act.

(h) *Restructure or restructuring* means rescheduling, reamortization, renewal, deferral of principal or interest, monetary concessions, and the taking of any other action to modify the terms of, or forbear on, a loan in any way that will make it probable that the operations of the borrower will become financially viable.

[53 FR 35454, Sept. 14, 1988, as amended at 58 FR 48791, Sept. 20, 1993]

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§ 614.4513 Uninsured voluntary and involuntary accounts.

(a) Borrowers may make voluntary advance payments on their loans or, under agreement with a System institution, may make voluntary advance conditional payments intended to be applied to future maturities. The monies in the advance conditional payment accounts may be available for return to the borrower in lieu of increasing his loan. System institutions may pay interest on advance conditional payments for the time the funds are held unapplied at a rate not to exceed the rate charged on the related loan(s). System institutions shall hold any advance conditional payments received in accordance with this section in voluntary advance payment accounts.

(b) System institutions may establish involuntary payment accounts including, but not limited to, funds held for the borrower, such as loan proceeds to be disbursed for which the borrower is obligated; the unapplied insurance proceeds arising from any insured loss; and total insurance premiums and applicable taxes collected in advance in connection with any loan.

[53 FR 35454, Sept. 14, 1988]

§ 614.4514 Protection of borrowers who meet all loan obligations.

(a) A qualified lender may not foreclose on any loan because of the failure of the borrower to post additional collateral, if the borrower has made all accrued payments of principal, interest, and penalties with respect to the loan.

(b) A qualified lender may not require any borrower to reduce the outstanding principal balance of any loan made to the borrower by any amount that exceeds the regularly scheduled principal installment payment (when due and payable), unless:

(1) The borrower sells or otherwise disposes of part or all of the collateral and the proceeds from the sale or disposition are not applied to the loan; or

(2) The parties agree otherwise in a written agreement entered into by the parties.

(c) After a borrower has made all accrued payments of principal, interest, and penalties with respect to a loan

made by a qualified lender, the lender shall not enforce acceleration of the borrower's repayment schedule due to the borrower having not timely made one or more principal and/or interest payments.

(d) If a qualified lender places any loan in a noninterest-earning status *and* such action results in an adverse action being taken against the borrower, such as revocation of any undisbursed loan commitment, the lender shall document such change of status and promptly notify the borrower in writing of such action and the reasons therefore. If the borrower was not delinquent in any principal or interest payment under the loan at the time of such action and the borrower's request to have the loan placed back into accrual status is denied, the borrower may obtain a review of such denial before the appropriate credit review committee pursuant to §§ 614.4441 and 614.4443. The borrower must request such a review within 30 days after receipt of the notice.

[53 FR 35454, Sept. 14, 1988, as amended at 58 FR 48791, Sept. 20, 1993]

§ 614.4515 [Reserved]

§ 614.4516 Restructuring policy and procedures.

Loan restructurings are to be accomplished in accordance with the policy adopted by the bank board of directors under section 4.14A(g) of the Act.

(a) *Notice.* When a qualified lender determines that a loan is or has become a distressed loan, the lender shall provide written notice to the borrower that the loan may be suitable for restructuring. The qualified lender shall include with such notice:

(1) A copy of the policy of the lender established under section 4.14A(g) of the Act that governs the treatment of distressed loans; and

(2) All materials necessary to enable the borrower to submit an application for restructuring on the loan. Such notice shall be provided not later than 45 days before a qualified lender begins foreclosure proceedings with respect to any such loan outstanding to the borrower. In the case of a loan involving

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more than one primary obligor, the requirements of this section will be satisfied by providing the notice to any one of such parties.

(b) *Opportunity for meeting.* The lender shall provide any borrower to whom a notice has been sent with a reasonable opportunity to meet personally with a representative of the lender:

(1) To review the status of the loan, the financial condition of the borrower, and the suitability of the loan for restructuring;

(2) With respect to a loan that is in a noninterest-earning status, to develop a plan for restructuring the loan if the loan is suitable for restructuring as determined by the qualified lender.

(c) *Voluntary consideration of restructuring.* A qualified lender may, in the absence of an application for restructuring from a borrower, propose a restructuring plan for an individual borrower.

[53 FR 35455, Sept. 14, 1988, as amended at 58 FR 48791, Sept. 20, 1993; 58 FR 62514, Nov. 29, 1993; 61 FR 67187, Dec. 20, 1996; 62 FR 25831, May 12, 1997]

§614.4517 Restructuring decision.

(a) *Consideration of application.* When a qualified lender receives an application for restructuring from a borrower, the lender shall determine whether or not to restructure the loan, taking into consideration:

(1) Whether the cost to the lender of restructuring the loan is equal to or less than the cost of foreclosure considering all relevant factors including:

(i) The present value of interest and principal foregone by the lender in carrying out the restructuring plan;

(ii) Reasonable and necessary administrative expenses involved in working with the borrower to finalize and implement the restructuring plan;

(iii) Whether the borrower has presented a preliminary restructuring plan and cash-flow analysis taking into account income from all sources to be applied to the debt and all assets to be pledged, showing a reasonable probability that orderly debt retirement will occur as a result of the proposed restructuring; and

(iv) Whether the borrower has furnished or is willing to furnish complete

and current financial statements in a form acceptable to the institution;

(2) Whether the borrower is applying all income over and above necessary and reasonable living and operating expenses to the payment of primary obligations;

(3) Whether the borrower has the financial capacity and the management skills to protect the collateral from diversion, dissipation, or deterioration;

(4) Whether the borrower is capable of working out existing financial difficulties, taking into consideration any prior restructurings on the loan, reestablishing a viable operation, and repaying the loan on a rescheduled basis; and

(5) In the case of a distressed loan that is not delinquent, whether restructuring consistent with sound lending practices may be taken to reasonably ensure that the loan will not become a loan that it is necessary to place in a noninterest-earning status.

(b) *Required restructuring.* If a qualified lender determines that the potential cost to such qualified lender of restructuring the loan in accordance with a proposed restructuring plan is less than or equal to the potential cost of foreclosure, the qualified lender shall restructure the loan in accordance with the plan. If two or more restructuring alternatives are available to a qualified lender with respect to a distressed loan, the lender shall restructure the loan in conformity with the alternative that results in the least cost to the lender.

(c) *Documentation.* In the event that an application for restructuring is denied, a qualified lender shall maintain sufficient documentation to demonstrate its compliance with paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, as applicable.

[53 FR 35455, Sept. 14, 1988, as amended at 58 FR 48791, Sept. 20, 1993; 61 FR 67187, Dec. 20, 1996]

§614.4518 Notice of denial of restructuring and right to review.

Each qualified lender shall render its decision on an application for restructuring in as expeditious a manner as is practicable. Upon reaching a decision on a restructuring application, the

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lender shall provide prompt written notice, by certified mail or in any manner that requires a primary obligor to acknowledge receipt of the lender's decision. In the case of a loan involving one or more primary obligors, the notice may be provided to any one of such parties. Where an application for restructuring is denied, the notice shall include:

(a) The reason(s) for the denial, and any critical assumptions and relevant information upon which the reasons are based, except that any confidential information shall not be disclosed;

(b) Notification that the borrower may request a review of the denial;

(c) Notification that any request for such review must be made in writing within 7 days after receiving such notice;

(d) A brief explanation of the process for seeking review of the denial, including the appraisal process; and the right to appear before the credit review committee, pursuant to §§614.4442 and 614.4443 accompanied by counsel or by any other representative, if the borrower so chooses.

[53 FR 35455, Sept. 14, 1988]

§614.4519 Notice before foreclosure; limitation on foreclosure.

(a) Not later than 45 days before any qualified lender begins foreclosure proceedings with respect to a loan outstanding to any borrower, the lender shall notify the borrower that the loan may be suitable for restructuring and that the lender will review any such suitable loan for possible restructuring, and shall include with such notice a copy of the policy and the materials described in §614.4516(a)(2). The notice shall also inform the borrower that the alternative to restructuring may be foreclosure.

(b) No qualified lender may foreclose or continue any foreclosure proceeding with respect to any distressed loan before the lender has completed any pending consideration of the loan for restructuring under this subpart, and completion of credit review committee consideration, if applicable. This section shall not prevent a lender from taking any action necessary to avoid the dissipation of assets, or the destruction, diversion or deterioration of

collateral if the lender has reasonable grounds to believe that such dissipation, destruction, diversion or deterioration may occur.

(c) Any foreclosure proceeding which is commenced by a certified lender after the lender's credit review committee has rejected a borrower's appeal on a restructuring application must be terminated if the Special Asset Group in its district prescribes a restructuring plan to the lender which the borrower accepts.

[53 FR 35455, Sept. 14, 1988]

§614.4520 [Reserved]

§614.4521 Participation in State agricultural loan mediation programs.

(a) If initiated by a borrower, System institutions shall, either concurrently with consideration of loan restructuring under §614.4517 or at any other appropriate time, participate in State mediation programs certified under section 501 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, and shall present and explore debt restructuring proposals advanced in the course of such mediation. If provided in the certified program, System institutions may initiate mediation at any time.

(b) System institutions shall cooperate in good faith with requests for information or analysis of information made in the course of mediation under any such loan mediation program.

(c) No System institution may make a loan secured by a mortgage or lien on agricultural property to a borrower on the condition that the borrower waive any right under the agricultural loan mediation program of any State.

[53 FR 35456, Sept. 14, 1988]

§614.4522 Right of first refusal.

(a) For purposes of this section, in addition to the definitions in §614.4512, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) *Acquired real estate* means agricultural real estate acquired by an institution of the System as a result of a loan foreclosure or a voluntary conveyance by a borrower who, as determined by the institution does not have the financial resources to avoid foreclosure;

(2) *Previous owner* means the prior record owner who was a borrower from

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a System institution who did not have the financial resources, as determined by the institution, to avoid foreclosure on agricultural real estate; where the borrower is not the prior record owner, *previous owner* means the prior record owner where that owner's land was used as collateral for a loan to a System borrower; and

(3) *System institution or institution of the System* means all System institutions, except banks for cooperatives.

(b) Upon acquiring agricultural real estate as a result of a loan foreclosure or voluntary conveyance by a borrower, the System institution shall determine whether the borrower had the financial resources to avoid foreclosure and document this determination in the file for the acquired real estate.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (e) of this section, System institutions electing to sell acquired real estate, or any portion of such property, of a previous owner, as defined in this section:

(1) Shall notify the previous owner by certified mail, within 15 days of the decision to sell the property, of the appraised fair market value of the property as established by an accredited appraiser and of the right:

(i) To purchase the property at the appraised fair market value, or

(ii) To offer to purchase the property at a price less than the appraised value.

The notice shall inform the previous owner that any offer must be received within 30 days of receipt of the notification.

(2) Shall accept an offer from the previous owner to purchase the property at the appraised value, within 15 days after the receipt of such offer, and sell the property to the previous owner, if the offer was received within 30 days of the notification required in paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(3) Shall consider an offer from a previous owner to purchase the acquired real estate at a price less than the appraised value, if the offer was received within 30 days of the notification required in paragraph (c)(1) of this section. Notice of the decision to accept or reject such offer must be provided to the previous owner within 15 days of receipt of such offer. If the institution rejects such an offer, the institution

may not sell the property to any other person:

(i) At a price equal to, or less than, that offered by the previous owner; or

(ii) On different terms or conditions than those that were extended to the previous owner; without first notifying the previous owner by certified mail and providing an opportunity to purchase the property at such price or under such terms and conditions.

The previous owner shall have 15 days from receipt of the notification to submit an offer to purchase at such price or under such terms and conditions.

(4) For purposes of this section, financing by the System institution shall not be considered a term or condition of the sale of acquired real estate. A System institution shall not be required to provide financing to the previous owner in connection with the sale of acquired real estate.

(d) Except as provided in paragraph (e) of this section, System institutions electing to lease acquired real estate, or any portion of such property, of a previous owner, as defined in this section:

(1) Shall notify the previous owner by certified mail, within 15 days of the decision to lease, of the appraised rental value of the property, as established by an accredited appraiser, and of the right to:

(i) Lease the property at a rate equivalent to the appraised rental value of the property, or

(ii) To offer to lease the property at rate that is less than the appraised rental value of the property.

The notice shall inform the previous owner that any offer must be received within 15 days of receipt of the notification.

(2) Shall accept an offer from a previous owner to lease the property at the appraised rental value, within 15 days after the receipt of such offer, and lease the property to the previous owner, unless the institution determines that the previous owner:

(i) Does not have the resources available to conduct a successful farming or ranching operation; or

(ii) Cannot meet all of the payments, terms and conditions of such lease.

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(3) Shall consider an offer from a previous owner to lease the property at a rate that is less than the appraised rental value of the property. Notice of the decision to accept or reject such offer must be provided to the previous owner within 15 days of receipt of such offer. If the institution rejects such an offer, the institution may not lease the property to any other person:

(i) At a rate equal to or less than that offered by the previous owner; or

(ii) On different terms and conditions than those that were extended to the previous owner, without first notifying the previous owner by certified mail and providing an opportunity to lease the property at such rate or under such terms and conditions.

The previous owner shall have 15 days after receipt of the notification in which to agree to lease the property at such rate or under such terms and conditions.

(e) System institutions electing to sell or lease acquired real estate or a portion thereof through a public auction, competitive bidding process, or other similar public offering:

(1) Shall notify the previous owner, by certified mail, of the availability of such property. Such notice shall contain the minimum amount, if any, required to qualify a bid as acceptable to the institution and any terms or conditions to which such sale or lease will be subject;

(2) If two or more qualified bids in the same amount are received by the institution, such bids are the highest received, and one of the qualified bids is from the previous owner, the institution shall accept the offer by the previous owner; and

(3) Shall not discriminate against a previous owner.

(f) Each certified mail notice requirement in this section shall be fully satisfied by mailing one certified mail notice to the last known address of the former borrower.

(g) The rights provided under section 4.36 of the Act, and this section, shall not diminish any right of first refusal under the law of the State in which the property is located.

[53 FR 35456, Sept. 14, 1988, as amended at 53 FR 52401, Dec. 28, 1988; 58 FR 48791, Sept. 20, 1993]

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Subpart O—Special Lending Programs

§ 614.4525 General.

(a) To provide the best possible credit service to farmers, ranchers, and producers or harvesters of aquatic products, bank and association boards may adopt policies permitting the bank or association to enter into agreements with agents, dealers, cooperatives, other lenders, and individuals to facilitate its making of loans to eligible farmers, ranchers, and producers or harvesters of aquatic products.

(b) A bank or association, pursuant to its board policies, may enter into an agreement with third parties that will accrue to the benefit of the borrower and the lender to perform functions in the making or servicing of loans other than the evaluation and approval of loans. When such an agreement is developed, and the territory covered by the agreement extends outside the territorial limits of the originating association or bank, the written consent of all affected banks or associations is required. Reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered.

(c) Production credit associations and agricultural credit associations may enter into agreements with private dealers or cooperatives permitting them to take applications for loans from the association to purchase farm or aquatic equipment, supplies, and machinery. Such agreements shall normally be limited to persons or businesses selling to farmers, ranchers, or producers or harvesters of aquatic products and shall contain credit limits consistent with sound credit standards. When the sales territory of a dealer or cooperative extends outside the territory of the originating association or the Farm Credit district, written consent of each bank and association affected shall be obtained before making such loans. Reasonable compensation may be paid or charged to a dealer or cooperative for services rendered in connection with such programs.

(d) Farm Credit System institutions that are direct lenders may enter into memoranda of understanding among themselves or with other lenders for

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the simultaneous processing and closing of loans to a mutual borrower. The basic policies and principles of each System lender shall apply.

[47 FR 12146, Mar. 22, 1982. Redesignated at 53 FR 35454, Sept. 14, 1988, and amended at 55 FR 24886, June 19, 1990; 61 FR 67187, Dec. 20, 1996]

§614.4530 Special loans, production credit associations and agricultural credit associations.

Under policies approved by the bank board and procedures developed by the bank, production credit associations and agricultural credit associations may make the following special types of loans on commodities covered by price support programs. Notwithstanding the regulations covering other loans made by an association, loans may be made to members on any commodity for which a Commodity Credit Corporation price support program is in effect, at such rate of interest and upon such terms as the bank board may prescribe subject to the following conditions:

(a) The commodity offered as security for the loan shall be eligible for price support under a Commodity Credit Corporation price support program and shall be stored in a bonded public warehouse, holding storage agreement for such commodity approved by Commodity Credit Corporation.

(b) The member shall have complied with all Commodity Credit Corporation eligibility requirements.

(c) The loan shall mature not later than 30 days prior to the expiration of the period during which the Commodity Credit Corporation loan or other price support may be obtained on the commodity and shall be secured by pledge of negotiable warehouse receipts covering the commodity.

(d) The borrower shall appoint the association as his attorney-in-fact to obtain a Commodity Credit Corporation loan (or other such price support as is available) in the event that the borrower fails to do so prior to maturity or repayment of the loan.

[37 FR 11424, June 7, 1972. Redesignated at 46 FR 51878, Oct. 22, 1981, and amended at 55 FR 24886, June 19, 1990]

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Subpart P—Farm Credit Bank and Agricultural Credit Bank Financing of Other Financing Institutions

SOURCE: 63 FR 36547, July 7, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

§614.4540 Other financing institution access to Farm Credit Banks and agricultural credit banks for funding, discount, and other similar financial assistance.

(a) *Basic criteria for access.* Any national bank, State bank, trust company, agriculture credit corporation, incorporated livestock loan company, savings association, credit union, or any association of agricultural producers engaged in the making of loans to farmers and ranchers, and any corporation engaged in the making of loans to producers or harvesters of aquatic products may become an other financing institution (OFI) that funds, discounts, and obtains other similar financial assistance from a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank in order to extend short- and intermediate-term credit to eligible borrowers for authorized purposes pursuant to sections 1.10(b) and 2.4(a) and (b) of the Act. Each OFI shall be duly organized and qualified to make loans and leases under the laws of each jurisdiction in which it operates.

(b) *Assured access.* Each Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank must fund, discount, or provide other similar financial assistance to any credit-worthy OFI that:

(1) Maintains at least 15 percent of its loan volume at a seasonal peak in loans and leases to farmers, ranchers, aquatic producers and harvesters. The Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank shall not include the loan assets of the OFI's parent, affiliates, or subsidiaries when determining compliance with the requirement of this paragraph; and

(2) Executes a general financing agreement with the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank that establishes a financing or discount relationship for at least 2 years.

(c) *Underwriting standards.* Each Farm Credit Bank and agricultural credit bank shall establish objective

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policies and loan underwriting standards for determining the creditworthiness of each OFI applicant.

(d) *Denial of OFI access.* A Farm Credit Bank or an agricultural credit bank may deny the funding request of any creditworthy OFI that meets the conditions in paragraph (b) of this section only when such request would:

(1) Adversely affect a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank's ability to:

(i) Achieve and maintain established or projected capital levels; or

(ii) Raise funds in the money markets; or

(2) Otherwise expose the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank to safety and soundness risks.

(e) *Notice to applicants.* Each Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank shall render its decision on an OFI application in as expeditious a manner as is practicable. Upon reaching a decision on an application, the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank shall provide prompt written notice of its decision to the applicant. When the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank makes an adverse credit decision on an application, the written notice shall include the specific reason(s) for the decision.

(f) *Reports to the board of directors.* Each Farm Credit Bank and agricultural credit bank shall provide its board of directors with a written annual report regarding the scope of OFI program activities during the preceding fiscal year.

§ 614.4550 Place of discount.

(a) A Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank may provide funding, discounting, or other similar financial assistance to any OFI applicant that:

(1) Maintains its headquarters in such funding bank's chartered territory; or

(2) Has more than 50 percent of its outstanding loan volume to eligible borrowers who conduct agricultural or aquatic operations in such funding bank's chartered territory.

(b) If the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank identified in paragraph (a) of this section denies or otherwise fails to approve an OFI's funding request within 60 days of receipt of

a "completed application" as defined by 12 CFR 202.2(f), the OFI may apply to any other Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank for funding, discounting, or other similar financial assistance.

(c) The Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank may grant its consent for an OFI identified in paragraph (a) of this section to seek financing from another Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank.

(d) No OFI shall be required to terminate its existing funding or discount relationship with a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank if, at a subsequent time, an OFI relocates its headquarters to the chartered territory of another Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank or the loan volume in the relevant territory falls below 50 percent.

§ 614.4560 Requirements for OFI funding relationships.

(a) As a condition for extending funding, discount and other similar financial assistance to an OFI, each Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank shall require every OFI to:

(1) Execute a general financing agreement pursuant to the regulations in subpart C of part 614; and

(2) Purchase non-voting stock in its Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank pursuant to the bank's bylaws.

(b) A Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank shall extend funding, discount and other similar financial assistance to an OFI only for purposes and terms authorized under sections 1.10(b) and 2.4(a) and (b) of the Act.

(c) Rural home loans to borrowers who are not *bona fide* farmers, ranchers, and aquatic producers and harvesters are subject to the restrictions in § 613.3030 of this chapter. Loans that an OFI makes to processing and marketing operators who supply less than 20 percent of the throughput shall be included in the calculation that § 613.3010(b)(1) of this chapter establishes for Farm Credit Banks and agricultural credit banks.

(d) The borrower rights requirements in part C of title IV of the Act, and section 4.36 of the Act, and the regulations in subparts K, L, and N of part 614 shall apply to all loans that an OFI funds or

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discounts through a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank, unless such loans are subject to the Truth-in-Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*

(e) As a condition for obtaining funding, discount and other similar financial assistance from a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank, all State banks, trust companies, or State-chartered savings associations shall execute a written consent that authorizes their State regulators to furnish examination reports to the Farm Credit Administration upon its request. Any OFI that is not a depository institution shall consent in writing to examination by the Farm Credit Administration as a condition precedent for obtaining funding, discount and other similar financial assistance from a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank, and file such consent with its Farm Credit funding bank.

§614.4570 Recourse and security.

(a) *Full recourse and guarantee.* All obligations that are funded or discounted through a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank shall be endorsed with the full recourse or unconditional guarantee of the OFI.

(b) *General collateral.* (1) Each Farm Credit Bank and agricultural credit bank shall take as collateral all notes, drafts, and other obligations that it funds or discounts for each OFI; and

(2) Each Farm Credit Bank and agricultural credit bank shall perfect, in accordance with State law, a senior security interest in any and all obligations and the proceeds thereunder that the OFI pledges as collateral.

(c) *Supplemental collateral.* (1) Each Farm Credit Bank and agricultural credit bank shall develop policies and loan underwriting standards that establish uniform and objective requirements to determine the need and amount of supplemental collateral or other credit enhancements that each OFI shall provide as a condition for obtaining funding, discount and other similar financial assistance from such Farm Credit bank.

(2) The amount, type, and quality of supplemental collateral or other credit enhancements required for each OFI shall be established in the general financing agreement and shall be propor-

tional to the level of risk that the OFI poses to the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank.

§614.4580 Limitation on the extension of funding, discount and other similar financial assistance to an OFI.

(a) No obligation shall be purchased from or discounted for and no loan shall be made or other similar financial assistance extended by a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank to an OFI if the amount of such obligation added to the aggregate liabilities of such OFI, whether direct or contingent (other than *bona fide* deposit liabilities), exceeds ten times the paid-in and unimpaired capital and surplus of such OFI or the amount of such liabilities permitted under the laws of the jurisdiction creating such OFI, whichever is less.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any national bank that is indebted to any Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank, on paper discounted or purchased, to incur any additional indebtedness, if by virtue of such additional indebtedness its aggregate liabilities, direct or contingent, will exceed the limitation described in paragraph (a) of this section.

§614.4590 Equitable treatment of OFIs and Farm Credit System associations.

(a) Each Farm Credit Bank and agricultural credit bank shall apply comparable and objective loan underwriting standards and pricing requirements to both OFIs and Farm Credit System direct lender associations.

(b) The total charges that a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank assesses an OFI through capitalization requirements, interest rates, and fees shall be comparable to the charges that the same Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank imposes on its direct lender associations. Any variation between the overall funding costs that OFIs and direct lender associations are charged by the same funding bank shall result from differences in credit risk and administrative costs to the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank.

§ 614.4600 Insolvency of an OFI.

If an OFI that is indebted to a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank becomes insolvent, is in process of liquidation, or fails to service its loans properly, the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank may take over such loans and other assets that the OFI pledged as collateral. Once the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank exercises its remedies, it shall have the authority to make additional advances, to grant renewals and extensions, and to take such other actions as may be necessary to collect and service loans to the OFI's borrower. The funding Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank may also liquidate the OFI's loans and other assets in order to achieve repayment of the debt.

Subpart Q—Banks for Cooperatives and Agricultural Credit Banks Financing International Trade

§ 614.4700 Financing foreign trade receivables.

(a) Banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks, under policies adopted by their boards of directors, are authorized to finance foreign trade receivables on behalf of eligible cooperatives to include the following:

- (1) Advances against collections;
- (2) Trade acceptances;
- (3) Factoring; and
- (4) Open accounts.

(b) To reduce credit, political, and other risks associated with foreign trade receivable financing, the banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks shall avail themselves of such guarantee and insurance plans as are available in the United States and other countries, such as the Foreign Credit Insurance Association and the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Exceptions may be made where a prospective borrower has had a long-standing successful business relationship with the eligible cooperative borrower or an eligible cooperative which is not a borrower if the prospective borrower has a high credit rating as determined by the bank.

(c) When financing a draft drawn on a foreign importer, the banks should re-

tain recourse to the exporter unless their credit evaluation of and experience with the importer indicate recourse is not necessary or unless appropriate guarantees or insurance plans are used.

(d) The financing of foreign trade receivables shall be limited by the policies of each bank's board of directors. The policies shall provide a method of determining the maximum amount in dollars, by country, to be financed and establishing a maximum percentage of the amount of a draft drawn on a foreign party against which the bank may advance funds. The banks shall take into consideration the following factors:

(1) The reputation and financial strength of the foreign importer.

(2) The reputation and payment record of the class of importers in the same country as the subject importer in regard to prompt payment of drafts drawn upon them.

(3) The quality of the supporting documents offered with the draft.

(4) The degree of ease with which necessary foreign exchange conversion can be made, or the extent to which foreign currency exposure may be hedged by forward or future contracts.

(5) The reputation and financial strength of the exporter.

(e) The banks may establish foreign trade receivable financing programs by which eligible parties pledge collections to the bank, and then may borrow from the bank up to a stated maximum percentage of the total amount of receivables pledged at any one time.

(f) When financing foreign trade receivables, the banks shall take such precautions and obtain such credit information as necessary to ascertain that all parties to the transaction(s) being financed are reputable and capable of performing their responsibilities under the contract of sale.

(g) When financing foreign trade receivables, the banks shall determine that all shipments are covered by maritime insurance while on the high seas.

(h) Countries where credit is to be extended will be analyzed periodically and systematically on a centralized basis. The resulting country studies will be disseminated to all banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit

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banks to be used as inputs in credit grading decisions.

[46 FR 51879, Oct. 22, 1981, as amended at 55 FR 24886, June 19, 1990; 62 FR 4445, Jan. 30, 1997]

§614.4710 Bankers acceptance financing.

The Funding Corporation is authorized to accept drafts or bills of exchange drawn upon banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks. With the exception of acceptances eligible for purchase by the Federal Reserve Banks under the direction and regulation of the Federal Open Market Committee and rediscounted, acceptances shall be subject to the provisions of subpart J of this part and must be combined with any other loan to the account party by the banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks for the purpose of applying the lending and leasing limits of §614.4355 of this part.

(a) *Limitations.* (1) The Funding Corporation is authorized to accept drafts or bills of exchange drawn upon a bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank having not more than 6 months' sight to run, exclusive of days of grace, that are derived from transactions involving the importation or exportation of agricultural commodities, farm supplies, or aquatic products into or out of the United States; or are derived from transactions involving the domestic shipment of goods that were produced from agriculture or commercial fishing or that have an agriculturally or aquatically related purpose; or are secured at the time of acceptance by title covering readily marketable staples.

(i) The dollar amount of such acceptances outstanding at any one time to any one borrower, exclusive of participations sold to others, shall be limited to 10 percent of the net worth of a bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank as calculated on a monthly basis after eliminating from its net worth an amount equal to the total of the bank's investments made to capitalize participation interests purchased by other institutions. However, if such acceptances are secured either by attached documents or by some other actual security growing out of

the same transaction as the acceptance, the 10-percent limit shall not apply.

(ii) The sum of all acceptance liabilities outstanding described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, exclusive of participations sold to others, issued to all borrowers shall not exceed 150 percent of the bank for cooperatives' or agricultural credit bank's net worth, but the aggregate of acceptances growing out of domestic transactions shall not exceed 50 percent of net worth calculated on a monthly basis.

(2) The limit specified in paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section is separate from and in addition to the lending and leasing limits of §614.4355 of this part if the acceptances are rediscounted.

(3) During any period within which a bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank holds its own acceptance, having given value therefor, the amount thereof shall be included against the lending and leasing limits set forth in §614.4355 of this part of the customer for whom the acceptance was made.

(4) The terms and requirements for the offering and purchase of participations in acceptance financing shall be the same as those for loans made under §614.4020(b) of this part.

(5) When acceptances denominated in foreign currencies are not funded in the same currency, the bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank shall take corresponding action to minimize foreign exchange risk.

(b) *Purchases of participations in bankers acceptances.* (1) A bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank shall determine limits on purchasing participations in discounted acceptances of another bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank on the same basis as prescribed in §614.4355 of this part for purchasing participations in loans of another bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank.

(2) Participations in discounted acceptances shall be offered in accordance with §614.4020(b) of this part.

(c) *Funding Corporation.* All acceptances created by the banks for cooperatives or agricultural credit banks shall be physically accepted by the Funding

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Corporation when intended for rediscount.

[55 FR 24886, June 19, 1990, as amended at 57 FR 38250, Aug. 24, 1992; 58 FR 40324, July 28, 1993; 59 FR 37404, July 22, 1994; 62 FR 4445, Jan. 30, 1997; 64 FR 34518, June 28, 1999]

§ 614.4720 Letters of credit.

Banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks, under policies adopted by their boards of directors, may issue, advise, or confirm import or export letters of credit in accordance with the Uniform Commercial Code, or the Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits, to or on behalf of its customers. In addition, as a matter of sound banking practice, letters of credit shall be issued in conformity with the list which follows.

(a) Each letter of credit shall be in writing and shall conspicuously state that it is a letter of credit, or be conspicuously entitled as such.

(b) The letter of credit shall contain a specified expiration date or be for a definite term.

(c) The letter of credit shall contain a sum certain.

(d) The bank's obligation to pay should arise only upon fulfilling the terms and conditions as specified in the letter of credit. The bank must not be called upon to determine questions of fact or law at issue between the account party and the beneficiary.

(e) The bank's customer should have an unqualified obligation to reimburse the bank for payments made under the letter of credit.

(f) All letters of credit shall be irrevocable.

[46 FR 51879, Oct. 22, 1981, as amended at 55 FR 24887, June 19, 1990; 62 FR 4445, Jan. 30, 1997; 64 FR 43049, Aug. 9, 1999]

§ 614.4800 Guarantees and contracts of suretyship.

A bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank, under a policy approved by the bank's board of directors, may lend its credit, be itself a surety to indemnify another, or otherwise become a guarantor if an eligible cooperative substantially benefits from the performance of the transaction involved. A bank may guarantee the debt of eligible cooperatives and foreign parties or otherwise agree to make

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payments on the occurrence of readily ascertainable events if the guarantee or agreement specifies a maximum monetary liability. Guarantees may be secured or unsecured, and can include, but are not limited to, such events as nonpayment of taxes, rentals, customs duties, costs of transport, and loss of or nonconformance of shipping documents. The bank's customer shall have an unqualified obligation to reimburse the bank for payments made under a guarantee or surety.

[55 FR 24887, June 19, 1990, as amended at 62 FR 4445, Jan. 30, 1997]

§ 614.4810 Standby letters of credit.

(a) The banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks are authorized to issue on behalf of parties eligible for financing under regulations § 614.4010(d) or § 614.4020 standby letters of credit that represent an obligation to the beneficiary on the part of the issuer:

(1) To repay money borrowed by, advanced to, or for the account of the account party, or

(2) To make payment on account of any indebtedness undertaken by the account party, or

(3) To make payment on account of any default by the account party in the performance of an obligation.

(b) As a matter of sound banking practice, banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks shall evaluate applications for standby letters of credit on the basis of the loan underwriting standards adopted pursuant to § 614.4150 of the regulations.

[46 FR 51879, Oct. 22, 1981, as amended at 55 FR 24887, June 19, 1990; 62 FR 4445, Jan. 30, 1997; 62 FR 51015, Sept. 30, 1997]

§ 614.4900 Foreign exchange.

(a) Before a bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank may engage in any financial transaction which transports monetary instruments from any place within the United States to or through any place outside the United States or to any place within the United States, the bank must have policies adopted by the bank's board of directors governing such transactions and must have established bank procedures to safeguard

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the interests of the stockholders of the bank in regard to such transactions.

(b) Under policies adopted by the bank's board of directors, a bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank may engage in currency exchange activities necessary to service individual transactions that may be financed under the regulations authorizing export, import, and other internationally related credit and financial services. These currency exchange activities shall not include any loans or commitments intended to finance speculative futures transactions by eligible borrowers in foreign currencies. The bank may engage, on behalf of the eligible borrowers or on its own behalf, in bona fide hedging transactions and positions, where such transactions or positions normally reduce risks in the conduct and management of international financial activities. The bank's policies should include established guidelines for:

(1) Net overnight positions, by currency.

(2) Maturity distribution, by currency, of foreign currency assets, liabilities, and foreign exchange contracts.

(3) Outstanding contracts with individual customers and banks.

(4) Credit approval procedures safeguarding against delivery or settlement risk.

(5) Total value of outstanding contracts—spot and forward.

(c) A bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank is responsible for its compliance with the laws of the United States in regard to reporting requirements of the Department of the Treasury pertaining to currency exchange activities and international transfers of monetary instruments.

(d) A bank for cooperatives or an agricultural credit bank engaged in foreign exchange trading shall have written policies describing the scope of trading activity authorized, delegation of authority, types of services offered, trading limits, reporting requirements, and internal accounting controls.

(e) The bank's trading guideline policies should provide for reporting procedures adequate to inform management properly of trading activities and to fa-

cilitate detection of lack of compliance with policy directives.

(f) The bank's policies shall establish foreign exchange delivery limits for eligible customers with relationship to the customer's financial capability to bear the financial risks assumed. The bank will be expected to maintain documentary evidence that a customer's delivery exposure is reasonable, and that responsible bank officers routinely review outstanding delivery exposure of individual customers.

(g) The bank's personnel policies shall include written standards of conduct for those involved with foreign exchange activities, including the following which should be prohibited:

(1) Trading with entities affiliated with the bank or with members of the board of directors.

(2) Foreign exchange and deposit transactions with other bank employees.

(3) Personal business relationships with foreign exchange and money brokers with whom the bank deals.

(h) The bank's policies should provide detailed instructions regarding the need for bank officers to disclose the limits of responsibility and liability of the bank when it holds positions or executes contracts for the account of eligible parties. The bank's policies regarding the respective procedures should provide reasonable assurance that reports on trading activities are current and complete, and that the opportunity for concealment of unauthorized transactions is kept at the absolute minimum.

(i) The banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks shall use the Funding Corporation for purposes of trading foreign exchange. All foreign exchange transactions shall be made by the Funding Corporation on behalf of the banks consistent with instructions received from the respective banks.

(j) Guidelines (b) through (i) of this section will not apply if a bank purchases or sells foreign exchange through a commercial bank and has no foreign exchange risk exposure.

[46 FR 51879, Oct. 22, 1981, as amended at 55 FR 24887, June 19, 1990; 62 FR 4445, Jan. 30, 1997]

Subpart R—Secondary Market Authorities

§ 614.4910 Basic authorities.

(a) Any bank or association of the Farm Credit System, except a bank for cooperatives, with direct lending authority may originate agricultural real estate loans for sale to one or more certified agricultural mortgage marketing facilities under title VIII of the Act.

(b) Any bank or association of the Farm Credit System, except a bank for cooperatives, may operate as an agricultural mortgage marketing facility under title VIII of the Act, either acting alone or jointly with other banks and/or associations, if so certified by the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

[54 FR 1155, Jan. 12, 1989]

Subpart S—Flood Insurance Requirements

SOURCE: 61 FR 45711, Aug. 29, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§ 614.4920 Purpose and scope.

(a) *Purpose.* This subpart implements the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (1968 Act), as amended, and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (1973 Act), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4001–4129).

(b) *Scope.* This subpart, except for §§ 614.4940 and 614.4950, applies to loans of Farm Credit System (System) institutions that are secured by buildings or mobile homes located or to be located in areas determined by the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to have special flood hazards. Sections 614.4940 and 614.4950 apply to loans secured by buildings or mobile homes, regardless of location.

§ 614.4925 Definitions.

(a) *Building* means a walled and roofed structure, other than a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground and affixed to a permanent site, and a walled and roofed structure while in the course of construction, alteration, or repair.

(b) *Community* means a State or a political subdivision of a State that has zoning and building code jurisdiction over a particular area having special flood hazards.

(c) *Designated loan* means a loan secured by a building or a mobile home that is located or to be located in a special flood hazard area in which flood insurance is available under the 1968 Act.

(d) *Director of FEMA* means the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(e) *Mobile home* means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, that is built on a permanent chassis and designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when attached to the required utilities. The term *mobile home* does not include a recreational vehicle. For purposes of this subpart, the term *mobile home* means a mobile home on a permanent foundation. The term *mobile home* includes a manufactured home as that term is used in the NFIP.

(f) *NFIP* means the National Flood Insurance Program authorized under the 1968 Act.

(g) *Residential improved real estate* means real estate upon which a home or other residential building is located or to be located.

(h) *Servicer* means the person responsible for:

(1) Receiving any scheduled, periodic payments from a borrower under the terms of a loan, including amounts for taxes, insurance premiums, and other charges with respect to the property securing the loan; and

(2) Making payments of principal and interest and any other payments from the amounts received from the borrower as may be required under the terms of the loan.

(i) *Special flood hazard area* means the land in the flood plain within a community having at least a one percent chance of flooding in any given year, as designated by the Director of FEMA.

(j) *Table funding* means a settlement at which a loan is funded by a contemporaneous advance of loan funds and an assignment of the loan to the person advancing the funds.

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§614.4930 Requirement to purchase flood insurance where available.

(a) *In general.* A System institution shall not make, increase, extend or renew any designated loan unless the building or mobile home and any personal property securing the loan are covered by flood insurance for the term of the loan. The amount of insurance must be at least equal to the outstanding principal balance of the designated loan or the maximum limit of coverage available for the particular type of property under the 1968 Act. Flood insurance coverage under the Act is limited to the overall value of the property securing the designated loan minus the value of the land on which the property is located.

(b) *Table funded loans.* A System institution that acquires a loan from a mortgage broker or other entity through table funding shall be considered to be making a loan for purposes of this part.

(c) *Exemptions.* The flood insurance requirement of paragraph (a) of this section does not apply with respect to:

(1) Any State-owned property covered under a policy of self-insurance satisfactory to the Director of FEMA, who publishes and periodically revises the list of States falling within this exemption; or

(2) Property securing any loan with an original principal balance of \$5,000 or less and a repayment term of one year or less.

§614.4935 Escrow requirement.

If a System institution requires the escrow of taxes, insurance premiums, fees, or any other charges for a loan secured by *residential* improved real estate or a mobile home that is made, increased, extended or renewed on or after October 4, 1996, the institution shall also require the escrow of all premiums and fees for any flood insurance required under §614.4930. The institution, or a servicer acting on behalf of the institution, shall deposit the flood insurance premiums on behalf of the borrower in an escrow account. This escrow account will be subject to escrow requirements adopted pursuant to section 10 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2609) (RESPA), which generally limits the

amount that may be maintained in escrow accounts for certain types of loans and requires escrow account statements for those accounts, only if the loan is otherwise subject to RESPA. Following receipt of a notice from the Director of FEMA or other provider of flood insurance that premiums are due, the institution, or a servicer acting on behalf of the institution, shall pay the amount owed to the insurance provider from the escrow account by the date when such premiums are due.

§614.4940 Required use of standard flood hazard determination form.

(a) *Use of form.* System institutions must use the standard flood hazard determination form developed by the Director of FEMA when determining whether the building or mobile home offered as collateral security for a loan is or will be located in a special flood hazard area in which flood insurance is available under the 1968 Act. The standard flood hazard determination form may be used in a printed, computerized, or electronic manner. A System institution may obtain the standard flood hazard determination form by written request to FEMA, P.O. Box 2012, Jessup, MD 20794-2012.

(b) *Retention of form.* System institutions shall retain a copy of the completed standard flood hazard determination form, in either hard copy or electronic form, for the period of time the institution owns the loan.

[61 FR 45711, Aug. 29, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 71274, Dec. 21, 1999]

§614.4945 Forced placement of flood insurance.

If a System institution, or a servicer acting on behalf of the institution, determines at any time during the term of a designated loan, that the building or mobile home and any personal property securing the designated loan are not covered by flood insurance or are covered by flood insurance in an amount less than the amount required under §614.4930(a), then the institution or its servicer shall notify the borrower that the borrower should obtain flood insurance, at the borrower's expense, in an amount at least equal to the amount required under §614.4930(a), for

the remaining term of the loan. If the borrower fails to obtain flood insurance within 45 days after notification, then the institution or its servicer shall purchase insurance on the borrower's behalf. The institution or its servicer may charge the borrower for the cost of premiums and fees incurred in purchasing the insurance.

§ 614.4950 Determination fees.

(a) *General.* Notwithstanding any Federal or State law other than the 1973 Act, any System institution, or a servicer acting on behalf of the institution, may charge a reasonable fee for determining whether the building or mobile home securing the loan is located or will be located in a special flood hazard area. A determination fee may also include, but is not limited to, a fee for life-of-loan monitoring.

(b) *Borrower fee.* The determination fee authorized by paragraph (a) of this section may be charged to the borrower if the determination:

(1) Is made in connection with a making, increasing, extending, or renewing of the loan that is initiated by the borrower;

(2) Reflects the Director of FEMA's revision or updating of floodplain areas or flood-risk zones;

(3) Reflects the Director of FEMA's publication of a notice or compendium that:

(i) Affects the area in which the building or mobile home securing the loan is located; or

(ii) By determination of the Director of FEMA, may reasonably require a determination whether the building or mobile home securing the loan is located in a special flood hazard area; or

(4) Results in the purchase of flood insurance coverage under § 614.4945.

(c) *Purchaser or transferee fee.* The determination fee authorized by paragraph (a) of this section may be charged to the purchaser or transferee of a loan in the case of the sale or transfer of the loan.

§ 614.4955 Notice of special flood hazards and availability of Federal disaster relief assistance.

(a) *Notice requirement.* When a System institution makes, increases, extends, or renews a loan secured by a building

or a mobile home located or to be located in a special flood hazard area, the institution shall mail or deliver a written notice containing the information specified in paragraph (b) of this section to the borrower and to the servicer of the loan. Notice is required whether or not flood insurance is available under the 1968 Act for the collateral securing the loan.

(b) *Contents of notice.* The written notice must include the following information:

(1) A warning, in a form approved by the Director of FEMA, that the building or the mobile home is or will be located in a special flood hazard area;

(2) A description of the flood insurance purchase requirements set forth in section 102(b) of the 1973 Act (42 U.S.C. 4012a(b));

(3) A statement, where applicable, that flood insurance coverage is available under the NFIP and also may be available from private insurers; and

(4) A statement whether Federal disaster relief assistance may be available in the event of damage to the building or the mobile home caused by flooding in a Federally declared disaster.

(c) *Timing of notice.* The institution shall provide the notice required by paragraph (a) of this section to the borrower within a reasonable time before the completion of the transaction, and to the servicer as promptly as practicable after the institution provides notice to the borrower and in any event no later than the time the institution provides other similar notices to the servicer concerning hazard insurance and taxes. Notice to the servicer may be made electronically or may take the form of a copy of the notice to the borrower.

(d) *Record of receipt.* Each institution shall retain a record of the receipt of the notices by the borrower and the servicer for the period of time the institution owns the loan.

(e) *Alternate method of notice.* Instead of providing the notice to the borrower required by paragraph (a) of this section, an institution may obtain satisfactory written assurance from a seller or lessor that, within a reasonable time before the completion of the sale or lease transaction, the seller or lessor

has provided such notice to the purchaser or lessee. The institution shall retain a record of the written assurance from the seller or lessor for the period of time the institution owns the loan.

(f) *Use of prescribed form of notice.* An institution will be considered to be in compliance with the requirements of this section for notice to the borrower by providing written notice to the borrower containing the language presented in appendix A to this subpart within a reasonable time before the completion of the transaction. The notice presented in appendix A to this subpart satisfies the borrower notice requirements of the 1968 Act.

§ 614.4960 Notice of servicer's identity.

(a) *Notice requirement.* When a System institution makes, increases, extends, renews, sells, or transfers a loan secured by a building or mobile home located or to be located in a special flood hazard area, the institution shall notify the Director of FEMA (or the Director's designee) in writing of the identity of the servicer of the loan. The Director of FEMA has designated the insurance provider to receive the institution's notice of the servicer's identity. This notice may be provided electronically if electronic transmission is satisfactory to the Director of FEMA's designee.

(b) *Transfer of servicing rights.* The institution shall notify the Director of FEMA (or the Director's designee) of any change in the servicer of a loan described in paragraph (a) of this section within 60 days after the effective date of the change. This notice may be provided electronically if electronic transmission is satisfactory to the Director of FEMA's designee. Upon any change in the servicing of a loan described in paragraph (a) of this section, the duty to provide notice under this paragraph (b) shall transfer to the transferee servicer.

APPENDIX A TO SUBPART S OF PART 614—SAMPLE FORM OF NOTICE OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARDS AND AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

We are giving you this notice to inform you that:

The building or mobile home securing the loan for which you have applied is or will be located in an area with special flood hazards.

The area has been identified by the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a special flood hazard area using FEMA's *Flood Insurance Rate Map* or the *Flood Hazard Boundary Map* for the following community:

. This area has at least a one percent (1%) chance of a flood equal to or exceeding the base flood elevation (a 100-year flood) in any given year. During the life of a 30-year mortgage loan, the risk of a 100-year flood in a special flood hazard area is 26 percent (26%).

Federal law allows a lender and borrower jointly to request the Director of FEMA to review the determination of whether the property securing the loan is located in a special flood hazard area. If you would like to make such a request, please contact us for further information.

The community in which the property securing the loan is located participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Federal law will not allow us to make you the loan that you have applied for if you do not purchase flood insurance. The flood insurance must be maintained for the life of the loan. If you fail to purchase or renew flood insurance on the property, Federal law authorizes and requires us to purchase the flood insurance for you at your expense.

- Flood insurance coverage under the NFIP may be purchased through an insurance agent who will obtain the policy either directly through the NFIP or through an insurance company that participates in the NFIP. Flood insurance also may be available from private insurers that do not participate in the NFIP.

- At a minimum, flood insurance purchased must cover *the lesser of*:

- (1) The outstanding principal balance of the loan; *or*

- (2) The maximum amount of coverage allowed for the type of property under the NFIP.

Flood insurance coverage under the NFIP is limited to the overall value of the property securing the loan minus the value of the land on which the property is located.

- Federal disaster relief assistance (usually in the form of a low-interest loan) may be available for damages incurred in excess of your flood insurance if your community's participation in the NFIP is in accordance with NFIP requirements.

Flood insurance coverage under the NFIP is not available for the property securing the loan because the community in which the property is located does not participate in the NFIP. In addition, if the non-participating community has been identified for at least one year as containing a special flood hazard area, properties located in the

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community will not be eligible for Federal disaster relief assistance in the event of a Federally-declared flood disaster.

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- 615.5570 Book-entry procedures for Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation securities.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 1.5, 1.7, 1.10, 1.11, 1.12, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.12, 3.1, 3.7, 3.11, 3.25, 4.3, 4.3A, 4.9, 4.14B, 4.25, 5.9, 5.17, 6.20, 6.26, 8.0, 8.3, 8.4, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 8.10, 8.12 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2013, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2093, 2122, 2128, 2132, 2146, 2154, 2154a, 2160, 2202b, 2211, 2243, 2252, 2278b, 2278b-6, 2279aa, 2279aa-3, 2279aa-4, 2279aa-6, 2279aa-7, 2279aa-8, 2279aa-10, 2279aa-12); sec. 301(a) of Pub. L. 100-233, 101 Stat. 1568, 1608.

Subpart A—Funding

§615.5000 General responsibilities.

(a) The System banks, acting through the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation (Funding Corporation), have the primary responsibility for obtaining funds for the lending operations of the System institutions.

(b) The System's funding operations have a significant impact upon the investment community, the general public, and the national economy in both the volume and the manner by which funds are raised. The Farm Credit Administration supervises compliance with the statutory collateral requirements for the debt obligations issued. The Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration, under policies adopted by the Board, consults with the Secretary of the Treasury concerning the System's funding activities, pursuant to section 5.10 of the Act.

[54 FR 1158, Jan. 12, 1989]

§615.5010 Funding Corporation.

(a) The Funding Corporation shall issue, market, and handle the obligations of the banks issued under section 4.2(b) through (d) of the Act and interbank or intersystem flow of funds as may from time to time be required, and, upon request of the banks, shall handle investment portfolios. The Funding Corporation shall maintain accurate and timely records. The System banks shall provide for the sale of such obligations through the Funding Corporation by negotiation, offer, bid, or syndicate sale, and for the delivery of such obligations by book entry, wire

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transfer, or such other means as may be appropriate.

(b) The interaction of the System with the financial community shall be conducted principally through the Funding Corporation. The Funding Corporation shall be subject to regulation and examination by the Farm Credit Administration.

[54 FR 1158, Jan. 12, 1989]

§ 615.5030 Borrowings from commercial banks.

(a) Each System bank board, by resolution, shall authorize all commercial bank borrowings by that System bank.

(b) The Financial Assistance Corporation may borrow from commercial banks with the approval of the Farm Credit Administration.

[54 FR 1159, Jan. 12, 1989]

§ 615.5040 Borrowings from financial institutions other than commercial banks.

The Farm Credit banks may borrow from other financial institutions, such as insurance companies, Federal agencies, or Federal reserve banks.

[37 FR 11434, June 7, 1972, as amended at 54 FR 1151, Jan. 12, 1989; 54 FR 50736, Dec. 11, 1989]

Subpart B—Collateral

SOURCE: 54 FR 1159, Jan. 12, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

§ 615.5045 Definitions.

(a) *Cost* means the actual amount paid for any asset.

(b) *Market value* means the price at which a willing seller would sell to a willing buyer, neither under any compulsion to buy or sell.

(c) *Unpaid balance* means total principal and accrued interest owed.

(d) *Secured interbank loan* means a loan from one Farm Credit System bank to another Farm Credit System bank, secured by assets of the borrowing Farm Credit System bank.

§ 615.5050 Collateral requirements.

(a) Each bank shall have on hand at the time of issuance of any notes, bonds, debentures, or other similar obligations, and at all times thereafter

maintain, free from any lien or other pledge, assets consisting of notes and other obligations representing loans made under the authority of the Act, real or personal property acquired in connection with loans made under the Act, obligations of the United States or any agency thereof direct or fully guaranteed, other bank assets (including marketable securities) approved by the Farm Credit Administration, cash, or cash equivalents approved by the Farm Credit Administration, in an aggregate value equal to the total amount of notes, bonds, debentures, or other similar obligations outstanding for which the bank is primarily liable.

(b) The collateral value of eligible investments (as defined in § 615.5140) shall be the lower of cost or market value.

(c)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the collateral value of notes and other obligations representing loans made under the authority of any Farm Credit Act shall be the unpaid balance of such loans adjusted for any allowance for loan losses (except as provided for in § 615.5090).

(2) The collateral value of loans in process of liquidation or foreclosure, judgments, and sales contracts shall be the unpaid balance of such loans, judgments, and contracts adjusted for any allowance for losses.

(3) The collateral value of loans which have been restructured by any action, such as an extension, deferment, or partial release, shall be the new unpaid balance of the loans adjusted for any allowance for losses.

(4) The collateral value of property acquired in the liquidation of loans shall be the book value of such property adjusted for any allowance for losses.

(5) Collateral shall not include the amount of any loan that exceeds the maximum amount authorized under the Act or part 614 of these regulations.

(6) Collateral may include the collateral value of secured interbank loans, computed as provided in § 615.5050(c)(1), provided that the assets securing the loan could serve as collateral supporting the issuance of obligations under § 615.5050(a). In computing its eligible collateral, the borrowing bank shall not count the assets securing such loan.

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(d) Each bank shall have procedures which will ensure that the bank is in compliance with the statutory requirements for maintenance of collateral. Such procedures shall include provisions for:

- (1) Adequate safekeeping facilities;
- (2) Methods to determine that debt instruments meet all requirements of law and regulations;
- (3) A report signed by an authorized bank officer at each regular meeting of the board of directors certifying the eligibility and the adequacy of collateral. Items to be reported will include but not be limited to the total amount of eligible collateral, amount of ineligible loans, amount of deductions, and the amount of excess collateral; and
- (4) Written procedures and practices to ensure that there will be a high degree of accuracy in protecting and accounting for the collateral.

§615.5060 Special collateral requirement.

(a) An attorney lien certification need not be obtained at the time a note is accepted as collateral if the counsel for the bank or association has determined, in writing, that the bank or association procedures provide sufficient safeguards to ensure that a real estate mortgage loan, within the meaning of section 1.7(a) of the Act, made by the bank or association will be secured by a first lien or its equivalent on the borrower's interest in the primary real estate security. However, the note shall be withdrawn from collateral upon the expiration of 1 year from the date of the loan closing, unless, before the end of such period:

- (1) An attorney has certified that the bank or association has a first lien or its equivalent from a security standpoint in the primary real estate security for the loan; or
- (2) The bank or association has obtained a title insurance policy insuring that it has a first lien or its equivalent from a security standpoint in the primary real estate security for the loan, and all of the following requirements are satisfied:

(i) The final policy was issued by a title insurance company that has been licensed to issue such policies by the

appropriate state insurance regulatory body or bodies, has not been barred or suspended, and has been approved by the lending institution;

(ii) The standard form on which the final policy was issued has been approved by the counsel for the lending institution;

(iii) The final policy was issued for an amount at least equal to the balance outstanding on the real estate mortgage loan or, if separate policies are issued to insure separate tracts, the minimum amount insured by each policy shall bear the same ratio to the outstanding balance of the loan that the appraised value of the tract insured by that policy bears to the appraised value of all the real estate security for the loan; and

(iv) Personnel meeting written standards of training and experience in real estate title matters prescribed by the counsel for the lending institution certified in writing that:

(A) They reviewed the final policy and that the policy complies with standards prescribed by such counsel; and

(B) The final policy insures that a first lien or its equivalent from a security standpoint has been obtained on the primary real estate security for the loan.

(b) A loan participation agreement to which a System bank or association is a participant and involving a loan originated by another lender shall constitute an obligation meeting the collateral requirements of §615.5050(a).

[54 FR 1159, Jan. 12, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 3787, Jan. 27, 1994]

§615.5090 Reduction in carrying value of collateral.

When the bank or Farm Credit Administration determines that a loan did not conform to the requirements of the law or regulations at the time the loan was closed, such loan shall be withdrawn from collateral until the cause of ineligibility is remedied. When a loan has been classified as a loss loan, the bank shall adjust the collateral value of the loan accordingly.

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Subpart C—Issuance of Bonds, Notes, Debentures and Similar Obligations

§615.5100 Authority to issue.

The Act authorizes each bank of the System, subject to the collateral requirements of section 4.3(c) of the Act, to issue:

- (a) Notes, bonds, debentures, or other similar obligations;
- (b) Consolidated obligations, together with any or all banks organized and operating under the same title of the Act;
- (c) Systemwide obligations, together with other banks of the System; and
- (d) Investment bonds to the authorized purchasers subject to the limitations contained in the regulations set forth in subpart D.

[54 FR 1160, Jan. 12, 1989]

§615.5101 Requirements for issuance.

Except as provided in section 4.2(e) of the Act, each debt obligation shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) Each debt obligation shall be issued through the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation acting for System banks.
- (b) Each debt obligation shall be authorized by resolution of the board(s) of directors of the issuer(s). Each participating bank shall provide, in its authorizing resolution, for its primary liability on the portion of any consolidated or Systemwide obligation issued on its behalf and be jointly and severally liable for the payment of any additional sums as called upon by the Farm Credit Administration, in accordance with section 4.4 of the Act, in the event any bank primarily liable therefor is unable to pay.
- (c) Each issuance of debt obligations shall meet the collateral requirements set forth in subpart B.
- (d) Each issuance of debt obligations shall be approved by the Farm Credit Administration.
- (e)(1) Consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury required by 31 U.S.C. 9108 shall be conducted by System representatives and shall have occurred prior to each debt issuance.
- (2) Under policies adopted by the Board of the Farm Credit Administra-

tion, the Chairman will consult with the Secretary of the Treasury on a regular basis concerning the exercise by the System of the powers conferred under section 4.2 of the Act.

[54 FR 1160, Jan. 12, 1989]

§615.5102 Issuance of debt obligations through the Funding Corporation.

(a) The amount, maturities, rates or interest, terms and conditions of participation by the System banks in each issue of joint, consolidated or Systemwide obligations shall be determined by the Funding Corporation established pursuant to section 4.9 of the Act, acting for the banks of the System, subject to the approval of the Farm Credit Administration in accordance with §615.5102.

(b) The Funding Corporation shall plan and develop funding guidelines, priorities, and objectives based upon the asset/liability management policies of the System institutions and the requirements of the market. The guidelines, priorities, and objectives shall be designed to ensure that the debt marketing responsibilities of the Funding Corporation will continue to provide flexibility for the banks and are fiscally sound.

(c) For all debt issuances conducted by the Funding Corporation, the specific prior approval of the Farm Credit Administration must be obtained prior to the distribution and sale of the obligation pursuant to section 4.9 of the Act.

[54 FR 1160, Jan. 12, 1989]

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§615.5105 Consolidated Systemwide notes.

Consolidated Systemwide notes authorized under §615.5100(b) shall be subject to the following provisions unless otherwise approved by the Farm Credit Administration:

- (a) Maturities shall be not less than five days nor more than 365 days.
- (b) Prices shall be on a discount yield basis or as determined by the Funding Corporation.

[42 FR 32227, June 24, 1977, as amended at 47 FR 28609, July 1, 1982; 54 FR 1160, Jan. 12, 1989; 60 FR 20011, Apr. 24, 1995]

Subpart D—Other Funding**§615.5110 Authority to issue (other funding).**

Any Farm Credit bank may issue Farm Credit Investment Bonds directly to those eligible as set forth in §615.5120(a). The bonds are subject to the limitations contained in the Federal Reserve Board's Regulation Q.

[43 FR 47489, Oct. 16, 1978; 43 FR 55239, Nov. 27, 1978]

§615.5120 Purchase eligibility requirement.

(a) *Limitations.* Eligibility to purchase Farm Credit Investment Bonds shall be limited to members and employees of the Farm Credit banks and associations, except any bank officers, directors, and employees who are involved in setting the term or rate, to retired employees who are beneficiaries of a pension or retirement program of the Farm Credit banks or associations, and to retired employees of the Farm Credit Administration. A member of a Farm Credit association or a bank for cooperatives need not be an active borrower to be eligible. A member of any Farm Credit institution may purchase investment bonds from any of the institutions in the district which offer the purchase program. Patrons, members, employees, or stockholder of other financing institutions discounting loans with a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank or of any legal entity which is a borrower from any Farm Credit institution as such are ineligible as they are not members of a Farm Credit institution. Stock or participation certificates shall not be sold merely to qualify a party for the purchase of Farm Credit Investment Bonds. For purposes of this section "member" means a stockholder or participation certificate holder who acquired stock or participation certificates to obtain a loan, to purchase stock for investment or to qualify for other services of the association or bank. A person who assumes a loan is not a member unless he becomes a stockholder or participation certificate holder in connection with that loan. Employee means a regular full-time

employee of a Farm Credit bank or association. Retired employee means a retiree who is a direct beneficiary of a pension or retirement program of a Farm Credit bank or association or the Farm Credit Administration under civil service retirement.

(b) *Form and ownership.* Farm Credit Investment Bonds are registered bonds issued in definitive or book-entry form depending on investor preference. The registration used must express the actual ownership of an interest in the bond and will be considered by the issuing institution as conclusive of such ownership and interest. No designation of an attorney, agent, or other representative to request or receive payment on behalf of the owner or co-owner, nor any restriction on the right of the owner or coowner to receive payment of the bond or interest, except as provided in this section may be made in the registration or otherwise. Registrations requested in applications for the purchase shall be clear, accurate, complete, and conform with one of the registration provisions set forth in this section, and include the appropriate taxpayer identifying number. Registrations requested will be inscribed on the face of the bond if in definitive form or on the confirmation of investment if in book-entry form. The following provisions shall apply for registration of Farm Credit Investment Bonds:

(1) In all cases the member's name (whether a natural person, fiduciary, or legal entity) or employee's name must appear as owner of the bond.

(2) A bond may be registered in the name of a fiduciary only if the fiduciary is in fact the member.

(3) A member or employee may not use a form of registration (such as a gift to a minor, irrevocable trust, etc.) which would divest himself of ownership. However, a minor may be named as coowner or beneficiary.

(4) If a member is a natural person, a second natural person, member or non-member, may be named as coowner or beneficiary. Coownership may not involve a fiduciary or private organization.

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(5) In the coownership form the connective “or” shall serve the same purpose as “joint tenants with right of survivorship.”

[43 FR 47489, Oct. 16, 1978; 43 FR 55239, Nov. 27, 1978, as amended at 56 FR 2675, Jan. 24, 1991; 61 FR 67187, Dec. 20, 1996]

§615.5130 Procedures.

Procedures relating to issuance, pricing, payment of interest, redemption, replacement of lost or stolen bonds and other matters shall be promulgated under the authority of this regulation as operating instructions to banks and associations.

[37 FR 11434, June 7, 1972]

Subpart E—Investment Management

§615.5131 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart, the following definitions apply:

(a) *Asset-backed securities (ABS)* mean investment securities that provide for ownership of a fractional undivided interest or collateral interests in specific assets of a trust that are sold and traded in the capital markets. For the purposes of this subpart, ABS exclude mortgage securities that are defined in §615.5131(i).

(b) *Bank* means a Farm Credit Bank, agricultural credit bank, or bank for cooperatives.

(c) *Eurodollar time deposit* means a non-negotiable deposit denominated in United States dollars and issued by an overseas branch of a United States bank or by a foreign bank outside the United States.

(d) *Final maturity* means the last date on which the remaining principal amount of a security is due and payable (matures) to the registered owner. It does not mean the call date, the expected average life, the duration, or the weighted average maturity.

(e) *General obligations* of a State or political subdivision means:

(1) The full faith and credit obligations of a State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a territory or possession of the United States, or a political subdivision thereof that possesses general powers of taxation, including property taxation; or

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(2) An obligation that is unconditionally guaranteed by an obligor possessing general powers of taxation, including property taxation.

(f) *Liquid investments* are assets that can be promptly converted into cash without significant loss to the investor. In the money market, a security is liquid if the spread between its bid and ask price is narrow and a reasonable amount can be sold at those prices.

(g) *Loans* are defined by §621.2(f) of this chapter and they are calculated quarterly (as of the last day of March, June, September, and December) by using the average daily balance of loans during the quarter.

(h) *Market risk* means the risk to the financial condition of your institution because the value of your holdings may decline if interest rates or market prices change. Exposure to market risk is measured by assessing the effect of changing rates and prices on either the earnings or economic value of an individual instrument, a portfolio, or the entire institution.

(i) *Mortgage securities* means securities that are either:

(1) Pass-through securities or participation certificates that represent ownership of a fractional undivided interest in a specified pool of residential (excluding home equity loans), multifamily or commercial mortgages, or

(2) A multiclass security (including collateralized mortgage obligations and real estate mortgage investment conduits) that is backed by a pool of residential, multifamily or commercial real estate mortgages, pass-through mortgage securities, or other multiclass mortgage securities.

(j) *Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization (NRSRO)* means a rating organization that the Securities and Exchange Commission recognizes as an NRSRO.

(k) *Revenue bond* means an obligation of a municipal government that finances a specific project or enterprise but it is not a full faith and credit obligation. The obligor pays a portion of the revenue generated by the project or enterprise to the bondholders.

(l) *Weighted average life (WAL)* means the average time until the investor receives the principal on a security, weighted by the size of each principal

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payment and calculated under specified prepayment assumptions.

(m) *You* means a Farm Credit bank, association, or service corporation.

[64 FR 28895, May 28, 1999]

§615.5132 Investment purposes.

Farm Credit Banks, banks for co-operatives and agricultural credit banks are authorized to hold eligible investments, listed under §615.5140, in an amount not to exceed 30 percent of the total outstanding loans of such banks, for the purposes of complying with the liquidity reserve requirement of §615.5134, managing surplus short-term funds, and for managing interest rate risk under §615.5135.

[58 FR 63056, Nov. 30, 1993]

§615.5133 Investment management.

(a) *Responsibilities of Board of Directors.* Your board must adopt written policies for managing your investment activities. Your board of directors must also ensure that management complies with these policies and that appropriate internal controls are in place to prevent loss. Annually, the board of directors must review these investment policies and make any changes that are needed.

(b) *Investment policies.* Your board's written investment policies must address the purposes and objectives of investments, risk tolerance, delegations of authority, and reporting requirements. Investment policies must be appropriate for the size, types, and risk characteristics of your investments.

(c) *Risk tolerance.* Your investment policies must establish risk limits and diversification requirements for the various classes of eligible investments and for the entire investment portfolio. These policies must ensure that you maintain appropriate diversification of your investment portfolio. Risk limits must be based on your institutional objectives, capital position, and risk tolerance. Your policies must identify the types and quantity of investments that you will hold to achieve your objectives and control credit, market, liquidity, and operational risks. The policy of any association or service corporation that holds significant investments and each bank must establish

risk limits for the following four types of risk.

(1) *Credit risk.* Investment policies must establish:

(i) Credit quality standards, limits on counterparty risk, and risk diversification standards that limit concentrations based on a single or related counterparty(ies), a geographical area, industries or obligations with similar characteristics.

(ii) Criteria for selecting brokers, dealers, and investment bankers (collectively, securities firms). You must buy and sell eligible investments with more than one securities firm. As part of your annual review of your investment policies, your board of directors must review the criteria for selecting securities firms and determine whether to continue your existing relationships with them.

(iii) Collateral margin requirements on repurchase agreements.

(2) *Market risk.* Investment policies must set market risk limits for specific types of investments, the investment portfolio, or your institution. Your board of directors must establish market risk limits in accordance with these regulations and our other policies.

(3) *Liquidity risk.* Investment policies must describe the liquidity characteristics of eligible investments that you will hold to meet your liquidity needs and institutional objectives.

(4) *Operational risk.* Investment policies must address operational risks, including delegations of authority and internal controls in accordance with paragraphs (d) and (e) of this section.

(d) *Delegation of authority.* All delegations of authority to specified personnel or committees must state the extent of management's authority and responsibilities for investments.

(e) *Internal controls.* You must:

(1) Establish appropriate internal controls to detect and prevent loss, fraud, embezzlement, conflicts of interest, and unauthorized investments.

(2) Establish and maintain a separation of duties and supervision between personnel who execute investment transactions and personnel who approve, reevaluate, and oversee investments.

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(3) Maintain management information systems that are appropriate for the level and complexity of your investment activities.

(f) *Securities valuation.* (1) Before you purchase a security, you must evaluate its credit quality and its price sensitivity to changes in market interest rates. You must also verify the value of a security that you plan to purchase, other than a new issue, with a source that is independent of the broker, dealer, counterparty or other intermediary to the transaction.

(2) You must determine the fair market value of each security in your portfolio and the fair market value of your whole investment portfolio at least monthly. You must also evaluate the credit quality and price sensitivity to change in market interest rates of all investments that you hold on an ongoing basis.

(3) Before you sell a security, you must verify its value with a source that is independent of the broker, dealer, counterparty, or other intermediary to the transaction.

(g) *Reports to the board.* Each quarter, management must report to the board of directors or a board committee on the performance and risk of each class of investments and the entire investment portfolio. These reports must identify all gains and losses that you incur during the quarter on individual securities that you sold before maturity. Reports must also identify potential risk exposure to changes in market interest rates and other factors that may affect the value of your bank's investment holdings. Management's report must discuss how investments affect your bank's overall financial condition and must evaluate whether the performance of the investment portfolio effectively achieves the board's objectives. Any deviations from the board's policies must be specifically identified in the report.

[64 FR 28895, May 28, 1999]

§615.5134 Liquidity reserve requirement.

(a) Each Farm Credit Bank, bank for cooperatives, and agricultural credit bank shall use cash and the eligible investments under §615.5140 of this sub-

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part to maintain liquidity sufficient to fund:

(1) Fifty (50) percent of the bank's bonds, notes, Farm Credit Investment Bonds, and interest due within the next 90 days divided by 3;

(2) Fifty (50) percent of the bank's discount notes due within the next 30 days; and

(3) Fifty (50) percent of the bank's commercial bank borrowing due within the next 30 days.

(b) All investments that the bank holds for the purpose of meeting the liquidity reserve requirement of this section must be free of lien.

(c) The liquidity reserve requirement shall be calculated as of the last day of each month utilizing month end data.

[58 FR 63056, Nov. 30, 1993, as amended at 64 FR 28896, May 28, 1999]

§615.5135 Management of interest rate risk.

The board of directors of each Farm Credit Bank, bank for cooperatives, and agricultural credit bank shall develop and implement an interest rate risk management program as set forth in subpart G of this part. The board of directors shall adopt an interest rate risk management section of an asset/liability management policy which establishes interest rate risk exposure limits as well as the criteria to determine compliance with these limits. At a minimum, the interest rate risk management section shall establish policies and procedures for the bank to:

(a) Identify and analyze the causes of risks within its existing balance sheet structure;

(b) Measure the potential impact of these risks on projected earnings and market values by conducting interest rate shock tests and simulations of multiple economic scenarios at least on a quarterly basis;

(c) Explore and implement actions needed to obtain its desired risk management objectives;

(d) Document the objectives that the bank is attempting to achieve by purchasing eligible investments that are authorized by §615.5140 of this subpart;

(e) Evaluate and document, at least quarterly, whether these investments

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have actually met the objectives stated under paragraph (d) of this section.

[58 FR 63056, Nov. 30, 1993, as amended at 63 FR 39225, July 22, 1998]

§615.5136 Emergencies impeding normal access of Farm Credit banks to capital markets.

An emergency shall be deemed to exist whenever a financial, economic, agricultural or national defense crisis could impede the normal access of Farm Credit banks to the capital markets. Whenever the Farm Credit Administration determines after consultations with the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation that such an emergency exists, the Farm Credit Administration Board shall, in

its sole discretion, adopt a resolution that:

(a) Increases the amount of eligible investments that Farm Credit Banks, banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks are authorized to hold pursuant to §615.5132 of this subpart; and/or

(b) Modifies or waives the liquidity reserve requirement in §615.5134 of this subpart.

[58 FR 63057, Nov. 30, 1993]

§615.5140 Eligible investments.

(a) You may hold only the following types of investments listed in the Investment Eligibility Criteria Table. These investments must be denominated in United States dollars.

Investment Eligibility Criteria Table

ASSET CLASS	FINAL MATURITY LIMIT	NRSRO CREDIT RATING	OTHER REQUIREMENTS	INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO LIMIT
(1) Obligations of the United States - Treasuries - Agency securities (except mortgage securities) - Other obligations fully insured or guaranteed by the United States, its agencies, instrumentalities and corporations.	None	NA	None	None
(2) Municipal Securities				
• General obligations	10 years	One of the highest two	None	None
• Revenue bonds	5 years	Highest	At the time of purchase, you must document that the issue is actively traded in an established secondary market	15%
(3) International and Multilateral Development Bank Obligations	None	None	The United States must be a voting shareholder	None
(4) Money Market Instruments				
• Federal funds	1 day or continuously callable up to 100 days	One of the two highest short-term	None	None
• Negotiable certificates of deposit	1 year		None	None
• Bankers acceptances	None		Issued by a depository institution	None
• Commercial paper	270 days			None
• Non-callable Term Federal funds and Eurodollar time deposits	100 days	Highest short-term	None	20%
• Master notes	270 days			20%
• Repurchase agreements collateralized by eligible investments or marketable securities rated in the highest credit rating category by an NRSRO	100 days	NA	If counterparty defaults, you must divest non-eligible securities under § 615.5143	None

ASSET CLASS	FINAL MATURITY LIMIT	NRSRO CREDIT RATING	OTHER REQUIREMENTS	INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO LIMIT
(5) Mortgage Securities				
• Issued or guaranteed by the United States	None	NA	Stress testing under § 615.5141	None
• Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac mortgage securities	None	NA	Stress testing under § 615.5141	50%
• Non-Agency securities that comply 15 U.S.C. 77d(5) or 15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(41)	None	Highest	Stress testing under § 615.5141	15%
• Commercial mortgage-backed securities	None	Highest	• Security must be backed by a minimum of 100 loans. • Loans from a single mortgagor cannot exceed 5% of the pool • Pool must be geographically diversified pursuant to the board's policy • Stress testing under § 615.5141	
(6) Asset-Backed Securities secured by:				
• Credit card receivables	None	Highest	5-year WAL for fixed rate or floating rate ABS at their contractual interest rate caps	20%
• Automobile loans				
• Home equity loans				
• Wholesale automobile dealer loans			7-year WAL for floating rate ABS that remain below their contractual interest rate cap	
• Student loans				
• Equipment loans				
• Manufactured housing loans				
(7) Corporate Debt Securities				
	5 years	One of the two highest	Cannot be convertible to equity securities	20%
(8) Diversified Investment Funds				
Shares of an investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940	NA	NA	The portfolio of the investment company must consist solely of eligible investments authorized by §§ 615.5140 and 615.5174. The investment company's risk and return objectives and use of derivatives must be consistent with FCA guidance and your investment policies.	None, if your shares in each investment company comprise 10% or less of your portfolio. Otherwise counts toward limit for each type of investment.

(b) *Rating of foreign countries.* When-ever the obligor or issuer of an eligible investment is located outside the United States, the host country must

maintain the highest sovereign rating for political and economic stability by an NRSRO.

(c) *Marketable securities.* All eligible investments, except money market instruments, must be marketable. An eligible investment is marketable if you can sell it quickly at a price that closely reflects its fair value in an active and universally recognized secondary market.

(d) *Obligor limits.* (1) You may not invest more than 20 percent of your total capital in eligible investments issued by any single institution, issuer, or obligor. This obligor limit does not apply to obligations, including mortgage securities, that are issued or guaranteed as to interest and principal by the United States, its agencies, instrumentalities, or corporations.

(2) *Obligor limits for your holdings in an investment company.* You must count securities that you hold through an investment company towards the obligor limit of this section unless the investment company's holdings of the security of any one issuer do not exceed five (5) percent of the investment company's total portfolio.

(e) *Other investments approved by the FCA.* You may purchase and hold other investments that we approve. Your request for our approval must explain the risk characteristics of the investment and your purpose and objectives for making the investment.

[64 FR 28896, May 28, 1999]

§615.5141 Stress tests for mortgage securities.

Mortgage securities are not eligible investments unless they pass a stress test. You must perform stress tests to determine how interest rate changes will affect the cashflow and price of each mortgage security that you purchase and hold, except for adjustable rate securities that reprice at intervals of 12 months or less and are tied to an index. You must also use stress tests to gauge how interest rate fluctuations on mortgage securities affect your institution's capital and earnings. You may conduct the stress tests as described in either paragraph (a) or (b) of this section.

(a) Mortgage securities must comply with the following three tests at the time of purchase and each following quarter:

(1) *Average Life Test.* The expected WAL of the instrument does not exceed 5 years.

(2) *Average Life Sensitivity Test.* The expected WAL does not extend for more than 2 years, assuming an immediate and sustained parallel shift in the yield curve of plus 300 basis points, nor shorten for more than 3 years, assuming an immediate and sustained parallel shift in the yield curve of minus 300 basis points.

(3) *Price Sensitivity Test.* The estimated change in price is not more than thirteen (13) percent due to an immediate and sustained parallel shift in the yield curve of plus or minus 300 basis points.

(4) *Exemption.* A floating rate mortgage security is subject only to the price sensitivity test in paragraph (a)(3) of this section if at the time of purchase and each quarter thereafter it bears a rate of interest that is below its contractual cap.

(b) You may use an alternative stress test to evaluate the price sensitivity of your mortgage securities. An alternative stress test must be able to measure the price sensitivity of mortgage instruments over different interest rate/yield curve scenarios. The methodology that you use to analyze mortgage securities must be appropriate for the complexity of the instrument's structure and cashflows. Prior to purchase and each quarter thereafter, you must use the stress test to determine that the risk in the mortgage security is within the risk limits of your board's investment policies. The stress test must enable you to determine at the time of purchase and each subsequent quarter that the mortgage security does not expose your capital or earnings to excessive risks.

(c) You must rely on verifiable information to support all your assumptions, including prepayment and interest rate volatility assumptions, when you apply the stress tests in either paragraph (a) or (b) of this section. You must document the basis for all assumptions that you use to evaluate the security and its underlying mortgages. You must also document all subsequent changes in your assumptions. If at any time after purchase, a mortgage

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security no longer complies with requirements in this section, you must divest it in accordance with §615.5143.

[64 FR 28899, May 28, 1999]

§615.5142 Association investments.

An association may hold eligible investments listed in §615.5140, with the approval of its funding bank, for the purposes of reducing interest rate risk and managing surplus short-term funds. Each bank must review annually the investment portfolio of every association that it funds.

[64 FR 28899, May 28, 1999]

§615.5143 Disposal of ineligible investments.

You must dispose of an ineligible investment within 6 months unless we approve, in writing, a plan that authorizes you to divest the instrument over a longer period of time. An acceptable divestiture plan must require you to dispose of the ineligible investment as quickly as possible without substantial financial loss. Until you actually dispose of the ineligible investment, the managers of your investment portfolio must report at least quarterly to your board of directors about the status and performance of the ineligible instrument, the reasons why it remains ineligible, and the managers' progress in disposing of the investment.

[64 FR 28899, May 28, 1999]

§615.5144 Banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks.

As may be authorized by the banks for cooperatives' or agricultural credit banks boards of directors ownership investment may be made in foreign business entities solely for the purpose of obtaining credit information and other services needed to facilitate transactions which may be financed under section 3.7(b) of the Farm Credit Act Amendments of 1980. Such an investment shall not exceed the level required to access credit and other services of the entity and shall not be made for earnings purposes. The business entity shall be deemed to be principally engaged in providing credit information to and performing such servicing functions for its members where such activities constitute a materially im-

portant line of business to its members. Also, investments must be made by a bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank for its own account and not on behalf of its members. The bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank shall use only those services provided by the business entity as necessary to facilitate transactions authorized by section 3.7(b) of the Farm Credit Act Amendments of 1980.

[46 FR 55088, Nov. 6, 1981, as amended at 54 FR 1151, Jan. 12, 1989; 54 FR 50736, Dec. 11, 1989; 61 FR 67187, Dec. 20, 1996. Redesignated at 64 FR 28899, May 28, 1999]

Subpart F—Property, Transfers of Capital, and Other Investments

§615.5170 Real and personal property.

Real estate and personal property may be acquired, held, or disposed of by any Farm Credit institution for the necessary and normal operations of its business. The purchase, lease, or construction of office quarters shall be limited to facilities reasonably necessary to meet the foreseeable requirements of the institution. Property shall not be acquired if it involves, or appears to involve, a bank or association in the real estate or other unrelated business.

[50 FR 48554, Nov. 26, 1985. Redesignated at 58 FR 63056, Nov. 30, 1993, and amended at 60 FR 20011, Apr. 24, 1995]

§615.5171 Transfer of capital from banks to associations.

(a) *Definitions for this section*—(1) *Transfer of capital* means any payment or forbearance by a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank (collectively, bank) to an affiliated association, including but not limited to:

- (i) The purchase of nonvoting stock or participation certificates;
- (ii) The payment of cash;
- (iii) Debt forgiveness or reduction;
- (iv) Interest rate concessions or interest-free loans;
- (v) The transfer of loans at other than fair market value;
- (vi) The reduction or elimination of standard loan servicing or other fees; and

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(vii) The assumption of operating or other expenses, such as legal fees or insurance premiums.

(2) *Preferential transfer of capital* means a transfer of capital that is not available to all similarly situated affiliated associations.

(3) *Nonroutine transfer of capital* means a transfer of capital that is not available in the ordinary course of business.

(b) *Considerations for preferential or nonroutine transfers of capital.* Before authorizing a preferential or nonroutine transfer of capital, a bank board of directors must take into account and document whether:

(1) The transfer of capital is in the best interests of all of the shareholders;

(2) The bank will be able to achieve its capital adequacy and business plan goals after making the transfer of capital; and

(3) The transfer of capital is the “least cost” alternative available and will enable the association to maintain sound, adequate, and constructive service to borrowers.

(c) *Notification requirements.* At least 30 days before making a preferential or nonroutine transfer of capital to an affiliated association, banks must provide shareholders and the Chief Examiner of the Farm Credit Administration with a description of the transfer and the documentation required by paragraph (b) of this section.

[64 FR 49961, Sept. 15, 1999]

§615.5172 Production credit association and agricultural credit association investment in farmers’ notes given to cooperatives and dealers.

(a) In accordance with policies prescribed by the board of directors of the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank and each production credit association and agricultural credit association (hereinafter association(s)), such association(s) may invest in notes, conditional sales contracts, and other similar obligations given to cooperatives and private dealers by farmers and ranchers eligible to borrow from such associations.

(b) Such notes and other obligations evidencing purchases of farm machinery, supplies, equipment, home appli-

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ances, and other items of a capital nature handled by cooperatives and private dealers will be eligible for purchase as investments.

(c) The total amount which an association may invest in such obligations at any one time shall not exceed 15 percent of the balance of its loans outstanding at the close of the association’s preceding fiscal year. In addition, the total amount which an association may invest in such obligations that are originated by any one cooperative or private dealer, at any one time, shall not exceed 50 percent of association capital and surplus.

(d) All notes in which an association invests shall be endorsed with full recourse against the cooperative or dealer. The association shall contact each notemaker who meets the association’s credit standards to encourage him to become a borrower.

[54 FR 1158, Jan. 12, 1989, as amended at 55 FR 24888, June 19, 1990; 55 FR 38313, Sept. 18, 1990. Redesignated at 58 FR 63056, Nov. 30, 1993]

§615.5173 Stock of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

Banks and associations of the Farm Credit System are authorized to purchase and hold Class B common stock of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation pursuant to section 8.4 of the Farm Credit Act.

[58 FR 63058, Nov. 30, 1993]

§615.5174 Farmer Mac securities.

(a) *General authority.* You may purchase and hold mortgage securities that are issued or guaranteed as to both principal and interest by the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac securities). You may purchase and hold Farmer Mac securities for the purposes of managing credit and interest rate risks, and furthering your mission to finance agriculture. The total value of your Farmer Mac securities cannot exceed your total outstanding loans, as defined by §615.5131(g).

(b) *Board and management responsibilities.* Your board of directors must adopt written policies that will govern your investments in Farmer Mac securities. All delegations of authority to specified personnel or committees

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must state the extent of management's authority and responsibilities for managing your investments in Farmer Mac securities. The board of directors must also ensure that appropriate internal controls are in place to prevent loss, in accordance with §615.5133(e). Management must submit quarterly reports to the board of directors on the performance of all investments in Farmer Mac securities. Annually, your board of directors must review these policies and the performance of your Farmer Mac securities and make any changes that are needed.

(c) *Policies.* Your board of directors must establish investment policies for Farmer Mac securities that include your:

(1) *Objectives* for holding Farmer Mac securities.

(2) *Credit risk* parameters including:

(i) The quantities and types of Farmer Mac mortgage securities that are collateralized by qualified agricultural mortgages, rural home loans, and loans guaranteed by the Farm Service Agency.

(ii) Product and geographic diversification for the loans that underlie the security; and

(iii) Minimum pool size, minimum number of loans in each pool, and maximum allowable premiums or discounts on these securities.

(3) *Liquidity risk* tolerance and the liquidity characteristics of Farmer Mac securities that are suitable to meet your institutional objectives. A bank may not include Farmer Mac mortgage securities in the liquidity reserve maintained to comply with §615.5134.

(4) *Market risk* limits based on the effects that the Farmer Mac securities have on your capital and earnings.

(d) *Stress Test.* You must perform stress tests on mortgage securities that are issued or guaranteed by Farmer Mac in accordance with the requirements of §615.5141(b) and (c). If a Farmer Mac security fails a stress test, you must divest it as required by §615.5143.

[64 FR 28899, May 28, 1999]

Subpart G—Risk Assessment and Management

SOURCE: 63 FR 39225, July 22, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

§615.5180 Interest rate risk management by banks—general.

The board of directors of each Farm Credit Bank, bank for cooperatives, and agricultural credit bank shall develop and implement an interest rate risk management program tailored to the needs of the institution and consistent with the requirements set forth in §615.5135 of this part. The program shall establish a risk management process that effectively identifies, measures, monitors, and controls interest rate risk.

§615.5181 Bank interest rate risk management program.

(a) The board of directors of each Farm Credit Bank, bank for cooperatives, and agricultural credit bank is responsible for providing effective oversight to the interest rate risk management program and must be knowledgeable of the nature and level of interest rate risk taken by the institution.

(b) Senior management is responsible for ensuring that interest rate risk is properly managed on both a long-range and a day-to-day basis.

§615.5182 Interest rate risk management by associations and other Farm Credit System institutions other than banks.

Any association or other Farm Credit System institution other than banks, excluding the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, with interest rate risk that could lead to significant declines in net income or in the market value of capital shall comply with the requirements of §§615.5180 and 615.5181. The interest rate risk management program required under §615.5181 shall be commensurate with the level of interest rate risk of the institution.

Subpart H—Capital Adequacy

SOURCE: 53 FR 39247, Oct. 6, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 615.5200 General.

(a) The Board of Directors of each Farm Credit System institution shall determine the amount of total capital, core surplus, total surplus, and unallocated surplus needed to assure the institution's continued financial viability and to provide for growth necessary to meet the needs of its borrowers. The minimum capital standards specified in this part are not meant to be adopted as the optimal capital level in the institution's capital adequacy plan. Rather, the standards are intended to serve as minimum levels of capital that each institution must maintain to protect against the credit and other general risks inherent in its operations.

(b) Each Board of Directors shall establish, adopt, and maintain a formal written capital adequacy plan as a part of the financial plan required by § 618.8440 of this chapter. The plan shall include the capital targets that are necessary to achieve the institution's capital adequacy goals as well as the minimum permanent capital and surplus standards. The plan shall address any projected dividends, patronage distribution, equity requirements, or other action that may decrease the institution's capital or the components thereof for which minimum amounts are required by this part. The plan shall set forth the circumstances in which retirements or revolvments of stock or equities may occur. If the plan provides for retirement or revolvment of equities included in core surplus, in connection with a loan default or the death of a former borrower, the plan must require the institution to make a prior determination that such retirement or revolvment is in the best interest of the institution, and also require the institution to charge off an amount of the indebtedness on the loan equal to the amount of the equities that are retired or canceled. In addition to factors that must be considered in meeting the minimum standards, the board of directors shall also con-

sider at least the following factors in developing the capital adequacy plan:

- (1) Capability of management;
- (2) Quality of operating policies, procedures, and internal controls;
- (3) Quality and quantity of earnings;
- (4) Asset quality and the adequacy of the allowance for losses to absorb potential loss within the loan and lease portfolios;
- (5) Sufficiency of liquid funds;
- (6) Needs of an institution's customer base; and
- (7) Any other risk-oriented activities, such as funding and interest rate risks, potential obligations under joint and several liability, contingent and off-balance-sheet liabilities or other conditions warranting additional capital.

[53 FR 39247, Oct. 6, 1988, as amended at 62 FR 4446, Jan. 30, 1997]

§ 615.5201 Definitions.

For the purpose of this subpart, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Allocated investment* means earnings allocated but not paid in cash by a System bank to an association or other recipient.

(b) *Commitment* means any arrangement that legally obligates an institution to purchase loans or securities, to participate in loans or leases, to extend credit in the form of loans or leases, to pay the obligation of another, to provide overdraft, revolving credit or underwriting facilities, or to participate in similar transactions.

(c) *Credit conversion factor* means that number by which an off-balance-sheet item shall be multiplied to obtain a credit equivalent before placing the item in a risk-weight category.

(d) *Deferred-tax assets that are dependent on future income or future events* means:

- (1) Deferred-tax assets arising from deductible temporary differences dependent upon future income that exceed the amount of taxes previously paid that could be recovered through loss carrybacks if existing temporary differences (both deductible and taxable and regardless of where the related tax-deferred effects are recorded on the institution's balance sheet) fully reverse;

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(2) Deferred-tax assets dependent upon future income arising from operating loss and tax carryforwards; or

(3) Deferred-tax assets arising from temporary differences that could be recovered if existing temporary differences that are dependent upon other future events (both deductible and taxable and regardless of where the related tax-deferred effects are recorded on the institution's balance sheet) fully reverse.

(e) *Direct lender institution* means an institution that extends credit in the form of loans or leases to eligible borrowers in its own right and carries such loan of lease assets on its books.

(f) *Government agency* means an agency of the United States Government whose obligations are explicitly guaranteed by the United States Government or their successors.

(g) *Government-sponsored agency* means agencies or instrumentalities chartered by the United States Congress to serve a public purpose whose debt obligations are not explicitly guaranteed by the United States Government.

(h) *Institution* means a Farm Credit bank, Federal land bank association, Federal land credit association, production credit association, agricultural credit association, Farm Credit Leasing Corporation, bank for cooperatives, agricultural credit bank, and their successors.

(i) *Nonagreeing association* means an association that does not have an allotment agreement in effect with a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank pursuant to §615.5210(e).

(j) *OECD* means the group of countries that are full members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, regardless of entry date, as well as countries that have concluded special lending arrangements with the International Monetary Fund's General Arrangement to Borrow, excluding any country that has rescheduled its external sovereign debt within the previous 5 years.

(k) *Performance-based standby letter of credit* means any letter of credit or similar arrangement that represents an irrevocable obligation to be beneficiary on the part of the issuer to make payment on any default by the account

party in the performance of a non-financial or commercial obligation.

(l) *Permanent capital* means—

(1) Current year retained earnings;

(2) Allocated and unallocated earnings (which, in the case of earnings allocated in any form by a System bank to any association or other recipient and retained by the bank, shall be considered, in whole or in part, permanent capital of the bank or of any such association or other recipient as provided under an agreement between the bank and each such association or other recipient);

(3) All surplus;

(4) Stock issued by a System institution, except—

(i) Stock that may be retired by the holder of the stock on repayment of the holder's loan, or otherwise at the option or request of the holder;

(ii) Stock that is protected under section 4.9A of the Act or is otherwise not at risk;

(iii) Farm Credit Bank equities required to be purchased by Federal land bank associations in connection with stock issued to borrowers that is protected under section 4.9A of the Act;

(iv) Capital subject to revolvment, unless:

(A) The bylaws of the institution clearly provide that there is no express or implied right for such capital to be retired at the end of the revolvment cycle or at any other time; and

(B) The institution clearly states in the notice of allocation that such capital may only be retired at the sole discretion of the board in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements and that no express or implied right to have such capital retired at the end of the revolvment cycle or at any other time is thereby granted;

(5) Term preferred stock with an original maturity of at least 5 years and on which, if cumulative, the board of directors has the option to defer dividends, provided that, at the beginning of each of the last 5 years of the term of the stock, the amount that is eligible to be counted as permanent capital is reduced by 20 percent of the original amount of the stock (net of redemptions);

(6) Payments to, or obligations to pay, the Farm Credit System Financial

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Assistance Corporation to the extent permitted by section 6.26(c)(5)(G) of the Act and § 615.5210(d); and

(7) Financial assistance provided by the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation that the Farm Credit Administration determines appropriate to be considered permanent capital.

(m) *Qualifying bilateral netting contract* means a bilateral netting contract that meets at least the following conditions:

(1) The contract is in writing;

(2) The contract is not subject to a walkaway clause, defined as a provision that permits a non-defaulting counterparty to make lower payments than it would make otherwise under the contract, or no payment at all, to a defaulter or to the estate of a defaulter, even if the defaulter or the estate of the defaulter is a net creditor under the contract;

(3) The contract creates a single obligation either to pay or to receive the net amount of the sum of positive and negative mark-to-market values for all derivative contracts subject to the qualifying bilateral netting contract;

(4) The institution receives a legal opinion that represents, to a high degree of certainty, that in the event of legal challenge the relevant court and administrative authorities would find the institution's exposure to be the net amount;

(5) The institution establishes a procedure to monitor relevant law and to ensure that the contracts continue to satisfy the requirements of this section; and

(6) The institution maintains in its files adequate documentation to support the netting of a derivatives contract.

(n) *Risk-adjusted asset base* means the total dollar amount of the institution's assets adjusted in accordance with § 615.5210 (d) and (e) and weighted on the basis of risk in accordance with § 615.5210(f).

(o) *Standby letter of credit* means any letter of credit or similar arrangement that represents an irrevocable obligation to the beneficiary on the part of the issuer:

(1) To repay money borrowed by or advanced to or for the account of the account party; or

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(2) To make payment on account of any indebtedness undertaken by the account party, in the event the account party fails to fulfill its obligation to the beneficiary.

(p) *Stock* means stock and participation certificates.

(q) *Total capital* means assets minus liabilities, valued in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), except that liabilities shall not include obligations to retire stock protected under section 4.9A of the Act.

[53 FR 39247, Oct. 6, 1988, as amended at 56 FR 2675, Jan. 24, 1991; 59 FR 37404, July 22, 1994; 62 FR 4446, Jan. 30, 1997; 63 FR 39225, July 22, 1998]

§ 615.5205 Minimum permanent capital standards.

Each institution shall at all times maintain permanent capital at a level of at least 7 percent of its risk-adjusted asset base.

[62 FR 4446, Jan. 30, 1997]

§ 615.5210 Computation of the permanent capital ratio.

(a) The institution's permanent capital ratio shall be determined on the basis of the financial statements of the institution prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles except that the obligations of the Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation issued to repay banks in connection with the capital preservation and loss-sharing agreements described in section 6.9(e)(1) of the Act shall not be considered obligations of any institution subject to this regulation prior to their maturity.

(b) The institution's asset base and permanent capital shall be computed using average daily balances for the most recent 3 months.

(c) The institution's permanent capital ratio shall be calculated by dividing the institution's permanent capital, adjusted in accordance with paragraph (e) of this section (the numerator), by the risk-adjusted asset base (the denominator), to derive a ratio expressed as a percentage.

(d) Until September 27, 2002, payments of assessments to the Farm Credit System Financial Assistance

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Corporation, and any part of the obligation to pay future assessments to the Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation that is recognized as an expense on the books of a bank or association, shall be included in the capital of such bank or association for the purpose of determining its compliance with regulatory capital requirements, to the extent allowed by section 6.26(c)(5)(G) of the Act. If the bank directly or indirectly passes on all or part of the payments to its affiliated associations pursuant to section 6.26(c)(5)(D) of the Act, such amounts shall be included in the capital of the associations and shall not be included in the capital of the bank. After September 27, 2002, no payments of assessments or obligations to pay future assessments may be included in the capital of the bank or association.

(e) For the purpose of computing the institution's permanent capital ratio, the following adjustments shall be made prior to assigning assets to risk-weight categories and computing the ratio:

(1) Where two Farm Credit System institutions have stock investments in each other, such reciprocal holdings shall be eliminated to the extent of the offset. If the investments are equal in amount, each institution shall deduct from its assets and its total capital an amount equal to the investment. If the investments are not equal in amount, each institution shall deduct from its total capital and its assets an amount equal to the smaller investment. The elimination of reciprocal holdings required by this paragraph shall be made prior to making the other adjustments required by this section.

(2) Where a Farm Credit Bank or an agricultural credit bank is owned by one or more Farm Credit System institutions, the double counting of capital shall be eliminated in the following manner:

(i) All equities of a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank that have been purchased by other Farm Credit institutions shall be considered to be permanent capital of the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank.

(ii) Each Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank and each of its affiliated associations may enter into an

agreement that specifies, for the purpose of computing permanent capital only, a dollar amount and/or percentage allotment of the association's allocated investment between the bank and the association. The following conditions shall apply:

(A) The agreement shall be for a term of 1 year or longer.

(B) The agreement shall be entered into on or before its effective date.

(C) The agreement may be amended according to its terms, but no more frequently than annually except in the event that a party to the agreement is merged or reorganized, or in the event of a reallocation pursuant to paragraph (e)(2)(ii)(G) of this section. The agreement shall include a provision addressing how the agreement will be amended if a reallocation is required by paragraph (e)(2)(ii)(G) of this section.

(D) On or before the effective date of the agreement, a certified copy of the agreement, and any amendments thereto, shall be sent to the field office of the Farm Credit Administration responsible for examining the institution. A copy shall also be sent within 30 calendar days of adoption to the bank's other affiliated associations.

(E) Unless the parties otherwise agree, if the bank and the association have not entered into a new agreement on or before the expiration of an existing agreement, the existing agreement shall automatically be extended for another 12 months, unless either party notifies the Farm Credit Administration in writing of its objection to the extension prior to the expiration of the existing agreement.

(F) In the absence of an agreement between a Farm Credit Bank or an agricultural credit bank and one or more associations, or in the event that an agreement expires and at least one party has timely objected to the continuation of the terms of its agreement, the following formula shall be applied with respect to the allocated investments held by those associations with which there is no agreement (non-agreeing associations), and shall not be applied to the allocated investments held by those associations with which the bank has an agreement (agreeing associations):

(1) The allotment formula shall be calculated annually.

(2) The permanent capital ratio of the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank shall be computed as of the date that the existing agreement terminates, using a 3-month average daily balance, excluding the allocated investment from nonagreeing associations but including any allocated investments of agreeing associations that are allotted to the bank under applicable allocation agreements. The permanent capital ratio of each nonagreeing association shall be computed as of the same date using a 3-month average daily balance, and shall be computed excluding its allocated investment in the bank.

(3) If the permanent capital ratio for the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank calculated in accordance with paragraph (e)(2)(ii)(F)(2) of this section is 7 percent or above, the allocated investment of each nonagreeing association whose permanent capital ratio calculated in accordance with paragraph (e)(2)(ii)(F)(2) of this section is 7 percent or above shall be allotted 50 percent to the bank and 50 percent to the association.

(4) If the permanent capital ratio of the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank calculated in accordance with paragraph (e)(2)(ii)(F)(2) of this section is 7 percent or above, the allocated investment of each nonagreeing association whose capital ratio is below 7 percent shall be allotted to the association until the association's capital ratio reaches 7 percent or until all of the investment is allotted to the association, whichever occurs first. Any remaining unallotted allocated investment shall be allotted 50 percent to the bank and 50 percent to the association.

(5) If the permanent capital ratio of the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank calculated in accordance with paragraph (e)(2)(ii)(F)(2) of this section is less than 7 percent, the amount of additional capital needed by the bank to reach a permanent capital ratio of 7 percent shall be determined, and an amount of the allocated investment of each nonagreeing association shall be allotted to the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank as follows:

(i) If the total of the allocated investments of all nonagreeing associations is greater than the additional capital needed by the bank, the allocated investment of each nonagreeing association shall be multiplied by a fraction whose numerator is the amount of capital needed by the bank and whose denominator is the total amount of allocated investments of the nonagreeing associations, and such amount shall be allotted to the bank. Next, if the permanent capital ratio of any nonagreeing association is less than 7 percent, a sufficient amount of unallotted allocated investment shall then be allotted to each nonagreeing association, as necessary, to increase its permanent capital ratio to 7 percent, or until all such remaining investment is allotted to the association, whichever occurs first. Any unallotted allocated investment still remaining shall be allotted 50 percent to the bank and 50 percent to the nonagreeing association.

(ii) If the additional capital needed by the bank is greater than the total of the allocated investments of the nonagreeing associations, all of the remaining allocated investments of the nonagreeing associations shall be allotted to the bank.

(G) If a payment or part of a payment to the Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation pursuant to section 6.9(e)(3)(D)(ii) of the Act would cause a bank to fall below its minimum permanent capital requirement, the bank and one or more associations shall amend their allocation agreements to increase the allotment of the allocated investment to the bank sufficiently to enable the bank to make the payment to the Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation, provided that the associations would continue to meet their minimum permanent capital requirement. In the case of a nonagreeing association, the Farm Credit Administration may require a revision of the allotment sufficient to enable the bank to make the payment to the Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation, provided that the association would continue to meet its minimum permanent capital requirement. The Farm Credit Administration Board may, at the request of

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one or more of the institutions affected, waive the requirements of this paragraph (e)(2)(ii)(G) if the Board deems it is in the overall best interest of the institutions affected.

(3) A Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank and a recipient, other than an association, of allocated earnings from such bank may enter into an agreement specifying a dollar amount and/or percentage allotment of the recipient's allocated earnings in the bank between the bank and the recipient. Such agreement shall comply with the provisions of paragraph (e)(2) of this section, except that, in the absence of an agreement, the allocated investment shall be allotted 100 percent to the allocating bank and 0 percent to the recipient. All equities of the bank that are purchased by a recipient shall be considered as permanent capital of the issuing bank.

(4) A bank for cooperatives and a recipient of allocated earnings from such bank may enter into an agreement specifying a dollar amount and/or percentage allotment of the recipient's allocated earnings in the bank between the bank and the recipient. Such agreement shall comply with the provisions of paragraph (e)(2) of this section, except that, in the absence of an agreement, the allocated investment shall be allotted 100 percent to the allocating bank and 0 percent to the recipient. All equities of a bank that are purchased by a recipient shall be considered as permanent capital of the issuing bank.

(5) Where a bank or association invests in an association to capitalize a loan participation interest, the investing institution shall deduct from its total capital an amount equal to its investment in the participating institution.

(6) The double-counting of capital by a service corporation chartered under section 4.25 of the Act and its stockholder institutions shall be eliminated by deducting an amount equal to the institution's investment in the service corporation from its total capital.

(7) Each institution shall deduct from its total capital an amount equal to all goodwill, whenever required.

(8) To the extent an institution has deducted its investment in another

Farm Credit institution from its total capital, the investment may be eliminated from its asset base.

(9) Where a Farm Credit Bank and an association have an enforceable written agreement to share losses on specifically identified assets on a predetermined quantifiable basis, such assets shall be counted in each institution's risk-adjusted asset base in the same proportion as the institutions have agreed to share the loss.

(10) The permanent capital of an institution shall exclude the net effect of all transactions covered by the definition of "accumulated other comprehensive income" contained in the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 130, as promulgated by the Financial Accounting Standards Board.

(11) For purposes of calculating capital ratios under this part, deferred-tax assets are subject to the conditions, limitations, and restrictions described in this paragraph.

(i) Each institution shall deduct an amount of deferred-tax assets, net of any valuation allowance, from its assets and its total capital that is equal to the greater of:

(A) The amount of deferred-tax assets that are dependent on future income or future events in excess of the amount that is reasonably expected to be realized within 1 year of the most recent calendar quarter-end date, based on financial projections for that year, or

(B) The amount of deferred-tax assets that are dependent on future income or future events in excess of ten (10) percent of the amount of core surplus that exists before the deduction of any deferred-tax assets.

(ii) For purposes of this calculation:

(A) The amount of deferred-tax assets that can be realized from taxes paid in prior carryback years and from the reversal of existing taxable temporary differences shall not be deducted from assets and from equity capital.

(B) All existing temporary differences should be assumed to fully reverse at the calculation date.

(C) Projected future taxable income should not include net operating loss carryforwards to be used within 1 year or the amount of existing temporary differences expected to reverse within that year.

(D) Financial projections shall include the estimated effect of tax-planning strategies that are expected to be implemented to minimize tax liabilities and realize tax benefits. Financial projections for the current fiscal year (adjusted for any significant changes that have occurred or are expected to occur) may be used when applying the capital limit at an interim date within the fiscal year.

(E) The deferred tax effects of any unrealized holding gains and losses on available-for-sale debt securities may be excluded from the determination of the amount of deferred-tax assets that are dependent upon future taxable income and the calculation of the maximum allowable amount of such assets. If these deferred-tax effects are excluded, this treatment must be followed consistently over time.

(f) The risk-adjusted asset base (denominator) shall be determined in the following manner:

(1) Each asset on the institution's balance sheet and each off-balance-sheet item, adjusted by the appropriate credit conversion factor in paragraph (f)(3) of this section, shall be assigned to one of five risk categories in accordance with this section. The aggregate dollar value of the assets in each category shall be multiplied by the percentage weight assigned to that category. The sum of the weighted dollar values from each of the five risk categories shall comprise the denominator for computation of the permanent capital ratio.

(2) Balance sheet assets shall be assigned to the percentage risk categories as follows:

(i) *Category 1: 0 Percent.*

(A) Cash on hand and demand balances held in domestic or foreign banks.

(B) Claims on Federal Reserve Banks.

(C) Goodwill.

(D) Direct claims on and portions of claims unconditionally guaranteed by the United States Treasury, United States Government agencies, or central governments in other OECD countries. A United States Government agency is defined as an instrumentality of the United States Government whose obligations are fully and explicitly guaranteed as to the timely repayment of

principal and interest by the full faith and credit of the United States Government.

(ii) *Category 2: 20 Percent.*

(A) Portions of loans and other assets collateralized by United States Government-sponsored agency securities. A United States Government-sponsored agency is defined as an agency originally chartered or established to serve public purposes specified by the United States Congress but whose obligations are not explicitly guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government.

(B) Portions of loans and other assets conditionally guaranteed by the United States Government or its agencies.

(C) Portions of loans and other assets collateralized by securities issued or guaranteed (fully or partially) by the United States Government or its agencies (but only to the extent guaranteed).

(D) Claims on domestic banks (exclusive of demand balances).

(E) Claims on, or guarantees by, OECD banks.

(F) Claims on non-OECD banks with a remaining maturity of 1 year or less.

(G) Investments in State and local government obligations backed by the "full faith and credit of State or local government." Other claims (including loans) and portions of claims guaranteed by the full faith and credit of a State government (but only to the extent guaranteed).

(H) Claims on official multinational lending institutions or regional development institutions in which the United States Government is a shareholder or contributor.

(I) Loans and other obligations of and investments in Farm Credit institutions.

(J) Local currency claims on foreign central governments to the extent that the Farm Credit institution has local liabilities in that country.

(K) Cash items in the process of collection.

(iii) *Category 3: 50 Percent.*

(A) All other investment securities with maturities under 1 year.

(B) Rural housing loans secured by first lien mortgages or deeds of trust.

(iv) *Category 4: 100 Percent.*

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(A) All other claims on private obligors.

(B) Claims on non-OECD banks with a remaining maturity greater than 1 year.

(C) All other assets not specified above, including but not limited to, leases, fixed assets, and receivables.

(D) All non-local currency claims on foreign central governments, as well as local currency claims on foreign central governments that are not included in Category 2(J).

(3) Off-Balance-Sheet Items.

(i) The dollar amount of off-balance-sheet items that shall be assigned to a risk-weight category for inclusion in the denominator shall be determined by multiplying the face amount of the item by the appropriate credit conversion factor set forth in paragraph (f)(3)(ii) of this section. The resulting amount shall be then assigned to the appropriate risk-weight category described in paragraph (f)(2) of this section on the basis of the type of obligor.

(ii) Credit conversion factors shall be applied to off-balance-sheet items as follows:

(A) *0 Percent.*

(1) Unused commitments with an original maturity of 14 months or less; or

(2) Unused commitments with an original maturity of greater than 14 months if:

(B) *20 Percent*

(1) Short-term, self-liquidating, trade-related contingencies, including but not limited to, commercial letters of credit.

(C) *50 Percent*

(1) Transaction-related contingencies (e.g. bid bonds, performance bonds, warranties, and performance-based standby letters of credit related to a particular transaction).

(2) Unused loan commitments with an original maturity exceeding 14

months, including underwriting commitments and commercial credit lines.

(3) Revolving underwriting facilities (RUFs), note issuance facilities (NIFs) and other similar arrangements pursuant to which the institution's customer can issue short-term debt obligations in its own name, but for which the institution has a legally binding commitment to either:

(i) Purchase the obligations the customer is unable to sell by a stated date; or

(ii) Advance funds to its customer if the obligations cannot be sold.

(D) *100 Percent*

(1) Direct credit substitutes including financial-guarantee-type standby letters of credit that support financial claims on the account party. The face amount of a direct credit substitute shall be netted against any participations sold in that item. The amount not so sold shall be assigned to a risk-weight category using the criteria of §615.5210(f)(2).

(2) Acquisitions of risk participations in bankers acceptances and participations in direct credit substitutes.

(3) Sale and repurchase agreements and asset sales with recourse, if not already included on the balance sheet.

(4) Forward agreements (i.e., contractual obligations) to purchase assets, including financing facilities with certain drawdown.

(iii) *Credit equivalents of interest rate contracts and foreign contracts.* (A) Credit equivalents of interest rate contracts and foreign exchange contracts (except single currency floating/floating interest rate swaps) shall be determined by adding the replacement cost (mark-to-market value, if positive) to the potential future credit exposure, determined by multiplying the notional principal amount by the following credit conversion factors as appropriate.

CONVERSION FACTOR MATRIX
[In Percent]

Remaining maturity	Interest rate	Exchange rate	Commodity
1 year or less	0.0	1.0	10.0
Over 1 to 5 years	0.5	5.0	12.0
Over 5 years	1.5	7.5	15.0

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(B) For any derivative contract that does not fall within one of the categories in the above table, the potential future credit exposure shall be calculated using the commodity conversion factors. The net current exposure for multiple derivative contracts with a single counterparty and subject to a qualifying bilateral netting contract shall be the net sum of all positive and negative mark-to-market values for each derivative contract. The positive sum of the net current exposure shall be added to the adjusted potential future credit exposure for the same multiple contracts with a single counterparty. The adjusted potential future credit exposure shall be computed as

$$A_{\text{net}} = (0.4 \times A_{\text{gross}}) + 0.6 (NGR \times A_{\text{gross}})$$

where:

(1) A_{net} is the adjusted potential future credit exposure;

(2) A_{gross} is the sum of potential future credit exposures determined by multiplying the notional principal amount by the appropriate credit conversion factor; and

(3) NGR is the ratio of the net current credit exposure divided by the gross current credit exposure determined as the sum of only the positive mark-to-markets for each derivative contract with the single counterparty.

(iv) Credit equivalents of single currency floating/floating interest rate swaps shall be determined by their replacement cost (mark-to-market).

[53 FR 39247, Oct. 6, 1988, as amended at 54 FR 31323, July 28, 1989; 59 FR 37404, July 22, 1994; 62 FR 4446, Jan. 30, 1997; 63 FR 39226, July 22, 1998]

§615.5215 Distribution of earnings.

The boards of directors of System institutions may not reduce the permanent capital of the institution through the payment of patronage refunds or dividends, or the retirement of stock or allocated equities except retirements pursuant to §§ 615.5280 and 615.5290 if, after or due to the action, the permanent capital of the institution would fail to meet the minimum permanent capital adequacy standard established under §615.5205 for that period. This limitation shall not apply to the payment of noncash patronage refunds by

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any institution exempt from Federal income tax if the entire refund paid qualifies as permanent capital at the issuing institution. Any System institution subject to Federal income tax may pay patronage refunds partially in cash if the cash portion of the refund is the minimum amount required to qualify the refund as a deductible patronage distribution for Federal income tax purposes and the remaining portion of the refund paid qualifies as permanent capital.

[53 FR 39247, Oct. 6, 1988, as amended at 53 FR 40046, Oct. 13, 1988]

§615.5216 [Reserved]

Subpart I—Issuance of Equities

SOURCE: 53 FR 40046, Oct. 13, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§615.5220 Capitalization bylaws.

(a) The board of directors of each System bank and association shall, pursuant to section 4.3A of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (Act), adopt capitalization bylaws, subject to the approval of its voting shareholders that set forth:

(1) Classes of equities and the manner in which they shall be issued, transferred, converted and retired;

(2) For each class of equities, a description of the class(es) of persons to whom such stock may be issued, voting rights, dividend rights and preferences, and priority upon liquidation, including rights, if any, to share in the distribution of the residual estate;

(3) The number of shares and par value of equities authorized to be issued for each class of equities, except that equities that are required to be purchased as a condition of obtaining a loan and nonvoting stock into which voting stock is converted after repayment of the loan may be authorized to be issued in unlimited amounts;

(4) For Farm Credit Banks, agricultural credit banks (with respect to loans other than to cooperatives), and associations, the percentage or dollar amount of equity investment (which may be expressed as a range within which the board of directors may from

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time to time determine the requirement) that will be required to be purchased as a condition for obtaining a loan, which shall be not less than, 2 percent of the loan amount or \$1,000, whichever is less;

(5) For banks for cooperatives and agricultural credit banks (with respect to loans to cooperatives), the percentage or dollar amount of equity or guaranty fund investment (which may be expressed as a range within which the board may from time to time determine the requirement) that serves as a target level of investment in the bank for patronage-sourced business, which shall not be less than, 2 percent of the loan amount or \$1,000, whichever is less;

(6) The manner in which equities will be retired, including a provision stating that equities other than those protected under section 4.9A of the Act are retirable at the sole discretion of the board, provided minimum permanent capital adequacy standards established in subpart H of this part are met;

(7) The manner in which earnings will be allocated and distributed, including the basis on which patronage refunds will be paid, which shall be in accord with cooperative principles; and

(8) For Farm Credit banks, the manner in which the capitalization requirements of the Farm Credit Bank shall be allocated and equalized from time to time among its owners.

(b) The board of directors of each service corporation (including the Farm Credit Leasing Services Corporation) shall adopt capitalization bylaws, subject to the approval of its voting shareholders, that set forth the requirements of paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3) of this section to the extent applicable. Such bylaws shall also set forth the manner in which equities will be retired and the manner in which earnings will be distributed.

[53 FR 40046, Oct. 13, 1988, as amended at 62 FR 4446, Jan. 30, 1997; 63 FR 39227, July 22, 1998]

§615.5230 Implementation of cooperative principles.

(a) Voting shareholders of Farm Credit banks and associations shall be accorded full voting rights in accordance with cooperative principles.

(1) Voting shareholders of associations and banks for cooperatives shall:

(i) Have only one vote, regardless of the number of shares owned or the number of loans outstanding, except as otherwise required by statute or regulation and except as modified by paragraph (b) of this section;

(ii) Unless regional election of directors is provided for in the bylaws pursuant to §615.5230(a)(3), be accorded the right to vote in the election of each director (except for a director that is elected by the other directors);

(iii) Unless regional election of directors is provided for in the bylaws, or unless otherwise provided in the bylaws, be allowed to cumulate such votes and distribute them among the candidates in the shareholder's discretion.

(2) Each voting shareholder of a Farm Credit Bank shall:

(i) Have one vote that is assigned a weight proportional to the number of the association's voting shareholders in a manner that does not discriminate against agricultural credit associations that have resulted from the merger or consolidation of Federal land bank associations and production credit associations; and

(ii) Have the right to vote in the election of each director and be allowed to cumulate such votes and distribute them among the candidates in the shareholder's discretion, except that cumulative voting for directors may be eliminated if 75 percent of the associations that are shareholders of the Farm Credit Bank vote in favor of elimination. In a vote to eliminate cumulative voting, each association shall be accorded one vote.

(3) Regional election of directors is permitted under the following conditions:

(i) A bylaw establishing regional elections is approved by a majority of voting shareholders, voting in person or by proxy, prior to implementation;

(ii) The bylaw provides that all voting shareholders of the institution, whether or not they reside in the director's region, have the right to vote in any shareholder vote to remove each director;

(iii) There are an approximately equal number of voting shareholders in

each of the institution's voting regions. The regions shall be deemed to have an approximately equal number of voting shareholders if no region contains more than 25 percent more voting shareholders than in any other region. At least once every 3 years, the institution shall count the number of voting shareholders in each region and, if the regions do not have an approximately equal number of shareholders, shall adjust the regional boundaries to achieve such result; and

(iv) An institution may provide for more than one director to represent a region. In such case, for purposes of determining whether the regions have an approximately equal number of voting shareholders, the number of voting shareholders in the region with more than one director shall be divided by the number of director positions representing that region, and the resulting quotient shall be the number that is compared to the number of voting shareholders in other regions.

(b) Each equityholder of each institution shall be equitably treated in the operation of the institution.

(1) Each issuance of preferred stock (other than preferred stock outstanding on October 5, 1988, and stock into which such outstanding stock is converted that has substantially similar preferences) shall be approved by a majority of the shares of each class of equities affected by the preference, voting as a class, whether or not such classes are otherwise authorized to vote;

(2) Any dividends paid to the holders of common stock and participation certificates shall be on a per share basis and without preference as to rate or priority of payment between classes of common stock, between classes of participation certificates, between classes of common stock and classes of participation certificates, or between holders of the same class of stock or participation certificates, except that any class of common stock or participation certificates that result from the conversion of allocated surplus may be subordinated to other classes of common stock and participation certificates in the payment of dividends.

(3) Any patronage refunds that are paid shall be paid in accordance with

cooperative principles, on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis determined by the board of directors in accordance with the capitalization bylaws, provided that any earning pools that may be established for the payment of patronage shall be established on a rational and equitable basis that will ensure that each patron of the institution receives its fair share of the earnings of the institution and bears its fair share of the expenses of the institution.

(4) All classes of common stock and participation certificates (except those resulting from a conversion of allocated surplus) must be accorded the same priority with respect to impairment and restoration of impairment and have the same rights and priority upon liquidation.

(5) Each bank shall endeavor to assure that there is a choice of at least two nominees for each elective office to be filled and that the board represents as nearly as possible all types of agriculture in the district. If fewer than two nominees for each position are named, the efforts of the bank to locate two willing nominees shall be documented in the records of the bank. The bank shall also maintain a list of the type or types of agriculture engaged in by each director on its board.

[53 FR 40046, Oct. 13, 1988, as amended at 54 FR 6118, Feb. 8, 1989; 60 FR 57921, Nov. 24, 1995; 62 FR 4446, Jan. 30, 1997; 62 FR 49908, Sept. 24, 1997; 63 FR 39228, July 22, 1998]

§ 615.5240 Permanent capital requirements.

(a) The capitalization bylaws shall enable the institution to meet the minimum permanent capital adequacy standards established under subparts H and K of this part and the total capital requirements established by the board of directors of the institution.

(b) In order to qualify as permanent capital, equities issued under the bylaws must meet the following requirements:

(1) For common stock and participation certificates—

(i) Retirement must be solely at the discretion of the board of directors and not upon a date certain or upon the happening of any event, such as repayment of the loan, and not pursuant to

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any automatic retirement or revolvment plan;

(ii) Retirement must be at not more than book value;

(iii) Disclosure must have been made pursuant to §615.5250 of the nature of the investment and the terms and conditions under which it is issued, and the rights, if any, to share in any patronage distributions that may be made.

(iv) Dividends must be payable only at the discretion of the board and must be noncumulative.

(2) For perpetual preferred stock issued to persons other than the Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation:

(i) Retirement must be solely at the discretion of the board of directors and not upon a date certain or upon the happening of any event, such as repayment of the loan, and not pursuant to any automatic retirement or revolvment plan;

(ii) Retirement must be at not more than book value;

(iii) Dividends must be payable only in the discretion of the board, and may be cumulative; and

(iv) Disclosure must have been made pursuant to §615.5250 of the nature of the investment and the terms and conditions under which it is issued.

(3) For term preferred stock:

(i) Retirement must be solely at the discretion of the board of directors and not upon a date certain, other than the original maturity date, or upon the happening of any event, such as repayment of the loan;

(ii) Retirement must be at not more than book value;

(iii) Dividends may be cumulative, but the board of directors must have the option to defer payment; and

(iv) Disclosure must have been made pursuant to §615.5250 of the nature of the investment and the terms and conditions under which it is issued.

(c) Once an institution's board of directors has made a determination that the institution's capital position is adequate, the institution's board of directors may delegate to management the decision whether to retire borrower stock, provided that:

(1) Any such retirements are in accordance with the institution's capital

adequacy plan or capital restoration plan;

(2) The institution's permanent capital ratio will be in excess of 9 percent after any such retirements;

(3) The institution meets and maintains all applicable minimum surplus and collateral standards; and

(4) The aggregate amount of stock purchases, retirements, and the net effect of such activities are reported to the board of directors each quarter.

[53 FR 40046, Oct. 13, 1988, as amended at 62 FR 4446, Jan. 30, 1997]

§615.5250 Disclosure requirements.

(a) Equities purchased as a condition for obtaining a loan. Prior to loan closing, the institution shall provide the prospective borrower with the following:

(1) The institution's most recent annual report filed under 12 CFR part 620;

(2) The institution's most recent quarterly report filed under 12 CFR part 620, if more recent than the annual report;

(3) A copy of the institution's capitalization bylaws; and

(4) A written description of the terms and conditions under which the equity is issued. In addition to specific terms and conditions, the description shall disclose:

(i) That the equity is an at-risk investment and not a compensating balance;

(ii) That the equity is retireable only at the discretion of the board of directors and only if minimum permanent capital standards established under subpart H of this part are met;

(iii) Whether the institution presently meets its minimum permanent capital standards; and

(iv) Whether the institution knows of any reason the institution may not meet its permanent capital standard on the next earnings distribution date.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section, no materials previously provided to a purchaser need be provided again unless the purchaser requests, except the disclosure required by paragraph (a)(4) of this section.

(c) Other equities. (1) No stock or participation certificates other than those required to be purchased as a

condition of obtaining a loan may be offered for sale except pursuant to a disclosure statement containing all of the information required by 12 CFR part 620 in the annual report to shareholders as of a date within 135 days of the proposed sale, which disclosure statement must have been reviewed and cleared by the Farm Credit Administration. The most recent annual report to shareholders and the most recent quarterly report filed with the Farm Credit Administration may be incorporated by reference into the disclosure statement in satisfaction of this requirement. In addition, the disclosure statement shall include items in (3) and (4) of paragraph (a) of this section and a discussion of the intended use of the sale proceeds. No materials previously provided to the purchaser need be provided again unless the purchaser requests it, except the disclosure required by paragraph (a)(4) of this section and a discussion of the use of sale proceeds.

(2) At least 45 days prior to the proposed sale of such equities, the institution shall submit the disclosure statement required by paragraph (d)(1) of this section to the Farm Credit Administration for review and clearance.

(3) Within 30 days of the receipt of such disclosure statement and any clarifying information the Farm Credit Administration may request, the Farm Credit Administration shall inform the institution whether the Farm Credit Administration will consider the issuance permanent capital for the purpose of meeting the minimum permanent capital standards established under subpart H and shall inform the institution of any required changes or additions to the disclosure materials.

(4) No officer, director, employee, or agent of a System institution shall make any disclosure, through the disclosure statement or otherwise, in connection with the sale of equities that is inaccurate or misleading, or omit to make any statement needed to make other disclosures made by such person not misleading.

(5) The Farm Credit Administration may waive any or all of the disclosure requirements of paragraph (b) of this section when a single investor acquires \$100,000 or more of a single class of eq-

uity if the sophistication of the purchaser warrants, provided that any certificate that may be issued evidencing such an equity states on its face in boldface type:

The denomination of this equity may not be reduced to less than \$100,000 without the prior written approval of the Farm Credit Administration.

(d) The requirements of this section shall not apply to the sale of Farm Credit System institution equities to other Farm Credit System institutions, other financing institutions, or non-Farm Credit System lenders.

[53 FR 40046, Oct. 13, 1988, as amended at 56 FR 2675, Jan. 24, 1991; 61 FR 67187, Dec. 20, 1996; 62 FR 4447, Jan. 30, 1997]

Subpart J—Retirement of Equities

§615.5260 Retirement of eligible borrower stock.

(a) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this subpart the following definitions shall apply:

(1) *Eligible borrowers stock* means:

(i) Stock, participation certificates or allocated equities outstanding on January 6, 1988, or purchased as a condition of obtaining a loan prior to the earlier of the date of shareholder approval of capitalization bylaws under section 4.3A of the Act or October 6, 1988; and

(ii) Any stock, participation certificates or allocated equities for which such eligible borrower stock is exchanged in connection with a merger, consolidation, or other reorganization or a transfer of territory. *Eligible borrower stock* does not include equities for which eligible borrower stock is required to be exchanged pursuant to the bylaws adopted under section 4.3A or equities for which eligible borrower stock is voluntarily exchanged except in connection with a merger, consolidation or other reorganization or a transfer of territory.

(2) *Retirement in the ordinary course of business* means:

(i) Retirement upon repayment of a loan or under a retirement or revolving plan in effect prior to January 6, 1988, and for eligible borrower stock issued after that date, at the time the loan was made; or

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(ii) Retirement pursuant to §§615.5280 and 615.5290.

(3) *Par value* means:

(i) In the case of stock, par value;

(ii) In the case of participation certificates and other equities, face or equivalent value; or

(iii) In the case of participation certificates and allocated surplus subject to retirement under a revolving cycle and retired out or order pursuant to §§615.5280 and 615.5290 or otherwise under the Act, par or face value discounted at a rate determined by the institution to reflect the present value of the equity as of the date of such retirement.

(b) When an institution retires eligible borrower stock in the ordinary course of business, such equities shall be retired at par, even if book value is less than par.

(c) When a Farm Credit Bank retires stock for the sole purpose of enabling an association to retire eligible borrower stock that was issued in connection with a long term real estate loan, such stock shall be retired at par even if its book value is less than par.

[53 FR 40048, Oct. 13, 1988; 54 FR 7029, Feb. 16, 1989, as amended at 62 FR 4447, Jan. 30, 1997; 63 FR 39228, July 22, 1998]

§615.5270 Retirement of other equities.

(a) Equities other than eligible borrower stock shall be retired at not more than their book value.

(b) No equities shall be retired, except pursuant to §§615.5280 and 615.5290, or term stock at its stated maturity unless after the retirement the institution would continue to meet the minimum permanent capital standards established under subpart H of this part.

[53 FR 40048, Oct. 13, 1988; 54 FR 7029, Feb. 16, 1989, as amended at 62 FR 4447, Jan. 30, 1997]

§615.5280 Retirement in event of default.

(a) When the debt of a holder of eligible borrower stock issued by a production credit association, Federal land bank association, Federal land credit association or agricultural credit association is in default, such institution may, but shall not be required to, retire at par eligible borrower stock owned by such borrower on which the

institution has a lien, in total or partial liquidation of the debt.

(b) When the debt of a holder of stock, participation certificates or other equities issued by a production credit association, Federal land bank association, Federal land credit association or agricultural credit association is in default, such institution may, but shall not be required to, retire at book value not to exceed par all or part of such equities, other than eligible borrower stock as defined in §615.5260(a)(1), owned by such borrower on which the institution has a lien, in total or partial liquidation of the debt.

(c) When the debt of a holder of equities or guaranty fund certificates issued by a bank for cooperatives or agricultural credit bank is in default the bank may, but shall not be required to, retire all or part of such equities qualify or guaranty fund investments owned by the borrower on which the bank has a lien, in total or partial liquidation of the debt. If such investments qualify as eligible borrower stock, it shall be retired at par, as defined in §615.5260(a)(3). All other investments shall be retired at a rate determined by the institution to reflect its present value on the date of retirement.

(d) When the debt of a holder of the equities of a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank is in default the bank may, but shall not be required to, retire all or part of such equities owned by the borrower on which the bank has a lien, in total or partial liquidation of the debt. If such equities qualify as eligible borrower stock or are retired solely to permit a Federal land bank association to retire eligible borrower stock under §615.5280(a), they shall be retired at par. All other equities shall be retired at book value not to exceed par.

(e) Any retirements made under this section by a Federal land bank association shall be made only upon the specific approval of, or in accordance with, approval procedures issued by the association's funding bank.

(f) Prior to making any retirement pursuant to this section, except retirements pursuant to paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section, the institution shall

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provide the borrower with written notice of the following matters;

(1) A statement that the institution has declared the borrower's loan to be in default;

(2) A statement that the institution will retire all or part of the equities of the borrower in total or partial liquidation of his or her loan;

(3) A description of the effect of the retirement on the relationship of the borrower to the institution;

(4) A statement of the amount of the outstanding debt that will be owed to the institution after the retirement of the borrower's equities; and

(5) The date on which the institution will retire the equities of the borrower.

(g) The notice required by this section shall be provided in person at least 10 days prior to the retirement of any equities of a holder, or by mailing a copy of the notice by first class mail to the last known address of the equity holder at least 13 days prior to the retirement of such person's equities.

(h) The requirements of this section may be satisfied by notices given pursuant to §§ 614.4516, 614.4518, and 614.4519 of title 12 of the Code of Federal Regulations that contain the information required by this section.

[53 FR 40048, Oct. 13, 1988; 54 FR 7029, Feb. 16, 1989, as amended at 61 FR 67187, Dec. 20, 1996; 62 FR 13213, Mar. 19, 1997]

§ 615.5290 Retirement of capital stock and participation certificates in event of restructuring.

(a) If a Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank forgives and writes off, under § 614.4517, any of the principal outstanding on a loan made to any borrower, where appropriate the Federal land bank association of which the borrower is a member and stockholder shall cancel the same dollar amount of borrower stock held by the borrower in respect of the loan, up to the total amount of such stock, and to the extent provided for in the bylaws of the Bank relating to its capitalization, the Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank shall retire an equal amount of stock owned by the Federal land bank association.

(b) If a production credit association or merged association forgives and writes off, under § 614.4517, any of the

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principal outstanding on a loan made to any borrower, the association shall cancel the same dollar amount of borrower stock held by the borrower in respect of the loan, up to the total amount of such loan.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, the borrower shall be entitled to retain at least one share of stock to maintain the borrower's membership and voting interest.

[53 FR 35457, Sept. 14, 1988, as amended at 61 FR 67188, Dec. 20, 1996]

Subpart K—Surplus and Collateral Requirements

SOURCE: 62 FR 4447, Jan. 30, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 615.5301 Definitions.

For the purposes of this subpart, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) The terms *deferred-tax assets that are dependent on future income or future events*, *institution*, *permanent capital*, and *total capital* shall have the meanings set forth in § 615.5201.

(b) *Core surplus*. (1) Core surplus means:

(i) Undistributed earnings/unallocated surplus less, for associations only, an amount equal to the net investment in the bank;

(ii) Nonqualified allocated equities (including stock) that are not distributed according to an established plan or practice, *provided that*, in the event that a nonqualified patronage allocation is distributed, other than as required by section 4.14B of the Act, or in connection with a loan default or the death of an equityholder whose loan has been repaid (to the extent provided for in the institution's capital adequacy plan), any remaining nonqualified allocations that were allocated in the same year will be excluded from core surplus.

(iii) Perpetual common or noncumulative perpetual preferred stock (other than allocated stock) that is not retired according to an established plan or practice, *provided that*, in the event that stock held by a borrower is retired, other than as required by section 4.14B of the Act or in connection with

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a loan default to the extent provided for in the institution's capital plan, the remaining perpetual stock of the same class or series shall be excluded from core surplus;

(iv) A capital instrument or a particular balance sheet entry or account that the Farm Credit Administration has determined to be the functional equivalent of a component of core surplus. The Farm Credit Administration may permit an institution to include all or a portion of such instrument, entry, or account as core surplus, permanently or on a temporary basis, for purposes of this subpart.

(2) For associations only, other allocated equities may also be included in the core surplus ratio to the extent permitted by §615.5330(b) if the following conditions are met:

(i) The allocated equities are includible in total surplus; and

(ii) The allocated equities, if subject to a plan or practice of revolvment or retirement, are not scheduled or intended to be revolved or retired during the next 3 years, provided that, in the event that such allocated equities included in core surplus are retired, other than as required by section 4.14B of the Act, or in connection with a loan default or the death of an equityholder whose loan has been repaid (to the extent provided for in the institution's capital adequacy plan), any remaining such allocated equities that were allocated in the same year will be excluded from core surplus.

(3) The deductions required to be made by an institution in the computation of its permanent capital pursuant to §615.5210(e) (6), (7), (9), and (11) shall also be made in the computation of its core surplus. Deductions required by §615.5210(e)(1) shall also be made to the extent that they do not duplicate deductions calculated pursuant to this section and required by §615.5330(b)(2).

(4) Equities issued by System institutions and held by other System institutions shall not be included in the core surplus of the issuing institution or of the holder, unless approved pursuant to paragraph (b)(1)(iv) of this section, except that equities held in connection with a loan participation shall not be excluded by the holder. This paragraph shall not apply to investments by an

association in its affiliated bank, which are governed by §615.5301(b)(1)(i).

(5) The core surplus of an institution shall exclude the net effect of all transactions covered by the definition of "accumulated other comprehensive income" contained in the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 130, as promulgated by the Financial Accounting Standards Board.

(6) The Farm Credit Administration may, if it finds that a particular component, balance sheet entry, or account has characteristics or terms that diminish its contribution to an institution's ability to absorb losses, require the deduction of all or a portion of such component, entry, or account from core surplus.

(c) *Net collateral* means the value of a bank's collateral as defined by §615.5050 (except that eligible investments as described in §615.5140 are to be valued at their amortized cost), less an amount equal to that portion of the allocated investments of affiliated associations that is not counted as permanent capital by the bank.

(d) *Net collateral ratio* means a bank's net collateral, divided by the bank's total liabilities.

(e) *Net investment in the bank* means the total investment by an association in its affiliated bank, less reciprocal investments and investments resulting from a loan originating/service agency relationship, including participations.

(f) *Nonqualified allocated equities* means allocations of earnings designated to the institution's members that are not deducted from the gross taxable income of the allocating institution at the time of allocation.

(g) *Perpetual stock or equity* means stock or equity not having a maturity date, not redeemable at the option of the holder, and having no other provisions that will require the future redemption of the issue.

(h) *Qualified allocated equities* means allocations of earnings that are deducted from the gross taxable income of the allocating institution and designated to the institution's members.

(i) *Total surplus* means:

(1) Undistributed earnings/unallocated surplus;

(2) Allocated equities, including allocated surplus and stock, that are not

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subject to a plan or practice of revolvment or retirement of 5 years or less and are eligible to be included in permanent capital pursuant to § 615.5201(j)(4)(iv); and

(3) Stock (other than allocated stock) that is not purchased or held as a condition of obtaining a loan, provided that it is either perpetual stock or term stock with an original maturity of at least 5 years, and provided that the institution has no established plan or practice of retiring such perpetual stock or of retiring such term stock prior to its stated maturity. The amount of term stock that is eligible to be included in total surplus shall be reduced by 20 percent (net of redemptions) at the beginning of each of the last 5 years of the term of the instrument.

(4) The total surplus of an institution shall exclude the net effect of all transactions covered by the definition of “accumulated other comprehensive income” contained in the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 130, as promulgated by the Financial Accounting Standards Board.

(5) A capital instrument or a particular balance sheet entry or account that the Farm Credit Administration has determined to be the functional equivalent of a component of total surplus. The Farm Credit Administration may permit one or more institutions to include all or a portion of such instrument, entry, or account as total surplus, permanently or on a temporary basis, for purposes of this subpart.

(6) The Farm Credit Administration may, if it finds that a particular component, balance sheet entry, or account has characteristics or terms that diminish its contribution to an institution’s ability to absorb losses, require the deduction of all or a portion of such component, entry, or account from total surplus.

(7) Any deductions made by an institution in the computation of its permanent capital pursuant to § 615.5210(e) shall also be made in the computation of its total surplus.

[62 FR 4447, Jan. 30, 1997; 62 FR 19219, Apr. 21, 1997; 63 FR 39228, July 22, 1998]

§ 615.5330 Minimum surplus ratios.

(a) *Total surplus.* (1) Each institution shall achieve and at all times maintain a ratio of at least 7 percent of total surplus to the risk-adjusted asset base.

(2) The risk-adjusted asset base is the total dollar amount of the institution’s assets adjusted in accordance with § 615.5301(i)(7) and weighted on the basis of risk in accordance with § 615.5210(f).

(b) *Core surplus.* (1) Each institution shall achieve and at all times maintain a ratio of core surplus to the risk-adjusted asset base of at least 3.5 percent, of which no more than 2 percentage points may consist of allocated equities otherwise includible pursuant to § 615.5301(b).

(2) Each association shall compute its core surplus ratio by deducting an amount equal to the net investment in the bank from its core surplus.

(3) The risk-adjusted asset base is the total dollar amount of the institution’s assets adjusted in accordance with §§ 615.5301(b)(3) and 615.5330(b)(2), and weighted on the basis of risk in accordance with § 615.5210(f).

(c) An institution shall compute its risk-adjusted asset base, total surplus, and core surplus ratios using average daily balances for the most recent 3 months.

[63 FR 39228, July 22, 1998]

§ 615.5335 Bank net collateral ratio.

(a) Each bank shall achieve and at all times maintain a net collateral ratio of at least 103 percent.

(b) At a minimum, a bank shall compute its net collateral ratio as of the end of each month. A bank shall have the capability to compute its net collateral ratio a day after the close of a business day using the daily balances outstanding for assets and liabilities for that date.

[63 FR 39229, July 22, 1998]

§ 615.5336 Compliance and reporting.

(a) *Noncompliance and reporting.* An institution that meets the minimum applicable surplus ratios and net collateral ratio established in §§ 615.5330 and 615.5335 at or after the end of the quarter in which these regulations become effective and subsequently falls

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below one or more minimum requirements shall be in violation of the applicable regulations. Such institution shall report its noncompliance to the Farm Credit Administration within 20 calendar days following the month end in which the institution initially determines that it is not in compliance with the requirements.

(b) Initial compliance and reporting requirements.

(1) An institution that fails to satisfy one or more of its minimum applicable surplus and net collateral ratios at the end of the quarter in which these regulations become effective shall report its initial noncompliance to the Farm Credit Administration within 20 days following such quarter end and shall also submit a capital restoration plan for achieving and maintaining the standards, demonstrating appropriate annual progress toward meeting the goal, to the Farm Credit Administration within 60 days following such quarter end. If the capital restoration plan is not approved by the Farm Credit Administration, the Agency shall inform the institution of the reasons for disapproval, and the institution shall submit a revised capital restoration plan within the time specified by the Farm Credit Administration.

(2) *Approval of compliance plans.* In determining whether to approve a capital restoration plan submitted under this section, the FCA shall consider the following factors, as applicable:

(i) The conditions or circumstances leading to the institution's falling below minimum levels, the exigency of those circumstances, and whether or not they were caused by actions of the institution or were beyond the institution's control;

(ii) The overall condition, management strength, and future prospects of the institution and, if applicable, affiliated System institutions;

(iii) The institution's capital, adverse assets (including nonaccrual and nonperforming loans), allowance for loss, and other ratios compared to the ratios of its peers or industry norms;

(iv) How far an institution's ratios are below the minimum requirements;

(v) The estimated rate at which the institution can reasonably be expected to generate additional earnings;

(vi) The effect of the business changes required to increase capital;

(vii) The institution's previous compliance practices, as appropriate;

(viii) The views of the institution's directors and senior management regarding the plan; and

(ix) Any other facts or circumstances that the FCA deems relevant.

(3) An institution shall be deemed to be in compliance with the surplus and collateral requirements of this subpart if it is in compliance with a capital restoration plan that is approved by the Farm Credit Administration within 180 days following the end of the quarter in which these regulations become effective.

Subpart L—Establishment of Minimum Capital Ratios for an Individual Institution

SOURCE: 62 FR 4448, Jan. 30, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§615.5350 General—Applicability.

(a) The rules and procedures specified in this subpart are applicable to a proceeding to establish required minimum capital ratios that would otherwise be applicable to an institution under §§615.5205, 615.5330, and 615.5335. The Farm Credit Administration is authorized to establish such minimum capital requirements for an institution as the Farm Credit Administration, in its discretion, deems to be necessary or appropriate in light of the particular circumstances of the institution. Proceedings under this subpart also may be initiated to require an institution having capital ratios greater than those set forth in §§615.5205, 615.5330, or 615.5335 to continue to maintain those higher ratios.

(b) The Farm Credit Administration may require higher minimum capital ratios for an individual institution in view of its circumstances. For example, higher capital ratios may be appropriate for:

(1) An institution receiving special supervisory attention;

(2) An institution that has, or is expected to have, losses resulting in capital inadequacy;

(3) An institution with significant exposure due to operational risk, interest

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rate risk, the risks from concentrations of credit, certain risks arising from other products, services, or related activities, or management's overall inability to monitor and control financial risks presented by concentrations of credit and related services activities;

(4) An institution exposed to a high volume of, or particularly severe, problem loans;

(5) An institution that is growing rapidly; or

(6) An institution that may be adversely affected by the activities or condition of System institutions with which it has significant business relationships or in which it has significant investments.

(7) An institution with significant exposures to declines in net income or in the market value of its capital due to a change in interest rates and/or the exercising of embedded or explicit options.

[62 FR 4448, Jan. 30, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 39229, July 22, 1998]

§615.5351 Standards for determination of appropriate individual institution minimum capital ratios.

The appropriate minimum capital ratios for an individual institution cannot be determined solely through the application of a rigid mathematical formula or wholly objective criteria. The decision is necessarily based in part on subjective judgment grounded in Agency expertise. The factors to be considered in the determination will vary in each case and may include, for example:

(a) The conditions or circumstances leading to the Farm Credit Administration's determination that higher minimum capital ratios are appropriate or necessary for the institution;

(b) The exigency of those circumstances or potential problems;

(c) The overall condition, management strength, and future prospects of the institution and, if applicable, affiliated institutions;

(d) The institution's capital, adverse assets (including nonaccrual and nonperforming loans), allowance for loss, and other ratios compared to the ratios of its peers or industry norms; and

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(e) The views of the institution's directors and senior management.

§615.5352 Procedures.

(a) *Notice.* When the Farm Credit Administration determines that minimum capital ratios greater than those set forth in §§615.5205, 615.5330, or 615.5335 are necessary or appropriate for a particular institution, the Farm Credit Administration will notify the institution in writing of the proposed minimum capital ratios and the date by which they should be reached (if applicable) and will provide an explanation of why the ratios proposed are considered necessary or appropriate for the institution.

(b) *Response.* (1) The institution may respond to any or all of the items in the notice. The response should include any matters which the institution would have the Farm Credit Administration consider in deciding whether individual minimum capital ratios should be established for the institution, what those capital ratios should be, and, if applicable, when they should be achieved. The response must be in writing and delivered to the designated Farm Credit Administration official within 30 days after the date on which the institution received the notice. In its discretion, the Farm Credit Administration may extend the time period for good cause. The Farm Credit Administration may shorten the time period with the consent of the institution or when, in the opinion of the Farm Credit Administration, the condition of the institution so requires, provided that the institution is informed promptly of the new time period.

(2) Failure to respond within 30 days or such other time period as may be specified by the Farm Credit Administration shall constitute a waiver of any objections to the proposed minimum capital ratios or the deadline for their achievement.

(c) *Decision.* After the close of the institution's response period, the Farm Credit Administration will decide, based on a review of the institution's response and other information concerning the institution, whether individual minimum capital ratios should be established for the institution and,

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if so, the ratios and the date the requirements will become effective. The institution will be notified of the decision in writing. The notice will include an explanation of the decision, except for a decision not to establish individual minimum capital requirements for the institution.

(d) *Submission of plan.* The decision may require the institution to develop and submit to the Farm Credit Administration, within a time period specified, an acceptable plan to reach the minimum capital ratios established for the institution by the date required.

(e) *Reconsideration based on change in circumstances.* If, after the Farm Credit Administration's decision in paragraph (c) of this section, there is a change in the circumstances affecting the institution's capital adequacy or its ability to reach the required minimum capital ratios by the specified date, either the institution or the Farm Credit Administration may propose a change in the minimum capital ratios for the institution, the date when the minimums must be achieved, or the institution's plan (if applicable). The Farm Credit Administration may decline to consider proposals that are not based on a significant change in circumstances or are repetitive or frivolous. Pending a decision on reconsideration, the Farm Credit Administration's original decision and any plan required under that decision shall continue in full force and effect.

§615.5353 Relation to other actions.

In lieu of, or in addition to, the procedures in this subpart, the required minimum capital ratios for an institution may be established or revised through a written agreement or cease and desist proceedings under part C of title V of the Act, or as a condition for approval of an application.

§615.5354 Enforcement.

An institution that does not have or maintain the minimum capital ratios applicable to it, whether required in subparts H and K of this part, in a decision pursuant to this subpart, in a written agreement or temporary or final order under part C of title V of the Act, or in a condition for approval of an application, or an institution

that has failed to submit or comply with an acceptable plan to attain those ratios, will be subject to such administrative action or sanctions as the Farm Credit Administration considers appropriate. These sanctions may include the issuance of a capital directive pursuant to subpart M of this part or other enforcement action, assessment of civil money penalties, and/or the denial or condition of applications.

Subpart M—Issuance of a Capital Directive

SOURCE: 62 FR 4449, Jan. 30, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§615.5355 Purpose and scope.

(a) This subpart is applicable to proceedings by the Farm Credit Administration to issue a capital directive under sections 4.3(b) and 4.3A(e) of the Act. A capital directive is an order issued to an institution that does not have or maintain capital at or greater than the minimum ratios set forth in §§615.5205, 615.5330, and 615.5335; or established for the institution under subpart L, by a written agreement under part C of title V of the Act, or as a condition for approval of an application. A capital directive may order the institution to:

(1) Achieve the minimum capital ratios applicable to it by a specified date;

(2) Adhere to a previously submitted plan to achieve the applicable capital ratios;

(3) Submit and adhere to a plan acceptable to the Farm Credit Administration describing the means and time schedule by which the institution shall achieve the applicable capital ratios;

(4) Take other action, such as reduction of assets or the rate of growth of assets, restrictions on the payment of dividends or patronage, or restrictions on the retirement of stock, to achieve the applicable capital ratios, or reduce levels of interest rate and other risk exposures, or strengthen management expertise, or improve management information and measurement systems; or

(5) A combination of any of these or similar actions.

(b) A capital directive may also be issued to the board of directors of an

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institution, requiring such board to comply with the requirements of section 4.3A(d) of the Act prohibiting the reduction of permanent capital.

(c) A capital directive issued under this rule, including a plan submitted under a capital directive, is enforceable in the same manner and to the same extent as an effective and outstanding cease and desist order which has become final as defined in section 5.25 of the Act. Violation of a capital directive may result in assessment of civil money penalties in accordance with section 5.32 of the Act.

[62 FR 4449, Jan. 30, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 39229, July 22, 1998]

§615.5356 Notice of intent to issue a capital directive.

The Farm Credit Administration will notify an institution in writing of its intention to issue a capital directive. The notice will state:

(a) The reasons for issuance of the capital directive;

(b) The proposed contents of the capital directive, including the proposed date for achieving the minimum capital requirement; and

(c) Any other relevant information concerning the decision to issue a capital directive.

§615.5357 Response to notice.

(a) An institution may respond to the notice by stating why a capital directive should not be issued and/or by proposing alternative contents for the capital directive or seeking other appropriate relief. The response shall include any information, mitigating circumstances, documentation, or other relevant evidence that supports its position. The response may include a plan for achieving the minimum capital ratios applicable to the institution. The response must be in writing and delivered to the Farm Credit Administration within 30 days after the date on which the institution received the notice. In its discretion, the Farm Credit Administration may extend the time period for good cause. The Farm Credit Administration may shorten the 30-day time period:

(1) When, in the opinion of the Farm Credit Administration, the condition of the institution so requires, provided

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that the institution shall be informed promptly of the new time period;

(2) With the consent of the institution; or

(3) When the institution already has advised the Farm Credit Administration that it cannot or will not achieve its applicable minimum capital ratios.

(b) Failure to respond within 30 days or such other time period as may be specified by the Farm Credit Administration shall constitute a waiver of any objections to the proposed capital directive.

§615.5358 Decision.

After the closing date of the institution's response period, or receipt of the institution's response, if earlier, the Farm Credit Administration may seek additional information or clarification of the response. Thereafter, the Farm Credit Administration will determine whether or not to issue a capital directive, and if one is to be issued, whether it should be as originally proposed or in modified form.

§615.5359 Issuance of a capital directive.

(a) A capital directive will be served by delivery to the institution. It will include or be accompanied by a statement of reasons for its issuance.

(b) A capital directive is effective immediately upon its receipt by the institution, or upon such later date as may be specified therein, and shall remain effective and enforceable until it is stayed, modified, or terminated by the Farm Credit Administration.

§615.5360 Reconsideration based on change in circumstances.

Upon a change in circumstances, an institution may request the Farm Credit Administration to reconsider the terms of its capital directive or may propose changes in the plan to achieve the institution's applicable minimum capital ratios. The Farm Credit Administration also may take such action on its own motion. The Farm Credit Administration may decline to consider requests or proposals that are not based on a significant change in circumstances or are repetitive or frivolous. Pending a decision

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on reconsideration, the capital directive and plan shall continue in full force and effect.

§615.5361 Relation to other administrative actions.

A capital directive may be issued in addition to, or in lieu of, any other action authorized by law, including cease and desist proceedings, civil money penalties, or the conditioning or denial of applications. The Farm Credit Administration also may, in its discretion, take any action authorized by law, in lieu of a capital directive, in response to an institution's failure to achieve or maintain the applicable minimum capital ratios.

Subpart N [Reserved]

Subpart O—Book-Entry Procedures for Farm Credit Securities

SOURCE: 61 FR 67192, Dec. 20, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§615.5450 Definitions.

In this subpart, unless the context otherwise requires or indicates:

(a) *Adverse claim* means a claim that a claimant has a property interest in a security and that it is a violation of the rights of the claimant for another person to hold, transfer, or deal with the security.

(b) *Book-entry security* means a Farm Credit security issued or maintained in the Book-entry System.

(c) *Book-entry System* means the automated book-entry system operated by the Federal Reserve Banks, acting as the fiscal agent for the Farm Credit banks, through which book-entry securities are issued, recorded, transferred and maintained in book-entry form.

(d) *Definitive Farm Credit security* means a Farm Credit security in engraved or printed form, or that is otherwise represented by a certificate.

(e) *Eligible book-entry security* means a book-entry security issued or maintained in the Book-entry System, which by the terms of its securities documentation, is eligible to be converted from book-entry into definitive form.

(f) *Entitlement Holder* means a person to whose account an interest in a book-entry security is credited on the records of a securities intermediary.

(g) *Farm Credit banks* means one or more Farm Credit Banks, agricultural credit banks, and banks for cooperatives.

(h) *Farm Credit securities* means consolidated notes, bonds, debentures, or other similar obligations of the Farm Credit banks and Systemwide notes, bonds, debentures, or similar obligations of the Farm Credit banks issued under sections 4.2(c) and 4.2(d), respectively, of the Act, or laws repealed thereby.

(i) *Federal Reserve Bank* means a Federal Reserve Bank or Branch acting as agent for the Farm Credit banks and the Funding Corporation.

(j) *Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circular* means the publication issued by each Federal Reserve Bank that sets forth the terms and conditions under which the Federal Reserve Bank maintains book-entry securities accounts and transfers book-entry securities.

(k) *Funding Corporation* means the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation established pursuant to section 4.9 of the Act, which issues Farm Credit securities on behalf of the Farm Credit banks.

(l) *Funds Account* means a reserve and/or clearing account at a Federal Reserve Bank to which debits or credits are posted for transfers against payment, book-entry securities transaction fees, or principal and interest payments.

(m) *Participant* means a person that maintains a participant's securities account with a Federal Reserve Bank.

(n) *Participant's Securities Account* means an account in the name of a participant at a Federal Reserve Bank to which book-entry securities held for a participant are or may be credited.

(o) *Person* means an individual, corporation, company, governmental entity, association, firm, partnership, trust, estate, representative and any other similar organization, but does not mean the United States, a Farm Credit bank, the Funding Corporation or a Federal Reserve Bank.

(p) *Revised Article 8* means Uniform Commercial Code, Revised Article 8,

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Investment Securities (with Conforming and Miscellaneous Amendments to Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, and 10) 1994 Official Text, and has the same meaning as in 31 CFR 357.2.

(q) *Securities Documentation* means the applicable statement of terms, trust indenture, securities agreement, offering circular or other documents establishing the terms of a book-entry security.

(r) *Securities Intermediary* means:

(1) A person that is registered as a “clearing agency” under the Federal securities laws; a Federal Reserve Bank; any other person that provides clearance or settlement services with respect to a book-entry security that would require it to register as a clearing agency under the Federal securities laws but for an exclusion or exemption from the registration requirement, if its activities as a clearing corporation, including promulgation of rules, are subject to regulation by a Federal or State governmental authority; or

(2) A person (other than an individual, unless such individual is registered as a broker or dealer under the Federal securities laws) including a bank or broker, that in the ordinary course of its business maintains securities accounts for others and is acting in that capacity.

(s) *Security* means a Farm Credit security as defined in paragraph (h) of this section.

(t) *Security Entitlement* means the rights and property interest of an entitlement holder with respect to a book-entry security.

(u) *State* means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States.

(v) *Transfer Message* means an instruction of a participant to a Federal Reserve Bank to effect a transfer of a book-entry security maintained in the Book-entry System, as set forth in Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circulars.

[61 FR 67192, Dec. 20, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 53229, Oct. 14, 1997]

§615.5451 Book-entry and definitive securities.

Subject to subpart C of this part:

(a) Farm Credit banks operating under the same title of the Act may issue consolidated securities in book-entry form.

(b) Farm Credit banks may issue Systemwide securities in book-entry form.

(c) Consolidated and Systemwide securities also may be issued in either registered or bearer definitive form.

[61 FR 67192, Dec. 20, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 53229, Oct. 14, 1997]

§615.5452 Law governing rights and obligations of Federal Reserve Banks, Farm Credit banks, and Funding Corporation; rights of any person against Federal Reserve Banks, Farm Credit banks, and Funding Corporation.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the following are governed solely by the regulations contained in this subpart O, the securities documentation, and Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circulars:

(1) The rights and obligations of the Farm Credit banks, the Funding Corporation, and the Federal Reserve Banks with respect to:

(i) A book-entry security or security entitlement, and

(ii) The operation of the Book-entry System as it applies to Farm Credit securities; and

(2) The rights of any person, including a participant, against the Farm Credit banks, the Funding Corporation, and the Federal Reserve Banks with respect to:

(i) A book-entry security or security entitlement, and

(ii) The operation of the Book-entry System as it applies to Farm Credit securities.

(b) A security interest in a security entitlement that is in favor of a Federal Reserve Bank from a participant and that is not recorded on the books of a Federal Reserve Bank pursuant to §615.5454(c)(1) of this subpart, is governed by the law (not including the conflict-of-law rules) of the jurisdiction where the head office of the Federal Reserve Bank maintaining the participant's securities account is located. A security interest in a security entitlement that is in favor of a Federal Reserve Bank from a person that

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is not a participant, and that is not recorded on the books of a Federal Reserve Bank pursuant to §615.5454(c)(1) of this subpart, is governed by the law determined in the manner specified in §615.5453 of this subpart.

(c) If the jurisdiction specified in the first sentence of paragraph (b) of this section is a State that has not adopted revised Article 8 (see 31 CFR 357.2) then the law specified in paragraph (b) of this section shall be the law of that State as though revised Article 8 had been adopted by that State.

[61 FR 67192, Dec. 20, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 53229, Oct. 14, 1997]

§615.5453 Law governing other interests.

(a) To the extent not inconsistent with these regulations, the law (not including the conflict-of-law rules) of a securities intermediary's jurisdiction governs:

(1) The acquisition of a security entitlement from the securities intermediary;

(2) The rights and duties of the securities intermediary and entitlement holder arising out of a security entitlement;

(3) Whether the securities intermediary owes any duties to an adverse claimant to a security entitlement;

(4) Whether an adverse claim can be asserted against a person who acquires a security entitlement from the securities intermediary or a person who purchases a security entitlement or interest therein from an entitlement holder; and

(5) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) of this section, the perfection, effect of perfection or non-perfection and priority of a security interest in a security entitlement.

(b) The following rules determine a "securities intermediary's jurisdiction" for purposes of this section:

(1) If an agreement between the securities intermediary and its entitlement holder specifies that it is governed by the law of a particular jurisdiction, that jurisdiction is the securities intermediary's jurisdiction.

(2) If an agreement between the securities intermediary and its entitlement holder does not specify the governing law as provided in paragraph (b)(1) of

this section, but expressly specifies that the securities account is maintained at an office in a particular jurisdiction, that jurisdiction is the securities intermediary's jurisdiction.

(3) If an agreement between the securities intermediary and its entitlement holder does not specify a jurisdiction as provided in paragraph (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section, the securities intermediary's jurisdiction is the jurisdiction in which is located the office identified in an account statement as the office serving the entitlement holder's account.

(4) If an agreement between the securities intermediary and its entitlement holder does not specify a jurisdiction as provided in paragraph (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section and an account statement does not identify an office serving the entitlement holder's account as provided in paragraph (b)(3) of this section, the securities intermediary's jurisdiction is the jurisdiction in which is located the chief executive office of the securities intermediary.

(c) Notwithstanding the general rule in paragraph (a)(5) of this section, the law (but not the conflict-of-law rules) of the jurisdiction in which the person creating a security interest is located governs whether and how the security interest may be perfected automatically or by filing a financing statement.

(d) If the jurisdiction specified in paragraph (b) of this section is a State that has not adopted revised Article 8 (see 31 CFR 357.2), then the law for the matters specified in paragraph (a) of this section shall be the law of that State as though revised Article 8 had been adopted by that State. For purposes of the application of the matters specified in paragraph (a) of this section, the Federal Reserve Bank maintaining the securities account is a clearing corporation, and the participant's interest in a book-entry security is a security entitlement.

§615.5454 Creation of participant's security entitlement; security interests.

(a) A participant's security entitlement is created when a Federal Reserve Bank indicates by book entry that a book-entry security has been

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credited to a participant's securities account.

(b) A security interest in a security entitlement of a participant in favor of the United States to secure deposits of public money, including without limitation deposits to the Treasury tax and loan accounts, or other security interest in favor of the United States that is required by Federal statute, regulation, or agreement, and that is marked on the books of a Federal Reserve Bank is thereby effected and perfected, and has priority over any other interest in the securities. Where a security interest in favor of the United States in a security entitlement of a participant is marked on the books of a Federal Reserve Bank, such Federal Reserve Bank may rely, and is protected in relying, exclusively on the order of an authorized representative of the United States directing the transfer of the security. For purposes of this paragraph, an "authorized representative of the United States" is the official designated in the applicable regulations or agreement to which a Federal Reserve Bank is a party, governing the security interest.

(c)(1) The Farm Credit Banks, the Funding Corporation, and the Federal Reserve Banks have no obligation to agree to act on behalf of any person or to recognize the interest of any transferee of a security interest or other limited interest in favor of any person except to the extent of any specific requirement of Federal law or regulation or to the extent set forth in any specific agreement with the Federal Reserve Bank on whose books the interest of the participant is recorded. To the extent required by such law or regulation or set forth in an agreement with a Federal Reserve Bank, or the Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circular, a security interest in a security entitlement that is in favor of a Federal Reserve Bank, a Farm Credit Bank, the Funding Corporation, or a person may be created and perfected by a Federal Reserve Bank marking its books to record the security interest. Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, a security interest in a security entitlement marked on the books of a

priority over any other interest in the securities.

(2) In addition to the method provided in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, a security interest, including a security interest in favor of a Federal Reserve Bank, may be perfected by any method by which a security interest may be perfected under applicable law as described in §615.5452(b) or §615.5453 of this subpart. The perfection, effect of perfection or non-perfection and priority of a security interest are governed by that applicable law. A security interest in favor of a Federal Reserve Bank shall be treated as a security interest in favor of a clearing corporation in all respects under that law, including with respect to the effect of perfection and priority of the security interest. A Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circular shall be treated as a rule adopted by a clearing corporation for such purposes.

[62 FR 67192, Dec. 20, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 53229, Oct. 14, 1997]

§615.5455 Obligations of the Farm Credit banks and the Funding Corporation; no adverse claims.

(a) Except in the case of a security interest in favor of the United States or a Federal Reserve Bank or otherwise as provided in §615.5454(c)(1), for the purposes of this subpart O, the Farm Credit banks, the Funding Corporation and the Federal Reserve Banks shall treat the participant to whose securities account an interest in a book-entry security has been credited as the person exclusively entitled to issue a transfer message, to receive interest and other payments with respect thereof and otherwise to exercise all the rights and powers with respect to such security, notwithstanding any information or notice to the contrary. The Federal Reserve Banks, the Farm Credit banks, and the Funding Corporation are not liable to a person asserting or having an adverse claim to a security entitlement or to a book-entry security in a participant's securities account, including any such claim arising as a result of the transfer or disposition of a book-entry security by a Federal Reserve Bank pursuant to a transfer message that the Federal Reserve

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Bank reasonably believes to be genuine.

(b) The obligation of the Farm Credit banks and the Funding Corporation to make payments (including payments of interest and principal) with respect to book-entry securities is discharged at the time payment in the appropriate amount is made as follows:

(1) Interest or other payments on book-entry securities are either credited by a Federal Reserve Bank to a funds account maintained at the Federal Reserve Bank or otherwise paid as directed by the participant.

(2) Book-entry securities are redeemed in accordance with their terms by a Federal Reserve Bank withdrawing the securities from the participant's securities account in which they are maintained and by either crediting the amount of the redemption proceeds, including both principal and interest, where applicable, to a funds account at the Federal Reserve Bank or otherwise paying such principal and interest as directed by the participant. No action by the participant is required in connection with the redemption of a book-entry security.

[61 FR 67192, Dec. 20, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 53229, Oct. 14, 1997]

§615.5456 Authority of Federal Reserve Banks.

(a) Each Federal Reserve Bank is hereby authorized as fiscal agent of the Farm Credit banks and the Funding Corporation to perform functions with respect to the issuance of book-entry securities offered and sold by the Farm Credit banks and the Funding Corporation to which this subpart applies, in accordance with the terms of the securities documentation and the provisions of this subpart:

(1) To service and maintain book-entry securities in accounts established for such purposes;

(2) To make payments of principal and interest, as directed by the Farm Credit banks and the Funding Corporation;

(3) To effect transfer of book-entry securities between participants' securities accounts as directed by the participants;

(4) To effect conversions between book-entry securities and definitive

Farm Credit securities with respect to those securities as to which conversion rights are available pursuant to the applicable securities documentation; and

(5) To perform such other duties as fiscal agent as may be requested by the Farm Credit banks and the Funding Corporation.

(b) Each Federal Reserve Bank may issue Operating Circulars not inconsistent with this subpart, governing the details of its handling of book-entry securities, security entitlements, and the operation of the Book-entry System under this subpart.

§615.5457 Withdrawal of eligible book-entry securities for conversion to definitive form.

(a) Eligible book-entry securities may be withdrawn from the Book-entry System by requesting delivery of like definitive Farm Credit securities.

(b) A Federal Reserve Bank shall, upon receipt of appropriate instructions to withdraw eligible book-entry securities from book-entry in the Book-entry System, convert such securities into definitive Farm Credit securities and deliver them in accordance with such instructions.

(c) Farm Credit securities which are to be delivered upon withdrawal may be issued in either registered or bearer form, to the extent permitted by the applicable securities documentation.

(d) All requests for withdrawal of eligible book-entry securities must be made prior to the maturity or the applicable date of call of the Farm Credit securities.

[61 FR 67192, Dec. 20, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 53230, Oct. 14, 1997]

§615.5458 Waiver of regulations.

The Farm Credit Administration reserves the right, in the Farm Credit Administration's discretion, to waive any provision(s) of the regulations in this subpart in any case or class of cases for the convenience of the Farm Credit banks and the Funding Corporation or in order to relieve any person(s) of unnecessary hardship, if such action is not inconsistent with law, does not adversely affect any substantial existing rights, and the Farm Credit Administration is satisfied that such action will not subject the Farm Credit banks

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and the Funding Corporation to any substantial expense or liability.

§ 615.5459 Liability of Farm Credit banks, Funding Corporation and Federal Reserve Banks.

The Farm Credit banks, the Funding Corporation, and the Federal Reserve Banks may rely on the information provided in a transfer message or other transaction documentation, and are not required to verify the information. The Farm Credit banks, the Funding Corporation, and the Federal Reserve Banks shall not be liable for any action taken in accordance with the information set out in the transfer message, other transaction documentation, or evidence submitted in support thereof.

§ 615.5460 Additional provisions.

(a) *Additional requirements.* In any case or any class of cases arising under the regulations in this subpart, the Farm Credit banks and the Funding Corporation may require such additional evidence and a bond of indemnity, with or without surety, as may in the judgment of the Farm Credit banks and the Funding Corporation be necessary for the protection of the interests of the Farm Credit banks and the Funding Corporation.

(b) *Notice of attachment for Farm Credit securities in the Book-entry System.* The interest of a debtor in a security entitlement may be reached by a creditor only by legal process upon the securities intermediary with whom the debtor's securities account is maintained, except where a security entitlement is maintained in the name of a secured party, in which case the debtor's interest may be reached by legal process upon the secured party. These regulations do not purport to establish whether a Federal Reserve Bank is required to honor an order or other notice of attachment in any particular case or class of cases.

(c) *Conversion of definitive securities into book-entry securities.* Definitive Farm Credit securities may be converted to book-entry form in accordance with the terms of the applicable

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securities documentation and Federal Reserve Operating Circular.

[61 FR 67192, Dec. 20, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 53230, Oct. 14, 1997]

§ 615.5461 Lost, stolen, destroyed, mutilated or defaced Farm Credit securities, including coupons.

(a) Relief on the account of the loss, theft, destruction, mutilation, or defacement of any definitive consolidated or Systemwide securities of the Farm Credit banks and coupons of such securities may be granted on the same basis and to the same extent as relief may be granted under the statutes of the United States and the regulations of the Department of the Treasury on the account of the loss, theft, destruction, mutilation, or defacement of United States securities and coupons of such securities.

(b) Applicants for relief under paragraph (a) of this section, shall present claims and proof of loss:

(1) To the Division of Special Investments, Bureau of the Public Debt, P.O. Box 396, Parkersburg, WV 26102-0396, in the case of consolidated or Systemwide securities of the Farm Credit banks issued prior to May 1, 1978; or

(2) To the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, 10 Exchange Place, Suite 1401, Jersey City, NJ 07302, in the case of consolidated or Systemwide securities issued on or after May 1, 1978.

§ 615.5462 Restrictive endorsement of bearer securities.

When consolidated and Systemwide bearer securities of the Farm Credit banks are being presented to Federal Reserve Banks, for redemption, exchange, or conversion to book entry, such securities may be restrictively endorsed. The restrictive endorsement shall be placed thereon in substantially the same manner and with the same effects as prescribed in United States Treasury Department regulations, now or hereafter in force, governing like transactions in United States bonds; and consolidated or Systemwide securities of the Farm Credit banks so endorsed shall be prepared for shipment and shipped in the manner prescribed

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in such regulations for United States bearer securities. (See 31 CFR part 328.)

Subpart P—Global Debt Securities

§ 615.5500 Definitions.

In this subpart, unless the context otherwise requires or indicates:

(a) *Global debt securities* means consolidated Systemwide debt securities issued by the Funding Corporation on behalf of the Farm Credit banks under section 4.2(d) of the Act through a fiscal agent or agents and distributed either exclusively outside the United States or simultaneously inside and outside the United States.

(b) *Global agent* means any fiscal agent, other than the Federal Reserve Banks, used by the Funding Corporation to facilitate the sale of global debt securities.

[60 FR 57919, Nov. 24, 1995]

§ 615.5502 Issuance of global debt securities.

(a) The Funding Corporation may provide for the sale of global debt securities on behalf of the Farm Credit banks through a global agent or agents by negotiation, offer, bid, or syndicate sale, and deliver such obligations by book-entry, wire transfer, or such other means as may be appropriate.

(b) The Funding Corporation Board of Directors shall establish appropriate criteria for the selection of global agents and shall approve each global agent.

[60 FR 57919, Nov. 24, 1995]

Subpart Q—Bankers Acceptances

§ 615.5550 Bankers acceptances.

Subject to the provisions of § 614.4710, banks for cooperatives may rediscount with other purchasers the acceptances they have created. The bank for cooperatives' board of directors, under established policies, may delegate this authority to management.

[55 FR 24888, June 19, 1990]

Subpart R—Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation Securities

§ 615.5560 Book-entry Procedure for Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation Securities.

(a) The Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation (Financial Assistance Corporation) is a federally chartered instrumentality of the United States, and an institution of the Farm Credit System, subject to the examination and regulation of the Farm Credit Administration.

(b) Subject to the approval of the Farm Credit System Assistance Board, the Financial Assistance Corporation is authorized by section 6.26 of the Act to issue uncollateralized bonds, notes, debentures, and similar obligations, guaranteed as to the timely payment of principal and interest by the Secretary of the Treasury, for a term of 15 years (Financial Assistance Corporation securities). The Financial Assistance Corporation may prescribe the forms, the denominations, the rates of interest, the conditions, the manner of issuance and the prices of such Financial Assistance Corporation obligations.

(c) Financial Assistance Corporation securities shall be governed by §§ 615.5450, and 615.5452 through 615.5460. In interpreting those sections for purposes of this subpart, unless the context requires otherwise, the term "Financial Assistance Corporation securities" shall be read for "Farm Credit securities," and "Financial Assistance Corporation" shall be read for "Farm Credit banks" and "Funding Corporation." These terms shall be read as though modified where necessary to effectuate the application of the designated sections of subpart O of this part to the Financial Assistance Corporation.

[53 FR 12141, Apr. 13, 1988; 53 FR 27156, July 19, 1988, as amended at 61 FR 67195, Dec. 20, 1996]

Subpart S—Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Securities

§ 615.5570 Book-entry procedures for Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Securities.

(a) The Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac) is a Federally chartered instrumentality of the United States and an institution of the Farm Credit System, subject to the examination and regulation of the Farm Credit Administration.

(b) Farmer Mac, either in its own name or through an affiliate controlled or owned by Farmer Mac, is authorized by section 8.6 of the Act:

(1) To issue and/or guarantee the timely payment of principal and interest on securities representing interests in or obligations backed by pools of agricultural real estate loans (guaranteed securities); and

(2) To issue debt obligations (which, together with the guaranteed securities described in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, are referred to as Farmer Mac securities). Farmer Mac may prescribe the forms, the denominations, the rates of interest, the conditions, the manner of issuance, and the prices of Farmer Mac securities.

(c) Farmer Mac securities shall be governed by §§ 615.5450, and 615.5452 through 615.5460. In interpreting those sections for purposes of this subpart, unless the context requires otherwise, the term “Farmer Mac securities” shall be read for “Farm Credit securities,” and “Farmer Mac” shall be read for “Farm Credit banks” and “Funding Corporation.” These terms shall be read as though modified where necessary to effectuate the application of the designated sections of subpart O of this part to Farmer Mac.

[61 FR 31394, June 20, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 67195, Dec. 20, 1996]

PART 616—LEASING

Sec.

616.6000 Definitions.

616.6100 Purchase and sale of interests in leases.

616.6200 Out-of-territory leasing.

616.6300 Leasing policies, procedures, and underwriting standards.

616.6400 Documentation.

616.6500 Investment in leased assets.

616.6600 Leasing limit.

616.6700 Stock purchase requirements.

616.6800 Disclosure requirements.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 2.0, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.10, 2.12, 2.13, 2.15, 3.0, 3.1, 3.3, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.20, 3.28, 4.3, 4.3A, 4.13, 4.13A, 4.13B, 4.14, 4.14A, 4.14C, 4.14D, 4.14E, 4.18, 4.18A, 4.25, 4.26, 4.27, 4.28, 4.36, 4.37, 5.9, 5.10, 5.17, 7.0, 7.2, 7.3, 7.6, 7.8, 7.12, 7.13 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2071, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2091, 2093, 2094, 2097, 2121, 2122, 2124, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2141, 2149, 2154, 2154a, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2202a, 2202c, 2202d, 2202e, 2206, 2206a, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2219a, 2219b, 2243, 2244, 2252, 2279a, 2279a–2, 2279a–3, 2279b, 2279c–1, 2279f, 2279f–1).

SOURCE: 64 FR 34518, June 28, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

§ 616.600 Definitions.

For the purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(a) *Interests in leases* means ownership interests in any aspect of a lease transaction, including, but not limited to, servicing rights.

(b) *Lease* means any contractual obligation to own and lease, or lease with the option to purchase, equipment or facilities used in the operations of persons eligible to borrow under part 613 of this chapter.

(c) *Sale with recourse* means a sale of a lease or an interest in a lease in which the seller:

(1) Retains some risk of loss from the transferred asset for any cause except the seller’s breach of usual and customary warranties or representations designed to protect the purchaser against fraud or misrepresentation; or

(2) Has an obligation to make payments to any party resulting from:

(i) Default on the lease by the lessee or guarantor or any other deficiencies in the lessee’s performance;

(ii) Changes in the market value of the assets after transfer;

(iii) Any contractual relationship between the seller and purchaser incident to the transfer that, by its terms, could continue even after final payment, default, or other termination of the assets transferred; or

(iv) Any other cause, except that the retention of servicing rights alone shall not constitute recourse.

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§616.6100 Purchase and sale of interests in leases.

(a) *Authority to buy interests in leases.* A Farm Credit System institution may buy leases and interests in leases.

(b) *Policies.* Each Farm Credit System institution that sells or buys interests in leases must do so only under a policy adopted by its board of directors that addresses the following:

(1) The types of leases in which the institution may buy or sell an interest and the types of interests which may be bought or sold;

(2) The underwriting standards for the purchase of interests in leases;

(3) Such limits on the aggregate lease payments and residual amount of interests in leases that the institution may buy from a single institution as are necessary to diversify risk, and such limits on the aggregate amounts the institution may buy from all institutions as are necessary to assure that service to the territory is not impeded;

(4) Identification and reporting of leases in which interests are sold or bought;

(5) Requirements for securing from the selling lessor in a timely manner adequate financial and other information about the lessee needed to make an independent judgment; and

(6) Any limits or conditions to which sales or purchases are subject that the board considers appropriate, including arbitration.

(c) *Purchase and sale agreements.* Each agreement to buy or sell an interest in a lease must, at a minimum:

(1) Identify the particular lease(s) to be covered by the agreement;

(2) Provide for the transfer of lessee information on a timely and continuing basis;

(3) Identify the nature of the interest(s) sold or bought;

(4) Specify the rights and obligations of the parties and the terms and conditions of the sale;

(5) Contain any terms necessary for the appropriate administration of the lease, including lease servicing and monitoring of the servicer and authorization and conditions for action in the event of lessee distress or default;

(6) Provide for a method of resolution of disagreements arising under the agreement;

(7) Specify whether the contract is assignable by either party; and

(8) In the case of lease transactions through agents, comply with §614.4325(h) of this chapter, reading the term “lease” or “leases” in place of the term “loan” or “loans,” as applicable.

(d) *Independent judgment.* Each institution that buys an interest in a lease must make a judgment on the payment ability of the lessee that is independent of the originating or lead lessor and any intermediary seller or broker. This must occur before the purchase of the interest and before any servicing action that alters the terms of the original agreement. The institution must not delegate such judgment to any person(s) not employed by the institution. A Farm Credit System institution that buys a lease or any interest in a lease may use information, such as appraisals or inspections, provided by the originating or lead lessor, or any intermediary seller or broker; however, the buying Farm Credit System institution must independently evaluate such information when exercising its judgment. The independent judgment must be documented by a payment analysis that considers factors set forth in §616.6300. The payment analysis must consider such financial and other lessee information as would be required by a prudent lessor and must include an evaluation of the capacity and reliability of the servicer. Boards of directors of jointly managed institutions must adopt procedures to ensure the interests of their respective shareholders are protected in participation between such institutions.

(e) *Sales with recourse.* When a lease or interest in a lease is sold with recourse:

(1) For the purpose of determining the lending and leasing limit in subpart J of part 614 of this chapter, the lease must be considered, to the extent of the recourse or guaranty, a lease by the buyer to the seller, and in addition, the seller must aggregate the lease with other obligations of the lessee; and

(2) The lease subject to the recourse agreement must be considered an asset sold with recourse for the purpose of computing capital ratios.

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(f) *Similar entity lease transactions.* The provisions of § 613.3300 of this chapter that apply to interests in loans made to similar entities apply to interests in leases made to similar entities. In applying these provisions, the term “loan” shall be read to include the term “lease” and the term “principal amount” shall be read to include the term “lease amount.”

§ 616.6200 Out-of-territory leasing.

A System institution may make leases outside its chartered territory.

§ 616.6300 Leasing policies, procedures, and underwriting standards.

The board of each institution engaged in lease underwriting must adopt a written policy (or policies). Management, at the direction of the board, must develop procedures that reflect lease practices that control risk and comply with all applicable laws and regulations. Any leasing activity must comply with the lending policies and loan underwriting requirements in § 614.4150 of this chapter. An institution engaged in the making, buying, or syndicating of leases also must adopt written policies and procedures that address the additional risks associated with leasing. Written policies and procedures must address the following, if applicable:

- (a) Appropriateness of the lease amount, purpose, and terms and conditions, including the residual value established at the inception of the lease;
- (b) Process for estimating the leased asset's market value during the lease term;
- (c) Types of equipment and facilities the institution will lease;
- (d) Remarketing of leased property and associated risks;
- (e) Property tax and sales tax reporting;
- (f) Title and ownership of leased assets;
- (g) Title and licensing for motor vehicles;
- (h) Liability associated with ownership, including any environmental hazards or risks;
- (i) Insurance requirements for both the lessor and lessee;

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(j) Classification of leases in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; and

(k) Tax treatment of lease transactions and associated risks.

§ 616.6400 Documentation.

Each institution must document that any asset it leases is within its statutory authority.

§ 616.6500 Investment in leased assets.

An institution may acquire property to be leased that is consistent with current or planned leasing programs.

§ 616.6600 Leasing limit.

All leases made by Farm Credit System institutions shall be subject to the lending and leasing limit in subpart J of part 614 of this chapter.

§ 616.6700 Stock purchase requirements.

(a) Each System institution, except the Farm Credit Leasing Services Corporation, making an equipment lease under titles II or III of the Act must require the lessee to buy or own at least one share of stock or one participation certificate in the institution making the lease, in accordance with its by-laws.

(b) The disclosure requirements of § 615.5250(a) and (b) of this chapter apply to stock (or participation certificates) bought as a condition for obtaining a lease.

§ 616.6800 Disclosure requirements.

(a) Each System institution must give to each lessee a copy of all lease documents signed by the lessee within a reasonable time following lease closing.

(b) Each System institution must make its decision on a lease application as soon as possible and provide prompt written notice of its decision to the applicant.

PART 617—REFERRAL OF KNOWN OR SUSPECTED CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS

Sec.

617.1 Purpose and scope.

617.2 Referrals.

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617.3 Notification of board of directors and bonding company.

617.4 Institution responsibilities.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 5.9, 5.17 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2243, 2252).

SOURCE: 62 FR 24566, May 6, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§617.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) This part applies to all institutions of the Farm Credit System as defined in section 1.2(a) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended, (Act) (12 U.S.C. 2002(a)) including, but not limited to, associations, banks, service corporations chartered under section 4.25 of the Act, the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, the Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation, the Farm Credit Leasing Services Corporation, and the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (hereinafter, institutions). The purposes of this part are to ensure public confidence in the Farm Credit System, to ensure the reporting of known or suspected criminal activity, to reduce potential losses to institutions, and to ensure the safety and soundness of institutions. This part requires that institutions use the Farm Credit Administration Criminal Referral Form (hereinafter FCA Referral Form) to notify the appropriate Federal authorities when any known or suspected Federal criminal violations of the type described in §617.2 are discovered by institutions.

(b) The specific referral requirements of this part apply to known or suspected criminal violations of the United States Code involving the assets, operations, or affairs of an institution. This part prescribes procedures for referring those violations to the proper Federal authorities and the Farm Credit Administration. No specific procedural requirements apply to the referral of violations of State or local laws.

(c) Nothing in this part should be construed as reducing in any way an institution's ability to report known or suspected criminal activities to the appropriate investigatory or prosecuting authorities, whether Federal, State, or local, even when the circumstances in which a report is required under §617.2 are not present.

(d) It shall be the responsibility of each System institution to determine whether there appears to be a reasonable basis to conclude that a criminal violation has been committed and, if so, to report the matter to the proper law enforcement authorities for consideration of prosecution.

(e) Each referral required by §617.2(a) shall be made on the FCA Referral Form in accordance with the FCA Referral Form instructions relating to its filing and distribution.

§617.2 Referrals.

(a) Each institution and its board of directors shall exercise due diligence to ensure the discovery, appropriate investigation, and reporting of criminal activity. Within 30 calendar days of determining that there is a known or suspected criminal violation of the United States Code involving or affecting its assets, operations, or affairs, the institution shall refer such criminal violation to the appropriate regional offices of the United States Attorney, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the United States Secret Service or both, using the FCA Referral Form. A copy of the completed FCA Referral Form, accompanied by any relevant documentation, shall be provided at the same time to the Farm Credit Administration's Office of General Counsel. In the event that a Farm Credit bank makes a loan through a Federal land bank association which services the loan, the Federal land bank association must inform the Farm Credit bank of any known or suspected violation involving that loan and the Farm Credit bank shall refer the violation to Federal law enforcement authorities under this section. A report is required in circumstances where there is:

(1) Any known or suspected criminal activity (e.g., theft, embezzlement), mysterious disappearance, unexplained shortage, misapplication, or other defalcation of property and/or funds, regardless of amount, where an institution employee, officer, director, agent, or other person participating in the conduct of the affairs of such an institution is suspected;

(2) Any known or suspected criminal activity involving an actual or potential loss of \$5,000 or more, through false

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statements or other fraudulent means, where the institution has a substantial basis for identifying a possible suspect or group of suspects and the suspect(s) is not an institution employee, officer, director, agent, or other person participating in the conduct of the affairs of such an institution;

(3) Any known or suspected criminal activity involving an actual or potential loss of \$25,000 or more, through false statements or other fraudulent means, where the institution has no substantial basis for identifying a possible suspect or group of suspects; or

(4) Any known or suspected criminal activity involving a financial transaction in which the institution was used as a conduit for such criminal activity (such as money laundering/structuring schemes).

(b) In circumstances where there is a known or suspected violation of State or local criminal law, the institution shall notify the appropriate State or local law enforcement authorities.

(c) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section, the institution shall immediately notify by telephone the appropriate Federal law enforcement authorities and FCA offices specified on the FCA Referral Form upon determining that a known or suspected criminal violation of Federal law requiring urgent attention has occurred or is ongoing. Such cases include, but are not limited to, those where:

(1) There is a likelihood that the suspect(s) will flee;

(2) The magnitude or the continuation of the known or suspected criminal violation may imperil the institution's continued operation; or

(3) Key institution personnel are involved.

§617.3 Notification of board of directors and bonding company.

(a) The institution's board of directors shall be promptly notified of any criminal referral by the institution, except that if the criminal referral involves a member of the board of directors, discretion may be exercised in notifying such member of the referral.

(b) The institution involved shall promptly make all required notifica-

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tions under any applicable surety bond or other contract for protection.

§617.4 Institution responsibilities.

Each institution shall establish effective policies and procedures designed to ensure compliance with this part, including, but not limited to, adequate internal controls.

PART 618—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subpart A—Related Services

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618.8010 Related services authorization process.
618.8015 Policy guidelines.
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618.8025 Feasibility reviews.
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- 618.8040 Authorized insurance services.

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Subpart G—Releasing Information

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- 618.8430 Internal controls.
618.8440 Planning.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 1.5, 1.11, 1.12, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 2.12, 3.1, 3.7, 4.12, 4.13A, 4.25, 4.29, 5.9, 5.10, 5.17 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2013, 2019, 2020, 2073, 2075, 2076, 2093, 2122, 2128, 2183, 2200, 2211, 2218, 2243, 2244, 2252).

Subpart A—Related Services

SOURCE: 60 FR 34099, June 30, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

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§618.8000 Definitions.

For the purposes of this subpart, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Program* means the method or procedures used to deliver a related service. This distinguishes the particulars of how a related service will be provided from the type of activity or concept.

(b) *Related service* means any service or type of activity provided by a System bank or association that is appropriate to the recipient's on-farm, aquatic, or cooperative operations, including control of related financial matters. The term "related service" includes, but is not limited to, technical assistance, financial assistance, financially related services and insurance, but does not include lending or leasing activities.

(c) *System banks and associations* means Farm Credit Banks, agricultural credit banks, banks for cooperatives, agricultural credit associations, production credit associations, Federal land bank associations, Federal land credit associations, and service corporations formed pursuant to section 4.25 of the Act.

§618.8005 Eligibility.

(a) Farm Credit Banks and associations may offer related services to persons eligible to borrow as defined in §§613.3000 (a) and (b), 613.3010, and 613.3300 of this chapter.

(b) Banks for cooperatives may offer related services to entities eligible to borrow as defined in §§613.3100, 613.3200, and 613.3300 of this chapter.

(c) Agricultural credit banks may offer related services appropriate to on-farm and aquatic operations of persons eligible to borrow specified in paragraph (a) of this section and may offer related services appropriate to cooperative operations of entities eligible to borrow as specified in paragraph (b) of this section.

(d) Service corporations formed pursuant to section 4.25 of the Act may offer related services to persons eligible to borrow from the owners of the service corporation, pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (e) of this section.

(e) System banks and associations may provide related services to recipi-

ents that do not otherwise meet the requirements of this section in connection with loan applications, loan servicing, and other transactions between these recipients and persons eligible to borrow as defined in paragraphs (a), (b), or (c) of this section, as long as the service provided is requested by an eligible borrower or necessary to the transaction between the parties. Such services include, but are not limited to, fee appraisals of agricultural assets provided to any Federal agency, commercial banks, and other lenders.

[60 FR 34099, June 30, 1995, as amended at 62 FR 4450, Jan. 30, 1997]

§618.8010 Related services authorization process.

(a) *Authorities.* System banks and associations may only offer related services that meet the criteria specified in this regulation and are authorized by the FCA.

(b) *New service proposals.* (1) A System bank or association that proposes or intends to offer a related service that the FCA has not previously authorized must submit to the FCA, in writing, a proposal that includes a description of the service, a statement of how it meets the regulatory definition of "related services" in §618.8000(b), and the risk analysis cited in §618.8020(b)(3). The FCA will evaluate the proposed service based on the information submitted, and may also consider whether there are extenuating circumstances or other compelling reasons that justify the proposed service or support a determination that the service is not authorized. This evaluation will focus primarily on Systemwide issues rather than on institution or program-specific factors.

(2) When authorizing a proposed related service, at its discretion, the FCA may impose special conditions or limitations on any related service or program to offer a related service.

(3) At its discretion the FCA may, at any time during its evaluation of a proposed related service, publish the proposed related service in the FEDERAL REGISTER for public comment.

(4) Within 60 days of the FCA receiving a completed proposal, including any additional information the FCA may require, the FCA will act on the

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request to authorize a new service. The FCA shall approve the request, deny the request, or publish the service for public comment in the FEDERAL REGISTER. For good cause and prior to the expiration of the 60 days, the FCA may extend this period for an additional 60 days.

(5) Within the time period established in paragraph (b)(4) of this section, the FCA shall notify the requesting institution of its actions. Following notification of the requesting institution, the FCA will notify all System banks and associations of its determination on the proposed service by booklet or other means. If a service is not authorized, the reasons for denial will be included in the notifications to the System and the requesting institution.

(c) *Previously authorized services.* (1) For related services that have been authorized by the FCA, any System bank or association may develop a program and subsequently offer the related service to eligible recipients, subject to any special conditions or institutional limits placed by the FCA. These programs will be subject to review and evaluation during the examination and enforcement process.

(2) The FCA shall make available to all System banks and associations a list of such related services (“related services list” or “list”) and will update the list in accordance with paragraph (b)(5) of this section. The list will contain the following:

(i) A description of each related service; and

(ii) The types of institutions authorized to offer each type of related service;

(iii) Identification of any special conditions on how the related service may be offered. The special conditions and description of the service will be fully detailed in FCA’s notice to System institutions under paragraph (b)(5) of this section.

(3) At least 10 business days prior to implementing a related service program already on the list, the System bank or association must notify the FCA Office of Examination field office responsible for examining that institution in writing and provide it with a

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description of the proposed related service program.

§618.8015 Policy guidelines.

(a) The board of directors of each System bank or association providing related services must adopt a policy addressing related services. The policy shall include clearly stated purposes, objectives, and operating parameters for offering related services and a requirement that each service offered be consistent with the institution’s business plan and long-term strategic goals. Such policy shall also be subject to review under an appropriate internal control policy.

(b) All related services must be offered to recipients on an optional basis. If the institution requires a related service as a condition to borrow, it must inform the recipient that the related service can be obtained from the institution or from any other person or entity offering the same or similar related services.

(c) All fees for related services must be separately identified from loan interest charges and disclosed to the recipient of the service prior to providing or implementing the service.

§618.8020 Feasibility requirements.

For every related service program a System bank or association provides, it must document program feasibility. The feasibility analysis shall include the following:

(a) Support for the determination that the related service is authorized; and

(b) An overall cost-benefit analysis that demonstrates program feasibility, taking into consideration the following items:

(1) An analysis of how the program relates to or promotes the institution’s business plan and strategic goals, and whether offering the service is consistent with the long-term goals described in its capital plan;

(2) An analysis of the expected financial returns of the program which, at a minimum, must include an evaluation of market, pricing, competition issues, and expected profitability. This analysis should include an explanation of how the program will contribute to the

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overall financial health of the institution; and

(3) An analysis of the risk in the program, including:

(i) An evaluation of the operational costs and risks involved in offering the program, such as management and personnel requirements, training requirements, and capital outlays;

(ii) An evaluation of the financial liability that may be incurred as a result of offering the program and any insurance or other measures that are necessary to minimize these risks; and

(iii) An evaluation of the conflicts of interest, whether real or perceived, that may arise as a result of offering the program and any steps that are necessary to eliminate or appropriately manage these conflicts.

§ 618.8025 Feasibility reviews.

(a) Prior to an association offering a related service program for the first time or offering a service that it did not offer during the most recently completed business cycle (generally 1 year), the board of directors of the funding bank must verify that the association has performed a feasibility analysis pursuant to § 618.8020. The bank review is limited to a determination that the feasibility analysis is complete and that the analysis establishes that it is feasible for the association to provide the program. Any conclusion by the bank that the feasibility analysis is incomplete or fails to demonstrate program feasibility must be fully supported and communicated to the association in writing within 60 days of its submission to the bank.

(b) Prior to a service corporation offering a service for the first time or offering a service that it did not offer during the most recently completed business cycle (generally 1 year), the owners of the service corporation must verify that the service corporation has performed a feasibility analysis pursuant to § 618.8020. If the owners all agree, one bank with a significant ownership interest can be delegated this responsibility.

[60 FR 34099, June 30, 1995; 60 FR 42029, Aug. 15, 1995]

§ 618.8030 Out-of-territory related services.

(a) System banks and associations may offer related services outside their chartered territories subject to the following conditions:

(1) The System bank or association obtains consent from all chartered institutions currently offering the same type of service in the territory in which the service is to be provided; or

(2) If no System bank or association is currently offering the same type of service in the territory, then the out-of-territory institution must obtain the consent of at least one direct lender institution chartered in the territory in which the related service is to be provided.

(3) The consent obtained pursuant to paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section shall be in the form of a written agreement with specific terms and conditions including timeframes.

(b) System banks and associations providing out-of-territory services must fulfill all requirements of subparts A and B of this part 618.

(c) An institution that consents to another bank or association providing a related service in its chartered territory must meet the requirements of this section, but need not comply with the other requirements of subparts A and B of this part 618, unless the program consented to imposes a financial obligation on the consenting institution. If a financial obligation exists, then the consenting institution must comply with §§ 618.8015, 618.8020 and 618.8025.

(d) Service corporations must follow the requirements of this section in offering related services out-of-territory. A service corporation cannot consent to an out-of-territory institution providing services in its chartered territory.

Subpart B—Member Insurance

§ 618.8040 Authorized insurance services.

(a) Farm Credit System banks (excluding banks for cooperatives) (hereinafter banks) and associations may sell to their members and borrowers, on an optional basis, credit or term life

and credit disability insurance appropriate to protect the loan commitment in the event of death or disability of the debtors. The sale of other insurance necessary to protect a member's or borrower's farm or aquatic unit is permitted, but limited to hail and multiple-peril crop insurance, title insurance, and insurance necessary to protect the facilities and equipment of aquatic members and borrowers. A member or borrower shall have the option, without coercion from the bank or association, to accept or reject such insurance.

(b) Bank and association board policies governing the provision of member insurance programs shall be established within the following general guidelines:

(1) A System bank or association may provide credit or term-life or credit-disability insurance only to persons who have a loan or lease with any System bank or association, without regard to whether such institution is the provider. Term-life insurance coverage may continue after the loan has been repaid or the lease terminated, provided the member can reasonably be expected to borrow again within 2 years, and provided the continuation of insurance is not contrary to state law.

(2) A debtor-creditor relationship is not required for the sale of other insurance specified in paragraph (a) of this section, as long as purchasers are members of a System bank or association. For the purposes of this section, "member" means someone eligible to borrow who is a stockholder or participation certificate holder and who acquired stock or participation certificates to obtain a loan, for investment purposes, or to qualify for other services of the association or bank.

(3) In making insurance available through private insurers, each bank shall approve the programs of more than two insurers for each type of insurance offered in the bank's chartered territory, provided that more than two insurers for each type of insurance have proposed programs to the bank that will, in all likelihood, have long-term viability, and meet the requirements of § 618.8040(b)(4)(i) of this section. The banks shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to attract

more than two qualified insurers for each insurance program offered to borrowers in all States of the bank's chartered territory. Where the bank is unable to approve more than two insurers, the bank shall document its efforts to attract additional qualified insurers for the affected insurance program and State. The banks may provide comparative information relating to costs and quality of approved programs and the financial condition of approved companies.

(4) Member insurance services may be offered only if:

(i) The insurance program has been approved by the bank or association from among eligible programs made available to it by insurers—

(A) Meeting reasonable financial and quality of service standards prescribed by the bank; and

(B) Licensed under State law to do business in the State(s) in which the insurance is offered;

(ii) The bank or association has the capacity to render authorized insurance services in an effective and efficient manner;

(iii) There exists the probability that the service will generate sufficient revenue to cover all costs;

(iv) Rendering the insurance service will not have an adverse effect on the credit or other operations of the bank or association; and

(v) In making insurance available through approved insurers, the board of directors of the bank or association shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to select and offer at least two approved insurers for each type of insurance made available to the members and borrowers. In the event that the bank or association has selected less than two insurers for any insurance program, such bank or association shall document the reasons why it is unable to offer members and borrowers additional insurers for the affected insurance program.

(5) All costs to members and borrowers for insurance services provided shall be disclosed separately from interest charges.

(6) Bank and association personnel shall not benefit from insurance sales by receipt of commissions or gifts from underwriting insurance companies.

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However, employees may participate in an incentive plan under which incentive compensation is provided based on the sale of insurance.

(i) In any single year, for all employees except full-time insurance personnel or full-time supervisors or managers of insurance departments, incentive compensation attributable to sales of all types of insurance cannot exceed an amount equivalent to 5 percent of the recipient's annual base salary.

(ii) In any single year, for full-time insurance personnel and full-time supervisors and managers of insurance departments, incentive compensation for sales of credit life and similar types of insurance (i.e. insurance that pays on a loan or mortgage upon the death or disability of the debtor) cannot exceed an amount equivalent to 5 percent of the recipient's annual base salary.

(iii) No incentive compensation limit applies to sales of other insurance (crop, title, etc.) by full-time insurance personnel or full-time supervisors or managers of insurance departments.

(7) Term insurance may be written for the amount of coverage desired by the member or borrower, but in no case may the amount of term insurance, credit life insurance, or a combination of the two with an institution of the System, be in excess of total loan commitments to the member or borrower by the institution writing the insurance.

(8) The banks may, only by agreement with an insurer, offer services traditionally furnished by insurers to the Farm Credit System. This shall include master marketers when considering the sale of Federal crop insurance. The banks shall not underwrite insurance, adjust claim payments or settlements, or train and school or service adjustors or insurance agents.

(9) No bank or association shall, directly or indirectly, condition the extension of credit or provision of other service on the purchase of insurance sold or endorsed by a bank or association. At the time insurance sold or endorsed by a bank or association is offered to a member or borrower, a bank or association shall present a written notice that the service is optional. The notice shall be in prominent type and separately signed by the member or

borrower. The bank or association shall explain to the member or borrower that purchase of insurance from the association is optional and that the member or borrower will not be discriminated against for obtaining the insurance elsewhere.

(10) No bank or association shall, directly or indirectly, discriminate in any manner against any agent, broker, or insurer that is not affiliated with such bank or association, or against any party who purchases insurance through any such nonaffiliated insurance agent, broker, or insurer.

(11) Bank supervision shall ensure that insurance services offered by approved insurers consistently provide members or borrowers with a high quality and cost-effective service as prescribed by policies of the bank's board of directors, but such supervision shall be without any coercion or suasion from any bank in favor of any agent or insurer.

(12) Records must be maintained by banks and associations in sufficient detail to facilitate the review and supervision required herein.

[47 FR 38867, Sept. 3, 1982, as amended at 53 FR 35305, Sept. 13, 1988; 56 FR 65990, Dec. 20, 1991. Redesignated and amended at 60 FR 34099, 34101, June 30, 1995]

Subparts C-F [Reserved]

Subpart G—Releasing Information

§618.8300 General regulation.

Except as necessary in performing official duties or as authorized in the following paragraphs, no director or employee of a bank, association, or agency thereof shall disclose information of a type not ordinarily contained in published reports or press releases regarding any such banks or associations or their borrowers or members.

[37 FR 11442, June 7, 1972. Redesignated at 47 FR 12151, Mar. 22, 1982]

§618.8310 Lists of borrowers and stockholders.

(a) Any System institution, for the purpose of protecting the security position of the institution, may provide lists of borrowers to buyers, warehousemen, and others who deal in

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produce or livestock of the kind that secures such loans, except to the extent such actions are prohibited by State laws adopted in accordance with the Food Security Act of 1985, Pub. L. 99–198, 99 Stat. 1354. Lists of borrowers or stockholders shall not otherwise be released by any bank or association except in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section.

(b)(1) Within 5 days after receipt of a written request by a stockholder, each agricultural credit bank, bank for co-operatives, Federal land bank association, production credit association, merged association, or Farm Credit Bank shall provide a current list of its stockholders to such requesting stockholder. As a condition to providing the list, the bank or association may require that the stockholder agree and certify in writing that the stockholder will:

(i) Utilize the list exclusively for communicating with stockholders for permissible purposes; and

(ii) Not make the list available to any person, other than the stockholder's attorney or accountant, without first obtaining the written consent of the institution.

(2) As an alternative to receiving a list of stockholders, a stockholder may request the institution to mail or otherwise furnish to each stockholder a communication for a permissible purpose on behalf of the requesting stockholder. This alternative may be used at the discretion of the requesting stockholder, provided that the requester agrees to defray the reasonable costs of the communication. In the event the requester decides to exercise this option, the institution shall provide the requester with a written estimate of the costs of handling and mailing the communication as soon as practicable after receipt of the stockholder's request to furnish a communication.

(3) For purposes of paragraph (b) of this section "permissible purpose" is defined to mean matters relating to the business operations of the bank or association. This shall include matters relating to the effectiveness of management, the use of corporate assets, and the performance of directors and officers. This shall not include communications involving commercial, social,

political, or charitable causes, communications relating to the enforcement of a personal claim or the redress of a personal grievance, or proposals advocating that the bank or association violate any Federal, State, or local law or regulation.

[51 FR 39503, Oct. 28, 1986, as amended at 53 FR 35457, Sept. 14, 1988; 61 FR 67188, Dec. 20, 1996]

§ 618.8320 Data regarding borrowers and loan applicants.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the directors, officers, and employees of every bank and association shall hold in strict confidence all information regarding the character, credit standing, and property of borrowers and applicants for loans. They shall not exhibit or quote the following documents: Loan applications; supplementary statements by applicants; letters and statements relative to the character, credit standing, and property of borrowers and applicants; recommendations of loan committees; and reports of inspectors, fieldmen, investigators, and appraisers.

(b) The requirements of paragraph (a) of this section are subject to the following exceptions.

(1) Examiners and other authorized representatives of the Farm Credit Administration and the bank concerned shall have free access to all information, records, and files.

(2) In connection with a legitimate law enforcement inquiry, accredited representatives of any agency or department of the United States may be given access to information upon presentation of official identification and a written request specifying:

(i) The particular information desired; and

(ii) That the information is relevant to the law enforcement inquiry and will be used only for the purpose for which it is sought.

(3) The chairman of the presidents committees and the presidents of the banks may supply statistical and other impersonal information pertaining to groups of borrowers, applicants, and loans, in response to requests from any department or independent office of the Government of the United States, or responsible private organizations,

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with the understanding that the information will not be published.

(4) Information concerning borrowers may be given for the confidential use of any Farm Credit institution in contemplation of the extension of credit or the collection of loans.

(5) Impersonal information based solely on transactions or experience with a borrower, such as amounts of loans, terms, and payment records, may be given by a bank or association to any reliable organization for its confidential use in contemplation of the extension of credit or to a consumer reporting agency.

(6) Credit information concerning any borrower may be given when such borrower consents thereto in writing.

(7) An unsuccessful applicant for credit which primarily is for personal, family, or household purposes, if his application was rejected either wholly or partly because of information contained in a consumer report from a consumer reporting agency shall be advised as required in section 615(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (84 Stat. 1133), and if his application was rejected either wholly or partly because of information obtained from a person other than a consumer reporting agency shall be advised as required in section 615(b) thereof.

(8)(i) Any information or analysis of information requested during the course of mediation by a State agency, governor's office or mediator under any State mediation program certified under section 501 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, may be provided to the State agency, governor's office or mediator, with the approval of the borrower.

(ii) Information concerning borrowers contained in an appraisal report may be given by a Farm Credit institution to any State agency certifying and licensing real estate appraisers provided that the Farm Credit institution:

(A) Certifies that the information is required in connection with an employee's application for certification and licensure and that the institution has taken appropriate steps to protect the confidentiality of any borrower information that is not essential to the State's evaluation of the application; and

(B) Determines that the State certification and licensing program makes reasonable provisions for protecting the confidentiality of the borrower information contained in the appraisal report.

(9) Collateral evaluation reports may be released to a loan applicant, when required by the Equal Credit Opportunity Act or related regulations.

(c) The exceptions in paragraph (b) of this section shall be exercised by Farm Credit institutions with full awareness of the requirements of the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

[37 FR 11442, June 7, 1972. Redesignated at 47 FR 12151, Mar. 22, 1982, and amended at 53 FR 35457, Sept. 14, 1988; 56 FR 2675, Jan. 24, 1991; 58 FR 51994, Oct. 6, 1993; 59 FR 46734, Sept. 12, 1994; 61 FR 67188, Dec. 20, 1996; 62 FR 25831, May 12, 1997; 64 FR 43049, Aug. 9, 1999]

§618.8325 Disclosure of loan documents.

(a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) *Borrower* means any signatory to a loan contract who is either primarily or secondarily liable on such contract, including guarantors, endorsers, co-signers or the like.

(2) *Execution of the loan* means the time at which the borrower and the qualified lender have entered into a legal, binding, and enforceable loan contract and any subsequent amendment or modification of such contract.

(3) *Loan* means a loan made to a farmer, rancher, or producer or harvester of aquatic products, for any agricultural or aquatic purpose and other credit needs of the borrower, including financing for basic processing and marketing directly related to the borrower's operations and those of other eligible farmers, ranchers, and producers or harvesters of aquatic products.

(4) *Loan contract* means any written agreement under which a qualified lender lends or agrees to lend funds to a borrower in consideration for, among other things, the borrower's promise to repay the loaned funds at an agreed-upon rate of interest.

(5) *Loan document* means any form, application, agreement, contract, instrument, or other writing to which a borrower affixes his signature or seal

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and which the qualified lender intends to retain in its files as evidence relating to the loan contract entered into between it and the borrower, but shall not include any document related to a loan which the borrower has not signed.

(6) *Qualified lender* means:

(i) A System institution that makes loans (as defined in paragraph (a)(3) of this section) except a bank for cooperatives; and

(ii) Each bank, institution, corporation, company, union, and association described in section 1.7(b)(1)(B) of the Act, but only with respect to loans discounted or pledged under section 1.7(b)(1) of the Act.

(b) Each qualified lender shall provide a copy of all loan documents to the borrower or the borrower's legal representative at the execution of the loan. Subsequently, upon written request of a borrower or a borrower's legal representative, a qualified lender shall provide, as soon as practicable, a copy of any loan documents signed by the borrower, a copy of other documents delivered by such borrower to that qualified lender, and a copy of each collateral evaluation of the borrower's assets made or used by the qualified lender. To the extent that a collateral evaluation may contain confidential third party information, the lender may protect such confidential third party information by withholding any information that would disclose identifying characteristics of the third party or his property. One copy shall be furnished free of charge. The lender may assess reasonable copying charges for any additional copies requested by the borrower.

(c) Each System bank and association shall have available in its offices copies of the institution's articles of incorporation or charter and bylaws for inspection and shall furnish a copy of such documents to any owner of stock or participation certificates upon request.

[51 FR 39504, Oct. 28, 1986, as amended at 53 FR 35458, Sept. 14, 1988; 56 FR 2675, Jan. 24, 1991; 59 FR 46734, Sept. 12, 1994; 61 FR 67188, Dec. 20, 1996]

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§ 618.8330 **Production of documents and testimony during litigation.**

(a) If your bank or association is a party to litigation with a borrower or a successor in interest, you or your directors, officers, or employees may disclose confidential information about that borrower or the successor in interest during the litigation.

(b) If the Government or your bank or association is not a party to litigation, you or your directors, officers, or employees may produce confidential documents or testimony only if a court of competent jurisdiction issues a lawful order signed by a judge.

[64 FR 43049, Aug. 9, 1999]

§ 618.8340 [Reserved]

Subpart H—Disposition of Obsolete Records

§ 618.8360 [Reserved]

§ 618.8370 [Reserved]

Subpart I [Reserved]

Subpart J—Internal Controls

§ 618.8430 **Internal controls.**

Each Farm Credit institution's board of directors shall adopt an internal control policy which provides adequate direction to the institution in establishing effective control over and accountability for operations, programs, and resources. The policy shall include, at a minimum, the items enumerated in the list which follows:

(a) Direction to management which assigns responsibility for the internal control function (financial, credit, credit review, collateral, and administrative) to an officer (or officers) of the institution.

(b) Adoption of internal audit and control procedures that evidence responsibility for review and maintenance of comprehensive and effective internal controls.

(c) Direction for the operation of a program to review and assess its assets. These policies shall include standards which address the administration of this program, described in the list which follows:

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(1) Loan, loan-related assets, and appraisal review standards, including standards for scope of review selection and standards for workpapers and supporting documentation.

(2) Asset quality classification standards to be utilized in accordance with a standardized classification system consistent among associations within a district and their funding Farm Credit Bank or agricultural credit bank.

(3) Standards for assessing credit administration, including the appraisal of collateral.

(4) Standards for the training required to initiate the program.

[55 FR 24888, June 19, 1990]

§618.8440 Planning.

(a) No later than 30 days after the commencement of each calendar year, the board of directors of each Farm Credit System institution shall adopt an operational and strategic business plan for at least the succeeding 3 years.

(b) The plan shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) A mission statement.

(2) A review of the internal and external factors that are likely to affect the institution during the planning period.

(3) Quantifiable goals and objectives.

(4) Pro forma financial statements for each year of the plan.

(5) A detailed operating budget for the first year of the plan.

(6) The capital adequacy plan adopted pursuant to §§615.5200(b), 615.5330 (c), and 615.5335(b).

[53 FR 39250, Oct. 6, 1988, as amended at 62 FR 4450, Jan. 30, 1997; 64 FR 34519, June 28, 1999]

PART 619—DEFINITIONS

Sec.

619.9000 The Act.

619.9010 Additional security.

619.9015 Agricultural credit associations.

619.9020 Agricultural credit banks.

619.9025 Agricultural land.

619.9050 Associations.

619.9060 Bank for cooperatives.

619.9110 Consolidation.

619.9130 Differential interest rates.

619.9135 Direct lender.

619.9140 Farm Credit bank(s).

619.9145 Farm Credit Bank.

619.9146 Farm Credit institutions.

619.9155 Federal land credit association.

619.9170 Fixed interest rate.

619.9180 Fixed interest spread.

619.9185 Funding Corporation.

619.9195 Loan participation.

619.9200 Loss-sharing agreements.

619.9210 Merger.

619.9230 Open-end mortgage loan plans.

619.9240 Participation agreement.

619.9250 Participation certificates.

619.9260 Primary security.

619.9330 Speculative purposes.

619.9340 Variable interest rate.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 1.7, 2.4, 4.9, 5.9, 5.12, 5.17, 5.18, 7.0, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8 of the Farm Credit Act; 12 U.S.C. 2015, 2075, 2160, 2243, 2246, 2252, 2253, 2279a, 2279b, 2279b-1, 2279b-2.

SOURCE: 37 FR 11446, June 7, 1972, unless otherwise noted.

§619.9000 The Act.

The Farm Credit Act of 1971; Pub. L. 92-181 and amendments.

§619.9010 Additional security.

Supplementary collateral to the primary security taken in connection with the loan.

§619.9015 Agricultural credit associations.

Agricultural credit associations are associations created by the merger of one or more Federal land bank associations or Federal land credit associations and one or more production credit associations and which have received a transfer of authority to make and participate in long-term real estate mortgage loans pursuant to section 7.6 of the Act.

[55 FR 24888, June 19, 1990]

§619.9020 Agricultural credit banks.

Agricultural credit banks are those banks created by the merger of a Farm Credit Bank and a bank for cooperatives pursuant to section 7.0 of the Act.

[55 FR 24888, June 19, 1990]

§619.9025 Agricultural land.

Land improved or unimproved which is devoted to or available for the production of crops and other products such as but not limited to fruits and timber or for the raising of livestock.

[37 FR 11446, June 7, 1972. Redesignated at 55 FR 24888, June 19, 1990]

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§ 619.9050 Associations.

The term *associations* includes (individually or collectively) Federal land bank associations, Federal land credit associations, production credit associations, and agricultural credit associations.

[55 FR 24888, June 19, 1990]

§ 619.9060 Bank for cooperatives.

A bank for cooperatives is a bank that is operating under section 3.0 of the Act.

[61 FR 67188, Dec. 20, 1996]

§ 619.9110 Consolidation.

Creation of one new organizational entity from two or more existing entities or parts thereof.

§ 619.9130 Differential interest rates.

An interest rate program under which different rates of interest may be made applicable to individual or classes of loans on the basis of type, purpose, amount, quality of loan, or a combination of these factors.

§ 619.9135 Direct lender.

The term *direct lender* refers to Farm Credit banks and associations (production credit associations, agricultural credit associations, and Federal land credit associations) authorized to lend to eligible borrowers identified in § 613.3000.

[55 FR 24889, June 19, 1990]

§ 619.9140 Farm Credit bank(s).

Except as otherwise defined, the term *Farm Credit bank(s)* includes Farm Credit Banks, agricultural credit banks, and banks for cooperatives.

[55 FR 24889, June 19, 1990]

§ 619.9145 Farm Credit Bank.

The term *Farm Credit Bank* refers to a bank resulting from the mandatory merger of the Federal land bank and the Federal intermediate credit bank in each Farm Credit district pursuant to section 410 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, Pub. L. 100-233, or any bank resulting from a merger of two or more Farm Credit Banks.

[55 FR 24889, June 19, 1990]

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§ 619.9146 Farm Credit institutions.

Except as otherwise defined, the term *Farm Credit institutions* refers to all institutions chartered and regulated by the Farm Credit Administration as described in section 1.2 of the Act, and to the Funding Corporation.

[55 FR 24889, June 19, 1990, as amended at 56 FR 2675, Jan. 24, 1991]

§ 619.9155 Federal land credit association.

The term *Federal land credit association* refers to a Federal land bank association that has received a transfer of direct long-term real estate lending authority pursuant to section 7.6 of the Act.

[55 FR 24889, June 19, 1990]

§ 619.9170 Fixed interest rate.

The rate of interest specified in the note or loan document which will prevail as the maximum rate chargeable to the borrower during the period of the loan.

§ 619.9180 Fixed interest spread.

A percentage to be added to the cost of money to the bank or association as the means of establishing a lending rate.

§ 619.9185 Funding Corporation.

The term *Funding Corporation* refers to the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation established pursuant to section 4.9 of the Act.

[55 FR 24889, June 19, 1990]

§ 619.9195 Loan participation.

A fractional undivided interest in the principal amount of a loan that is sold by a lead lender to a participating institution in accordance with the requirements of § 614.4330 of this chapter. The term "loan participation" does not include a subordinated participation interest.

[57 FR 38250, Aug. 24, 1992]

§ 619.9200 Loss-sharing agreements.

A contractual arrangement under which the parties agree to share losses

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associated with loans or otherwise, as may be provided for in the agreement.

[42 FR 20457, Apr. 20, 1977]

§ 619.9210 Merger.

Combining of one or more organizational entities into another similar entity.

§ 619.9230 Open-end mortgage loan plans.

A mortgage loan which permits the borrower to obtain additional sums during the term of the loan.

§ 619.9240 Participation agreement.

A contract under which a lender agrees to sell a portion of a loan to one or more purchasers under specific terms set forth in the agreement.

§ 619.9250 Participation certificates.

Evidence of investment in a bank or association to which all the rights and obligations of stock attach with the exception of the right to vote in the affairs of the institution.

§ 619.9260 Primary security.

The basic collateral securing the loan.

§ 619.9330 Speculative purposes.

To buy or sell with the expectation of profiting by fluctuations in price.

[40 FR 49078, Oct. 21, 1975]

§ 619.9340 Variable interest rate.

An interest rate on the outstanding loan balances, which may be changed from time to time during the period of the loan, if provision is made in the note or loan document.

PART 620—DISCLOSURE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Subpart A—General

Sec.

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Subpart G—Annual Report of Condition of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation

620.40 Content, timing, and distribution of Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation's annual report of condition.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 5.17, 5.19, 8.11 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2252, 2254, 2279aa–11) sec. 424 of Pub. L. 100–233, 101 Stat. 1568, 1656.

Subpart A—General

§ 620.1 Definitions.

For the purpose of this part, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Affiliated organization* means any organization, other than a Farm Credit organization, of which a director, senior officer or nominee for director of the reporting institution is a partner, officer, or majority shareholder.

(b) *Association* means any of the associations as described in § 619.9050 of this chapter.

(c) *Bank* means any of the Farm Credit banks as described in § 619.9140 of this chapter.

(d) *Direct lender association* means any association that is a direct lender as described in § 619.9135 of this chapter.

(e) *Immediate family* means spouse, parents, siblings, children, mothers-

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and fathers-in-law, brothers- and sisters-in-law, and sons- and daughters-in-law.

(f) *Institution* means any bank or association chartered by the Act.

(g) *Loan* means any extension of credit or lease that is recorded as an asset of a reporting institution, whether made directly or purchased from another lender. The term “loan” includes, but is not limited to, loans originated through direct negotiations between the reporting institution and a borrower; purchased loans or interests in loans, including participation interests, retained subordinated participation interests in loans sold, interests in pools of subordinated participation interests that are held in lieu of retaining a subordinated participation interest in loans sold; contracts of sale; notes receivable; and other similar obligations and lease financings.

(h) *Material*. The term *material*, when used to qualify a requirement to furnish information as to any subject, limits the information required to those matters to which there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable person would attach importance in making shareholder decisions or determining the financial condition of the institution.

(i) *Normal risk of collectibility* means the ordinary risk inherent in the lending operation. Loans that are deemed to have more than a normal risk of collectibility include, but are not limited to, any adversely classified loans.

(j) *Permanent capital* shall have the same meaning as set forth in § 615.5201(l) of this chapter.

(k) *Protected borrower capital* means eligible borrower stock as defined in § 615.5260 of this chapter.

(l) *Related association* means an association within the reporting bank’s chartered territory that generates loans for the bank or whose operations the bank funds.

(m) *Related bank* means a reporting association’s funding bank or the bank for which it generates loans.

(n) *Related organization* means any Farm Credit institution that is a shareholder of the reporting institution or in which the reporting institution has an ownership interest.

(o) *Report* refers to the annual report, quarterly report, notice, or information statement required by the part unless otherwise specified.

(p) *Senior officer* means any person designated by the board of directors as responsible for a major management function.

(q) *Shareholder* means a holder of any equity interest in an institution.

(r) *Significant event* means any event that is likely to have a material impact on the reporting institution’s financial condition, results of operations, cost of funds, or reliability of sources of funds. The term “significant event” includes, but is not limited to, actual or probable noncompliance with the regulatory minimum permanent capital standards or capital adequacy requirements, stock impairment, the imposition of or entering into enforcement actions, execution of financial assistance agreements with other institutions, collateral deficiencies that impact a bank’s ability to obtain loan funds, or defaults on debt obligations.

[51 FR 8656, Mar. 13, 1986, as amended at 51 FR 42086, Nov. 21, 1986; 53 FR 3337, Feb. 5, 1988; 56 FR 29421, June 27, 1991; 56 FR 42649, Aug. 28, 1991; 58 FR 48791, Sept. 20, 1993; 59 FR 37406, July 22, 1994; 62 FR 15092, Mar. 31, 1997; 63 FR 39229, July 22, 1998]

§ 620.2 Preparing and filing the reports.

For the purposes of this part, the following shall apply:

(a) Three copies of each report required by this section, including financial statements and related schedules, exhibits, and all other papers and documents that are part of the report shall be filed with the Chief Examiner, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, Virginia 22102–5090, or with such other Farm Credit Administration offices as the Chief Examiner designates. The Farm Credit Administration must receive the report the report within the period prescribed under applicable subpart sections. The reports shall be available for public inspection at the issuing institution and the farm Credit Administration office with which the reports are filed. Bank reports shall also be available for public inspection at each related association office.

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(b) At least one of the reports filed with the Farm Credit Administration shall be dated and manually signed on behalf of the institution by:

(1) The person designated by the board of directors to certify the reports of condition and performance in accordance with § 621.14 of this chapter;

(2) The chief executive officer; and

(3)(i) For each quarterly report or notice filed under this section, each member of the board or one of the following board members formally designated by action of the board to certify reports of condition and performance on behalf of the individual board members: The chairperson of the board; the chairperson of the audit committee; or a board member designated by the chairperson of the board.

(ii) For all other reports, each member of the board.

The name and position title of each person signing the report shall be typed or printed beneath his or her signature. The statement to which the signers of the report shall attest shall read as follows:

The undersigned certify that this report has been prepared in accordance with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements and that the information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete to the best of his or her knowledge and belief.

If any officer or any member of the board is unable to or refuses to sign the report, the institution shall disclose the individual's name and position title and the reasons such individual is unable or refuses to sign the report.

(c) The report sent to shareholders shall be signed and dated by and on behalf of the institution and its board of directors by its chief executive officer and the chairman of the board of directors. If any person required to sign the report submitted to the Farm Credit Administration pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section has not signed the report, the name and position title of the individual and the reasons such individual is unable or refuses to sign shall be disclosed in the report sent to shareholders.

(d) Information in any part of this report may be incorporated by reference in answer or partial answer to any other item of the report.

(e) All items of essentially the same character as items required to be reported in the reports of condition and performance pursuant to part 621 of this chapter shall be prepared in accordance with the rules set forth in part 621.

(f) No disclosure required by subparts B and E of this part shall be deemed to violate any regulation of the Farm Credit Administration.

(g) Each Farm Credit institution shall present its reports in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and in a manner that provides the most meaningful disclosure to shareholders.

(1) Any Farm Credit institution that presents its annual and quarterly financial statements on a combined or consolidated basis shall also include in the report the statement of condition and statement of income of the institution on a stand-alone basis. The stand-alone statements may be in summary form and shall disclose the basis of presentation if different from accounting policies of the combined or consolidated statements.

(2) Any bank that prepares its financial statements on a stand-alone basis shall provide in the footnotes accompanying its annual report supplemental information containing a condensed statement of condition and statement of income for the bank's related associations on a combined basis. The condensed statements may be unaudited and shall disclose the basis of presentation if different from accounting policies of the bank-only statements.

(h)(1) Each annual report or notice shall include a statement in a prominent location within the report or notice that the institution's quarterly reports are available free of charge on request. The statement shall include approximate dates of availability of the quarterly reports and the telephone numbers and addresses where shareholders may obtain a copy of the reports.

(2) Each association shall include a statement in a prominent location within each report that the shareholders' investment in the association may be materially affected by the financial condition and results of operations of the related bank and (if not

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otherwise provided) that a copy of the bank's financial reports to shareholders will be made available free of charge on request. The statement shall also include the telephone numbers and addresses where shareholders may obtain copies of the related bank's financial reports.

(3) Each institution shall, after receiving a request for a report, mail or otherwise furnish the report to the requestor. The first copy of the requested report shall be provided to the requestor free of charge.

(i) Any events that have affected one or more related organizations of the reporting institution that are likely to have a material effect on the financial condition, results of operations, cost of funds, or reliability of sources of funds of the reporting institution shall be considered significant events for the reporting institution and shall be disclosed in the reports. Any significant event affecting the reporting institution that occurred during the preceding fiscal quarters that continues to have a material effect on the reporting institution shall be considered significant events of the current fiscal quarter and shall be disclosed in the reports.

[51 FR 8656, Mar. 13, 1986, as amended at 51 FR 21340, June 12, 1986; 56 FR 29421, June 27, 1991; 58 FR 27923, May 12, 1993; 58 FR 48791, Sept. 20, 1993; 62 FR 15092, Mar. 31, 1997]

§ 620.3 Prohibition against incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading disclosure.

No institution and no employee, officer, director, or nominee for director of the institution shall make any disclosure to shareholders or the general public concerning any matter required to be disclosed by this part that is incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading. When any such person makes disclosure that, in the judgment of the Farm Credit Administration, is incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading, whether or not such disclosure is made in disclosure statements required by this part, such institution or person shall make such additional or corrective disclosure as is necessary to provide shareholders and the general public with a full and fair disclosure.

[56 FR 29422, June 27, 1991]

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Subpart B—Annual Report to Shareholders

§ 620.4 Preparing and distributing the annual report.

(a) Each institution of the Farm Credit System shall prepare and distribute to its shareholders an annual report within 90 days of the end of its fiscal year.

(b)(1) Any bank that presents its financial statements on a combined basis shall distribute in its annual report to the shareholders of related associations within the period required by paragraph (a) of this section. Each bank shall coordinate such distribution with its related associations.

(2) Any bank that presents its financial statements on a bank-only basis shall distribute its annual report to the shareholders of related associations within the period required by paragraph (a) of this section in all instances where the bank experiences a significant event that has a material effect on the associations. Each bank shall coordinate such distribution with its related associations.

(c) The report shall contain, at a minimum, the information required by § 620.5 and, in addition, such other information as is necessary to make the required statements, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading.

[51 FR 8656, Mar. 13, 1986. Redesignated and amended at 56 FR 29421, 29422, June 27, 1991; 62 FR 15093, Mar. 31, 1997]

§ 620.5 Contents of the annual report to shareholders.

The report shall contain the following items in substantially the same order:

(a) *Description of business.* The description shall include a brief discussion of the following items:

(1) The territory served;

(2) The persons eligible to borrow;

(3) The types of lending activities engaged in and related services offered. Each bank shall also briefly describe the lending and related services offered by its related associations, as well as related services offered to the borrowers in the bank's chartered territory by any service organization in which it has an ownership interest.

Each association shall briefly describe the lending and related services offered by its related organizations or incorporate by reference relevant portions of the related bank's report, if such report is distributed to association shareholders;

(4) Any significant developments within the last 5 years that had or could have a material impact on earnings or interest rates to borrowers, including, but not limited to, changes in the reporting entity and financing assistance provided by or to the institution through loss-sharing or capital preservation agreements or from any other source;

(5) Any acquisition or disposition of material assets during the last fiscal year, other than in the ordinary course of business;

(6) Any material change during the last fiscal year in the manner of conducting the business;

(7) Any seasonal characteristics of the institution's business;

(8) Any concentrations of more than 10 percent of its assets in particular commodities or particular types of agricultural activity or business, and the institution's dependence, if any, upon a single customer, or a few customers, including other financing institutions (OFIs), the loss of any one of which would have a material effect on the institution; and

(9) A brief description of the business of any related Farm Credit institution, as described in §619.9146 of this chapter, and the nature of the institution's relationship with such organization.

(b) *Description of property.* State the location of and briefly describe the principal offices, i.e., headquarters, and major facilities where the institution makes and services its loans, and other materially important physical properties (other than property acquired in the course of collecting a loan) of the institution. If any such property is not held in fee or is held subject to any major encumbrance, so state and describe briefly the terms and conditions of the agreement under which the property is used or occupied.

(c) *Legal proceedings and enforcement actions.* (1) Describe briefly any material pending legal proceedings, other than ordinary routine litigation inci-

dental to the business, to which the institution is a party, of which any of its property is the subject, or which involved claims that the institution may be required by contract or operation of law, to satisfy. Include the name of the court in which the proceedings are pending, the date instituted, the principal parties thereto, a description of the factual basis alleged to underlie the proceeding and the relief sought.

(2) Describe the type of and reason for each enforcement action in effect, i.e., agreements, cease and desist orders, temporary cease and desist orders, prohibitions and removals of officers or directors, or civil money penalties, if any, imposed or assessed on the institution or its officers or directors and the amount of any civil money penalties assessed.

(d) *Description of capital structure.* (1) Describe each class of stock and participation certificates the institution is authorized to issue and the rights, duties, and liabilities of each class. The description shall include:

(i) The number of shares of each class outstanding;

(ii) The par or face value;

(iii) The voting and dividend rights;

(iv) The order of priority upon impairment or liquidation;

(v) The institution's retirement policies and restrictions on transfer;

(vi) The statutory requirement that a borrower purchase stock as a condition to obtaining a loan;

(vii) The manner in which the stock is purchased (i.e., promissory note to the issuer, or cash not advanced by issuing institution);

(viii) The statutory authority of the institution to require additional capital contributions, if any; and

(ix) The statutory and regulatory restriction regarding retirement of stock and distribution of earnings pursuant to §615.5215, and any requirements to add capital under a plan approved by the Farm Credit Administration pursuant to §§615.5330, 615.5335, 615.5351, or 615.5357.

(2) Describe regulatory minimum capital standards, and the institution's compliance with such standards. For banks, also discuss any related associations that are not currently in compliance with the standards.

(3) State whether the institution is currently prohibited from retiring stock or distributing earnings by the statutory and regulatory restrictions described in paragraph (d)(1)(ix) of this section, or knows of any reason such prohibitions may apply during the fiscal year subsequent to the fiscal year just ended.

(4) Describe the institution's capital adequacy requirements and the minimum stock purchase requirement in effect.

(e) *Description of liabilities.* (1) Describe separately the institution's insured and uninsured debt, indicating the type, amount, maturity, and interest rates of each category of obligations outstanding at the end of the fiscal year just ended. Describe the nature of the insurance provided under part E of title V of the Act. Describe any applicable statutory and regulatory restrictions on the institution's ability to incur debt.

(2) Describe fully the institution's rights and obligations under any agreement, formal or informal, between the institution and any other person or entity having to do with capital preservation, loss sharing, or any other form of financing assistance.

(3) Describe any statutory authorities or obligations to contribute to or on behalf of another institution of the Farm Credit System.

(4) Describe the statutory responsibility of Farm Credit System institutions for repayment of obligations issued by the Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation.

(f) *Selected financing data.* Furnish in comparative columnar form for each of the last 5 fiscal years the following financing data:

(1) *For banks and direct lender associations.*

- (i) *Balance sheet.*
- (A) Total assets.
- (B) Investments.
- (C) Loans.
- (D) Allowance for losses.
- (E) Net loans.
- (F) Other property owned.
- (G) Total liabilities.
- (H) Obligations with maturities less than 1 year.
- (I) Obligations with maturities longer than 1 year.

(J) Protected borrower capital.

(K) *At-risk capital.*

(1) Stock and participation certificates.

(2) Allocated surplus.

(3) Unallocated surplus.

(ii) *Statement of income.*

(A) Net interest income.

(B) Provision for loan losses.

(C) Extraordinary items.

(D) Net income.

(iii) *Key financing ratios.*

(A) Return on average assets.

(B) Return on average protected borrower capital and at-risk capital.

(C) Net interest margin as a percentage of average earning assets.

(D) Protected and at-risk capital-to-total assets.

(E) Net chargeoffs-to-average loans.

(F) Allowance for loan losses-to-loans.

(iv) *Net income distributed.*

(A) Dividends.

(B) *Patronage refunds.*

(1) Cash.

(2) Stock.

(3) Allocated surplus.

(2) *For associations that are not direct lender associations.*

(i) *Balance sheet.*

(A) Total assets.

(B) Accrued obligation under loss-sharing agreement, if any.

(C) Protected borrower capital.

(D) At-risk capital.

(ii) *Statement of income.*

(A) Compensation from related bank.

(B) Total operating expense.

(C) Extraordinary items.

(D) Provision for obligation under capital preservation or loss-sharing agreement, if any.

(E) Net income.

(iii) *Other.*

(A) Loans serviced for related bank.

(B) Dividends paid.

(C) *Patronage refunds paid.*

(1) Cash.

(2) Stock.

(3) Allocated surplus.

(D) Payments under loss-sharing agreement.

(3) *For all banks (on a bank-only basis):*

(i) Permanent capital ratio.

(ii) Total surplus ratio.

(iii) Core surplus ratio.

(iv) Net collateral ratio.

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(4) *For all associations:*

(i) Permanent capital ratio.

(ii) Total surplus ratio.

(iii) Core surplus ratio.

(g) *Management's discussion and analysis of financing condition and results of operations.* Fully discuss any material aspects of the institution's financing condition, changes in financing condition, and results of operations during the last 2 fiscal years, identifying favorable and unfavorable trends, and significant events or uncertainties. In addition to the items enumerated below, the discussion shall provide such other information as is necessary to an understanding of the institution's financing condition, changes in financing condition, and results of operations.

(1) *Loan portfolio.* (i) Describe the types of loans in the portfolio by major category (e.g., agricultural real estate mortgage loans, rural home loans, agricultural production loans, processing and marketing loans, farm business loans, and international loans), indicating the approximate percentage of the total dollar portfolio represented by each major category. Associations that make agricultural production loans shall provide the information required for such loans by major subcategory (e.g., cash grains, field crops, livestock, dairy, poultry, and timber). For each category and subcategory, discuss any special features of the loans that may be material to the evaluation of risk and any economic or business conditions that have had or are likely to have a material impact on their collectibility. For banks, also disclose separately the aggregate amount of loans outstanding to related associations and other financing institutions.

(ii) Describe the geographic distribution of the loan portfolio by State or other significant geographic division, if any.

(iii) *Purchases and sales of loans.* (A) Describe any participation in the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation program or origination of loans for resale.

(B) Disclose the amount of purchased loans, loans sold with recourse, retained subordinated participation interests in loans sold, and interests in pools of subordinated participation in-

terests that are held in lieu of retaining a subordinated participation interest in the loans sold.

(iv) *Risk exposure.* For the periods covered by the financing statements provide:

(A) An analysis of high-risk assets and loan performance categories, to include, but not limited to, a discussion of the nature and extent of significant potential credit risks within the loan portfolio, or other information that could adversely impact performance of the loan portfolio in the near future;

(B) An analysis of the allowance for loan losses that includes the ratios of the allowance to loans and net chargeoffs to average loans, and a discussion of the adequacy of the allowance for losses to absorb the risk inherent in the institution's loan portfolio;

(C) Financial assistance given or received under districtwide or Systemwide loss-sharing or capital preservation agreements or otherwise;

(D) For banks, a description in the aggregate of the recent loss experience of related associations that are its shareholders, including the items enumerated in paragraphs (g)(1)(iv) (A), (B), and (C) of this section.

(E) Describe any obligations with respect to loans sold and the amount of any contributions made in connection with loans sold into the secondary market pursuant to section 8.7 of the Act. Further disclose the amount of risk of loss associated with such obligations and the amount included in the allowance for losses to provide for such risk.

(2) *Results of operations.* (i) Describe, on a comparative basis, changes in the major components of net interest income during the last 2 fiscal years, describing significant factors that contributed to the changes and quantifying the amount of change(s) due to an increase in volume or the introduction of new services and the amount due to changes in interest rates earned and paid, based on averages for each period.

(ii) Describe any unusual or infrequent events or transactions or any significant economic changes, including, but not limited to, financing assistance received or paid that materially affected reported income. In each

case, indicate the extent to which income was so affected.

(iii) Discuss the factors underlying the material changes, if any, in the return on average assets, the return on average protected borrower capital and at-risk capital, and the permanent capital ratio as determined in accordance with part 615, subpart H of this chapter. An explanation of the basis of the calculation of ratios relating to permanent capital and at-risk capital shall be included.

(iv) Describe, on a comparative basis, the major components of operating expense, indicating the reasons for significant increases or decreases.

(v) Describe any other significant components of income or expense, including, but not limited to, income from investments, that should be described in order to understand the institution's results of operations.

(vi) Discuss any events affecting a related organization that are likely to have a material effect on the reporting institution's financing condition, results of operations, cost of funds, or reliability of sources of funds.

(vii) Describe any known trends or uncertainties that have had, or that the institution reasonably expects will have, a material impact on net interest income or net income. Disclose any events known to management that will cause a material change in the relationship between costs and revenues.

(3) *Liquidity and funding sources.* (i) Funding sources. (A) Describe the average and yearend amounts, maturities, and interest rates on outstanding consolidated Systemwide debt obligations or other bond obligations used to fund the institution's lending operations.

(B) Describe existing lines of credit and their terms.

(C) Describe the institution's capital accounts and other sources of lendable funds.

(ii) Liquidity. (A) Discuss the institution's liquidity policy and the components of asset liquidity, including, but not limited to, cash, investment securities, and maturing loan repayments. Assess the ability of the institution to generate adequate amounts of cash to fund its operations and meet its obligations.

(B) Discuss any known trends that are likely to result in a liquidity deficiency and the course of action management intends to take to resolve it. Discuss any material increase or decrease in liquidity that is likely to occur.

(C) Discuss the institution's participation in the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation secondary market programs authorized by title VIII of the Act and the origination of loans for resale under other authorities, if any.

(iii) Funds management. (A) Discuss the institution's interest rate programs and the institution's ability to control interest rate margins.

(B) Discuss changes in net interest margin (net interest income as a percentage of average earning assets), explaining the reasons therefor.

(4) *Capital resources.* (i) Describe any material commitments to purchase capital assets and the anticipated sources of funding.

(ii) Describe any material trends or changes in the mix and cost of debt and capital resources. The discussion shall consider changes in permanent capital, core and total surplus, and net collateral requirements, debt, and any off-balance-sheet financing arrangements.

(iii) Describe any favorable or unfavorable trends in the institution's capital resources.

(iv) Discuss and explain any material changes in capital ratios, noting any material adverse variances from regulatory guidelines.

(v) Discuss the adequacy of the current capital position and any material changes in the capital plan adopted pursuant to §615.5200 of this chapter, to the extent that such changes may have an effect on the institution's minimum stock purchase requirements and its ability to retire stock and distribute earnings.

(vi) Discuss any trends, commitments, contingencies, or events that are reasonably likely to have a materially adverse effect upon the institution's ability to meet the regulatory minimum capital standards and capital adequacy requirements.

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(h) *Directors and senior officers.* (1) List the names of all directors and senior officers of the institution, indicating the position title and term of office of each.

(2) Briefly describe the business experience during the past 5 years of each director and senior officer, including each person's principal occupation and employment during the past 5 years.

(3) For each director, list any other business entity on whose board the director serves and state the principal business in which it is engaged.

(i) *Compensation of directors and senior officers—*(1) *Director compensation.* Describe the arrangements under which directors of the institution are compensated for all services as a director (including total cash compensation and any noncash compensation that exceeds 10 percent of total compensation) and state the total cash compensation paid to all directors as a group during the last fiscal year. If applicable, describe any exceptional circumstances justifying the additional director compensation as authorized by

§611.400(c)(1) of this chapter. For each director, state:

(i) The number of days served at board meetings;

(ii) The total number of days served in other official activities;

(iii) The total compensation paid to each director during the last fiscal year.

(2) *Senior officer compensation.* Disclose the information on senior officer compensation and compensation plans as required by this paragraph. Farm Credit System associations may disclose the information required by this paragraph in the Association Annual Meeting Information Statement (AAMIS), but must include a reference in the annual report stating that the senior officer compensation information is included in the AAMIS.

(i) The institution shall disclose the total amount of compensation paid to senior officers in substantially the same manner as the tabular form specified in the following Summary Compensation Table (table):

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

Name of individual or No. in group (a)	Year (b)	Annual			Other (f)	Total (g)
		Salary (c)	Bonus (d)	Deferred/per- quisites (e)		
CEO	199X 199X 199X					
Aggregate No. of Senior Officers						
(X)	199X					
(X)	199X					
(X)	199X					

(A) Report the total amount of compensation paid and the amount of each component of compensation paid to the institution's chief executive officer (CEO) for each of the last 3 completed fiscal years, naming the individual. If more than one person served in the capacity of CEO during any given fiscal year, individual compensation disclosures must be provided for each CEO. Except that, no disclosure need be provided for any CEO whose salary and bonus (or annualized salary and bonus, if the CEO served in that capacity less than a year) do not exceed \$150,000, adjusted annually to reflect changes in

the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all urban consumers, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The threshold for individually disclosing CEO compensation information shall be adjusted in the following manner: Current year's compensation disclosure threshold = Prior year's compensation disclosure threshold adjusted by the prior year's annual average percent change in the CPI for all urban consumers. The 1994 calendar year shall serve as the base year for making subsequent CPI adjustments to the \$150,000 compensation disclosure threshold.

(B) Report the aggregate amount of compensation paid and the components of compensation paid during each of the last 3 completed fiscal years to all senior officers as a group, stating the number of officers in the group without naming them. At a minimum, disclose the aggregate amount of compensation paid to the five most highly compensated officers, whether or not designated as a senior officer by the board.

(C) Amounts shown as “Salary” (column (c)) and “Bonus” (column (d)) shall reflect the dollar value of salary and bonus earned by the senior officer during the fiscal year. Amounts contributed during the fiscal year by the senior officer pursuant to a plan established under section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code, or similar plan, shall be included in the salary column or bonus column, as appropriate. If the amount of salary or bonus earned during the fiscal year is not calculable by the time the report is prepared, the reporting institution shall provide its best estimate of the compensation amount(s) and disclose that fact in a footnote to the table.

(D) Amounts shown as “deferred/perquisites” (column (e)) shall reflect the dollar value of other annual compensation not properly categorized as salary or bonus, including but not limited to:

(1) Deferred compensation earned during the fiscal year, whether or not paid in cash; or

(2) Perquisites and other personal benefits unless the aggregate value of such compensation is the lesser of either \$25,000 or 10 percent of the total of annual salary and bonus reported for the senior officer in columns (c) and (d).

(E) Compensation amounts reported under the category “Other” (column (f)) shall reflect the dollar value of all other compensation not properly reportable in any other column. Items reported in this column shall be specifically identified and described in a footnote to the table. Such compensation includes, but is not limited to:

(1) The amount paid to the senior officer pursuant to a plan or arrangement in connection with the resignation, retirement, or termination of such officer’s employment with the institution; or

(2) The amount of contributions by the institution on behalf of the senior officer to a vested or unvested defined contribution plan unless the plan is made available to all employees on the same basis.

(F) Amounts displayed under “Total” (column (g)) shall reflect the sum total of amounts reported in columns (c), (d), (e), and (f).

(ii) Provide a description of all plans pursuant to which cash or noncash compensation was paid or distributed during the last fiscal year, or is proposed to be paid or distributed in the future for performance during the last fiscal year, to those individuals described in paragraph (i)(2)(i) of this section. The description of each plan must include, but not be limited to:

(A) A summary of how the plan operates and who is covered by the plan;

(B) The criteria used to determine amounts payable, including any performance formula or measure;

(C) The time periods over which the measurement of compensation will be determined;

(D) Payment schedules; and

(E) Any material amendments to the plan during the last fiscal year.

(iii) The annual report or AAMIS shall include a statement that disclosure of information on the total compensation paid during the last fiscal year to any senior officer or to any other officer included in the aggregate whose compensation exceeds \$50,000 is available and will be disclosed to shareholders of the institution and shareholders of related associations (if applicable) upon request.

(3) *Travel, subsistence, and other related expenses.* (i) Briefly describe the policy adopted pursuant to §618.8270 of this chapter addressing reimbursements for travel, subsistence, and other related expenses as it applies to directors and senior officers. The report shall include a statement that a copy of the policy is available to shareholders of the institution and shareholders of related associations (if applicable) upon request.

(ii) For each of the last 3 fiscal years, state the aggregate amount of reimbursement for travel, subsistence, and other related expenses for all directors as a group.

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(j) *Transactions with senior officers and directors.* (1) State the institution's policies, if any, on loans to and transactions with officers and directors of the institution.

(2) Transactions other than loans. For each person who served as a senior officer or director on January 1 of the year following the fiscal year of which the report is filed, or at any time during the fiscal year just ended, describe briefly any transaction or series of transactions other than loans that occurred at any time since the last annual meeting between the institution and such person, any member of the immediate family of such person, or any organization with which such person is affiliated. State the name of the officer or director who entered into the transaction or whose immediate family member or affiliated organization entered into the transaction, the nature of the person's interest in the transaction, and the terms of the transaction. No information need be given where the purchase price, fees, or charges involved were determined by competitive bidding or where the amount involved in the transaction (including the total of all periodic payments) does not exceed \$5,000, or the interest of the person arises solely as a result of his or her status as a stockholder of the institution and the benefit received is not a special or extra benefit not available to all stockholders.

(3) *Loans to senior officers and directors.* (i) To the extent applicable, state that the institution (or in the case of an association that does not carry loans to its senior officers and directors on its books, its related bank) has had loans outstanding during the last full fiscal year to date to its senior officers and directors, their immediate family members, and any organizations with which such senior officers or directors are affiliated that:

(A) Were made in the ordinary course of business; and

(B) Were made on the same terms, including interest rate, amortization schedule, and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with other persons.

(ii) To the extent applicable, state that no loan to a senior officer or di-

rector, or to any organization affiliated with such person, or to any immediate family member who resides in the same household as such person or in whose loan or business operation such person has a material financing or legal interest, involved more than the normal risk of collectibility; provided that no such statement need be made with respect to any director or senior officer who has resigned before the time for filing the applicable report with the Farm Credit Administration (but in no case later than the actual filing), or whose term of office will expire or terminate no later than the date of the meeting of stockholders to which the report relates.

(iii) If the conditions stated in paragraphs (j)(3)(i) and (ii) of this section do not apply to the loans of the persons or organizations specified therein, with respect to such loans state:

(A) The name of the officer or director to whom the loan was made or to whose relative or affiliated organization the loan was made.

(B) The largest aggregate amount of each indebtedness outstanding at any time during the last fiscal year.

(C) The nature of the loan(s).

(D) The amount outstanding as of the latest practicable date.

(E) The reasons the loan does not comply with the criteria contained in paragraphs (j)(3)(i) and (j)(3)(ii) of this section.

(F) If the loan does not comply with paragraph (j)(3)(i)(B) of this section, the rate of interest payable on the loan and the repayment terms.

(G) If the loan does not comply with paragraph (j)(3)(ii) of this section, the amount past due, if any, and the reason the loan is deemed to involve more than a normal risk of collectibility.

(k) *Involvement in certain legal proceedings.* Describe any of the following events that occurred during the past 5 years and that are material to an evaluation of the ability or integrity of any person who served as director or senior officer on January 1 of the year following the fiscal year for which the report is filed or at any time during the fiscal year just ended:

(1) A petition under the Federal bankruptcy laws or any State insolvency law was filed by or against, or a

receiver, fiscal agent, or similar officer was appointed by a court for the business or property of such person, or any partnership in which such person was a general partner at or within 2 years before the time of such filing, or any corporation or business association of which such person was a senior officer at or within 2 years before the time of such filing;

(2) Such person was convicted in a criminal proceeding or is a named party in a pending criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations and other misdemeanors);

(3) Such person was the subject of any order, judgment, or decree, not subsequently reversed, suspended, or vacated, by any court of competent jurisdiction, permanently or temporarily enjoining or otherwise limiting such person from engaging in any type of business practice.

(l) *Relationship with independent public accountant.* If a change or changes in accountants have taken place since the last annual report to shareholders or if a disagreement with an accountant has occurred that the institution would be required to report to the Farm Credit Administration under part 621 of this chapter, the information required by § 621.4(c) and (d) of this chapter shall be disclosed.

(m) *Financial statements.* (1) Furnish financing statements and related footnotes that have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and instructions and other requirements of the Farm Credit Administration and that have been audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by a qualified public accountant, as defined in § 621.2(i) of this chapter, and an opinion expressed thereon. The statements shall include the following statements and related footnotes for the last 3 fiscal years: balance sheet, statement of income, statement of changes in protected borrower capital and at-risk capital, and statement of cash flows.

(2) The financing statements shall be accompanied by a letter signed by the chief executive officer and the chairman of the board representing that the financing statements, in the opinion of management, fairly present the financ-

ing condition of the institution, except as otherwise noted.

[51 FR 8656, Mar. 13, 1986, as amended at 51 FR 21341, June 12, 1986; 51 FR 42087, Nov. 21, 1986; 53 FR 3335, 3337, Feb. 5, 1988; 53 FR 16697, May 11, 1988. Redesignated and amended at 56 FR 29421, 29422, June 27, 1991; 56 FR 42649, Aug. 28, 1991; 58 FR 48791, Sept. 20, 1993; 59 FR 37412, July 22, 1994; 60 FR 34102, June 30, 1995; 62 FR 4451, Jan. 30, 1997; 62 FR 15093, Mar. 31, 1997; 63 FR 36549, July 7, 1998; 63 FR 39229, July 22, 1998; 64 FR 16618, Apr. 6, 1999]

Subpart C—Quarterly Report

§ 620.10 Preparing the quarterly report.

(a) Each Farm Credit bank and direct lender association shall prepare a quarterly report within 45 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, except that no report need be prepared for the fiscal quarter that coincides with the end of the fiscal year of the institution.

(b) The report shall contain, at a minimum, the information specified in § 620.11 and, in addition, such other material information (including significant events) as is necessary to make the required disclosures, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading.

[62 FR 15093, Mar. 31, 1997]

§ 620.11 Content of quarterly report to shareholders.

(a) *General.* The information required to be included in the quarterly report may be presented in any format deemed suitable by the institution, except as otherwise required by this section. The report must be organized in an easily understandable format and not presented in a manner that is misleading.

(b) *Rules for condensation.* For purposes of this section, major captions to be provided in the financial statements are the same as those provided in the financial statements contained in the institution's annual report to shareholders, except that the financial statements included in the quarterly report may be condensed into major captions in accordance with the rules prescribed under this paragraph and paragraph (f) of this section.

(1) *Interim balance sheets.* When any major balance sheet caption is less

than 10 percent of total assets and the amount in the caption has not increased or decreased by more than 25 percent since the end of the preceding fiscal year, the caption may be combined with others.

(2) *Interim statements of income.* When any major income statement caption is less than 15 percent of average net income for the 3 most recent fiscal years and the amount in the caption has not increased or decreased by more than 20 percent since the corresponding interim period of the preceding fiscal year, the caption may be combined with others. In calculating average net income, loss years should be excluded. If losses were incurred in each of the 3 most recent fiscal years, the average loss shall be used for purposes of this test.

(3) The interim financial information shall include disclosure either on the face of the financial statements or in accompanying footnotes sufficient to make the interim information presented not misleading. Institutions may presume that users of the interim financial information have read or have access to the audited financial statements for the preceding fiscal year and the adequacy of additional disclosure needed for a fair presentation may be determined in that context. Accordingly, footnote disclosure that would substantially duplicate the disclosure contained in the most recent audited financial statements (such as a statement of significant accounting policies and practices), and details of accounts that have not changed significantly in amount or composition since the end of the most recent completed fiscal year may be omitted. However, disclosure shall be provided of events occurring subsequent to the end of the most recent fiscal year that have a material impact on the institution. Disclosures should encompass, for example, significant changes since the end of the most recently completed fiscal year in such items as accounting principles and practices; estimates inherent in the preparation of financial statements; status of long-term contracts; capitalization, including significant new indebtedness or modification of existing financing agreements; and

the reporting entity resulting from business combinations or dispositions.

(4) If, during the most recent interim period presented, the institution entered into a business combination treated for accounting purposes as a pooling of interests, the interim financial statements for both the current year and the preceding year shall reflect the combined results of the pooled businesses. Supplemental disclosure of the separate results of the combined entities for periods prior to the combination shall be given, with appropriate comments or comparisons between the separate and consolidated results.

(5) If a material business combination accounted for as a purchase has occurred during the current fiscal year, pro forma disclosure shall be made of the results of operations for the current year up to the date of the most recent interim balance sheet provided (and for the corresponding period in the preceding year) as though the companies had combined at the beginning of that period. This pro forma information shall, at a minimum, show:

(i) Total operating income.

(ii) Income before securities gains (losses), extraordinary items, and the cumulative effect of accounting changes.

(iii) Net income.

(6) In addition to meeting the reporting requirements specified by existing accounting pronouncements for accounting changes, the institution shall state the date of any material accounting change and the reasons for making it. In addition, a letter from the persons who verify the institution's financial statements shall be filed as an exhibit, indicating whether or not the change is to an alternative principle which in their judgment is preferable under the circumstances, except that no such letter need be filed when the change is made in response to a standard adopted by the Financial Accounting Standards Board which requires such change.

(7) Any material retroactive prior period adjustment made during any period covered by the interim financial statements shall be disclosed, together with its effect upon net income and upon the balance of undivided profits

for any prior period included. If results of operations for any period presented have been adjusted retroactively by such an item subsequent to the initial reporting of such period, similar disclosure of the effect of the change shall be made.

(8) The interim financial statements furnished shall reflect all adjustments that are, necessary to a fair statement of the results for the interim periods presented. A statement to that effect shall be included. Furnish any material information necessary to make the information called for not misleading, such as a statement that the results for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for the year.

(c) *Management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations.* Discuss material changes, if any, to the information provided to shareholders pursuant to § 620.5(g) that have occurred during the periods specified in paragraphs (d)(1) and (2) of this section. Such additional information as is needed to enable the reader to assess material changes in financial condition and results of operations between the periods specified in paragraphs (d)(1) and (2) of this section shall be provided.

(1) *Material changes in financial condition.* Discuss any material changes in financial condition from the end of the preceding fiscal year to the date of the most recent interim balance sheet provided. If the interim financial statements include an interim balance sheet as of the corresponding interim date of the preceding fiscal year, any material changes in financial conditions from that date to the date of the most recent interim balance sheet provided also shall be discussed. If discussions of changes from both the end and the corresponding interim date of the preceding fiscal year are required, the discussions may be combined at the discretion of the institution.

(2) *Material changes in results of operations.* Discuss any material changes in the institution's results of operations with respect to the most recent fiscal year-to-date period for which an income statement is provided and the corresponding year-to-date period of the preceding fiscal year. Such discussion also shall cover material changes

with respect to that fiscal quarter and the corresponding fiscal quarter in the preceding fiscal year. In addition, if the institution has elected to provide an income statement for the 12-month period ended as of the date of the most recent interim balance sheet provided, the discussion also shall cover material changes with respect to that 12-month period and the 12-month period ended as of the corresponding interim balance sheet date of the preceding fiscal year.

(d) *Financial statements.* The following financial statements shall be provided:

(1) An interim balance sheet as of the end of the most recent fiscal quarter and as of the end of the preceding fiscal year. A balance sheet for the comparable quarter of the preceding fiscal year is optional.

(2) Interim statements of income for the most recent fiscal quarter, for the period between the end of the preceding fiscal year and the end of the most recent fiscal quarter, and for the comparable periods for the previous fiscal year.

(3) Interim statements of changes in protected borrower capital and at-risk capital for the period between the end of the preceding fiscal year and the end of the most recent fiscal quarter, and for the comparable period for the preceding fiscal year.

(4) For banks, interim statements of cash flows for the period between the end of the preceding fiscal year and the end of the most recent fiscal quarter, and for the comparable period for the preceding fiscal year. For associations, interim statements of cash flows are optional.

(e) *Review by independent public accountant.* The interim financial information need not be audited or reviewed by an independent public accountant prior to filing. If, however, a review of the data is made in accordance with the established professional standards and procedures for such a review, the institution may state that the independent accountant has performed such a review. If such a statement is made, the report of the independent accountant on such review shall accompany the interim financial information.

(f) If any amount that would otherwise be required to be shown by this

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subpart with respect to any item is not material, it need not be separately shown. The combination of insignificant items is permitted.

[51 FR 21341, June 12, 1986, as amended at 53 FR 3337, Feb. 5, 1988. Redesignated and amended at 56 FR 29421, 29424, June 27, 1991]

Subpart D—Notice to Shareholders

SOURCE: 62 FR 15093, Mar. 31, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 620.15 Notice.

(a) Each Farm Credit bank and direct lender association shall prepare, file with the farm Credit Administration, and distribute a notice to shareholders, within 30 days following the monthend that the institution initially determines that it is not in compliance with the minimum permanent capital standards prescribed under § 615.5205 of this chapter.

(b) An institution that has given notice to shareholders pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section or subsequent notice pursuant to this paragraph shall also prepare, file with the Farm Credit Administration, and distribute to shareholders a notice within 45 days following the end of any subsequent quarter at which the institution's permanent capital ratio decreases by one-half of 1 percent or more from the level reported in the most recent notice distributed to shareholders.

(c) Each institution required to prepare a notice under § 620.15 (a) or (b) shall distribute the notice to shareholders by mail or otherwise furnish the information required in the notice by publishing it in any publication with circulation wide enough to be reasonably assured that all of the institution's shareholders have access to the information in a timely manner.

§ 620.17 Contents of the notice.

(a) The information required to be in a notice must be conspicuous, easily understandable, and not misleading.

(b) A notice, at a minimum, shall include:

(1) A statement that:

(i) Briefly describes the regulatory minimum permanent capital standard

established by the Farm Credit Administration and the notice requirement of § 620.15(a);

(ii) Indicates the institution's current level of permanent capital; and

(iii) Notifies shareholders that the institution's permanent capital is below the Farm Credit Administration regulatory minimum standard.

(2) A statement of the effect that noncompliance has had on the institution and its shareholders, including whether the institution is currently prohibited by statute or regulation from retiring stock or distributing earnings or whether the Farm Credit Administration has issued a capital directive or other enforcement action to the institution.

(3) A complete description of any event(s) that may have significantly contributed to the institution's noncompliance with the minimum permanent capital standard.

(4) A statement that the institution is required by regulation to distribute another notice to shareholders within 45 days following the end of any subsequent quarter at which the institution's permanent capital ratio decreases by one half of one percent or more from the level reported in the notice.

Subpart E—Association Annual Meeting Information Statement

SOURCE: 51 FR 8656, Mar. 13, 1986, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 56 FR 29421, June 27, 1991, and further redesignated at 62 FR 15093, Mar. 31, 1997.

§ 620.20 Preparing and distributing the information statement.

(a) Each association of the Farm Credit System shall prepare and distribute to its shareholders at least 10 days prior to any meeting at which directors are to be elected an information statement ("statement").

(b) The statement shall incorporate by reference the annual report to shareholders required by subpart B of this part and contain the information specified in § 620.21 and such other material information as is necessary to make the required statement, in light

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of the circumstances under which it is made, not misleading.

[51 FR 8656, Mar. 13, 1986, as amended at 53 FR 3337, Feb. 5, 1988. Redesignated and amended at 56 FR 29421, 29425, June 27, 1991; 62 FR 15094, Mar. 31, 1997]

§ 620.21 Contents of the information statement and other information to be furnished in connection with the annual meeting.

The statement shall address the following items:

(a) *Date, time, and place of the meeting(s).*

(b) *Voting shareholders.* For each class of stock entitled to vote at the meeting, state the number of shareholders entitled to vote, and, when shareholders are asked to vote on preferred stock, the number of shares entitled to vote. State the record date as of which the shareholders entitled to vote will be determined and the voting requirements for each matter to be voted upon.

(c) *Directors.* (1) State the names and ages of persons currently serving as directors of the institution, their terms of office, and the periods during which such persons have served. No information need be given with respect to any director whose term of office as a director will not continue after the meeting to which the statement relates.

(2) State the name of any incumbent director who attended fewer than 75 percent of the total of board meetings and any board committee meeting of committees on which he or she served during the last fiscal year.

(3) If any director resigned or declined to stand for reelection since the last annual meeting because of a policy disagreement with the board, and if the director has furnished a letter requesting disclosure of the nature of the disagreement, state the date of the director's resignation and summarize the director's description of the disagreement contained in the letter. If the institution holds a different view of the disagreement, the institution's view may be summarized.

(4) If any transactions between the institution and its senior officers and directors of the type required to be disclosed in the annual report to shareholders under § 620.5(j), or any of the

events required to be disclosed in the annual report to shareholders under § 620.5 (k) have occurred since the end of the last fiscal year and were not disclosed in the annual report to shareholders, the disclosures required by § 620.5 (j) and (k) shall be made with respect to such transactions or events in the annual information statement. If any material change in the matters disclosed in the annual report to shareholders pursuant to § 620.5 (j) and (k) has occurred since the annual report to shareholders was prepared, disclosure shall be made of such change in the annual information statement.

(d) *Nominees.* (1) If directors are nominated or elected by region, describe the regions and state the number of voting shareholders entitled to vote in each region. Any nominee from the floor must be an eligible candidate for the director position for which the person has been nominated.

(2) If fewer than two nominees for each position are named, describe the efforts of the nominating committee to locate two willing nominees.

(3) State that nominations shall be accepted from the floor.

(i) If directors are not elected by region, the following shall apply:

(A) If the annual meeting is to be held in more than one session and mail balloting will be conducted upon the conclusion of all sessions, state that nominations from the floor may be made at any session or, if the association's bylaws so provide, state that nominations from the floor shall be accepted only at the first session.

(B) If shareholders will not vote solely by mail ballot upon conclusion of all sessions, state that nominations from the floor may be made only at the first session.

(ii) If directors are elected by region, the following shall apply:

(A) If more than one session of an annual meeting is held in a region, and if mail balloting will be conducted at the end of all sessions in a region, state that nominations from the floor may be made at any session in the region or, if the association's bylaws so provide, state that nominations from the floor shall be accepted only at the first session held in the region.

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(B) If shareholders will not vote solely by mail ballot upon conclusion of all sessions in a region, state that nominations from the floor may be made only at the first session held in the region.

(4) For each nominee, state the nominee's name, age, and business experience during the last 5 years, including each person's principal occupation and employment during the past 5 years. List any business entities on whose board of directors the director serves and state the principal business in which the entity is engaged.

(5) For each nominee who is not an incumbent director, except a nominee from the floor, provide the information referred to in § 620.5 (j) and (k) and § 620.21(d)(4). If shareholders will vote by mail ballot upon conclusion of all sessions, each floor nominee must provide the information referred to in § 620.5 (j) and (k) and § 620.21(d)(4) in writing to the association within the time period prescribed by the association's bylaws. If the association's bylaws do not prescribe a time period, state that each floor nominee must provide the written disclosure to the association within 5 business days of the nomination. The association shall ensure that the information is distributed to the voting shareholders with the mailing of the ballots for the election of directors in the same format as the comparable information contained in the association's annual meeting information statement. If shareholders will not vote by mail ballot upon conclusion of all sessions, each floor nominee must provide the information referred to in § 620.5 (j) and (k) and § 620.21(d)(4) in writing at the first session at which voting is held.

(6) No person may be a nominee for director who does not make the disclosures required by this subpart.

(e) *Other shareholder action.* (1) If shareholders are asked to vote on matters not normally required to be submitted to shareholders for approval, describe fully the material circumstances surrounding the matter, the reason shareholders are asked to vote, and the vote required for approval of the proposition.

(2) The statement shall describe any other matter that will be discussed at

the meeting upon which shareholder vote is not required.

(f) *Relationship with independent public accountant.* If an institution of the Farm Credit System has had a change or changes in accountants since the last annual report to shareholders, or if a disagreement with an accountant has occurred, the institution shall disclose the information required by § 621.4 (c) and (d) of this chapter.

[51 FR 8656, Mar. 13, 1986. Redesignated and amended at 56 FR 29421, 29425, June 27, 1991; 56 FR 42649, Aug. 28, 1991; 58 FR 48791, Sept. 20, 1993; 60 FR 20013, Apr. 24, 1995; 60 FR 57922, Nov. 24, 1995]

Subpart F—Bank Director Disclosure Requirements

SOURCE: 53 FR 50399, Dec. 15, 1988, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 56 FR 29421, June 27, 1991, and further redesignated at 62 FR 15093, Mar. 31, 1997.

§ 620.30 Disclosure statement for bank director candidates.

Each bank shall adopt policies and procedures that assure that a disclosure statement is prepared by each candidate for election by the stockholders to the bank board. The banks shall provide a form providing for the information required and distribute or mail copies of completed and signed disclosure statements to stockholders with the election ballots. No person may be a candidate for bank director who does not make the disclosures required by this subpart.

§ 620.31 Contents of disclosure statements.

Disclosure statements shall include the following information:

(a) A statement of the institution's policies, if any, on loans to and transactions with directors of the bank.

(b) Candidate's name, residential address, business address if any, citizenship, business experience during the last 5 years including principal occupation and employment during the last 5 years, a list of any business entities on whose board of directors the candidate serves and state the principal business in which the entities are engaged, and

any information pertinent to the creation of a nepotistic relationship upon election to the bank board.

(c) Transactions other than loans. The disclosure statement should describe briefly any transaction or series of transactions other than loans that occurred since the last annual meeting between the bank and the candidate, any member of the immediate family of such person, or any organization with which such person is affiliated, the nature of the person's interest in the transaction, and the terms of the transaction. No information need be given where the purchase price, fees, or charges involved were determined by competitive bidding or where the amount involved in the transaction (including the total of all periodic payments) does not exceed \$5,000, or the interest of the person arises solely as a result of his or her status as a stockholder of the institution and the benefit received is not a special or extra benefit not available to all stockholders.

(d) Loans to director candidates. (1) To the extent applicable, state that the bank has had loans outstanding during the last full fiscal year-to-date to the candidate, his or her immediate family members, and any organizations with which such persons are affiliated that:

(i) Were made in the ordinary course of business;

(ii) Were made on the same terms, including interest rate, amortization schedule, and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with other persons.

(2) To the extent applicable, state that no loan to a candidate, or to any organization affiliated with the candidate, or to any immediate family member who resides in the same household as the candidate or in whose loan or business operation the candidate has a material financial or legal interest, involved more than the normal risk of collectibility;

(3) If the conditions stated in paragraphs (d) (1) and (2) of this section do not apply to the loan(s) of the candidates or organizations specified therein with respect to such loans, state:

(i) The name of the candidate to whom the loan was made or to whose relative or affiliated organization the loan was made;

(ii) The largest aggregate amount of each indebtedness outstanding at any time during the last fiscal year;

(iii) The nature of the loan(s);

(iv) The amount outstanding as of the latest practicable date;

(v) The reasons the loan does not comply with the criteria contained in this section;

(vi) If the loan does not comply with this section, the rate of interest payable on the loan and the repayment terms;

(vii) If the loan does not comply with this section, the amount past due, if any, and the reason the loan is deemed to involve more than a normal risk of collectibility.

(e) Involvement in certain legal proceedings. The disclosure statement should describe any of the following events that occurred during the past 5 years and that are material to an evaluation of the ability or integrity of the candidate:

(1) A petition under the Federal bankruptcy laws or any State insolvency law was filed by or against, or a receiver, fiscal agent, or similar officer was appointed by a court for the business or property of the candidate, or any partnership in which the candidate was a general partner at or within 2 years before the time of such filing, or any corporation or business association of which the candidate was a senior officer at or within 2 years before the time of such filing;

(2) The candidate was convicted in a criminal proceeding or is a named party in a pending criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations and other misdemeanors);

(3) The candidate was the subject of any order, judgment, or decree, not subsequently reversed, suspended, or vacated, by any court of competent jurisdiction, permanently or temporarily enjoining or otherwise limiting the candidate from engaging in any type of business practice.

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Subpart G—Annual Report of Condition of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation

SOURCE: 58 FR 48791, Sept. 20, 1993, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 62 FR 15093, Mar. 31, 1997.

§ 620.40 Content, timing, and distribution of Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation's annual report of condition.

(a) The Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation shall prepare and publish an annual report of its condition that is equivalent in content to the annual report to shareholders required by section 14 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934.

(b) The Corporation shall distribute the annual report of condition to its shareholders within 120 days of its fiscal year-end.

(c) Upon receiving a request for an annual report of condition, the Corporation shall promptly mail or otherwise furnish to the requestor a copy of the most recent annual report described in this section.

(d) The Corporation shall file three copies of the annual report of condition with the Farm Credit Administration's Office of Secondary Market Oversight within 120 days of its fiscal year-end.

PART 621—ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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AUTHORITY: Secs. 5.17, 8.11 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2252, 2279aa–11).

SOURCE: 58 FR 48786, Sept. 20, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Purpose and Definitions

§ 621.1 Purpose and applicability.

This part sets forth accounting and reporting requirements to be followed by all banks, associations, and service organizations chartered under the Act; the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation; and, where specifically indicated, the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation. The requirements set forth in this part are of both general and specific applicability. Certain requirements focus on areas of financial condition and operating performance that are of special importance for generating, presenting, and disclosing accurate and reliable information.

§ 621.2 Definitions.

For the purposes of this part, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Accrual basis of accounting* means the accounting method in which expenses are recorded when incurred, whether paid or unpaid, and income is reported when earned, whether received or not received.

(b) *Borrowing entity* means the individual(s), partnership, joint venture, trust, corporation, or other business entity, or any combination thereof, that is primarily obligated on the loan instrument.

(c) *Generally accepted accounting principles* means that body of conventions,

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rules, and procedures necessary to define accepted accounting practices at a particular time, as promulgated by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) and other authoritative sources recognized as setting standards for the accounting profession in the United States. Generally accepted accounting principles include not only broad guidelines of general application but also detailed practices and procedures that constitute standards by which financial presentations are evaluated.

(d) *Generally accepted auditing standards* means the standards and guidelines adopted by the Auditing Standards Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) to govern the overall quality of audit performance.

(e) *Institution* means any bank, association, or service organization chartered under the Act; the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, and where specifically noted, the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

(f) *Loan* means any extension of credit or lease that is recorded as an asset of a reporting institution, whether made directly or purchased from another lender. The term “loan” includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Loans originated through direct negotiations between the reporting institution and a borrower;

(2) Purchased loans or interests in loans, including participation interests, retained subordinated participation interests in loans sold, and interests in pools of subordinated participation interests that are held in lieu of retaining a subordinated participation interest in loans sold;

(3) Contracts of sale; notes receivable; and

(4) Other similar obligations and lease financing.

(g) *Material* means the magnitude of an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would have been changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement.

(h) *Net realizable value* means the net amount the lender would expect to be

realized from the acquisition and subsequent sale or disposition of a loan's underlying collateral. Generally, net realizable value is equal to the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less estimated costs of acquisition, completion, and disposal.

(i) *Qualified public accountant* means a person who:

(1) Holds a valid and unrevoked certificate, issued to such person by a legally constituted State authority, identifying such person as a certified public accountant;

(2) Is licensed to practice as a public accountant by an appropriate regulatory authority of a State or other political subdivision of the United States;

(3) Is in good standing as a certified and licensed public accountant under the laws of the State or other political subdivision of the United States in which is located the home office or corporate office of the institution that is to be audited;

(4) Is not suspended or otherwise barred from practice as an accountant or public accountant before the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or any other appropriate Federal or State regulatory authority; and

(5) Is independent of the institution that is to be audited. For the purposes of this definition the term “independent” shall have the same meaning as under the rules and interpretations of the AICPA.

(j) *Recorded investment* means the face amount of the loan increased or decreased by applicable accrued interest and unamortized premium, discount, finance charges, or acquisition costs, and may also reflect a previous direct write-down of the investment.

Subpart B—General Rules

§ 621.3 Application of generally accepted accounting principles.

Each institution shall:

(a) Prepare and maintain, on an accrual basis, accurate and complete records of its business transactions as necessary to prepare financial statements and reports, including reports to

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the Farm Credit Administration, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, except as otherwise directed by statutory and regulatory requirements;

(b) Prepare its financial statements and reports, including reports to the shareholders, investors, boards of directors, institution management and the Farm Credit Administration, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, except as otherwise directed by statutory and regulatory requirements; and

(c) Prepare and maintain its books and records in such a manner as to facilitate reconciliation with financial statements and reports prepared from them.

§ 621.4 Audit by qualified public accountant.

(a) Each institution shall, at least annually, have its financial statements audited by a qualified public accountant in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

(b) The qualified public accountant's opinion of each institution's financial statements shall be included as a part of each annual report to shareholders.

(c) If an institution disagrees with the opinion of a qualified public accountant required by paragraph (b) of this section, the following actions shall be taken immediately:

(1) The institution shall prepare a brief but thorough written description of the scope and content of the disagreement, noting each point of disagreement and citing, in all cases, the specific provisions of generally accepted accounting principles and generally accepted auditing standards upon which the institution's position in the disagreement is based;

(2) A copy of the institution's final description of the disagreement shall be given to the accountant who provided the opinion with which the institution disagrees;

(3) The accountant shall have 10 business days to develop and provide a brief but thorough final response to the institution's description of the disagreement, including all items believed to be incorrect or incomplete, and citing, in all cases, the specific provisions of generally accepted accounting prin-

ciples and generally accepted auditing standards upon which the accountant's position in the disagreement is based;

(4) Both the institution's final description of the disagreement and the accountant's final response to it shall be included in the institution's annual report to shareholders directly following the accountant's opinion of the institution's financial statements; and

(5) The institution shall immediately notify the Chief Examiner, Farm Credit Administration, of any disagreement with its accountant and shall furnish the Farm Credit Administration with the written documentation required by paragraphs (c) (1) through (4) of this section.

(d) If an institution selects a qualified public accountant to audit its financial statements and provide an opinion thereon for its annual report who is different from the accountant whose opinion appeared in the institution's most recent annual report, the following items shall be sent to the Farm Credit Administration no later than 15 days after the end of the month in which the change took place and shall be included in the institution's annual meeting information statement and annual report to shareholders for the year in which the change of accountants took place:

(1) The name and address of the accountant whose opinion appeared in the institution's most recent annual report to shareholders;

(2) A brief but thorough statement of the reasons the accountant selected for the most recent annual report was not selected for the current annual report. If the change resulted from a disagreement with the accountant, the statement shall describe the institution's disagreement with the accountant's opinion and the accountant's final response to the institution's disagreement prepared pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section; and

(3) The identification of the highest ranking officer, committee of officers, or board of directors, as appropriate, that recommended, approved, or otherwise made the decision to change qualified public accountants.

§ 621.5 Accounting for the allowance for loan losses and chargeoffs.

Each institution shall:

(a) Maintain at all times an allowance for loan losses that is adequate to absorb all probable and estimable losses that may reasonably be expected to exist in the loan portfolio.

(b) Develop, adopt, and consistently apply policies and procedures governing the establishment and maintenance of the allowance for loan losses which, at a minimum, conform to the rules, definitions, and standards set forth in this part and any other applicable requirements.

(c) Charge-off loans, wholly or partially, as appropriate, at the time they are determined to be uncollectible.

(d) Ensure that when an institution or the Farm Credit Administration determines that the value of a loan or other asset recorded on its books and records exceeds the amount that can reasonably be expected to be collectible, or when the documentation supporting the recorded asset value is inadequate, the institution shall immediately charge off the asset in the amount determined to be uncollectible. If the amount determined to be uncollectible by the institution is different from the amount determined to be uncollectible by the Farm Credit Administration, the institution shall charge off such amount as the Farm Credit Administration shall direct.

Subpart C—Loan Performance and Valuation Assessment

§ 621.6 Performance categories and other property owned.

Each institution shall employ the following practices with respect to categorizing high-risk loans and loan-related assets. No loan shall be put into more than one performance category. At a minimum, loans meeting the criteria for both nonaccrual and another performance category shall be classified as nonaccrual.

(a) *Nonaccrual loans.* A loan shall be considered nonaccrual if it meets any of the following conditions:

(1) Collection of any amount of outstanding principal and all past and future interest accruals, considered over

the full term of the asset, is not expected;

(2) Any portion of the loan has been charged off, except in cases where the prior chargeoff was taken as part of a formal restructuring of the loan; or

(3) The loan is 90 days past due and is not both adequately secured and in process of collection.

(i) A loan is considered adequately secured only if:

(A) It is secured by real or personal property having a net realizable value sufficient to discharge the debt in full; or

(B) It is guaranteed by a financially responsible party in an amount sufficient to discharge the debt in full.

(ii) A loan is considered in process of collection only if collection efforts are proceeding in due course and, based on a probable and specific event, are expected to result in the prompt repayment of the debt or its restoration to current status. There must be documented evidence that collection in full of amounts due and unpaid is expected to occur within a reasonable time period, not to exceed 180 days from the date that payment was due. The commencement of collection efforts through legal action, including bankruptcy or foreclosure, or through collection efforts not involving legal action, including ongoing workouts and reamortizations, do not, in and of themselves, provide sufficient cause to keep a loan out of nonaccrual status. If full collection of the debt or its restoration to current status is dependent upon completion of any action by the borrower, the institution must obtain the borrower's written agreement to complete all such actions by the specific dates set forth in agreement.

(b) *Formally restructured loans.* A loan is considered formally restructured if it meets the "troubled debt restructuring" definition set forth in Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 15, Accounting by Debtors and Creditors for Troubled Debt Restructurings, as promulgated by the FASB.

(c) *Loans 90 days past due still accruing interest.* (1) Loans 90 days past due still accruing interest means loans that are 90 days or more contractually past due, and that are both adequately secured

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and in process of collection, as described in this section.

(2) A loan shall be considered contractually past due when any principal repayment or interest payment required by the loan instrument is not received on or before the due date. A loan shall remain contractually past due until it is formally restructured or until the entire amount past due, including principal, accrued interest, and penalty interest incurred as the result of past due status, is collected or otherwise discharged in full.

(d) *Other property owned* means any real or personal property, other than an interest-earning asset, that has been acquired as a result of full or partial liquidation of a loan, through foreclosure, deed in lieu of foreclosure, or other means.

§ 621.7 Rule of aggregation.

(a) When one loan to a borrower is placed in nonaccrual, an institution must immediately evaluate whether its other loans to that borrower, or related borrowers, should also be placed in nonaccrual. All loans on which a borrowing entity, or a component of a borrowing entity, is primarily obligated to the reporting institution shall be considered as one loan unless a review of all pertinent facts supports a reasonable determination that a particular loan constitutes an independent credit risk and such determination is adequately documented in the loan file.

(1) A loan shall be considered an independent credit risk if a substantial portion of the loan is guaranteed as to principal and interest by a government agency.

(2) Other loans shall be considered independent credit risks if and so long as:

(i) The primary sources of repayment are independent for each loan;

(ii) The loans are not cross-collateralized; and

(iii) The principal obligors are different person(s) and/or entity(ies). Related loans will not be considered independent credit risks if the operations of a related borrower are so financially interdependent with the borrower's operations that the economic survival of one will materially affect the economic survival of the other, determined in ac-

cordance with § 614.4359(a)(2) of this chapter.

(b) If the evaluation required by paragraph (a) of this section results in a determination that the borrower's other loans with the institution do not represent an independent credit risk, and full collection of such loans is not expected, then all of the borrower's loans must be aggregated and classified as nonaccrual. If such other loans represent an independent credit risk and are fully collectible, then they may remain in their current performance category.

(c) When an institution becomes aware that a borrower has a loan that has been classified nonaccrual by any other lender, the institution must re-evaluate the credit risk in its loan to the borrower and then determine whether an independent credit risk exists.

[58 FR 48786, Sept. 20, 1993, as amended at 64 FR 34519, June 28, 1999]

§ 621.8 Application of payments and income recognition on nonaccrual loans.

Each institution shall employ the following practices with respect to application of cash payments on nonaccrual loans:

(a) If the ultimate collectibility of the recorded investment, in whole or in part, is in doubt, any payment received on such loan shall be applied to reduce the recorded investment to the extent necessary to eliminate such doubt.

(b) Once the ultimate collectibility of the recorded investment is no longer in doubt, payments received in cash on such loan may qualify for recognition as interest income if all of the following characteristics are met at the time the payment is received:

(1) The loan does not have a remaining unrecovered prior chargeoff associated with it, except in cases where the prior chargeoff was taken as part of a formal restructuring of the loan;

(2) The payment received has come from a source of repayment detailed in the plan of collection;

(3) The loan, after considering the payment, is not contractually past due more than 90 days and is not expected to become 90 days past due, or a repayment pattern has been established that

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reasonably demonstrates future repayment capacity.

(c) The institution shall employ the following practices with respect to earned but uncollected interest income on loans, leases, contracts, and similar assets that are determined not to be fully collectible:

(1) Earned but uncollected interest income that was accrued in the current fiscal year and is determined to be uncollectible shall be reversed from interest income; and

(2) Earned but uncollected interest income that was accrued in prior fiscal years and is determined to be uncollectible shall be charged off against the allowance for loan losses.

§ 621.9 Reinstatement to accrual status.

A loan may be reinstated to accrual status, when each of the following criteria are met:

(a) All contractual principal and interest due on the loan is paid and the loan is current;

(b) Prior chargeoffs are recovered, except for troubled debt restructures;

(c) No reasonable doubt remains regarding the willingness and ability of the borrower to perform in accordance with the contractual terms of the loan agreement; and

(d) Reinstatement is supported by a period of sustained performance in accordance with the contractual terms of the note and/or loan agreement. Sustained performance will generally be demonstrated by 6 consecutive monthly payments, 4 consecutive quarterly payments, 3 consecutive semi-annual payments, or 2 consecutive annual payments.

§ 621.10 Monitoring of performance categories and other property owned.

(a) Each institution shall:

(1) Account for, report, and disclose to shareholders, investors, boards of directors, and the Farm Credit Administration all material items with respect to performance categories and other property owned in accordance with the rules and definitions set forth in this part and any other applicable requirements;

(2) In accordance with § 620.5(g)(1)(iv)(A) of this chapter, disclose to shareholders, investors, boards of directors, and the Farm Credit Administration the nature and extent of significant potential credit risks within the loan portfolio, or other information that could adversely impact performance of the loan portfolio in the near future;

(3) Develop, adopt, and consistently apply policies and procedures governing performance categories and other property owned, which, at a minimum, conform to the definitions, rules, and standards set forth in this part and such other requirements and procedures as may be required by the Farm Credit Administration;

(4) Review the loan portfolio at least quarterly to ensure that all high-risk loans have been assigned the appropriate performance category; and

(5) Review all high-risk loans in the loan portfolio at least quarterly to determine the collectibility of accrued but uncollected income, if any.

(b) Measures taken to enhance the collectibility of a loan shall not be deemed to relieve an institution of the requirement to monitor and evaluate the loan for the purpose of determining its performance status.

Subpart D—Report of Condition and Performance

§ 621.12 Applicability and general instructions.

(a) Each institution, including the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, shall prepare and file such reports of condition and performance as may be required by the Farm Credit Administration.

(b) Reports of condition and performance shall be filed four times each year, and at such other times as the Farm Credit Administration may require. The reports shall be prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and shall fairly represent the financial condition and performance of each institution at the end of, and over the period of, each calendar quarter, provided that such additional reports as may be necessary to ensure timely, complete,

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and accurate monitoring and evaluation of the affairs, condition, and performance of Farm Credit institutions may be required, as determined by the Chief Examiner, Farm Credit Administration.

(c) All reports of condition and performance shall be filed with the Farm Credit Administration, Office of Examination, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia, 22102-5090.

§ 621.13 Content and standards—general rules.

Each institution, including the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, shall prepare reports of condition and performance:

(a) In accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, standards, and such instructions and specifications and on such media as may be prescribed by the Farm Credit Administration;

(b) In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and such other accounting requirements, standards, and procedures as may be prescribed by the Farm Credit Administration; and

(c) In such manner as to facilitate their reconciliation with the books and records of reporting institutions.

§ 621.14 Certification of correctness.

Each report of financial condition and performance filed with the Farm Credit Administration shall be certified as having been prepared in accordance with all applicable regulations and instructions and to be a true and accurate representation of the financial condition and performance of the institution to which it applies. The reports shall be certified by the officer of the reporting institution named for that purpose by action of the reporting institution's board of directors. If the board of directors of the institution has not acted to name an officer to certify the correctness of its reports of condition and performance, then the reports shall be certified by the president or chief executive officer of the reporting institution.

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Subpart E—Reports Relating to Securities Activities of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation

§ 621.20 Form and content.

(a) The Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Corporation) shall provide the Office of Secondary Market Oversight with three copies of any filings made with the SEC pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934. Such copies shall be filed with the FCA no later than 1 business day after any SEC filing.

(b) The Corporation shall make the following filings with the Office of Secondary Market Oversight for securities either issued or guaranteed by the Corporation that are not registered under the Securities Act of 1933.

(1) Three copies of any offering circular, private placement memorandum, or information statement prepared in connection with the securities offering shall be filed with the Office of Secondary Market Oversight at or before the time of the securities offering.

(2) For securities backed by qualified loans as defined in section 8.0(9)(A) of the Act, the Corporation shall file one copy of the following within 1 business day of the finalization of the transaction:

(i) The private placement memorandum for securities sold to investors; and

(ii) The pooling and servicing agreement when the security is purchased by the Corporation as authorized by section 8.6(g) of the Act.

(3) For securities backed by qualified loans as defined in section 8.0(9)(B) of the Act, the Corporation shall provide summary information on such securities issued during each calendar quarter in the form prescribed by the Office of Secondary Market Oversight. Such summary information shall be provided with each report of condition and performance filed pursuant to § 621.12, and at such other times as the Office of Secondary Market Oversight may require.

(c) The Corporation shall file with the Office of Secondary Market Oversight copies of all substantive correspondence between the Corporation and the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of the Treasury relating to securities activities or regulatory compliance. Such correspondence should be filed no later than the date of filing of the report of condition and performance for the calendar quarter in which the correspondence was received or sent.

(d) The Corporation shall promptly notify the Office of Secondary Market Oversight if it becomes exempt or claims exemption from the filing requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934.

[58 FR 48786, Sept. 20, 1993]

PART 622—RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

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AUTHORITY: Secs. 5.9, 5.10, 5.17, 5.25–5.37 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2243, 2244, 2252, 2261–2273); Pub. L. 104–134, sec. 31001(s), 110 Stat. 1321–358.

SOURCE: 51 FR 21139, June 11, 1986, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Rules Applicable to Formal Hearings

§ 622.1 Scope of regulations.

This subpart prescribes rules of practice and procedure in connection with any formal hearing before the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) that is required by the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended (Act) or is ordered for

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other reasons by the FCA. In connection with any particular matter, reference should also be made to any special requirements of practice and procedure that may be contained in applicable provisions of the Act or the rules adopted by the FCA in subpart B of this part, which special requirements are controlling. The rules in subpart A do not apply to the informal hearings described in subpart C of this part, to any other informal hearing that may be ordered by the FCA, or to formal investigations described in subpart D of this part.

§ 622.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *Act* means the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended. 12 U.S.C. 2001, *et seq.*

(b) *FCA* means the Farm Credit Administration.

(c) *Board* means the Farm Credit Administration Board.

(d) The terms *institution in the System*, *System institution* and *institution* mean all institutions enumerated in section 1.2 of the Act, any institution chartered pursuant to or established by the Act, except for the Farm Credit System Assistance Board and the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, and any service organization chartered under part E of title IV of the Act.

(e) *Party* means the FCA or a person or institution named as a party in any notice that commences a proceeding, or any person or institution who is admitted as a party or who has filed a written request and is entitled as of right to be a party.

(f) *Presiding officer* means an administrative law judge or any FCA employee or other person designated by the Board to conduct a hearing.

(g) *Ex parte communication* means an oral or written communication not on the record with respect to which reasonable prior notice to all parties is not given. It does not include requests for status reports.

[51 FR 21139, June 11, 1986, as amended at 53 FR 27284, July 19, 1988]

§ 622.3 Appearance and practice.

(a) *Appearance before the Board or a presiding officer*—(1) *By nonattorneys.* An individual may appear in his or her own behalf; a member of a partnership

may represent the partnership; a duly authorized officer or other agent of a corporation, trust association or other entity not specifically listed herein may represent the corporation, trust association, or other entity; and a duly authorized officer or employee of any government unit, agency or authority may represent that unit, agency or authority. Any person appearing in a representative capacity shall file a written notice of appearance with the Board which shall contain evidence of his or her authority to act in such capacity.

(2) *By attorneys.* A party may be represented by an attorney who is a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of any State, possession, territory, Commonwealth or the District of Columbia, and who has not been suspended or debarred from practice before the FCA in accordance with the provisions of part 623 of this chapter. Prior to appearing, an attorney representing a person in a proceeding shall file a written notice of appearance with the Board, which shall contain a declaration that he or she is currently qualified as provided by paragraph (a)(2) of this section and is authorized to represent the party on whose behalf he or she acts.

(3) *Representation of multiple interests.* A person shall not represent more than one party without informing each party of any actual or potential conflict of interest that may be involved in such representation. Such person shall file a statement with the Board indicating that such disclosure has been made. The presiding officer has authority to take protective measures at any stage of a proceeding, including the authority to prohibit multiple representation when deemed appropriate.

(b) *Summary suspension.* Dilatory, obstructionist, egregious, contemptuous, contumacious, or other unethical or improper conduct at any proceeding before the Board or a presiding officer shall be grounds for exclusion therefrom and suspension for the duration of the proceeding, or other appropriate action by the Board or presiding officer.

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§ 622.4 Commencement of proceedings.

Proceedings under this subpart are commenced by the issuance of a notice by the Board. Such notice shall state the time, place, and nature of the hearing, the name and address of the presiding officer if one has been designated, and a statement of the matters of fact and law constituting the grounds for the hearing. The matters of fact and law alleged in a notice may be amended by the Board at any stage of the proceeding and such amended notice may require an answer from the party or parties served and may set a new hearing date. A copy of any notice served by the FCA on any System association, director, officer or other person participating in the conduct of the affairs of the association will also be sent to the supervisory bank.

§ 622.5 Answer.

(a) *Answer is required.* Unless a different period is specified by the Board, a party who does not wish to consent to a final order must file an answer within 20 days after being served with a notice that commences the proceeding. Any subsequent notice which contains amended allegations and by its terms requires an answer must similarly be answered within 20 days after service.

(b) *Requirements of answer; effect of failure to deny.* An answer filed under this section shall concisely state any defenses and specifically admit or deny each allegation in the notice. A party who lacks information or knowledge sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of any particular allegation shall so state and this shall have the effect of a denial. Any allegation not denied shall be deemed to be admitted. A party who intends in good faith to deny only a part of or to qualify an allegation shall specify so much of it as is true and shall deny only the remainder.

(c) *Admitted allegations.* If a party filing an answer under this section elects not to contest any of the allegations of fact set forth in the notice, the answer shall consist of a statement admitting all of the allegations to be true. Such answer constitutes a waiver of hearing as to the facts alleged in the notice, and together with the notice will pro-

vide a record basis on which the presiding officer shall file with the Board a recommended decision in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 557. The recommended decision shall be served on the party, who may file exceptions thereto within the time provided in § 622.13.

(d) *Effect of failure to answer.* Failure of a party to file an answer required by this section within the time provided constitutes a waiver of the party's right to appear and contest the allegations in the notice and authorizes the presiding officer, without further notice to the party, to find the facts to be as alleged in the notice and to file with the Board a recommended decision containing such findings and appropriate conclusions. The Board or the presiding officer may, for good cause shown, permit the filing of a delayed answer after the time for filing and the answer has expired.

§ 622.6 Opportunity for informal settlement.

Any interested party may at any time submit to the Board for consideration written offers or proposals for settlement of a proceeding, without prejudice to the rights of the parties. No offer or proposal shall be admissible into evidence over the objection of any party in any hearing in connection with such proceeding. The foregoing provisions of this section shall not preclude settlement of any proceeding through the regular adjudicatory process by the filing of an answer as provided in § 622.5(c), or by submission of the case to the presiding officer on a stipulation of facts and an agreed order.

§ 622.7 Conduct of hearings.

(a) *Authority of presiding officer.* All hearings governed by this subpart shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 5 of title 5 of the United States Code. The presiding officer designated by the Board to preside at any such hearing shall have complete charge of the hearing, shall have the duty to conduct it in a fair and impartial manner and shall take all necessary action to avoid delay in the disposition of the proceeding. Such officer shall have all powers necessary to that end, including the following:

(1) To administer oaths and affirmations;

(2) To issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum, as authorized by law, and to revoke, quash, or modify any such subpoena;

(3) To receive relevant evidence and to rule upon the admission of evidence and offers of proof;

(4) To take or cause depositions to be taken;

(5) To regulate the course of the hearing and the conduct of the parties and their counsel;

(6) To hold conferences for the settlement or simplification of issues or for any proper purpose; and

(7) To consider and rule upon, as justice may require, all procedural and other motions appropriate in a proceeding under this subpart, except that a presiding officer shall not have power to decide any motion to dismiss the proceeding or other motion which results in a final determination of the merits of the proceeding. This power rests only with the Board. Without limitation on the foregoing, the presiding officer shall, subject to the provisions of this subpart, have all the authority set forth in 5 U.S.C. 556(c).

(b) *Prehearing conference.* The presiding officer may, on his or her own initiative or at the request of any party, direct counsel for all parties to meet with him or her at a specified time and place prior to the hearing, or to submit suggestions to him or her in writing, for the purpose of considering any or all of the following:

(1) Simplification and clarification of the issues;

(2) Stipulations, admissions of fact and of the contents and authenticity of documents;

(3) Matters of which official notice will be taken; and

(4) Such other matters as may aid in the orderly disposition of the proceeding.

At the conclusion of such conference(s) the presiding officer shall enter an order which recites the results of the conference. Such order shall include the presiding officer's rulings upon matters considered at the conference, together with appropriate directions, if any, to the parties. Such order shall control the subsequent course of the

proceeding, unless modified at the hearing for good cause shown.

(c) *Exchange of information.* Thirty (30) days prior to the hearing, parties shall exchange a list of the names of witnesses with a general description of their expected testimony, and a list and one copy of all documents or other physical exhibits which will be introduced in evidence in the course of the proceeding.

(d) *Attendance at hearings.* All hearings shall be private and shall be attended only by the parties, their counsel or authorized representatives, witnesses while testifying, and other persons having an official interest in the proceeding. However, if the Board, in its discretion, after fully considering the views of the party afforded the hearing, determines that a public hearing is necessary to protect the public interest, the Board may in its sole discretion order that the hearing be public.

(e) *Transcript of testimony.* Hearings shall be recorded. A copy of the transcript of the testimony taken at any hearing, duly certified by the reporter, together with all exhibits accepted into evidence shall be filed with the presiding officer. The presiding officer shall promptly serve notice upon all parties of such filing. The parties shall make their own arrangements with the person recording the testimony for copies of the testimony and exhibits. The presiding officer shall have authority to correct the record sua sponte with notice to all parties and to rule upon motions to correct the record. In the event the hearing is public, transcripts will be furnished to interested persons upon payment of the cost thereof.

(f) *Continuances and changes or extensions of time and changes of place of hearing.* Except as otherwise provided by law, the presiding officer may extend time limits prescribed by these rules or by any notice or order issued in the proceedings, may change the time for beginning any hearing, continue or adjourn a hearing from time to time, and/or change the location of the hearing. Prior to the appointment of a presiding officer and after the filing of a recommended decision pursuant to § 622.12, the Board may grant such extensions or changes. Subject to

the approval of the presiding officer, the parties may by stipulation change the time limits specified by these rules or any notice or order issued hereunder.

(g) *Closing of hearing.* The record of the hearing shall be closed by an announcement to that effect by the presiding officer when the taking of evidence has been concluded. In the discretion of the presiding officer, the record may be closed as of a future date in order to permit the admission into the record, under circumstances determined by the presiding officer, of exhibits to be prepared.

(h) *Call for further evidence, oral arguments, briefs, reopening of hearing.* The presiding officer may call for the production of further evidence upon any issue, may permit oral argument and submission of briefs at the hearing and, upon appropriate notice, may reopen any hearing at any time prior to the filing of his or her recommended decision. The Board may reopen the record at anytime permitted by law.

(i) *Order of procedure.* The FCA shall open and close.

(j) *Ex parte communications.* (1) No person shall make or knowingly cause to be made an ex parte communication relevant to the merits of the proceeding to the presiding officer or anyone who is or may reasonably be expected to be involved in the decisional process.

(2) No person who is or may reasonably be expected to be involved in the decisional process shall make or knowingly cause to be made an ex parte communication relevant to the merits of the proceeding to any person.

(3) Except as authorized by law, the presiding officer shall not consult anyone on any fact in issue, unless upon notice and opportunity for all parties to participate. The presiding officer shall not be responsible to, or subject to the supervision or direction of, any officer, employee, or agent of the FCA engaged in the performance of investigative or prosecuting functions. An officer, employee or agent engaged in the performance of such functions in any case shall not, in that case or a factually related case, participate or advise in the decision of the presiding officer, except as a witness or counsel

in the proceedings, or as otherwise authorized by law.

(4) If an ex parte communication is made or knowingly caused to be made, all such communications, and any responses, shall be placed in the record.

(5) Upon receipt of a communication knowingly made or caused to be made in violation of paragraph (j) of this section, the responsible party may be required to show cause why such party's claim or interest should not be dismissed, denied, or otherwise adversely affected. To the extent consistent with the interests of justice, a knowing violation of paragraph (j) of this section may be grounds for a decision adverse to a party in violation.

(6) The prohibitions against ex parte communications apply from the time a proceeding is noticed for hearing. However, when the person responsible for the communication has knowledge that the proceeding will be noticed, the prohibitions apply from the time such knowledge is acquired.

§ 622.8 Rules of evidence.

(a) *Evidence.* Every party shall have the right to present a case or defense by oral and documentary evidence, to submit rebuttal evidence, and to conduct such cross-examination as may be required for a full and true disclosure of the facts. Irrelevant, immaterial or unduly repetitious evidence shall be excluded.

(b) *Objections.* Objections to the admission or exclusion of evidence shall be in short form, stating the grounds of objection relied upon but no argument thereon shall be permitted, except as ordered, allowed, or requested by the presiding officer. Rulings on such objections and all other matters shall be part of the transcript. Failure to object timely to the admission or exclusion of evidence or to any ruling constitutes a waiver of such objection.

(c) *Stipulations.* Independently of the orders or rulings issued as provided by § 622.7(b), the parties may stipulate as to any relevant matters of fact or the authenticity of any relevant documents. Such stipulations may be received in evidence at the hearing, and when so received shall be binding on the parties with respect to the matters therein stipulated.

(d) *Official notice.* All matters officially noticed by the presiding officer shall appear on the record.

§ 622.9 Subpoenas.

(a) *Issuance.* The presiding officer or, in the event he or she is unavailable, the Board may issue subpoenas and subpoena duces tecum at the request of any party requiring the attendance of witnesses or the production of documents at a designated place. The person seeking the subpoena may be required, as a condition precedent to the issuance of the subpoena, to show the general relevance and reasonable scope of the testimony or other evidence sought. Where it appears to the presiding officer that a subpoena may be unreasonable, oppressive, excessive in scope, unduly burdensome, or delay the proceeding, the presiding officer has discretion to refuse to issue a subpoena or to issue it only upon such conditions as fairness requires.

(b) *Motions to quash.* Any person to whom a subpoena is directed may, prior to the time specified therein for compliance but in no event more than 10 days after the date the subpoena was served, with notice to the party requesting the subpoena, apply to the presiding officer, or in the event he or she is unavailable to the Board, to quash or modify the subpoena, accompanying such application with a brief statement of the reasons therefor. The presiding officer may deny the application or, upon notice to the party on whose behalf the subpoena was issued and after affording that party an opportunity to reply, may quash or modify the subpoena or impose reasonable conditions including, in the case of a subpoena duces tecum, a requirement that the party on whose behalf the subpoena was issued pay in advance the reasonable cost of copying and transporting the documentary evidence to the designated place.

(c) *Service of subpoena.* A subpoena may be served upon the person named therein by personal service or certified mail with a return receipt to the last known address of the person. The fees for one day's attendance and mileage as specified in paragraph (d) of this section must be tendered at the time of service unless the subpoena is issued on

behalf of the FCA. If personal service is made by a U.S. marshal, a deputy U.S. marshal, or an employee of the FCA, such service shall be evidenced by the return thereon. If personal service is made by any other person, such person shall sign an affidavit describing the manner in which service is made, and return such affidavit with a copy of the subpoena. In case of failure to make service, reasons for the failure shall be stated on the original subpoena. The original or a copy of the subpoena, bearing or accompanied by the required return, affidavit, statement or return receipt, shall be returned without delay to the presiding officer.

(d) *Attendance of witnesses.* The attendance of witnesses at a designated place may be required from any place in any State or territory subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. Witnesses who are subpoenaed shall be paid the same fees and mileage that are paid witnesses in the district courts of the United States. Fees required by this paragraph shall be paid by the party upon whose application the subpoena is issued.

(e) *Production of documents.* The production of documents at a designated place may be required from any place in any State or territory subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. In lieu of an original document, a certified or authenticated copy may be produced. However, any party has the right to inspect the original document.

§ 622.10 Depositions.

(a) *Application to take deposition.* Any party desiring to take the deposition of any person shall make written application to the presiding officer setting forth the name and address of the witness, the subject matter concerning which the witness is expected to testify, its relevance, the time and place of the deposition, and the reasons why such deposition should be taken. The application may include a request that specified documents be produced at the deposition. A copy of the application shall be served on the other parties at the same time the application is filed with the presiding officer.

(b) *Subpoena; notice to other parties.* Upon a showing that the testimony or other evidence sought will be material,

and the taking of the deposition will not result in any undue burden to the witness or any party or undue delay of the proceedings, the presiding officer may issue a subpoena or subpoena duces tecum. Notice of the issuance of such subpoena shall be served upon all parties at least 10 days in advance of the date set for deposition.

(c) *Deposition by notice.* The requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section may be waived by agreement of the parties and the witness whose testimony or documentary evidence is sought. Such agreement shall be embodied in a stipulation which becomes part of the record and may provide for the taking of depositions upon notice without leave of the presiding officer.

(d) *Procedure on deposition.* Depositions may be taken before any person having the power to administer oaths. Each witness whose testimony is taken by deposition shall be duly sworn before any question is propounded. Examination and cross-examination of deponents may proceed as permitted at the hearing. Objections to questions or documents shall be in short form, stating the grounds relief upon for the objection. Failure to object to questions or evidence is deemed a waiver if the ground of the objection is one which might have been obviated or removed if presented at that time. The questions propounded and the answers thereto, together with all objections made (but not including argument or debate) shall be recorded by or under the direction of the person before whom the deposition is taken. The deposition shall be signed by the witness, unless the parties by stipulation waive the signing or the witness is physically unable to sign, cannot be found, or refuses to sign. The deposition shall also be certified as a true and complete transcript by the person recording the testimony. If the deposition is not signed by the witness, the person recording the testimony shall state this fact and the reason therefor on the record. The person before whom the deposition is taken shall promptly file the transcript and all exhibits with the presiding officer. Interested parties shall make their own arrangements with the person recording the testimony for copies of the testimony and exhibits.

(e) *Introduction as evidence.* Subject to appropriate rulings by the presiding officer on such objections and answers as were noted at the time the deposition was taken or as would be valid were the witness personally present and testifying at the hearing, the deposition or any part thereof may be received in evidence by the presiding officer in his or her discretion. Only such part of a deposition as is received in evidence at a hearing shall constitute a part of the record upon which a decision may be based.

(f) *Payment of fees.* Deponents whose depositions are taken and the reporter taking the same shall be entitled to the same fees as are paid for like services in the district courts of the United States, which fees shall be paid by the party upon whose application the deposition is taken.

§ 622.11 Motions.

(a) *How made.* An application or request for an order or ruling not otherwise specifically provided for in this subpart, unless made during a hearing, shall be made by written motion supported by a memorandum which concisely states the grounds therefor.

(b) *Opposition.* Within 10 days after service of any written motion, or within such other period of time as may be fixed by the presiding officer, any party may file a memorandum in opposition thereto. The moving party has no right to reply except as permitted by the presiding officer. The presiding officer has discretion to waive the requirements of this section as to motions for extension of time and may rule upon such motions ex parte.

(c) *Oral argument.* No oral argument will be heard on motions except as otherwise directed by the presiding officer or the Board.

(d) *Rulings and orders.* Except as otherwise provided in this subpart, the presiding officer shall rule on all motions and may issue appropriate orders, except that motions may be referred to the Board if the presiding officer is unavailable or determines that such motion should be referred to the Board. Prior to the appointment of a presiding officer and after a recommended decision is filed pursuant to § 622.12, the

Board shall rule on motions filed by the parties.

(e) *Appeal from rulings on motions.* All answers, motions, objections and rulings shall become part of the record. Rulings of a presiding officer on any motion may not be appealed to the Board prior to its consideration of the presiding officer's recommended decision, except by special permission of the Board. However, such rulings shall be considered by the Board in reviewing the record. Requests to the Board for special permission to appeal from a ruling of the presiding officer shall be filed in writing within 5 days of the ruling, and shall briefly state the grounds relied on. The moving party shall immediately serve a copy thereof on every other party to the proceeding who may then respond to such request within 5 days after service.

(f) *Continuation of hearing.* Unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer or the Board, the hearing shall continue pending the determination of any request or motion by the Board.

§ 622.12 Proposed findings and conclusions; recommended decision.

(a) *Proposed findings and conclusions by parties.* Within 30 days after the hearing transcript has been filed, any party may file proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law. Such proposals shall be supported by citation of such statutes, decisions, and other authorities, and by specific page references to such portions of the record as may be relevant. All such proposals shall become a part of the record.

(b) *Recommended decision by presiding officer.* Within 30 days after the expiration of time allowed under paragraph (a) of this section, or within such further time as the Board for good cause allows, the presiding officer shall file the entire hearing record, including a recommended decision and findings and conclusions, the transcript, exhibits (including on request of any of the parties any exhibits excluded from evidence or tender of proof), exceptions, rulings and all briefs and memoranda filed in connection with the hearing. Promptly upon such filing, the presiding officer shall serve a copy of the recommended decision, findings and

conclusions upon each party to the proceeding.

(c) *Board as presiding officer.* In proceedings in which the Board or one or more of its members has presided at the reception of evidence, the presiding officer's recommended decision, findings of fact, and conclusions of law will be omitted. In such proceedings the proposed findings and conclusions, briefs, and other submissions permitted under paragraph (a) of this section shall be filed with the Board for consideration.

§ 622.13 Exceptions.

(a) *Filing.* Within 15 days after service of the recommended decision of the presiding officer, any party may file exceptions thereto or to any portion thereof, or to the failure of the presiding officer to make any recommendation, finding, or conclusion, or to the admission or exclusion of evidence, or to any other ruling of the presiding officer.

(b) *Contents.* Each exception shall be supported by a concise argument and by citation of such statutes, decisions and other authorities, and by page references to such portions of the record as may be relevant. If the exception relates to the admission or exclusion of evidence, the substance of the evidence admitted or excluded shall be set forth in the brief with appropriate references to the transcript.

(c) *Waiver.* Failure of a party to file exceptions to those matters specified in paragraph (a) of this section within the time prescribed shall be a waiver of objection thereto.

§ 622.14 Briefs.

(a) *Contents.* Any brief filed in a proceeding shall be confined to the particular matters in issue, citing statutes, decisions, and other authorities, and page references to such portions of the record or the recommended decision of the presiding officer as may be relevant.

(b) *Reply briefs.* Reply briefs may be filed within 10 days after service of original briefs of opposing parties, and shall be confined to matters in such briefs. Further briefs may be filed only with permission of the presiding officer

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or the Board with respect to a matter before the Board.

(c) *Delayed filing.* Briefs not filed on or before the time fixed in this subpart or by the presiding officer will be received only upon special permission of the Board.

§ 622.15 Oral argument before the Board.

Upon its own initiative or upon written request by any party, the Board, in its discretion, may order the matter to be set down for oral argument before the Board or one or more members thereof. Any request for oral argument by a party filing exceptions shall be made within the time prescribed for filing such exceptions, or by any other party, within the time prescribed for the filing of a reply brief. Oral argument before the Board shall be recorded unless otherwise ordered by the Board.

§ 622.16 Notice of submission to the Board.

Upon the filing of the record with the Board, and upon the expiration of the time for the filing of exceptions and all briefs, including reply briefs or any further briefs permitted by the presiding officer or the Board, and upon the hearing of oral argument by the Board, if ordered by the Board, the Board shall notify the parties in writing that the case has been submitted for final decision.

§ 622.17 Decision of the Board.

Any person who has not engaged in the performance of investigative or prosecuting functions in the case, or in a factually related case, may advise and assist the Board in the consideration of the case. Copies of the decision and order of the Board shall be served upon the parties. A copy of the order will also be sent to the supervisory bank if the order relates to a System association, director, officer, or other person participating in the conduct of the affairs of the association.

§ 622.18 Filing.

(a) *Filing.* Papers required or permitted to be filed with the Board shall be filed with the Chairman of the Board, FCA, 1501 Farm Credit Drive,

McLean, VA 22102–5090 or with the person designated to receive papers for the agency in a proceeding. Papers sent by mail must be postmarked or received within the prescribed time limit for filing. Papers sent by any other means must be received within the prescribed time limit for filing.

(b) *Formal requirements.* All filed papers shall be printed, typewritten, or otherwise reproduced, and copies shall be clear and legible. The original of all papers filed by a party shall be signed and dated as of the date of execution by the party filing the same, or a duly authorized agent or attorney. The signer's address and telephone number must appear on the original. Counsel for the FCA shall sign the original of all papers filed on behalf of the FCA. All papers filed must name in the heading or on a title page, the parties, the docket number and the subject of the papers.

(c) *Copies.* Parties shall file an original and three copies of all documents and papers required or permitted to be filed under this subpart (except the transcript of testimony and exhibits), unless otherwise specifically provided by the Board.

§ 622.19 Service.

(a) *Service.* Except as otherwise provided in these rules, each party who files papers is responsible for serving a copy thereof upon the presiding officer and upon every other party or the attorney or representative of record of that party. A copy of all papers filed by the presiding officer or the Board, except for the transcript of testimony and exhibits, shall be served upon each of the parties. Service may be by personal service, private delivery service, or by express, certified or regular first-class mail. If a party is not represented, service shall be made at the last known address of the party or an officer thereof as shown on the records of the FCA.

(b) *Proof of service.* Proof of service of papers filed by a party shall be filed before action is to be taken thereon. The proof shall show the date and manner of service, and may be by written acknowledgment of service, by declaration of the person making service, or by certificate of an attorney or other

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representative of record. Failure to make proof of service shall not affect the validity of service. The presiding officer may allow the proof to be amended or supplied, unless to do so would result in material prejudice to a party.

§ 622.20 Documents in proceedings confidential.

Unless otherwise ordered by the Board or required by law, the entire record in any proceeding under this subpart, including the notice of hearing, transcript, exhibits, proposed findings and conclusions, recommended decision of the presiding officer, exceptions thereto, decision and order of the Board, and any other papers which are filed in connection with the proceeding shall not be made public, and shall be for the confidential use only of the FCA and its staff, the presiding officer, the parties, and other appropriate supervisory authorities.

§ 622.21 Computing time.

(a) *General rule.* In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by this subpart, the date of the act or event from which the designated period of time begins to run is not to be included. The last day so computed shall be included, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday, in which event the period shall run until the end of the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday. When the period of time prescribed or allowed is 10 days or less, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays shall not be included in the computation.

(b) *Service by mail.* Whenever any party has the right or is required to do some act within the period of time prescribed in this subpart after the service upon the party of any document or other paper of any kind, and such service is made by mail, three days shall be added to the prescribed period from the date when the matter served is deposited in the United States mail.

§ 622.22 Retained authority.

Nothing in this part is in derogation of powers of examination and investigation conferred on the FCA by any provision of law.

§§ 622.23–622.50 [Reserved]

Subpart B—Rules and Procedures for Assessment and Collection of Civil Money Penalties

SOURCE: 53 FR 27284, July 19, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 622.51 Definitions.

Unless noted otherwise, the definitions set forth in § 622.2 of subpart A shall apply to this subpart.

§ 622.52 Purpose and scope.

The rules and procedures specified in this subpart and in subpart A are applicable to proceedings by the FCA to assess and collect civil money penalties:

- (a) For a violation of the terms of a final cease and desist order issued under section 5.25 or 5.26 of the Act, or
- (b) For violation of any provision of the Act or any regulation issued under the Act.

§ 622.53 Notification of alleged violations.

Before determining whether to assess a civil money penalty and determining the amount of such penalty, the FCA shall notify the institution or person to be assessed of the violation(s) alleged to have occurred or to be occurring, and shall solicit the written views of the institution or person regarding the imposition of such penalty.

§ 622.54 Relevant considerations.

In determining the amount of any penalty assessed, the FCA shall consider the financial resources and good faith of the institution or person charged, the gravity of the violation, any previous violations, and such other matters as justice may require.

§ 622.55 Notice of assessment of civil money penalty.

(a) *Notice of assessment.* After considering any written materials submitted in accordance with § 622.53 and the factors stated in § 622.54, the FCA shall commence a civil money penalty proceeding with the issuance of a notice of assessment of a civil money penalty. The notice of assessment shall state:

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(1) The legal authority for the assessment;

(2) The amount of the civil money penalty being assessed;

(3) The date by which the civil money penalty shall be paid;

(4) The matter of fact or law constituting the grounds for assessment of the civil money penalty;

(5) The right of the institution or person being assessed to a formal hearing to challenge the assessment in accordance with 12 U.S.C. 2268(c) and (d);

(6) That failure to request a hearing constitutes a waiver of the opportunity for a hearing and the notice of assessment shall constitute a final and unappealable order in accordance with 12 U.S.C. 2268(c); and

(7) The time limit to request such a formal hearing.

(b) *Service.* The notice of assessment may be served upon the institution or person being assessed by personal service or by certified mail with a return receipt to the institution's or the person's last known address. Such service constitutes issuance of the notice.

§ 622.56 Request for formal hearing on assessment.

An institution or person being assessed may request a formal hearing to challenge the assessment of a civil money penalty. The request must be filed in writing, within 10 days of the issuance of the notice of assessment, with the Chairman of the Board, FCA, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, VA 22102-5090.

§ 622.57 Waiver of hearing; consent.

(a) *Waiver.* Failure to request a hearing pursuant to § 622.56 constitutes a waiver of the opportunity for a hearing and the notice of assessment issued pursuant to § 622.55 shall constitute a final and unappealable order.

(b) *Consent.* Any party afforded a hearing who does not appear at the hearing personally or by a duly authorized representative is deemed to have consented to the issuance of an assessment order.

§ 622.58 Hearing on assessment.

(a) *Time and place.* An institution or person requesting a hearing shall be in-

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formed by order of the Board of the time and place set for hearing.

(b) *Answer; procedures.* The hearing order may require the institution or person requesting the hearing to file an answer as prescribed in § 622.5 of subpart A. The procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 554-557) and subpart A of these rules shall apply to the hearing.

§ 622.59 Assessment order.

(a) *Consent.* In the event of consent of the parties concerned to an assessment, or if, upon the record made at a hearing ordered under this subpart, the Board finds that the grounds for having assessed the penalty have been established, the Board may issue an order of assessment of civil money penalty. In its assessment order, the Board may reduce the amount of the penalty specified in the notice of assessment.

(b) *Effective date and period.* An assessment order is effective immediately upon issuance, or upon such other date as may be specified therein, and shall remain effective and enforceable unless it is stayed, modified, terminated, or set aside by action of the board or a reviewing court.

(c) *Service.* An assessment order may be served by personal service or by certified mail with a return receipt to the last known address of the institution or person being assessed. Such service constitutes issuance of the order.

§ 622.60 Payment of civil money penalty.

(a) *Payment date.* Generally, the date designated in the notice of assessment for payment of the civil money penalty will be 60 days from the issuance of the notice. If, however, the Board finds, in a specific case, that the purposes of the statute would be better served if the 60-day period were changed, the Board may shorten or lengthen the period or make the civil money penalty payable immediately upon receipt of the notice of assessment. If a timely request for a formal hearing to challenge an assessment of a civil money penalty is filed, payment of the penalty shall not be required unless and until the Board issues a final order of assessment following the hearing. If an assessment order is issued, it will specify the date

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by which the civil money penalty is to be paid or collected.

(b) *Method of payment.* Checks in payment of civil money penalties should be made payable to the “Farm Credit Administration.” Upon collection, the FCA shall forward the amount of the penalty to the Treasury of the United States.

§ 622.61 Adjustment of civil money penalties by the rate of inflation pursuant to section 31001(s) of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996.

(a) A civil money penalty imposed pursuant to section 5.32 of the Act for a violation occurring after October 23, 1996 of a final cease and desist order issued under section 5.25 or 5.26 of the Act shall not exceed \$1,100 per day for each day the violation continues.

(b) A civil money penalty imposed pursuant to section 5.32 of the Act for a violation occurring after October 23, 1996 of any provision of the Act or any regulation issued under the Act shall not exceed \$550 per day for each day the violation continues.

[61 FR 54729, Oct. 22, 1996]

§§ 622.62–622.75 [Reserved]

Subpart C—Rules and Procedures Applicable to Suspension or Removal of an Individual Where Certain Crimes Are Charged or Proven

§ 622.76 Definitions.

Unless noted otherwise, the definitions set forth in § 622.2 of subpart A shall apply to this subpart.

§ 622.77 Purpose and scope.

The rules and procedures set forth in this subpart apply to informal hearings afforded to any officer, director, or other person participating in the conduct of the affairs of a System institution who has been suspended or removed from office or prohibited from further participation in any manner in the conduct of the institution's affairs by a notice or order issued by the Board upon the grounds set forth in section 5.29 of the Act.

§ 622.78 Suspension, prohibition or removal.

(a) *Content.* The Board may serve a notice of suspension or prohibition or order of removal upon a director, officer or other person participating in the conduct of the affairs of an institution. A copy of such notice or order shall also be served upon the institution, whereupon the individual concerned shall immediately cease service to the institution or participation in the affairs of the institution. Any notice or order shall indicate the basis for the suspension, prohibition, or removal and shall inform the individual of the right to request in writing, within 30 days of being served with such notice or order, an opportunity to show at an informal hearing that continued service to or participation in the conduct of the affairs of the institution does not, or is not likely to, pose a threat to the interests of the institution's shareholders or the investors in Farm Credit System obligations or threaten to impair public confidence in the institution or the Farm Credit System.

(b) *Service.* A notice or order of suspension, removal or prohibition may be served by personal service or by certified mail with a return receipt to the last known address of the person being served.

§ 622.79 Petition for informal hearing.

(a) *Filing.* To obtain a hearing, the subject individual must file an original and three copies of a petition with the Board within 30 days of being served with the notice or order.

(b) *Content.* The petition shall:

(1) State whether the petitioner is requesting termination or modification of the notice or order;

(2) State with particularity how the petitioner intends to show that his or her continued service to or participation in the conduct of the affairs of the institution would not, or is not likely to, pose a threat to the interests of the institution's shareholders or the investors in Farm Credit System obligations or threaten to impair public confidence in the institution or the Farm Credit System;

(3) Include a request to present oral testimony or witnesses at the hearing, if the petitioner desires to do so. The

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request should specify the names of the witnesses and a summary of their expected testimony; and

(4) Indicate whether the petitioner desires oral argument or elects to have the matter determined solely on the basis of written submissions.

§ 622.80 Informal hearing.

(a) *Time and place.* Upon receipt of a timely petition for a hearing, the Board shall notify the petitioner of the time and place fixed for the hearing and shall designate one or more Board members or FCA employees to preside (“designated FCA representative”). The hearing shall be scheduled to be held no later than 30 days from the date a petition for hearing is received unless the time is extended at the request of the petitioner. Notice of the hearing shall also be sent to the FCA’s Office of General Counsel.

(b) *Appearance.* A petitioner may appear personally or through counsel to submit relevant written materials and oral argument. An attorney is subject to all the requirements and limitations imposed on attorneys in § 622.3 of subpart A. A representative(s) of the FCA’s Office of General Counsel may participate in the hearing to the extent such representative deems appropriate.

(c) *Written material.* Any written material the petitioner wishes to have considered must be submitted to the designated FCA representative and the FCA’s Office of General Counsel at least 10 days prior to the date of the hearing.

(d) *Oral testimony.* Oral testimony may be presented only if expressly permitted by the Board in the notice of hearing. The designated FCA representative may ask questions of any witness.

(e) *Transcripts.* Oral testimony, if any, and oral argument shall be recorded. A copy of the transcript shall be filed with the designated FCA representative, who shall have authority to correct the record sua sponte upon notice, or upon the motion of the petitioner or the representative of the FCA’s Office of General Counsel. The designated FCA representative shall promptly serve notice upon the petitioner and the FCA’s Office of General Counsel of such filing. Such parties

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shall make arrangements with the person recording the testimony or argument for copies of the transcript.

(f) *Closing of record.* Upon the request of the petitioner or representative of the FCA’s Office of General Counsel, the record shall remain open for a period of 5 business days following the hearing, during which time additional submissions for the record may be made. Thereafter, the record shall be closed.

(g) *Rules of evidence and procedure.* Neither the formal rules of evidence nor the adjudicative procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 554–557) or subpart A of these rules shall apply to the informal hearing ordered under this subpart unless the Board orders that they apply in whole or in part.

§ 622.81 Default.

If the subject individual fails to file a petition for a hearing, or fails to appear at a hearing, either in person or by an attorney, or fails to submit a written argument where oral argument has been waived, the notice shall remain in effect until the information, indictment, or complaint is finally disposed of and the order shall remain in effect until terminated by the Board.

§ 622.82 Decision of the Board.

(a) *Recommended decision.* Within 30 days of the hearing, the designated FCA representative shall make a recommendation with findings and conclusions to the Board concerning the notice or order of suspension, removal, or prohibition.

(b) *Final decision.* Within 60 days of the hearing, the Board shall notify the subject individual and the FCA’s Office of General Counsel whether the suspension or removal from office, or prohibition from participation in any manner in the affairs of the institution, will be continued, terminated, or otherwise modified. The Board’s final decision, if adverse to the individual, shall contain a statement of the basis thereof. The Board may satisfy this requirement where it adopts the recommended decision of the designated FCA representative.

(c) *Guilt not an issue.* In deciding upon any suspension of prohibition by notice, the ultimate question of the guilt or innocence of the individual with respect to the criminal charge that is outstanding will not be considered. A finding of not guilty or other disposition of the charge shall not preclude the Board from thereafter instituting removal proceedings pursuant to section 5.28 of the Act.

(d) *Effective period.* A removal or prohibition by order remains in effect until terminated by the Board. A suspension or prohibition by notice remains in effect until the criminal charge is finally disposed of or until terminated by the Board.

(e) *Reconsideration.* A suspended or removed individual may petition the Board to reconsider the decision any time after the expiration of a 12-month period from the date of the decision, but no petition for reconsideration may be made within 12 months of a previous petition. A petition shall state with particularity the relief sought and the grounds therefor and may be accompanied by a supporting memorandum and any other documentation the petitioner wishes to have considered. No hearing need be granted on the petition for reconsideration.

§§ 622.83—622.100 [Reserved]

**Subpart D—Rules and Procedures
Applicable to Formal Investigations**

§ 622.101 Definitions.

Unless noted otherwise, the definitions set forth in § 622.2 of subpart A shall apply to this subpart.

§ 622.102 Scope.

The rules in this subpart apply to formal investigations initiated by order of the Board and pertain to the exercise of powers specified in section 5.37 of the Act. These rules do not restrict or in any way affect the authority of the FCA, including but not limited to the powers enumerated in section 5.37 of the Act, to conduct examinations of System institutions.

§ 622.103 Formal investigations are confidential.

Information or documents obtained or testimony recorded in the course of a formal investigation shall be confidential and shall be disclosed only in accordance with the provisions of 12 CFR part 602.

§ 622.104 Order to conduct formal investigation.

A formal investigation begins with the issuance of an order by the Board. The order shall designate the person or persons who will conduct the investigation, issue, revoke, quash or modify subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum, take or cause to be taken depositions, administer oaths, and receive affirmations as to any matter under investigation by the FCA. Upon application and for good cause shown, the Board may limit, modify, or withdraw the order at any stage of the proceeding.

§ 622.105 Conduct of investigation.

(a) *Review of order.* Any person who is compelled or requested to furnish testimony, documentary evidence, or other information with respect to any matter under formal investigation shall upon request be shown the order initiating such investigation.

(b) *Right to counsel.* Any person who, in a formal investigation, is compelled to appear and testify or who appears and testifies by request or permission of the Board may be accompanied, represented, and advised by counsel. The right to be accompanied, represented, and advised by counsel shall mean the right of a person testifying to have an attorney present at all times while testifying and to have this attorney:

(1) Advise such person before, during and after the conclusion of testimony;

(2) Question such person briefly at the conclusion of testimony to clarify any of the answers given; and

(3) Make summary notes during the testimony solely for the use of such person.

(c) *Appearance.* The provisions of § 622.3 are applicable to this subpart.

(d) *Exclusion.* (1) Any person who has given or will give testimony, and counsel representing such person, may be excluded from the taking of testimony of any other witness in the discretion

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of the designated FCA representative conducting the investigation.

(2) The designated FCA representative conducting the investigation shall report to the Board any instances where any person has been guilty of dilatory, obstructionist, egregious, contemptuous, contumacious or other unethical or improper conduct during the course of the proceeding or any other instance involving a violation of these rules. The Board may thereupon take such action as the circumstances may warrant, including exclusion of the offending individual or individual from participation in the proceeding.

§ 622.106 Service of subpoena and payment of witness fees.

(a) *Service.* A subpoena may be served upon the person named therein by personal service or certified mail with a return receipt to the last known address of the person. Witnesses who are subpoenaed shall be paid the same fees and mileage that are paid witnesses in the district courts of the United States. The fees and mileage need not be tendered at the time a subpoena is served.

(b) *Motions to quash.* Any person to whom a subpoena is directed may, prior to the time specified therein for compliance, but in no event more than 5 days after the date of service of such subpoena, apply to the FCA representative authorized in the order, or if unavailable to the Board, to quash or modify such subpoena, accompanying such application with a brief statement of the reasons therefor. The FCA representative, or the Board, may:

- (1) Deny the application;
- (2) Quash or revoke the subpoena;
- (3) Modify the subpoena; or
- (4) Condition the granting of the application on such terms as the FCA representative or the Board, determines in his, her, or its discretion, to be just, reasonable, and proper.

§ 622.107 Transcripts.

Transcripts, if any, of an investigative proceeding shall be recorded by any means authorized by the designated FCA representative conducting the investigation. A person who has given testimony in an investigative proceeding (or counsel for such person)

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upon proper identification shall have the right to inspect the transcript of the person's testimony but may not obtain a copy if the FCA's representative conducting the investigation has cause to believe that the contents should not be disclosed.

PART 623—PRACTICE BEFORE THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

Sec.

623.1 Scope of part.

623.2 Definitions.

623.3 Who may practice.

623.4 Suspension and debarment.

623.5 Reinstatement.

623.6 Duty to file information concerning adverse judicial or administrative action.

623.7 Proceeding under this part.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 5.9, 5.10, 5.17, 5.25–5.37; 12 U.S.C. 2243, 2244, 2252, 2261–2273.

SOURCE: 51 FR 21147, June 11, 1986, unless otherwise noted.

§ 623.1 Scope of part.

This part prescribes rules with regard to persons who may practice before the Farm Credit Administration and the circumstances under which attorneys, accountants, appraisers, or other persons may be suspended or debarred, either temporarily or permanently, from practicing before the Farm Credit Administration. In connection with any particular matter, reference also should be made to any special requirements of procedure and practice that may be contained in the particular statute involved or the rules and forms adopted by the Farm Credit Administration thereunder, which special requirements are controlling. In addition to any suspension hereunder, a person may be excluded from further participation in a particular adjudicative proceeding in accordance with § 622.3 or in a formal investigation in accordance with § 622.105.

§ 623.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *FCA* means the Farm Credit Administration.

(b) *Board* means the Farm Credit Administration Board.

(c) *Act* means the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended. 12 U.S.C. 2001, et seq.

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(d) The terms *institution in the System*, *System institution* and *institution* mean all institutions enumerated in section 1.2 of the Act, any institution chartered pursuant to or established by the Act, except for the Farm Credit System Assistance Board and the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation and any service organization chartered under part E of title IV of the Act.

(e) The term *presiding officer* includes the Board, one or more members thereof, FCA employees, or an administrative law judge. As used in this part, the term shall be construed to refer to whichever of the above-identified individuals presides at a hearing or other proceeding, except as otherwise specified in the text;

(f) The term *attorney* means any person who is a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of any State, possession, territory, Commonwealth or the District of Columbia;

(g) The term *practice* means transacting any business with the FCA, including but not limited to:

(1) The representation of another person at any adjudicatory, investigatory, removal or rulemaking proceeding conducted before the FCA or a presiding officer;

(2) The preparation or certification of any statement, opinion, report of financial condition and performance, financial statement, appraisal report, audit report, or other document or report by any attorney, accountant, appraiser or other person which is filed with or submitted to the FCA, with such person's consent or knowledge in connection with any filing with the FCA;

(3) A presentation to the FCA or a presiding officer at a conference or meeting relating to an institution's or person's rights, privileges or liabilities under the laws administered by the FCA and rules and regulations promulgated thereunder;

(4) Any business correspondence or communication with the FCA or a presiding officer; and

(5) The transaction of any other business with the FCA on behalf of another, in the capacity of an attorney,

accountant, appraiser, licensed expert or any other capacity.

[51 FR 21147, June 11, 1986, as amended at 53 FR 27285, July 19, 1988]

§ 623.3 Who may practice.

(a) *By nonattorneys.* (1) An individual may appear on his or her own behalf; a member of a partnership may represent the partnership; a bona fide and duly authorized officer or other designated representative of a corporation, trust, association or other entity not specifically listed herein may represent the corporation, trust, association or other entity; and an authorized officer or other designated representative of any government unit, agency or authority may represent that unit, agency or authority.

(2) Any accountant, appraiser or licensed expert may practice before the FCA in a professional capacity.

(b) *By attorneys.* Any entity noted in paragraph (a) of this section may be represented in any proceeding or other matter before the FCA by an attorney.

(c) Any person transacting business with the FCA in a representative capacity may be required to show evidence of his or her authority to act in such capacity and certification of credentials.

§ 623.4 Suspension and debarment.

(a) *Grounds.* The Board may censure any person practicing before the FCA or may deny, temporarily or permanently, the privilege of any person to practice before the FCA if such person is found by the Board, after notice of and opportunity for hearing in the matter:

(1) Not to possess the requisite qualifications to represent others;

(2) To be lacking in character or professional integrity;

(3) To have engaged in any dilatory, obstructionist, egregious, contemptuous, contumacious or other unethical or improper conduct before FCA; or

(4) To have willfully violated, or willfully aided and abetted the violation of, any provision of the laws administered by the FCA or the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

(b) *Automatic suspension.* (1) Any person who, after being licensed as a professional or expert by any competent

authority, has been convicted by a Federal or State court of a felony, or of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, personal dishonesty or breach of trust, shall be suspended automatically from practicing before the FCA without a hearing.

(2) Any accountant, appraiser or licensed expert whose license to practice has been revoked in any State, possession, territory, Commonwealth or the District of Columbia, or who has been suspended or otherwise barred from practice before any Federal or State regulatory authority, shall be suspended automatically from practicing before the FCA without a hearing.

(3) Any attorney who has been suspended or disbarred by a court of the United States or in any State, possession, territory, Commonwealth or the District of Columbia, shall be suspended automatically from practicing before the FCA without a hearing.

(4) A conviction (including a judgment or order on a plea of *nolo contendere*), revocation, suspension or disbarment under paragraphs (b)(1), (2) and (3) of this section shall be deemed to have occurred when the convicting, revoking, suspending or disbarring agency or tribunal enters its judgment or order, regardless of whether an appeal is pending or could be taken.

(5) For purposes of this section, it shall be irrelevant that any attorney, accountant, appraiser or licensed expert who has been suspended, disbarred or otherwise disqualified from practice before a court, regulatory authority, or in a jurisdiction continues in professional good standing before other courts, regulatory authorities, or in other jurisdictions.

(c) *Temporary suspension.* (1) The Board, with due regard to the public interest and without preliminary hearing, by order, may temporarily suspend any person from appearing or practicing before it who by name, has been:

(i) Permanently enjoined (whether by consent, default or summary judgment or after trial) by any court of competent jurisdiction or by the Board in a final administrative order, by reason of his or her misconduct in any action brought by the FCA based upon violations of, or aiding and abetting the violation of any provision of any law that

is administered by the FCA or of any rule or regulation promulgated thereunder; or

(ii) Found by any court of competent jurisdiction (whether by consent, default, upon summary judgment or after hearing) or in any administrative proceeding in which the FCA is a complainant and he or she is a party, to have willfully committed, caused, aided or abetted a violation of any provision of any law that is administered by the FCA, or of any rule or regulation promulgated thereunder.

(2) An order of temporary suspension shall become effective when served by certified mail with a return receipt directed to the last known business or residential address of the person involved. No order of temporary suspension shall be entered by the Board pursuant to paragraph (c)(1) of this section more than 3 months after the final judgment or order entered in a judicial or administrative proceeding described in paragraph (c)(1) (i) or (ii) of this section has become effective and all review or appeal procedures have been completed or are no longer available.

(3) Any person temporarily suspended from appearing and practicing before the FCA in accordance with paragraph (c)(1) of this section may, within 30 days after service of the order of temporary suspension, petition the Board to lift such suspension. If no petition is received by the Board within 30 days, the suspension shall become permanent.

(4) Within 30 days after the filing of a petition in accordance with paragraph (c)(3) of this section, the Board shall either lift the temporary suspension or set the matter down for hearing at a time and place to be designated by the Board, or both. After opportunity for hearing, the Board may censure the petitioner or may suspend the petitioner from appearing or practicing before the FCA temporarily or permanently. In any case in which the temporary suspension has not been lifted, the hearing and any other action taken pursuant to this paragraph shall be expedited by the Board in order to ensure the petitioner's right to address the allegations.

(5) In any hearing held on a petition filed in accordance with paragraph

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(c)(3) of this section, a showing that the petitioner has been enjoined or has been found to have committed, caused, aided or abetted violations as described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, without more, may be a basis for suspension or debarment; that showing having been made, the burden shall then be on the petitioner to show why the petitioner should not be censured or be temporarily or permanently suspended or debarred. A petitioner will not be permitted to contest any findings against the petitioner or any admissions made by the petitioner in the judicial or administrative proceedings upon which the proposed censure, suspension or debarment is based. A petitioner who has consented to the entry of a permanent injunction or order as described in paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section, without admitting the facts set forth in the complaint, shall nevertheless be presumed for all purposes under this section to have been enjoined or ordered by reason of the misconduct alleged in the complaint.

§ 623.5 Reinstatement.

(a) Any person who is suspended from practicing before the FCA under § 623.4 (a) or (c) of this part may file an application for reinstatement at any time. Denial of the privilege of practicing before the FCA shall continue unless and until the applicant has been reinstated by order of the Board for good cause shown.

(b) Any person suspended under § 623.4(b) shall be reinstated by the Board, upon appropriate application, if all of the grounds for application of the provisions of that paragraph are removed subsequently by a reversal of the conviction or termination of the suspension, disbarment or revocation. An application for reinstatement on any other grounds by any person suspended under § 623.4(b) may be filed at any time. Such application shall state with particularity the relief requested and the grounds therefor and shall include supporting evidence, when available. The applicant shall be accorded an opportunity for an informal hearing in the matter, unless the applicant has waived a hearing in the application and, instead, has elected to have the matter determined on the basis of writ-

ten submissions. Such hearing shall utilize the procedures established in part 622, subpart C. However, such suspension shall continue unless and until the applicant has been reinstated by order of the Board for good cause shown.

§ 623.6 Duty to file information concerning adverse judicial or administrative action.

Any person appearing or practicing before the FCA who has been or is the subject of a conviction, suspension, debarment, license revocation, injunction or other finding of the kind described in § 623.4 (b) or (c) of this part is an action not instituted by the FCA shall promptly file a copy of the relevant order, judgment or decree with the Board together with any related opinion or statement of the agency or tribunal involved. Any person who fails to file a copy of such an order, judgment or decree within 30 days after the later of the entry of the order, judgment or decree, or the date such person initiates practice before the FCA, for that reason alone may be disqualified from practicing before the FCA until such time as the appropriate filing shall be made, but neither the filing of these documents nor the failure of a person to file them shall in any way impair the operation of any other provision of this part.

§ 623.7 Proceeding under this part.

(a) *Rules.* All hearings required or permitted to be held under paragraphs (a) and (c) of § 623.4 of this part shall be held before a presiding officer utilizing the procedures established in the rules of practice and procedure under part 622, subpart A.

(b) *Closed hearings.* All hearings held under this part shall be closed to the public unless the Board directs otherwise on its own motion or upon the request of a party.

(c) *Collateral proceedings.* Any proceeding brought under any section of this part shall not preclude a proceeding under any other section of this part or any other part of the FCA's regulations.

PART 624—REGULATORY ACCOUNTING PRACTICES

Sec.

624.100 General.

624.101 Definitions.

624.102 Deferral of interest costs on debt.

624.103 Deferral of the provisions for loan losses.

624.104 Interest rate evaluation.

624.105 Financial reporting and disclosure.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 1.1, 1.5, 2.2, 2.12, 3.1, 4.8, 5.17, 5.19; 12 U.S.C. 2001, 2013, 2073, 2093, 2122, 2159, 2252, 2254.

SOURCE: 53 FR 40050, Oct. 13, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 624.100 General.

(a) The regulations contained in this part implement the provisions of the Act relating to the authorities, terms, conditions, and restrictions pursuant to which a Farm Credit System institution may use regulatory accounting practices to defer and capitalize a portion of its interest costs, provisions for loan losses, and premiums paid to retire debt instruments, and to amortize such amounts.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this part, if an institution requests that the Farm Credit System Assistance Board (Assistance Board) certify the institution to issue preferred stock in accordance with title VI of the Act, the Assistance Board may further restrict the continued use of regulatory accounting practices by the institution as provided in section 6.6 of the Act.

(c) The authority to defer and capitalize costs is effective until December 31, 1992. Amounts capitalized through December 31, 1992 may be amortized over the full amortization period of 20 years, but in no instance beyond December 31, 2012.

§ 624.101 Definitions.

For the purpose of this part, the following definitions apply:

(a) *Generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP)* means that body of conventions, rules and procedures necessary to define accepted accounting practice at a particular time, as promulgated by the Financial Accounting Standards Board and other authoritative sources recognized as setting standards for the accounting profession

in the United States. Generally accepted accounting principles shall include not only broad guidelines of general application but also detailed practices and procedures that constitute standards against which financial presentations are evaluated.

(b) *Institution* means any bank or association chartered under the Act.

(c) *Loans outstanding* means gross loans outstanding net of any participations sold at the end of each reporting period. The term *loan* includes loans, participations purchased, contracts of sale, notes receivable, and other similar obligations and lease financings. The term *loan* includes loans originated through direct negotiations between the reporting institution and a borrowing entity and loans or interest in loans purchased from another lender that are recorded as assets of a reporting institution.

(d) *Regulatory accounting practices (RAP)* means those accounting methods and practices directed by statutory and regulatory requirements provided for in the Act and in this part and that are not in accordance with GAAP.

§ 624.102 Deferral of interest costs on debt.

(a) A bank may capitalize any premium paid to repurchase the bank's obligations on consolidated Systemwide notes and bonds issued on or before January 1, 1985, and may contract with a third party, including a service corporation chartered by the Farm Credit Administration, in order to perform a defeasance of these same obligations. The premium paid shall be the excess of the cost to repurchase or redeem an obligation over the recorded net book value for such obligation.

(b) A bank may capitalize a portion of its interest expenses which have been paid or will be paid during the period July 1, 1986, through December 31, 1992, on Systemwide and consolidated notes and bonds issued on or before January 1, 1985. The amount of a bank's interest expense on an obligation that may be capitalized shall be limited to the excess of the bank's cost on the obligation over the market price for the obligation on October 21, 1986.

(c) An institution that defers any expenses associated with actions taken in

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accordance with this section shall amortize such expenses over a period not to exceed 20 years using straight-line amortization. The unamortized portion of debt-related costs that are deferred or are eligible to be deferred shall not be considered as capital of the institution.

§ 624.103 Deferral of the provisions for loan losses.

An institution is authorized during the period July 1, 1986, through December 31, 1992, to capitalize the amount of its provision for loan losses made on an annual basis in excess of 1/2 of 1 percent of loans outstanding. An institution that defers a portion of its provision for loan losses in accordance with this section shall amortize such amount over a period to not exceed 20 years, using straight-line amortization. Institutions using RAP to defer their provisions for loan losses shall maintain an allowance for loan losses determined in accordance with GAAP.

§ 624.104 Interest rate evaluation.

An institution may take into consideration the use of RAP, among other factors, for purposes of evaluating the interest rates charged on loans. Such other factors include the institution's cost of funds, overhead, expected losses, margin to provide for adequate capital, return to stockholders, and any other relevant factors. In no event shall such an institution charge a rate of interest which is less than the competitive interest rates charged by other lending institutions in the same area, for a loan with similar terms, to a borrower of equivalent creditworthiness and access to alternative credit.

§ 624.105 Financial reporting and disclosure.

Each institution that uses RAP in accordance with the provisions of this part shall prepare and issue its financial statements to stockholders in accordance with part 620 of this chapter. In addition, each such institution shall disclose clearly in the management commentary to its financial statements the purpose and use of the regulatory accounting practices adopted by the institution and shall reconcile the

differences between the application of GAAP and RAP.

PART 625—APPLICATION FOR AWARD OF FEES AND OTHER EXPENSES UNDER THE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT

Subpart A—General Provisions

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- 625.2 Proceedings covered.
- 625.3 Eligibility of applicants.
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- 625.28 Judicial review.
- 625.29 Payment of award.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 504, 12 U.S.C. 2252.

SOURCE: 57 FR 60109, Dec. 18, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 625.1 Purpose.

These rules implement the Equal Access to Justice Act, 5 U.S.C. 504 (EAJA). The EAJA provides for the award of attorney fees and other expenses to eligible individuals and entities who are parties to certain administrative proceedings (designated by the EAJA as "adversary adjudications") before Federal agencies. An eligible party may receive an award when it prevails over an agency, unless the agency's position was substantially justified or special circumstances make an award unjust. The rules in this part explain how the EAJA applies

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to Farm Credit Administration (FCA) proceedings. The rules describe the parties eligible for awards, how such parties may apply for awards, and the procedures and standards that govern FCA consideration of applications.

§ 625.2 Proceedings covered.

(a) The EAJA applies to adversary adjudications conducted by the FCA either on its own behalf or in connection with any other agency of the United States that participates in or in any way is a part of the adversary adjudication. Adversary adjudications are:

(1) Adjudications under 5 U.S.C. 554 in which the position of the FCA or other agency is presented by an attorney or other representative who enters an appearance and participates in the proceeding; and

(2) Enforcement proceedings under 12 U.S.C. 2261–2273.

(b) The failure of the FCA to identify a type of proceeding as an adversary adjudication shall not preclude the filing of an application by a party who believes that the proceeding is covered by the EAJA; whether the proceeding is covered shall then be an issue for resolution in proceedings on the application.

(c) If a proceeding includes both matters covered and excluded from coverage by the EAJA, any award made will include only fees and expenses related to covered issues.

(d) Proceedings under this part may be conducted by the FCA Board (Board) or by the presiding officer (referred to as the “adjudicative officer” in the EAJA), as defined in § 622.2(f) of this chapter. If the Board conducts proceedings, reference to the “presiding officer” in this part shall mean the Board, in applicable context. Where the Board presides, the recommended decision under § 625.26 of this part will be omitted and the Board will make a final decision on the application in accordance with § 625.27 of this part.

(e) If a court reviews the underlying decision of the adversary adjudication, an award for fees and other expenses may be made only pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2412(d)(3).

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§ 625.3 Eligibility of applicants.

(a) To be eligible for an award under the EAJA, an applicant must be a prevailing party named or admitted to the adversary adjudication for which an award is sought. The applicant must show that it meets all conditions of eligibility set out in this subpart and in subpart B of this part.

(b) The types of eligible applicants are as follows:

(1) An individual with a net worth of \$2 million or less;

(2) The sole owner of an unincorporated business who has both a net worth of \$7 million or less (including personal and business interests), and 500 or fewer employees;

(3) A charitable or other tax-exempt organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)) with 500 or fewer employees;

(4) A cooperative association as defined in section 15(a) of the Agricultural Marketing Act (12 U.S.C. 1141j(a)) with 500 or fewer employees; and

(5) Any other partnership, corporation, association, unit of local government, or organization with a net worth of \$7 million or less and 500 or fewer employees.

(c) For eligibility purposes, the net worth and number of employees of an applicant shall be determined as of the date the adversary adjudication was initiated.

(d) An applicant who owns an unincorporated business will be considered as an “individual” rather than a “sole owner of an unincorporated business” if the issues on which the applicant prevails are related primarily to personal interests rather than to business interests.

(e) The employees of an applicant include all persons who regularly perform services for remuneration for that applicant, under the applicant’s direction and control. Part-time employees shall be included on a proportional basis.

(f) The net worth and number of employees of the applicant and all of its affiliates shall be aggregated to determine eligibility unless the presiding officer determines that aggregation would be unjust and contrary to the purposes of the EAJA in light of the

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actual relationship between the affiliated entities.

(1) For purposes of this part, an affiliate is:

(i) Any individual, corporation, or other entity that directly or indirectly controls or owns a majority of the voting shares or other interests of the applicant; or

(ii) Any corporation or other entity of which the applicant directly or indirectly owns or controls a majority of the voting shares or other interests.

(2) The presiding officer may determine that financial relationships of the applicant other than those described in paragraph (f)(1) of this section constitute special circumstances that would make an award unjust.

(g) An applicant that participates in an adversary adjudication primarily on behalf of one or more other persons or entities that would be ineligible is not itself eligible for an award.

§ 625.4 Standards for awards.

(a) If an eligible applicant prevails over the FCA in an adversary adjudication, or in a significant and discrete substantive portion thereof, the applicant may receive an award for fees and expenses incurred in the adjudication, or portion thereof, unless the position of the FCA over which the applicant prevailed was substantially justified.

(b) The position of the FCA includes:

(1) The position taken by the FCA in the adversary adjudication; and

(2) The action or inaction of the FCA upon which the adversary adjudication is based.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the FCA must prove that its position was substantially justified before an award may be denied to an otherwise eligible applicant.

(d) An award will be reduced or denied if the applicant has unduly or unreasonably protracted the adversary adjudication or if special circumstances make the award sought unjust.

§ 625.5 Allowable fees and expenses.

(a) Awards will be based on rates customarily charged by persons engaged in the business of acting as attorneys, agents, and expert witnesses, even if the services were made available with-

out charge or at a reduced rate to the applicant.

(b) No award for the fee of an attorney or agent under these rules may exceed \$75 per hour. No award to compensate an expert witness may exceed the highest rate at which the FCA pays expert witnesses. However, an award also may include the reasonable expenses of the attorney, agent, or expert witness as a separate item, if the attorney, agent, or expert witness ordinarily charges clients separately for such expenses.

(c) In determining the reasonableness of the fee sought for an attorney, agent, or expert witness, the presiding officer shall consider the following:

(1) If the attorney, agent, or expert witness is in private practice, his or her customary fees for similar services, or, if an employee of the applicant, the fully allocated costs of the services;

(2) The prevailing rate for similar services in the community in which the attorney, agent, or expert witness ordinarily performs services;

(3) The time actually spent in the representation of the applicant;

(4) The time reasonably spent in light of the difficulty or complexity of the issues in the adversary adjudication; and

(5) Such other factors as may bear on the value of the services provided.

(d) The reasonable cost of any study, analysis, audit, engineering report, test, project, or similar matter prepared on behalf of a party may be awarded, to the extent that the charge for the service does not exceed the prevailing rate for similar services, and the study or other matter was necessary for the preparation of the applicant's case.

§ 625.6 Rulemaking on maximum rates for attorney fees.

(a) If warranted by an increase in the cost of living or by special circumstances (such as limited availability of attorneys qualified to handle certain types of proceedings), the FCA may adopt regulations providing that attorney fees may be awarded at a rate higher than \$75 per hour in some or all of the types of proceedings covered by this part. The FCA will conduct any

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rulemaking proceedings for this purpose under the informal rulemaking procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act.

(b) Any person may file with the FCA a petition for rulemaking to increase the maximum rate for attorney fees. The petition should identify the rate the petitioner believes the FCA should establish and the types of proceedings in which the rate should be used. It should also explain fully the reasons why the higher rate is warranted. The FCA will respond to the petition within 90 days after it is filed, by initiating a rulemaking proceeding, denying the petition, or taking other appropriate action.

§ 625.7 Awards against other agencies.

If an applicant is entitled to an award because it prevails over another agency of the United States that participates in or in any way is a part of an adversary adjudication before the FCA and that agency's position is not substantially justified, the award or an appropriate portion of the award shall be made against that agency.

Subpart B—Applicant Information Required

§ 625.10 Contents of application.

(a) An application for an award of fees and other expenses under the EAJA shall identify the applicant and the adversary adjudication for which an award is sought. The application shall show that the applicant has prevailed in the adversary adjudication. If the application is made on the basis of significant and discrete substantive issues on which the applicant prevailed, the issues must be specifically identified. The application also shall identify each position of the FCA or other agencies that the applicant alleges was not substantially justified. Unless the applicant is an individual, the application shall describe briefly the type and purpose of its organization or business and state the number of persons employed.

(b) The application shall include a statement that the applicant's net worth does not exceed \$2 million (if an individual) or \$7 million (for all other applicants, including their affiliates).

However, an applicant may omit this statement if:

(1) It states that it has 500 employees or fewer and attaches a copy of a ruling by the Internal Revenue Service that it qualifies as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)) or, in the case of a tax-exempt organization not required to obtain a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service on its exempt status, a statement that describes the basis for the applicant's belief that it qualifies under such section; or

(2) It states that it is a cooperative association as defined in section 15(a) of the Agricultural Marketing Act (12 U.S.C. 1141j(a)) with 500 or fewer employees.

(c) The application shall state the total amount of fees and other expenses for which an award is sought.

(d) The application may include any other relevant matters that the applicant wishes the FCA to consider in determining whether and in what amount an award should be made.

(e) The application shall be signed by the applicant or an authorized officer or attorney of the applicant. The application must contain a written verification under oath or under penalty of perjury that the information provided in the application and any supporting documents is accurate.

§ 625.11 Net worth exhibit.

(a) Each applicant, except a qualified tax-exempt organization or cooperative association, must provide with its application a detailed exhibit showing the net worth of the applicant and any affiliates (as defined in § 625.3(f)(1) of this part) as of the date when the adversary adjudication was initiated. The exhibit may be in any convenient form that provides full disclosure of the assets and liabilities of the applicant and its affiliates and is otherwise sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant qualifies under the standards in this part. The presiding officer may require an applicant to file additional information supporting its eligibility for an award.

(b) An applicant that objects to public disclosure of information in any portion of the net worth exhibit and believes there are legal grounds for

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withholding it from disclosure may submit that portion of the exhibit directly to the presiding officer in a sealed envelope labeled “Confidential Financial Information,” accompanied by a motion under §622.11 of this chapter to withhold the information from public disclosure. The motion shall describe the information sought to be withheld and explain, in detail, why it falls within one or more of the specific exemptions from mandatory disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552(b) (1)–(9), why public disclosure of the information would adversely affect the applicant, and why disclosure is not required in the public interest. The material in question shall be served on counsel representing the FCA, but need not be served on any other party to the application proceeding. If the presiding officer, or the FCA Board pursuant to §622.11(e) of this chapter, finds that the information should not be withheld from disclosure, it shall be placed in the public record of the application proceeding. Otherwise, any request to inspect or copy the exhibit shall be treated in accordance with the FCA’s procedures regarding release of information (12 CFR part 602).

§ 625.12 Documentation of fees and expenses.

The application shall be accompanied by full documentation of the fees and expenses, including the cost of any study, analysis, audit, engineering report, test, project, or similar matter, for which an award is sought. A separate itemized statement shall be submitted for each professional firm or individual whose services are covered by the application, showing the hours spent in connection with the proceeding by each individual, a description of the specific services performed, the rates at which each fee has been computed, any expenses for which reimbursement is sought, and the total amount paid or payable by the applicant or by any other person or entity for the services provided. Under §625.25 of this part, the presiding officer may require the applicant to provide vouchers, receipts, logs, or other substantiation for any fees or expenses claimed.

§ 625.13 When an application may be filed.

(a) An application may be filed whenever the applicant has prevailed in the adversary adjudication, or in a significant and discrete substantive portion thereof, but in no case later than 30 days after the FCA’s final disposition of the adversary adjudication.

(b) For purposes of this rule, final disposition means the date on which a decision or order disposing of the merits of the adversary adjudication is issued or any other complete resolution of the adversary adjudication, such as a settlement or voluntary dismissal, becomes final and is unreviewable by the FCA, any other administrative body, or the courts.

(c) If review, reconsideration, or appeal is sought or taken of an adversary adjudication decision as to which an applicant believes it has prevailed, application proceedings for any award of fees and other expenses shall be stayed pending final disposition of the underlying controversy.

Subpart C—Procedures for Considering Applications

§ 625.20 Settlement.

A prevailing party and the FCA through its counsel may agree on a proposed settlement of an award at any time, either in connection with a settlement of the underlying adversary adjudication or after the underlying adversary adjudication has been concluded. If a prevailing party and the FCA counsel agree on a proposed settlement of an award, the proposed settlement must be submitted to the presiding officer for a recommended decision pursuant to §625.26 of this part. If it has not been previously filed, the application must be submitted to the presiding officer along with the proposed settlement.

§ 625.21 Filing and service of documents.

Any application for an award or other pleading or document related to an application shall be filed and served on all parties to the adversary adjudication in the same manner as other pleadings in the adversary adjudication

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(see §§ 622.18 and 622.19 of this chapter), except as provided in § 625.11(b) of this part for confidential financial information.

§ 625.22 Answer to application.

(a) Within 30 days after service, counsel for the FCA may file an answer to the application. Unless the FCA counsel requests an extension of time for filing or a statement of intent to negotiate under paragraph (c) of this section is filed, the presiding officer, upon a satisfactory showing of entitlement by the applicant, may make an award for the applicant's fees and other expenses under the EAJA.

(b) The answer shall set forth any objections to the requested award and identify the facts relied on in support of the FCA's position. If the answer is based on any alleged facts not already in the record of the adversary adjudication, the FCA counsel shall include with the answer either supporting affidavits or a request for further proceedings under § 625.25 of this part.

(c) If the FCA counsel and the applicant believe that the issues in the fee application can be settled, they may jointly file a statement of their intent to negotiate a settlement. The filing of this statement shall extend the time for filing an answer for an additional 30 days, and further extensions may be granted by the presiding officer upon request by the FCA counsel and the applicant.

§ 625.23 Reply.

Within 15 days after service of an answer, the applicant may file a reply. If the reply is based on any alleged facts not already in the record of the adversary adjudication, the applicant shall include with the reply either supporting affidavits or a request for further proceedings under § 625.25 of this part.

§ 625.24 Comments by other parties.

Any party to a proceeding other than the applicant and FCA counsel may file comments on an application within 30 days after it is served or on an answer within 15 days after it is served. A commenting party may not participate further in proceedings on the application unless the presiding officer determines

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that the public interest requires such participation in order to permit full exploration of matters raised in the comments.

§ 625.25 Further proceedings.

(a) The determination of an award shall be made on the basis of the written record unless the presiding officer finds that further proceedings are necessary for full and fair resolution of the issues arising from the application. Such further proceedings may be at the request of either the applicant or the FCA counsel, or on the presiding officer's own initiative, and shall be conducted as promptly as possible. Further proceedings may include an informal conference, oral argument, additional written submissions, or other actions required by the presiding officer, but may not include discovery or an evidentiary hearing with respect to the issue of whether the agency's position was substantially justified.

(b) Whether or not the position of the agency was substantially justified shall be determined on the basis of the administrative record, as a whole, which is made in the adversary adjudication for which fees and other expenses are sought.

(c) A request that the presiding officer order further proceedings under this section shall specifically identify the information sought or the disputed issues and shall explain why the additional proceedings are necessary to resolve the issues.

§ 625.26 Recommended decision.

The presiding officer shall file a recommended decision within 30 days after completion of proceedings on the application, and, promptly upon filing, shall serve a copy of the recommended decision upon each party to the proceedings. The decision shall include written findings and conclusions on the applicant's eligibility, status as a prevailing party, the recommended amount of the award, if any, and an explanation of the reasons for any difference between the amount requested and the amount awarded. The decision shall also include, if at issue, findings on whether the FCA's position was substantially justified, whether the applicant unduly protracted the adversary

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adjudication, or whether special circumstances make an award unjust. If the applicant has sought an award against more than one agency, the decision shall allocate responsibility for payment of any award made among the agencies, and shall explain the reasons for the allocation made.

§ 625.27 Board decision.

Following filing of the recommended decision with the Board, the Board shall render a final decision on the application. The Board maintains full discretion to uphold, reverse, remand, or alter the recommended decision. The Board may order further proceedings (including those set forth in §§ 622.11 and 622.13 through 622.16 of this chapter) upon request by any party to the application proceeding or on its own initiative, but such proceedings may not include discovery or an evidentiary hearing with respect to the issue of whether the agency's position was substantially justified.

§ 625.28 Judicial review.

Judicial review of final FCA decisions on awards may be sought as provided in 5 U.S.C. 504(c)(2).

§ 625.29 Payment of award.

(a) An applicant seeking payment of an award shall submit to the Secretary to the Board a copy of the final decision granting the award, accompanied by a certification that the applicant will not seek judicial review of the decision. The required submission and certification should be sent to: Secretary to the Board, Farm Credit Administration, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102-5090.

(b) The FCA will pay the amount awarded to the applicant within 60 days of receipt of the applicant's submission and certification.

PART 626—NONDISCRIMINATION IN LENDING

Sec.

626.6000 Definitions.

626.6005 Nondiscrimination in lending and other services.

626.6010 Nondiscrimination in applications.

626.6015 Nondiscriminatory appraisal.

626.6020 Nondiscriminatory advertising.

626.6025 Equal housing lender poster.

626.6030 Complaints.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 1.5, 2.2, 2.12, 3.1, 5.9, 5.17 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2013, 2073, 2093, 2122, 2243, 2252); 42 U.S.C. 3601 *et seq.*; 15 U.S.C. 1691 *et seq.*; 12 CFR 202, 24 CFR 100, 109, 110.

SOURCE: Subpart E of part 613 added at 37 FR 11421, June 7, 1972, and 57 FR 13637, Apr. 17, 1992. Redesignated as part 626 at 62 FR 4441, Jan. 30, 1997.

§ 626.6000 Definitions.

For the purpose of this subpart, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Applicant* means any person who requests or who has received an extension of credit from a creditor and includes any person who is or may become contractually liable regarding an extension of credit.

(b) *Dwelling* means any building, structure, or portion thereof which is occupied as, or designed or intended for occupancy as, a residence by one or more families, and any vacant land which is offered for sale or lease for the construction or location thereon of any such building, structure, or portion thereof.

(c) *Familial status* means one or more individuals (who have not attained the age of 18 years) being domiciled with:

(1) A parent or another person having legal custody of such individual or individuals; or

(2) The designee of such parent or other person having such custody, with the written permission of such parent or other person.

The protections afforded against discrimination on the basis of familial status shall apply to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of any individual who has not attained the age of 18 years.

(d) *Handicap* means, with respect to a person:

(1) A physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities,

(2) A record of having such an impairment, or

(3) Being regarded as having such an impairment,

but such term does not include current, illegal use of or addiction to a controlled substance (as defined in section

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102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)).

(e) *Residential real estate-related transaction* means any of the following:

(1) The making or purchasing of loans or providing other financial assistance:

(i) For purchasing, constructing, improving, repairing, or maintaining a dwelling; or

(ii) Secured by residential real estate.

(2) The selling, brokering, or appraising of residential real property.

[57 FR 13637, Apr. 17, 1992. Redesignated at 62 FR 4441, Jan. 30, 1997]

§ 626.6005 Nondiscrimination in lending and other services.

(a) No Farm Credit institution may discriminate in making credit or other financial assistance available in a residential real estate-related transaction, or in the terms or conditions of such a transaction, because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.

(b) No Farm Credit institution may discriminate in any aspect of a credit transaction or a financial service involving a credit transaction because of:

(1) Race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, or age (provided that the applicant has the capacity to enter into a binding contract); or

(2) The fact that all or part of the applicant's income derives from any public assistance program; or

(3) The fact that the applicant has in good faith exercised any right under title VII (Equal Credit Opportunity Act) of the Consumer Credit Protection Act.

(c) Prohibited practices under this section include, but are not limited to, discrimination in fixing the amount, interest rate, duration, or other terms or conditions of any loan or a financial service involving a credit transaction or in the purchase of loans and securities on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (having one or more children under the age of 18), marital status, age (provided the applicant has the capacity to enter into a binding contract), or national origin.

(d) Nothing in this subpart shall be deemed to change the eligibility re-

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quirements imposed by the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended, or any Farm Credit Administration regulation adopted pursuant thereto.

[57 FR 13638, Apr. 17, 1992. Redesignated at 62 FR 4441, Jan. 30, 1997]

§ 626.6010 Nondiscrimination in applications.

(a) No Farm Credit institution may discourage or refuse to allow, receive, or consider any application, request, or inquiry regarding an eligible loan or other eligible credit service or discriminate in imposing conditions upon, or in processing, any such application, request, or inquiry on the basis of:

(1) Race, color, religion, sex, marital status, age (provided that the applicant has the capacity to enter into a binding contract), or national origin, as prescribed under title VII (the Equal Credit Opportunity Act) of the Consumer Credit Protection Act, as amended by the Equal Credit Opportunity Act Amendments of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System's implementing regulation (12 CFR part 202); and

(2) Race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or familial status, as prescribed under title VIII (the Fair Housing Act) of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 3601 *et seq.*), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's implementing regulations (24 CFR part 100).

(b) The provisions of paragraph (a) of this section shall apply whenever:

(1) An application is made for any such loan or other credit service; or

(2) A request is made for forms or papers to be used to make application for any such loan or other credit service; or

(3) An inquiry is made about the availability of such loan or other credit service.

[57 FR 13638, Apr. 17, 1992. Redesignated at 62 FR 4441, Jan. 30, 1997]

§ 626.6015 Nondiscriminatory appraisal.

No Farm Credit institution shall discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin

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when conducting, using, or relying upon an appraisal of residential real property that is subject to sale, rental, or other financing transaction.

[57 FR 13638, Apr. 17, 1992. Redesignated at 62 FR 4441, Jan. 30, 1997]

§ 626.6020 Nondiscriminatory advertising.

(a) A Farm Credit institution that directly or through third parties engages in any form of advertising shall not use words, phrases, symbols, directions, forms, or models in such advertising which express, imply or suggest a policy of discrimination or exclusion in violation of the provisions of title VIII (the Fair Housing Act) of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 3601–3631); the Department of Housing and Urban Development's implementing regulations (24 CFR parts 100 and 109), and title VII (the Equal Credit Opportunity Act) of the Consumer Credit Protection Act, as amended by the Equal Credit Opportunity Act Amendments of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 1691–1691f); and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System's implementing regulation (12 CFR part 202), or this subpart.

(b) Written advertisements relating to dwellings shall include a facsimile of the following logotype and legend:



[37 FR 16932, Aug. 23, 1972, as amended at 57 FR 13638, Apr. 17, 1992. Redesignated at 62 FR 4441, Jan. 30, 1997]

§ 626.6025 Equal housing lender poster.

(a) Each Farm Credit institution that makes loans for the purpose of purchasing, constructing, improving, repairing, or maintaining a dwelling or any loan secured by a dwelling shall post and maintain an Equal Housing Lender Poster in the lobby of each of its offices. The poster shall be in a prominent place readily apparent to all persons seeking such loans.

(b) The Equal Housing Lender Poster shall be at least 11 inches by 14 inches in size, and shall bear the logotype and legend set forth in § 626.6020(b) of this subpart and the following text:

WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH
FEDERAL FAIR LENDING LAWS

(The Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988)

UNDER THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING ACT, IT IS ILLEGAL, ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, SEX, HANDICAP, OR FAMILIAL

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STATUS (HAVING CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18), TO:

- Deny a loan for the purpose of purchasing, constructing, improving, repairing, or maintaining a dwelling, or deny any loan secured by a dwelling; or
- Discriminate in fixing the amount, interest rate, duration, application procedures, or other terms or conditions of such a loan, or in appraising property.

IF YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, YOU SHOULD SEND A COMPLAINT TO:

Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC 20410, 1-800-669-9777 (Toll Free), 1-800-927-9275 (TDD), for processing under the Federal Fair Housing Act

AND TO:

Farm Credit Administration, Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, VA 22102-5090, 703-883-4056, 703-883-4444 (TDD), for processing under Farm Credit Administration Regulations

UNDER THE EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY ACT

(The Consumer Credit Protection Act, as amended by the Equal Credit Opportunity Act Amendments of 1976)

IT IS ILLEGAL TO DISCRIMINATE IN ANY CREDIT TRANSACTION:

- On the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, or age,
- Because income is from public assistance, or
- Because a right was exercised under the Consumer Credit Protection Act.

IF YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, YOU SHOULD SEND A COMPLAINT TO:

Farm Credit Administration, Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, VA 22102-5090, 703-883-4056, 703-883-4444 (TDD).

[57 FR 13638, Apr. 17, 1992. Redesignated at 62 FR 4441, Jan. 30, 1997, as amended at 62 FR 4451, Jan. 30, 1997]

§ 626.6030 Complaints.

(a) Complaints regarding discrimination in lending by a Farm Credit institution under the Fair Housing Act shall be referred to the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC 20410, and to the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs,

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Farm Credit Administration, McLean, Virginia 22102-5090.

(b) Complaints regarding discrimination in lending by a Farm Credit institution under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act shall be referred to the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, Virginia 22102-5090.

[57 FR 13639, Apr. 17, 1992. Redesignated at 62 FR 4441, Jan. 30, 1997]

PART 627—TITLE IV CONSERVATORS, RECEIVERS, AND VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATIONS

Subpart A—General

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627.2700 General—applicability.

627.2705 Definitions.

627.2710 Grounds for appointment of conservators and receivers.

627.2715 Action for removal of conservator or receiver.

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627.2720 Appointment of receiver.

627.2725 Powers and duties of the receiver.

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627.2735 Notice to holders of uninsured accounts and stockholders.

627.2740 Creditors' claims.

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627.2755 Payment of claims.

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627.2765 Final discharge and release of the receiver.

Subpart C—Conservators and Conservatorships

627.2770 Conservators.

627.2775 Appointment of a conservator.

627.2780 Powers and duties of conservators.

627.2785 Inventory, examination, audit, and reports to stockholders.

627.2790 Final discharge and release of the conservator.

Subpart D—Voluntary Liquidation

627.2795 Voluntary liquidation.

627.2797 Preservation of equity.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 4.2, 5.9, 5.10, 5.17, 5.51, 5.58 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2183, 2243, 2244, 2252, 2277a, 2277a-7).

SOURCE: 57 FR 46482, Oct. 9, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

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Subpart A—General

§ 627.2700 General—applicability.

The provisions of this part shall apply to conservatorships, receiverships, and voluntary liquidations.

[63 FR 5724, Feb. 4, 1998]

§ 627.2705 Definitions.

For purposes of this part the following definitions apply:

(a) *Act* means the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended.

(b) *Farm Credit institution(s)* or *institution(s)* means all associations, banks, service corporations chartered under title IV of the Act, the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, and the Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation.

(c) *Conservator* means the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation acting in its capacity as conservator.

(d) *Insurance Corporation* means the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

(e) *Receiver* means the Insurance Corporation acting in its capacity as receiver.

§ 627.2710 Grounds for appointment of conservators and receivers.

(a) Upon a determination by the Farm Credit Administration Board of the existence of one or more of the factors set forth in paragraph (b) of this section, with respect to any bank, association, or other institution of the System, the Farm Credit Administration Board may, in its discretion, appoint a conservator or receiver for such institution. After January 5, 1993, the Insurance Corporation shall be the sole entity to be appointed as conservator or receiver.

(b) The grounds for the appointment of a conservator or receiver for a System institution are:

(1) The institution is insolvent, in that the assets of the institution are less than its obligations to creditors and others, including its members. For purposes of determining insolvency, “obligations to members” shall not include stock or allocated equities held by current or former borrowers.

(2) There has been a substantial dissipation of the assets or earnings of the

institution due to the violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or the conduct of an unsafe or unsound practice;

(3) The institution is in an unsafe or unsound condition to transact business, including having insufficient capital or otherwise. For purposes of this regulation, “unsafe or unsound condition” shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following conditions:

(i) For banks, a net collateral ratio below 102 percent.

(ii) For associations, a default by the association of one or more terms of its general financing agreement with its affiliated bank that the Farm Credit Administration determines to be a material default.

(iii) For all institutions, permanent capital of less than one-half the minimum required level for the institution.

(iv) For all institutions, a total surplus ratio of less than 2 percent.

(v) For associations, stock impairment.

(4) The institution has committed a willful violation of a final cease-and-desist order issued by the Farm Credit Administration Board; or

(5) The institution is concealing its books, papers, records, or assets, or is refusing to submit its books, papers, records, assets, or other material relating to the affairs of the institution for inspection to any examiner or to any lawful agent of the Farm Credit Administration Board.

(6) The institution is unable to make a timely payment of principal or interest on any insured obligation (as defined in section 5.51(3) of the Act) issued by the institution individually, or on which it is primarily liable.

[51 FR 32443, Sept. 12, 1986, as amended at 54 FR 1148, Jan. 12, 1989. Redesignated and amended at 46487, Oct. 9, 1992; 63 FR 39229, July 22, 1998]

§ 627.2715 Action for removal of conservator or receiver.

Upon the appointment of a conservator or receiver for a Farm Credit institution by the Farm Credit Administration Board pursuant to § 627.2710 of this part, the institution may, within 30 days of such appointment, bring an action in the United States District Court for the judicial district in which

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the home office of the institution is located, or in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, for an order requiring the Farm Credit Administration Board to remove such conservator or receiver and, if the charter has been canceled, to rescind the cancellation of the charter. Notwithstanding any other provision of subpart B or C of this part, the institution's board of directors is empowered to meet subsequent to such appointment and authorize the filing of an action for removal. An action for removal may be authorized only by such institution's board of directors.

Subpart B—Receivers and Receiverships

§ 627.2720 Appointment of receiver.

(a) The Farm Credit Administration Board may, in its discretion, appoint ex parte and without notice a receiver for any Farm Credit institution in accordance with the grounds for appointment set forth in § 627.2710 of this part.

(b) The receiver appointed for a Farm Credit institution shall be the Insurance Corporation.

(c) Upon the appointment of the Insurance Corporation as receiver, the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration Board shall immediately notify the institution, and its district bank in the case of an association, and shall publish a notice of the appointment in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(d) In the case of the voluntary or involuntary liquidation of an association, the district bank shall institute appropriate measures to minimize the adverse effect of the liquidation on those borrowers whose loans are purchased by or otherwise transferred to another System institution.

(e) Upon the issuance of the order placing a Farm Credit institution into liquidation and appointing the Insurance Corporation as receiver, all rights, privileges, and powers of the board of directors, officers, and employees of the institution shall be vested exclusively in the receiver. The Farm Credit Administration Board may simultaneously, or any time

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thereafter, cancel the charter of the institution.

[57 FR 46482, Oct. 9, 1992, as amended at 63 FR 5724, Feb. 4, 1998]

§ 627.2725 Powers and duties of the receiver.

(a) *General.* (1) Upon appointment as receiver, the receiver shall take possession of a Farm Credit institution pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 2183 and § 627.2710 of this part in order to wind up the business operations of such institution, collect the debts owed to the institution, liquidate its property and assets, pay its creditors, and distribute the remaining proceeds to stockholders. The receiver is authorized to exercise all powers necessary to the efficient termination of an institution's operation as provided for in this subpart.

(2) Upon its appointment as receiver, the receiver automatically succeeds to—

(i) All rights, titles, powers and privileges of the institution and of any stockholder, officer, or director of such institution with respect to the institution and the assets of the institution; and

(ii) Title to the books, records, and assets of any previous conservator or other legal custodian of such institution.

(3) The receiver of a Farm Credit institution serves as the trustee of the receivership estate and conducts its operations for the benefit of the creditors and stockholders of the institution.

(b) *Specific powers.* The receiver may:

(1) Exercise all powers as are conferred upon the officers and directors of the institution under law and the charter, articles, and bylaws of the institution.

(2) Take any action the receiver considers appropriate or expedient to carry on the business of the institution during the process of liquidating its assets and winding up its affairs.

(3) Extend credit to existing borrowers as necessary to honor existing commitments and to effectuate the purposes of the receivership.

(4) Borrow such sums as necessary to effectuate the purposes of the receivership.

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(5) Pay any sum the receiver deems necessary or advisable to preserve, conserve, or protect the institution's assets or property or rehabilitate or improve such property and assets.

(6) Pay any sum the receiver deems necessary or advisable to preserve, conserve, or protect any asset or property on which the institution has a lien or in which the institution has a financial or property interest, and pay off and discharge any liens, claims, or charges of any nature against such property.

(7) Investigate any matter related to the conduct of the business of the institution, including, but not limited to, any claim of the institution against any individual or entity, and institute appropriate legal or other proceedings to prosecute such claims.

(8) Institute, prosecute, maintain, defend, intervene, and otherwise participate in any legal proceeding by or against the institution or in which the institution or its creditors or members have any interest, and represent in every way the institution, its members, and creditors.

(9) Employ attorneys, accountants, appraisers, and other professionals to give advice and assistance to the receivership generally or on particular matters, and pay their retainers, compensation, and expenses, including litigation costs.

(10) Hire any agents or employees necessary for proper administration of the receivership.

(11) Execute, acknowledge, and deliver, in person or through a general or specific delegation, any instrument necessary for any authorized purpose, and any instrument executed under this paragraph shall be valid and effective as if it had been executed by the institution's officers by authority of its board of directors.

(12) Sell for cash or otherwise any mortgage, deed of trust, chose in action, note contract, judgment or decree, stock, or debt owed to the institution, or any property (real or personal, tangible or intangible).

(13) Purchase or lease office space, automobiles, furniture, equipment, and supplies, and purchase insurance, professional, and technical services nec-

essary for the conduct of the receivership.

(14) Release any assets or property of any nature, regardless of whether the subject of pending litigation, and repudiate, with cause, any lease or executory contract the receiver considers burdensome.

(15) Settle, release, or obtain release of, for cash or other consideration, claims and demands against or in favor of the institution or receiver.

(16) Pay, out of the assets of the institution, all expenses of the receivership and all costs of carrying out or exercising the rights, powers, privileges, and duties as receiver.

(17) Pay out of the assets of the institution all approved claims of indebtedness in accordance with priorities established in this subpart.

(18) Take all actions and have such rights, powers, and privileges as are necessary and incident to the exercise of any specific power.

(19) Take such actions, and have such additional rights, powers, privileges, immunities, and duties as the Farm Credit Administration Board authorizes by order or by amendment of any order or by regulation.

(c) *Authority to pay claims.* The receiver of a bank is also empowered to pay claims of holders of notes, bonds, debentures, or other obligations issued by the bank under 12 U.S.C. 2153(c) or (d) in accordance with procedures specified by the Insurance Corporation pursuant to § 627.2740(d) of this part.

§ 627.2730 Preservation of equity.

(a) Except as provided for upon final distribution of the assets of the institution, no capital stock, participation certificates, equity reserves, or other allocated equities of an institution in receivership shall be issued, allocated, retired, sold, distributed, transferred, assigned, or applied against any indebtedness of the owners of such equities.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, eligible borrower stock shall be retired in accordance with section 4.9A of the Act.

[57 FR 46482, Oct. 9, 1992, as amended at 63 FR 5724, Feb. 4, 1998]

§ 627.2735 Notice to holders of uninsured accounts and stockholders.

(a) Upon the placing of an institution in liquidation, the receiver shall immediately notify every borrower who has an uninsured account (voluntary or involuntary) as described in § 614.4513 of this chapter that the funds ceased earning interest when the receivership was instituted and will be applied against the outstanding indebtedness of any loans of such borrower unless, within 15 days of such notice, the borrower directs the receiver to otherwise apply such funds in the manner provided for in existing loan documents.

(b) As soon as practicable after the receiver takes possession of the institution, the receiver shall notify, by first class mail, each holder of stock and participation certificates of the following matters:

(1) The number of shares such holder owns;

(2) That the stock and other equities of the institution may not be retired or transferred until the liquidation is completed, whereupon the receiver will distribute a liquidating dividend, if any, to the owners of such equities; and

(3) Such other matters as the receiver or the Farm Credit Administration deems necessary.

§ 627.2740 Creditors' claims.

(a) The receiver shall publish promptly a notice to creditors to present their claims against the institution, with proof thereof, to the receiver by a date specified in the notice, which shall be not less than 90 calendar days after the first publication. The notice shall be republished approximately 30 days and 60 days after the first publication. The receiver shall promptly send, by first class mail, a similar notice to any creditor shown on the institution's books at the creditor's last address appearing thereon. Claims filed after the specified date shall be disallowed, except as the receiver may approve them for full or partial payment from the institution's assets remaining undistributed at the time of approval.

(b) The receiver shall allow any claim that is timely received and proved to the receiver's satisfaction. The receiver may disallow in whole or

in part any creditor's claim or claim of security, preference, or priority which is not proved to the receiver's satisfaction or is not timely received and shall notify the claimant of the disallowance and reason therefor. Sending the notice of disallowance by first class mail to the claimant's address appearing on the proof of claim shall be sufficient notice. The disallowance shall be final, unless, within 30 days after the notice of disallowance is mailed, the claimant files a written request for payment regardless of the disallowance. The receiver shall reconsider any claim upon the timely request of the claimant and may approve or disapprove such claim in whole or in part.

(c) Creditors' claims that are allowed shall be paid by the receiver from time to time, to the extent funds are available therefor and in accordance with the priorities established in this subpart and in such manner and amounts as the receiver deems appropriate. In the event the institution has a claim against a creditor of the institution, the receiver shall offset the amount of such claim against the claim asserted by such creditor.

(d) The claims of holders of notes, bonds, debentures, or other obligations issued by a bank under 12 U.S.C. 2153 (c) or (d) shall be made, if deemed necessary or appropriate, in accordance with procedures formulated by the Insurance Corporation. In the formulation of such procedures, the Insurance Corporation shall consult with the Farm Credit Administration.

§ 627.2745 Priority of claims—associations.

The following priority of claims shall apply to the distribution of the assets of an association in liquidation:

(a) All costs, expenses, and debts incurred by the receiver in connection with the administration of the receivership.

(b) Administrative expenses of the association, provided that such expenses were incurred within 60 days prior to the receiver's taking possession, and that such expenses shall be limited to reasonable expenses incurred for services actually provided by accountants, attorneys, appraisers, examiners, or management companies, or reasonable

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expenses incurred by employees which were authorized and reimbursable under a pre-existing expense reimbursement policy, that, in the opinion of the receiver, are of benefit to the receivership, and shall not include wages or salaries of employees of the association.

(c) If authorized by the receiver, claims for wages and salaries, including vacation pay, earned prior to the appointment of the receiver by an employee of the association whom the receiver determines it is in the best interest of the receivership to engage or retain for a reasonable period of time.

(d) If authorized by the receiver, claims for wages and salaries, including vacation pay, earned prior to the appointment of the receiver, up to a maximum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per person as adjusted for inflation, by an employee of the association not engaged or retained by the receiver. The adjustment for inflation shall be the percentage by which the Consumer Price Index (as prepared by the Department of Labor) for the calendar year preceding the appointment of the receiver exceeds the Consumer Price Index for the calendar year 1992.

(e) All claims for taxes.

(f) All claims of creditors, including the district bank, which are secured by assets or equities of the association in accordance with applicable Federal or State law.

(g) All claims of the district bank other than those provided for in paragraph (f) of this section, based on the financing agreement between the association and the bank, including interest accrued before and after the appointment of the receiver, minus any setoff for stock or other equity of the district bank owned by the association made in accordance with this paragraph or paragraph (f) of this section. Prior to making such setoff, the district bank must obtain the approval of the Farm Credit Administration Board for the retirement of such equities.

(h) All claims of general creditors.

§ 627.2750 Priority of claims—banks.

The following priority of claims shall apply to the distribution of the assets of a bank in liquidation:

(a) All costs, expenses, and debts incurred by the receiver in connection with the administration of the receivership.

(b) Administrative expenses of the bank, provided that such expenses were incurred within 60 days prior to the receiver's taking possession, and that such expenses shall be limited to reasonable expenses incurred for services actually provided by accountants, attorneys, appraisers, examiners, or management companies, or reasonable expenses incurred by employees which were authorized and reimbursable under a pre-existing expense reimbursement policy, that, in the opinion of the receiver, are of benefit to the receivership, and shall not include wages or salaries of employees of the bank.

(c) If authorized by the receiver, claims for wages and salaries, including vacation pay, earned prior to the appointment of the receiver by an employee of the bank whom the receiver determines it is in the best interest of the receivership to engage or retain for a reasonable period of time.

(d) If authorized by the receiver, claims for wages and salaries, including vacation pay, earned prior to the appointment of the receiver, up to a maximum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per person as adjusted for inflation, by an employee of the bank not engaged or retained by the receiver. The adjustment for inflation shall be the percentage by which the Consumer Price Index (as prepared by the Department of Labor) for the calendar year preceding the appointment of the receiver exceeds the Consumer Price Index for the calendar year 1992.

(e) All claims for taxes.

(f) All claims of creditors which are secured by specific assets or equities of the bank, with priority of conflicting claims of creditors within this same class to be determined in accordance with priorities of applicable Federal or State law.

(g) All claims of holders of bonds issued by the bank individually to the extent such are collateralized in accordance with 12 U.S.C. 2154.

(h) All claims of holders of consolidated and Systemwide bonds and claims of the other Farm Credit banks

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arising from their payments pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 2155.

(i) All claims of general creditors.

§ 627.2752 Priority of claims—other Farm Credit institutions.

The following priority of claims shall apply to the distribution of the assets of an institution, other than a bank or association, in liquidation:

(a) All costs, expenses, and debts incurred by the receiver in connection with the administration of the receivership.

(b) Administrative expenses of the institution, provided that such expenses were incurred within 60 days prior to the receiver's taking possession, and that such expenses shall be limited to reasonable expenses incurred for services actually provided by accountants, attorneys, appraisers, examiners, or management companies, or reasonable expenses incurred by employees which were authorized and reimbursable under a pre-existing expense reimbursement policy, that, in the opinion of the receiver, are of benefit to the receivership, and shall not include wages or salaries of employees of the institution.

(c) If authorized by the receiver, claims for wages and salaries, including vacation pay, earned prior to the appointment of the receiver by an employee of the institution whom the receiver determines it is in the best interest of the receivership to engage or retain for a reasonable period of time.

(d) If authorized by the receiver, claims for wages and salaries, including vacation pay, earned prior to the appointment of the receiver, up to a maximum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per person as adjusted for inflation, by an employee of the institution not engaged or retained by the receiver. The adjustment for inflation shall be the percentage by which the Consumer Price Index (as prepared by the Department of Labor) for the calendar year preceding the appointment of the receiver exceeds the Consumer Price Index for the calendar year 1992.

(e) All claims for taxes.

(f) All claims of creditors which are secured by specific assets or equities of the institution, with priority of con-

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flicting claims of creditors within this same class to be determined in accordance with priorities of applicable Federal or State law.

(g) All claims of general creditors.

§ 627.2755 Payment of claims.

(a) All claims of each class described in § 627.2745, § 627.2750, or § 627.2752 of this part, respectively, shall be paid in full, or provisions shall be made for such payment, prior to the payment of any claim of a lesser priority. If there are insufficient funds to pay in full any class of claims described in § 627.2745, distribution on such class shall be on a pro rata basis.

(b) Following the payment of all claims, the receiver shall distribute the remainder of the assets of the institution to the owners of stock, participation certificates, and other equities in accordance with the priorities for impairment set forth in the bylaws of the institution.

(c) Notwithstanding this section, eligible borrower stock shall be retired in accordance with section 4.9A of the Act.

§ 627.2760 Inventory, audit, and reports.

(a) As soon as practicable after taking possession of an institution, the receiver shall make an inventory of the assets and liabilities as of the date possession was taken.

(b) The institution in receivership shall be audited on an annual basis by a certified public accountant selected by the receiver.

(c) With respect to each receivership, the receiver shall make an annual accounting or report, as appropriate, available upon request to any stockholder of the institution in receivership or any member of the public, with a copy provided to the Farm Credit Administration.

(d) Upon the final liquidation of the institution, the receiver shall send to each stockholder of record a report summarizing the disposition of the assets of the receivership and claims against the receivership.

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§ 627.2765 Final discharge and release of the receiver.

After the receiver has made a final distribution of the assets of the receivership, the receivership shall be terminated, the charter shall be canceled by the Farm Credit Administration Board if such cancellation has not previously occurred, and the receiver shall be finally discharged and released.

Subpart C—Conservators and Conservatorships

§ 627.2770 Conservators.

(a) The Insurance Corporation shall be appointed as conservator by the Farm Credit Administration Board pursuant to section 4.12 of the Act and § 627.2710 of this part to take possession of an institution in accordance with the terms of the appointment. Upon appointment, the conservator shall direct the institution's further operation until the Farm Credit Administration Board decides whether to place the institution into receivership. Upon correction or resolution of the problem or condition that provided the basis for the appointment and upon a determination by the Farm Credit Administration Board that the institution can be returned to normal operations, the Farm Credit Administration Board may turn the institution over to such management as the Farm Credit Administration Board may direct.

(b) The conservator shall exercise all powers necessary to continue the ongoing operations of the institution, to conserve and preserve the institution's assets and property, and otherwise protect the interests of the institution, its stockholders, and creditors as provided in this subpart.

§ 627.2775 Appointment of a conservator.

(a) The Farm Credit Administration Board may appoint ex parte and without notice a conservator for any Farm Credit institution provided that one or more of the grounds for appointment as set forth in § 627.2710 exist.

(b) Upon the appointment of a conservator, the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration shall immediately notify the institution and, in

the case of an association, the district bank, and notice of the appointment shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. As soon as practicable after the conservator takes possession of the institution, the conservator shall notify, by first class mail, each holder of stock and participation certificates in the institution of the establishment of the conservatorship and shall describe the effect of the conservatorship on the institution's operations and on the borrower's loan and equity holdings.

(c) Upon the issuance of the order placing a Farm Credit institution in conservatorship, all rights, privileges, and powers of the members, board of directors, officers, and employees of the institution are vested exclusively in the conservator.

(d) The conservator is responsible for conserving and preserving the assets of the institution and continuing the ongoing operations of the institution until the conservatorship is terminated by order of the Farm Credit Administration Board.

(e) The Board may, at any time, terminate the conservatorship and direct the conservator to turn over the institution's operations to such management as the Board may designate, in which event the provisions of this subpart shall no longer apply.

§ 627.2780 Powers and duties of conservators.

(a) The conservator of an institution serves as the trustee of the institution and conducts its operations for the benefit of the creditors and stockholders of the institution.

(b) The conservator may, with respect to Farm Credit institutions, exercise the powers that a receiver of an institution may exercise under any of the provisions of § 627.2725(b) of this part, except paragraphs § 627.2725 (b)(2) and (b)(17). In interpreting the applicable paragraphs for purposes of this section, the terms "conservator" and "conservatorship" shall be read for "receiver" and "receivership."

(c) The conservator may extend credit to new and existing borrowers as is necessary to the continuing operation of the institution and to effectuate the purposes of the conservatorship.

(d) The conservator may also take any other action the conservator considers appropriate or expedient to the continuing operation of the institution.

§ 627.2785 Inventory, examination, audit, and reports to stockholders.

(a) As soon as practicable after taking possession of a Farm Credit institution the conservator shall make an inventory of the assets and liabilities of the institution as of the date possession was taken. One copy of the inventory shall be filed with the Farm Credit Administration.

(b) The institution in conservatorship shall be examined by the Farm Credit Administration in accordance with section 5.19 of the Act. The institution shall also be audited by a certified public accountant in accordance with part 621 of this chapter.

(c) Each institution in conservatorship shall prepare and file with the Farm Credit Administration financial reports in accordance with the requirements of part 621 of this chapter. The conservator of the institution shall provide the certification required in § 621.14 of this chapter.

(d) Each institution in conservatorship shall prepare and issue published financial reports in accordance with provisions of part 620 of this chapter, and the certifications and signatures of the board of directors or management provided for in §§ 620.2(b), 620.2(c), and 620.5(m)(2) of this chapter shall be provided by the conservator of the institution.

[57 FR 46482, Oct. 9, 1992, as amended at 58 FR 48791, Sept. 20, 1993]

§ 627.2790 Final discharge and release of the conservator.

At such time as the conservator shall be relieved of its conservatorship duties, the conservator shall file a report on the conservator's activities with the Farm Credit Administration. The conservator shall thereupon be completely and finally released.

Subpart D—Voluntary Liquidation

SOURCE: 63 FR 5725, Feb. 4, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

§ 627.2795 Voluntary liquidation.

(a) A Farm Credit institution may voluntarily liquidate by a resolution of its board of directors, but only with the consent of, and in accordance with a plan of liquidation approved by, the Farm Credit Administration Board. Upon adoption of such resolution to liquidate, the Farm Credit institution shall submit the proposed voluntary liquidation plan to the Farm Credit Administration for preliminary approval. The Farm Credit Administration Board, in its discretion, may appoint a receiver as part of an approved liquidation plan. If a receiver is appointed for the Farm Credit institution as part of a voluntary liquidation, the receivership shall be conducted pursuant to subpart B of this part, except to the extent that an approved plan of liquidation provides otherwise.

(b) If the Farm Credit Administration Board gives preliminary approval to the liquidation plan, the board of directors of the Farm Credit institution shall submit the resolution to liquidate and the liquidation plan to the stockholders for approval.

(c) The resolution to liquidate and the liquidation plan shall be approved by the stockholders if agreed to by at least a majority of the voting stockholders of the institution voting, in person or by written proxy, at a duly authorized stockholders' meeting.

(d) The Farm Credit Administration Board will consider final approval of the liquidation plan after an affirmative stockholder vote on the resolution to liquidate.

(e) Any subsequent amendments, modifications, revisions, or adjustments to the liquidation plan shall require Farm Credit Administration Board approval.

(f) The Farm Credit Administration Board, in its discretion, reserves the right to terminate or modify the liquidation plan at any time.

§ 627.2797 Preservation of equity.

(a) Immediately upon the adoption of a resolution by its board of directors to voluntarily liquidate a Farm Credit institution, the capital stock, participation certificates, equity reserves, and allocated equities of the Farm Credit

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institution shall not be issued, allocated, retired, sold, distributed, transferred, assigned, or applied against any indebtedness of the owners of such equities. Such activities could resume if the stockholders of the Farm Credit institution disapprove the resolution to liquidate or the Farm Credit Administration Board disapproves the liquidation plan. In the event the resolution to liquidate is approved by the stockholders of the Farm Credit institution and the liquidation plan is approved by the Farm Credit Administration Board, the liquidation plan shall govern disposition of the equities of the Farm Credit institution, except that if the Farm Credit institution is placed in receivership, the provisions of § 627.2730(a) shall govern further disposition of the equities of the Farm Credit institution.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, eligible borrower stock shall be retired in accordance with section 4.9A of the Act.

PART 630—DISCLOSURE TO INVESTORS IN SYSTEMWIDE AND CONSOLIDATED BANK DEBT OBLIGATIONS OF THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM

Subpart A—General

Sec.

630.1 Purpose.

630.2 Definitions.

630.3 Publishing and filing the report to investors.

630.4 Responsibilities for preparing the report to investors.

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630.6 Farm Credit System audit committee and bank audit committees.

Subpart B—Annual Report to Investors

630.20 Contents of the annual report to investors.

Subpart C—Quarterly Reports to Investors

630.40 Contents of the quarterly report to investors.

APPENDIX A TO PART 630—SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE GUIDELINES

AUTHORITY: Secs. 5.17, 5.19 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2252, 2254).

SOURCE: 59 FR 46742, Sept. 12, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General

§ 630.1 Purpose.

This part sets forth the requirements for preparation and publication by the Farm Credit System (FCS or System) of annual and quarterly reports to investors and potential investors in Systemwide and consolidated bank debt obligations of the System and to other users of the reports in the general public.

§ 630.2 Definitions.

For purposes of this part, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Bank* means any bank chartered under the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended (Act).

(b) *Combined financial statements* means financial statements prepared on a combined basis by a group of affiliated entities that share the same financial interest, regardless of whether any of the entities has the ability to exercise control over another. For purposes of this part, unless otherwise specified, combined financial data of a bank and its related associations includes financial data of the bank's consolidated subsidiaries.

(c) *Disclosure entity* means any bank, the Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation (Financial Assistance Corporation), and the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation (Funding Corporation).

(d) *Engagement letter* means the proposal, contract, letter, and other documents reflecting the understandings between the audit committee or board of directors of a bank or an association and its independent public accountant regarding the scope, terms, and nature of the audit services to be performed.

(e) *Farm Credit System* means, collectively, the banks, associations, and such other institutions that are or may be made a part of the System under the Act, all of which are chartered by and subject to regulation by the Farm Credit Administration (FCA). For purposes of this part, the System does not include the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac).

(f) *FCS debt obligation* means, collectively, notes, bonds, debentures, and other debt securities issued by banks pursuant to section 4.2(c) (consolidated bank debt securities) and section 4.2(d) (Systemwide debt securities) of the Act.

(g) *Report to investors or report* means a report that presents the Systemwide combined financial statements, supplemental financial statement information, and related financial and non-financial information pertaining to the System required by this part.

(h) *Systemwide combined financial statements* means the combined financial statements required by this part.

§ 630.3 Publishing and filing the report to investors.

(a) The disclosure entities shall jointly publish the following reports in order to provide meaningful information pertaining to the financial condition and results of operations of the System to investors and potential investors in FCS debt obligations and other users of the report:

(1) An annual report to investors within 90 days after the end of each fiscal year;

(2) A quarterly report to investors within 60 days after the end of each quarter, except for the quarter that coincides with the end of the fiscal year.

(b) Each report to investors shall present Systemwide combined financial statements and related footnotes deemed appropriate for the purpose of the report to provide investors with the most meaningful presentation pertaining to the financial condition and results of operations of the System.

(c) All items of essentially the same character as items required to be reported in the reports of condition and performance pursuant to part 621 of this chapter shall be prepared in accordance with the rules set forth in part 621 of this chapter.

(d) Each report to investors shall contain the information required by subparts B and C of this part, as applicable, and such other information as is necessary to make the required statements, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading.

(e) Information in any part of the report may be referenced or incorporated in answer or partial answer to any other item of the report. Information required by this part may be presented in any order deemed suitable by the Funding Corporation.

(f) Information in documents prepared for investors in connection with the offering of debt securities issued through the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation may be incorporated by reference in the annual and quarterly reports in answer or partial answer to any item required in the reports under this part. A complete description of any offering documents incorporated by reference must be clearly identified in the report (e.g., *Federal Farm Credit Banks Consolidated Systemwide Bonds and Discount Notes*—Offering Circular issued on [insert date]). Offering documents incorporated by reference in either an annual or quarterly report prepared under this part must be filed with the Chief Examiner, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, Virginia 22102–5090, either prior to or at the time of submission of the report under paragraph (h) of this section. Any offering document incorporated by reference is subject to the delivery and availability requirements set forth in § 630.4(a) (5) and (6).

(g) The report shall include a statement in a prominent location that Systemwide debt securities and consolidated bank debt obligations are joint and several liabilities of individual banks and that copies of each bank's recent periodic reports to shareholders are available upon request. The report shall also include addresses and telephone numbers where copies of the report to investors and the periodic reports of individual banks can be obtained. Copies of the report to investors shall be available for public inspection at the Funding Corporation.

(h) Three complete copies of the report shall be filed with the Chief Examiner, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, Virginia 22102–5090, within the applicable period prescribed under paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section.

(1) At least one copy of the report filed with the FCA shall be dated and

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manually signed by the following officers and director(s) of the Funding Corporation on its behalf:

- (i) The officer(s) designated by the board of directors to certify the report;
- (ii) The chief executive officer; and
- (iii) Each member of the board or, at a minimum, one of the following board members formally designated by action of the board to certify on behalf of individual board members: the chairperson of the board or a board member designated by the chairperson of the board.

(2) The name and position title of each person signing the report shall be typed or printed beneath his or her signature. Signers of the report shall attest as follows:

The undersigned certify that this report has been prepared in accordance with all applicable statutory or regulatory requirements and that the information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete to the best of his or her knowledge and belief.

[59 FR 46724, Sept. 12, 1994, as amended at 62 FR 15094, Mar. 31, 1997]

§ 630.4 Responsibilities for preparing the report to investors.

(a) *Responsibilities of the Funding Corporation.* The Funding Corporation shall:

(1) Prepare the reports to investors required by § 630.3(a), including the Systemwide combined financial statements and notes thereto, and such other disclosures, supplemental information, and related analysis as are required by this part to make the reports meaningful and not misleading.

(2) Establish a system of internal controls sufficient to reasonably ensure that any information it releases to investors and the general public concerning any matter required to be disclosed by this part is true and that there are no omissions of material information. The system of internal controls, at a minimum, shall require that the Funding Corporation:

(i) Maintain written policies and procedures, approved by the System Audit Committee, to be carried out by the disclosure entities for preparation of the report to investors;

(ii) Provide instructions to the disclosure entities regarding the information needed for preparation of the Sys-

temwide combined financial statements and disclosures required to be presented in the report to investors;

(iii) Review the information submitted to it for preparation of the report to investors, and make reasonable inquiries to ascertain whether the information is reliable, accurate, and complete; and

(iv) Specify procedures for monitoring interim disclosures of System institutions and disclose, in a timely manner, any material changes in information contained in the most recently published report to investors.

(3) Collect from each disclosure entity financial data and related analyses and other information needed for preparation of the report to investors, including any information that is material to the disclosure entity.

(4) File the reports with the FCA in accordance with § 630.3(g).

(5) Ensure prompt delivery of sufficient copies of each report to selling group dealers for distribution to investors and potential investors in FCS debt obligations.

(6) Make the report available to the general public upon request.

(7) Notify the FCA if it is unable to prepare and publish the report to investors in compliance with the requirements of this part because one or more banks have failed to comply with the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section. A notification, signed by the officer(s) designated by the board of directors of the Funding Corporation to certify the report to investors and by the chief executive officer, shall be made to the FCA as soon as the Funding Corporation becomes aware of its inability to comply. The Funding Corporation shall explain the reasons for the notification and may request that the FCA extend the due date for the report to investors.

(8) Include in the report a statement that briefly explains the respective responsibilities of the disclosure entities and states that the Funding Corporation has policies and procedures in place to ensure, to the best of the knowledge and belief of management and the board of the Funding Corporation, that the information contained in the report is true, accurate, and complete. The statement shall be signed by

the chief executive officer and the chairperson of the board of the Funding Corporation.

(9) Request the FCA to provide information regarding the content of the latest Reports of Examination of any banks and related associations, if such information is necessary for preparation of a report that is meaningful and not misleading and is not forthcoming from a bank in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section. The request shall be made to the Chief Examiner, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, Virginia 22102–5090.

(b) *Responsibilities of the Financial Assistance Corporation.* The Financial Assistance Corporation shall provide to the Funding Corporation such information as may be required by the Funding Corporation to prepare the report.

(c) *Responsibilities of banks.* Each bank shall:

(1) Provide to the Funding Corporation annual, quarterly, and interim financial and other information in accordance with instructions of the Funding Corporation for preparation of the report to investors, including:

(i) Financial data of the bank or, if the bank is required under generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) to prepare its financial statements on a consolidated basis with its subsidiaries, consolidated financial data of the bank and its consolidated subsidiaries; and

(ii) Combined financial data of the bank (including any consolidated subsidiaries of the bank) and related associations of the bank.

(2) Respond to Funding Corporation inquiries and provide any followup information requested by the Funding Corporation in connection with the preparation of the report to investors in accordance with instructions of the Funding Corporation.

(3) Notify the Funding Corporation promptly of any events occurring subsequent to publication of the report that may be material either to the financial condition and results of operations of the bank or to the combined financial condition and results of operations of the bank and its related associations. Furnish the Funding Corporation with any information necessary to provide interim Systemwide disclosure to investors to make the most recently

published report to investors not misleading.

(4) Provide in the engagement letter with its external auditor that the external auditor shall, after notifying the bank, respond to inquiries from the Funding Corporation relating to preparation of the report.

(5)(i) Certify to the Funding Corporation that:

(A) All information needed for preparation of the report to investors has been submitted in accordance with the instructions of the Funding Corporation;

(B) The information submitted is prepared in accordance with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements; and

(C) The information submitted is true, accurate, and complete to the best of management's knowledge and belief.

(ii) The certification required by paragraph (c)(5)(i) of this section shall be prepared as specified by the Funding Corporation and shall be manually signed and dated on behalf of the bank by:

(A) The officer(s) designated by the board of directors to certify the information submitted to the Funding Corporation; and

(B) The chief executive officer.

(d) *Responsibilities of associations.* Each association shall:

(1) Provide its related bank with the information necessary to allow the bank to provide accurate and complete information regarding the bank and its related associations to the Funding Corporation for preparation of the report.

(2) Provide in the engagement letter with its external auditor that the external auditor of the association shall, after notifying the association, respond to inquiries of the related bank pertaining to preparation of the combined financial data of the association and its related bank.

§ 630.5 Prohibition against incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading disclosure.

Neither the Funding Corporation, nor any institution supplying information to the Funding Corporation under this

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part, nor any employee, officer, director, or nominee for director of the Funding Corporation or of such institutions, shall make or cause to be made any disclosure to investors and the general public required by this part that is incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading. When any such institution or person makes or causes to be made disclosure under this part that, in the judgment of the FCA, is incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading, whether or not such disclosure is made in published statements required by this part, such institution or person shall promptly furnish to the Funding Corporation, and the Funding Corporation shall promptly publish, such additional or corrective disclosure as is necessary to provide full and fair disclosure to investors and the general public. Nothing in this section shall prevent the FCA from taking additional actions to enforce this section pursuant to its authority under title V, part C of the Act.

§ 630.6 Farm Credit System audit committee and bank audit committees.

(a) *Farm Credit System audit committee.*

(1) The board of the Funding Corporation shall establish and maintain a System Audit Committee and adopt a written charter describing the committee's composition, authorities, and responsibilities.

(2) The System Audit Committee shall consist of no fewer than three members. Members shall be independent of management of any disclosure entity and association and free from any relationship that, in the opinion of the board of directors of the Funding Corporation, would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment as a committee member. Members shall be knowledgeable in public and corporate finance, and financial reporting and disclosure.

(3) The System Audit Committee shall report to the board of the Funding Corporation and shall be given adequate resources and authorities to discharge its responsibilities, including the ability to consult the Funding Corporation's legal counsel.

(4) *Responsibilities.* At a minimum, the System Audit Committee shall:

(i) Make recommendations to the board of the Funding Corporation re-

garding the selection of an independent auditor of the Systemwide combined financial statements;

(ii) Oversee the Funding Corporation management's preparation of the report to investors;

(iii) Review the impact of any significant accounting and auditing developments, and review accounting policy changes relating to preparation of the Systemwide combined financial statements;

(iv) Review the System's annual and quarterly reports to investors prior to their release; and

(v) Oversee the Funding Corporation's system of internal controls relating to preparation of the report, including controls relating to the System's compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

(b) *Farm Credit System bank audit committees.* (1) Each System bank shall establish and maintain a bank audit committee that shall report to the board of the bank.

(2) The bank audit committee shall consist of no fewer than three members. Members shall be independent of management and free from any relationship that, in the opinion of the board of directors of the bank, would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment as a committee member. Members shall be knowledgeable in public and corporate finance, and financial reporting and disclosure.

(3) *Responsibilities.* At a minimum, the bank audit committee shall:

(i) Review the bank's financial statements and significant accounting policies;

(ii) Oversee the bank's financial reporting regarding its disclosure to shareholders and to the Funding Corporation for disclosure to investors;

(iii) Oversee the audit activities of the external auditor; and

(iv) Monitor internal controls, including those relating to compliance with laws and regulations.

Subpart B—Annual Report to Investors

§ 630.20 Contents of the annual report to investors.

The annual report shall contain the following:

(a) *Description of business.* (1) The description shall include a brief discussion of the following:

(i) The System's overall organizational structure, its lending institutions by type and their respective authorities, the relationships between different types of institutions, and the overall geographic area and eligible borrowers served by those institutions;

(ii) The types of lending activities engaged in and financial services offered by System institutions;

(iii) Any significant developments within the last 5 years that have had or could have a material impact on the System's organizational structure and the manner in which System institutions conduct business, including, but not limited to, statutory or regulatory changes, mergers or liquidations of System institutions, terminations of System institution status, and financial assistance provided by or to System institutions through loss-sharing or capital preservation agreements or from any other source;

(iv) Any acquisition or disposition of material assets during the last fiscal year that took place outside the ordinary course of business;

(v) Any concentrations of more than 10 percent of total assets in particular types of agricultural activities or businesses, and any dependence of an institution or a group of institutions of the System upon a specific activity or business, a single customer, or a few customers, including other financing institutions (OFIs), the loss of any one of which would have a material effect on the System; and

(vi) The authority of System institutions to purchase and sell interests in loans in secondary markets and the risk involved in such activities.

(2) List the address of the headquarters of each disclosure entity and service organization of the System.

(b) *Federal regulation and insurance—*
(1) *Farm Credit Administration.* Describe the regulatory and enforcement authority of the FCA over System institutions under the Act.

(2) *Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.* (i) Describe the role and authorities of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation (FCSIC) under part E of title V of the Act. Describe

specifically the role of the FCSIC in insuring the timely payment of principal and interest on FCS debt obligations and in providing assistance to System institutions.

(ii) Describe the FCSIC's status as a Government corporation and state that System institutions have no control over the management of the FCSIC or the discretionary expenditures from the Farm Credit Insurance Fund (Insurance Fund), which are the sole prerogative of the FCSIC.

(3) *Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation.* Describe the role and authorities of the Financial Assistance Corporation under title VI of the Act, debt obligations of the Financial Assistance Corporation issued to provide financial assistance to the System, and statutory repayment obligations of System institutions.

(c) *Description of legal proceedings and enforcement actions.* (1) Describe any material pending legal proceedings in which one or more System institutions are a party, or that involve claims that a System institution(s) may be required by contract or operation of law to satisfy, and the potential impact of such proceedings, to the extent known, on the System.

(2) Provide a summary of the types of enforcement actions in effect during the year, and any material impact of such proceedings on the System.

(d) *Description of liabilities.* (1) Describe how the System funds its lending operations, including:

(i) System banks' authority to borrow, and issue notes, bonds, debentures, and other obligations, and limitations thereof under section 4.2 of the Act;

(ii) A description of the types of debt obligations authorized to be issued under the Act, the types of debt obligations currently issued, the manner and form in which they are issued, rights of securities holders, risk factors, use of proceeds, tax effects of holding securities, market information, and other pertinent information;

(iii) For each of the types of obligations that may be issued, whether it is insured, and the extent of any joint and several liability for the obligations; and

(iv) Any applicable statutory and regulatory requirements affecting a bank's ability to incur debt.

(2) Describe agreements among System banks and the Funding Corporation affecting a bank's ability to incur debt.

(3) Describe agreements among System institutions regarding capital preservation, loss sharing, or any other forms of financial assistance.

(e) *Description of capital.* (1) Describe the capitalization of the System, including capital structure, types of stock and participation certificates, and voting rights of holders of stock and participation certificates.

(2) Describe the statutory requirement that a borrower purchase stock as a condition of obtaining a loan; how such stock is purchased, transferred, and retired; and how earnings are distributed.

(3) Describe any statutory or other authority of a System institution to require additional capital contributions from stockholders.

(4) Describe regulatory minimum permanent capital standards and capital adequacy requirements for banks and associations. State the number of institutions, if any, categorized by banks and associations, that are not currently in compliance with such standards and include a brief discussion of the reasons for the noncompliance.

(5) Describe any statutory and regulatory restrictions on retirement of stock and distribution of earnings by System institutions. State the number of System institutions, if any, categorized by banks and associations, that are currently affected by such restrictions and provide a summary of the causes of such prohibitions.

(f) *Selected financial data.* At a minimum, furnish the following combined financial data of the System in comparative columnar form for each of the last 5 fiscal years.

(1) *Balance sheet.*

(i) Loans.

(ii) Allowance for losses.

(iii) Net loans.

(iv) Cash and investments.

(v) Other property owned.

(vi) Total assets.

(vii) FCS debt obligations and other bonds, notes, debentures, and obligations, presented by type, with a descriptive title.

(viii) Total liabilities.

(ix) Capital stock and surplus.

(2) *Statement of income.*

(i) Net interest income.

(ii) Net other expenses.

(iii) Provision for loan losses.

(iv) Extraordinary items.

(v) Provision for income taxes.

(vi) Net income (loss).

(3) *Key financial ratios.* (i) Return on average assets.

(ii) Return on average capital stock and surplus.

(iii) Net interest income as a percentage of average earning assets.

(iv) Net loan chargeoffs as a percentage of average loans.

(v) Allowance for loan losses as a percentage of gross loans outstanding at yearend.

(vi) Capital stock and surplus as a percentage of total assets at yearend.

(vii) Debt to capital stock and surplus at yearend.

(g) *Discussion and analysis.* Fully discuss any material aspects of financial condition, changes in financial condition, and results of operations of System institutions, on a combined basis, for the comparative years required by paragraph (g)(6)(ii) of this section or such other time periods specified in the following paragraphs of this section. Identify favorable and unfavorable trends, and significant events or uncertainties necessary to understand the financial condition and results of operations of the System. At a minimum, the discussion shall include the following:

(1) *Loan portfolio—(i) Categorization.* Describe the loan portfolio of the System by major loan purpose category, indicating the amount and approximate percentage of the total dollar portfolio represented by each major category.

(ii) *Risk exposure.* (A) Describe and analyze all high-risk assets, including an analysis of the nature and extent of significant current and potential credit risks within the loan portfolio and of other information that could adversely affect the loan portfolio and other property owned.

(B) Provide an analysis of the allowance for loan losses that includes the ratios of the allowance for loan losses to loans (outstanding at yearend) and net chargeoffs to average loans, and a discussion of the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses to absorb the risk inherent in the loan portfolio and the basis for such determination.

(iii) *Secondary market activities.* (A) If material, quantify System institutions' secondary market activities and the risk involved in such activities.

(B) If material, provide an analysis of historical loss experience and the amount provided for risk of loss associated with secondary market activities.

(2) *Results of operations.* (i) Describe, on a comparative basis, changes in the major components of net interest income. Include a discussion of significant factors that contributed to the changes and quantify the amount of change(s) due to an increase or decrease in volume and the amount due to changes in interest rates earned and paid, based on averages for each period.

(ii) Describe any unusual or infrequent events or transactions, or any significant economic changes that materially affected reported income and, in each case, indicate the extent to which income was so affected.

(iii) Discuss the factors underlying any material changes in the return on average assets and return on average capital stock and surplus.

(iv) Describe, on a comparative basis, the major components of operating expense and any other significant components of income or expense, indicating the reasons for any significant increases or decreases.

(v) Describe any known trends or uncertainties that have had, or that are reasonably expected to have, a material impact on net interest income or net income. Disclose any known events that will cause a material change in the relationship between costs and revenues.

(vi) Explain the changes that have taken place, by major components on a comparative basis, in Insurance Fund assets and related restricted capital and how such changes affected reported income.

(3) *Funding sources and liquidity.*—(i) *Funding sources.* (A) Provide, in tabular

form, the component amounts and the total amount of FCS debt obligations, debt obligations issued by banks individually, and Financial Assistance Corporation debt obligations outstanding at yearend for each of the past 2 fiscal years. List debt obligations issued by System institutions separately by type, also separating insured obligations from uninsured obligations. For each type of debt obligation listed, provide the following, at a minimum, for each fiscal year listed:

(1) The beginning balance, the total amount of debt issued, the total amount of debt retired, and the year-end balance; and

(2) The average maturities and average interest rates on debt outstanding at yearend, and the average maturities and average interest rates of new debt issued during the year.

(B) Summarize any other sources of funds, including lines of credit with commercial lenders, and their terms.

(ii) *Liquidity.* (A) Include a brief overview of any FCA regulations or System policies with regard to liquidity and liquidity reserves.

(B) Identify any known trends, demands, commitments, events, or uncertainties that will result in, or that are reasonably likely to result in, System liquidity increasing or decreasing in any material way. If a material liquidity deficiency is identified, indicate the course of action that has been taken or is proposed to be taken by management of affected System institutions to remedy the deficiency.

(iii) *Investment.* Provide a brief overview of the System's investment policies and objectives, any regulatory limitations thereon, and the contents of the System's existing investment portfolio.

(iv) *Interest rate sensitivity.* (A) Provide a brief overview of the System's asset and liability management practices, including interest rate risk measurement systems, and methods used to control interest rate risk, such as the use of investments, derivatives, and other off-balance-sheet transactions.

(B) Provide an analysis of the System's exposure to interest rate risk and its ability to control such risk.

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(4) *Capital resources.* (i) Describe any material commitments to purchase capital assets and the anticipated sources of funding.

(ii) Describe any material trends, favorable or unfavorable, in the System's capital resources, including any material changes in the mix of capital and debt, the relative cost of capital resources, and any off-balance-sheet financing arrangements.

(iii) Provide a general discussion of any trends, commitments, contingencies, or events that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on System institutions' ability to comply with regulatory capital standards.

(5) *Insurance Fund.* (i) Describe the purposes for which expenditures from the Insurance Fund may be made and the statutory requirements for making such expenditures.

(ii) Provide a schedule itemizing the amount of Insurance Fund assets that have been specifically identified by the FCSIC for payment of estimated obligations of the FCSIC and the amount of Insurance Fund assets for which no specific use has been identified or designated by the FCSIC. Information provided shall be as of the end of the most recent fiscal year.

(iii) Explain how FCSIC expenditures or designations of Insurance Fund assets for payment of future obligations affect the combined assets and capital of the System, and quantify the effect, if any.

(6) *Instructions for discussion and analysis.* (i) The purpose of the discussion and analysis (D&A) shall be to provide to investors and other users information relevant to an assessment of the combined financial condition and results of operations of System institutions as determined by evaluating the amounts and certainty of cashflows from operations and from outside sources. The information provided pursuant to this section need only include that which is available to System institutions and which does not clearly appear in the combined financial statements.

(ii) The D&A of the financial statements and other statistical data shall be presented in a manner designed to enhance a reader's understanding of the combined financial condition, re-

sults of operations, cashflows, and changes in capital of System institutions. Unless otherwise specified in § 630.20(g), the discussion shall cover the period covered by the financial statements and shall use year-to-year comparisons or any other understandable format. Where trend information is relevant, reference to the 5-year selected financial data required by paragraph (f) of this section may be necessary.

(iii) The D&A shall focus specifically on material events and uncertainties known at the time of reporting that would cause reported financial information not to be necessarily indicative of future operating results or of future financial condition. This should include descriptions and amounts of:

(A) Matters that would have an impact on future operations but that have not had an impact in the past; and

(B) Matters that have had an impact on reported operations but are not expected to have an impact on future operations.

(h) *Directors and management—(1) Board of directors.* Briefly describe the composition of boards of directors of the disclosure entities. List the name of each director of such entities, including the director's term of office and principal occupation during the past 5 years, or state that such information is available upon request pursuant to § 630.3(f).

(2) *Management.* List the names of chief executive officers and presidents of disclosure entities, including position title, length of service at current position, and positions held during the past 5 years.

(i) *Compensation of directors and senior officers.* State that information on the compensation of directors and senior officers of System banks is contained in each bank's annual report to shareholders and that the annual report of each bank is available to investors upon request pursuant to § 630.3(f).

(j) *Related party transactions.* (1) Briefly describe how System institutions, in the ordinary course of business and subject to regulation by the FCA, may enter into loan transactions with related parties, including their directors, officers, and employees, the immediate family members (as defined

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in § 620.1(e) of this chapter) of such persons, and any organizations with which such persons and their immediate family members are affiliated.

(2) On a comparative basis for each of the fiscal years covered by the balance sheet, state the aggregate amount of the following:

- (i) Loans made to related parties;
- (ii) Loans outstanding at yearend to related parties;
- (iii) Loans outstanding at yearend to related parties that are made on more favorable terms than those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with unrelated borrowers; and
- (iv) Loans outstanding at yearend to related parties that involve more than a normal risk of collectibility (as defined in § 620.1(i) of this chapter).

(k) *Relationship with independent public accountant.* If a change in the accountant who has previously examined and expressed an opinion on the Systemwide combined financial statements has taken place since the last annual report to investors or if a disagreement with an accountant has occurred that the Funding Corporation would be required to report to the FCA under part 621 of this chapter, disclose the information required by § 621.4(c) and (d) of this chapter.

(l) *Financial statements.* Furnish Systemwide combined financial statements and related footnotes prepared in accordance with GAAP, and accompanied by supplemental information prepared in accordance with the requirements of § 630.20(m). The Systemwide combined financial statements shall provide investors and potential investors in FCS debt obligations with the most meaningful presentation pertaining to the financial condition and results of operations of the System. The Systemwide combined financial statement and accompanying supplemental information shall be audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by a qualified public accountant (as defined in § 621.2(i) of this chapter). The Systemwide combined financial statements shall include the following:

- (1) A balance sheet as of the end of each of the 2 most recent fiscal years; and

(2) Statements of income, statements of changes in capital stock and surplus (or, if applicable, statements of changes in protected borrower capital and capital stock and surplus), and statements of cash flows for each of the 3 most recent fiscal years.

(m) *Supplemental information.* Furnish supplemental information regarding the components of the Systemwide combined financial statements that has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of this paragraph and any additional guidance or instructions provided by the FCA.

(1) At a minimum, the supplemental information shall include the following:

(i) Supplemental balance sheet information as of the end of the most recent fiscal year; and

(ii) Supplemental income statement information for the most recently completed fiscal year.

(2) At a minimum, the report shall present supplemental information showing combined financial data for the following components on a stand-alone basis:

- (i) Banks;
- (ii) Associations;
- (iii) Financial Assistance Corporation;
- (iv) Combined financial data of the System without the Insurance Fund;
- (v) The Insurance Fund and related combination entries; and
- (vi) Combined financial data of the System with the Insurance Fund.

(3) The supplemental information shall be presented in a columnar format and include, at a minimum, the selected financial data listed in the schedules in appendix A of this part. The prescribed components shall be designated as column headings and they may be abbreviated in the schedules. The financial data required by § 630.20(m)(2)(i) shall include the financial data required to be submitted by each bank pursuant to the requirement of § 630.4(c)(1)(i).

(4) The supplemental information may be presented separately or in accompanying notes to the Systemwide combined financial statements and shall contain additional disclosures sufficient to explain the basis of the

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presentation of the supplemental information, the components, and any adjustments contained therein to enable readers to understand the effect of each component on the Systemwide combined financial statements.

(n) List the names of the System Audit Committee members in the report to investors.

(o) Include a detailed index setting forth the major disclosure captions of this subpart and the page or pages on which the required information appears in the report.

[59 FR 46742, Sept. 12, 1994, as amended at 63 FR 36549, July 7, 1998]

Subpart C—Quarterly Reports to Investors

§ 630.40 Contents of the quarterly report to investors.

(a) *General.* The quarterly report to investors shall contain the information specified in this section along with any other material information necessary to make the required disclosures, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading. The quarterly report must be presented in a format that is easily understandable and not misleading.

(b) *Rules for condensation.* For purposes of this subpart, major captions to be provided in interim financial statements are the same as those provided in the financial statements contained in the annual report to investors, except that the financial statements included in the quarterly report may be condensed into major captions in accordance with the rules prescribed under this paragraph.

(1) *Interim balance sheets.* When any major balance sheet caption is less than 10 percent of total assets and the amount in the caption has not increased or decreased by more than 25 percent since the end of the preceding fiscal year, the caption may be combined with others.

(2) *Interim statements of income.* When any major income statement caption is less than 15 percent of average net income for the 3 most recent fiscal years and the amount in the caption has not increased or decreased by more than 20 percent since the corresponding interim period of the preceding fiscal

year, the caption may be combined with others. In calculating average net income, loss years should be excluded. If losses were incurred in each of the 3 most recent fiscal years, the average loss shall be used for purposes of this test.

(3) The interim financial information shall include disclosure either on the face of the financial statements or in accompanying footnotes sufficient to make the interim information presented not misleading. It may be presumed that users of the interim financial information have read or have access to the audited financial statements for the preceding fiscal year, and the adequacy of additional disclosure needed for a fair presentation may be determined in that context. Accordingly, footnote disclosure that would substantially duplicate the disclosure contained in the most recent audited financial statements (such as a statement of significant accounting policies and practices) and details of accounts that have not changed significantly in amount or composition since the end of the most recently completed fiscal year may be omitted.

(4) Interim reports shall disclose events that have occurred subsequent to the end of the most recently completed fiscal year that have a material impact on the System. Disclosures should encompass, for example, significant changes since the end of the most recently completed fiscal year in such items as accounting principles and practices, estimates used in the preparation of financial statements, status of long-term contracts, capitalization, significant new indebtedness or modification of existing financing agreements, financial assistance received, significant business combinations and liquidations of System institutions, and terminations of System institution status. Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, where material contingencies exist, disclosure of such matters shall be provided even though a significant change since yearend may not have occurred.

(5) In addition to meeting the reporting requirements specified by existing accounting pronouncements for accounting changes, state the date of any

material accounting change and the reasons for making it.

(6) Any material prior period adjustment made during any period covered by the interim financial statements shall be disclosed, together with its effect upon net income and upon the balance of surplus for any prior period included. If results of operations for any period presented have been adjusted retroactively by such an item subsequent to the initial reporting of such period, similar disclosure of the effect of the change shall be made.

(7) Interim financial statements furnished shall reflect all adjustments that are necessary to a fair statement of the results for the interim periods presented. A statement to that effect shall be included. Furnish any material information necessary to make the information called for not misleading, such as a statement that the results for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for the year.

(8) If any amount that would otherwise be required to be shown by this section with respect to any item is not material, it need not be separately shown. The combination of insignificant items is permitted.

(c) *Discussion and analysis of interim financial condition and results of operations.* Discuss any material changes to the information disclosed to investors pursuant to § 630.20(g) that have occurred during the periods specified in paragraphs (d)(1) and (d)(2) of this section. Provide any additional information needed to enable the reader to assess material changes in financial condition and results of operations between the periods specified in paragraphs (d)(1) and (d)(2) of this section.

(1) *Material changes in financial condition.* Discuss any material changes in financial condition from the end of the preceding fiscal year to the date of the most recent interim balance sheet provided.

(2) *Material changes in results of operations.* Discuss any material changes in the combined results of operations of the System with respect to the most recent fiscal year-to-date period for which an income statement is provided and the corresponding year-to-date period of the preceding fiscal year. Such

discussion shall also cover material changes with respect to the most recent fiscal quarter and the corresponding fiscal quarter in the preceding fiscal year.

(d) *Financial statements.* Interim combined financial statements shall be provided in the quarterly report to investors as set forth in paragraphs (d)(1) through (4):

(1) An interim balance sheet as of the end of the most recent fiscal quarter and a balance sheet as of the end of the preceding fiscal year.

(2) Interim statements of income for the most recent fiscal quarter, for the period between the end of the preceding fiscal year and the end of the most recent fiscal quarter, and for the comparable periods for the previous fiscal year.

(3) Interim statements of changes in capital stock and surplus (or, if applicable, interim statements of changes in protected borrower capital and capital stock and surplus) for the period between the end of the preceding fiscal year and the end of the most recent fiscal quarter, and for the comparable period for the preceding fiscal year.

(4) Interim statements of cash flows for the period between the end of the preceding fiscal year and the end of the most recent fiscal quarter, and for the comparable period for the preceding fiscal year.

(e) *Supplemental information.* The interim report shall present supplemental information in accordance with the requirements of § 630.20 (m)(2), (m)(3), and (m)(4), as well as other requirements and instructions of the FCA, and shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Supplemental balance sheet information as of the end of the most recent quarter; and

(2) Supplemental income statement information for the period between the end of the preceding fiscal year and the end of the most recent fiscal quarter.

(f) *Review by independent public accountant.* Unless otherwise ordered by the FCA as a result of a supervisory action, the interim financial statements and supplemental information need not be audited or reviewed by an independent public accountant prior to filing. If, however, a review of the report

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is made in accordance with the established professional standards and procedures for such a review, a statement that the independent accountant has performed such a review may be included. If such a statement is made, the report of the independent accountant on such review shall accompany the interim financial information.

APPENDIX A TO PART 630—SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE GUIDELINES

Supplemental information required by §§630.20(m) and 630.40(e) shall contain, at a minimum, the current year financial data for the components listed in the following tables and be presented in the columnar format illustrated in the following tables:

TABLE A—SUPPLEMENTAL BALANCE SHEET INFORMATION

	Banks ¹	Associations ²	Financial assistance corporation	Eliminations	Combined without insurance fund ³	Insurance fund and related combination entities	Combined with insurance fund
Cash and investments							
Net loans							
Restricted assets							
Other Assets							
Total assets							
Total liabilities							
Protected borrower capital ⁴							
Restricted capital							
Capital stock and surplus							
Total liabilities, protected borrower capital, and capital stock and surplus							

¹ Provide combined financial data of all FCS banks, including any consolidated subsidiaries of the banks.² Provide association-only combined financial data of all FCS associations.³ Provide the combined financial data of all columns on the left.⁴ Any item that is no longer applicable, e.g., protected borrower stock, may be omitted.

TABLE B—SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME STATEMENT INFORMATION

	Banks ¹	Associations ²	Financial assistance corporation	Eliminations	Combined without insurance fund ³	Insurance fund and related combination entities	Combined with insurance fund
Net interest income							
Provision for loan losses							
Other income							
Other expenses							
Net income							

¹ Provide combined financial data of all FCS banks, including any consolidated subsidiaries of the banks.² Provide association-only combined financial data of all FCS associations.³ Provide the combined financial data of all columns on the left.

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PART 650—FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION

Subpart A—Conflicts of Interest

Sec.

- 650.1 Definitions.
- 650.2 Conflict-of-interest policy.
- 650.3 Implementation of policy.
- 650.4 Director, officer, employee, and agent responsibilities.

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Subpart C—Receiver and Conservator

- 650.50 Grounds for appointment of a receiver or conservator.
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- 650.68 Final discharge and release of the conservator.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 4.12, 5.9, 5.17, 8.11, 8.37, 8.41 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2183, 2243, 2252, 2279aa–11, 2279bb–6, 2279cc); sec. 514 of Pub. L. 102–552, 106 Stat. 4102; sec. 118 of Pub. L. 104–105, 110 Stat. 168.

SOURCE: 59 FR 9626, Mar. 1, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Conflicts of Interest

§ 650.1 Definitions.

(a) *Agent* means any person (other than a director, officer, or employee of the Corporation) who represents the Corporation in contacts with third parties or who provides professional services such as legal, accounting, or appraisal services to the Corporation.

(b) *Affiliate* means any entity established under authority granted to the Corporation under section 8.3(b)(13) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended.

(c) *Corporation* means the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation and its affiliates.

(d) *Employee* means any salaried individual working part-time, full-time, or temporarily for the Corporation.

(e) *Entity* means a corporation, company, association, firm, joint venture, partnership (general or limited), society, joint stock company, trust (business or otherwise), fund, or other organization or institution.

(f) *Material*, when applied to a potential conflict of interest, means the conflicting interest is of sufficient magnitude or significance that a reasonable observer with knowledge of the relevant facts would question the ability of the person having such interest to discharge official duties in an objective and impartial manner in furtherance of the interests and statutory purposes of the Corporation.

(g) *Officer* means the salaried president, vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, and general counsel, or other person, however designated, who holds a position of similar authority in the Corporation.

(h) *Person* means individual or entity.

(i) *Potential conflict of interest* means a director, officer, or employee of the Corporation has an interest in a transaction, relationship, or activity that might adversely affect, or appear to adversely affect, the ability of the director, officer, or employee to perform his official duties on behalf of the Corporation in an objective and impartial manner in furtherance of the interest of the Corporation and its statutory purposes. For the purpose of determining whether a potential conflict of interest exists, the following interests shall be imputed to a person subject to this regulation as if they were that person's own interests:

- (1) Interests of that person's spouse;
- (2) Interests of that person's minor child;
- (3) Interests of that person's general partner;
- (4) Interests of an organization or entity that the person serves as officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee; and
- (5) Interests of a person, organization, or entity with which that person

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is negotiating for or has an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

(j) *Resolved*, when applied to a potential conflict of interest that the Corporation has determined is material, means that circumstances have been altered so that a reasonable observer with knowledge of the relevant facts would conclude that the conflicting interest would not adversely affect the person's performance of official duties in an objective and impartial manner in furtherance of the interests and statutory purposes of the Corporation.

§ 650.2 Conflict-of-interest policy.

The Corporation shall establish and administer a conflict-of-interest policy that will provide reasonable assurance that the directors, officers, employees, and agents of the Corporation discharge their official responsibilities in an objective and impartial manner in furtherance of the interests and statutory purposes of the Corporation. The policy shall, at a minimum:

(a) Define the types of transactions, relationships, or activities that could reasonably be expected to give rise to potential conflicts of interest.

(b) Require each director, officer, and employee to report in writing, annually, and at such other times as conflicts may arise, sufficient information about financial interests, transactions, relationships, and activities to inform the Corporation of potential conflicts of interest;

(c) Require each director, officer, and employee who had no transaction, relationship, or activity required to be reported under paragraph (b) of this section at any time during the year to file a signed statement to that effect;

(d) Establish guidelines for determining when a potential conflict is material in accordance with this subpart;

(e) Establish procedures for resolving or disclosing material conflicts of interest.

(f) Provide internal controls to ensure that reports are filed as required and that conflicts are resolved or disclosed in accordance with this subpart.

(g) Notify directors, officers, and employees of the conflict-of-interest policy

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and any subsequent changes thereto and allow them a reasonable period of time to conform to the policy.

§ 650.3 Implementation of policy.

(a) The Corporation shall disclose any unresolved material conflicts of interest involving its directors, officers, and employees to:

(1) Shareholders through annual reports and proxy statements; and

(2) Investors and potential investors through disclosure documents supplied to them.

(b) The Corporation shall make available to any shareholder, investor, or potential investor, upon request, a copy of its policy on conflicts of interest. The Corporation may charge a nominal fee to cover the costs of reproduction and handling.

(c) The Corporation shall maintain all reports of all potential conflicts of interest and documentation of materiality determinations and resolutions of conflicts of interest for a period of 6 years.

§ 650.4 Director, officer, employee, and agent responsibilities.

(a) Each director, officer, employee, and agent of the Corporation shall:

(1) Conduct the business of the Corporation following high standards of honesty, integrity, impartiality, loyalty, and care, consistent with applicable law and regulation in furtherance of the Corporation's public purpose;

(2) Adhere to the requirements of the conflict-of-interest policy established by the Corporation and provide any information the Corporation deems necessary to discharge its responsibilities under this subpart.

(b) Directors, officers, employees, and agents of the Corporation shall be subject to the penalties of part C of title V of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended, for violations of this regulation, including failure to adhere to the conflict-of-interest policy established by the Corporation.

Subpart B [Reserved]

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Subpart C—Receiver and Conservator

SOURCE: 62 FR 43636, Aug. 15, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 650.50 Grounds for appointment of a receiver or conservator.

(a) The grounds for the appointment of a receiver or conservator for the Corporation are:

(1) The Corporation is insolvent. For purposes of this paragraph, insolvent means:

(i) The assets of the Corporation are less than its obligations to its creditors and others; or

(ii) The Corporation is unable to pay its debts as they fall due in the ordinary course of business;

(2) There has been a substantial dissipation of the assets or earnings of the Corporation due to the violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or the conduct of an unsafe or unsound practice;

(3) The Corporation is in an unsafe or unsound condition to transact business;

(4) The Corporation has committed a willful violation of a final cease-and-desist order issued by the Farm Credit Administration Board;

(5) The Corporation is concealing its books, papers, records, or assets, or is refusing to submit its books, papers, records, assets, or other material relating to the affairs of the Corporation for inspection to any examiner or any lawful agent of the Farm Credit Administration Board.

(b) In addition to the grounds set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, a receiver can be appointed for the Corporation if the Farm Credit Administration Board determines that the appointment of a conservator would not be appropriate when one of the following conditions exists:

(1) The authority of the Corporation to purchase qualified loans or issue or guarantee loan-backed securities is suspended; or

(2) The Corporation is classified under section 8.35 of the Act as within enforcement level III or IV and the alternative actions available under subtitle B of title VIII of the Act are not satisfactory.

(c) In addition to the grounds set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, a conservator can be appointed for the Corporation if:

(1) The Corporation is classified under section 8.35 of the Act as within enforcement level III or IV; or

(2) The authority of the Corporation to purchase qualified loans or issue or guarantee loan-backed securities is suspended.

§ 650.51 Action for removal of receiver or conservator.

Upon the appointment of a receiver or conservator for the Corporation by the Farm Credit Administration Board pursuant to § 650.50 of this subpart, the Corporation may, within 30 days of such appointment, bring an action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, for an order requiring the Farm Credit Administration Board to remove the receiver or conservator and, if the charter has been canceled, to rescind the cancellation of the charter. Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, the Corporation's board of directors is empowered to meet subsequent to such appointment and authorize the filing of an action for removal. An action for removal may be authorized only by the Corporation's board of directors.

§ 650.52 Voluntary liquidation.

(a) The Corporation may voluntarily liquidate by a resolution of its board of directors, but only with the consent of, and in accordance with a plan of liquidation approved by, the Farm Credit Administration Board. Upon adoption of such resolution, the Corporation shall submit the resolution and proposed voluntary liquidation plan to the Farm Credit Administration Board for preliminary approval. The Farm Credit Administration Board, in its discretion, may appoint a receiver as part of an approved liquidation plan. If a receiver is appointed for the Corporation as part of a voluntary liquidation, the receivership shall be conducted pursuant to the regulations of this part, except to the extent that an approved plan of liquidation provides otherwise.

(b) If the Farm Credit Administration Board gives preliminary approval

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to the liquidation plan, the board of directors of the Corporation shall submit the resolution to liquidate to the stockholders for a vote in accordance with the bylaws of the Corporation.

(c) The Farm Credit Administration Board will consider final approval of the resolution to voluntarily liquidate and the liquidation plan after an affirmative stockholder vote on the resolution.

§ 650.55 Appointment of a receiver.

(a) The Farm Credit Administration Board may in its discretion appoint, ex parte and without prior notice, a receiver for the Corporation provided that one or more of the grounds for appointment as set forth in § 650.50 of this subpart exist.

(b) Upon the appointment of the receiver, the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration Board shall immediately notify the Corporation and shall publish a notice of the appointment in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(c) Upon the issuance of the order placing the Corporation into liquidation and appointing the receiver, all rights, privileges, and powers of the board of directors, officers, and employees of the Corporation shall be vested exclusively in the receiver. The Farm Credit Administration Board may cancel the charter of the Corporation on such date as the Farm Credit Administration Board determines is appropriate, but not later than the conclusion of the receivership and discharge of the receiver.

§ 650.56 Powers and duties of the receiver.

(a) *General.* (1) Upon appointment as receiver, the receiver shall take possession of the Corporation in order to wind up the business operations of the Corporation, collect the debts owed to the Corporation, liquidate its property and assets, pay its creditors, and distribute the remaining proceeds to stockholders. The receiver is authorized to exercise all powers necessary to the efficient termination of the Corporation's operation as provided for in this part.

(2) Upon its appointment as receiver, the receiver automatically succeeds to:

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(i) All rights, titles, powers, and privileges of the Corporation and of any stockholder, officer, or director of the Corporation with respect to the Corporation and the assets of the Corporation; and

(ii) Title to the books, records, and assets of the Corporation in the possession of any other legal custodian of the Corporation.

(3) The receiver of the Corporation serves as the trustee of the receivership estate and conducts its operations for the benefit of the creditors and stockholders of the Corporation.

(b) *Specific powers.* The receiver may:

(1) Exercise all powers as are conferred upon the officers and directors of the Corporation under law and the charter, articles, and bylaws of the Corporation.

(2) Take any action the receiver considers appropriate or expedient to carry on the business of the Corporation during the process of liquidating its assets and winding up its affairs.

(3) Borrow funds in accordance with section 8.41(f) of the Act to meet the ongoing administrative expenses or other liquidity needs of the receivership.

(4) Pay any sum the receiver deems necessary or advisable to preserve, conserve, or protect the Corporation's assets or property or rehabilitate or improve such property and assets.

(5) Pay any sum the receiver deems necessary or advisable to preserve, conserve, or protect any asset or property on which the Corporation has a lien or in which the Corporation has a financial or property interest, and pay off and discharge any liens, claims, or charges of any nature against such property.

(6) Investigate any matter related to the conduct of the business of the Corporation, including, but not limited to, any claim of the Corporation against any individual or entity, and institute appropriate legal or other proceedings to prosecute such claims.

(7) Institute, prosecute, maintain, defend, intervene, and otherwise participate in any legal proceeding by or against the Corporation or in which the Corporation or its creditors or stockholders have any interest, and

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represent in every way the Corporation, its stockholders and creditors.

(8) Employ attorneys, accountants, appraisers, and other professionals to give advice and assistance to the receivership generally or on particular matters, and pay their retainers, compensation, and expenses, including litigation costs.

(9) Hire any agents or employees necessary for proper administration of the receivership.

(10) Execute, acknowledge, and deliver, in person or through a general or specific delegation, any instrument necessary for any authorized purpose, and any instrument executed under this paragraph shall be valid and effective as if it had been executed by the Corporation's officers by authority of its board of directors.

(11) Sell for cash or otherwise any mortgage, deed of trust, chose in action, note, contract, judgment or decree, stock, or debt owed to the Corporation, or any property (real or personal, tangible or intangible).

(12) Purchase or lease office space, automobiles, furniture, equipment, and supplies, and purchase insurance, professional, and technical services necessary for the conduct of the receivership.

(13) Release any assets or property of any nature, regardless of whether the subject of pending litigation, and repudiate, with cause, any lease or executory contract the receiver considers burdensome.

(14) Settle, release, or obtain release of, for cash or other consideration, claims and demands against or in favor of the Corporation or receiver.

(15) Pay, out of the assets of the Corporation, all expenses of the receivership (including compensation to personnel employed to represent or assist the receiver) and all costs of carrying out or exercising the rights, powers, privileges, and duties as receiver.

(16) Pay, out of the assets of the Corporation, all approved claims of indebtedness in accordance with the priorities established in this part.

(17) Take all actions and have such rights, powers, and privileges as are necessary and incident to the exercise of any specific power.

(18) Take such actions, and have such additional rights, powers, privileges, immunities, and duties as the Farm Credit Administration Board authorizes by order or by amendment of any order or by regulation.

§ 650.57 Report to Congress.

On a determination by the receiver that there are insufficient assets of the receivership to pay all valid claims against the receivership, the receiver shall submit to the Secretary of the Treasury and Congress a report on the financial condition of the receivership.

§ 650.58 Preservation of equity.

(a) Except as provided for upon final distribution of the assets of the Corporation pursuant to § 650.62 of this subpart, no capital stock, equity reserves, or other allocated equities of the Corporation in receivership shall be issued, allocated, retired, sold, distributed, transferred, or assigned.

(b) Immediately upon the adoption of a resolution by its board of directors to voluntarily liquidate the Corporation, the capital stock, equity reserves, and allocated equities of the Corporation shall not be issued, allocated, retired, sold, distributed, transferred, or assigned. Such activities could resume if the stockholders of the Corporation or the Farm Credit Administration Board disapprove the resolution. In the event the resolution is approved by the stockholders of the Corporation and the Farm Credit Administration Board, the liquidation plan shall govern disposition of the equities of the Corporation as provided in § 650.52 of this subpart.

§ 650.59 Notice to stockholders.

As soon as practicable after a receiver takes possession of the Corporation, the receiver shall notify, by first class mail, each holder of stock of the following matters:

(a) The number of shares such holder owns;

(b) That the stock and other equities of the Corporation may not be retired or transferred until the liquidation is completed, whereupon the receiver will distribute a liquidating dividend, if any, to the stockholders; and

(c) Such other matters as the receiver or the Farm Credit Administration Board deems necessary.

§ 650.60 Creditor claims.

(a) Upon appointment, the receiver shall promptly publish a notice to creditors to present their claims against the Corporation, with proof thereof, to the receiver by a date specified in the notice, which shall be not less than 90 calendar days after the first publication. The notice shall be republished approximately 30 days and 60 days after the first publication. The receiver shall promptly send, by first class mail, a similar notice to any creditor shown on the Corporation's books at the creditor's last address appearing thereon. Claims filed after the specified date shall be disallowed except as the receiver may approve them for full or partial payment from the Corporation's assets remaining undistributed at the time of approval.

(b) The receiver shall allow any claim that is timely received and proved to the receiver's satisfaction. The receiver may disallow in whole or in part any creditor's claim or claim of security, preference, or priority that is not proved to the receiver's satisfaction or is not timely received and shall notify the claimant of the disallowance and reason therefor. Sending the notice of disallowance by first class mail to the claimant's address appearing on the proof of claim shall be sufficient notice. The disallowance shall be final unless, within 30 days after the notice of disallowance is mailed, the claimant files a written request for payment regardless of the disallowance. The receiver shall reconsider any claim upon the timely request of the claimant and may approve or disapprove such claim in whole or in part.

(c) Creditors' claims that are allowed shall be paid by the receiver from time to time, to the extent funds are available therefor and in accordance with the priorities established in this part and in such manner and amounts as the receiver deems appropriate. In the event the Corporation has a claim against a creditor of the Corporation, the receiver shall offset the amount of such claim against the claim asserted by such creditor.

§ 650.61 Priority of claims.

The following priority of claims shall apply to the distribution of the assets of the Corporation in liquidation:

(a) All costs, expenses, and debts incurred by the receiver in connection with the administration of the receivership, all Farm Credit Administration assessments for the costs of supervising and examining the Corporation, and any amounts borrowed pursuant to § 650.56(b)(3).

(b) Administrative expenses of the Corporation, provided that such expenses were incurred within 60 days prior to the receiver's taking possession, and that such expenses shall be limited to reasonable expenses incurred for services actually provided by accountants, attorneys, appraisers, examiners, or management companies, or reasonable expenses incurred by employees that were authorized and reimbursable under a preexisting expense reimbursement policy and that, in the opinion of the receiver, are of benefit to the receivership, and shall not include wages or salaries of employees of the Corporation.

(c) If authorized by the receiver, claims for wages and salaries, including vacation pay, earned prior to the appointment of the receiver by an employee of the Corporation whom the receiver determines it is in the best interest of the receivership to engage or retain for a reasonable period of time.

(d) If authorized by the receiver, claims for wages and salaries, including vacation pay, earned prior to the appointment of the receiver, up to a maximum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per person as adjusted for inflation, by an employee of the Corporation not engaged or retained by the receiver. The adjustment for inflation shall be the percentage by which the Consumer Price Index (as prepared by the Department of Labor) for the calendar year preceding the appointment of the receiver exceeds the Consumer Price Index for the calendar year 1992.

(e) All claims for taxes.

(f) All claims of creditors which are secured by specific assets of the Corporation, with priority of conflicting claims of creditors within this same class to be determined in accordance

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with priorities of applicable Federal or State law.

(g) All claims of general creditors.

§ 650.62 Payment of claims.

(a) All claims of each class described in § 650.61 of this subpart shall be paid in full or provisions shall be made for such payment prior to the payment of any claim of a lesser priority. If there are insufficient funds to pay all claims in a class in full, distribution to that class will be on a pro rata basis.

(b) Following the payment of all claims, the receiver shall distribute the remainder of the assets of the Corporation, if any, to the owners of stock and other equities in accordance with the priorities for impairment set forth in section 8.4(e)(3) of the Act and the bylaws of the Corporation.

§ 650.63 Inventory, audit, and reports.

(a) As soon as practicable after taking possession of the Corporation, the receiver shall take an inventory of the assets and liabilities as of the date possession was taken.

(b) The receivership shall be audited on an annual basis by a certified public accountant selected by the receiver.

(c) The receiver shall make an annual accounting or report, as appropriate, available for review upon request to any stockholder of the Corporation or any member of the public, with a copy provided to the Farm Credit Administration.

(d) As soon as practicable after final distribution, the receiver shall send to each stockholder of record a report summarizing the disposition of the assets of the receivership and claims against the receivership.

§ 650.64 Final discharge and release of the receiver.

After the receiver has made a final distribution of the assets of the receivership, the receivership shall be terminated, the charter shall be canceled by the Farm Credit Administration Board if such cancellation has not previously occurred, and the receiver shall be finally discharged and released.

§ 650.65 Appointment of a conservator.

(a) The Farm Credit Administration Board may in its discretion appoint, ex

parte and without prior notice, a conservator for the Corporation provided that one or more of the grounds for appointment as set forth in § 650.50 of this subpart exist;

(b) Upon the appointment of a conservator, the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration shall immediately notify the Corporation and shall publish a notice of the appointment in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(c) As soon as practicable after the conservator takes possession of the Corporation, the conservator shall notify, by first class mail, each holder of stock in the Corporation of the establishment of the conservatorship and shall describe the effect of the conservatorship on the Corporation's operations and equity holdings.

(d) Upon the issuance of the order placing the Corporation in conservatorship, all rights, privileges, and powers of the board of directors, officers, and employees of the Corporation are vested exclusively in the conservator.

(e) The Farm Credit Administration Board may, at any time, terminate the conservatorship and direct the conservator to turn over the Corporation's operations to such management as the Farm Credit Administration Board may designate, in which event the provisions of this subpart shall no longer apply.

§ 650.66 Powers and duties of the conservator.

(a) The conservator shall direct the Corporation's further operation until the Farm Credit Administration Board decides that the Corporation can operate without the conservatorship or places the Corporation into receivership. Upon correction or resolution of the problem or condition that provided the basis for the appointment, the Farm Credit Administration Board may turn the Corporation over to such management as the Farm Credit Administration Board may direct.

(b) The conservator shall exercise all powers necessary to continue the ongoing operations of the Corporation, to conserve and preserve the Corporation's assets and property, and otherwise protect the interests of the Corporation, its stockholders, and creditors as provided in this subpart.

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(c) The conservator serves as the trustee of the Corporation and conducts its operations for the benefit of the creditors and stockholders of the Corporation.

(d) The conservator may exercise the powers that a receiver of the Corporation may exercise under any of the provisions of § 650.56(b) of this subpart, except paragraphs (b)(2) and (b)(16). In interpreting the applicable paragraphs for purposes of this section, the terms “conservator” and “conservatorship” shall be read for “receiver” and “receivership”.

(e) The conservator may also take any other action the conservator considers appropriate or expedient to the continuing operation of the Corporation.

§ 650.67 Inventory, examination, and reports to stockholders.

(a) As soon as practicable after taking possession of the Corporation, the conservator shall take an inventory of the assets and liabilities of the Cor-

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poration as of the date possession was taken. One copy of the inventory shall be filed with the Farm Credit Administration.

(b) The conservatorship shall be examined by the Farm Credit Administration in accordance with section 8.11 of the Act.

(c) The conservatorship shall prepare and file financial reports and other documents in accordance with the requirements of § 620.40 and part 621 of this chapter. The conservator of the Corporation shall provide the certification required in § 621.14 of this chapter.

§ 650.68 Final discharge and release of the conservator.

At such time as the conservator shall be relieved of its conservatorship duties, the conservator shall file a report on the conservator’s activities with the Farm Credit Administration. The conservator shall thereupon be completely and finally released.

CHAPTER VII—NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

EDITORIAL NOTE: For FEDERAL REGISTER citations to interpretations and policy statements to Chapter VII, see the List of CFR Sections Affected in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

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SUBCHAPTER A—REGULATIONS AFFECTING CREDIT UNIONS

PART 700—DEFINITIONS

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1752, 1757(6), 1766.

§ 700.1 Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(a) *Act* means the Federal Credit Union Act (73 Stat. 628, 84 Stat. 944, 12 U.S.C. 1751 through 1790).

(b) *Administration* means the National Credit Union Administration.

(c) *Board* means the Board of the National Credit Union Administration.

(d) *Credit Union* means a credit union chartered under the Federal Credit Union Act or, as the context permits, under the laws of any State.

(e) *Regional Director* means the representative of the Administration in the designated geographical area in which the office of the Federal credit union is located.

(f) *Regional Office* means the office of the Administration located in the designated geographical areas in which the office of the Federal credit union is located.

(g) *State* means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, any of the several Territories and possessions of the United States, the Panama Canal Zone, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(h) *Remaining maturity* is the time period from the date of the required reserve transfer to the stated date of maturity of the instrument.

(i) For the purpose of establishing the reserves required by section 116 of the Federal Credit Union Act, all assets except the following shall be considered risk assets:

(1) Cash on hand.

(2) Deposits and/or shares in federally or state-insured banks, savings and loan associations, and credit unions that have a remaining maturity of 5 years or less.

(3) Assets that have a remaining maturity of 5 years or less and are insured by, fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by, or due from the U.S. Government, its agencies, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, or

the Government National Mortgage Association. Collateralized mortgage obligations that are comprised of government guaranteed mortgage loans shall be included in this asset category.

(4) Loans to other credit unions that have a remaining maturity of 5 years or less.

(5) Student loans insured under the provisions of title IV, Part B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071, et seq.) or similar state insurance programs that have a remaining maturity of 5 years or less.

(6) Loans that have a remaining maturity of 5 years or less and are fully insured or guaranteed by the Federal or a state government or any agency of either.

(7) Shares or deposits in a corporate credit union that have a remaining maturity of 5 years or less, other than Membership Capital Share Deposit accounts as defined in part 704.

(i) Is operated primarily for the purpose of serving other credit unions;

(ii) Is designated by the National Credit Union Administration as a corporate credit union; and

(iii) Limits natural person members to the minimum required by state or federal law to charter and operate the credit union.

(8) Common trust investments, including mutual funds, which deal exclusively in investments authorized by the Federal Credit Union Act that are either carried at the lower cost or market, or are marked to market value monthly.

(9) Prepaid expenses.

(10) Accrued interest on non-risk investments.

(11) Loans fully secured by a pledge of shares in the lending Federal credit union, equal to and maintained to at least the amount of the loan outstanding.

(12) Loans which are purchased from liquidating credit unions and guaranteed by the National Credit Union Administration.

(13) National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Guaranty Accounts established with the authorization of the National Credit Union Administration

under the authority of section 208(a)(1) of the Federal Credit Union Act.

(14) Investments in shares of the National Credit Union Administration Central Liquidity Facility.

(15) Assets included in numbered items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 with maturities greater than 5 years are exempt from risk assets if the asset is being carried on the credit union's records at the lower of cost or market, or are being marked to market value monthly.

(16) Assets included in numbered items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, with remaining maturities greater than 5 years are exempt from risk assets provided they meet the following criteria, irrespective of whether or not the asset is being carried on the credit union's records at the lower of cost or market, or are being marked to market value monthly.

(17) Fixed Assets as defined in §701.36(b).

(18) Deposit in the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund representing a federally insured credit union's capitalization account balance of one percent of insured shares.

(j)(1) *Insolvency*. A credit union will be determined to be insolvent when the total amount of its shares exceeds the present cash value of its assets after providing for liabilities unless:

(i) It is determined by the Board that the facts that caused the deficient share-asset ratio no longer exist; and

(ii) The likelihood of further depreciation of the share-asset ratio is not probable; and

(iii) The return of the share-asset ratio to its normal limits within a reasonable time for the credit union concerned is probable; and

(iv) The probability of a further potential loss to the insurance fund is negligible.

(2) For purposes of this section, the following definitions are used:

(i) *Cash value of assets*. Recorded value will be considered the cash value of any asset account providing accepted accounting principles and practices are followed and the provisions of law, regulation, and bylaws are met.

(ii) *Liabilities*. Recorded liabilities which are due and payable, excluding shares of members and non-members, are considered liabilities.

(k) For purposes of determining the amount required to be transferred to regular reserves under sections 116 and 201(b)(6) of the Federal Credit Union Act, *gross income* means the total of the operating income accounts reduced by the following.

(1) Dividends received on shares in the National Credit Union Administration Central Liquidity Facility;

(2) Dividends received by credit unions on special share accounts held in Agent members of the Central Liquidity Facility authorized by §725.7 of this chapter; and

(3) Interest received by an Agent member of the Central Liquidity Facility to the extent of interest paid to the Facility by the Agent member. In the case of an Agent member of the Central Liquidity Facility that is a group of central credit unions—

(i) Interest received by the Agent group representative, as defined in §725.1(b) of this chapter, to the extent of interest paid to the Facility by the Agent group representative; and

(ii) Interest received by each central credit union in the Agent group (other than the Agent group representative) to the extent of interest paid by each such central credit union to the Agent group representative on Agent group representative loans, as defined in §725.1(b) of this chapter. Non-operating gains and losses are not included in gross income.

[36 FR 23794, Dec. 15, 1971; 37 FR 329, Jan. 11, 1972, as amended at 37 FR 10342, May 20, 1972; 45 FR 47121, July 14, 1980; 54 FR 48234, Nov. 22, 1989; 54 FR 52015, Dec. 20, 1989; 55 FR 1794, Jan. 19, 1990; 57 FR 47985, Oct. 21, 1992; 58 FR 40042, July 27, 1993]

PART 701—ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

Sec.

701.1 Federal credit union chartering, field of membership modifications, and conversions.

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- 701.37 Treasury tax and loan depositories; depositories and financial agents of the Government.
- 701.38 Borrowed funds from natural persons.
- 701.39 Statutory lien.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1752(5), 1755, 1756, 1757, 1759, 1761a, 1761b, 1766, 1767, 1782, 1784, 1787, 1789. Section 701.6 is also authorized by 15 U.S.C. 3717. Section 701.31 is also authorized by 15 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*; 42 U.S.C. 1981 and 3601–3610. Section 701.35 is also authorized by 42 U.S.C. 4311–4312.

§ 701.1 Federal credit union chartering, field of membership modifications, and conversions.

National Credit Union Administration policies concerning chartering, field of membership modifications, and conversions are set forth in Interpretive Ruling and Policy Statement 99–1, Chartering and Field of Membership Policy. Copies may be obtained by contacting NCUA at the address found in § 790.2 of this chapter. The IRPS is incorporated into this section.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3133–0015.)

[63 FR 72018, Dec. 30, 1998]

§§ 701.2–701.5 [Reserved]

§ 701.6 Fees paid by Federal credit unions.

(a) *Basis for assessment.* Each calendar year or as otherwise directed by the Board, each Federal credit union shall pay to the Administration for the cur-

rent National Credit Union Administration fiscal year (January 1 to December 31) an operating fee in accordance with a schedule as fixed from time to time by the National Credit Union Administration Board based on the total assets of each Federal credit union as of December 31 of the preceding year or as otherwise determined pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Coverage.* The operating fee shall be paid by each Federal credit union engaged in operations as of January 1 of each calendar year, except as otherwise provided by this paragraph.

(1) *New charters.* A newly chartered Federal credit union will not pay an operating fee until the year following the first full calendar year after the date chartered.

(2) *Conversions.* A state chartered credit union that converts to Federal charter will pay an operating fee in the year following the conversion. Federal credit unions converting to state charter will not receive a refund of the operating fee paid to the Administration in the year in which the conversion takes place.

(3) *Mergers.* A continuing Federal credit union that has merged with another credit union will pay an operating fee in the following year based on the combined total assets of the merged credit union and the continuing Federal credit union as of December 31 of the year in which the merger took place. For purposes of this requirement, a purchase and assumption transaction wherein the continuing Federal credit union purchases all or essentially all of the assets of another credit union shall be deemed a merger. Federal credit unions merging with other Federal or state credit unions will not receive a refund of the operating fee paid to the Administration in the year in which the merger took place.

(4) *Liquidations.* A Federal credit union placed in liquidation will not pay any operating fee after the date of liquidation.

(c) *Notification.* Each Federal credit union shall be notified at least 30 days in advance of the schedule of fees to be paid. A Federal credit union may submit written comments to the Board for

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consideration regarding the existing fee schedule. Any subsequent revision to the schedule shall be provided to each Federal credit union at least 15 days before payment is due.

(d) *Assessment of Administrative Fee and Interest for Delinquent Payment.* Each Federal credit union shall pay to the Administration an administrative fee, the costs of collection, and interest on any delinquent payment of its operating fee. A payment will be considered delinquent if it is postmarked later than the date stated in the notice to the credit union provided under §701.6(c). The National Credit Union Administration may waive or abate charges or collection of interest if circumstances warrant.

(1) The administrative fee for a delinquent payment shall be an amount fixed from time to time by the National Credit Union Administration Board and based upon the administrative costs of such delinquent payments to the Administration in the preceding year.

(2) The costs of collection shall be the actual hours expended by Administration personnel multiplied by the average hourly salary and benefits costs of such personnel as determined by the National Credit Union Administration Board.

(3) The interest rate charged on any delinquent payment shall be the U.S. Department of the Treasury Tax and Loan Rate in effect on the date when the payment is due as provided in 31 U.S.C. 3717.

(4) If a credit union makes a combined payment of its operating fee and its share insurance deposit as provided in §741.4 of this chapter and such payment is delinquent, only one administrative fee will be charged and interest will be charged on the total combined payment.

[44 FR 27380, May 10, 1979, as amended at 50 FR 20745, May 20, 1985; 55 FR 1799, Jan. 19, 1990; 59 FR 33421, June 29, 1994; 60 FR 58503, Nov. 28, 1995]

§§ 701.7–701.13 [Reserved]

§701.14 Change in official or senior executive officer in credit unions that are newly chartered or are in troubled condition.

(a) *Statement of scope and purpose.* Section 212 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1790a) sets forth conditions under which a credit union must notify NCUA in writing of any proposed changes in its board of directors, committee members or senior executive staff. The regulation only applies in cases of newly chartered credit unions and credit unions in troubled condition.

(b) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this section:

(1) *Committee member* means any individual who serves as an official of the credit union in the capacity of a credit committee member or supervisory committee member.

(2) *Senior executive officer* means a credit union's chief executive officer (typically this individual holds the title of president or treasurer/manager), any assistant chief executive officer (e.g., any assistant president, any vice president or any assistant treasurer/manager) and the chief financial officer (controller). The term "senior executive officer" also includes employees of an entity, such as a consulting firm, hired to perform the functions of positions covered by the regulation.

(3) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(4) of this section for corporate credit unions, "troubled condition" means any insured credit union that has one or a combination of the following conditions:

(i) Has been assigned

(A) A 4 or 5 Camel composite rating by the NCUA in the case of a federal credit union, or

(B) An equivalent 4 or 5 Camel composite rating by the state supervisor in the case of a federally insured, state-chartered credit union, or

(C) A 4 or 5 Camel composite rating by NCUA based on core workpapers received from the state supervisor in the

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case of a federally insured, state-chartered credit union in a state that does not use the Camel system. In this case, the state supervisor will be notified in writing by the Regional Director in the Region in which the credit union is located that the credit union has been designated by NCUA as a troubled institution;

(ii) Has been granted assistance as outlined under section 116 or 208 of the Federal Credit Union Act.

(4) In the case of a corporate credit union, “troubled condition” means any insured corporate credit union that has one or a combination of the following conditions:

(i) Has been assigned

(A) A 4 or 5 Corporate Risk Information System (CRIS) rating by NCUA in either the Financial Risk or Risk Management composites, in the case of a federal corporate credit union, or

(B) An equivalent 4 or 5 CRIS rating in either the Financial Risk or Risk Management composites by the state supervisor in the case of a federally insured, state-chartered corporate credit union in a state that has adopted the CRIS system, or an equivalent 4 or 5 CAMEL composite rating by the state supervisor in the case of a federally insured, state-chartered corporate credit union in a state that uses the CAMEL system, or

(C) A 4 or 5 CRIS rating in either the Financial Risk or Risk Management composites by NCUA based on core workpapers received from the state supervisor in the case of a federally insured, state-chartered credit union in a state that does not use either the CRIS or CAMEL system. In this case, the state supervisor will be notified in writing by the Director of the Office of Corporate Credit Unions that the corporate credit union has been designated by NCUA as a troubled institution;

(ii) Has been granted assistance as outlined under Sections 116 or 208 of the Federal Credit Union Act.

(c) *Prior notice requirement.* An insured credit union shall give NCUA written notice at least 30 days prior to the effective date of any addition or replacement of a member of the board of directors or committee member or the employment or change in responsibility

of any individual to a position as a senior executive officer if:

(1) The credit union has been chartered for less than 2 years; or

(2) The credit union meets the definition of troubled condition as set forth in paragraph 701.14(b)(3) or (4).

(d) *Procedures for notice of proposed change in official or senior executive officer.*

(1) Filing and acceptance. Notices shall be filed with the appropriate Regional Director. In the case of a corporate credit union, notice shall be filed with the Director of the Office of Corporate Credit Unions. Additional references herein to Regional Director will, for corporate credit unions, mean the Director of the Office of Corporate Credit Unions. State-chartered federally insured credit unions shall also file a copy of the notice with their state supervisor. The notice shall contain information pertaining to the competence, experience, character, or integrity of the individual with respect to whom the notice is submitted, subject to the authority of the Regional Director or his or her designee to require additional information. The information submitted must include the identity, personal history, business background, and experience of the individual, including material business activities and affiliations during the past 5 years, and a description of any material pending legal or administrative proceedings in which the individual is a party and any criminal indictment or conviction of such person by a state or Federal court. Each individual on whose behalf the notice is filed must attest to the validity of the information filed. At the option of the individual, the information may be forwarded to the Regional Director by the individual; however, in such cases, the credit union must file a notice to that effect. Within ten calendar days after receiving the notice, the Regional Director will inform the credit union either that the notice is complete or that additional specified information is needed and must be submitted within 30 calendar days. If the initial notice is complete, the Regional Director will issue a written decision of approval or disapproval to the individual and the credit union within 30 calendar days of

receipt of the notice. If the initial notice is not complete, the Regional Director will issue a written decision within 30 calendar days of receipt of the original notice plus the amount of time taken by the credit union to provide the requested additional information. If the additional information is not submitted within 30 calendar days of the Regional Director's request, the Regional Director may either disapprove the proposed individual or review the notice based on the information provided. If the credit union and the individual have submitted all requested information and the Regional Director has not issued a written decision within the applicable time period, the individual is approved.

(2) Waiver of prior notice requirement. Parties may petition the appropriate Regional Director for a waiver of the prior notice required under this section. Waiver may be granted if it is found that delay could harm the credit union or the public interest. Any waiver shall not affect the authority of NCUA to issue a Notice of Disapproval within 30 days of the waiver, or within 30 days of any subsequent required notice.

(3) Election of directors or credit committee members. (i) In the case of the election of a new member of the board of directors or credit committee member at a meeting of the members of a federally insured credit union, prior notice is not required. However, a completed notice must be filed with the appropriate Regional Director within 48 hours of the election.

(ii) If a director or credit committee member is disapproved by NCUA, the board of directors of the credit union may appoint its own alternate, to serve until the next annual meeting, contingent upon NCUA approval.

(e) *Commencement of service.* A proposed director, committee member or senior executive officer may begin to serve temporarily until the credit union and the individual are notified in writing of NCUA's approval or disapproval of the proposed addition or employment.

(f) *Notice of disapproval.* NCUA may disapprove the individual's serving as a director, committee member or senior executive officer if it finds that the

competence, experience, character, or integrity of the individual with respect to whom a notice under this section is submitted indicates that it would not be in the best interests of the members of the credit union or of the public to permit the individual to be employed by, or associated with, the credit union. The Notice of Disapproval will advise the parties of their rights of appeal pursuant to 12 CFR part 747 subpart J, of NCUA's Regulations.

[55 FR 43086, Oct. 26, 1990, as amended at 59 FR 36042, July 15, 1994; 60 FR 31911, June 19, 1995; 64 FR 28717, May 27, 1999]

§§ 701.15–701.18 [Reserved]

§ 701.19 Retirement benefits for employees of Federal credit unions.

(a) A Federal credit union may make provision for reasonable retirement benefits for its employees and for officers who are compensated in conformance with the Act and the bylaws, either individually or collectively with other credit unions. In those cases where a Federal credit union is to be a plan trustee or custodian, the plan must be authorized and maintained in accordance with the provisions of part 724 of this chapter. Where the trustee or custodian is to a party other than the Federal credit union, the employee benefit plan must be maintained in accordance with the applicable laws governing employee benefit plans and such rules and regulations as may be promulgated by the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of the Treasury, or any other Federal or state authority exercising jurisdiction over such plans.

(b) No Federal credit union shall occupy the position of a fiduciary, as defined in the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the Secretary of Labor, unless provision has been made for appropriate liability insurance as provided under section 410(b) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

[40 FR 25582, June 17, 1975, as amended at 48 FR 55423, Dec. 13, 1983; 63 FR 14026, Mar. 24, 1998]

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§ 701.20 [Reserved]

§ 701.21 Loans to members and lines of credit to members.

(a) *Statement of scope and purpose.* Section 701.21 complements the provisions of section 107(5) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1757(5)) authorizing Federal credit unions to make loans to members and issue lines of credit (including credit cards) to members. Section 107(5) of the Act contains limitations on matters such as loan maturity, rate of interest, security, and prepayment penalties. Section 701.21 interprets and implements those provisions. In addition, § 701.21 states the NCUA Board's intent concerning preemption of state laws, and expands the authority of Federal credit unions to enforce due-on-sale clauses in real property loans. Also, while § 701.21 generally applies to Federal credit unions only, its provisions may be used by state-chartered credit unions with respect to alternative mortgage transactions in accordance with 12 U.S.C. 3801 *et seq.*, and certain provisions apply to loans made by federally insured state-chartered credit unions as specified in § 741.203 of this chapter. Part 722 of this chapter sets forth requirements for appraisals for certain real estate secured loans made under § 701.21 and any other applicable lending authority. Finally, it is noted that § 701.21 does not apply to loans by Federal credit unions to other credit unions (although certain statutory limitations in section 107 of the Act apply), nor to loans to credit union organizations which are governed by section 107(5)(D) of the Act and part 712 of this part.

(b) *Relation to other laws—(1) Preemption of state laws.* Section 701.21 is promulgated pursuant to the NCUA's Board's exclusive authority as set forth in section 107(5) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1757(5)) to regulate the rates, terms of repayment and other conditions of Federal credit union loans and lines of credit (including credit cards) to members. This exercise of the Board's authority preempts any state law purporting to limit or affect:

(i)(A) Rates of interest and amounts of finance charges, including:

(1) The frequency or the increments by which a variable interest rate may be changed;

(2) The index to which a variable interest rate may be tied;

(3) The manner or timing of notifying the borrower of a change in interest rate;

(4) The authority to increase the interest rate on an existing balance;

(B) Late charges; and

(C) Closing costs, application, origination, or other fees;

(ii) Terms of repayment, including:

(A) The maturity of loans and lines of credit;

(B) The amount, uniformity, and frequency of payments, including the accrual of unpaid interest if payments are insufficient to pay all interest due;

(C) Balloon payments; and

(D) Prepayment limits;

(iii) Conditions related to:

(A) The amount of the loan or line of credit;

(B) The purpose of the loan or line of credit;

(C) The type or amount of security and the relation of the value of the security to the amount of the loan or line of credit;

(D) Eligible borrowers; and

(E) The imposition and enforcement of liens on the shares of borrowers and accommodation parties.

(2) *Matters not preempted.* Except as provided by paragraph (b)(1) of this section, it is not the Board's intent to preempt state laws that do not affect rates, terms of repayment and other conditions described above concerning loans and lines of credit, for example:

(i) Insurance laws;

(ii) Laws related to transfer of and security interests in real and personal property (see, however, paragraph (g)(6) of this section concerning the use and exercise of due-on-sale clauses);

(iii) Conditions related to:

(A) Collection costs and attorneys' fees;

(B) Requirements that consumer lending documents be in "plain language;" and

(C) The circumstances in which a borrower may be declared in default and may cure default.

(3) *Other Federal law.* Except as provided by paragraph (b)(1) of this section, it is not the Board's intent to preempt state laws affecting aspects of credit transactions that are primarily regulated by Federal law other than the Federal Credit Union Act, for example, state laws concerning credit cost disclosure requirements, credit discrimination, credit reporting practices, unfair credit practices, and debt collection practices. Applicability of state law in these instances should be determined pursuant to the preemption standards of the relevant Federal law and regulations.

(4) *Examination and enforcement.* Except as otherwise agreed by the NCUA Board, the Board retains exclusive examination and administrative enforcement jurisdiction over Federal credit unions. Violations of Federal or applicable state laws related to the lending activities of a Federal credit union should be referred to the appropriate NCUA regional office.

(5) *Definition of State law.* For purposes of paragraph (b) of this section "state law" means the constitution, laws, regulations and judicial decisions of any state, the District of Columbia, the several territories and possessions of the United States, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(c) *General rules—(1) Scope.* The following general rules apply to all loans to members and, where indicated, all lines of credit (including credit cards) to members, except as otherwise provided in the remaining provisions of § 701.21.

(2) *Written policies.* The board of directors of each Federal credit union shall establish written policies for loans and lines of credit consistent with the relevant provisions of the Act, NCUA's regulations, and other applicable laws and regulations.

(3) *Credit application.* Consistent with policies established by the board of directors, the credit committee or loan officer shall ensure that a credit application is kept on file for each borrower supporting the decision to make a loan or establish a line of credit.

(4) *Maturity.* The maturity of a loan to a member may not exceed 12 years. Lines of credit are not subject to a statutory or regulatory maturity

limit. Amortization of line of credit balances and the type and amount of security on any line of credit shall be as determined by contract between the Federal credit union and the member/borrower.

(5) *Ten percent limit.* No loan or line of credit advance may be made to any member if such loan or advance would cause that member to be indebted to the Federal credit union upon loans and advances made to the member in an aggregate amount exceeding 10% of the credit union's total unimpaired capital and surplus. In the case of member business loans as defined in § 723.1 of this chapter, additional limitations apply as set forth in § 723.8 and 723.9 of this chapter.

(6) *Early payment.* A member may repay a loan, or outstanding balance on a line of credit, prior to maturity in whole or in part on any business day without penalty.

(7) *Loan interest rates—(i) General.* Except when a higher maximum rate is provided for in paragraph (c)(7)(ii) of this section, a Federal credit union may extend credit to its members at rates not to exceed 15 percent per year on the unpaid balance inclusive of all finance charges. Variable rates are permitted on the condition that the effective rate over the term of the loan (or line of credit) does not exceed the maximum permissible rate.

(ii) *Temporary rates—(A) 21 percent maximum rate.* Effective from December 3, 1980 through May 14, 1987, a Federal credit union may extend credit to its members at rates not to exceed 21 percent per year on the unpaid balance inclusive of all finance charges. Loans and line of credit balances existing on or before May 14, 1987, may continue to bear rates of interest of up to 21 percent per year after May 14, 1987.

(B) *18 percent maximum rate.* Effective May 15, 1987, a Federal credit union may extend credit to its members at rates not to exceed 18 percent per year on the unpaid balance inclusive of all finance charges.

(C) *Expiration.* After September 9, 2000, or as otherwise ordered by the NCUA Board, the maximum rate on federal credit union extensions of credit to members shall revert to 15 percent per year. Higher rates may, however,

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be charged, in accordance with paragraph (c)(7)(ii)(A) and (B) of this section, on loans and line of credit balances existing on or before May 16, 1987.

(8)(i) Except as otherwise provided herein, no official or employee of a Federal credit union, or immediate family member of an official or employee of a Federal credit union, may receive, directly or indirectly, any commission, fee, or other compensation in connection with any loan made by the credit union.

(ii) For the purposes of this section:

Compensation includes non monetary items, except those of nominal value.

Immediate family member means a spouse or other family member living in the same household.

Loan includes line of credit.

Official means any member of the board of directors or a volunteer committee.

Person means an individual or an organization.

Senior management employee means the credit union's chief executive officer (typically, this individual holds the title of President or Treasurer/Manager), any assistant chief executive officers (e.g., Assistant President, Vice President, or Assistant Treasurer/Manager), and the chief financial officer (Comptroller).

Volunteer official means an official of a credit union who does not receive compensation from the credit union solely for his or her service as an official.

(iii) This section does not prohibit:

(A) Payment, by a Federal credit union, of salary to employees;

(B) Payment, by a Federal credit union, of an incentive or bonus to an employee based on the credit union's overall financial performance;

(C) Payment, by a Federal credit union, of an incentive or bonus to an employee, other than a senior management employee, in connection with a loan or loans made by the credit union, provided that the board of directors of the credit union establishes written policies and internal controls in connection with such incentive or bonus and monitors compliance with such policies and controls at least annually.

(D) Receipt of compensation from a person outside a Federal credit union by a volunteer official or non senior management employee of the credit union, or an immediate family member of a volunteer official or employee of the credit union, for a service or activity performed outside the credit union, provided that no referral has been made by the credit union or the official, employee, or family member.

(d) *Loans and lines of credit to officials*—(1) *Purpose*. Sections 107(5)(A) (iv) and (v) of the Act require the approval of the board of directors of the Federal credit union in any case where the aggregate of loans to an official and loans on which the official serves as endorser or guarantor exceeds \$20,000 plus pledged shares. This paragraph implements the requirement by establishing procedures for determining whether board of directors's approval is required. The section also prohibits preferential treatment of officials.

(2) *Official*. An "official" is any member of the board of directors, credit committee or supervisory committee.

(3) *Initial approval*. All applications for loans or lines of credit on which an official will be either a direct obligor or an endorser, cosigner or guarantor shall be initially acted upon by either the board of directors, the credit committee or a loan officer, as specified in the Federal credit union's bylaws.

(4) *Board of Directors' review*. The board of directors shall, in any case, review and approve or deny an application on which an official is a direct obligor, or endorser, cosigner or guarantor if the following computation produces a total in excess of \$20,000:

(i) Add:

(A) The amount of the current application.

(B) The outstanding balances of loans, including the used portion of an approved line of credit, extended to or endorsed, cosigned or guaranteed by the official.

(C) The total unused portion of approved lines of credit extended to or endorsed, cosigned or guaranteed by the official.

(ii) From the above total subtract:

(A) The amount of shares pledged by the official on loans or lines of credit

extended to or endorsed, cosigned or guaranteed by the official.

(B) The amount of shares to be pledged by the official on the loan or line of credit applied for.

(5) *Nonpreferential treatment.* The rates, terms and conditions on any loan or line of credit either made to, or endorsed or guaranteed by—

- (i) An official,
- (ii) An immediate family member of an official, or
- (iii) Any individual having a common ownership, investment or other pecuniary interest in a business enterprise with an official or with an immediate family member of an official,

shall not be more favorable than the rates, terms and conditions for comparable loans or lines of credit to other credit union members. “Immediate family member” means a spouse or other family member living in the same household.

(e) *Insured, guaranteed and advance commitment loans.* A loan secured by the insurance or guarantee of, or with an advance commitment to purchase the loan by, the Federal Government, a State government, or any agency of either, may be made for the maturity and under the terms and conditions, including rate of interest, specified in the law, regulations or program under which the insurance, guarantee or commitment is provided.

(f) *20-year loans.* Notwithstanding the general 12-year maturity limit on loans to members, a Federal credit union may make loans with maturities of up to 20 years in the case of:

- (1) A loan to finance the purchase of a mobile home if the mobile home will be used as the member-borrower’s residence and the loan is secured by a first lien on the mobile home,
- (2) A second mortgage loan (or a non-purchase money first mortgage loan in the case of a residence on which there is no existing first mortgage) if the loan is secured by a residential dwelling which is the residence of the member-borrower, and
- (3) A loan to finance the repair, alteration, or improvement of a residential dwelling which is the residence of the member-borrower.

(g) *Long-term mortgage loans—(1) Authority.* A Federal credit union may

make residential real estate loans to members, with maturities of up to 40 years, or such longer period as may be permitted by the NCUA Board on a case-by-case basis, subject to the conditions of this paragraph.

(2) *Statutory limits.* The loan shall be made on a one to four family dwelling that is or will be the principal residence of the member-borrower and the loan shall be secured by a perfected first lien in favor of the credit union on such dwelling (or a perfected first security interest in the case of either a residential cooperative or a leasehold or ground rent estate).

(3) *Loan application.* The loan application shall be a completed standard Federal Housing Administration, Veterans Administration, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Federal National Mortgage Association or Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation/Federal National Mortgage Association application form. In lieu of use of a standard application the Federal credit union may have a current attorney’s opinion on file stating that the forms in use meet the requirements of applicable Federal, state and local laws.

(4) *Security instrument and note.* The security instrument and note shall be executed on the most current version of the FHA, VA, FHLMC, FNMA, or FHLMC/FNMA Uniform Instruments for the jurisdiction in which the property is located. No prepayment penalty shall be allowed, although a Federal credit union may require that any partial prepayments be made on the date monthly installments are due and be in the amount of that part of one or more monthly installments that would be applicable to principal. In lieu of use of a standard security instrument and note, the Federal credit union may have a current attorney’s opinion on file stating that the security instrument and note in use meet the requirements of applicable Federal, state and local laws.

(5) *First lien, territorial limits.* The loan shall be secured by a perfected first lien or first security interest in favor of the credit union supported by a properly executed and recorded security instrument. No loan shall be secured by a residence located outside

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the United States of America, its territories and possessions, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(6) *Due-on-sale clauses.* (i) Except as otherwise provided herein, the exercise of a due-on-sale clause by a Federal credit union is governed exclusively by section 341 of Pub. L. 97-320 and by any regulations issued by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board implementing section 341.

(ii) In the case of a contract involving a long-term (greater than twelve years), fixed rate first mortgage loan which was made or assumed, including a transfer of the lien property subject to the loan, during the period beginning on the date a State adopted a constitutional provision or statute prohibiting the exercise of due-on-sale clauses, or the date on which the highest court of such state has rendered a decision (or if the highest court has not so decided, the date on which the next highest court has rendered a decision resulting in a final judgment if such decision applies statewide) prohibiting such exercise, and ending on October 15, 1982, a Federal credit union may exercise a due-on-sale clause in the case of a transfer which occurs on or after November 18, 1982, unless exercise of the due-on-sale clause would be based on any of the following:

(A) The creation of a lien or other encumbrance subordinate to the lender's security instrument which does not relate to a transfer of rights of occupancy in the property;

(B) The creation of a purchase money security interest for household appliances;

(C) A transfer by devise, descent, or operation of law on the death of a joint tenant or tenant by the entirety;

(D) The granting of a leasehold interest of 3 years or less not containing an option to purchase;

(E) A transfer to a relative resulting from the death of a borrower;

(F) A transfer where the spouse or children of the borrower become an owner of the property;

(G) A transfer resulting from a decree of a dissolution of marriage, a legal separation agreement, or from an incidental property settlement agreement, by which the spouse of the borrower becomes an owner of the property;

(H) A transfer into an inter vivos trust in which the borrower is and remains a beneficiary and which does not relate to a transfer of rights of occupancy in the property; or

(I) Any other transfer or disposition described in regulations promulgated by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

(7) *Assumption of real estate loans by nonmembers.* A Federal credit union may permit a nonmember to assume a member's mortgage loan in conjunction with the nonmember's purchase of the member's principal residence, provided that the nonmember assumes only the remaining unpaid balance of the loan, the terms of the loan remain unchanged, and there is no extension of the original maturity date specified in the loan agreement with the member. An assumption is impermissible if the original loan was made with the intent of having a nonmember assume the loan.

(h) [Reserved]

(i) *Put option purchases in managing increased interest-rate risk for real estate loans produced for sale on the secondary market—*

(1) *Definitions.* For purposes of this § 701.21(i): (i) *Financial options contract* means an agreement to make or take delivery of a standardized financial instrument upon demand by the holder of the contract at any time prior to the expiration date specified in the agreement, under terms and conditions established either by:

(A) A contract market designated for trading such contracts by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, or

(B) By a Federal credit union and a primary dealer in Government securities that are counterparties in an over-the-counter transaction.

(ii) *FHLMC security* means obligations or other securities which are or ever have been sold by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation pursuant to section 305 or 306 of the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Act (12 U.S.C. 1454 and 1455).

(iii) *FNMA security* means an obligation, participation, or any instrument of or issued by, or fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by, the Federal National Mortgage Association.

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(iv) *GNMA security* means an obligation, participation, or any instrument of or issued by, or fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by, the Government National Mortgage Association.

(v) *Long position* means the holding of a financial options contract with the option to make or take delivery of a financial instrument.

(vi) *Primary dealer in Government securities* means:

(A) A member of the Association of Primary Dealers in United States Government Securities; or

(B) Any parent, subsidiary, or affiliated entity of such primary dealer where the member guarantees (to the satisfaction of the FCU's board of directors) over-the-counter sales of financial options contracts by the parent, subsidiary, or affiliated entity to a Federal credit union.

(vii) *Put* means a financial options contract which entitles the holder to sell, entirely at the holder's option, a specified quantity of a security at a specified price at any time until the stated expiration date of the contract.

(2) *Permitted options transactions.* A Federal credit union may, to manage risk of loss through a decrease in value of its commitments to originate real estate loans at specified interest rates, enter into long put positions on GNMA, FNMA, and FHLMC securities:

(i) If the real estate loans are to be sold on the secondary market within ninety (90) days of closing;

(ii) If the positions are entered into:

(A) Through a contract market designated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for trading such contracts, or

(B) With a primary dealer in Government securities;

(iii) If the positions are entered into pursuant to written policies and procedures which are approved by the Federal credit union's board of directors, and include, at a minimum:

(A) The Federal credit union's strategy in using financial options contracts and its analysis of how the strategy will reduce sensitivity to changes in price or interest rates in its commitments to originate real estate loans at specified interest rates;

(B) A list of brokers or other intermediaries through which positions may be entered into;

(C) Quantitative limits (e.g., position and stop loss limits) on the use of financial options contracts;

(D) Identification of the persons involved in financial options contract transactions, including a description of these persons' qualifications, duties, and limits of authority, and description of the procedures for segregating these persons' duties,

(E) A requirement for written reports for review by the Federal credit union's board of directors at its monthly meetings, or by a committee appointed by the board on a monthly basis, of:

(1) The type, amount, expiration date, correlation, cost of, and current or projected income or loss from each position closed since the last board review, each position currently open and current gains or losses from such positions, and each position planned to be entered into prior to the next board review;

(2) Compliance with limits established on the policies and procedures; and

(3) The extent to which the positions described contributed to reduction of sensitivity to changes in prices or interest rates in the Federal credit union's commitments to originate real estate loans at a specified interest rate; and

(iv) If the Federal credit union has received written permission from the appropriate NCUA Regional Director to engage in financial options contracts transactions in accordance with this §701.21(i) and its policies and procedures as written.

(3) *Recordkeeping and reporting.* (i) The reports described in §701.21(i)(2)(iii)(E) for each month must be submitted to the appropriate NCUA Regional Office by the end of the following month. This monthly reporting requirement may be waived by the appropriate NCUA Regional Director on a case-by-case basis for those Federal credit unions with a proven record of responsible use of permitted financial options contracts.

(ii) The records described in §701.21(i)(2)(iii)(E) must be retained for

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two years from the date the financial options contracts are closed.

(4) *Accounting.* A Federal credit union must account for financial options contracts transactions:

(i) In accordance with standards established by the NCUA Board in the Accounting Manual for Federal Credit Unions, available from NCUA, Administrative Office, 1776 G St. NW., Washington, DC 20456, or such other instruction as may be deemed appropriate; or

(ii) To the extent not inconsistent with NCUA Board instruction, in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or principles.

[49 FR 30685, Aug. 1, 1984, as amended at 52 FR 12368, Apr. 16, 1987; 54 FR 18472, May 1, 1989; 54 FR 43278, Oct. 24, 1989; 55 FR 30207, July 25, 1990; 56 FR 37831, Aug. 9, 1991; 56 FR 48425, Sept. 25, 1991; 57 FR 42488, Sept. 15, 1992; 58 FR 40043, July 27, 1993; 59 FR 39425, Aug. 3, 1994; 60 FR 51889, Oct. 4, 1995; 60 FR 58504, Nov. 28, 1995; 60 FR 63613, Dec. 12, 1995; 61 FR 4215, Feb. 5, 1996; 61 FR 68128, Dec. 27, 1996; 62 FR 40930, July 31, 1997; 63 FR 51799, Sept. 29, 1998; 63 FR 71214, Dec. 24, 1998; 64 FR 5929, Feb. 8, 1999; 64 FR 57365, Oct. 25, 1999]

§ 701.22 Loan participation.

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) *Participation loan* means a loan where one or more eligible organizations participate pursuant to a written agreement with the originating lender.

(2) *Eligible organizations* means a credit union, credit union organization, or financial organization.

(3) *Credit union* means any Federal or State chartered credit union.

(4) *Credit union organization* means any organization as determined by the Board, established primarily to serve the daily operational needs of its member credit unions. The term does not include trade associations, membership organizations principally composed of credit unions, or corporations or other businesses which principally provide services to credit union members as opposed to corporations or businesses whose business relates to the daily in-house operation of credit unions.

(5) *Financial organization* means any federally chartered or federally insured financial institution.

(6) *Originating lender* means the participant with which the member contracts.

(b) Subject to the provisions of this section any Federal credit union may participate in making loans with eligible organizations within the limitations of the board of director's written participation loan policies, *Provided:*

(1) No Federal credit union shall obtain an interest in a participation loan if the sum of that interest and any (other) indebtedness owing to the Federal credit union by the borrower exceeds 10 per centum of the Federal credit union's unimpaired capital and surplus;

(2) A written master participation agreement shall be properly executed, acted upon by the Federal credit union's board of directors, or if the board has so delegated in its policy, the investment committee or senior management official(s) and retained in the Federal credit union's office. The master agreement shall include provisions for identifying, either through a document which is incorporated by reference into the master agreement or directly in the master agreement, the participation loan or loans prior to their sale; and

(3) A Federal credit union may sell to or purchase from any participant the servicing of any loan in which it owns a participation interest.

(c) An originating lender which is a Federal credit union shall:

(1) Originate loans only to its members;

(2) Retain an interest of at least 10 per centum of the face amount of each loan;

(3) Retain the original or copies of the loan documents; and

(4) Require the credit committee or loan officer to use the same underwriting standards for participation loans used for loans that are not being sold in a participation agreement unless there is a participation agreement in place prior to the disbursement of the loan. Where a participation agreement is in place prior to disbursement, either the credit union's loan policies or the participation agreement shall address any variance from non-participation loan underwriting standards.

(d) A participant Federal credit union that is not an originating lender shall:

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(1) Participate only in loans it is empowered to grant, having a participation policy in place which sets forth the loan underwriting standards prior to entering into a participation agreement;

(2) Participate in participation loans only if made to its own members or members of another participating credit union;

(3) Retain the original or a copy of the written participation loan agreement and a schedule of the loans covered by the agreement; and

(4) Obtain the approval of the board of directors or investment committee of the disbursement of proceeds to the originating lender.

[43 FR 51610, Nov. 6, 1978, as amended at 46 FR 38680, July 29, 1981; 46 FR 43830, Sept. 1, 1981; 47 FR 1371, Jan. 13, 1982; 47 FR 54428, Dec. 3, 1982. Redesignated and amended at 49 FR 30688, Aug. 1, 1984; 60 FR 58204, Nov. 27, 1995]

§ 701.23 Purchase, sale, and pledge of eligible obligations.

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) *Eligible obligation* means a loan or group of loans.

(2) *Student loan* means a loan granted to finance the borrower's attendance at an institution of higher education or at a vocational school, which is secured by and on which payment of the outstanding principal and interest has been deferred in accordance with the insurance or guarantee of the Federal Government, of a State government, or any agency of either.

(b) *Purchase*. (1) A Federal credit union may purchase, in whole or in part, within the limitations of the board of directors' written purchase policies:

(i) Eligible obligations of its members, from any source, if either: (A) They are loans it is empowered to grant or (B) they are refinanced with the consent of the borrowers, within 60 days after they are purchased, so that they are loans it is empowered to grant;

(ii) Eligible obligations of a liquidating credit union's individual members, from the liquidating credit union;

(iii) Student loans, from any source, if the purchaser is granting student loans on an ongoing basis and if the

purchase will facilitate the purchasing credit union's packaging of a pool of such loans to be sold or pledged on the secondary market; and

(iv) Real estate-secured loans, from any source, if the purchaser is granting real estate-secured loans pursuant to § 701.21 on an ongoing basis and if the purchase will facilitate the purchasing credit union's packaging of a pool of such loans to be sold or pledged on the secondary mortgage market. A pool must include a substantial portion of the credit union's members' loans and must be sold promptly.

(2) A Federal credit union may make purchases in accordance with this paragraph (b), provided:

(i) The board of directors or investment committee approves the purchase;

(ii) A written agreement and a schedule of the eligible obligations covered by the agreement are retained in the purchasers office; and

(iii) For purchases under paragraph (b)(1)(ii) of this section, any advance written approval required by § 741.8 of this chapter is obtained before consummation of such purchase.

(3) The aggregate of the unpaid balance of eligible obligations purchased under paragraph (b) of this section shall not exceed 5 percent of the unimpaired capital and surplus of the purchaser. The following can be excluded in calculating this 5 percent limitation:

(i) Student loans purchased in accordance with paragraph (b)(1)(iii) of this section;

(ii) Real estate loans purchased in accordance with paragraph (b)(1)(iv) of this section;

(iii) Eligible obligations purchased in accordance with paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section that are refinanced by the purchaser so that it is a loan it is empowered to grant;

(iv) An indirect lending or indirect leasing arrangement that is classified as a loan and not the purchase of an eligible obligation because the Federal credit union makes the final underwriting decision and the sales or lease contract is assigned to the Federal credit union very soon after it is signed by the member and the dealer or leasing company.

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(c) *Sale.* A Federal credit union may sell, in whole or in part, to any source, eligible obligations of its members, eligible obligations purchased in accordance with paragraph (b)(1)(ii) of this section, student loans purchased in accordance with paragraph (b)(1)(iii) of this section, and real estate loans purchased in accordance with paragraph (b)(1)(iv) of this section, within the limitations of the board of directors' written sale policies, *Provided:*

(1) The board of directors or investment committee approves the sale; and

(2) A written agreement and a schedule of the eligible obligations covered by the agreement are retained in the seller's office.

(d) *Pledge.* (1) A Federal credit union may pledge, in whole or in part, to any source, eligible obligations of its members, eligible obligations purchased in accordance with paragraph (b)(1)(ii) of this section, student loans purchased in accordance with paragraph (b)(1)(iii) of this section, and real estate loans purchased in accordance with paragraph (b)(1)(iv) of this section, within the limitations of the board of directors' written pledge policies, *Provided:*

(i) The board of directors or investment committee approves the pledge;

(ii) Copies of the original loan documents are retained; and

(iii) A written agreement covering the pledging arrangement is retained in the office of the credit union that pledges the eligible obligations.

(2) The pledge agreement shall identify the eligible obligations covered by the agreement.

(e) *Servicing.* A Federal credit union may agree to service any eligible obligation it purchases or sells in whole or in part.

(f) *10 Percent limitation.* The total indebtedness owing to any Federal credit union by any person, inclusive of retained and reacquired interests, shall not exceed 10 percent of its unimpaired capital and surplus.

[44 FR 27071, May 9, 1979, as amended at 46 FR 38680, July 29, 1981. Redesignated at 49 FR 30688, Aug. 1, 1984, and amended at 53 FR 4844, Feb. 18, 1988; 56 FR 15036, Apr. 15, 1991; 56 FR 35811, July 29, 1991; 60 FR 58504, Nov. 28, 1995; 63 FR 70998, Dec. 23, 1998]

§ 701.24 Refund of interest.

(a) The board of directors of a Federal credit union may authorize an interest refund to members who paid interest to the credit union during any dividend period and who are members of record at the close of business on the last day of such dividend period. Interest refunds may be made for a dividend period only if dividends on share accounts have been declared and paid for that period.

(b) The amount of interest refund to each member shall be determined as a percentage of the interest paid by the member. Such percentage may vary according to the type of extension of credit and the interest rate charged.

(c) The board of directors may exclude from an interest refund:

(1) A particular type of extension of credit;

(2) Any extension of credit made at a particular interest rate; and

(3) Any extension of credit that is presently delinquent or has been delinquent within the period for which the refund is being made.

[53 FR 19747, May 31, 1988]

§ 701.25 Charitable contributions and donations.

(a) A federal credit union may make charitable contributions and/or donate funds to recipients not organized for profit that are located in or conduct activities in a community in which the federal credit union has a place of business or to organizations that are tax exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and operate primarily to promote and develop credit unions.

(b) The board of directors must approve charitable contributions and/or donations, and the approval must be based on a determination by the board of directors that the contributions and/or donations are in the best interests of the federal credit union and are reasonable given the size and financial condition of the federal credit union. The board of directors, if it chooses, may establish a budget for charitable contributions and/or donations and authorize appropriate officials of the federal credit union to select recipients

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and disburse budgeted funds among those recipients.

[64 FR 19443, Apr. 21, 1999]

§ 701.26 Credit union service contracts.

A Federal credit union may act as a representative of and enter into a contractual agreement with one or more credit unions or other organizations for the purpose of sharing, utilizing, renting, leasing, purchasing, selling, and/or joint ownership of fixed assets or engaging in activities and/or services which relate to the daily operations of credit unions. Agreements must be in writing, and shall advise all parties subject to the agreement that the goods and services provided shall be subject to examination by the NCUA Board to the extent permitted by law.

[47 FR 30462, July 14, 1982, as amended at 63 FR 10756, Mar. 5, 1998]

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§ 701.31 Nondiscrimination requirements.

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this part, the term:

(1) *Application* carries the meaning of that term as defined in 12 CFR 202.2(f) (Regulation B), which is as follows:

An oral or written request for an extension of credit that is made in accordance with procedures established by a creditor for the type of credit requested;

(2) *Dwelling* carries the meaning of that term as defined in 42 U.S.C. 3602(b) (Fair Housing Act), which is as follows: “Any building, structure, or portion thereof which is occupied as, or designed or intended for occupancy as, a residence by one or more families, and any vacant land which is offered for sale or lease for the construction or location thereon of any building, structure, or portion thereof”; and

(3) *Real estate-related loan* means any loan for which application is made to finance or refinance the purchase, construction, improvement, repair, or maintenance of a dwelling.

(b) *Nondiscrimination in Lending.* (1) A Federal credit union may not deny a real estate-related loan, nor may it discriminate in setting or exercising its rights pursuant to the terms or conditions of such a loan, nor may it dis-

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courage an application for such a loan, on the basis of the race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicap, or familial status (having children under the age of 18) of:

(i) Any applicant or joint applicant;

(ii) Any person associated, in connection with a real estate-related loan application, with an applicant or joint applicant;

(iii) The present or prospective owners, lessees, tenants, or occupants of the dwelling for which a real estate-related loan is requested;

(iv) The present or prospective owners, lessees, tenants, or occupants of other dwellings in the vicinity of the dwelling for which a real estate-related loan is requested.

(2) With regard to a real estate-related loan, a Federal credit union may not consider a lending criterion or exercise a lending policy which has the effect of discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicap, or familial status (having children under the age of 18). Guidelines concerning possible exceptions to this provision appear in paragraph (e)(1) of this section.

(3) Consideration of any of the following factors in connection with a real estate-related loan is not necessary to a Federal credit union’s business, generally has a discriminatory effect, and is therefore prohibited:

(i) The age or location of the dwelling;

(ii) Zip code of the applicant’s current residence;

(iii) Previous home ownership;

(iv) The age or location of dwellings in the neighborhood of the dwelling;

(v) The income level of residents in the neighborhood of the dwelling.

Guidelines concerning possible exceptions to this provision appear in paragraph (e)(2) of this section.

(c) *Nondiscrimination in appraisals.* (1) A Federal credit union may not rely upon an appraisal of a dwelling if it knows or should know that the appraisal is based upon consideration of the race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicap, or familial status (having children under the age of 18) of:

(i) Any applicant or joint applicant;

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(ii) Any person associated, in connection with a real estate-related loan application, with an applicant or joint applicant;

(iii) The present or prospective owners, lessees, tenants, or occupants of the dwelling for which a real estate-related loan is requested;

(iv) The present or prospective owners, lessees, tenants, or occupants of other dwellings in the vicinity of the dwelling for which a real estate-related loan is requested.

(2) With respect to a real-estate related loan, a Federal credit union may not rely upon an appraisal of a dwelling if it knows or should know that the appraisal is based upon consideration of a criterion which has the effect of discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicap, or familial status (having children under the age of 18). Guidelines concerning possible exceptions to this provision appear in paragraph (e)(1) of this section.

(3) A Federal credit union may not rely upon an appraisal that it knows or should know is based upon consideration of any of the following criteria, for such criteria generally have a discriminatory effect, and are not necessary to a Federal credit union's business:

(i) The age or location of the dwelling;

(ii) The age or location of dwellings in the neighborhood of the dwelling;

(iii) The income level of the residents in the neighborhood of the dwelling.

(4) Notwithstanding paragraph (c)(3) of this section, it is recognized that there may be factors concerning location of the dwelling which can be properly considered in an appraisal. If any such factor(s) is relied upon, it must be specifically documented in the appraisal, accompanied by a brief statement demonstrating the necessity of using such factor(s). Guidelines concerning the consideration of location factors appear in paragraph (e)(3) of this section.

(5) Each Federal credit union shall make available, to any requesting member/applicant, a copy of the appraisal used in connection with that member's real estate-related loan application. The appraisal shall be avail-

able for a period of 25 months after the applicant has received notice from the Federal credit union of the action taken by the Federal credit union on the real estate-related loan application.

(d) *Nondiscrimination in advertising—*

(1) *Advertising notice of nondiscrimination compliance.* (i) No Federal credit union may directly or indirectly engage in any form of advertising of real estate-related loans which implies or suggests that the Federal credit union discriminates in violation of the provisions of the Fair Housing Act or of this section. Advertisements of such loans shall include a facsimile of the following:



**EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER**

**We Do Business in Accordance With the
Federal Fair Housing Law and the
Equal Credit Opportunity Act**

(ii) Advertisements of real estate-related loans which are broadcast on the radio shall contain the following statement:

The (insert name) Federal Credit Union is an equal housing lender.

(2) *Lobby notice of nondiscrimination compliance.* Every Federal credit union which engages in real estate-related lending shall conspicuously display in the public lobby of such credit union and in the public area of each office where such loans are made, in a manner so as to be clearly visible to the general public entering such lobby or area, a notice that incorporates a facsimile of the logotype and notice appearing in paragraph (d)(3) of this section. Posters containing this notice and logotype may be obtained from the

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Regional Offices of the National Credit Union Administration.

(3) *Logotype and notice of non-discrimination compliance.* The logotype

and text of the notice required in paragraph (d)(2) of this section shall be as follows:



**EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER**

**We Do Business in Accordance With
Federal Fair Lending Laws**

**UNDER THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING ACT, IT IS ILLEGAL, ON THE BASIS OF
RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, SEX, HANDICAP, OR FAMILIAL
STATUS (HAVING CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18), TO:**

- Deny a loan for the purpose of purchasing, constructing, improving, repairing or maintaining a dwelling, or deny any loan secured by a dwelling; or
- Discriminate in fixing the amount, interest rate, duration, application procedures or other terms or conditions of such a loan, or in appraising property.

**IF YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATED
AGAINST, YOU SHOULD SEND A COMPLAINT TO:**

**Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
Department of Housing & Urban Development
Washington, D.C. 20410**

**For processing under the Federal Fair Housing Act
and to:**

**National Credit Union Administration
Office of Examination and Insurance
Washington, D.C. 20456**

For processing under NCUA Regulations

.....

**UNDER THE EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY ACT, IT IS ILLEGAL
TO DISCRIMINATE IN ANY CREDIT TRANSACTION:**

- On the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, or age,
- Because income is from public assistance, or
- Because a right was exercised under the Consumer Credit Protection Act.

**IF YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATED
AGAINST, YOU SHOULD SEND A COMPLAINT TO:**

**National Credit Union Administration
Office of Examination and Insurance
Washington, D.C. 20456**

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(e) *Guidelines.* (1) Compliance with the Fair Housing Act is achieved when each loan applicant's creditworthiness is evaluated on an individual basis, without presuming that the applicant has certain characteristics of a group. If certain lending policies or procedures do presume group characteristics, they may violate the Fair Housing Act, even though the characteristics are not based upon race, color, sex, national origin, religion, handicap, or familial status. Such a violation occurs when otherwise facially nondiscriminatory lending procedures (either general lending policies or specific criteria used in reviewing loan applications) have the effect of making real estate-related loans unavailable or less available on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, handicap, or familial status. Note, however, that a policy or criterion which has a discriminatory effect is not a violation of the Fair Housing Act if its use achieves a legitimate business necessity which cannot be achieved by using less discriminatory standards. It is also important to note that the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and Regulation B prohibit discrimination, either per se or in effect, on the basis of the applicant's age, marital status, receipt of public assistance, or the exercise of any rights under the Consumer Credit Protection Act.

(2) Paragraph (b)(3) of this section prohibits consideration of certain factors because of their likely discriminatory effect and because they are not necessary to make sound real estate-related loans. For purposes of clarification, the prohibited use of location factors in this section is intended to prevent abandonment of areas in which a Federal credit union's members live or want to live. It is not intended to require loans in those areas that are geographically remote from the FCU's main or branch offices or that contravene the parameters of a Federal credit union's charter. Further, this prohibition does not preclude requiring a borrower to obtain flood insurance protection pursuant to the National Flood Insurance Act and part 760 of NCUA's Rules and Regulations, nor does it preclude involvement with Federal or state housing insurance pro-

grams which provide for lower interest rates for the purchase of homes in certain urban or rural areas. Also, the legitimate use of location factors in an appraisal does not constitute a violation of the provision of paragraph (b)(3) of this section, which prohibits consideration of location of the dwelling. Finally, the prohibited use of prior home ownership does not preclude a Federal credit union from considering an applicant's payment history on a loan which was made to obtain a home. Such action entails consideration of the payment record on a previous loan in determining creditworthiness; it does not entail consideration of prior home ownership.

(3)(i) Paragraph (c)(3) of this section prohibits consideration of the age or location of a dwelling in a real estate-related loan appraisal. These restrictions are intended to prohibit the use of unfounded or unsubstantiated assumptions regarding the effect upon loan risk of the age of a dwelling or the physical or economic characteristics of an area. Appraisals should be based on the present market value of the property offered as security (including consideration of specific improvements to be made by the borrower) and the likelihood that the property will retain an adequate value over the term of the loan.

(ii) The term "age of the dwelling" does not encompass structural soundness. In addition, the age of the dwelling may be used by an appraiser as a basis for conducting further inspections of certain structural aspects of the dwelling. Paragraph (c)(3) of this section does, however, prohibit an unsubstantiated determination that a house over X years in age is not structurally sound.

(iii) With respect to location factors, paragraph (c)(4) of this section recognizes that there may be location factors which may be considered in an appraisal, and requires that the use of any such factors be specifically documented in the appraisal. These factors will most often be those location factors which may negatively affect the short range future value (up to 3-5 years) of a property. Factors which in some cases may cause the market

value of a property to decline are recent zoning changes or a significant number of abandoned homes in the immediate vicinity of the property. However, not all zoning changes will cause a decline in property values, and proximity to abandoned buildings may not affect the market value of a property because the cause of abandonment is unrelated to high risk. Proper considerations include the condition and utility of the improvement and various physical factors such as street conditions, amenities such as parks and recreation areas, availability of public utilities and municipal services, and exposure to flooding and land faults.

[54 FR 46223, Nov. 2, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 36041, July 15, 1994]

§ 701.32 Payment on shares by public units and nonmembers.

(a) *Authority.* A Federal credit union may, to the extent permitted under Section 107(6) of the Act and this section, receive payments on shares, (regular shares, share certificates, and share draft accounts) from public units and political subdivisions thereof (as those terms are defined in § 745.1) and nonmember credit unions, and to the extent permitted under the Act, this section and § 701.34, receive payments on shares (regular shares, share certificates, and share draft accounts) from other nonmembers.

(b) *Limitations.* (1) Unless a greater amount has been approved by the Regional Director, the maximum amount of all public unit and nonmember shares shall not, at any given time, exceed 20% of the total shares of the federal credit union or \$1.5 million, whichever is greater.

(2) Before accepting any public unit or nonmember shares in excess of 20% of total shares, the board of directors must adopt a specific written plan concerning the intended use of these shares and forward a copy of the plan to the Regional Director. The plan must include:

- (i) A statement of the credit union's needs, sources and intended uses of public unit and nonmember shares;
- (ii) Provision for matching maturities of public unit and nonmember shares with corresponding assets, or justification for any mismatch; and

(iii) Provision for adequate income spread between public unit and nonmember shares and corresponding assets.

(3) A federal credit union seeking an exemption from the limits of paragraph (b)(1) of this section must submit to the Regional Director a written request including:

- (i) The new maximum level of public unit and nonmember shares requested, either as a dollar amount or a percentage of total shares;
- (ii) The current plan adopted by the credit union's board of directors concerning the use of new public unit and nonmember shares;
- (iii) A copy of the credit union's latest financial statement; and
- (iv) A copy of the credit union's loan and investment policies.

(4) Where the financial condition and management of the credit union are sound and the credit union's plan for the funds is reasonable, there will be a presumption in favor of granting the request. When granted, exemptions will normally be for a two-year period. The Regional Director will provide a written explanation for an exemption that is granted for a lesser time period.

(5) The Regional Director will provide a written determination on an exemption request within 30 calendar days after receipt of the request. The 30 day period will not begin to run until all necessary information has been submitted to the Regional Director. All denials may be appealed to the NCUA Board in a timely manner. Appeals should be submitted through the Regional Director.

(6) Upon expiration of an exemption, nonmember shares currently in the credit union in excess of the limits established pursuant to (b)(1) of this section will continue to be insured by the National Credit Union Insurance Fund within applicable limits. No new shares in excess of the limits established pursuant to (b)(1) of this section shall be accepted. Existing share certificates in excess of the limits established pursuant to (b)(1) of this section may remain in the credit union only until maturity.

(c) The limitations herein do not apply to accounts maintained in accordance with § 701.37 (Treasury Tax

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and Loan Depositories; Depositories and Financial Agents of the Government) and matching funds required by § 705.7(b) (Community Development Revolving Loan Program for Credit Unions). Once a loan granted pursuant to part 705 is repaid, nonmember share deposits accepted to meet the matching requirement are subject to this section.

[54 FR 31184, July 27, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 51384, Dec. 15, 1989; 55 FR 1794, Jan. 19, 1990; 58 FR 21645, Apr. 23, 1993; 59 FR 26102, May 19, 1994; 61 FR 3790, Feb. 2, 1996]

§ 701.33 Reimbursement, insurance, and indemnification of officials and employees.

(a) *Official*. An *official* is a person who is or was a member of the board of directors, credit committee or supervisory committee, or other volunteer committee established by the board of directors.

(b) *Compensation*. (1) Only one board officer, if any, may be compensated as an officer of the board. The bylaws must specify the officer to be compensated, if any, as well as the specific duties of each of the board officers. No other official may receive compensation for performing the duties or responsibilities of the board or committee position to which the person has been elected or appointed.

(2) For purposes of this section, the term *compensation* specifically excludes:

(i) Payment (by reimbursement to an official or direct credit union payment to a third party) for reasonable and proper costs incurred by an official in carrying out the responsibilities of the position to which that person has been elected or appointed, if the payment is determined by the board of directors to be necessary or appropriate in order to carry out the official business of the credit union, and is in accordance with written policies and procedures, including documentation requirements, established by the board of directors. Such payments may include the payment of travel costs for officials and one immediate family member per official;

(ii) Provision of reasonable health, accident and related types of personal insurance protection, supplied for offi-

cials at the expense of the credit union: *Provided*, that such insurance protection must exclude life insurance; must be limited to areas of risk, including accidental death and dismemberment, to which the official is exposed by reason of carrying out the duties or responsibilities of the official's credit union position; must cease immediately upon the insured person's leaving office, without providing residual benefits other than from pending claims, if any; and

(iii) Indemnification and related insurance consistent with paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) *Indemnification*. (1) A Federal credit union may indemnify its officials and current and former employees for expenses reasonably incurred in connection with judicial or administrative proceedings to which they are or may become parties by reason of the performance of their official duties.

(2) Indemnification shall be consistent either with the standards applicable to credit unions generally in the state in which the principal or home office of the credit union is located, or with the relevant provisions of the Model Business Corporation Act. A Federal credit union that elects to provide indemnification shall specify whether it will follow the relevant state law or the Model Business Corporation Act. Indemnification and the method of indemnification may be provided for by charter or bylaw amendment, contract or board resolution, consistent with the procedural requirements of the applicable state law or the Model Business Corporation Act, as specified. A charter or bylaw amendment must be approved by the National Credit Union Administration.

(3) A Federal credit union may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of its officials and employees against any liability asserted against them and expenses incurred by them in their official capacities and arising out of the performance of their official duties to the extent such insurance is permitted by the applicable state law or the Model Business Corporation Act.

[53 FR 29642, Aug. 8, 1988, as amended at 57 FR 54503, Nov. 19, 1992]

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§ 701.34 Designation of low-income status; receipt of secondary capital accounts by low-income designated credit unions.

(a) *Designation of low-income status.* (1) Section 107(6) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1757(6)) authorizes federal credit unions serving predominantly low-income members to receive shares, share drafts and share certificates from nonmembers. In order to utilize this authority, a federal credit union must receive a low-income designation from its Regional Director. The designation may be removed by the Regional Director upon notice to the federal credit union if the definitions set forth in paragraphs (a) (2) and (3) of this section are no longer met. Removals may be appealed to the NCUA Board within 60 days. Appeals should be submitted through the Regional Director.

(2) The term *low-income members* shall mean those members who make less than 80 percent of the average for all wage earners as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics or those members whose annual household income falls at or below 80 percent of the median household income for the nation as established by the Census Bureau or those members otherwise defined as low-income members as determined by order of the NCUA Board.

(i) In documenting its low-income membership, a credit union that serves a geographic area where a majority of residents fall at or below the annual income standard is presumed to be serving predominantly low-income members. In applying the standards, Regional Directors shall make allowances for geographical areas with higher costs of living. The following is the exclusive list of geographic areas with the differentials to be used:

	Per- cent
Hawaii	40
Alaska	36
Washington, DC	19
Boston	17
San Diego	15
Los Angeles	14
New York	13
San Francisco	13
Seattle	10
Chicago	7

Per-
cent

Philadelphia 7

(ii) The term *low-income member* also includes those members who are enrolled as full-time or part-time students in a college, university, high school, or vocational school.

(3) The term *predominantly* is defined as a simple majority.

(b) *Receipt of secondary capital accounts by low-income designated credit unions.* A Federal credit union having a designation of low income status pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section may offer secondary capital accounts to nonnatural person members and nonnatural person nonmembers on the following conditions:

(1) Prior to offering secondary capital accounts, the credit union shall adopt, and forward to the appropriate NCUA Regional Director, a written plan for use of the funds in the secondary capital accounts and subsequent liquidity needs to meet repayment requirements upon maturity of the accounts.

(2) The secondary capital account must be established as a uninsured secondary capital account or other form of non-share account.

(3) The maturity of the secondary capital account must be for a minimum of five years.

(4) The secondary capital account must not be redeemable prior to maturity.

(5) The secondary capital account shall not be insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund or any governmental or private entity.

(6) The secondary capital account holder's claim against the credit union must be subordinate to all other claims including those of shareholders, creditors and the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

(7) Funds deposited into the secondary capital account, including interest accrued and paid into the secondary capital account, must be available to cover operating losses realized by the credit union that exceed its net available reserves and undivided earnings (*i.e.*, reserves and undivided earnings exclusive of allowance accounts for loan losses), and to the extent funds are so used, the credit union shall

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under no circumstances restore or replenish the account. The credit union may, in lieu of paying interest into the secondary capital account, pay interest accrued on the secondary capital account directly to the investor or into a separate account from which the secondary capital investor may make withdrawals. Losses shall be distributed pro-rata among all secondary capital accounts held by the credit union at the time the losses are realized.

(8) The secondary capital account may not be pledged or provided by the account-holder as security on a loan or other obligation with the credit union or any other party.

(9) In the event of merger or other voluntary dissolution of the credit union, other than merger into another low-income designated credit union, the secondary capital accounts will, to the extent they are not needed to cover losses at the time of merger or dissolution, be closed and paid out to the account-holder.

(10) A secondary capital account contract agreement must be executed between an authorized representative of the account holder and the credit union accurately establishing the terms and conditions of this section and containing no provisions inconsistent therewith.

(11) A disclosure and acknowledgment as set forth in the Appendix to this section must be provided to and executed by an authorized representative of the secondary capital account holder at the time of entering into the account agreement, and original copies of the account agreement and the disclosure and acknowledgment must be retained by the credit union for the term of the agreement.

(c) *Accounting treatment; weighted value for purposes of recognizing capital value of secondary capital accounts.* (1) A low-income designated credit union that issues secondary capital accounts pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section shall record the funds on its balance sheet in an equity account entitled "uninsured secondary capital account." For such accounts with remaining maturities of less than five years, the credit union shall reflect the capital value of the accounts in its fi-

nancial statement in accordance with the following scale:

- (i) Four to less than five years remaining maturity—80 percent.
- (ii) Three to less than four years remaining maturity—60 percent.
- (iii) Two to less than three years remaining maturity—40 percent.
- (iv) One to less than two years remaining maturity—20 percent.
- (v) Less than one year remaining maturity—0 percent.

(2) The credit union will reflect the full amount of the secondary capital on deposit in a footnote to its financial statement.

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Disclosures and acknowledgment in the following form must be provided to any investor in secondary capital accounts in a low-income designated credit union.

An original, signed copy must be retained by the credit union.

DISCLOSURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, _____ (name of signatory), hereby acknowledge and agree to the following in my capacity as _____ (official position or title) of _____ (name of institutional investor):

- _____ (name of institutional investor) has committed _____ (amount of funds) to a secondary capital account with _____ (name of credit union).

- The funds committed to the secondary capital account are committed for a period of _____ years and are not redeemable prior to _____.

- The secondary capital account is not a share account and the funds committed to the secondary capital account are not insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund or any other governmental or private entity.

The funds committed to the secondary capital account and any interest paid into the account may be used by _____ (name of credit union) to cover any and all operating losses that exceed the credit union's reserves and undivided earnings exclusive of allowance accounts for loan losses, and in the event the funds are so used _____ (name of credit union) will under no circumstances restore or replenish those funds to _____ (name of institutional investor).

By initialing below, _____ (name of credit union) and _____ (name of institutional investor) agree that accrued interest will be: _____ paid into and become part of the secondary capital account; _____ paid directly to the investor; _____ paid into a separate account from which the investor may make withdrawals; or

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any combination of the above provided the details are specified and agreed to in writing.

• In the event of liquidation of (name of credit union), the funds committed to the secondary capital account shall be subordinate to all other claims on the assets of the credit union, including claims of member shareholders, creditors and the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

(signature)

(official title)

[61 FR 3790, Feb. 2, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 50695, 50697, Sept. 27, 1996; 64 FR 72270, Dec. 27, 1999]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72270, Dec. 27, 1999, § 701.34 was amended by revising paragraph (b)(7) and the appendix to § 701.34 was amended by revising the second paragraph of the next to the last bulleted portion and adding a third paragraph to that portion, effective Jan. 26, 2000. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

§ 701.34 Designation of low-income status; receipt of secondary capital accounts by low-income designated credit unions.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(7) Funds in the secondary capital account (including both principal and interest) must be available to cover operating losses realized by the credit union that exceed its net available reserves and undivided earnings (i.e., reserves and undivided earnings exclusive of allowance accounts for loan and investment losses), and to the extent funds are so used, the credit union shall under no circumstances restore or replenish the account. Losses shall be distributed pro-rata among all secondary capital accounts held by the credit union at the time the losses are realized.

* * * * *

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The funds committed to the secondary capital account and any interest paid to the account may be used by (name of credit union) to cover any and all operating losses that exceed the credit union's net available reserves and undivided earnings (i.e., reserves and undivided earnings exclusive of allowance accounts for loan and investment losses), and in the event the funds are so used (name of credit union) will under no circumstances restore or re-

plenish those funds to (organization).

* * * * *

§ 701.35 Share, share draft, and share certificate accounts.

(a) Federal credit unions may offer share, share draft, and share certificate accounts in accordance with section 107(6) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1757(6)) and the board of directors may declare dividends on such accounts as provided in section 117 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1763).

(b) A Federal credit union shall accurately represent the terms and conditions of its share, share draft, and share certificate accounts in all advertising, disclosures, or agreements, whether written or oral

(c) A Federal credit union may, consistent with this section, parts 707 and 740 of this subchapter, other federal law, and its contractual obligations, determine the types of fees or charges and other matters affecting the opening, maintaining and closing of a share, share draft or share certificate account. State laws regulating such activities are not applicable to federal credit unions.

(d) For purposes of this section, “state law” means the constitution, statutes, regulations, and judicial decisions of any state, the District of Columbia, the several territories and possessions of the United States, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

[47 FR 17979, Apr. 27, 1982, as amended at 50 FR 4637, Feb. 1, 1985; 59 FR 50445, Sept. 27, 1993]

§ 701.36 FCU ownership of fixed assets.

(a) A Federal credit union's ownership in fixed assets shall be limited as described in this chapter.

(b) *Definitions*—As used in this section:

(1) Premises includes any office, branch office, suboffice, service center, parking lot, other facility, or real estate where the credit union transacts or will transact business.

(2) Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment includes all office furnishings, office machines, computer hardware and software, automated terminals, heating and cooling equipment.

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(3) Fixed Assets means premises and furniture, fixtures and equipment as these terms are defined above.

(4) Investments in fixed assets means:

(i) Any investment in real property (improved or unimproved) which is being used or is intended to be used as premises;

(ii) Any leasehold improvement on premises;

(iii) The aggregate of all capital and operating lease payments pursuant to lease agreements for fixed assets;

(iv) Any investment in the bonds, stock, debentures, or other obligations of a partnership or corporation, including any entity described in part 712, holding any fixed assets used by the Federal credit union and any loans to such partnership or corporation; or

(v) Any investment in furniture, fixtures and equipment.

(5) Abandoned premises means former Federal credit union premises from the date of relocation to new quarters, and property originally acquired for future expansion for which such use is no longer contemplated.

(6) Immediate family member means a spouse or other family members living in the same household.

(7) Shares mean all savings (regular shares, share drafts, share certificates, other savings) and retained earnings means regular reserve, reserve for contingencies, supplemental reserves, reserve for losses and undivided earnings.

(8) Senior management employee means the credit union's chief executive officer (typically this individual holds the title of President or Treasurer/Manager), any assistant chief executive officers (e.g., Assistant President, Vice President or Assistant Treasurer/Manager) and the chief financial officer (Comptroller).

(c) *Investment in fixed assets.* (1) No Federal credit union with \$1,000,000 or more in assets, without the prior approval of the Administration, shall invest in fixed assets if the aggregate of all such investments exceeds 5 percent of shares and retained earnings.

(2) A Federal credit union shall submit such statement and reports as the NCUA regional director may require in support of any investment in fixed assets in excess of the limit specified above.

(3) If the Administration determines that the proposal will not adversely affect the credit union, an aggregate dollar amount or percentage of assets will be approved for investment in fixed assets. Once such a limit has been approved, and unless otherwise specified by the regional director, a Federal credit union may make future acquisitions of fixed assets, provided the aggregate of all such future investments in fixed assets does not exceed an additional 1 percent of the shares and retained earnings of the credit union over the amount approved.

(4) Federal credit unions shall submit their requests to the NCUA regional office having jurisdiction over the geographical area in which the credit union's main office is located. The regional office shall inform the requesting credit union, in writing, of the date the request was received. If the credit union does not receive notification of the action taken on its request within 45 calendar days of the request was received by the regional office, the credit union may proceed with its proposed investment in fixed assets.

(d) *Premises.* (1) When real property is acquired for future expansion, at least partial utilization should be accomplished within a reasonable period, which shall not exceed 3 years unless otherwise approved in writing by the Administration. After real property acquired for future expansion has been held for 1 year, a board resolution with definitive plans for utilization must be available for inspection by an NCUA examiner.

(2) A Federal credit union shall endeavor to dispose of "abandoned premises" at a price sufficient to reimburse the Federal credit union for its investment and costs of acquisition. Current documents must be maintained reflecting the Federal credit union's continuing and diligent efforts to dispose of "abandoned premises." After "abandoned premises" have been on the Federal credit union's books for 4 years, the property must be publicly advertised for sale. Disposition must occur through public or private sale within 5 years of abandonment, unless otherwise approved in writing by the Administration.

(e) *Prohibited transactions.* (1) With the exception of a short term informal lease agreement (maturity less than 1 year) no Federal credit union may acquire or lease premises without the prior written approval of the Administration from any of the following:

(i) A director, member of the credit committee or supervisory committee, or senior management employee of the Federal credit union, or immediate family member of any such individual.

(ii) A corporation in which any director, member of the credit committee or supervisory committee, official, or senior management employee, or immediate family members of any such individual, is an officer or director, or has a stock interest of 10 percent or more.

(iii) A partnership in which any director, member of the credit committee or supervisory committee, or senior management employee, or immediate family members of any such individual, is a general partner, or a limited partner with an interest of 10 percent or more.

(2) The prohibition contained in paragraph (e)(1) of this section, also applies to any employee not otherwise covered if the employee is directly involved in investments in fixed assets unless the board of directors determines that the employee's involvement does not present a conflict of interest.

(3) All transactions with business associates or family members not specifically prohibited by this paragraph (e) must be conducted at arm's length and in the interest of the credit union.

[54 FR 18467, May 1, 1989, as amended at 63 FR 10756, Mar. 5, 1998; 63 FR 71342, Dec. 24, 1998]

§ 701.37 Treasury tax and loan depositories; depositories and financial agents of the Government.

(a) *Definitions.* (1) *Treasury Tax and Loan (TT&L) Remittance Account* means a nondividend-paying account, the balance of which is subject to the right of immediate withdrawal, established for receipt of payments of Federal taxes and certain United States obligations under United States Treasury Department regulations.

(2) *TT&L Note Account* means an account subject to the right of immediate call, evidencing funds held by deposi-

taries electing the note option under United States Treasury Department regulations.

(3) *Treasury General Account* means an account, established under United States Treasury Department regulations, in which a zero balance may be maintained and from which the entire balance may be withdrawn by the depositor immediately under all circumstances except closure of the credit union.

(4) *U.S. Treasury Time Deposit—Open Account* means a nondividend-bearing account, established under United States Treasury Department regulations, which generally may not be withdrawn until the expiration of 14 days after the date of the United States Treasury Department's written notice of intent to withdraw.

(b) Subject to regulation of the United States Treasury Department, a Federal credit union may serve as a Treasury tax and loan depository, a depository of Federal taxes, a depository of public money, and a financial agent of the United States Government. In serving in these capacities, a Federal credit union may maintain the accounts defined in subsection (a), pledge collateral, and perform the services described under United States Treasury Department regulations for institutions acting in these capacities.

(c) Funds held in a TT&L Remittance Account, a TT&L Note Account, a Treasury General Account, and a U.S. Treasury Time Deposit—Open Account shall be considered deposits of public funds. Funds held in a TT&L Remittance Account and a TT&L Note Account shall be added together and insured up to a maximum of \$100,000 in the aggregate. Funds held in a Treasury General Account and a U.S. Treasury Time Deposit—Open Account shall be added together and insured up to a maximum of \$100,000 in the aggregate.

(d) Funds held in a TT&L Remittance Account, a TT&L Note Account, a Treasury General Account, and U.S. Treasury Time Deposit—Open Account are not subject to the 60-day notice requirement of Article III, section 5(a) of the Federal Credit Union Bylaws.

[54 FR 18471, May 1, 1989]

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§ 701.38 Borrowed funds from natural persons.

(a) Federal credit unions may borrow from a natural person, provided:

(1) The borrowing is evidenced by a signed promissory note which sets forth the terms and conditions regarding maturity, prepayment, interest rate, method of computation, and method of payment;

(2) The promissory note and any advertisement for such funds contains conspicuous language indicating that:

(i) The note represents money borrowed by the credit union;

(ii) The note does not represent shares and, therefore, is *not* insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

[45 FR 29271, May 2, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 17979, Apr. 27, 1982]

§ 701.39 Statutory lien.

(a) *Definitions.* Within this section, each of the following terms has the meaning prescribed below:

(1) *Except as otherwise provided by law or except as otherwise provided by federal law* is a qualifying phrase referring to a federal and/or state law, as the case may be, which supersedes a requirement of this section. It is the responsibility of the credit union to ascertain whether such statutory or case law exists and is applicable;

(2) *Impress* means to attach to a member's account and is the act which makes the lien enforceable against that account;

(3) *Member* means any member who is primarily, secondarily or otherwise responsible for an outstanding financial obligation to the credit union, including without limitation an obligor, maker, co-maker, guarantor, co-signer, endorser, surety or accommodation party;

(4) *Notice* means written notice to a member disclosing, in plain language, that the credit union has the right to impress and enforce a statutory lien against the member's shares and dividends in the event of failure to satisfy a financial obligation, and may enforce the right without further notice to the member. Such notice must be given at the time, or at any time before, the

member incurs the financial obligation;

(5) *Statutory lien* means the right granted by section 107(11) of the Federal Credit Union Act, 12 U.S.C. 1757(11), to a federal credit union to establish a right in or claim to a member's shares and dividends equal to the amount of that member's outstanding financial obligation to the credit union, as that amount varies from time to time.

(b) *Superior claim.* Except as otherwise provided by law, a statutory lien gives the federal credit union priority over other creditors when claims are asserted against a member's account(s).

(c) *Impressing a statutory lien.* Except as otherwise provided by federal law, a credit union can impress a statutory lien on a member's account(s)—

(1) *Account records.* By giving notice thereof in the member's account agreement(s) or other account opening documentation; or

(2) *Loan documents.* In the case of a loan, by giving notice thereof in a loan document signed or otherwise acknowledged by the member(s); or

(3) *By-Law or policy.* Through a duly adopted credit union by-law or policy of the board of directors, of which the member is given notice.

(d) *Enforcing a statutory lien.* (1) *Application of funds.* Except as otherwise provided by federal law, a federal credit union may enforce its statutory lien against a member's account(s) by debiting funds in the account and applying them to the extent of any of the member's outstanding financial obligations to the credit union.

(2) *Default required.* A federal credit union may enforce its statutory lien against a member's account(s) only when the member fails to satisfy an outstanding financial obligation due and payable to the credit union.

(3) *Neither judgment nor set-off required.* A federal credit union need not obtain a court judgment on the member's debt, nor exercise the equitable right of set-off, prior to enforcing its statutory lien against the member's account.

[64 FR 56956, Oct. 22, 1999]

PART 702—RESERVES

Sec.

702.1 Reserves.

702.2 Regular reserve.

702.3 Full and fair disclosure required.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1762 and 1766.

§ 702.1 Reserves.

Federal credit unions shall establish and maintain such reserves as may be required by the Act, or by regulation, or in special cases by the Board. A Federal credit union which has a Regular Reserve in excess of the greater applicable percent established by section 116 of the Federal Credit Union Act may transfer the excess to a supplemental reserve or to the Undivided Earnings Account: *Provided, however,* That such transfer is appropriately approved by the board of directors after careful consideration of the financial condition of the credit union, of present and anticipated future reserve needs, and of full and fair disclosure as set forth in § 702.3.

(Sec. 120, 73 Stat. 635 (12 U.S.C. 1766) and sec. 209, 84 Stat. 1014 (12 U.S.C. 1789))

[42 FR 24252, May 13, 1977]

§ 702.2 Regular reserve.

(a) Each Federal credit union shall establish and maintain a Regular Reserve, as provided by section 116 of the Federal Credit Union Act. The totals of the Regular Reserve, the Allowance for Loan Losses Account, and the Allowance for Investment Losses shall be combined for determining the applicable percentage of gross income to be transferred to the Regular Reserve.

(b) Charges to the Regular Reserve for loan losses shall be made in accordance with full and fair disclosure and as set forth in the Accounting Manual for Federal Credit Unions.

(c) Charges to the Regular Reserve for losses other than loan losses shall also be subject to the following conditions:

(1) Charges for losses other than loan losses may be made pursuant to authorization of the board of directors if the credit union's ratio of capital to assets is greater than 6 percent and the charge reduces the ratio by no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ percent. The board of directors'

authorization shall state the amount of and an explanation of the need for the charge. For the purposes of this section, capital is defined as the total of the Regular Reserve, the Allowance for Loan Losses, the Allowance for Investment Losses, Undivided Earnings, and other reserves.

(2) Charges for losses other than loan losses that do not meet the conditions of paragraph (c)(1) of this section must receive the written approval of the regional director for Federal credit unions.

(d) The Board may decrease the reserve requirements as set forth in section 116 of the Act when, in its opinion, such decrease is necessary or desirable.

[54 FR 48235, Nov. 22, 1989]

§ 702.3 Full and fair disclosure required.

(a) "Full and fair disclosure" is the level of disclosure which a prudent person would provide to a member of a Federal credit union, the National Credit Union Administration, or, at the discretion of the board of directors, a creditor in order to fairly inform any or all of them of the financial condition and the results of operations of the credit union.

(b)(1) Federal credit union financial statements shall provide for full and fair disclosure of all assets, liabilities, and members' equity, including such valuation allowance accounts as may be necessary to present fairly the financial position; and all income and expenses necessary to present fairly the results of operations for the period concerned.

(2) Full and fair disclosure will further be accomplished by: (i) Selecting one of the accounting bases provided for in the Accounting Manual for Federal Credit Unions which shall be either the modified cash basis or the accrual basis of accounting, and by (ii) use of appropriate financial statements described in the Accounting Manual for Federal Credit Unions, or financial statements of equivalent format.

(c)(1) The maintenance of a valuation allowance for loan losses shall not eliminate the requirement for transferring a percentage of gross income before the payment of each dividend to

the regular reserve as required by section 116 of the Federal Credit Union Act.

(2) As a minimum, adjustments to the valuation allowance for loan losses shall be made prior to the distribution or posting of any dividend to the accounts of members so that the valuation allowance established fairly presents the value of loans and probable losses for all categories of loans. The valuation allowance must encompass:

- (i) Specifically identified doubtful or troubled loans;
- (ii) Pools of classified loans;
- (iii) Pools of loans (e.g., consumer, credit card, etc.); and
- (iv) A general portion for all other loans.

(3)(i) Adjustments to the valuation allowance for loan losses will be recorded in the expense account "Provision for Loan Losses."

(ii) Whenever additions to the valuation allowance for loan losses cause a deficit in the regular reserve account, such deficits shall be transferred first to undivided earnings and, if this shall cause a deficit in undivided earnings, then to other segregations of undivided earnings that may exist, exclusive of the Special Reserve for Losses, should such be required by the Board in accordance with §702.1 of this part. These amounts are eligible for return to undivided earnings as provided for in the Accounting Manual for Federal Credit Unions.

(iii) Dividends shall not exceed the amount available for that purpose after provisions have been made for the statutory transfer to the regular reserve account and the removal of any deficit in the regular reserve account.

(d) The Statement of Financial Condition, when presented to members, creditors, or to the National Credit Union Administration, shall contain a dual declaration by the treasurer and by the president, or in the absence of the president, by any other officer designated by the board of directors of the reporting credit union to make such declaration, that the report and related financial statements are true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief and present fairly the financial position and the results of operations for the period covered.

(e) Upon written application by the board of directors of a Federal credit union, the Board may waive, in whole or in part, the requirement for the maintenance of the valuation allowance for loan losses in amounts which are in excess of the statutory requirements of section 116 of the Federal Credit Union Act but are required under paragraph (c)(3)(ii) of this section. Such application shall set forth the justification for the requested waiver and shall be addressed to the appropriate Regional Director.

[40 FR 8069, Feb. 25, 1975, as amended at 47 FR 1371, Jan. 13, 1982; 54 FR 48235, Nov. 22, 1989; 57 FR 60722, Dec. 22, 1992]

PART 703—INVESTMENT AND DEPOSIT ACTIVITIES

Sec.

703.10 What does this part 703 cover?

703.20 What does this part 703 not cover?

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AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1757(7), 1757(8), 1757(15).

SOURCE: 62 FR 33001, June 18, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 703.10 What does this part 703 cover?

This part 703 interprets several of the provisions of Sections 107(7), 107(8), and 107(15) (B) and (C) of the Federal Credit Union Act (“Act”), 12 U.S.C. 1757(7), 1757(8), 1757(15) (B) and (C), which list those securities, deposits, and other obligations in which a federal credit union (“you”) may invest.

§ 703.20 What does this part 703 not cover?

This part 703 does not apply to:

- (a) Investment in loans to members and related activities, which is governed by §§ 701.21, 701.22, 701.23, and part 723 of this chapter;
- (b) The purchase of real estate-secured loans pursuant to Section 107(15)(A) of the Act, which is governed by § 701.23 of this chapter;
- (c) Investment in credit union service organizations, which is governed by part 712 of this chapter;
- (d) Investment in fixed assets, which is governed by § 701.36 of this chapter;
- (e) Investment by corporate credit unions, which is governed by part 704 of this chapter; or
- (f) Investment activity by state-chartered credit unions, except as provided in § 741.3(a)(3) of this chapter.

[62 FR 33001, June 18, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 33187, June 22, 1999; 64 FR 57365, Oct. 25, 1999]

§ 703.30 What are the responsibilities of my (a federal credit union’s) board of directors?

Your (a federal credit union’s) board of directors must establish a written investment policy that is consistent with the Act, this part, and other applicable laws and regulations. The investment policy may be part of a broader, asset-liability management policy. Your board must review the policy at least annually. The policy must address the following items:

- (a) The purposes and objectives of your investment activities.
- (b) The characteristics of the investments you may make. The characteristics of an investment are such things as its issuer, maturity, index, cap, floor, coupon rate, coupon formula, call provision, average life, and interest rate risk.

- (c) How you will manage your interest rate risk, including the amount of risk you can take with your investments in relation to your net capital and earnings.

- (d) How you will manage your liquidity risk.

- (e) How you will manage your credit risk. The policy must list specific institutions, issuers, and counterparties you may use, or criteria for their selection, and limits on the amounts you may invest with each. Counterparty means the party on the other side of a transaction.

- (f) How you will manage your concentration risk, which can result from single or related issuers, lack of geographic distribution, holdings of obligations with similar characteristics, such as maturities and indexes, holdings of bonds having the same trustee, and holdings of securitized loans having the same originator, packager, or guarantor.

- (g) Who of your officials or employees has investment authority and the extent of that authority. The individuals given investment authority must be professionally qualified by education and/or experience to exercise that authority in a prudent manner and to fully comprehend and assess the risk characteristics of investments and investment transactions under that authority. Only your officials and employees may be voting members of any investment-related committee.

- (h) If you use third-party entities to purchase or sell investments (“broker-dealers”), the specific broker-dealers you may use. You must maintain the documentation the board used to approve a broker-dealer as long as the broker-dealer is approved and until the documentation has been audited in accordance with § 701.12 of this chapter and examined by NCUA.

- (i) If you use a third-party entity to safekeep your investments, the specific entities you may use.

- (j) How you will handle an investment that either is outside board policy after purchase or fails a requirement of this part.

- (k) If you engage in trading activities, how you will conduct those activities. The policy should address the following:

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- (1) The persons who have purchase and sale authority;
- (2) Trading account size limitations;
- (3) Allocation of cash flow to trading accounts;
- (4) Stop loss or sale provisions;
- (5) Dollar size limitations of specific types, quantity and maturity to be purchased;
- (6) Limits on the length of time an investment may be inventoried in the trading account; and
- (7) Internal controls, including appropriate segregation of duties.

[62 FR 33001, June 18, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 24104, May 1, 1998]

§ 703.40 What general practices and procedures must I follow in conducting investment transactions?

(a) You (a federal credit union) must classify a security as hold-to-maturity, available-for-sale, or trading, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and consistent with your documented intent and ability regarding the security.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, you must retain discretionary control over the purchase and sale of investments. NCUA does not consider you to have delegated discretionary control when you are required to authorize a recommended purchase or sale transaction prior to its execution and you, in practice, review such recommendations and authorize such transactions.

(c)(1) You may delegate discretionary control over the purchase and sale of investments, within established parameters, to a person other than your official or employee, provided that the person is an investment adviser registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b).

(2) In determining whether to transact business with an investment adviser, you must analyze his or her background and information available from state or federal securities regulators, including any enforcement actions against the adviser or associated personnel.

(3) You may not compensate an investment adviser with discretionary control over the purchase and sale of

investments on a per transaction basis or based on capital gains, capital appreciation, net income, performance relative to an index, or any other incentive basis.

(4) When you have delegated discretionary control over the purchase and sale of investments to a person other than your official or employee, you do not direct the holdings under that person's control. Therefore, you must classify those holdings as either available-for-sale or trading.

(5) You must obtain a report from your investment adviser, at least monthly, that details your investments under his or her control and how they are performing.

(6) Your aggregate delegation of discretionary control over the purchase and sale of investments under this paragraph (c) is limited to 100 percent of net capital at the time of delegation.

(d) Except for investments that are issued or fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. government or its agencies, enterprises, or corporations or fully insured (including accumulated interest) by the National Credit Union Administration or the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, you must conduct and document a credit analysis of the issuing entity and/or investment before you purchase the investment. You must update the analysis at least annually as long as you hold the investment.

(e) You must notify your board of directors as soon as possible, but no later than the next regularly scheduled board meeting, of any investment that either is outside board policy after purchase or has failed a requirement of this part. You must document the board's action regarding the investment in the minutes of the board meeting, including a detailed explanation of any decision not to sell an investment that has failed a requirement of this part. Within 5 days after the board meeting, you must notify the appropriate regional director in writing of an investment that has failed a requirement of this part.

(f) You must maintain documentation regarding an investment transaction as long as you hold the investment and until the documentation has been both audited and examined. The

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documentation should include, where applicable, bids and prices at purchase and sale and for periodic updates, relevant disclosure documents or a description of the security from an industry-recognized information provider, financial data, and tests and reports required by your investment policy and this part.

§ 703.50 What rules govern my dealings with entities I use to purchase and sell investments (“broker-dealers”)?

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, you (a federal credit union) may use a third-party entity to purchase and sell investments (a “broker-dealer”) as long as the broker-dealer either is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.) or is a depository institution whose broker-dealer activities are regulated by a federal regulatory agency.

(b) In determining whether to buy or sell investments through a broker-dealer, you must analyze and annually update the following factors:

(1) The background of any sales representative with whom you are doing business.

(2) Information available from State or Federal securities regulators and securities industry self-regulatory organizations, such as the National Association of Securities Dealers and the North American Securities Administrators Association, about any enforcement actions against the broker-dealer, its affiliates, or associated personnel.

(3) If the broker-dealer is acting as your counterparty, the ability of the broker-dealer and its subsidiaries or affiliates to fulfill commitments, as evidenced by capital strength, liquidity, and operating results. You should consider current financial data, annual reports, reports of nationally recognized statistical rating agencies, relevant disclosure documents, and other sources of financial information.

(c) The requirements of paragraph (a) of this section do not apply when you purchase a certificate of deposit or share certificate directly from a bank,

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credit union, or other depository institution.

[62 FR 33001, June 18, 1997, as amended at 62 FR 64147, Dec. 4, 1997; 63 FR 24105, May 1, 1998]

§ 703.60 What rules govern my safekeeping of investments?

(a) Your (a federal credit union’s) purchased investments and repurchase collateral must be in your possession, recorded as owned by you through the Federal Reserve Book-Entry System, or held by a board-approved safekeeper under a written custodial agreement. A custodial agreement is a contract in which a third party agrees to exercise ordinary care in protecting the securities held in safekeeping for its customers.

(b) You must obtain an individual confirmation statement for each investment purchased or sold.

(c) Any safekeeper you use must be regulated and supervised by either the Securities and Exchange Commission or a federal or state depository institution regulatory agency.

(d) You must obtain and reconcile monthly a statement of purchased investments and repurchase collateral held in safekeeping.

(e) All purchases and sales of investments must be delivery versus payment (*i.e.*, payment for an investment must occur simultaneously with its delivery).

[62 FR 33001, June 18, 1997, as amended at 62 FR 64147, Dec. 4, 1997]

§ 703.70 What must I do to monitor my non-security investments in banks, credit unions, and other depository institutions?

(a) At least quarterly you (a federal credit union) must prepare a written report listing all of your shares and deposits in banks, credit unions, and other depository institutions, that have one or more of the following features:

(1) Embedded options;

(2) Remaining maturities greater than 3 years; or

(3) Coupon formulas that are related to more than one index or are inversely related to, or multiples of, an index.

(b) The requirement described in paragraph (a) of this section does not

apply to your shares and deposits that are securities.

(c) Where you do not have an investment-related committee, each member of your board of directors must receive a copy of the report described in paragraph (a) of this section. Where you have an investment-related committee, each member of the committee must receive a copy of the report, and each member of the board must receive a summary of the information in the report.

§ 703.80 What must I do to value my securities?

(a) Prior to purchasing or selling a security, except for new issues purchased at par or at original issue discount, you (a federal credit union) must obtain, either:

(1) Price quotations on the security from at least two broker-dealers; or

(2) A price quotation on the security from an industry-recognized information provider.

(b) At least monthly, you must determine the fair value of each security you hold. You may determine fair value by obtaining a price quotation on the security from an industry-recognized information provider, a broker-dealer, or a safekeeper.

(c) At least annually, your supervisory committee (itself or through its external auditor) must independently assess the reliability of monthly price quotations you receive from a broker-dealer or safekeeper. Your supervisory committee (or external auditor) must follow Generally Accepted Auditing Standards, which require either re-computation or reference to market quotations.

(d) Where you are unable to obtain a price quotation required by this section for the precise security in question, you may obtain a quotation for a security with substantially similar characteristics.

[62 FR 33001, June 18, 1997, as amended at 62 FR 64147, Dec. 4, 1997]

§ 703.90 What must I do to monitor the risk of my securities?

(a) At least monthly, you (a federal credit union) must prepare a written report setting forth, for each security you hold, the fair value and dollar

change since the prior month-end, with summary information for the entire portfolio.

(b) At least quarterly, you must prepare a written report setting forth the sum of the fair values of all fixed and variable rate securities you hold that have one or more of the following features:

(1) Embedded options;

(2) Remaining maturities greater than 3 years; or

(3) Coupon formulas that are related to more than one index or are inversely related to, or multiples of, an index.

(c) Where the amount calculated in paragraph (b) of this section is greater than your net capital, the report described in that paragraph must provide a reasonable and supportable estimate of the potential impact, in percentage and dollar terms, of an immediate and sustained parallel shift in market interest rates of plus and minus 300 basis points on:

(1) The fair value of each security in your portfolio;

(2) The fair value of your portfolio as a whole; and

(3) Your net capital.

(d) Where you do not have an investment-related committee, each member of your board of directors must receive a copy of the reports described in paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section. Where you have an investment-related committee, each member of the committee must receive copies of the reports, and each member of the board must receive a summary of the information in the reports.

§ 703.100 What investments and investment activities are permissible for me?

(a) You (a Federal credit union) may contract for the purchase or sale of a security as long as the delivery of the security is by regular-way settlement. Regular-way settlement means delivery of a security from a seller to a buyer within the time frame that the securities industry has established for that type of security.

(b) You may invest in a variable rate investment, as long as the index is tied to domestic interest rates and not, for example, to foreign currencies, foreign interest rates, or domestic or foreign

commodity prices, equity prices, or inflation rates. For purposes of this part, the U.S. dollar-denominated London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) is a domestic interest rate.

(c) You may purchase shares or deposits in a corporate credit union, except where the NCUA Board has notified you that the corporate credit union is not operating in compliance with part 704 of this chapter. Your aggregate purchase of member paid-in capital and membership capital in one corporate credit union is limited to one percent of your assets. Member paid-in capital and membership capital are defined in part 704 of this chapter.

(d) You may invest in a registered investment company or collective investment fund, as long as the prospectus of the company or fund restricts the investment portfolio to investments and investment transactions that are permissible for federal credit unions. For the purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) A *registered investment company* is an investment company that is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a). Examples of registered investment companies are mutual funds and unit investment trusts.

(2) A *collective investment fund* is a fund maintained by a national bank under 12 CFR part 9.

(e) You may invest in fixed or variable rate CMOs/REMICs.

(f) You may purchase and hold a municipal security only if a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (NRSRO) has rated it in one of the four highest rating categories. A municipal security is a security as defined in Section 107(7)(K) of the Act. An NRSRO is a rating organization that the Securities and Exchange Commission has recognized as an NRSRO.

(g) You may sell federal funds to Section 107(8) institutions and credit unions, as long as the interest or other consideration received from the financial institution is at the market rate for federal funds transactions.

(h) You may invest in the following instruments issued by a Section 107(8) institution or branch:

(1) Yankee dollar deposits;

(2) Eurodollar deposits;

(3) Bankers acceptances;

(4) Deposit notes; and

(5) Bank notes with original weighted average maturities of less than five years.

(i) A repurchase transaction is a transaction in which you agree to purchase a security from a counterparty and to resell the same or an identical security to that counterparty at a specified future date and at a specified price. You may enter into a repurchase transaction as long as:

(1) The repurchase securities are legal investments for federal credit unions;

(2) You receive a daily assessment of the market value of the repurchase securities, including accrued interest, and maintain adequate margin that reflects a risk assessment of the repurchase securities and the term of the transaction; and

(3) You have entered into signed contracts with all approved counterparties.

(j) A reverse repurchase transaction is a transaction in which you agree to sell a security to a counterparty and to repurchase the same or an identical security from that counterparty at a specified future date and at a specified price. You may enter into reverse repurchase and collateralized borrowing transactions as long as:

(1) Any securities you receive are permissible investments for federal credit unions, you receive a daily assessment of their market value, including accrued interest, and you maintain adequate margin that reflects a risk assessment of the securities and the term of the transaction;

(2) Any cash you receive is subject to the borrowing limit specified in Section 107(9) of the Act, and any investments you purchase with that cash are permissible for federal credit unions and mature no later than the maturity of the transaction; and

(3) You have entered into signed contracts with all approved counterparties.

(k) You may enter into a securities lending transaction as long as:

(1) You receive written confirmation of the loan;

(2) Any collateral you receive is a legal investment for federal credit unions, you obtain a perfected first priority security interest in the collateral, you either take physical possession or control of the collateral or are recorded as owner of the collateral through the Federal Reserve Book-Entry Securities Transfer System; and you receive a daily assessment of the market value of the collateral, including accrued interest, and maintain adequate margin that reflects a risk assessment of the collateral and the term of the loan;

(3) Any cash you receive is subject to the borrowing limit specified in Section 107(9) of the Act, and any investments you purchase with that cash are permissible for federal credit unions and mature no later than the maturity of the transaction; and

(4) You have executed a written loan and security agreement with the borrower.

(1)(1) You may trade securities, including engaging in when-issued trading and pair-off transactions, as long as you can show that you have sufficient resources, knowledge, systems, and procedures to handle the risks.

(2) You must record any security you purchase or sell for trading purposes at fair value on the trade date. The trade date is the date you commit, orally or in writing, to purchase or sell a security.

(3) At least monthly, you must give your board of directors or investment-related committee a written report listing all purchase and sale transactions of trading securities and the resulting gain or loss on an individual basis.

[62 FR 33001, June 18, 1997, as amended at 62 FR 64148, Dec. 4, 1997; 63 FR 24105, May 1, 1998]

§ 703.110 What investments and investment activities are prohibited for me?

(a) You (a federal credit union) may not purchase or sell financial derivatives, such as futures, options, interest rate swaps, or forward rate agreements, except as permitted under § 701.21(i) of this chapter.

(b) You may not engage in adjusted trading or short sales.

(c) You may not purchase stripped mortgage backed securities, residual interests in CMOs/REMICs, mortgage servicing rights, commercial mortgage related securities, or small business related securities.

(d) You may not purchase a zero coupon investment with a maturity date that is more than 10 years from the settlement date.

§ 703.120 May my officials or employees accept anything of value in connection with an investment transaction?

(a) Your (a federal credit unions) officials and senior management employees, and their immediate family members, may not receive anything of value in connection with your investment transactions. This prohibition also applies to any other employee, such as an investment officer, if the employee is directly involved in investments, unless your board of directors determines that the employee's involvement does not present a conflict of interest. This prohibition does not include compensation for employees.

(b) Your officials and employees must conduct all transactions with business associates or family members that are not specifically prohibited by paragraph (a) of this section at arm's length and in your best interest.

(c) Senior management employee means your chief executive officer (typically this individual holds the title of President or Treasurer/Manager), any assistant chief executive officers (e.g., Assistant President, Vice President, or Assistant Treasurer/Manager) and the chief financial officer (Comptroller).

(d) Immediate family member means a spouse or other family member living in the same household.

§ 703.130 May I continue to hold investments purchased before January 1, 1998, that will be impermissible after that date?

(a) Subject to safety and soundness considerations, you may hold a CMO/REMIC residual, SMBS, or zero coupon security with a maturity greater than 10 years, if you purchased the investment:

(1) Before December 2, 1991; or

(2) On or after December 2, 1991, but before January 1, 1998, if for the purpose of reducing interest rate risk and you meet the following:

(i) You have a monitoring and reporting system in place that provides the documentation necessary to evaluate the expected and actual performance of the investment under different interest rate scenarios;

(ii) You use the monitoring and reporting system to conduct and document an analysis that shows, before purchase, that the proposed investment will reduce your interest rate risk;

(iii) After purchase, you evaluate the investment at least quarterly to determine whether or not it actually has reduced your interest rate risk; and

(iv) You classify the investment as either trading or available-for-sale.

(b) All grandfathered investments are subject to the valuation and monitoring requirements of §§ 703.70, 703.80, and 703.90.

[63 FR 24105, May 1, 1998]

§ 703.140 What is the investment pilot program and how can I participate in it?

(a) Under the investment pilot program, NCUA will permit a limited number of federal credit unions to engage in investment activities prohibited by this part but permitted by statute.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, before you (a federal credit union) may engage in additional activities, you must obtain written approval from

NCUA. To begin the approval process, you must submit a request to your regional director that addresses the following items:

(1) Board policies approving the activities and establishing limits on them.

(2) A complete description of the activities, with specific examples of how you will conduct them and how they will benefit you.

(3) A demonstration of how the activities will affect your financial performance, risk profile, and asset-liability management strategies.

(4) Examples of reports you will generate to monitor the activities.

(5) A projection of the associated costs of the activities, including personnel, computer, audit, etc.

(6) A description of the internal systems to measure, monitor, and report the activities, and the qualifications of the staff and/or official(s) responsible for implementing and overseeing the activities.

(7) The internal control procedures you will implement, including audit requirements.

(c) You need not obtain individual written approval to engage in investment activities prohibited by this part but permitted by statute where the activities are part of a third-party investment program that NCUA has approved under this paragraph (c). A third party seeking approval of such a program must submit a request to the Director of the Office of Examination and Insurance that addresses the following items:

(1) A complete description of the activities, with specific examples of how a credit union will conduct them and how they will benefit a credit union.

(2) A description of any risks to a credit union from participating in the program.

§ 703.150 What additional definitions apply to this part?

The following definitions apply to this part:

Adjusted trading means selling an investment to a counterparty at a price above its current fair value and simultaneously purchasing or committing to purchase from the counterparty another investment at a price above its current fair value.

Average life means the weighted average time to principal repayment with the amount of the principal paydowns (both scheduled and unscheduled) as the weights.

Bank note means a direct, unconditional, and unsecured general obligation of a bank that ranks equally with all other senior unsecured indebtedness of the bank, except deposit liabilities and other obligations that are subject to any priorities or preferences.

Banker's acceptance means a time draft that is drawn on and accepted by a bank and that represents an irrevocable obligation of the bank.

Commercial mortgage related security means a mortgage related security where the mortgages are secured by real estate upon which is located a commercial structure.

Deposit note means an obligation of a bank that is similar to a certificate of deposit but is rated.

Embedded option means a characteristic of an investment that gives the issuer or holder the right to alter the level and timing of the cash flows of the investment. Embedded options include call and put provisions and interest rate caps and floors. Since a prepayment option in a mortgage is a type of call provision, a mortgage-backed security composed of mortgages that may be prepaid is an example of an investment with an embedded option.

Eurodollar deposit means a U.S. dollar-denominated deposit in a foreign branch of a United States depository institution.

Fair value means the price at which a security can be bought or sold in a current, arms length transaction between willing parties, other than in a forced or liquidation sale.

Industry-recognized information provider means an organization that obtains compensation by providing information to investors and receives no compensation for the purchase or sale of investments.

Investment means any security, obligation, account, deposit, or other item authorized for purchase by a federal credit union under Sections 107(7), 107(8), or 107(15) (B) or (C) of the Federal Credit Union Act, or this part, other than loans to members.

Maturity means the date the last principal amount of a security is scheduled to come due and does not mean the call date or the average life of the security.

Mortgage related security means a security as defined in Section 3(a)(41) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(41)), i.e., a privately-issued security backed by mortgages secured by real estate upon which is located a dwelling, mixed residential and commercial structure, residential manufactured home, or commercial structure.

Mortgage servicing means performing tasks to protect a mortgage invest-

ment, including collecting the installment payments, managing the escrow accounts, monitoring and dealing with delinquencies, and overseeing foreclosures and payoffs.

Net capital means the total of all undivided earnings, regular reserves, other reserves (excluding the allowance for loan losses), net income, accumulated unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities, and secondary capital as defined in §701.34 of this chapter.

Official means any member of a federal credit union's board of directors, credit committee, supervisory committee, or investment-related committee.

Pair-off transaction means an investment purchase transaction that is closed or sold at, or prior to, the settlement date. In a pair-off, an investor commits to purchase an investment, but then pairs-off the purchase with a sale of the same investment prior to or on the settlement date.

Prepayment estimate means a reasonable and supportable forecast of mortgage prepayments in alternative interest rate scenarios. Broker-dealers and industry-recognized information providers are sources for these estimates. Estimates are used in tests to forecast the weighted average life, change in weighted average life, and price sensitivity of CMOs/REMICs and mortgage-backed securities.

Residual interest means the remainder cash flows from a CMO/REMIC, or other mortgage-backed security transaction, after payments due bondholders and trust administrative expenses have been satisfied.

Section 107(8) institution means an institution in which Section 107(8) of the Act authorizes you to make deposits, i.e., an institution that is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or is a state bank, trust company or mutual savings bank operating in accordance with the laws of a state in which you maintain a facility. A facility is your home office or any sub-office, including, but not necessarily limited to, a credit union service center, wire service, telephonic station, or mechanical teller station.

Security means a share, participation, or other interest in property or in an

enterprise of the issuer or an obligation of the issuer that: (1) Either is represented by an instrument issued in bearer or registered form or, if not represented by an instrument, is registered in books maintained to record transfers by or on behalf of the issuer;

(2) Is of a type commonly dealt in on securities exchanges or markets or, when represented by an instrument, is commonly recognized in any area in which it is issued or dealt in as a medium for investment; and

(3) Either is one of a class or series or by its terms is divisible into a class or series of shares, participations, interests, or obligations.

Settlement date means the date to which a purchaser and seller originally agree for settlement of the purchase or sale of a security.

Short sale means the sale of a security not owned by the seller.

Small business related security means a security as defined in Section 3(a)(53) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(53)), i.e., a security that represents ownership of one or more promissory notes or leases of personal property which evidence the obligation of a small business concern. It does not mean a security issued or guaranteed by the Small Business Administration.

Stripped mortgage-backed security (SMBS) means a security that represents either the principal-only or the interest-only portion of the cash flows of an underlying pool of mortgages or mortgage-backed securities. Some mortgage-backed securities represent essentially principal-only cash flows with nominal interest cash flows or essentially interest-only cash flows with nominal principal cash flows. These securities are considered SMBSs for the purposes of this part.

When-issued trading of securities means the buying and selling of securities in the period between the announcement of an offering and the issuance and payment date of the securities.

Yankee dollar deposit means a deposit in a United States branch of a foreign bank licensed to do business in the state in which it is located, or a deposit in a state-chartered, foreign controlled bank.

You means a federal credit union.

Zero coupon investment means an investment that makes no periodic interest payments but instead is sold at a discount from its face value. The holder of a zero coupon investment realizes the rate of return through the gradual appreciation of the investment, which is redeemed at face value on a specified maturity date.

[62 FR 33001, June 18, 1997, as amended at 62 FR 64148, Dec. 4, 1997]

PART 704—CORPORATE CREDIT UNIONS

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APPENDIX A TO PART 704—MODEL FORMS

APPENDIX B TO PART 704—EXPANDED AUTHORITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1762, 1766(a), 1781, and 1789.

SOURCE: 62 FR 12938, Mar. 19, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§704.1 Scope.

(a) This part establishes special rules for all federally insured corporate credit unions. Non federally insured corporate credit unions must agree, by written contract, to both adhere to the requirements of this part and submit to examinations, as determined by NCUA, as a condition of receiving shares or deposits from federally insured credit unions. This part grants certain additional authorities to federal corporate credit unions. Except to the extent that they are inconsistent with this part, other provisions of

National Credit Union Administration

§ 704.2

NCUA's Rules and Regulations (12 CFR chapter VII) and the Federal Credit Union Act apply to federally chartered corporate credit unions and federally insured state-chartered corporate credit unions to the same extent that they apply to other federally chartered and federally insured state-chartered credit unions, respectively.

(b) The Board has the authority to issue orders which vary from this part. This authority is provided under Section 120(a) of the Federal Credit Union Act, 12 U.S.C. 1766(a). Requests by state-chartered corporate credit unions for waivers to this part and for expansions of authority under Appendix B of this part must be approved by the state regulator before being submitted to NCUA.

§ 704.2 Definitions.

Adjusted trading means any method or transaction whereby a corporate credit union sells a security to a vendor at a price above its current market price and simultaneously purchases or commits to purchase from the vendor another security at a price above its current market price.

Asset-backed security means a security that is primarily serviced by the cashflows of a discrete pool of receivables or other financial assets, either fixed or revolving, that by their terms convert into cash within a finite time period plus any rights or other assets designed to assure the servicing or timely distribution of proceeds to the securityholders. This definition excludes those securities referred to in the financial markets as mortgage-backed securities (MBS), which includes collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs) and real estate mortgage investment conduits (REMICs).

Capital means the sum of a corporate credit union's reserves and undivided earnings, paid-in capital, and membership capital.

Capital ratio means the corporate credit union's capital divided by its moving daily average net assets.

Collateralized mortgage obligation (CMO) means a multi-class bond issue collateralized by mortgages or mortgage-backed securities.

Commercial mortgage related security means a mortgage related security

where the mortgages are secured by real estate upon which is located a commercial structure.

Corporate credit union means an organization that:

(1) Is chartered under Federal or state law as a credit union;

(2) Receives shares from and provides loan services to credit unions;

(3) Is operated primarily for the purpose of serving other credit unions;

(4) Is designated by NCUA as a corporate credit union;

(5) Limits natural person members to the minimum required by state or federal law to charter and operate the credit union; and

(6) Does not condition the eligibility of any credit union to become a member on that credit union's membership in any other organization.

Correspondent services means services provided by one financial institution to another, and includes check clearing, credit and investment services, and any other banking services.

Credit enhancement means collateral, third-party guarantees, and other features that are designed to provide structural support and protection against losses to investors in a particular security.

Daily average net assets means the average of net assets calculated for each day during the period.

Dealer bid indication means a dealer's approximation of the bid price of a security.

Dollar roll means the purchase or sale of a mortgage backed security to a counterparty with an agreement to resell or repurchase a substantially identical security at a future date and at a specified price.

Embedded option means a characteristic of certain assets and liabilities which gives the issuer of the instrument the ability to change the features such as final maturity, rate, principal amount and average life. Options include, but are not limited to, calls, caps, and prepayment options.

Expected maturity means the date on which all remaining principal amounts of an instrument or bond are anticipated to be paid off on the basis of projected payment assumptions.

Fair value of a financial instrument means the amount at which an instrument could be exchanged in a current arms-length transaction between willing parties, other than in a forced liquidation sale. Market prices, if available, are the best evidence of the fair value of financial instruments. If market prices are not available, the best estimate of fair value may be based on the quoted market price of a financial instrument with similar characteristics or on valuation techniques (for example, the present value of estimated future cash flows using a discount rate commensurate with the risks involved, option pricing models, or matrix pricing models).

Federal funds transaction means a short-term or open-ended unsecured transfer of immediately available funds by one depository institution to another depository institution or entity.

Foreign bank means an institution which is organized under the laws of a country other than the United States, is engaged in the business of banking, and is recognized as a bank by the banking supervisory authority of the country in which it is organized.

Forward settlement of a transaction means settlement on a date other than the trade date.

Immediate family member means a spouse or other family member living in the same household.

Industry recognized information provider means an organization which obtains compensation by providing information to investors and receives no compensation for the purchase or sale of investments.

Long-term investment means, for the purpose of issue ratings, an investment that has an initial maturity, or expected maturity, greater than one year.

Market price means the price at which a security can be bought or sold.

Matched means, with respect to assets and liabilities, that the factors which affect cash flows of an asset are replicated in a corresponding liability.

Member paid-in capital means paid-in capital that: Is held by the corporate credit union's members; and has an initial maturity of at least 20 years. A corporate credit union may not condition membership, services, or prices for

services on a credit union's ownership of paid-in capital. When a paid-in capital instrument has a remaining maturity of 5 years, the amount of the instrument that may be considered paid-in capital for the purposes of this part is reduced by a constant monthly amortization which ensures the recognition of paid-in capital is fully amortized when the instrument has a remaining maturity of 3 years. The terms and conditions of any member paid-in capital instrument must be disclosed to the recorded owner of such instrument at the time the instrument is created and at least annually thereafter.

Member reverse repurchase transaction means an integrated transaction in which a corporate credit union purchases a security from one of its member credit unions under agreement by that member credit union to repurchase the same security at a specified time in the future. The corporate credit union then sells that same security, on the same day, to a third party, under agreement to repurchase it on the same date on which the corporate credit union is obligated to return the security to its member credit union.

Membership capital means funds contributed by members which are available to cover losses that exceed reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital. In the event of liquidation of the corporate credit union, membership capital is payable only after satisfaction of all liabilities of the liquidation estate, including uninsured share obligations to shareholders and the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF), but excluding paid-in capital. The funds have a minimum withdrawal notice of three years, are not insured by the NCUSIF or other share or deposit insurers, and cannot be used to pledge against borrowings. A member may sell its membership capital to a credit union in the corporate credit union's field of membership, subject to the corporate credit union's approval. The funds may be in the form of a term certificate, or may be in the form of an adjusted balance account. An adjusted balance account may be adjusted in relation to a measure (e.g., one percent of a member credit union's assets) established and disclosed by the corporate credit union at the time the

account is opened without regard to any minimum withdrawal notice period. Upon written notice of intent to withdraw membership capital, the balance of the account will be frozen (no annual adjustment) until the conclusion of the notice period. The terms and conditions of a membership capital account must be disclosed to the recorded owner of such account at the time the account is opened and at least annually thereafter. Upon notification of intent to withdraw, the amount of the account on notice that can be considered membership capital is reduced by a constant monthly amortization which ensures the recognition of membership capital is fully amortized at the end of the notice period. The full balance of a membership capital account that has been placed on notice, not just the remaining non amortized portion, is available to absorb losses in excess of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital until the funds are released by the corporate credit union at the conclusion of the notice period.

Mortgage related security means a security as defined in Section 3(a)(41) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(41)), i.e., a privately-issued security backed by mortgages secured by real estate upon which is located a dwelling, mixed residential and commercial structure, residential manufactured home, or commercial structure.

Mortgage servicing means performing tasks to protect a mortgage investment, including collecting the installment accounts, monitoring and dealing with delinquencies, and overseeing foreclosures and payoffs.

Moving daily average net assets means the average of daily average net assets for the month being measured and the previous 11 months.

NCUA means NCUA Board (Board), unless the particular action has been delegated by the Board.

Net assets means total assets less Central Liquidity Facility (CLF) stock subscriptions, CLF loans guaranteed by the NCUSIF, U.S. Central CLF certificates, and member reverse repurchase transactions. For its own account, a corporate credit union's payables under reverse repurchase agreements and re-

ceivables under repurchase agreements may be netted out if the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) conditions for offsetting are met.

Net economic value (NEV) means the fair value of assets minus the fair value of liabilities. All fair value calculations must include the value of forward settlements and embedded options and of off balance sheet financial derivatives, such as futures, options, interest rate swaps, and forward rate agreements. Membership capital is treated as a liability for purposes of this calculation. The NEV ratio is calculated by dividing NEV by the fair value of assets.

Net interest income means the difference between income earned on interest bearing assets and interest paid on interest bearing liabilities.

Non member paid-in capital means paid-in capital that is approved by NCUA, upon application by the corporate credit union. In determining whether or not to approve any paid-in capital instrument, NCUA will consider such features as maturity, capital amortization schedule, participation, voting, acceleration, redemption, or other rights of the holder, if any. NCUA will also consider the strategic purpose and financial impact of the proposed paid-in capital issuance and the corporate credit union's financial condition and management capabilities.

Non secured obligation means an obligation backed solely by the creditworthiness of the obligor.

Official means any director or committee member.

Paid-in capital means accounts or other interests of a corporate credit union that: Are available to cover losses that exceed reserves and undivided earnings; are not insured by the NCUSIF or other share or deposit insurers; and are callable only at the option of the corporate credit union and only if the corporate credit union meets its minimum level of required capital after the funds are called. Paid-in capital includes both member paid-in capital and non member paid-in capital. In the event of liquidation of the corporate credit union, paid-in capital is payable only after satisfaction of all liabilities of the liquidation estate, including uninsured share obligations to

shareholders, the NCUSIF, and membership capital holders. Paid-in capital shall not exceed reserves and undivided earnings.

Pair-off transaction means a security purchase transaction that is closed out or sold at, or prior to, the settlement or expiration date.

Prepayment model means an empirical method which produces a reasonable and supportable forecast of mortgage prepayments in alternative interest rate scenarios. Models are typically available from securities broker-dealers and industry-recognized information providers. These models are used in tests to forecast the weighted average life, change in weighted average life, and price sensitivity of CMOs/REMICs and mortgage-backed securities.

Real estate mortgage investment conduit (REMIC) means a nontaxable entity formed for the sole purpose of holding a fixed pool of mortgages secured by an interest in real property and issuing multiple classes of interests in the underlying mortgages.

Regular way settlement means delivery of a security from a seller to a buyer within the specified number of days established for that type of security.

Repurchase transaction means a transaction in which a corporate credit union agrees to purchase a security from a counterparty and to resell the same or any identical security to that counterparty at a later date.

Reserve ratio means the corporate credit union's reserves and undivided earnings plus paid in capital divided by its moving daily average net assets.

Reserves and undivided earnings means all forms of retained earnings, including regular or statutory reserves and all valuation allowances established to meet the full and fair disclosure requirements of § 702.3 of this chapter.

Residual interest means the remainder cash flows from a CMO or REMIC transaction after payments due bondholders and trust administrative expenses have been satisfied.

Section 107(8) institution means an institution described in Section 107(8) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1757(8)).

Securities lending means lending a security to a counterparty, either di-

rectly or through an agent, and accepting collateral in return.

Senior management employee means a chief executive officer, any assistant chief executive officer (e.g., any assistant president, any vice president or any assistant treasurer/manager), and the chief financial officer (controller).

Settlement date means the date originally agreed to by a corporate credit union and a counterparty for settlement of the purchase or sale of a security.

Short sale means the sale of a security not owned by the seller.

Short-term investment means, for the purpose of issue ratings, an investment that has an initial maturity, or expected maturity, of one year or less.

Small business related security means a security as defined in Section 3(a)(53) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(53)), i.e., a security, rated in one of the four highest rating categories by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization, that represents ownership of one or more promissory notes or leases of personal property which evidence the obligation of a small business concern. It does not mean a security issued or guaranteed by the Small Business Administration.

Stripped mortgage-backed security means a security that represents either the principal or interest only portion of the cash flows of an underlying pool of mortgages.

Trade association means an association of organizations or persons formed to promote their common interests. For the purposes of § 704.14, the term includes entities owned or controlled directly or indirectly by such an association but does not include credit unions.

Trade date means the date a corporate credit union originally agrees, whether orally or in writing, to enter into the purchase or sale of a security.

Weighted average life means the weighted average time to principal repayment of a security based upon the proportional balances of the cash flows that make up the security.

When-issued trading means the buying and selling of securities in the period between the announcement of an offering and the issuance and payment date of the securities.

Wholesale corporate credit union means a corporate credit union which primarily serves other corporate credit unions.

§ 704.3 Corporate credit union capital.

(a) *General.* A corporate credit union must develop and ensure implementation of written short- and long-term capital goals, objectives, and strategies which provide for the building of capital consistent with regulatory requirements, the maintenance of sufficient capital to support the risk exposures that may arise from current and projected activities, and the periodic review and reassessment of the capital position of the corporate credit union.

(b) *Capital ratio.* A corporate credit union will maintain a minimum capital ratio of 4 percent, except as otherwise provided in this part. A corporate credit union must calculate its capital ratio at least monthly.

(c) *Reserve transfers.* A corporate credit union's monthly reserve transfers are based upon the level of its reserve ratio. Where the reserve ratio is greater than or equal to 4 percent, the reserve transfer is optional. Where the reserve ratio is greater than or equal to 3 percent but less than 4 percent, the corporate credit union must transfer .10 percent of its moving daily average net assets. Where the reserve ratio is less than 3 percent, the corporate credit union must transfer .15 percent of its moving daily average net assets. Reserve transfers must be calculated on a monthly basis and funded on at least a quarterly basis.

(d) *Individual capital ratio, reserve transfer requirement.* (1) When significant circumstances or events warrant, NCUA may require a different minimum capital ratio and/or reserve transfer level for an individual corporate credit union based on its circumstances. Factors that might warrant a different minimum capital ratio or reserve transfer level include, but are not limited to, for example:

(i) An expectation that the corporate credit union has or anticipates losses resulting in capital inadequacy;

(ii) Significant exposure exists, unsupported by adequate capital or risk management processes, due to credit,

liquidity, market, fiduciary, operational, and similar types of risks;

(iii) A merger has been approved; or

(iv) An emergency exists because of a natural disaster.

(2) When NCUA determines that a different minimum capital ratio or reserve transfer level is necessary or appropriate for a particular corporate credit union, NCUA will notify the corporate credit union in writing of the proposed ratio or level and, if applicable, the date by which the ratio should be reached. NCUA also will provide an explanation of why the proposed ratio or level is considered necessary or appropriate for the corporate credit union.

(3)(i) The corporate credit union may respond to any or all of the items in the notice. The response must be in writing and delivered to NCUA within 30 calendar days after the date on which the corporate credit union received the notice. NCUA may shorten the time period when, in its opinion, the condition of the corporate credit union so requires, provided that the corporate credit union is informed promptly of the new time period, or with the consent of the corporate credit union. In its discretion, NCUA may extend the time period for good cause.

(ii) Failure to respond within 30 calendar days or such other time period as may be specified by NCUA shall constitute a waiver of any objections to any item in the notice. Failure to address any item in a response shall constitute a waiver of any objection to that item.

(iii) After the close of the corporate credit union's response period, NCUA will decide, based on a review of the corporate credit union's response and other information concerning the corporate credit union, whether a different minimum capital ratio or reserve transfer level should be established for the corporate credit union and, if so, the ratio or level and the date the requirement will become effective. The corporate credit union will be notified of the decision in writing. The notice will include an explanation of the decision, except for a decision not to establish a different minimum capital ratio or reserve transfer level for the corporate credit union.

(e) *Failure to maintain minimum capital ratio requirement.* When a corporate credit union's capital ratio falls below the minimum required by paragraphs (b) or (d) of this section, or Appendix B of this part, as applicable, operating management of the corporate credit union must notify its board of directors, supervisory committee, and NCUA within 10 calendar days.

(f) *Capital restoration plan.* (1) A corporate credit union must submit a plan to restore and maintain its capital ratio at the minimum requirement when either of the following conditions exist:

(i) The capital ratio falls below the minimum requirement and is not restored to the minimum requirement by the next month end; or

(ii) Regardless of whether the capital ratio is restored by the next month end, the capital ratio falls below the minimum requirement for three months in any 12-month period.

(2) The capital restoration plan must, at a minimum, include the following:

(i) Reasons why the capital ratio fell below the minimum requirement;

(ii) Descriptions of steps to be taken to restore the capital ratio to the minimum requirement within specific time frames;

(iii) Actions to be taken to maintain the capital ratio at the minimum required level and increase it thereafter;

(iv) Balance sheet and income projections, including assumptions, for the current calendar year and one additional calendar year; and

(v) Certification from the board of directors that it will follow the proposed plan if approved by NCUA.

(3) The capital restoration plan must be submitted to NCUA within 30 calendar days of the occurrence. NCUA will respond to the corporate credit union regarding the adequacy of the plan within 45 calendar days of its receipt.

(g) *Capital directive.* (1) If a corporate credit union fails to submit a capital restoration plan; or the plan submitted is not deemed adequate to either restore capital or restore capital within a reasonable time; or the credit union fails to implement its approved capital restoration plan, NCUA may issue a capital directive.

(2) A capital directive may order a corporate credit union to:

(i) Achieve adequate capitalization within a specified time frame by taking any action deemed necessary, including but not limited to the following:

(A) Increase the amount of capital to specific levels;

(B) Reduce dividends;

(C) Limit receipt of deposits to those made to existing accounts;

(D) Cease or limit issuance of new accounts or any or all classes of accounts;

(E) Cease or limit lending or making a particular type or category of loans;

(F) Cease or limit the purchase of specified investments;

(G) Limit operational expenditures to specified levels;

(H) Increase and maintain liquid assets at specified levels; and

(I) Restrict or suspend expanded authorities issued under Appendix B of this part.

(ii) Adhere to a previously submitted plan to achieve adequate capitalization.

(iii) Submit and adhere to a capital plan acceptable to NCUA describing the means and a time schedule by which the corporate credit union shall achieve adequate capitalization.

(iv) Meet with NCUA.

(v) Take a combination of these actions.

(3) Prior to issuing a capital directive, NCUA will notify a corporate credit union in writing of its intention to issue a capital directive.

(i) The notice will state:

(A) The reasons for the issuance of the directive; and

(B) The proposed content of the directive.

(ii) A corporate credit union must respond in writing within 30 calendar days of receipt of the notice stating that it either concurs or disagrees with the notice. If it disagrees with the notice, it must state the reasons why the directive should not be issued and/or propose alternative contents for the directive. The response should include all matters that the corporate credit union wishes to be considered. For good cause, including the following

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conditions, the response time may be shortened or lengthened:

(A) When the condition of the corporate requires, and the corporate credit union is notified of the shortened response period in the notice;

(B) With the consent of the corporate credit union; or

(C) When the corporate credit union already has advised NCUA that it cannot or will not achieve adequate capitalization.

(iii) Failure to respond within 30 calendar days, or another time period specified in the notice, shall constitute a waiver of any objections to the proposed directive.

(4) After the closing date of the corporate credit union's response period, or the receipt of the response, if earlier, NCUA shall consider the response and may seek additional information or clarification. Based on the information provided during the response period, NCUA will determine whether or not to issue a capital directive and, if issued, the form it should take.

(5) Upon issuance, a capital directive and a statement of the reasons for its issuance will be delivered to the corporate credit union. A directive is effective immediately upon receipt by the corporate credit union, or upon such later date as may be specified therein, and shall remain effective and enforceable until it is stayed, modified, or terminated by NCUA.

(6) A capital directive may be issued in addition to, or in lieu of, any other action authorized by law in response to a corporate credit union's failure to achieve or maintain the applicable minimum capital ratios.

(7) Upon a change in circumstances, a corporate credit union may request reconsideration of the terms of the directive. Requests that are not based on a significant change in circumstances or are repetitive or frivolous will not be considered. Pending a decision on reconsideration, the directive shall continue in full force and effect.

§ 704.4 Board responsibilities.

(a) *General.* A corporate credit union's board of directors must approve comprehensive written strategic plans and operating policies, review them annually, and provide them upon

request to the auditors, supervisory committee, and NCUA.

(b) *Operating policies.* A corporate credit union's operating policies must be commensurate with the scope and complexity of the corporate credit union.

(c) *Procedures.* The board of directors of a corporate credit union must ensure that:

(1) Senior managers have an in-depth, working knowledge of their direct areas of responsibility and are capable of identifying, hiring, and retaining qualified staff;

(2) Qualified personnel are employed or under contract for all line support and audit areas, and designated back-up personnel or resources with adequate cross-training are in place;

(3) GAAP is followed, except where law or regulation has provided for a departure from GAAP;

(4) Accurate balance sheets, income statements, and internal risk assessments (e.g., risk management measures of liquidity, market, and credit risk associated with current activities) are produced timely in accordance with §§ 704.6, 704.8, and 704.9;

(5) Systems are audited periodically in accordance with industry-established standards;

(6) Financial performance is evaluated to ensure that the objectives of the corporate credit union and the responsibilities of management are met; and

(7) Planning addresses the retention of external consultants, as appropriate, to review the adequacy of technical, human, and financial resources dedicated to support major risk areas.

§ 704.5 Investments.

(a) *Policies.* A corporate credit union must operate according to an investment policy that is consistent with its other risk management policies, including, but not limited to, those related to credit risk management, asset and liability management, and liquidity management. The policy must address, at a minimum:

(1) Appropriate tests and criteria, if any, for evaluating standard investments and investment transactions prior to purchase; and

(2) Risk analysis requirements for any new investment type or transaction, not previously owned or marketed by the corporate credit union, considered for purchase by the corporate credit union and/or for sale to members.

(b) *General.* All investments must be U.S. dollar-denominated and subject to the credit policy restrictions set forth in § 704.6.

(c) *Authorized activities.* A corporate credit union may invest in:

(1) Securities, deposits, and obligations set forth in Sections 107(7), 107(8), and 107(15) of the Federal Credit Union Act, 12 U.S.C. 1757(7), 1757(8), and 1757(15), except as provided in this section;

(2) Deposits in, the sale of federal funds to, and debt obligations of corporate credit unions, Section 107(8) institutions, and state banks, trust companies, and mutual savings banks not domiciled in the state in which the corporate credit union does business;

(3) Corporate CUSOs, as defined in and subject to the limitations of § 704.11;

(4) Marketable debt obligations of corporations chartered in the United States. This authority does not apply to debt obligations that are convertible into the stock of the corporation;

(5) Asset-backed securities; and

(6) CMOs/REMICs.

(d) *Repurchase agreements.* A corporate credit union may enter into a repurchase agreement provided that:

(1) The corporate credit union, or its agent, nominee, or designee, receives written confirmation of the transaction and either takes physical possession or control of the repurchase securities or is recorded as owner of the repurchase securities through the Federal Reserve Book-Entry Securities Transfer System;

(2) The repurchase securities are legal investments for that corporate credit union;

(3) In the event of default, the corporate credit union sells the repurchase securities in a timely manner, subject to a bankruptcy stay, to satisfy the commitment of any net principal and interest owed to it by the counterparty;

(4) The corporate credit union receives daily assessment of the market value of the repurchase securities, including a market quote or dealer bid indication and any accrued interest, and maintains adequate margin that reflects a risk assessment of the repurchase securities and the term of the transaction;

(5) The corporate credit union has entered into signed contracts with all approved counterparties. Such contracts must address any supplemental terms and conditions necessary to meet the specific requirements of this part. Third party arrangements must be supported by tri-party contracts in which the repurchase securities are priced and reported daily and the tri-party agent ensures compliance; and

(6) The corporate credit union has sufficient market relationships established in advance to timely execute the disposition of the repurchase securities.

(e) *Securities Lending.* A corporate credit union may enter into a securities lending transaction provided that:

(1) The corporate credit union, or its agent, nominee, or designee, receives written confirmation of the loan, obtains a perfected first priority security interest in the collateral, and either takes physical possession or control of the collateral or is recorded as owner of the collateral through the Federal Reserve Book-Entry Securities Transfer System;

(2) The collateral is a legal investment for that corporate credit union;

(3) The corporate credit union, directly or through its agent, receives daily assessment of the market value of collateral, including a market quote or dealer bid indication and any accrued interest, and maintains adequate margin that reflects a risk assessment of the collateral and terms of the loan; and

(4) The corporate credit union, directly or through its agent, has executed a written loan and security agreement with the borrower, approved any form of agreement attached thereto, and obtained the right to approve any material modification to such agreement.

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(f) *Investment companies.* A corporate credit union may invest in an investment company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a), provided that the portfolio of such investment company is restricted by its investment policy solely to investments and investment transactions that are permissible for that corporate credit union.

(g) *Forward settlement of transactions later than regular way.* A corporate credit union may enter into an agreement to purchase or sell an instrument, with settlement later than regular way, provided that:

(1) Delivery and acceptance are mandatory;

(2) The transaction is clearly disclosed in the appropriate risk reporting required under § 704.8(b);

(3) If the corporate credit union is the purchaser, it has adequate cash flow projections evidencing its ability to purchase the instrument;

(4) If the corporate credit union is the seller, it owns the instrument on the trade date; and

(5) The transaction is settled on a cash basis at the settlement date.

(h) *Prohibitions.* A corporate credit union is prohibited from:

(1) Purchasing or selling off balance sheet financial derivatives, such as futures, options, interest rate swaps, or forward rate agreements;

(2) Engaging in pair-off transactions, when-issued trading, adjusted trading, or short sales; and

(3) Purchasing stripped mortgage-backed securities, residual interests in CMO/REMICs, mortgage servicing rights, commercial mortgage related securities, or small business related securities.

(i) *Conflicts of interest.* A corporate credit union's officials, employees, and immediate family members of such individuals, may not receive pecuniary consideration in connection with the making of an investment or deposit by the corporate credit union. Employee compensation is exempt from this prohibition. All transactions not specifically prohibited by this paragraph must be conducted at arm's length and in the interest of the corporate credit union.

(j) *Grandfathering.* A corporate credit union's authority to hold an investment is governed by the regulation in effect at the time of purchase. However, all grandfathered investments are subject to the requirements of §§ 704.8 and 704.9.

[62 FR 12938, Mar. 19, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 24105, May 1, 1998]

§ 704.6 Credit risk management.

(a) *Policies.* A corporate credit union must operate according to a credit risk management policy that is commensurate with the investment and lending risks and activities it undertakes. The policy must address, at a minimum:

(1) The approval process associated with credit limits;

(2) Due diligence analysis requirements;

(3) Maximum credit limits with each obligor and transaction counterparty, set as a percentage of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital. In addition to addressing loans, deposits, and securities, limits with transaction counterparties must address aggregate exposures of all transactions, including, but not necessarily limited to, repurchase agreements, securities lending, and forward settlement of purchases or sales of investments; and

(4) Concentrations of credit risk (e.g., industry type, sector type, and geographic).

(b) *Exemption.* The requirements of this section do not apply to instruments that are issued or fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. government or its agencies or enterprises or are fully insured (including accumulated interest) by the National Credit Union Administration or Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

(c) *Concentration limits.* (1) Aggregate investments in mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities are limited to 200 percent of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital for any single security or trust.

(2) Except for investments in a wholesale corporate credit union, aggregate investments in repurchase and securities lending agreements with any one counterparty are limited to 400 percent of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital.

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(3) Except for investments in a wholesale corporate credit union, the aggregate of all investments in non secured obligations of any single domestic issuer is limited to 100 percent of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital.

(4) For purposes of measurement, each new credit transaction must be evaluated in terms of the corporate credit union's sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital at the time of the transaction. A subsequent reduction in the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital will require a suspension of additional transactions until maturities, sales or terminations bring existing exposures within the requirements of this part.

(d) *Credit ratings.* (1) All debt instruments must have a credit rating from at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization (NRSRO).

(2) The rating(s) must be monitored for as long as the corporate owns an instrument.

(3) At the time of purchase, asset-backed securities must be rated no lower than AAA (or equivalent), other long-term investments must be rated no lower than AA (or equivalent), and short-term investments must be rated no lower than A-1 (or equivalent).

(4) Any rated instrument that is downgraded by the NRSRO used to meet the requirements of this part at the time of purchase must be reviewed by the board or an appropriate committee within 30 calendar days of the downgrade. Instruments that fall below the minimum rating requirements of this part are subject to the requirements of § 704.10.

(e) *Reporting and documentation.* (1) A written evaluation of each credit line must be prepared at least annually and formally approved by the board or an appropriate committee. At least monthly, the board or an appropriate committee must receive a watch list of existing and/or potential credit problems and summary credit exposure reports, which demonstrate compliance with the corporate credit union's risk management policies.

(2) At a minimum, the corporate credit union must maintain:

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(i) A justification for each approved credit line;

(ii) Disclosure documents, if any, for all instruments held in portfolio. Documents for an instrument that has been sold must be retained until completion of the next NCUA examination; and

(iii) The latest available financial reports, industry analyses, internal and external analyst evaluations, and rating agency information sufficient to support each approved credit line.

§ 704.7 Lending.

(a) *Policies.* A corporate credit union must operate according to a lending policy which addresses, at a minimum:

(1) Loan types and limits;

(2) Required documentation and collateral; and

(3) Analysis and monitoring standards.

(b) *General.* Each loan or line of credit limit will be determined after analyzing the financial and operational soundness of the borrower and the ability of the borrower to repay the loan.

(c) *Loans to member credit unions.* (1) The maximum aggregate amount in unsecured loans and irrevocable lines of credit to any one member credit union, excluding pass-through and guaranteed loans from the CLF and the NCUSIF, shall not exceed 50 percent of capital or 75 percent of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital, whichever is greater.

(2) The maximum aggregate amount in secured loans and irrevocable lines of credit to any one member credit union, excluding those secured by shares or marketable securities and member reverse repurchase transactions, shall not exceed 100 percent of capital or 200 percent of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital, whichever is greater.

(d) *Loans to members that are not credit unions.* Any loan or irrevocable line of credit made to a member, other than a credit union or a corporate CUSO, must be made in compliance with part 723 of this chapter, governing member business loans, unless such loan or line of credit is fully guaranteed by a credit union. The aggregate amount of loans

and irrevocable lines of credit to members other than credit unions and corporate CUSOs shall not exceed 15 percent of the corporate credit union's capital plus pledged shares.

(e) *Loans to non member credit unions.* A loan to a credit union that is not a member of the corporate credit union, other than through a loan participation with another corporate credit union, is only permissible if the loan is for an overdraft related to the providing of correspondent services pursuant to § 704.12. Generally, such a loan will have a maturity of only one business day.

(f) *Loans to corporate CUSOs.* A corporate credit union may make loans and issue lines of credit to corporate CUSOs, subject to the limitations of § 704.11.

(g) *Participation loans with other corporate credit unions.* A corporate credit union is permitted to participate in a loan with another corporate credit union and must retain an interest of at least 5 percent of the face amount of the loan. The participation agreement may be executed at any time prior to, during, or after disbursement. A participating corporate credit union must exercise the same due diligence as if it were the originating corporate credit union.

(h) *Prepayment penalties.* If provided for in the loan contract, a corporate credit union is authorized to assess prepayment penalties on loans.

[62 FR 12938, Mar. 19, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 57365, Oct. 25, 1999]

§ 704.8 Asset and liability management.

(a) *Policies.* A corporate credit union must operate according to a written asset and liability management policy which addresses, at a minimum:

(1) The purpose and objectives of the corporate credit union's asset and liability activities;

(2) The tests that will be used to evaluate instruments prior to purchase;

(3) The maximum allowable percentage decline in net economic value (NEV), compared to current NEV;

(4) The minimum allowable NEV ratio;

(5) The maximum decline in net income (before reserve transfers), in percentage and dollar terms, compared to current net income;

(6) Policy limits and specific test parameters for the interest rate risk simulation tests set forth in paragraph (d) of this section; and

(7) The modeling of indexes that serve as references in financial instrument coupon formulas.

(b) *Asset and liability management committee (ALCO).* A corporate credit union's ALCO must have at least one member who is also a member of the board of directors. The ALCO must review asset and liability management reports on at least a monthly basis. These reports must address compliance with Federal Credit Union Act, NCUA Rules and Regulations (12 CFR chapter VII), and all related risk management policies.

(c) *Penalty for early withdrawals.* A corporate credit union that permits early certificate/share withdrawals must assess market-based penalties sufficient to cover the estimated replacement cost of the certificate/share redeemed.

(d) *Interest rate sensitivity analysis.* (1) A corporate credit union must:

(i) Evaluate the risk in its balance sheet by measuring, at least quarterly, the impact of an instantaneous, permanent, and parallel shock in the Treasury yield curve of plus and minus 100, 200, and 300 basis points on its NEV, NEV ratio, and net interest income. If the base case NEV ratio falls below 2 percent at the last testing date, these tests must be calculated at least monthly until the base case NEV ratio again exceeds 2 percent;

(ii) Limit its risk exposure to levels that do not result in an NEV ratio below 1 percent; and

(iii) Limit its risk exposures to levels that do not result in a decline in NEV of more than 18 percent, except as provided in paragraph (e) of this section.

(2) A corporate credit union that owns an aggregate amount of instruments which possess unmatched embedded options in a book value amount which exceeds 200 percent of the sum of its reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital must conduct periodically, as appropriate, additional tests

that address market factors which potentially can impact the value of the instruments and that reflect the policy limits addressed in paragraph (a) of this section. These factors should include, but not be limited to, the following:

(i) Changes in the shape of the Treasury yield curve;

(ii) Adjustments to prepayment projections used for amortizing securities to consider the impact of significantly faster/slower prepayment speeds;

(iii) Adjustments to the market spread assumptions for non Treasury instruments to consider the impact of widening spreads; and

(iv) Adjustments to volatility assumptions to consider the impact that changing volatilities have on embedded option values.

(e) *Base-plus.* (1) In performing the rate stress tests set forth in paragraph (d)(1)(i) of this section, the NEV of a corporate credit union which has met the requirements of this paragraph (e) may decline as much as 25 percent.

(2) The corporate credit union must meet additional management and infrastructure requirements and receive NCUA's written approval. The additional requirements are set forth in the NCUA publication Guidelines for Submission of Requests for Expanded Authority. The procedures for processing base-plus authority are the same as those set forth in Appendix B of this part for requesting expanded authorities.

(3) The corporate credit union must evaluate monthly the changes in NEV, NEV ratio, and net interest income for the tests set forth in paragraph (d)(1)(i) of this section.

(4) Regardless of the amount of instruments which possess unmatched embedded options, the corporate credit union must conduct periodically, as appropriate, the tests set forth in paragraph (d)(2) of this section.

(f) *Regulatory violations.* If a corporate credit union's base case NEV or NEV ratio or the NEV or NEV ratio resulting from the tests indicated in paragraph (d)(1)(i) of this section decline below the limits established by this part and are not brought into compliance within 10 calendar days, operating management of the corporate

credit union must immediately report the information to the board of directors, supervisory committee, and NCUA. If any of these measures remain below the limits established by this part within 30 calendar days of the violation, the corporate credit union must submit a detailed, written action plan to NCUA that sets forth the time needed and means by which it intends to correct the violation. If NCUA determines that the plan is unacceptable, the corporate credit union must immediately restructure the balance sheet to bring the exposures back within compliance or adhere to an alternative course of action determined by NCUA.

(g) *Policy violations.* If a corporate credit union's NEV or NEV ratio for any required test(s) exceed the limits established by the board, it must determine how it will bring the exposures within policy limits. The disclosure to the board of the limit violation must occur no later than its next regularly scheduled board meeting.

§ 704.9 Liquidity management.

(a) *General.* In the management of liquidity, a corporate credit union must:

(1) Evaluate the potential liquidity needs of its membership in a variety of economic scenarios;

(2) Regularly monitor sources of internal and external liquidity;

(3) Demonstrate that the accounting classification of investment securities is consistent with its ability to meet potential liquidity demands; and

(4) Develop a contingency funding plan that addresses alternative funding strategies in successively deteriorating liquidity scenarios. The plan must:

(i) List all sources of liquidity, by category and amount, that are available to service an immediate outflow of funds in various liquidity scenarios;

(ii) Analyze the impact that potential changes in fair value will have on the disposition of assets in a variety of interest rate scenarios; and

(iii) Be reviewed by the board or an appropriate committee no less frequently than annually or as market or business conditions dictate.

(b) *Borrowing.* A corporate credit union may borrow up to 10 times capital or 50 percent of shares (excluding shares created by the use of member

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reverse repurchase agreements) and capital, whichever is greater. CLF borrowings and borrowed funds created by the use of member reverse repurchase agreements are excluded from this limit. The corporate credit union must demonstrate that sufficient contingent sources of liquidity remain available.

§ 704.10 Divestiture.

(a) Any corporate credit union in possession of an investment that fails to meet a requirement of this part must, within 30 calendar days of the failure, report the failed investment to its board of directors, supervisory committee, and NCUA. If the corporate credit union does not sell the failed investment, and the investment continues to fail to meet a requirement of this part, the corporate credit union must, within 30 calendar days of the failure, provide to NCUA a written action plan that addresses:

- (1) The investment's characteristics and risks;
- (2) The process to obtain and adequately evaluate the investment's market pricing, cash flows, and risk;
- (3) How the investment fits into the credit union's asset and liability management strategy;
- (4) The impact that either holding or selling the investment will have on the corporate credit union's earnings, liquidity, and capital in different interest rate environments; and
- (5) The likelihood that the investment may again pass the requirements of this part.

(b) NCUA may require, for safety and soundness reasons, a shorter time period for plan development than that set forth in paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) If the plan described in paragraph (a) of this section is not approved by NCUA, the credit union must adhere to NCUA's directed course of action.

§ 704.11 Corporate Credit Union Service Organizations (Corporate CUSOs).

(a) A corporate CUSO is an entity that:

- (1) Is at least partly owned by a corporate credit union;
- (2) Primarily serves credit unions;

(3) Restricts its services to those related to the normal course of business of credit unions; and

(4) Is structured as a corporation, limited liability company, or limited partnership under state law.

(b) The aggregate of all investments in and loans to member and non member corporate CUSOs shall not exceed 15 percent of a corporate credit union's capital. However, a corporate credit union may loan to member and non member corporate CUSOs an additional 15 percent of capital if collateralized by assets in which the corporate credit union has perfected a security interest under state law. A corporate credit union may not use this authority to acquire control, directly or indirectly, of another financial institution, or to invest in shares, stocks, or obligations of another financial institution, insurance company, trade association, liquidity facility, or similar organization. A corporate CUSO must be operated as an entity separate from any credit union. A corporate credit union investing in or lending to a corporate CUSO must obtain a written legal opinion that the corporate CUSO is organized and operated in such a manner that the corporate credit union will not reasonably be held liable for the obligations of the corporate CUSO. This opinion must address factors that have led courts to "pierce the corporate veil," such as inadequate capitalization, lack of separate corporate identity, common boards of directors and employees, control of one entity over another, and lack of separate books and records.

(c) An official of a corporate credit union which has invested in or loaned to a corporate CUSO may not receive, either directly or indirectly, any salary, commission, investment income, or other income, compensation, or consideration from the corporate CUSO. This prohibition also extends to immediate family members of officials.

(d) Prior to making an investment in or loan to a corporate CUSO, a corporate credit union must obtain a written agreement that the corporate CUSO will:

- (1) Follow GAAP;

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(2) Provide financial statements to the corporate credit union at least quarterly;

(3) Obtain an annual CPA opinion audit and provide a copy to the corporate credit union; and

(4) Allow the auditor, board of directors, and NCUA complete access to its books, records, and any other pertinent documentation.

(e) Corporate credit union authority to invest in or loan to a CUSO is limited to that provided in this section. A corporate credit union is not authorized to invest in or loan to a CUSO under part 712 of this chapter.

[62 FR 12938, Mar. 19, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 10756, Mar. 5, 1998]

§ 704.12 Services.

Except for correspondent services to a non member, natural person credit union branch office operating in the geographic area defined in the corporate credit union's charter, a corporate credit union may provide services only to its members, subject to the limitations of this part. A corporate credit union may not provide services to non members through agreements with other corporate credit unions or pursuant to § 701.26 of this chapter, except with the written permission of NCUA.

§ 704.13 Fixed assets.

(a) A corporate credit union's ownership in fixed assets shall be limited as described in § 701.36 of this chapter, except that in lieu of § 701.36(c)(1) through (4) of this chapter, paragraph (b) of this section applies.

(b) A corporate credit union may invest in fixed assets where the aggregate of all such investments does not exceed 15 percent of the corporate credit union's capital. A corporate credit union desiring to exceed the limitation shall submit a written request to NCUA. Requests shall be supplemented by such statements and reports as NCUA may require. If the corporate credit union does not receive notification of the action taken on its request within 45 calendar days of the date all required information has been received, it may proceed with its proposed investment in fixed assets.

§ 704.14 Representation.

(a) *Board representation.* The board shall be determined as stipulated in the standard corporate federal credit union bylaws governing election procedures, provided that:

(1) At least a majority of directors, including the chair of the board, must serve on the board as representatives of member credit unions;

(2) The chair of the board may not serve simultaneously as an officer, director, or employee of a credit union trade association;

(3) A majority of directors may not serve simultaneously as officers, directors, or employees of the same credit union trade association or its affiliates (not including chapters or other subunits of a state trade association);

(4) For purposes of meeting the requirements of paragraphs (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this section, an individual may not serve as a director or chair of the board if that individual holds a subordinate employment relationship to another employee who serves as an officer, director, or employee of a credit union trade association; and

(5) In the case of a corporate credit union whose membership is composed of more than 25 percent non credit unions, the majority of directors serving as representatives of member credit unions, including the chair, must be elected only by member credit unions.

(b) *Representatives of organizational members.* (1) An organizational member of a corporate credit union is a member that is not a natural person. An organizational member may appoint one of its members or officials as a representative to the corporate credit union. The representative shall be empowered to attend membership meetings, to vote, and to stand for election on behalf of the member. No individual may serve as the representative of more than one organizational member in the same corporate credit union.

(2) Any vacancy on the board of a corporate credit union caused by a representative being unable to complete his or her term shall be filled by the board of the corporate credit union according to its bylaws governing the filling of board vacancies.

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(c) *Recusal provision.* (1) No director, committee member, officer, or employee of a corporate credit union shall in any manner, directly or indirectly, participate in the deliberation upon or the determination of any question affecting his or her pecuniary interest or the pecuniary interest of any entity (other than the corporate credit union) in which he or she is interested, except if the matter involves general policy applicable to all members, such as setting dividend or loan rates or fees for services.

(2) An individual is “interested” in an entity if he or she:

(i) Serves as a director, officer, or employee of the entity;

(ii) Has a business, ownership, or deposit relationship with the entity; or

(iii) Has a business, financial, or familial relationship with an individual whom he or she knows has a pecuniary interest in the entity.

(3) In the event of the disqualification of any directors, by operation of paragraph (c)(1) of this section, the remaining qualified directors present at the meeting, if constituting a quorum with the disqualified directors, may exercise, by majority vote, all the powers of the board with respect to the matter under consideration. Where all of the directors are disqualified, the matter must be decided by the members of the corporate credit union.

(4) In the event of the disqualification of any committee member by operation of paragraph (c)(1) of this section, the remaining qualified committee members, if constituting a quorum with the disqualified committee members, may exercise, by majority vote, all the powers of the committee with respect to the matter under consideration. Where all of the committee members are disqualified, the matter shall be decided by the board of directors.

(d) *Administration.* (1) A corporate credit union shall be under the direction and control of its board of directors. While the board may delegate the performance of administrative duties, the board is not relieved of its responsibility for their performance. The board may employ a chief executive officer who shall have such authority and such powers as delegated by the board

to conduct business from day to day. Such chief executive officer must answer solely to the board of the corporate credit union, and may not be an employee of a credit union trade association.

(2) The provisions of § 701.14 of this chapter apply to corporate credit unions, except that where “Regional Director” is used, read “NCUA Board.”

§ 704.15 Audit requirements.

(a) *External audit.* The corporate credit union supervisory committee shall cause an annual opinion audit of the financial statements to be made. The audit must be performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the audited financial statements must be prepared consistent with GAAP, except where law or regulation has provided for a departure from GAAP. The supervisory committee shall submit the audit report to the board of directors. A copy of the audit report, and copies of all communications that are provided to the corporate credit union by the external auditor, shall be submitted to NCUA within 30 calendar days after receipt by the board of directors. If requested by NCUA, the external auditor’s workpapers shall be made available, at the auditor’s office or elsewhere, for NCUA’s review. The corporate credit union shall submit a summary of the audit report to the membership at the next annual meeting.

(b) *Internal audit.* A corporate credit union with average daily assets in excess of \$400 million for the preceding calendar year, or as ordered by NCUA, must employ or contract, on a full- or part-time basis, the services of an internal auditor. The internal auditor’s responsibilities will, at a minimum, comply with the Standards and Professional Practices of Internal Auditing, as established by the Institute of Internal Auditors. The internal auditor will report directly to the chair of the corporate credit union’s supervisory committee, who may delegate supervision of the internal auditor’s daily activities to the chief executive officer of the corporate credit union. The internal auditor’s reports, findings, and recommendations will be in writing and

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presented to the supervisory committee no less than quarterly, and will be provided upon request to the external auditor and NCUA.

§ 704.16 Contracts/written agreements.

Services, facilities, personnel, or equipment shared with any party shall be supported by a written contract, with the duties and responsibilities of each party specified and the allocation of service fee/expenses fully supported and documented.

§ 704.17 State-chartered corporate credit unions.

(a) This part does not expand the powers and authorities of any state-chartered corporate credit union, beyond those powers and authorities provided under the laws of the state in which it was chartered.

(b) A state-chartered corporate credit union that is not insured by the NCUSIF, but that receives funds from federally insured credit unions, is considered an "institution-affiliated party" within the meaning of Section 206(r) of the Federal Credit Union Act, 12 U.S.C. 1786(r).

(c) NCUA will notify, consult with, and provide explanation to the appropriate state supervisory authority before taking administrative action against a state-chartered corporate credit union.

§ 704.18 Fidelity bond coverage.

(a) *Scope.* This section provides the fidelity bond requirements for employees and officials in corporate credit unions.

(b) *Review of coverage.* The board of directors of each corporate credit union shall, at least annually, carefully review the bond coverage in force to determine its adequacy in relation to risk exposure and to the minimum requirements in this section.

(c) *Minimum coverage; approved forms.* Every corporate credit union will maintain bond coverage with a company holding a certificate of authority from the Secretary of the Treasury. All bond forms, and any riders and endorsements which limit the coverage

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provided by approved bond forms, must receive the prior written approval of NCUA. Fidelity bonds must provide coverage for the fraud and dishonesty of all employees, directors, officers, and supervisory and credit committee members. Notwithstanding the foregoing, all bonds must include a provision, in a form approved by NCUA, requiring written notification by surety to NCUA:

(1) When the bond of a credit union is terminated in its entirety;

(2) When bond coverage is terminated, by issuance of a written notice, on an employee, director, officer, supervisory or credit committee member; or

(3) When a deductible is increased above permissible limits. Said notification shall be sent to NCUA and shall include a brief statement of cause for termination or increase.

(d) *Minimum coverage amounts.* (1) The minimum amount of bond coverage will be computed based on the corporate credit union's daily average net assets for the preceding calendar year. The following table lists the minimum requirements:

Daily average net assets	Minimum bond (million)
Less than \$50 million	\$1.0
\$50-\$99 million	2.0
\$100-\$499 million	4.0
\$500-\$999 million	6.0
\$1.0-\$1.999 billion	8.0
\$2.0-\$4.999 billion	10.0
\$5.0-\$9.999 billion	15.0
\$10.0-\$24.999 billion	20.0
\$25.0 billion plus	25.0

(2) It is the duty of the board of directors of each corporate credit union to provide adequate protection to meet its unique circumstances by obtaining, when necessary, bond coverage in excess of the minimums in the table in paragraph (d)(1) of this section.

(e) *Deductibles.* (1) The maximum amount of deductibles allowed are based on the corporate credit union's reserve ratio. The following table sets out the maximum deductibles, except that in each category the maximum deductible shall be \$5 million:

Reserve ratio	Maximum deductible
Less than 1.0 percent	7.5 percent of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital.

Reserve ratio	Maximum deductible
1.0–1.74 percent	10.0 percent of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital
1.75–2.24 percent	12.0 percent of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital.
Greater than 2.25 percent	15.0 percent of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital.

(2) A deductible may be applied separately to one or more insuring clauses in a blanket bond. Deductibles in excess of those showing in this section must have the written approval of NCUA at least 30 calendar days prior to the effective date of the deductibles.

(f) *Additional coverage.* NCUA may require additional coverage for any corporate credit union when, in the opinion of NCUA, current coverage is insufficient. The board of directors of the corporate credit union must obtain additional coverage within 30 calendar days after the date of written notice from NCUA.

§ 704.19 Wholesale corporate credit unions.

(a) *General.* Wholesale corporate credit unions are subject to the preceding requirements of this part, except as set forth in this section.

(b) *Capital.* (1) A wholesale corporate credit union will maintain a minimum capital ratio of 5 percent.

(2) A wholesale corporate credit union shall make reserve transfers at the lower of .10 percent of its moving daily average net assets or the amount that would be required under § 704.3(c).

(i) Required transfers are to be made from earnings in either the prior calendar month or prior twelve-month period. Transfers made during the prior twelve-month period must be greater than or equal to the aggregate amount of required reserve transfers for each of the months in that twelve-month period.

(ii) NCUA and, in the case of state-chartered wholesale corporate credit unions, the state supervisory authority, must be notified within 30 calendar days of the close of any calendar month in which a wholesale corporate credit union's required reserve transfer exceeds earnings for that month. The notice must include the dollar amounts of the required reserve transfer and earnings for that month and for the prior twelve-month period. The notice must also provide an explanation of

why the current month's required reserve transfer exceeded earnings for that month.

(c) *Asset and liability management.* (1) In conducting the interest rate sensitivity analysis set forth in § 704.8(d)(1)(i), a wholesale corporate credit union must limit its risk exposure to levels that do not result, at any time, in an NEV ratio below .75 percent or a decline in NEV of more than 35 percent.

(2) A wholesale corporate credit union must obtain, at its expense, an annual third-party review of its asset and liability management modeling system.

APPENDIX A TO PART 704—MODEL FORMS

This appendix contains sample forms intended for use by corporate credit unions to aid in compliance with the membership capital account and paid-in capital disclosure requirements of § 704.2. Corporate credit unions that use this form will be in compliance with those requirements.

Sample Form 1

Terms and Conditions of Membership Capital Account

(1) A membership capital account is not subject to share insurance coverage by the NCUSIF or other deposit insurer.

(2) A member credit union may withdraw membership capital with three years' notice.

(3) Membership capital cannot be used to pledge borrowings.

(4) Membership capital is available to cover losses that exceed reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital.

(5) Where the corporate credit union is liquidated, membership capital accounts are payable only after satisfaction of all liabilities of the liquidation estate including uninsured obligations to shareholders and the NCUSIF.

If the form is used when an account is opened, it must also contain the following statement:

I have read the above terms and conditions and I understand them. I further agree to maintain in the credit union's files the annual notice of terms and conditions of the membership capital account.

The form must be signed by either all of the directors of the member credit union or, if authorized by board resolution, the chair and secretary of the board of the credit union.

If the form is used for the annual notice requirement, it must be signed by the chair of the corporate credit union. The chair must then sign a statement which certifies that the form has been sent to member credit unions with membership capital accounts. The certification must be maintained in the corporate credit union's files and be available for examiner review.

Sample Form 2

Terms and Conditions of Paid-In Capital

(1) Paid-in capital is not subject to share insurance coverage by the NCUSIF or other deposit insurer.

(2) The funds are callable only at the option of the corporate credit union and only if the corporate credit union meets its minimum level of required capital after the funds are called.

(3) Paid-in capital is available to cover losses that exceed reserves and undivided earnings.

(4) Paid-in capital is subordinate to membership capital and the NCUSIF.

If the form is used when a paid-in capital instrument is created, it must also contain the following statement:

I have read the above terms and conditions and I understand them. I further agree to maintain in the credit union's files the annual notice of terms and conditions of the paid-in capital instrument.

The form must be signed by either all of the directors of the credit union or, if authorized by board resolution, the chair and secretary of the board of the credit union.

If the form is used for the annual notice requirement, it must be signed by the chair of the corporate credit union. The chair must then sign a statement which certifies that the form has been sent to credit unions with paid-in capital accounts. The certification must be maintained in the corporate credit union's files and be available for examiner review.

APPENDIX B TO PART 704—EXPANDED AUTHORITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

PART I

A corporate credit union may obtain expanded authorities if it meets all of the requirements of this part 704, fulfills additional capital, management, infrastructure, and asset and liability requirements, and receives NCUA's written approval. The additional requirements and authorities are set forth in this Appendix and in the NCUA publication Guidelines for Submission of Requests for Expanded Authority. A corporate

credit union which seeks expanded authorities must submit to NCUA a self-assessment plan which analyzes and supports its request. A corporate credit union may adopt expanded authorities when NCUA has provided final approval. If NCUA denies a request for expanded authorities, it will advise the corporate of the reasons for the denial and what it must do to resubmit its request. NCUA may revoke these expanded authorities at any time if an analysis indicates a significant deficiency. NCUA will notify the corporate credit union in writing of the identified deficiency. A corporate credit union may request, in writing, reinstatement of the revoked authorities by providing a self-assessment plan which details how it has corrected these deficiencies.

(a) In order to participate in the authorities set forth in paragraphs (b) through (d) of this Part I, a corporate credit union must:

(1) Have a minimum capital ratio of 5 percent;

(2) Evaluate monthly the changes in NEV, NEV ratio, and net interest income for the tests set forth in §704.8(d)(1)(i); and

(3) Regardless of the amount of instruments which possess unmatched embedded options, conduct periodically, as appropriate, the tests set forth in §704.8(d)(2).

(b) A corporate credit union which has met the requirements of paragraph (a) of this Part I is not bound by the concentration limits on investments set forth at §704.6(c)(1) and (2). Instead, the corporate credit union must establish limits on such investments as a percentage of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital that take into account the relative amount of credit risk exposure based upon, but not limited to, the legal and financial structure of the transaction, the collateral, all other types of credit enhancement, and the term of the transaction.

(c) A corporate credit union which has met the requirements of paragraph (a) of this Part I may:

(1) Except for investments in a wholesale corporate credit union, invest in non secured obligations of any single domestic issuer up to 150 percent of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital;

(2) Purchase long-term investments rated no lower than AA-(or equivalent);

(3) Purchase asset-backed securities rated no lower than AA (or equivalent);

(4) Engage in short sales of permissible investments to reduce interest rate risk;

(5) Purchase principal only (PO) stripped mortgage-backed securities to reduce interest rate risk;

(6) Enter into a repurchase transaction where the collateral securities are rated no lower than A (or equivalent);

(7) Enter into a dollar roll transaction; and

(8) Engage in when-issued trading, when accounted for on a trade date basis.

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(d) In performing the rate stress tests set forth in §704.8(d)(1)(i), the NEV of a corporate credit union which has met the requirements of paragraph (a) of this Part I may decline as much as 35 percent.

(e) The maximum aggregate amount in unsecured loans and irrevocable lines of credit to any one member credit union, excluding pass-through and guaranteed loans from the CLF and the NCUSIF, shall not exceed 100 percent of the corporate credit union's capital. The board of directors will establish the limit, as a percent of the corporate credit union's capital plus pledged shares, for secured loans and irrevocable lines of credit.

PART II

(a) In order to participate in the authorities set forth in paragraphs (b)–(d) of this Part II, a corporate credit union must:

(1) Have a minimum capital ratio of 6 percent; and

(2) Evaluate monthly the changes in NEV, NEV ratio, and net interest income for the tests set forth in §704.8(d)(1)(i); and

(3) Regardless of the amount of instruments which possess unmatched embedded options, conduct periodically, as appropriate, the tests set forth in §704.8(d)(2).

(b) A corporate credit union which has met the requirements of paragraph (a) of this Part II is not bound by the concentration limits on investments set forth at §704.6(c)(1) and (2). Instead, the corporate credit union must establish limits on such investments as a percentage of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital, that take into account the relative amount of credit risk exposure based upon, but not limited to, the legal and financial structure of the transaction, the collateral, all other types of credit enhancement, and the term of the transaction.

(c) A corporate credit union which has met the requirements of paragraph (a) of this Part II may:

(1) Except for investments in a wholesale corporate credit union, invest in nonsecured obligations of any single domestic issuer up to 250 percent of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital;

(2) Purchase long-term investments rated no lower than A– (or equivalent);

(3) Purchase asset-backed securities rated no lower than AA (or equivalent);

(4) Engage in short sales of permissible investments to reduce interest rate risk;

(5) Purchase principal only (PO) stripped mortgage-backed securities to reduce interest rate risk;

(6) Enter into a dollar roll transaction; and

(7) Engage in when-issued trading, when accounted for on a trade date basis.

(d) In performing the rate stress tests set forth in §704.8(d)(1)(i), the NEV of a corporate credit union which has met the re-

quirements of paragraph (a) of this Part II may decline as much as 50 percent.

(e) The maximum aggregate amount in secured and unsecured loans and irrevocable lines of credit to any one member credit union, excluding pass-through and guaranteed loans from the CLF and the NCUSIF, shall be established by the board of directors as a percentage of the corporate credit union's capital plus pledged shares.

PART III

(a) A corporate credit union which has met the requirements of paragraph (a) of either Part I or Part II of this Appendix may invest in:

(1) Debt obligations of a foreign country; and

(2) Deposits in, the sale of federal funds to, and debt obligations of foreign banks or obligations guaranteed by these banks.

(b) All foreign investments are subject to the following requirements:

(i) Short-term investments must be rated no lower than A–1 (or equivalent);

(ii) Long-term investments must be rated no lower than AA (or equivalent);

(iii) A sovereign issuer, and/or the country in which a bank issuer/guarantor is organized, must be rated no lower than AA (or equivalent) for political and economic stability;

(iv) A bank issuer/guarantor must be rated no lower than AA;

(v) For each approved foreign bank line, the corporate credit union must identify the specific banking centers and branches to which it will lend funds;

(vi) Non secured obligations of any single foreign issuer may not exceed 150 percent of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital; and

(vii) Non secured obligations in any single foreign country may not exceed 500 percent of the sum of reserves and undivided earnings and paid-in capital.

PART IV

A corporate credit union which has met the requirements of paragraph (a) of either Part I or Part II of this Appendix may engage in derivatives transactions which are directly related to its financial activities and which have been specifically approved by NCUA. A corporate credit union may use such derivatives authority only for the purposes of creating structured instruments and hedging its own balance sheet and the balance sheets of its members.

[62 FR 12938, Mar. 19, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 24105, May 1, 1998]

PART 705—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM FOR CREDIT UNIONS

Sec.

- 705.0 Applicability.
- 705.1 Scope.
- 705.2 Purpose of the program.
- 705.3 Definitions.
- 705.4 Program activities.
- 705.5 Application for participation.
- 705.6 Community needs plan.
- 705.7 Loans to participating credit unions.
- 705.8 State-chartered credit unions.
- 705.9 Application period.
- 705.10 Technical assistance.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1772c-1; 42 U.S.C. 9822 and 9822 note.

SOURCE: 58 FR 21646, Apr. 23, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

§ 705.0 Applicability.

Monies from the Community Development Revolving Loan Fund for Credit Unions are governed by this part.

§ 705.1 Scope.

(a) This part implements the Community Developments Revolving Loan Program for Credit Unions (Program) under the sole administration of the National Credit Union Administration.

(b) This part establishes the following:

- (1) Definitions;
- (2) The application process and requirements for qualifying for a loan under the program;
- (3) How loan funds are to be made available and their repayment; and
- (4) Technical assistance to be provided to participating credit unions.

§ 705.2 Purpose of the program.

(a) The Community Development Revolving Loan Program for Credit Unions is intended to support the efforts of participating credit unions through loans and technical assistance to those credit unions in:

- (1) Providing basic financial and related services to residents in their communities; and
- (2) Stimulating economic activities in the communities they service which will result in increased income, ownership and employment opportunities for low-income residents, and other community growth efforts.

(b) The policy of NCUA is to revolve loan funds to qualifying credit unions as often as practical in order to gain maximum economic impact on as many participating credit unions as possible.

§ 705.3 Definitions.

(a)(1) The term “low-income members” shall mean those members who make less than 80 percent of the average for all wage earners as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics or those members whose annual household income falls at or below 80% of the median household income for the nation as established by the Census Bureau or those members otherwise defined as low-income members as determined by order of the NCUA Board.

(2) In documenting its low-income membership, a credit union that serves a geographic area where a majority of residents fall at or below the annual income standard is presumed to be serving predominantly low-income members. In applying the standards, Regional Directors shall make allowances for geographical areas with higher costs of living. The following is the exclusive list of geographic areas and the differentials to be used:

	<i>Per- cent</i>
Hawaii	40
Alaska	36
Washington, DC	19
Boston	17
San Diego	15
Los Angeles	14
New York	13
San Francisco	13
Seattle	10
Chicago	7
Philadelphia	7

(b) For purposes of this part, a *participating credit union* means a state- or federally-chartered credit union (excluding student credit unions) that is specifically involved in the stimulation of economic development activities and community revitalization efforts aimed at benefiting the community it serves; whose membership consists of predominantly low-income members as defined in paragraph (a) of this section or applicable state standards as reflected by a current low-income designation pursuant to § 701.34(a)(1) or

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§ 741.204 of this chapter or, in the case of a state-chartered nonfederally insured credit union, under applicable state standards; and has submitted an application for a loan and/or technical assistance and has been selected for participation in the Program in accordance with this part.

[58 FR 21646, Apr. 23, 1993, as amended at 60 FR 58504, Nov. 28, 1995; 61 FR 50695, Sept. 27, 1996]

§ 705.4 Program activities.

In order to meet the objectives of the Program, a credit union applicant should provide a variety of financial and related services designed to meet the particular needs of the low-income community served. These activities shall include basic member share account and member loan services.

§ 705.5 Application for participation.

(a) Applications to participate and qualify for a loan or technical assistance under the Program may be obtained from the National Credit Union Administration, Community Development Revolving Loan Program For Credit Unions.

(b) The application for a loan shall contain the following information:

(1) Information demonstrating a sound financial position and the credit union's ability to manage its day-to-day business affairs, including the credit union's latest financial statement. Nonfederally insured credit unions must include the following:

(i) A copy of its most recent outside audit report;

(ii) Proof of deposit and surety bond insurance which states the maximum insurance levels permitted by the policies;

(iii) A balance sheet, an income and expense statement, and a schedule of delinquent loans, for the most recent month-end and each of the twelve months preceding that month-end.

(2) Evidence that the credit union has a need for increased funds in order to improve financial services to its members.

(3) The following information concerning a state-chartered credit union's field of membership:

(i) Current field of membership as set forth in the credit union's charter;

(ii) Changes, if any, to be made to the field of membership for participation in the Program, including:

(A) Evidence of approval of change by credit union board of directors;

(B) Evidence of submission and approval of change by the state supervisor;

(iii) Current designation as a low-income credit union if the credit union is not federally insured.

(4) Along with a community needs plan, specifics of how the credit union proposes to serve the needs of its members and the community with Program funds. The applicant credit union will also construct and submit a plan for its growth and development. The plan will set forth objectives for financial growth, credit union development and capitalization, and the means for achieving these objectives.

(5) Indication of any other involvement in existing community development programs of state and federal agencies.

(c) NCUA will notify applicant credit unions as to whether or not they have qualified for a loan or technical assistance under this part. Reasons for non-qualification will be stated. Any applicant whose qualification is denied may appeal that decision to the NCUA Board.

[58 FR 21646, Apr. 23, 1993, as amended at 61 FR 50695, Sept. 27, 1996]

§ 705.6 Community needs plan.

(a) The credit union's board of directors will prepare a Community Needs Plan and submit it with its loan application. The Plan will contain a list of needed community services that the credit union will provide.

(b) The credit union's board of directors will report on the progress of providing needed community services to the credit union members once a year, either at the annual meeting or in a written report sent to all members. The credit union will also submit the written report or a summary of the report given at the annual meeting to NCUA.

§ 705.7 Loans to participating credit unions.

(a) *Amount and recording of loans.* A participating credit union will be eligible to receive up to \$300,000 in the aggregate, as determined by the NCUA Board, in the form of a loan from the Community Development Revolving Loan Fund for Credit Unions. The amount of the loan will be based on funds availability, the creditworthiness of the participating credit union, financial need, and a demonstrated capability of a participating credit union to provide financial and related services to its members. At the discretion of NCUA, a loan will be recorded by a participating credit union as either a note payable or a nonmember deposit.

(b) *Matching requirements.* Participating credit unions will be encouraged to develop, as rapidly as possible, a permanent source of member shares.

(1) Generally loan monies made available must be matched by the participating credit union by increasing its share deposits in an amount equal to the loan amount. However, any loan monies matched by member share deposits will be credited as a two-for-one match. Nonmember share deposits accepted to meet the matching requirement are not subject to the 20% limitation on nonmember deposits under § 701.32. Participating credit unions must meet this matching requirement within one year of the approval of the loan application and must maintain the increase in the total amount of share deposits for the duration of the loan. Once the loan is repaid, nonmember share deposits accepted to meet the matching requirement are subject to § 701.32.

(2) Upon approval of its loan application, and before it meets its matching requirement, a participating credit union may receive the entire loan commitment in a single payment. If any funds are withheld, the remainder of the funds committed will be available to the participating credit union only after it has documented that it has met the match requirement for the total amount of the loan committed.

(3) Failure of a participating credit union to generate the required match within one year of the approval of the loan will result in the reduction of the

loan proportionate to the amount of match actually generated. Payment of any additional funds initially approved will be limited as appropriate to reflect the revised amount of the loan approved. Any funds already advanced to the participating credit union in excess of the revised amount of loan approval must be repaid immediately to NCUA. Failure to repay such funds to NCUA upon demand shall result in the default of the entire loan.

(c) *Terms and repayment.* (1) Assistance made available through Program loans, whether recorded by the credit union as a note payable or nonmember deposit at NCUA's direction, is in the form of a loan and must be repaid to NCUA. All loans will be scheduled for repayment within the shortest time compatible with sound business practices and with objectives of the Program, but in no case will the term exceed five years.

(2) Semiannual interest payments (beginning six months after the initial distribution of a loan) and semiannual principal payments (beginning one year after the initial distribution of a loan) will be required.

(d) *Interest rates.* Loans made under this part shall bear interest at a fixed annual percentage rate of not more than 3 percent and not less than 1 percent as determined by the NCUA Board.

(e) *Default, collections and adjustments.* The terms of each loan agreement shall provide for the immediate acceleration of the unpaid balance for breach or default in the performance by the participating credit union of the terms or conditions of the loan. This will include misrepresentation, default in making interest/principal payments, failure to report, insolvency, failure to maintain adequate match for the duration of the loan period, etc. The unpaid balance will also be accelerated and immediately due if any part of the loan funds are improperly used, or if uninvested loan proceeds remain unused for an unreasonable or unjustified period of time.

[58 FR 21646, Apr. 23, 1993, as amended at 61 FR 50696, Sept. 27, 1996]

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§ 705.8 State-chartered credit unions.

State-chartered credit union loan applicants approved for participation by NCUA must obtain written concurrence from their respective state regulatory authority. Such applicants shall make copies of their state examination reports available to NCUA and shall agree to examination by NCUA for the limited purpose of compliance with this part.

§ 705.9 Application period.

NCUA will announce annually and publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER when applications for participation in the program may be submitted. Such notice will be dependent upon the availability of funds.

§ 705.10 Technical assistance.

Based on available earnings, NCUA may contract with outside providers to render technical assistance to participating credit unions. Participating credit unions can be provided with technical assistance without obtaining a Program loan. NCUA technical assistance will aid participating credit unions in providing services to their members and in the efficient operation of such credit unions.

[61 FR 50696, Sept. 27, 1996]

PART 706—CREDIT PRACTICES

Sec.

706.1 Definitions.

706.2 Unfair credit practices.

706.3 Unfair or deceptive cosigner practices.

706.4 Late charges.

706.5 State exemptions.

AUTHORITY: 15 U.S.C. 57a(f).

SOURCE: 52 FR 46586, Dec. 9, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 706.1 Definitions.

(a) *Person*. An individual, corporation, or other business organization.

(b) *Consumer*. A natural person member who seeks or acquires goods, services, or money for personal, family, or household use.

(c) *Obligation*. An agreement between a consumer and a Federal credit union.

(d) *Debt*. Money that is due or alleged to be due from one to another.

(e) *Earnings*. Compensation paid or payable to an individual or for his or her account for personal services rendered or to be rendered by him or her, whether denominated as wages, salary, commission, bonus, or otherwise, including periodic payments pursuant to a pension, retirement, or disability program.

(f) *Household goods*. Clothing, furniture, appliances, one radio and one television, linens, china, crockery, kitchenware, and personal effects (including wedding rings) of the consumer and his or her dependents, provided that the following are not included within the scope of the term “household goods”:

(1) Works of art;

(2) Electronic entertainment equipment (except one television and one radio);

(3) Items acquired as antiques; and

(4) Jewelry (except wedding rings).

(g) *Antique*. Any item over one hundred years of age, including such items that have been repaired or renovated without changing their original form or character.

(h) *Cosigner*. A natural person who renders himself or herself liable for the obligation of another person without receiving goods, services, or money in return for the credit obligation, or, in the case of an open-end credit obligation, without receiving the contractual right to obtain extensions of credit under the obligation. The term includes any person whose signature is requested as a condition to granting credit to a consumer, or as a condition for forbearance on collection of a consumer's obligation that is in default. The term does not include a spouse whose signature is required on a credit obligation to perfect a security interest pursuant to state law. A person is a cosigner within the meaning of this definition whether or not he or she is designated as such on a credit obligation.

§ 706.2 Unfair credit practices.

(a) In connection with the extension of credit to consumers, it is an unfair act or practice for a Federal credit union, directly or indirectly, to take or receive from a consumer an obligation that:

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(1) Constitutes or contains a cognovit or confession of judgment (for purposes other than executory process in the State of Louisiana), warrant of attorney, or other waiver of the right to notice and the opportunity to be heard in the event of suit or process thereon.

(2) Constitutes or contains an executory waiver or a limitation of exemption from attachment, execution, or other process on real or personal property held, owned by, or due to the consumer, unless the waiver applies solely to property subject to a security interest executed in connection with the obligation.

(3) Constitutes or contains an assignment of wages or other earnings unless:

(i) The assignment by its terms is revocable at the will of the debtor, or

(ii) The assignment is a payroll deduction plan or preauthorized payment plan, commencing at the time of the transaction, in which the consumer authorizes a series of wage deductions as a method of making each payment, or

(iii) The assignment applies only to wages or other earnings already earned at the time of the assignment.

(4) Constitutes or contains a nonpossessory security interest in household goods other than a purchase money security interest.

§ 706.3 Unfair or deceptive cosigner practices.

(a) *Prohibited practices.* In connection with the extension of credit to consumers, it is:

(1) A deceptive act or practice for a Federal credit union, directly or indirectly, to misrepresent the nature or extent of cosigner liability to any person.

(2) An unfair act or practice for a Federal credit union, directly or indirectly, to obligate a cosigner unless the cosigner is informed prior to becoming obligated, which in the case of open-end credit means prior to the time that the agreement creating the cosigner's liability for future charges is executed, of the nature of his or her liability as cosigner.

(b) *Disclosure requirement.* (1) To comply with the cosigner information requirement of paragraph (a)(2) of this section, a clear and conspicuous disclosure statement shall be given in writing to the cosigner prior to becoming

obligated. The disclosure statement will contain only the following statement, or one which is substantially equivalent, and shall either be a separate document or included in the documents evidencing the consumer credit obligation.

NOTICE TO COSIGNER

You are being asked to guarantee this debt. Think carefully before you do. If the borrower doesn't pay the debt, you will have to. Be sure you can afford to pay if you have to, and that you want to accept this responsibility.

You may have to pay up to the full amount of the debt if the borrower does not pay. You may also have to pay late fees or collection costs, which increase this amount.

The creditor can collect this debt from you without first trying to collect from the borrower. The creditor can use the same collection methods against you that can be used against the borrower, such as suing you, garnishing your wages, etc. If this debt is ever in default, that fact may become a part of your credit record.

This notice is not the contract that makes you liable for the debt.

(2) If the notice to cosigner is a separate document, nothing other than the following items may appear with the notice. Items (i) through (v) may not be part of the narrative portion of the notice to cosigner.

(i) The name and address of the Federal credit union;

(ii) An identification of the debt to be cosigned (e.g., a loan identification number);

(iii) The amount of the loan;

(iv) The date of the loan;

(v) A signature line for a cosigner to acknowledge receipt of the notice; and

(vi) To the extent permitted by state law, a cosigner notice required by state law may be included in the paragraph (b)(1) notice.

(3) To the extent the notice to cosigner specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section refers to an action against a cosigner that is not permitted by state law, the notice to cosigner may be modified.

§ 706.4 Late charges.

(a) In connection with collecting a debt arising out of an extension of credit to a consumer, it is an unfair act or practice for a Federal credit union, directly or indirectly, to levy or collect

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any delinquency charge on a payment, which payment is otherwise a full payment for the applicable period and is paid on its due date or within an applicable grace period, when the only delinquency is attributable to late fee(s) or delinquency charge(s) assessed on earlier installment(s).

(b) For purposes of this section, “collecting a debt” means any activity other than the use of judicial process that is intended to bring about or does bring about repayment of all or part of a consumer debt.

§ 706.5 State exemptions.

(a) If, upon application to the NCUA by an appropriate state agency, the NCUA determines that:

(1) There is a state requirement or prohibition in effect that applies to any transaction to which a provision of this rule applies; and

(2) The state requirement or prohibition affords a level of protection to consumers that is substantially equivalent to, or greater than, the protection afforded by this rule; then that provision of this rule will not be in effect in the state to the extent specified by the NCUA in its determination, for as long as the state administers and enforces the state requirement or prohibition effectively.

(b) States that received an exemption from the Federal Trade Commission’s Credit Practices Rule prior to September 17, 1987, are not required to re-apply to NCUA for an exemption under paragraph (a) of this section provided that the state forwards a copy of its exemption determination to the appropriate Regional Office. NCUA will honor the exemption for as long as the state administers and enforces the state requirement or prohibition effectively. Any state seeking a greater exemption than that granted to it by the Federal Trade Commission must apply to NCUA for the exemption.

PART 707—TRUTH IN SAVINGS

Sec.

707.1 Authority, purpose, coverage and effect on State laws.

707.2 Definitions.

707.3 General disclosure requirements.

707.4 Account disclosures.

707.5 Subsequent disclosures.

707.6 Periodic statement disclosures.

707.7 Payment of dividends.

707.8 Advertising.

707.9 Enforcement and record retention.

APPENDIX A TO PART 707—ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD CALCULATION

APPENDIX B TO PART 707—MODEL CLAUSES AND SAMPLE FORMS

APPENDIX C TO PART 707—OFFICIAL STAFF INTERPRETATIONS

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 4311.

SOURCE: 58 FR 50445, Sept. 27, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

§ 707.1 Authority, purpose, coverage and effect on State laws.

(a) *Authority.* This part is issued by the National Credit Union Administration Board to implement the Truth in Savings Act of 1991 (TISA), contained in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (12 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.*, Public Law No. 102-242, 105 Stat. 2236).

(b) *Purpose.* The purpose of this part is to enable credit union members and potential members to make informed decisions about accounts at credit unions. This part requires credit unions to provide disclosures so that members and potential members can make meaningful comparisons among credit unions and depository institutions.

(c) *Coverage.* This part applies to all credit unions whose accounts are either insured by, or eligible to be insured by, the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund, except for any credit union that has been designated as a corporate credit union by the National Credit Union Administration and any credit union that has \$2 million or less in assets, after subtracting any nonmember deposits, and is determined to be nonautomated by the National Credit Union Administration. In addition, the advertising rules in § 707.8 apply to any person who advertises an account offered by a credit union, including any person who solicits any amount from any other person for placement in a credit union.

(d) *Effect on state laws.* State law requirements that are inconsistent with the requirements of the TISA and this

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part are preempted to the extent of the inconsistency.

[58 FR 50445, Sept. 27, 1993, as amended at 61 FR 68129, Dec. 27, 1996]

§ 707.2 Definitions.

For purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(a) *Account* means a share or deposit account at a credit union held by or offered to a member or potential member. It includes, but is not limited to, accounts such as share, share draft, checking and term share accounts. For purposes of the advertising regulations in § 707.8, the term also includes an account at a credit union that is held by or offered by a share or deposit broker.

(b) *Advertisement* means a commercial message, appearing in any medium, that promotes directly or indirectly the availability of, or a deposit in, an account.

(c) *Annual percentage yield* means a percentage rate reflecting the total amount of dividends paid on an account, based on the dividend rate and the frequency of compounding for a 365-day period and calculated according to the rules in appendix A of this part.

(d) *Average daily balance method* means the application of a periodic rate to the average daily balance in the account for the period. The average daily balance is determined by adding the full amount of principal in the account for each day of the period and dividing that figure by the number of days in the period.

(e) *Board* means the National Credit Union Administration Board.

(f) *Bonus* means a premium, gift, award, or other consideration worth more than \$10 (whether in the form of cash, credit, merchandise, or any equivalent) given or offered to a member during a year in exchange for opening, maintaining, or renewing an account, or increasing an account balance. The term does not include dividends, other consideration worth \$10 or less given during a year, the waiver or reduction of a fee, the absorption of expenses, non-dividend membership benefits, or extraordinary dividends.

(g) *Credit union* means a federal or state-chartered credit union that is either insured by, or is eligible to apply

for insurance from, the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

(h) *Daily balance method* means the application of a daily periodic rate to the full amount of principal in the account each day.

(i) *Dividend* and *dividends* mean any declared or prospective earnings on a member's shares in a credit union to be paid to a member or to the member's account. For purposes of this part, the term does not include the payment of a bonus or other consideration worth \$10 or less given during a year, the waiver or reduction of a fee, the absorption of expenses, non-dividend membership benefits, or extraordinary dividends.

(j) *Dividend declaration date* means the date that the board of directors of a credit union declares a dividend for the preceding dividend period.

(k) *Dividend period* means the span of time established by the board of directors of a credit union by the end of which shares in a member account earn dividend credit. The dividend period may be different for each type of account.

(l) *Dividend rate* means the declared or prospective annual dividend rate paid on an account, which does not reflect compounding. For purposes of the account disclosures in § 707.4(b)(1)(i), the rate may, but need not, be referred to as the "annual percentage rate" in addition to being referred to as the "dividend rate."

(m) *Extraordinary dividends* means a nonrepetitive dividend paid at an irregular time from funds legally available for such distribution.

(n) *Fixed-rate account* means an account that is not a variable rate account as defined in paragraph (z) of this section.

(o) *Grace period* means a period following the maturity of an automatically renewing term share account during which the member may withdraw funds without being assessed a penalty.

(p) *Interest* means any payment to a member or to a member's account for the use of funds in a nondividend-bearing account at a state-chartered credit union offered pursuant to state law, calculated by application of a periodic rate to the balance. For purposes of this regulation, the term does not include the payment of a bonus or other

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consideration worth \$10 or less given during a year, the waiver or reduction of a fee, the absorption of expenses, non-dividend membership benefits, or extraordinary dividends. Except as is specifically otherwise provided in this part, in the case of an interest-bearing account held in or offered by a state-chartered credit union pursuant to state law, the word “interest” shall be substituted for all references to “dividend” or “dividends” in this part.

(q) *Member* means:

(1) A natural person member of the credit union who holds an account primarily for personal, family, or household purposes;

(2) A natural person nonmember who holds an account primarily for personal, family, or household purposes, either jointly with a natural person member or in a credit union designated as a low-income credit union, or to whom such an account is offered; and

(3) A natural person nonmember who holds a deposit account in a state-chartered credit union pursuant to state law, or to whom such deposit account is offered.

The term does not include a natural person who holds an account for another in a professional capacity or an unincorporated nonbusiness association of natural person members.

(r) *Non-dividend membership benefits* means any property or service provided by a credit union to its members, the nature of which makes its valuation unreasonable and administratively impracticable.

(s) *Passbook account* means an account in which the member retains a book or other document in which the credit union records transactions on the account.

(t) *Periodic statement* means a statement setting forth information about an account (other than a term share account or passbook account) that is provided to a member on a regular basis four or more times a year.

(u) *Potential member* means a natural person within the credit union’s field of membership (or an unincorporated nonbusiness association of such persons) or otherwise eligible to become a member as defined in paragraph (q) of this section.

(v) *State* means a state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States.

(w) *Stepped-rate account* means an account that has two or more dividend rates that take effect in succeeding periods and are known when the account is opened.

(x) *Term share account* means any share certificate, interest-bearing certificate of deposit account, or other account with a maturity of at least seven days in which the member generally does not have a right to make withdrawals for six days after the account is opened, unless the account is subject to an early withdrawal penalty of at least seven days’ dividends on amounts withdrawn, offered by a credit union to a member or potential member.

(y) *Tiered-rate account* means an account that has two or more dividend rates that are applicable to specified balance levels.

(z) *Variable-rate account* means a share, share draft, checking, or term share account in which the simple dividend rate may change after the account is opened, unless the credit union contracts to give at least thirty days advance written notice of rate decreases.

[58 FR 50445, Sept. 27, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 13436, Mar. 22, 1994; 59 FR 59899, Nov. 21, 1994]

§ 707.3 General disclosure requirements.

(a) *Form*. Credit unions shall make the disclosures required by §§ 707.4 through 707.6, as applicable, clearly and conspicuously in writing and in a form that the member or potential member may keep. Disclosures for each account offered by a credit union may be presented separately or they may be combined with disclosures for the credit union’s other accounts, as long as it is clear which disclosures are applicable to the member’s account.

(b) *General*. The disclosures shall reflect the terms of the legal obligation between the member and the credit union. Disclosures may be made in languages other than English, provided the disclosures are available in English upon request.

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(c) *Relation to Regulation E (12 CFR part 205).* Disclosures required by and provided in accordance with the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1601) and its implementing Regulation E (12 CFR part 205) that are also required by this part may be substituted for the disclosures required by this part.

(d) *Multiple members.* If an account is held by more than one member, disclosures may be made to any one of the members.

(e) *Oral responses to inquiries.* In an oral response to a member or potential member's inquiry about dividend rates payable on its accounts, the credit union shall state the annual percentage yield. The dividend rate may be stated in addition to the annual percentage yield. No other rate may be stated. In stating a dividend rate and annual percentage yield, a credit union shall:

(1) For dividend-bearing accounts other than term share accounts, specify a dividend rate and annual percentage yield as of the last dividend declaration date. In the event that disclosures of a dividend rate and annual percentage yield as of the last dividend declaration date might be inaccurate because of known or contemplated dividend rate changes, the credit union may disclose the prospective dividend rate and prospective annual percentage yield. Such prospective dividend rate and prospective annual percentage yield may be disclosed either in lieu of, or in addition to, the dividend rate and annual percentage yield as of the last dividend declaration date.

(2) For interest-bearing accounts and for dividend-bearing term share accounts, specify an interest (dividend) rate and annual percentage yield that were offered within the most recent seven calendar days; state that the rate and yield are accurate as of an identified date; and provide a telephone number members may call to obtain current rate information.

(f) *Rounding and accuracy rules for rates and yields—(1) Rounding.* The annual percentage yield, the annual percentage yield earned, and the dividend rate shall be rounded to the nearest one-hundredth of one percentage point (.01%) and expressed to two decimal

places. For account disclosures, the dividend rate may be expressed to more than two decimal places.

(2) *Accuracy.* The annual percentage yield (and the annual percentage yield earned) will be considered accurate if not more than one-twentieth of one percentage point (.05%) above or below the annual percentage yield (and the annual percentage yield earned) determined in accordance with the rules in appendix A of this part.

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[58 FR 50445, Sept. 27, 1993, as amended at 61 FR 114, Jan. 3, 1996]

§ 707.4 Account disclosures.

(a) *Delivery of account disclosures—(1) Account opening.* The credit union shall provide the account disclosures to the member or potential member before an account is opened or a service is provided, whichever is earlier. A credit union is deemed to have provided a service when a fee required to be disclosed is assessed. If the member is not present at the credit union when the account is opened or a service is provided and has not already received the disclosures, the credit union shall mail or deliver the disclosures no later than twenty calendar days after the account is opened or the service is provided, whichever is earlier.

(2) *Requests.* (i) A credit union shall provide the account disclosures to any member or potential member upon request. A credit union may provide the account disclosures to nonmembers in its sole discretion. If the member is not present at the credit union when the request is made, the credit union shall mail or deliver the disclosures within a reasonable time after it receives the request.

(ii) In providing disclosures upon request, the credit union may:

(A) Specify rates as follows:

(1) For dividend-bearing accounts other than term share accounts, specify a dividend rate and annual percentage yield as of the last dividend declaration date. In the event that disclosures of a dividend rate and annual percentage yield as of the last dividend declaration date might be inaccurate because of known or contemplated dividend rate changes, the credit union

may disclose the prospective dividend rate and prospective annual percentage yield. Such prospective dividend rate and prospective annual percentage yield may be disclosed either in lieu of, or in addition to, the dividend rate and annual percentage yield as of the last dividend declaration date.

(2) For interest bearing accounts and for dividend-bearing term share accounts, specify an interest rate and annual percentage yield that were offered within the most recent seven calendar days; state that the rate and yield are accurate as of an identified date; and provide a telephone number members may call to obtain current rate information; and

(B) State the maturity of a term share account as either a term or a date.

(b) *Content of account disclosures.* Account disclosures shall include the following, as applicable:

(1) *Rate information*—(i) *Annual percentage yield and dividend rate.* (A) For interest-bearing accounts and for dividend-bearing term share accounts, the “annual percentage yield” and the “interest rate” (“dividend rate”), using those terms, and for fixed-rate accounts the period of time the interest (dividend) rate will be in effect.

(B) For dividend-bearing accounts other than term share accounts, a credit union shall specify a dividend rate and annual percentage yield (using those terms) as of the last dividend declaration date. In the event that disclosures of a dividend rate and annual percentage yield as of the last dividend declaration date might be inaccurate because of known or contemplated dividend rate changes, the credit union may disclose the prospective dividend rate and prospective annual percentage yield. Such prospective dividend rate and prospective annual percentage yield may be disclosed either in lieu of, or in addition to, the dividend rate and annual percentage yield as of the last dividend declaration date.

(ii) *Variable rates.* For variable-rate accounts:

(A) The fact that the dividend rate and annual percentage yield may change;

(B) How the dividend rate is determined;

(C) The frequency with which the dividend rate may change; and

(D) Any limitation on the amount the dividend rate may change.

(2) *Compounding and crediting*—(i) *Frequency.* The frequency with which dividends are compounded and credited, and the dividend period for dividend-bearing accounts.

(ii) *Effect of closing an account.* If members will forfeit dividends if they close an account before accrued dividends are credited, a statement that the dividends will not be paid in such cases.

(3) *Balance information*—(i) *Minimum balance requirements.* Any minimum balance required to:

(A) Open the account;

(B) Avoid the imposition of a fee; or

(C) Obtain the annual percentage yield disclosed.

Except for the balance to open the account, the disclosure shall state how the balance is determined for these purposes.

(ii) *Balance computation method.* An explanation of the balance computation method specified in § 707.7, used to calculate dividends on the account.

(iii) *When dividends begin to accrue.* A statement of when dividends begin to accrue on noncash deposits.

(4) *Fees.* The amount of any fee that may be imposed in connection with the account (or an explanation of how the fee will be determined) and the conditions under which the fee may be imposed.

(5) *Transaction limitations.* Any limitations on the number or dollar amount of withdrawals or deposits.

(6) *Features of term share accounts.* For term share accounts:

(i) *Time requirements.* The maturity date.

(ii) *Early withdrawal penalties.* A statement that a penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal, how it is calculated, and the conditions for its assessment.

(iii) *Withdrawal of dividends prior to maturity.* If compounding occurs and dividends may be withdrawn prior to maturity, a statement that the annual percentage yield assumes dividends remain in the account until maturity

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and that a withdrawal will reduce earnings. For accounts with a stated maturity greater than 1 year that do not compound dividends on an annual or more frequent basis, that require dividend payouts at least annually, and that disclose an APY determined in accordance with section E of appendix A of this part, a statement that dividends cannot remain on account and that payout of dividends is mandatory.

(iv) *Renewal policies.* A statement of whether or not the account will renew automatically at maturity. If it will, a statement of whether or not a grace period will be provided and, if so, the length of that period must be stated. If the account will not renew automatically, a statement of whether dividends will be paid after maturity if the member does not renew the account must be stated.

(7) *Bonuses.* The amount or type of any bonus, when the bonus will be provided, and any minimum balance and time requirements to obtain the bonus.

(8) *Nature of dividends.* For accounts earning dividends, other than term share accounts, a statement that dividends are paid from current income and available earnings, after required transfers to reserves at the end of a dividend period.

(c) *Notice to existing account holders—*
(1) *Notice of availability of disclosures.* Credit unions shall provide a notice to members who receive periodic statements and who hold existing accounts of the type offered by the credit union on January 1, 1995. The notice shall be included on or with the first periodic statement sent after January 1, 1995 (or on or with the first periodic statement for a statement cycle beginning on or after that date). The notice shall state that the members may request account disclosures containing terms, fees, and rate information for the account. In responding to such a request, credit unions shall provide disclosures in accordance with paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(2) *Alternative to notice.* As an alternative to the notice described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, credit unions may provide account disclosures to members. The disclosures may be provided either with a periodic statement or separately, but must be

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sent no later than when the periodic statement described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section is sent.

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[58 FR 50445, Sept. 27, 1993, as amended at 61 FR 114, Jan. 3, 1996; 63 FR 71574, Dec. 29, 1998]

§ 707.5 Subsequent disclosures.

(a) *Change in terms—*(1) *Advance notice required.* A credit union shall give advance notice to affected members of any change in a term required to be disclosed under § 707.4(b), if the change may reduce the annual percentage yield or adversely affect the member. The notice shall include the effective date of the change. The notice shall be mailed or delivered at least 30 calendar days before the effective date of the change.

(2) *No notice required.* No notice under this section is required for:

(i) *Variable-rate changes.* Changes in the dividend rate and corresponding changes in the annual percentage yield in variable-rate accounts.

(ii) *Share draft and check printing fees.* Changes in fees for check printing.

(iii) *Short-term term share accounts.* Changes in any term for term share accounts with maturities of one month or less.

(b) *Notice before maturity for term share accounts longer than one month that renew automatically.* For term share accounts with a maturity longer than one month that renew automatically at maturity, credit unions shall provide the disclosures described below before maturity. The disclosures shall be mailed or delivered at least 30 calendar days before maturity of the existing account. Alternatively, the disclosures may be mailed or delivered at least 20 calendar days before the end of the grace period on the existing account, provided a grace period of at least five calendar days is allowed.

(1) *Maturities of longer than one year.* If the maturity is longer than one year, the credit union shall provide account disclosures set forth in § 707.4(b) for the new account, along with the date the existing account matures. If the dividend rate and annual percentage yield that will be paid for the new account are unknown when disclosures are provided, the credit union shall state that

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those rates have not yet been determined, the date when they will be determined, and a telephone number members may call to obtain the dividend rate and the annual percentage yield that will be paid for the new account.

(2) *Maturities of one year or less but longer than one month.* If the maturity is one year or less but longer than one month, the credit union shall either:

(i) Provide disclosures as set forth in paragraph (b)(1) of this section; or

(ii) Disclose to the member:

(A) The date the existing account matures and the new maturity date if the account is renewed;

(B) The dividend rate and the annual percentage yield for the new account if they are known (or that those rates have not yet been determined, the date when they will be determined, and a telephone number the member may call to obtain the dividend rate and the annual percentage yield that will be paid for the new account); and

(C) Any difference in the terms of the new account as compared to the terms required to be disclosed under § 707.4(b) for the existing account.

(c) *Notice before maturity for term share accounts longer than one year that do not renew automatically.* For term share accounts with a maturity longer than one year that do not renew automatically at maturity, credit unions shall disclose to members the maturity date and whether dividends will be paid after maturity. The disclosures shall be mailed or delivered at least 10 calendar days before maturity of the existing account.

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[58 FR 50445, Sept. 27, 1993, as amended at 61 FR 114, Jan. 3, 1996; 63 FR 71574, Dec. 29, 1998]

§ 707.6 Periodic statement disclosures.

(a) *Rule when statement and crediting periods vary.* In making the disclosures described in paragraph (b) of this section, credit unions that calculate and credit dividends for a period other than the statement period, such as the dividend period, may calculate and disclose the annual percentage yield earned and amount of dividends earned based on that period rather than the statement period. The information in paragraph

(b)(4) shall be stated for that period as well as for the statement period.

(b) *Statement disclosures.* If a credit union mails or delivers a periodic statement, the statement shall include the following disclosures:

(1) *Annual percentage yield earned.* The “annual percentage yield earned,” using that term as calculated according to the rules in appendix A of this part.

(2) *Amount of dividends.* The dollar amount of dividends earned (accrued or paid and credited) on the account. The dollar amount of any extraordinary dividends earned during the statement period shall be shown as a separate figure.

(3) *Fees imposed.* Fees required to be disclosed under § 707.4(b)(4) of this part and imposed on the account during the statement period. The fees shall be itemized by type and dollar amounts.

(4) *Length of period.* The total number of days in the statement period, or the beginning and ending dates of the period.

(c) *Electronic communication—(1) Definition.* The term “electronic communication” means a message transmitted electronically between a member and a credit union in a format that allows visual text to be displayed on equipment such as a personal computer monitor.

(2) *Electronic communication between credit union and member.* A credit union and a member may agree that the credit union will send by electronic communication periodic statement disclosures required by § 707.6. Periodic statement disclosures sent by electronic communication to a member must comply with § 707.3 and any applicable timing requirements contained in this part.

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[58 FR 50445, Sept. 27, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 59899, Nov. 21, 1994; 61 FR 114, Jan. 3, 1996; 64 FR 66356, Nov. 26, 1999]

§ 707.7 Payment of dividends.

(a) *Permissible methods—(1) Balance on which dividends are calculated.* Credit unions shall calculate dividends on the full amount of principal in an account for each day by use of either the daily balance method or the average daily

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balance method. Credit unions shall calculate dividends by use of a daily rate of at least $\frac{1}{365}$ of the dividend rate. In a leap year a daily rate of $\frac{1}{366}$ of the dividend rate may be used.

(2) *Determination of minimum balance to earn dividends.* A credit union shall use the same method to determine any minimum balance required to earn dividends as it uses to determine the balance on which dividends are calculated. A credit union may use an additional method that is unequivocally beneficial to the member.

(b) *Compounding and crediting policies.* This section does not require credit unions to compound or credit dividends at any particular frequency.

(c) *Date dividends begin to accrue.* Dividends shall begin to accrue not later than the day specified in section 606 of the Expedited Funds Availability Act (12 U.S.C. 4005) and implementing Regulation CC (12 CFR part 229). Dividends shall accrue on funds until the day funds are withdrawn.

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[58 FR 50445, Sept. 27, 1993, as amended at 61 FR 114, Jan. 3, 1996]

§ 707.8 Advertising.

(a) *Misleading or inaccurate advertisements.* An advertisement shall not be misleading or inaccurate and shall not misrepresent a credit union's account contract. An advertisement shall not refer to or describe an account as "free" or "no cost" (or contain a similar term) if any maintenance or activity fee may be imposed on the account. The word "profit" shall not be used in referring to interest paid on an account.

(b) *Permissible rates.* If an advertisement states a rate of return, it shall state the rate as an "annual percentage yield," using that term. (The abbreviation "APY" may be used provided the term "annual percentage yield" is stated at least once in the advertisement.) The advertisement shall not state any other rate, except that the "dividend rate," using that term, may be stated in conjunction with, but not more conspicuously than, the annual percentage yield to which it relates.

(c) *When additional disclosures are required.* Except as provided in paragraph (e) of this section, if the annual percentage yield is stated in an advertisement, the advertisement shall state the following information, to the extent applicable, clearly and conspicuously:

(1) *Variable rates.* For variable-rate accounts, a statement that the rate may change after the account is opened.

(2) *Time annual percentage yield is offered.* For interest-bearing accounts and dividend-bearing term share accounts, the period of time the annual percentage yield will be offered, or a statement that the annual percentage yield is accurate as of a specified date. For dividend-bearing accounts other than term share accounts, a statement that the annual percentage yield is accurate as of the last dividend declaration date. In the event that disclosure of an annual percentage yield as of the last dividend declaration date might be inaccurate because of known or contemplated dividend rate changes, the credit union may disclose the prospective annual percentage yield. Such prospective annual percentage yield may be disclosed either in lieu of, or in addition to, the dividend rate and annual percentage yield as of the last dividend declaration date.

(3) *Minimum balance.* The minimum balance required to earn the advertised annual percentage yield. For tiered-rate accounts, the minimum balance required for each tier shall be stated in close proximity and with equal prominence to the applicable annual percentage yield.

(4) *Minimum opening deposit.* The minimum deposit required to open the account, if it is greater than the minimum balance necessary to earn the advertised annual percentage yield.

(5) A statement that fees could reduce the earnings on the account.

(6) *Features of term share accounts.* For term share accounts:

(i) *Time requirements.* The term of the account.

(ii) *Early withdrawal penalties.* A statement that a penalty will or may be imposed for early withdrawal.

(iii) *Required dividend payouts.* For noncompounding term share accounts

with a stated maturity greater than one year that do not compound dividends on an annual or more frequent basis, that require dividend payouts at least annually, and that disclose an APY determined in accordance with section E of appendix A of this part, a statement that dividends cannot remain on account and that payout of dividends is mandatory.

(d) *Bonuses.* Except as provided in paragraph (e) of this section, if a bonus is stated in an advertisement, the advertisement shall state the following information, to the extent applicable, clearly and conspicuously:

(1) The “annual percentage yield,” using that term;

(2) The time requirements to obtain the bonus;

(3) The minimum balance required to obtain the bonus;

(4) The minimum balance required to open the account, if it is greater than the minimum balance necessary to obtain the bonus; and

(5) When the bonus will be provided.

(e) *Exemption for certain advertisements*—(1) *Certain media.* If an advertisement is made through one of the following media, it need not contain the information in paragraphs (c)(1), (c)(2), (c)(4), (c)(5), (c)(6)(ii), (d)(4) and (d)(5) of this section:

(i) Broadcast or electronic media, such as television or radio;

(ii) Outdoor media, such as billboards; or

(iii) Telephone response machines.

(2) *Indoors signs.* (i) Signs inside the premises of a credit union (or the premises of a share or deposit broker) are not subject to paragraphs (b), (c), (d) or (e)(1) of this section.

(ii) If a sign exempted by paragraph (e)(2) of this section states a rate of return, it shall:

(A) State the rate as an “annual percentage yield,” using that term or the term “APY.” The sign shall not state any other rate, except that the dividend rate may be stated in conjunction with the annual percentage yield to which it relates.

(B) Contain a statement advising members to contact an employee for further information about applicable fees and terms.

(3) *Newsletters.* (i) Newsletters sent by a credit union to existing members only are not subject to paragraphs (b), (c), (d) or (e)(1) of this section.

(ii) If a newsletter exempted by paragraph (e)(3) of this section states a rate of return, it shall:

(A) State the rate as an “annual percentage yield,” using that term or the term “APY.” The newsletter shall not state any other rate, except that the dividend rate may be stated in conjunction with the annual percentage yield to which it relates.

(B) Contain a statement advising members to contact an employee for further information about applicable fees and terms.

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§ 707.9 Enforcement and record retention.

(a) *Administrative enforcement.* Section 270 of TISA (12 U.S.C. 4309) contains the provisions relating to administrative sanctions for failure to comply with the requirements of TISA and this part.

(b) *Civil liability.* Section 271 of TISA (12 U.S.C. 4310) contains the provisions relating to civil liability for failure to comply with the requirements of TISA and this part; Section 271 is repealed effective September 30, 2001.

(c) *Record retention.* A credit union shall retain evidence of compliance with this regulation for a minimum of two years after the date disclosures are required to be made or action is required to be taken.

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[58 FR 50445, Sept. 27, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 13436, Mar. 22, 1994; 61 FR 114, Jan. 3, 1996; 63 FR 71575, Dec. 29, 1998]

APPENDIX A TO PART 707—ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD CALCULATION

The annual percentage yield (APY) measures the total amount of dividends a credit union pays on an account based on the dividend rate and the frequency of compounding. The annual percentage yield is expressed as an annualized rate, based on a 365-day year.

(Credit unions may calculate the annual percentage yield based on a 365-day or a 366-day year in a leap year.) Part I of this appendix discusses the annual percentage yield calculations for account disclosures and advertisements, while Part II discusses annual percentage yield earned calculations for statements. The annual percentage yield reflects only dividends and does not include the value of any bonus, as that term is defined in part 707, that may be provided to the member to open, maintain, increase or renew an account. Dividends, interest or other earnings are not to be included in the annual percentage yield if such amounts are determined by circumstances that may or may not occur in the future. These formulas apply to both dividend-bearing and interest-bearing accounts held by credit unions.

PART I. ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD FOR ACCOUNT DISCLOSURES AND ADVERTISING PURPOSES

In general, the annual percentage yield for account disclosures under §§707.4 and 707.5 and for advertising under §707.8 is an annualized rate that reflects the relationship between the amount of dividends that would be earned by the member for the term of the account and the amount of principal used to calculate those dividends. The amount of dividends that would be earned may be projected based on the most recent past declared rate or an anticipated future rate, whichever the credit union judges to most reasonably approximate the dividends to be earned. Special rules apply to accounts with tiered and stepped dividend rates, and to certain term share accounts with a stated maturity greater than 1 year.

A. General Rules

Except as provided in Part I. E. of this appendix, the annual percentage yield shall be calculated by the formula shown below. Credit unions may calculate the annual percentage yield using projected dividends based on either the rate at the last dividend declaration date or the rate anticipated at a future date. The credit union must disclose whichever option it uses to members. Credit unions shall calculate the annual percentage yield based on the actual number of days for the term of the account. For accounts without a stated maturity date (such as a typical share or share draft account), the calculation shall be based on an assumed term of 365 days. In determining the total dividends figure to be used in the formula, credit unions shall assume that all principal and dividends remain on deposit for the entire term, and that no other transactions (deposits or withdrawals) occur during the term. (This assumption shall not be used if a credit union requires, as a condition of the account, that members withdraw dividends during the

term. In such a case, the dividends (and annual percentage yield calculation) shall reflect that requirement.) For term share accounts that are offered in multiples of months, credit unions may base the number of days on either the actual number of days during the applicable period, or the number of days that would occur for any actual sequence of that many calendar months. If credit unions choose to use this permissive rule, they must use the same number of days to calculate the dollar amount of dividends that will be earned on the account in the annual percentage yield formula (where "Dividends" are divided by "Principal").

The annual percentage yield is to be calculated by use of the following general formula ("APY") is used for convenience in the formulas):

$$APY=100 [(1 + \text{Dividends/Principal})^{(365/\text{Days in term})} - 1].$$

"Principal" is the amount of funds assumed to have been deposited at the beginning of the account.

"Dividends" is the total dollar amount of dividends earned on the Principal for the term of the account.

"Days in term" is the actual number of days in the term of the account.

When the "days in term" is 365 (that is, where the stated maturity is 365 days or where the account does not have a stated maturity), the APY can be calculated by use of the following simple formula:

$$APY=100 (\text{Dividends/Principal}).$$

Examples:

(1) If a credit union would pay \$61.68 in dividends for a 365-day year on \$1,000 deposited into a share draft account, the APY is 6.17%:

$$APY=100 [(1 + 61.68/1,000)^{(365/365)} - 1]$$

$$APY=6.17\%.$$

Or, using the simple formula above (since the term is deemed to be 365 days):

$$APY=100 (61.68/1,000)$$

$$APY=6.17\%.$$

(2) If a credit union pays \$30.37 in dividends on a \$1,000 six-month term share certificate account (where the six-month period used by the credit union contains 182 days), using the general formula above, the APY is 6.18%:

$$APY=100 [(1+30.37/1,000)^{(365/182)} - 1]$$

$$APY=6.18\%.$$

The APY is affected by the frequency of compounding, i.e., the amount of dividends will be greater the more frequently dividends are compounded for a given nominal rate. When two credit unions are offering the same dividend rate on, for example, a share account, the APY disclosed may be different if the credit unions use a different frequency of compounding.

Examples:

(1) If a credit union pays \$1,268.25 in dividends for a 365-day year on \$10,000 deposited

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into a regular share account earning 12%, and the dividends are compounded monthly, the APY will be 12.68%.

APY=100 (\$1,268.25/10,000)

APY=12.68%

(2) However, if a credit union is compounding dividends on a quarterly basis on an account which otherwise has the same terms, the dividends will be \$1,255.09 and the APY will be 12.55%.

APY=100 (\$1,255.09/10,000)

APY=12.55%

B. Stepped-Rate Accounts (Different Rates Apply in Succeeding Periods)

For accounts with two or more dividend rates applied in succeeding periods (where the rates are known at the time the account is opened), a credit union shall assume each dividend rate is in effect for the length of time provided for in any share agreement.

Examples:

(1) If a credit union offers a \$1,000 6-month term share (certificate) account on which it pays a 5% dividend rate, compounded daily, for the first three months (which contain 91 days), and a 5.5% dividend rate, compounded daily, for the next three months (which contain 92 days), the total dividends for six months is \$26.68, and, using the general formula above, the APY is 5.39%:

APY=100 [(1+26.68/1,000)^(365/183) - 1]

APY=5.39%.

(2) If a credit union offers a \$1,000 2-year share certificate on which it pays a 6% dividend rate, compounded daily, for the first year, and a 6.5% dividend rate, compounded daily, for the next year, the total dividends for two years is \$133.13, and, using the general formula above, the APY is 6.45%:

APY=100 [(1+133.13/1,000)^(365/730) - 1]

APY=6.45%.

C. Variable-Rate Accounts

For variable-rate accounts without an introductory premium or discounted rate, a credit union must base the calculation only on the initial dividend rate in effect when the account is opened (or advertised), and assume that this rate will not change during the year.

Variable-rate accounts with an introductory premium or discount rate must be treated like stepped-rate accounts. Thus, a credit union shall assume that: (1) The introductory simple dividend rate is in effect for the length of time provided for in the account contract; and (2) the variable dividend rate that would have been in effect when the account is opened or advertised (but for the introductory rate) is in effect for the remainder of the year. If the variable rate is tied to an index, the index-based rate in effect at the time of disclosure must be used for the remainder of the year. If the rate is not tied

to an index, the rate in effect for existing members holding the same account (who are not receiving the introductory dividend rate) must be used for the remainder of the year.

For example, if a credit union offers an account on which it pays a 7% dividend rate, compounded daily, for the first three months (which, for example, contains 91 days), while the variable dividend rate that would have been in effect when the account was opened was 5%, the total dividends for a 365-day year for a \$1,000 account balance is \$56.52, (based on 91 days at 7% followed by 274 days at 5%). Using the simple formula, the APY is 5.65%:

APY=100 (56.52/1,000)

APY=5.65%.

D. Accounts with Tiered Rates (Different Rates Apply To Specified Balance Level)

For accounts in which two or more dividend rates paid on the account are applicable to specified balance levels, the credit union must calculate the annual percentage yield in accordance with the method described below that it uses to calculate dividends. In all cases, an annual percentage yield (or a range of annual percentage yields, if appropriate) must be disclosed for each balance tier.

For purposes of the examples discussed below, assume the following:

Simple dividend rate (Percent)	Share balance required to earn rate
5.25	Up to but not exceeding \$2,500.
5.50	Above \$2,500, but not exceeding \$15,000.
5.75	Above \$15,000.

Tiering Method A

Under this method, a credit union pays on the full balance in the account the stated dividend rate that corresponds to the applicable share balance tier. For example, if a member deposits \$8,000, the credit union pays the 5.50% dividend rate on the entire \$8,000. This is also known as a "hybrid" or "plateau" tiered rate account.

When this method is used to determine dividends, only one annual percentage yield will apply to each tier. Within each tier, the annual percentage yield will not vary with the amount of principal assumed to have been deposited.

For the dividend rates and account balances assumed above, the credit union will state three annual percentage yields—one corresponding to each balance tier. Calculation of each annual percentage yield is similar for this type of account as for accounts with a single fixed dividend rate. Thus, the calculation is based on the total amount of dividends that would be received by the member for each tier of the account for a year and the principal assumed to have been deposited to earn that amount of dividends.

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First tier. Assuming daily compounding, the credit union will pay \$53.90 in dividends on a \$1,000 account balance. Using the general formula for the first tier, the APY is 5.39%:

$$APY=100 \left[\left(1 + \frac{53.90}{1,000} \right)^{365/365} - 1 \right]$$

APY=5.39%.

Using the simple formula:

$$APY=100 \left(\frac{53.90}{1,000} \right)$$

APY=5.39%.

Second tier. The credit union will pay \$452.29 in dividends on an \$8,000 deposit. Thus, using the simple formula, the annual percentage yield for the second tier is 5.65%:

$$APY=100 \left(\frac{452.29}{8,000} \right)$$

APY=5.65%.

Third tier. The credit union will pay \$1,183.61 in dividends on a \$20,000 account balance. Thus, using the simple formula, the annual percentage yield for the third tier is 5.92%:

$$APY=100 \left(\frac{1,183.61}{20,000} \right)$$

APY=5.92%.

Tiering Method B

Under this method, a credit union pays the stated dividend rate only on that portion of the balance within the specified tier. For example, if a member deposits \$8,000, the credit union pays 5.25% on only \$2,500 and 5.50% on \$5,500 (the difference between \$8,000 and the first tier cutoff of \$2,500). This is also known as a “pure” tiered rate account.

The credit union that computes dividends in this manner must provide a range that shows the lowest and the highest annual percentage yields for each tier (other than for the first tier, which, like the tiers in Method A, has the same annual percentage yield throughout). The low figure for an annual percentage yield is calculated based on the total amount of dividends earned for a year assuming the *minimum* principal required to earn the dividend rate for that tier. The high figure for an annual percentage yield is based on the amount of dividends the credit union would pay on the *highest* principal that could be deposited to earn that same dividend rate. If the account does not have a limit on the amount that can be deposited, the credit union may assume any amount.

For the tiering structure assumed above, the credit union would state a total of five annual percentage yields—one figure for the first tier and two figures stated as a range for the other two tiers.

First tier. Assuming daily compounding, the credit union could pay \$53.90 in dividends on a \$1,000 account balance. For this first tier, using the simple formula, the annual percentage yield is 5.39%:

$$APY=100 \left(\frac{53.90}{1,000} \right)$$

APY=5.39%.

Second tier. For the second tier the credit union would pay between \$134.75 and \$841.45 in dividends, based on assumed balances of

\$2,500.01 and \$15,000, respectively. For \$2,500.01, dividends would be figured on \$2,500 at 5.25% dividend rate plus dividends on \$.01 at 5.50%. For the low end of the second tier, therefore, the annual percentage yield is 5.39%. Using the simple formula:

$$APY=100 \left(\frac{134.75}{2,500} \right)$$

APY=5.39%.

For \$15,000, dividends are figured on \$2,500 at 5.25% dividend rate plus dividends on \$12,500 at 5.50% dividend rate. For the high end of the second tier, the annual percentage yield, using the simple formula, is 5.61%:

$$APY=100 \left(\frac{841.45}{15,000} \right)$$

APY=5.61%.

Thus, the annual percentage yield range that would be stated for the second tier is 5.39% to 5.61%.

Third tier. For the third tier, the credit union would pay \$841.45 and \$5,871.78 in dividends on the low end of the third tier (a balance of \$15,000.01). For \$15,000.01, dividends would be figured on \$2,500 at 5.25% dividend rate, plus dividends on \$12,500 at 5.50% dividend rate, plus dividends on \$.01 at 5.75% dividend rate. For the low end of the third tier, therefore, the annual percentage yield, using the simple formula, is 5.61%:

$$APY=100 \left(\frac{841.45}{15,000} \right)$$

APY=5.61%.

Assuming the credit union does not limit the account balance, it may assume any maximum amount for the purposes of computing the annual percentage yield for the high end of the third tier. For an assumed maximum balance amount of \$100,000, dividends would be figured on \$2,500 at 5.25% dividend rate, plus dividends on \$12,500 at 5.50% dividend rate, plus dividends on \$85,000 at 5.75% dividend rate. For the high end of the third tier, therefore, the annual percentage yield, using the simple formula, is 5.87%:

$$APY=100 \left(\frac{5,871.78}{100,000} \right)$$

APY=5.87%.

Thus, the annual percentage yield that would be stated for the third tier is 5.61% to 5.87%. If the assumed maximum balance amount is \$1,000,000, credit unions would use \$985,000 rather than \$85,000 in the last calculation. In that case for the high end of the third tier, the annual percentage yield, using the simple formula, is 5.91%:

$$APY=100 \left(\frac{59,134.22}{1,000,000} \right)$$

APY=5.91%

Thus, the annual percentage yield range that would be stated for the third tier is 5.61% to 5.91%.

E. Term Share Accounts with a Stated Maturity Greater than One Year that Pay Dividends At Least Annually

1. For term share accounts with a stated maturity greater than one year, that do not compound dividends on an annual or more frequent basis, and that require the member

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to withdraw dividends at least annually, the annual percentage yield may be disclosed as equal to the dividend rate.

Example:

If a credit union offers a \$1,000 two-year term share account that does not compound and that pays out dividends semi-annually by check or transfer at a 6.00% dividend rate, the annual percentage yield may be disclosed as 6.00%.

2. For term share accounts covered by this paragraph that are also stepped-rate accounts, the annual percentage yield may be disclosed as equal to the composite dividend rate.

Example:

(1) If a credit union offers a \$1,000 three-year term share account that does not compound and that pays out dividends annually by check or transfer at a 5.00% dividend rate for the first year, 6.00% dividend rate for the second year, and 7.00% dividend rate for the third year, the credit union may compute the composite dividend rate and APY as follows:

(a) Multiply each dividend rate by the number of days it will be in effect;

(b) Add these figures together; and

(c) Divide by the total number of days in the term.

(2) Applied to the example, the products of the dividend rates and days the rates are in effect are (5.00%×365 days) 1825, (6.00%×365 days) 2190, and (7.00%×365) 2555, respectively. The sum of these products, 6570, is divided by 1095, the total number of days in the term. The composite dividend rate and APY are both 6.00%.

PART II. ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD EARNED FOR STATEMENTS

The annual percentage yield earned for statements under §707.6 is an annualized rate that reflects the relationship between the amount of dividends actually earned (accrued or paid and credited) to the member's account during the period and the average daily balance in the account for the period over which the dividends were earned.

Pursuant to §707.6(a), when dividends are paid less frequently than statements are sent, the APY Earned may reflect the number of days over which dividends were earned rather than the number of days in the statement period, e.g., if a credit union uses the average daily balance method and calculates dividends for a period other than the statement period, the annual percentage yield earned shall reflect the relationship between the amount of dividends earned and the average daily balance in the account for the other period, such as a crediting or dividend period.

The annual percentage yield shall be calculated by using the following formulas

("APY Earned" is used for convenience in the formulas):

A. General Formula

APY Earned=100 [(1+Dividends earned/Balance)^(365/Daysinperiod) - 1].

"Balance" is the average daily balance in the account for the period.

"Dividends earned" is the actual amount of dividends accrued or paid and credited to the account for the period.

"Days in period" is the actual number of days over which the dividends disclosed on the statement were earned.

Examples:

(1) If a credit union calculates dividends for the statement period (and uses either the daily balance or the average daily balance method), and the account had a balance of \$1,500 for 15 days and a balance of \$500 for the remaining 15 days of a 30-day statement period, the average daily balance for the period is \$1,000. Assume that \$5.25 in dividends was earned during the period. The annual percentage yield earned (using the formula above) is 6.58%:

APY Earned=100 [(1+5.25/1,000)^(365/30) - 1]

APY Earned=6.58%.

(2) Assume a credit union calculates dividends on the average daily balance for the calendar month and provides periodic statements that cover the period from the 16th of one month to the 15th of the next month. The account has a balance of \$2,000 September 1 through September 15 and a balance of \$1,000 for the remaining 15 days of September. The average daily balance for the month of September is \$1,500, which results in \$6.50 in dividends earned for the month. The annual percentage yield earned for the month of September would be shown on the periodic statement covering September 16 through October 15. The annual percentage yield earned (using the formula above) is 5.40%:

APY Earned=100 [(1+6.50/1,500)^(365/30) - 1]

APY Earned = 5.40%.

(3) Assume a credit union calculates dividends on the average daily balance for a quarter (for example, the calendar months of September through November), and provides monthly periodic statements covering calendar months. The account has a balance of \$1,000 throughout the 30 days of September, a balance of \$2,000 throughout the 31 days of October, and a balance of \$3,000 throughout the 30 days of November. The average daily balance for the quarter is \$2,000, which results in \$21 in dividends earned for the quarter. The annual percentage yield earned would be shown on the periodic statement for November. The annual percentage yield earned (using the formula above) is 4.28%:

APY Earned=100 [(1+21/2,000)^(365/91) - 1]

APY Earned=4.28%.

B. SPECIAL FORMULA FOR USE WHERE PERIODIC STATEMENT IS SENT MORE OFTEN THAN THE PERIOD FOR WHICH DIVIDENDS ARE COMPOUNDED.

Credit unions that use the daily balance method to accrue dividends and that issue

periodic statements more often than the period for which dividends are compounded shall use the following special formula:

$$\text{APY Earned} = 100 \left[\left\{ 1 + \frac{(\text{Dividends earned/Balance})}{\text{Days in period (Compounding)}} \right\}^{(365/\text{Compounding})} - 1 \right]$$

The following definition applies for use in this formula (all other terms are defined under Part II):

“Compounding” is the number of days in each compounding period.

Assume a credit union calculates dividends for the statement period using the daily balance method, pays a 5.00% dividend rate,

compounded annually, and provides periodic statements for each monthly cycle. The account has a daily balance of \$1000.00 for a 30-day statement period. The dividend earned of \$4.11 for the period, and the annual percentage yield earned (using the special formula above) is 5.00%:

$$\text{APY Earned} = 100 \left[\left\{ 1 + \frac{(\$4.11/1,000)}{30} (365) \right\}^{(365/365)} - 1 \right]$$

APY Earned = 5.00%.

[58 FR 50445, Sept. 27, 1993, as amended at 63 FR 71575, Dec. 29, 1998]

APPENDIX B TO PART 707—MODEL CLAUSES AND SAMPLE FORMS

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GENERAL NOTE: Appendix B contains model clauses and sample forms intended for optional use by credit unions to aid in compliance with the disclosure requirements of §§ 707.4 (account disclosures), 707.5 (subsequent disclosures), 707.6 (statement disclosures), and 707.8 (advertisements). Section 269(b) of TISA provides that credit unions that use these clauses and forms will be in compliance with TISA’s disclosure provisions.

As discussed in the supplementary information to § 707.3(a), this final rule provides for flexibility in designing the format of the disclosures. Credit unions can choose to prepare a single document or brochure that incorporates disclosures for all accounts offered, or to prepare different documents for each type of account. Credit unions may also use inserts to a document, or fill in blanks to show current rates, fees and other terms.

In the model clauses, words in parentheses indicate the type of disclosure a credit union should insert in the space provided (for example, a credit union might insert “July 23, 1995” in the blank for a “(date)” disclosure). Brackets and “/” indicate that a credit union must choose the alternative that best describes its practice (for example, “[daily balance/ average daily balance]”). It should be noted that only in sections B-6 through B-10 of this appendix have specific examples of disclosures been given, with dates and figures. Sections B-1 through B-5, and section B-11 provide only unspecific model clauses or blank forms. The Board felt, as did the FRB in the Appendix A to Regulation DD, that a mix of blank clauses and forms and application of the model clauses to real specific situations would benefit those who must comply with TISA.

Any references to NCUA Rules and Regulations, the *NCUA Standard FCU Bylaws*, or the *NCUA Accounting Manual for FCUs*, are provided for guidance and as a point of reference for credit unions. Citations to these sources does not indicate that their application is required for those credit unions who need not follow them.

B-1 MODEL CLAUSES FOR ACCOUNT DISCLOSURES (§ 707.4(b))

(A) Rate Information (Sec. 707.4(b)(1))

(1) Fixed-Rate Accounts (§ 707.4(b)(1)(i)(A-B))

1. Interest-bearing Accounts

The interest rate on your deposit account is _____ % with an annual percentage yield (APY) of _____. [For purposes of this disclosure, this is a rate and APY that were offered within the most recent seven calendar days and were accurate as of (date). Please call (credit union telephone number) to obtain current rate information.] You will be paid this rate [for (time period)/until (date)/for at least 30 calendar days].

NOTE: This provision reflects an accurate statement for an interest-bearing account authorized by state law for state-chartered credit unions. While the definition of the term “interest” permits its substitution for the term “dividends,” separate disclosures should be made for interest-bearing accounts. Since account opening disclosures may be provided to potential members requesting account information before opening an account, and members opening new accounts, information is provided indicating that the rate may not be current, but that the potential member or member may call the credit union to obtain up-to-date information. When opening a new account, of course, a credit union could provide the contractual rate alone, and delete the sentences in brackets. Given the definition of fixed-rate account in § 707.2(n), credit unions offer-

ing fixed-rate accounts must contract to hold rates steady for at least a 30-day period. Thus, if the 30-day option of the last sentence is not chosen, the period chosen must be longer than 30 days.

2. Dividend-bearing Term Share Accounts

The dividend rate on your term share account is _____ % with an annual percentage yield (APY) of _____. [For purposes of this disclosure, this is a rate and APY that were offered within the most recent seven calendar days and were accurate as of (date). Please call (credit union telephone number) to obtain current rate information.] You will be paid this rate [for (time period)/until (date)/for at least 30 calendar days].

NOTE: This provision reflects an accurate statement for a fixed-rate, dividend-bearing term share account. Interest-bearing term share accounts would use the disclosure in § 1, above. Since account opening disclosures may be provided to potential members requesting account information before opening an account, and members opening new accounts, information is provided indicating that the rate may not be current, but that the potential member or member may call the credit union to obtain up-to-date information. When opening a new account, of course, a credit union could provide the contractual rate alone, and delete the sentences in brackets. Given the definition of fixed-rate account in § 707.2(n), credit unions offering fixed-rate accounts must contract to hold rates steady for at least a 30-day period. Thus, if the 30-day option of the last sentence is not chosen, the period chosen must be longer than 30 days.

3. Other Dividend-bearing Accounts

[As of [the last dividend declaration date/ (date)], the dividend rate was _____ % with an annual percentage yield (APY) of _____ % on your account. /or The prospective dividend rate on your account is _____ % with a prospective APY of _____ % for the current dividend period.] You will be paid this rate for [(time period)/at least 30 calendar days].

or

[As of [the last dividend declaration date/ (date)], the dividend rate was _____ % with an annual percentage yield (APY) of _____ % on your account. /or The prospective dividend rate on your account is _____ % with an annual percentage yield (APY) of _____ % for this dividend period.] This rate will not change unless the credit union notifies you at least 30 calendar days prior to any change.

NOTE: Credit unions may disclose the dividend rate and annual percentage yield on accounts as of the last dividend declaration date. This necessitates inclusion of a disclosure of the actual calendar date of the last

dividend declaration date. Additionally or alternatively (if the last dividend rate could be inaccurate), credit unions may disclose a prospective dividend rate and a prospective annual percentage yield. Such prospective rates and yields must be estimated in good faith, and must be declared at the proper time if it is at all possible to do so. As for the last sentence in these disclosures, this provision reflects a credit union policy to set prospective dividend rates for the next month (or at least 30 days), quarter or other period. Many credit unions, at their mid-monthly board meeting, set prospective dividend rates for the next month beginning on the 1st day of the month and continuing to the last day of the month. These rates must be formalized or ratified at the end of a dividend period. Given the timing of the board meetings, the time to prepare and mail notices and the 30 day period, it will often take credit unions 45 to 60 days to effectively change rates. For these reasons, the Board strongly suggests that credit unions do not offer fixed-rate, dividend-bearing accounts.

(ii) *Variable-Rate Accounts (§ 707.4(b)(1)(ii))*

1. *Interest-bearing Accounts*

The interest rate on your deposit account is _____%, with an annual percentage yield (APY) of _____. [For purposes of this disclosure, this is a rate and APY that were offered within the most recent seven calendar days and were accurate as of (date). Please call (credit union telephone number) to obtain current rate information.] The interest rate and annual percentage yield may change every (time period) based on [(name of index)/the determination of the credit union board of directors]. The interest rate for your account will [never change by more than _____% each (time period)/never be less/more than _____%/never exceed _____% above or fall more than _____% below the initial interest rate].

NOTE: This disclosure combines the requirements of § 707.4(b)(1)(i) with § 707.4(b)(1)(ii) for interest-bearing accounts. The variable nature of a deposit account usually is based on an external index or is set at the discretion of the board. If another means of rate setting is used, that, instead of the proposed language, must be disclosed. Since account opening disclosures may be provided to potential members requesting account information before opening an account, and members opening new accounts, information is provided indicating that the rate may not be current, but that the potential member or member may call the credit union to obtain up-to-date information. When opening a new account, of course, a credit union could provide the contractual rate alone, and delete the sentences in brackets. Rarely would there be limitations on rate changes, but

language is provided for this situation in the last sentence. Of course, it is only to be used if it applies to an account.

2. *Dividend-bearing Term Share Accounts*

The dividend rate on your term share account is _____%, with an annual percentage yield (APY) of _____. [For purposes of this disclosure, this is a rate and APY that were offered within the most recent seven calendar days and were accurate as of (date). Please call (credit union telephone number) to obtain current rate information.] The dividend rate and annual percentage yield may change every (time period) based on [(name of index)/the determination of the credit union board of directors]. The dividend rate for your account will [never change by more than _____% each (time period)/never be less/more than _____%/never exceed _____% above or fall more than _____% below the initial dividend rate].

NOTE: This disclosure combines the requirements of § 707.4(b)(1)(i) with § 707.4(b)(1)(ii) for dividend-bearing, variable-rate term share accounts. The variable nature of a deposit account usually is based on an external index or is set at the discretion of the board. If another means of rate setting is used, that, instead of the model language, must be disclosed. Since account opening disclosures may be provided to potential members requesting account information before opening an account, and members opening new accounts, information is provided indicating that the rate may not be current, but that the potential member or member may call the credit union to obtain up-to-date information. When opening a new account, of course, a credit union could provide the contractual rate alone, and delete the sentences in brackets. Rarely would there be limitations on rate changes, but language is provided for this situation in the last sentence. Of course, it is only to be used if it applies to an account.

3. *Other Dividend-bearing Accounts*

[As of [the last dividend declaration date/(date)], the dividend rate was _____% with an annual percentage yield (APY) of _____% on your account. /or The prospective dividend rate on your account is _____% with an anticipated annual percentage yield (APY) of _____% for the current dividend period.] The dividend rate and annual percentage yield may change every (dividend period) as determined by the credit union board of directors.

NOTE: This language combines the requirements of § 707.4(b)(1)(i) with § 707.4(b)(1)(ii). Credit unions may disclose the dividend rate and annual percentage yield on accounts as of the last dividend declaration date. This necessitates inclusion of a disclosure of the

actual calendar date of the last dividend declaration date or use of the phrase “last dividend declaration date”. Additionally or alternatively, credit unions may disclose a prospective dividend rate and a prospective annual percentage yield. Such prospective rates and yields must be estimated in good faith, and must be declared at the proper time if it is at all possible to do so. As for the last sentence in these disclosures, this provision reflects the variable nature of the account. Generally, there is only one variable-rate feature for share accounts: the frequency of dividend period rate changes (e.g., daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, annually). Normally, there are no contractual limitations on share account earnings (unless imposed by a regulator), nor are earnings based on any internal or external index. If contractual limitations or an index are involved, however, those factors would need to be disclosed (unless a regulator orders otherwise).

(III) Stepped-Rate Accounts (§ 707.4(b)(1)(i))

1. Interest-bearing Accounts

The initial interest rate on your deposit account is ____%. You will be paid that rate [for (time period)/ until (date)]. After that time, the interest rate for your deposit account will be ____% and you will be paid that rate [for (time period)/ until (date)]. The annual percentage yield (APY) for your account is ____%. [For purposes of this disclosure, this is a rate and APY that were offered within the most recent seven calendar days and were accurate as of (date). Please call (credit union telephone number) to obtain current rate information.] You will be paid this rate [for (time period)/until (date)/for at least 30 calendar days].

2. Dividend-bearing Term Share Accounts

The initial dividend rate on your term share account is ____%. You will be paid that rate [for (time period)/ until (date)]. After that time, the dividend rate for your term share account will be ____% and you will be paid that rate [for (time period)/ until (date)]. The annual percentage yield (APY) for your account is ____%. [For purposes of this disclosure, this is a rate and APY that were offered within the most recent seven calendar days and were accurate as of (date). Please call (credit union telephone number) to obtain current rate information.] You will be paid this rate [for (time period)/until (date)/for at least 30 calendar days].

3. Other Dividend-bearing Accounts

[As of [the last dividend declaration date/ (date)], the initial dividend rate on your account was ____%. /or The prospective dividend rate on your account is ____%.] You will be paid that rate [for (time period)/ until

(date)]. After that time, the prospective dividend rate for your share account will be ____% and you will be paid such rate [for (time period)/ until (date)]. The annual percentage yield (APY) for your account is ____%. You will be paid this rate for [(time period)/at least 30 calendar days].

NOTE: Stepped-rate accounts are accounts with two or more rates that take effect in succeeding periods. The applicable rates and time periods *are known* when the account is opened. By nature these are fixed-rate accounts and are usually associated with term share (certificate) accounts. Accordingly, a contract provision (for share accounts) to change rates should be included.

(IV) Tiered-Rate Accounts (§ 707.4(b)(1)(i))

1. Interest-bearing Accounts

Tiering Method A

1* If your [daily balance/average daily balance] is \$ ____ or more, the interest rate paid on the entire balance in your account will be ____%, with an annual percentage yield (APY) of ____%.

2* If your [daily balance/average daily balance] is more than \$ ____, but less than \$ ____, the interest rate paid on the entire balance in your account will be ____%, with an APY of ____%.

3* If your [daily balance/average daily balance] is \$ ____ or less, the interest rate paid on the entire balance will be ____% with an APY of ____%.

[For purposes of this disclosure, this is a rate and APY that were offered within the most recent seven calendar days and were accurate as of (date). Please call (credit union telephone number) to obtain current rate information.]

[Fixed-rate—You will be paid this rate [for (time period)/until (date)/for at least 30 calendar days]./ Variable-rate—The interest rate and APY may change every (time period) based on [(name of index)/ the determination of the credit union board of directors.]

NOTE: Tiering Method A pays the stated interest rate that corresponds to the applicable deposit tier on the full balance in the account. This example contemplates a two-tier system. The option (1, 2 or 3) most closely matching the terms of the account should be chosen as the appropriate disclosure. For tiered-rate accounts, a disclosure may be added about the currency of the rate, as is provided in the first set of brackets. A disclosure regarding the fixed-rate or variable-rate nature of the account must be added, as is provided in the last set of brackets.

Tiering Method B

1* An interest rate of ____% will be paid only on the portion of your [daily balance/

average daily balance] that is greater than \$. The annual percentage yield (APY) for this tier will range from % to %, depending on the balance in the account.

2* An interest rate of % will be paid only on the portion of your [daily balance/average daily balance] that is greater than \$, but less than \$. The annual percentage yield (APY) for this tier will range from % to %, depending on the balance in the account.

3* If your [daily balance/average daily balance] is \$ or less, the interest rate paid on the entire balance will be %, with an annual percentage yield (APY) of %.

[For purposes of this disclosure, this is a rate and APY that were offered within the most recent seven calendar days and were accurate as of (date). Please call (credit union telephone number) to obtain current rate information.]

[Fixed-rate—You will be paid this rate [for (time period)/until (date)]/for at least 30 calendar days]./ Variable-rate—The interest rate and APY may change every (time period) based on [(name of index)/ the determination of the credit union board of directors.]

NOTE: Tiering Method B pays different stated interest rates corresponding to applicable deposit tiers, on the applicable balance in each tier of the account. For example, a credit union might pay 3% interest on account funds of \$500 or below, and pay 4% interest on the portion of the same account that exceeds \$500. The example contemplates an account with two tiers, but additional tiers are possible. The option (1, 2 or 3) most closely matching the terms of the account should be chosen as the appropriate disclosure. For tiered-rate accounts, a disclosure may be added about the currency of the rate, as is provided in the first set of brackets.

Tiered-rate accounts can be either fixed-rate or variable-rate accounts. The last sentence offers an option of either fixed-rate or variable-rate disclosure. Thus, the disclosures outlined above will be made in addition to either: (i) Disclosure of the period the fixed-rates are in effect or (ii) the variable-rate disclosures. Tiered-rate accounts are also subject to the requirement for disclosure of the balance computation method, see paragraph (e) to this appendix.

2. Dividend-bearing Term Share Accounts

Tiering Method A

1* If your [daily balance/average daily balance] is \$ or more, the dividend rate paid on the entire balance in your account will be %, with an annual percentage yield (APY) of %.

2* If your [daily balance/average daily balance] is more than \$, but less than

\$, the dividend rate paid on the entire balance in your account will be %, with an APY of %.

3* If your [daily balance/average daily balance] is \$ or less, the dividend rate paid on the entire balance will be % with an APY of %.

[For purposes of this disclosure, this is a rate and APY that were offered within the most recent seven calendar days and were accurate as of (date). Please call (credit union telephone number) to obtain current rate information.]

[Fixed-rate—You will be paid this rate [for (time period)/until (date)]/for at least 30 calendar days]./ Variable-rate—The interest rate and APY may change every (time period) based on [(name of index)/ the determination of the credit union board of directors.]

NOTE: Tiering Method A pays the stated dividend rate that corresponds to the applicable account balance tier on the full balance in the account. This example contemplates a two-tier system. The option (1, 2 or 3) most closely matching the terms of the account should be chosen as the appropriate disclosure. For tiered-rate accounts, a disclosure may be added about the currency of the rate, as is provided in the first set of brackets. A disclosure regarding the fixed-rate or variable-rate nature of the account must be added, as is provided in the last set of brackets.

Tiering Method B

1* A dividend rate of % will be paid only on the portion of your [daily balance/average daily balance] that is greater than \$. The annual percentage yield (APY) for this tier will range from % to %, depending on the balance in the account.

2* A dividend rate of % will be paid only on the portion of your [daily balance/average daily balance] that is greater than \$, but less than \$. The annual percentage yield (APY) for this tier will range from % to %, depending on the balance in the account.

3* If your [daily balance/average daily balance] is \$ or less, the dividend rate paid on the entire balance will be %, with an annual percentage yield (APY) of %.

[For purposes of this disclosure, this is a rate and APY that were offered within the most recent seven calendar days and were accurate as of (date). Please call (credit union telephone number) to obtain current rate information.]

[Fixed-rate—You will be paid this rate [for (time period)/until (date)]/for at least 30 calendar days]./ Variable-rate—The interest rate and APY may change every (time period) based on [(name of index)/ the determination of the credit union board of directors.]

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NOTE: Tiering Method B pays different stated dividend rates corresponding to applicable account balance tiers, on the applicable balance in each tier of the account. For example, a credit union might pay 3% dividend on account funds of \$500 or below, and pay 4% dividend on the portion of the same account that exceeds \$500. The example contemplates an account with two tiers, but additional tiers are possible. The option (1, 2 or 3) most closely matching the terms of the account should be chosen as the appropriate disclosure. For tiered-rate accounts, a disclosure may be added about the currentness of the rate, as is provided in the first set of brackets.

Tiered-rate accounts can be either fixed-rate or variable-rate accounts. The last sentence offers an option of either fixed-rate or variable-rate disclosure. Thus, the disclosures outlined above will be made in addition to either: (i) Disclosure of the period the fixed-rates are in effect or (ii) the variable-rate disclosures. Tiered-rate accounts are also subject to the requirement for disclosure of the balance computation method, see paragraph (e) to this appendix.

3. Other Dividend-bearing Accounts

Tiering Method A

1* [As of [the last dividend declaration date/ (date)], if your [daily balance/average daily balance] was \$ or more, the dividend rate paid on the entire balance in your account was %, with an annual percentage yield (APY) of %. /or If your [daily balance/average daily balance] is \$ or more, a prospective dividend rate of % will be paid on the entire balance in your account with a prospective annual percentage yield (APY) of % for this dividend period.]

2* [As of [the last dividend declaration date/ (date)], if your [daily balance/average daily balance] was more than \$, but was less than \$, the dividend rate paid on the entire balance in your account was %, with an annual percentage yield (APY) of %. /or If your [daily balance/average daily balance] is more than \$, but is less than \$, a prospective dividend rate of % will be paid on the entire balance in your account with a prospective annual percentage yield (APY) of % for this dividend period.]

3* [As of the last dividend declaration date/ (date)], if your [daily balance/average daily balance] was \$ or less, the dividend rate paid on the entire balance in your account will be % with an annual percentage yield (APY) of %. /or If your [daily balance/average daily balance] is \$ or less, the prospective dividend rate of % will be paid on the entire balance in your account with a prospective

annual percentage yield (APY) of % for this dividend period.

[Fixed-rate—You will be paid this rate for [(time period)/at least 30 calendar days]./

Variable-rate—The dividend rate and APY may change every (dividend period) as determined by the credit union board of directors.]

NOTE: Tiering Method A pays the stated dividend rate that corresponds to the applicable deposit tier on the full balance in the account. This example contemplates a two-tier system. The option (1, 2 or 3) most closely matching the terms of the account should be chosen as the appropriate disclosure. For tiered-rate accounts, a disclosure may be added about the prospective rate. Note that the prospective rate disclosure options match the required tiered-rate disclosures based on the previous dividend declaration date. A disclosure regarding the fixed-rate or variable-rate nature of the account must be added, as is provided in the last set of brackets.

Tiering Method B

1* [As of [the last dividend declaration date/ (date)], a dividend rate of % was paid only on the portion of your [daily balance/average daily balance] that was greater than \$. The annual percentage yield (APY) for this tier ranged from % to %, depending on the balance in the account. /or A prospective dividend rate of % will be paid only on the portion of your [daily balance/average daily balance] that is greater than \$ with a prospective annual percentage yield (APY) ranging from % to %, depending on the balance in the account, for this dividend period.]

2* [As of [the last dividend declaration date/ (date)], a dividend rate of % was paid only on the portion of your [daily balance/average daily balance] that was greater than \$ but less than \$. The annual percentage yield (APY) for this tier ranged from % to %, depending on the balance in the account. /or A prospective dividend rate of % will be paid only on the portion of your [daily balance/average daily balance] that is greater than \$, but less than \$ with a prospective annual percentage yield (APY) ranging from % to %, depending on the balance in the account, for this dividend period.]

3* [As of [the last dividend declaration date/ (date)], if your [daily balance/average daily balance] was \$ or less, the dividend rate paid on the entire balance was %, with an annual percentage yield (APY) of %. /or If your [daily balance/average daily balance] was \$ or less, the prospective dividend rate paid on the entire balance in your account will be %

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with a prospective annual percentage yield (APY) of _____ % for this dividend period.

NOTE: Tiering Method B pays different stated dividend rates corresponding to applicable account tiers, on the applicable balance in each tier of the account. For example, a credit union might pay a 3% dividend on account funds of \$500 or below, and pay a 4% dividend on the portion of the same account that exceeds \$500. The example contemplates an account with two tiers, but additional tiers are possible. The option (1, 2 or 3) most closely matching the terms of the account should be chosen as the appropriate disclosure. Note that the prospective rate disclosure options match the required tiered-rate disclosures based on the previous dividend declaration date.

Tiered-rate accounts can be either fixed-rate or variable-rate accounts. The last sentence offers an option of either fixed-rate or variable-rate disclosures. Thus, the disclosures outlined above must be made in addition to either: (i) Disclosure of the period the fixed-rates are in effect or (ii) the variable-rate disclosures. Tiered-rate accounts are also subject to the requirement for disclosure of the balance computation method, see paragraph (e) to this appendix.

(B) Nature of Dividends (§ 707.4(b)(8))

Dividends are paid from current income and available earnings, after required transfers to reserves at the end of a dividend period.

NOTE: The Board of Directors declares dividends based on current income and available earnings of the credit union after providing for the required reserves at the end of the month. The dividend rate and annual percentage yield shown may reflect either the last dividend declaration date on the account or the earnings the credit union anticipates having available for distribution. This disclosure only applies to share and share draft (as opposed to deposit) accounts and should be grouped with the Rate Information to make the disclosures more meaningful. This disclosure also does not apply to term share accounts for reasons discussed in the supplementary information regarding §§ 707.3(e) and 707.4(b)(8).

(C) Compounding and Crediting (§ 707.4(b)(2))

[Dividends/Interest] will be compounded (frequency) and will be credited (frequency). and, if applicable:

If you close your [share/deposit] account before [dividends/interest] [are/is] paid, you will not receive the accrued [dividends/interest].

and, if applicable (for dividend-bearing accounts):

For this account type, the dividend period is (frequency), for example, the beginning date of the first dividend period of the calendar year is (date) and the ending date of such dividend period is (date). All other dividend periods follow this same pattern of dates. The dividend declaration date follows the ending date of a dividend period, and for the example is (date).

NOTE: Where the word “(frequency)” appears, time periods must be inserted to coincide with those specified in board resolutions of each credit union’s board of directors. A disclosure of dividend period was added to § 707.4(b)(2)(i) in the final rule to assist members in knowing when dividend rate and APY disclosures would be given by a credit union using the optional statement rule of § 707.6(a). The dividend declaration date is important for purposes of § 707.4(a)(2)(ii), request disclosures, § 707.4(b)(2), account opening disclosures, and § 707.8(c)(2), advertising disclosures. The Board believes that this is critical information for dividend-bearing accounts, but that provision by an example (whether of the first dividend period of the year, or of any randomly chosen dividend period) is favorable to providing a list of such dates for the entire year or for a period of years (although these methods would also be permissible). As noted in the supplementary information to § 707.2(j), dividend declaration date, the dividend period and actual dividend distribution date may vary. Thus, it is possible for crediting periods and dividend periods not to coincide, though the Board believes that credit unions should make every effort to attempt to coordinate the two periods.

**(D) Minimum Balance Requirements
(§ 707.4(b)(3)(i))**

(i) To open the account

The minimum balance required to open this account is \$ _____.

or, for first share account at a credit union

The minimum required to open this account is the purchase of a (par value of a share) share in the credit union.

(ii) To avoid imposition of fees

You must maintain a minimum daily balance of \$ _____ in your account to avoid a service fee. If, during any (time period), your account balance falls below the required minimum daily balance, your account will be subject to a service fee of \$ _____ for that (time period).

or

You must maintain a minimum average daily balance of \$ _____ in your account to avoid a service fee. If, during any (time period), your average daily balance is below the required minimum, your account will be subject to a service fee of \$ _____ for that (time period).

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(iii) *To obtain the annual percentage yield disclosed*

You must maintain a minimum daily balance of \$ _____ in your account each day to obtain the disclosed annual percentage yield.

or

You must maintain a minimum average daily balance of \$ _____ in your account to obtain the disclosed annual percentage yield.

(iv) *Absence of minimum balance requirements*
No minimum balance requirements apply to this account.

(v) *Par value*
The par value of a share in this credit union is \$ _____.

NOTE: Where the words “(time period)” appear, time periods should be inserted to coincide with those specified in board resolutions of each credit union’s board of directors. As the supplementary information to §707.4(b)(3)(i) explains, the par value of a share to establish membership is a critical disclosure to be made to potential members of credit unions. The par value disclosure is required by §707.4(b)(3)(i) as being analogous to a minimum balance account opening requirement.

(E) *Balance Computation Method* (§707.4(b)(3)(ii))

(i) *Daily Balance Method*

[Dividends/Interest] [are/is] calculated by the daily balance method which applies a daily periodic rate to the balance in the account each day.

(ii) *Average Daily Balance Method*

[Dividends/Interest] [are/is] calculated by the average daily balance method which applies a periodic rate to the average daily balance in the account for the period. The average daily balance is calculated by adding the balance in the account for each day of the period and dividing that figure by the number of days in the period.

NOTE: Any explanation of balance computation method must contain enough information for members to grasp the means by which dividends or interest will be calculated on their accounts. Using a shorthand form, such as “day in/day out” for the daily balance method or “average balance” for the average daily balance method, without more information, is insufficient. In addition, any disclosure based on the equivalency of the two allowable methods, such as stating that the average daily balance method was the same as the daily balance method, is impermissible and misleading.

(F) *Accrual of Dividends/Interest on Noncash Deposits* (§707.4(b)(3)(iii))

[Dividends/Interest] will begin to accrue on the business day you [place/deposit] noncash items (e.g. checks) to your account.

or

[Dividends/Interest] will begin to accrue no later than the business day we receive provisional credit for the [placement/deposit] of noncash items (e.g. checks) to your account.

NOTE: Accrual information is not included in the explanation of balance computation method required by §707.4(b)(4)(ii). In addition, the disclosures required by TISA do not affect the substantive requirements of the EFAA and Regulation CC.

The EFAA and Regulation CC control, and any modifications to them should occasion credit unions to revisit this disclosure with a view to revising it to reflect current law.

(G) *Fees and Charges* (§707.4(b)(4))

The following fees and charges may be assessed against your account:

(Service/explanation)—\$ _____
(Service/explanation)—\$ _____

NOTE: Fees and charges may be disclosed in an account disclosure, or separately in a Rate and Fee Schedule (see section B-11 of this appendix). In either event, the disclosure should also specify when the fee will be assessed by using phrases such as “per item,” “per month,” or “per inquiry.”

(H) *Transaction Limitations* (§707.4(b)(5))

The minimum amount you may [withdraw/write a draft for] is \$ _____.

During any statement period, you may not make more than six withdrawals or transfers to another credit union account of yours or to a third party by means of a preauthorized or automatic transfer or telephonic order or instruction. No more than three of the six transfers may be made by check, draft, debit card, if applicable, or similar order to a third party. If you exceed the transfer limitations set forth above in any statement period, your account will be subject to [closure by the credit union/a fee of \$ _____].

NOTE: This paragraph satisfies the requirements of §707.4(b)(6) with respect to Regulation D limitations on share accounts and money market accounts. These are some of the more common limitations applicable.

The credit union reserves the right to require a member intending to make a withdrawal from any account (except a share draft account) to give written notice of such intent not less than seven days and up to 60 days before such withdrawal.

NOTE: This disclosure is limited to federal credit unions with Bylaws containing this limitation. See *Standard Federal Credit Union Bylaws*, Art. III, section 5(a). Similar disclosures are required of any state-chartered credit unions having similar limitations in

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their bylaws, or under state law. This limitation does not directly relate to the “number” or “amount” of transactions, and accordingly, may not be necessary under § 707.4(b)(5), but would, if applicable, be required by § 707.3(b).

(1) Disclosures Related to Term Share Accounts (§ 707.4(b)(6))

(i) Time requirements

Your account will mature on (date).

or

Your account will mature after (time period).

(ii) Early withdrawal penalties

We [will/may] impose a penalty if you withdraw [any/all] of the [funds/principal] in your account before the maturity date. The penalty will equal [] [days'/weeks'/months'] [dividends/interest] on your account.

or

We [will/may] impose a penalty of \$ [] if you withdraw [any/all] of the [funds/principal] before the maturity date.

If you withdraw some of your funds before maturity, the [dividend/interest] rate for the remaining funds in your account will be [] %, with an annual percentage yield of [] %.

NOTE: In most cases, the dividend rate and annual percentage yield on the funds remaining in the account after early withdrawal are the same as before the withdrawal. Accordingly, the disclosure of dividend rate and annual percentage yield after withdrawal is required only if the dividend rate and APY will change.

(iii) Withdrawal of Dividends/Interest Prior to Maturity

The annual percentage yield is based on an assumption that [dividends/interest] will remain in the account until maturity. A withdrawal will reduce earnings.

NOTE: This disclosure may be used if the credit union compounds dividends/interest and allows withdrawal of accrued dividends/interest before maturity. This disclosure alerts members that the annual percentage yield is based on an assumption that the dividends/interest remain on deposit until maturity.

(iv) Renewal Policies

1. Automatically Renewable Term Share Accounts

Your term share account will automatically renew at maturity. You will have a grace period of [] [calendar/business] days after the maturity date to withdraw the funds in the account without being charged an early withdrawal penalty.

or

Your term share account will automatically renew at maturity. There is no grace period following the maturity of this account.

2. Non-Automatically Renewable Term Share Accounts

This account will not renew automatically at maturity. If you do not renew the account, your account will [continue to earn/no longer earn] [dividends/interest] after the maturity date.

NOTE: These disclosures should agree with the necessary pre-maturity notices for term share accounts in B–3 of this appendix.

(v) Required dividend distribution.

This account requires the distribution of dividends and does not allow dividends to remain in the account.

(1) Bonuses (§ 704.4(b)(7))

You will [be paid/receive] \$ [] [(description of item)] as a bonus [when you open the account/on (date)].

You must maintain a minimum [daily balance/average daily balance] of \$ [] to obtain the bonus.

To earn the bonus, \$ [] /your entire principal] must remain on deposit [for (time period)/until (date)].

NOTE: These disclosures follow the requirements of § 707.4(b)(7) and should be used as applicable. Further information may also be added, especially if it clarifies the conditions and timing of receiving the bonus, or better informs the member about the bonus.

B–2 MODEL CLAUSES FOR CHANGES IN TERMS (§ 707.5(A))

On (date), the (type of fee) will increase to \$ [] .

On (date), the [dividend/interest] rate on your account will decrease to [] %, with an annual percentage yield (APY) of [] %.

On (date), the [minimum daily balance/average daily balance] required to avoid imposition of a fee will increase to \$ [] .

NOTE: These examples apply to the more common changes necessitating a change in terms notice. However, any change, amendment or modification reducing the APY or adversely affecting the members holding such accounts must be disclosed. For such changes not contemplated by the model clauses, the Board recommends the use of as simple language as possible to convey the change, along with cross-referencing to the particular sections or paragraph numbers of the account opening disclosures, when to do so will assist members in reviewing and understanding the change.

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B-3 MODEL CLAUSES FOR PRE-MATURITY NOTICES FOR TERM SHARE ACCOUNTS (§ 707.5(B-D))

(A) Maturity Date

Your term share account will mature on _____.

(B) Nonrenewal

Unless your term share account is renewed, it will not accrue further [dividends/interest] after the maturity date.

(C) Rate Information

The [dividend/interest] rate and annual percentage yield that will apply to your term share account if it is renewed have not yet been determined. That information will be available on _____. After that date, you may call the credit union during regular business hours at (telephone number) to find out the [dividend/interest] rate and annual percentage yield (APY) that will apply to your term share account if it is renewed.

NOTE: Pre-maturity notices should follow the requirements of § 707.5(b-d) as closely as possible. Care should be taken to explain any grace periods used. See discussion of use of alternative timing in supplementary information to § 707.2(o) and § 707.5(b-d).

B-4 SAMPLE FORM (SIGNATURE CARD/ APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP)

Application for Membership/Account Signature Card

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

(last name)(first name)(middle name) _____

(street address) (apartment number) _____

(city)(state)(zip code) _____

(home telephone number)(business telephone number) _____

(Social Security # or TIN)(date of birth) _____

(mother's maiden name)(employer, occupation) _____

I hereby make application for membership in and agree to conform to the Bylaws, as amended, of _____ Credit Union (the "Credit Union"). I certify that: I am within the field of membership of this Credit Union; the information provided on this application is true and correct; and my signature on this card applies to all accounts under my name at this Credit Union. I also agree to be bound to the terms and conditions of any account that I have in the Credit Union now or in the future.

(signature of applicant) _____

This application approved _____ (date) by
the (Check one)

() Board () Exec. Committee
() Membership Officer

Signed:

(Secretary; Exec. Cmte. Member, or
Membership Officer)

NOTE: This form is modeled on NCUA Form FCU 150, Application for Membership, as discussed in the *Accounting Manual for FCUs*, §§5030.1, 5150.3. It is noted that other information can also be requested on the signature card, as long as it is in accordance with federal and state laws. For example, information identifying the member, such as a state driver's license number, could be added. The types of accounts that the signature applies to could be specified. Furthermore, the Board notes that this card contains much identification information that may not be necessary for all credit unions; common sense should guide credit union boards of directors in designing their applications for membership/signature cards. However, the Board believes that the information solicited on this form is reasonable and prudent for many credit unions. Payable on death designations, joint account language required under state law, life savings beneficiary designations, and other like variations and designations may be added to the card if so desired. The proposed signature card/ application for membership form contained taxpayer certification language. One commenter noted that the IRS may always change its requirements in this area, which are beyond the authority of the Board. Therefore, the Board has deleted reference to the IRS taxpayer certification required by 26 USC 3406, but notes that such certification must be made in accordance with applicable law and IRS rules. The information may be included on the front and back of a standard size signature card, or on the front of a large size signature card. However, no account terms may be included on a signature card unless a copy of the signature card is provided to the member at the time of account opening. The Board recommends that credit unions refrain from this practice, and instead use standard account disclosures. One reason for this is that if laws, regulations or credit union policies change, discrepancies may result between them and the earlier signature card terms. Given the longevity of credit union membership, signature cards may well be in use for up to or over a century. In addition, as signature cards are relatively small, they probably will not contain enough space to make all desired and required disclosures. Fragmentation of terms, some on signature cards, some on separate

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disclosures, could easily lead to member confusion. As terms are usually construed against the drafter, credit unions should be very careful in their use of account terms and conditions varying from those provided as model clauses and sample forms in this appendix.

**B-5 SAMPLE FORM (TERM SHARE
(CERTIFICATE) ACCOUNT)**

Term Share Certificate

Date Issued

Account Number

Certificate Number

Social Security Number

This is to certify that (name(s)) [is/ are] the owner(s) of a term share certificate account in the Credit Union (the "Credit Union") in the amount of Dollars (\$). This term share certificate account may be redeemed on (maturity date) only upon presentation of the certificate to the Credit Union. The dividend rate of this certificate account is % with an annual percentage yield of %. The annual percentage yield and dividend rate assume that dividends are to be [check one] () added to principal/() paid to regular share account number / () mailed to owner(s). This account is subject to all terms and conditions stated in the Term Share Certificate Account Disclosures, as they may be amended from time to time, and incorporates the same by reference into this agreement.

Authorized signature

Authorized signature

NOTE: This form is modeled on NCUA Form FCU 107SCP, Credit Union Share Certificate, as discussed in the *Accounting Manual for FCUs*, §§5030.1, 5150.6. It is simplified to reflect the term share (certificate) account agreement, the parties involved, the maturity term and the annual percentage yield and dividend rate. All other terms are incorporated by reference. This should allow the credit union maximum flexibility in fashioning certificate, and other term share account, products. If a credit union so desired, other terms and conditions could be incorporated into the term share certificate itself, as long as a copy is presented to the member at the account opening. Care should also be taken to ensure that the term share certificate format addresses any necessary state law concerns. As the FRB's Regulation D on

reserve requirements permits all term share accounts to be represented by a transferable or nontransferable, or a negotiable or non-negotiable, certificate, instrument, pass-book, statement or otherwise, and still be considered a "time deposit", the Board has made no entry on this sample form regarding such terms, leaving the decision instead to each credit union's board of directors. 12 CFR 202.4(c)(2).

**B-6 SAMPLE FORM (REGULAR SHARE
ACCOUNT DISCLOSURES)**

Regular Share Account Disclosures

1. *Rate information.* As of April 1, 1995, the dividend rate was 5.00% and the annual percentage yield (APY) was 5.13% on your regular share account. In addition, the credit union estimates a prospective dividend rate of 5.25% and a prospective APY of 5.39% on your share account for this dividend period. The dividend rate and annual percentage yield may change every quarter as determined by the credit union board of directors.

2. *Compounding and crediting.* Dividends will be compounded daily and will be credited quarterly. For this account type, the dividend period is quarterly, for example, the beginning date of the first dividend period of the calendar year is January 1 and the ending date of such dividend period is March 31. All other dividend periods follow this same pattern of dates. The dividend declaration date follows the ending date of a dividend period, and for the example is April 1. If you close your regular share account before dividends are credited, you will not receive accrued dividends.

3. *Minimum balance requirements.* The minimum balance to open this account is the purchase of a \$5 share in the Credit Union. You must maintain a minimum daily balance of \$500 in your account to avoid a service fee. If, during any day during a quarter, your account balance falls below the required minimum daily balance, your account will be subject to a service fee of \$5 for that quarter.

4. *Balance computation method.* Dividends are calculated by the daily balance method which applies a daily periodic rate to the principal in your account each day.

5. *Accrual of dividends.* Dividends will begin to accrue on the business day you deposit noncash items (e.g., checks) to your account.

6. *Fees and charges.* The following fees and charges may be assessed against your account.

- a. Statement copies—\$5.00 per statement.
- b. Account inquiries—\$3.00 per inquiry.
- c. Dormant account fee—\$10.00 per month.
- d. Wire transfers—\$8.00 per transfer.
- e. Minimum balance service fee—\$5.00 per quarter.
- f. Share transfer—\$1.00 per transfer.

g. Excessive share withdrawals \$1.00 per item.

7. *Transaction limitations.* During any statement period, you may not make more than six withdrawals or transfers to another credit union account of yours or to a third party by means of a preauthorized or automatic transfer or telephonic order or instruction. No more than three of the six transfers may be made by check, draft, debit card, if applicable, or similar order to a third party. If you exceed the transfer limitations set forth above in any statement period, your account will be subject to closure by the credit union or to a fee of \$1.00 per item.

8. *Nature of dividends.* Dividends are paid from current income and available earnings, after required transfers to reserves at the end of a dividend period.

9. *Bylaw Requirements.* A member who fails to complete payment of one share within of his admission to membership, or within from the increase in the par value in shares, or a member who reduces his share balance below the par value of one share and does not increase the balance to at least the par value of one share within of the reduction may be terminated from membership at the end of a dividend period. [All blanks should be filled with time chosen by credit union board of directors, but must be at least 6 months.] Shares may be transferred only from one member to another, by written instrument in such form as the Credit Union may prescribe. The Credit Union reserves the right, at any time, to require members to give, in writing, not more than 60 days notice of intention to withdraw the whole or any part of the amounts so paid in by them. No member may withdraw shareholdings that are pledged as required on security on loans without the written approval of the credit committee or a loan officer, except to the extent that such shares exceed the member's total primary and contingent liability to the Credit Union. No member may withdraw any shareholdings below the amount of his/her primary or contingent liability to the Credit Union if he/she is delinquent as a borrower, or if borrowers for whom he/she is comaker, endorser, or guarantor are delinquent, without the written approval of the credit committee or loan officer.

10. *Par value of shares; Dividend period.* The par value of a regular share in this Credit Union is \$5. The dividend period of the Credit Union is quarterly.

11. *National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.* Member accounts in this Credit Union are federally insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

12. *Other Terms and Conditions.* [In this item, which may be titled or subdivided in any manner by each credit union, NCUA suggests that the following issues be covered or handled: Statutory lien or setoff; expenses

(garnishments and bankruptcy orders and holds on account); joint ownership accounts; trust accounts; payable-on-death accounts; retirement accounts; Uniform Transfer to Minor Act accounts; sole proprietorship accounts; escrow and custodial accounts; corporation accounts; not-for-profit corporation accounts; voluntary association accounts; partnership accounts; public unit accounts; powers of attorney (guardianship orders); tax disclosures and certifications; Uniform Commercial Code variances; amendments; reliance on signature card; change of address; incorporations of other documents by reference, such as expedited funds availability policies, service charges schedules or electronic banking disclosures; ability to suspend services; and operational matters (stop payment orders—verbal and written, satisfactory identification, refusal of deposits not in proper form, wire transfers, stale check deposits, availability of periodic statements or passbook feature.)]

NOTE: This form is modeled on the share account disclosures in the *Accounting Manual for FCUs*, §5150.7. The disclosures are for a variable-rate, daily balance method dividend calculation regular share account in an FCU with a \$500 minimum balance to avoid service fees. For the example, the account was opened on May 1, 1995. Other terms are self-explanatory. The dividend rate paid and annual percentage yield disclosures will reflect the prospective dividend rate for a given dividend period. Item nos. 1–8 reflect standard TISA and part 707 disclosures discussed in sections B–1 through B–3 of this appendix. Note that if the credit union limits the maximum amount of shares which may be held by one member under *NCUA Standard FCU Bylaws*, Art. III, section 2, that this should be stated in item no. 7, transaction limitations. Item no. 9 reflects various terms provided in Art. III, sections 3–6 of the *NCUA Standard FCU Bylaws*. If this were a passbook account, then the requirements of Art. IV, *Receipting for Money—Passbooks*, in the *NCUA Standard FCU Bylaws* would also be included in item no. 9. Item no. 10 reflects the par value amount of regular shares in a federal credit union, pursuant to section 117 of the FCU Act, 12 U.S.C. 117, and Art. XIV, section 3 of the *NCUA Standard FCU Bylaws*. It also states the dividend period of the credit union, which is set by the board of directors. Item no. 11 addresses the requirements of 12 CFR part 740. Nonfederally insured credit unions (NICUs) would be expected to disclose information required by section 151 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991, 12 USC 1831t. By December 19, 1992, all NICUs were required to include conspicuously on all periodic statements of account, signature cards, passbooks, share certificates and other similar instruments of deposit and in all advertising

a notice that the credit union is not federally insured. Additional disclosures will be required of NICUs by June 19, 1994. Item no. 12 is inserted to ensure that credit unions add other account terms and conditions not covered by the proposed regulation. These sorts of terms are contemplated by proposed §707.3(b), requiring that the disclosures reflect the terms of the legal obligation between the member and the credit union. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, but to give a general idea of other topics often covered in share account contracts. Item no. 12 is not expressly required by either TISA or part 707, but any of these terms that are disclosed must be accurate and not misleading. Also the Board strongly recommends that such terms are included in account opening disclosures to inform the membership and to clearly set forth the legal relationship between the members and their credit union.

B-7 SAMPLE FORM (SHARE DRAFT ACCOUNT DISCLOSURES)

Share Draft Account Disclosures

1. *Rate information.* As of January 1, 1995, the dividend rate was 3.00% and the annual percentage yield (APY) was 3.04% on your share account. In addition, the prospective dividend rate on your account is 3.15% with a prospective annual percentage yield (APY) of 3.20% for the current dividend period. The dividend rate and APY may change every dividend period as determined by the credit union board of directors.

2. *Compounding and crediting.* Dividends will be compounded monthly and will be credited monthly. For this account type, the dividend period is monthly, for example, the beginning date of the first dividend period of the calendar year is January 1 and the ending date of such dividend period is January 31. All other dividend periods follow this same pattern of dates. The dividend declaration date follows the ending date of a dividend period, and for the example above is February 1. If you close your share draft account before dividends are credited, you will not receive accrued dividends.

3. *No Minimum balance requirements apply to this account.*

4. *Balance computation method.* Dividends are calculated by the average daily balance method which applies a periodic rate to the average daily balance in the account for the period. The average daily balance is calculated by adding the balance in the account for each day of the period and dividing that figure by the number of days in the period.

5. *Accrual of dividends.* Dividends will begin to accrue no later than the business day we receive provisional credit for the placement of noncash items (e.g. checks) to your account.

6. *Fees and charges.* The following fees and charges may be assessed against your account.

- a. Statement copies—\$5.00 per statement.
- b. Account inquiries—\$3.00 per inquiry.
- c. Dormant account fee—\$10.00 per month.
- d. Wire transfers—\$8.00 per transfer.
- e. Overdrafts/Returned Items—\$5.00 per draft.
- f. Share transfer—\$1.00 per transfer.
- g. Excessive share withdrawals—\$1.00 per item.
- h. Certified checks—\$5.00 per check.
- i. Stop Payment Order—\$5.00 per order.
- j. Check Printing Fee—\$12.00 per 200 checks (varies depending on style of check ordered).

7. *No transaction limitations apply to this account.*

8. *Nature of dividends.* Dividends are paid from current income and available earnings, after required transfers to reserves at the end of a dividend period.

9. *Bylaw Requirements.* A member who fails to complete payment of one share within of his admission to membership, or within from the increase in the par value in shares, or a member who reduces his share balance below the par value of one share and does not increase the balance to at least the par value of one share within of the reduction may be terminated from membership at the end of a dividend period. [All blanks should be filled with time chosen by credit union board of directors, but must be at least 6 months.] Shares may be transferred only from one member to another, by written instrument in such form as the Credit Union may prescribe. The Credit Union reserves the right, at any time, to require members to give, in writing, not more than 60 days notice of intention to withdraw the whole or any part of the amounts so paid in by them. Shares paid in under an accumulated payroll deduction plan may not be withdrawn until credited to a member's account. No member may withdraw shareholdings that are pledged as required on security on loans without the written approval of the credit committee or a loan officer, except to the extent that such shares exceed the member's total primary and contingent liability to the Credit Union. No member may withdraw any shareholdings below the amount of his/her primary or contingent liability to the Credit Union if he/she is delinquent as a borrower, or if borrowers for whom he/she is comaker, endorser, or guarantor are delinquent, without the written approval of the credit committee or loan officer.

10. *Par value of shares; Dividend period.* The par value of a regular share in this Credit Union is \$5. The dividend period of the Credit Union is monthly, beginning on the first of a month and ending on the last day of the month.

11. *National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.* Member accounts in this Credit Union are federally insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

12. *Other Terms and Conditions.* [See section B-6, item 12, of this appendix].

NOTE: This form is modeled on the share account disclosures in the *Accounting Manual for FCUs*, §5150.7. The disclosures are for a variable-rate, average daily balance method dividend calculation share draft account in an FCU with no minimum balance requirement. For purposes of this example, the account was opened on January 15, 1995. The Credit Union has monthly dividend periods. Other terms are self-explanatory. The dividend rate paid and annual percentage yield disclosures will reflect the prospective dividend rate for a given dividend period. The disclosures are very similar to the ones in section B-6 of appendix B, except for the roll-back and par value disclosures, which have been removed from the final rule and appendices.

B-8 SAMPLE FORM (MONEY MARKET SHARE ACCOUNT DISCLOSURES)

Money Market Share Account Disclosures

1. *Rate information.* As of January 1, 1995, if your average daily balance was \$500 or more, the dividend rate paid on the entire balance in your account was 4.75%, with an annual percentage yield (APY) of 4.85%. If your average daily balance is \$500 or more, a prospective dividend rate of 4.95% will be paid on the entire balance in your account with a prospective APY of 5.00% for this dividend period on your account. The dividend rate and APY may change every dividend period as determined by the credit union board of directors.

2. *Compounding and crediting.* Dividends will be compounded monthly and will be credited quarterly. If you close your share money market account before dividends are credited, you will not receive accrued dividends.

3. *Minimum balance requirements.* The minimum balance required to open this account is \$500. You must maintain a minimum daily balance of \$500 in your account to avoid a service fee. If, during any (time period), your account falls below the required minimum daily balance, your account will be subject to a service fee of \$5 for that (time period).

4. *Balance computation method.* Dividends are calculated by the average daily balance method which applies a periodic rate to the average daily balance in your account for the period. The average daily balance is calculated by adding the principal in the account for each day of the period and dividing that figure by the number of days in the period.

5. *Accrual of dividends.* Dividends will begin to accrue on the business day you deposit noncash items (e.g., checks) to your account.

6. *Fees and charges.* The following fees and charges may be assessed against your account.

- a. Statement copies—\$5.00 per statement.
- b. Account inquiries—\$3.00 per inquiry.
- c. Dormant account fee—\$10.00 per month.
- d. Wire transfers—\$8.00 per transfer.
- e. Minimum balance service fee—\$5.00 per (time period).
- f. Share transfer—\$1.00 per transfer.
- g. Excessive share withdrawals—\$1.00 per item.
- h. Certified checks—\$5.00 per check.
- i. Stop Payment Order—\$5.00 per order.
- j. Check Printing Fee—\$12.00 per 200 checks (varies depending on style of check ordered).

7. *Transaction limitations.* During any statement period, you may not make more than six withdrawals or transfers to another credit union account of yours or to a third party by means of a preauthorized or automatic transfer or telephonic order or instruction. No more than three of the six transfers may be made by check, draft, debit card, if applicable, or similar order to a third party. If you exceed the transfer limitations set forth above in any statement period, your account will be subject to closure by the credit union or to a fee of \$1.00 per item.

8. *Nature of dividends.* Dividends are paid from current income and available earnings, after required transfers to reserves at the end of a dividend period.

9. *Bylaw Requirements.* [This section should reflect any requirements concerning share accounts in the FISCO's bylaws or charter.]

10. *Par value of shares; Dividend period.* The par value of a regular share in this Credit Union is \$50. The dividend period of the Credit Union is monthly, beginning on the first of a month and ending on the last day of the month.

11. *National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.* Member accounts in this Credit Union are federally insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

12. *Other Terms and Conditions.* [See section B-6, item 12, of this appendix.]

NOTE: This form is modeled on the share account disclosures in the *Accounting Manual for FCUs*, §5150.7 and on the share draft account disclosures in section B-7 of this appendix. The disclosures are for a variable-rate, tiered-rate (method A, option 1), average daily balance method dividend calculation, money market share account in a FISCO with a \$500 minimum balance to open the account and to avoid service fees. For purposes of this example, the account was opened on January 29, 1995. Other terms are self-explanatory. The dividend rate paid and annual percentage yield disclosures will reflect the prospective dividend rate for a

given dividend period. Note that the contents of Item 9, Bylaw requirements, must be tailored to the specific bylaws of a FISCU or NICU. Also note the high par value amount in Item 10.

**B-9 SAMPLE FORM (TERM SHARE
(CERTIFICATE) ACCOUNT DISCLOSURES)**

Term Share (Certificate) Account Disclosures

1. *Rate information.* [Repeat rates disclosed on face of term share certificate, *see* §B-5, Sample Form (Term Share (Certificate) Account)].

2. *Compounding and crediting.* Dividends will be compounded monthly and will be credited annually. If you close your certificate account before dividends are credited, you will not receive accrued dividends.

3. *Minimum balance requirements.* The minimum balance required to open this account is \$500.

4. *Balance computation method.* Dividends are calculated by the daily balance method, which applies a daily periodic rate to the principal in your account each day.

5. *Accrual of dividends.* Dividends will begin to accrue on the business day you deposit noncash items (e.g., checks) to your account.

6. *Fees and charges.* The following fees and charges may be assessed against your account.

- a. Statement copies—\$5.00 per statement.
- b. Account inquiries—\$3.00 per inquiry.
- c. Share transfer—\$1.00 per transfer.

7. *Transaction limitations.* After the account is opened, you may not make deposits into the account until the maturity date stated on the certificate.

8. *Maturity date.* Your account will mature on January 1, 1996.

9. *Early withdrawal penalties.* We may impose a penalty if you withdraw any of the funds before the maturity date. The penalty will equal three months' dividends on your deposit.

10. *Renewal policies.* Your certificate account will automatically renew at maturity. You will have a grace period of 10 business days after the maturity date to withdraw the funds in the account without being charged an early withdrawal penalty.

11. *Bonus.* You will receive a new (insert brand name) toaster-oven as a bonus when you open the account after December 31, 1994, and before June 30, 1995. You must maintain your entire principal on deposit until the maturity date of your certificate account to obtain the bonus.

12. [Reserved]

13. *Bylaw Requirements.* [This section should reflect any requirements concerning share accounts in the FISCU's bylaws or charter.]

14. *Par value of shares; Dividend period.* The par value of a regular share in this Credit

Union is \$25. The dividend period of the Credit Union on this type of account is annual, beginning on the date the account is opened, and ending on the stated maturity date, unless renewed.

15. *National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.* Member accounts in this Credit Union are federally insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

16. *Other Terms and Conditions.* [See section B-6, item 12, of this appendix.]

NOTE: Even though this disclosure is for an account at a FISCU, this form is modeled on the share account disclosures in the *Accounting Manual for FCUs*, §5150.7 and upon the regular share account disclosures in section B-6 of this appendix. The disclosures are for a fixed-rate, daily balance method dividend calculation, automatically renewing term share certificate account in a FISCU with a \$500 minimum balance to open the account and a ten day grace period. For the example, the account is opened on January 1, 1995 and matures on January 1, 1996. Other terms are self-explanatory. The dividend rate paid and annual percentage yield disclosures reflect the contracted, prospective dividend rate for a given dividend period. Note the special disclosures for term share certificate accounts, items nos. 8-10. Note also the bonus disclosure, item no. 11.

B-10 SAMPLE FORM (PERIODIC STATEMENT)

Periodic Statement

Member Name

Account Number

[Transaction account activity by date.]

[Average daily balance of \$1,500 for the month, daily compounding.]

Your account earned \$6.72, with an annual percentage yield earned of 5.40%, for the statement period from May 1 through and including May 31. In addition, your account earned \$15 in extraordinary dividends for this period. Any fees assessed against your account are shown in the body of the periodic statement and are identified by the code at the bottom margin of this statement.

Service Charge Codes

- SC-1 Stop Payment Order Fee
- SC-2 Statement Copy Fee
- SC-3 Draft Return Fee
- SC-4 Transfer from Shares
- SC-5 Microfilm Copy
- SC-6 Share Draft Printing Fee
- SC-7 Dormant Account Fee
- SC-8 Wire Transfer Fee
- SC-9 Excessive Share Withdrawal Fee
- SC-10

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Other Transactions

D Dividends
EC Error Correction
OR Overdraft Returned
OL Overdraft Loan
OS Overdraft Share Transfer

NOTE: This form is modeled on the share draft statement of account, Form FCU 107G-SD, in the *Accounting Manual for FCUs*, §5150.4. All information is self-explanatory. Codes of transactions are not required, but are a common credit union practice. The information regarding fees could also be included on the line of the periodic statement showing when the fees were debited from the account. Alternatively, a credit union could show all fees debited against the account for the statement period in a special area of the periodic statement. Clarity to the member of the required information—annual percentage yield earned; amount of dividends; fees imposed and length of period—is the important goal. An additional disclosure regarding the dollar value of any extraordinary dividends earned must be added to those statements showing the payment of such extraordinary dividends to the member.

B-11 SAMPLE FORM (RATE AND FEE SCHEDULE)

Rate and Fee Schedule

This Rate and Fee Schedule for all Accounts sets forth certain conditions, rates, fees and charges applicable to your regular share, share draft, and money market accounts at the Federal Credit Union as of [insert date of delivery to member]. This schedule is incorporated as part of your account agreement with the Federal Credit Union.

Regular Share

Dividend Rate as of Last Dividend Declaration Date %.
Annual Percentage Yield as of Last Dividend Declaration Date %.
Prospective Dividend Rate %.
Prospective Annual Percentage Yield %.
Dividends Compounded [Annually, Semi-annually, Quarterly, Monthly, Weekly, Daily].
Dividends Credited—At close of a dividend period.
Dividend Period [Annually, Semiannually, Quarterly, Monthly, Weekly, Daily].
Minimum Opening Deposit \$5.00 par value share.
Minimum Monthly Balance [None, \$ amount].

Share Draft

Dividend Rate as of Last Dividend Declaration Date %.

Annual Percentage Yield as of Last Dividend Declaration Date %.
Prospective Dividend Rate %.
Prospective Annual Percentage Yield %.
Dividends Compounded [Annually, Semi-annually, Quarterly, Monthly, Weekly, Daily].
Dividends Credited—At close of a dividend period.
Dividend Period [Annually, Semiannually, Quarterly, Monthly, Weekly, Daily].
Minimum Opening Deposit [None, \$ amount].
Minimum Monthly Balance [None, \$ amount].

Money Market

Dividend Rate as of Last Dividend Declaration Date %.
Annual Percentage Yield as of Last Dividend Declaration Date %.
Prospective Dividend Rate %.
Prospective Annual Percentage Yield %.
Dividends Compounded [Annually, Semi-annually, Quarterly, Monthly, Weekly, Daily].
Dividends Credited—At close of a dividend period.
Dividend Period [Annually, Semiannually, Quarterly, Monthly, Weekly, Daily].
Minimum Opening Deposit [None, \$ amount].
Minimum Monthly Balance [None, \$ amount].
The following fees may be assessed in connection with your accounts:

FEES APPLICABLE TO ALL ACCOUNTS

Returned item fee—\$.00 per item.
Account reconciliation fee—\$.00 per hour.
Statement copies fee—\$.00 per statement.
Certified draft fee—\$.00 per draft.
Wire transfer fee—\$.00 per transfer.
Account inquiry fee—\$.00 per inquiry.
Dormant account fee—\$.00 per month.
Minimum balance service fee—\$.00 per day.
Share transfer fee—\$.00 per transfer.
Excessive share withdrawals fee—\$.00 per item.

SHARE DRAFT ACCOUNT FEES

Monthly service fee—\$.00 per month.
Overdraft transfers fee—\$.00 per overdraft.
Drafts returned insufficient funds fee—\$.00 per draft.
Stop payment order fee—\$.00 per order.
Draft copy fee—\$.00 per copy.
Check printing fee—\$.00 per 200 drafts.

MONEY MARKET SHARE ACCOUNT FEES

Monthly service fee—\$.00 per month.
 Check printing fee—\$.00 per 200 drafts.

NOTE: This illustration is for use of an FCU. The information provided on a Rate and Fee Schedule can be presented in any format. To ensure that it is a part of the account agreement, if used, it should be incorporated by reference into the appropriate share account disclosures. The figures used are illustrative only, except for the overdraft transfer fee of \$1.00 per overdraft and the excessive share transfer fee of \$1.00 per item, which are set in the *NCUA Standard FCU Bylaws*, Art. III, sections 4 and 5(f), respectively.

[58 FR 50445, Sept. 27, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 13436, 13437, Mar. 22, 1994; 63 FR 71575, Dec. 29, 1998]

APPENDIX C TO PART 707—OFFICIAL
STAFF INTERPRETATIONS*Introduction*

1. *Official status.* This commentary is the means by which the staff of the Office of General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration issues official staff interpretations of Part 707 of the NCUA Rules and Regulations. Good faith compliance with this commentary affords protection from liability under section 271(f) of the Truth in Savings Act (TISA), 12 U.S.C. 4311.

Section 707.1—Authority, Purpose, Coverage, and Effect on State Laws

(c) Coverage

1. *Foreign applicability.* Part 707 applies to all credit unions that offer share and deposit accounts to residents (including resident aliens) of any state as defined in §707.2(v) and that offer accounts insurable by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) whether or not such accounts are insured by the NCUSIF. Corporate credit unions designated as such by NCUA under 12 CFR 704.2 (definition of “corporate credit union”) are exempt from part 707.

2. *Persons who advertise accounts.* Persons who advertise accounts are subject to the advertising rules. This includes agent and agented accounts, such as a member who subdivides interests in a jumbo term share certificate account for sale to other parties or among members who form a certificate account investment club. For example, if an agent places an advertisement that offers members an interest in an account at a credit union, the advertising rules apply to the advertisement, whether the account is held by the agent or directly by the member.

3. *Nonautomated credit unions.* Nonautomated credit unions with an asset size of \$2

million or less, after subtracting any non-member deposits, are exempt from TISA and part 707. NCUA defines a “nonautomated credit union” as a credit union without sufficient data processing capability and capacity to establish, operate and maintain a share and loan software system to timely and accurately process all account transactions of all members. The nonautomated credit union exemption is available to all credit unions meeting the asset size and automation standards of this comment, including newly chartered credit unions. If any of the credit unions eligible for this exemption grow to have more than \$2 million in assets as of December 31 of any year, the NCUA Board will require such credit unions to comply with TISA and part 707 on January 1 of one year after such credit union loses its exemption eligibility. Similarly, if a credit union becomes sufficiently automated to operate a complete share and loan system, such credit union will be entitled to the same compliance phase-in period.

(d) Effect on State Laws

1. *Preemption of state laws/Inconsistent requirements.* State law requirements that are inconsistent with the requirements of TISA and part 707 are preempted to the extent of the inconsistency. A state law is inconsistent if it requires a credit union to make disclosures or take actions that contradict the requirements of the federal law. A state law is also contradictory if it requires the use of the same term to represent a different amount or a different meaning than the federal law, requires the use of a term different from that required in the federal law to describe the same item, or permits a method of calculating dividends or interest on an account different from that required in the federal law.

2. *Preemption determinations.* A credit union, state, or other interested party may request the Board to determine whether a state law requirement is inconsistent with the federal requirements. A request for a determination should be addressed to NCUA’s Office of General Counsel, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Written preemption requests should cite (or include a copy of) the allegedly inconsistent state law, demonstrate the inconsistency with TISA and part 707 and the burden on credit unions, and formally request a preemption determination. The Office of General Counsel may provide other interested parties, particularly affected states, an informal opportunity to comment on any request for a preemption determination, unless it finds that such notice and opportunity for comment would be impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest. NCUA will publicize any preemption determinations using any means readily at its disposal.

3. *Effect of preemption determinations.* After the Board, through its Office of General Counsel, determines that a state law is inconsistent, a credit union may not make disclosures using the inconsistent term or take actions relying on the inconsistent law.

4. *Reversal of determination.* The Board reserves the right to reverse a determination for any reason bearing on the coverage or effect of state or federal law.

Section 707.2—Definitions

(a) Account

1. *Covered accounts.* Examples of accounts subject to the regulation are:

i. Dividend-bearing and interest-bearing accounts.

ii. Non-dividend-bearing and non-interest-bearing accounts.

iii. Accounts opened as a condition of obtaining a credit card.

iv. Escrow accounts with a consumer purpose, such as an account established by a member to escrow rental payments, pending resolution of a dispute with the member's landlord.

v. Accounts held by a parent or custodian for a minor under a state's Uniform Gift to Minors Act (or Uniform Transfers to Minors Act).

vi. Individual retirement accounts (IRAs) and simplified employee pension (SEP) accounts.

vii. Payable-on-Death (POD) or "Totten trust" accounts.

2. *Other accounts.* Examples of accounts not subject to the regulation are:

i. Mortgage escrow accounts for collecting taxes and property insurance premiums.

ii. Accounts established to make periodic disbursements on construction loans.

iii. Trust accounts opened by a trustee pursuant to a formal written trust agreement (not merely declarations of trust on a signature card such as a "Totten trust," or an IRA or SEP account).

iv. Accounts opened by an executor in the name of decedent's estate.

v. Accounts of individuals operating businesses as sole proprietors.

vi. Certificates of indebtedness. Some credit unions borrow funds from their members through a certificate of indebtedness that sets forth the terms and conditions of the repayment of the borrowing, such as federal credit unions do through 12 CFR 701.38. Such an account does not represent an account in a credit union and is not covered by part 707.

vii. Unincorporated nonbusiness association accounts.

3. *Other investments.* The term "account" does not apply to these products. Examples of products not covered are:

i. Government securities.

ii. Mutual funds.

iii. Annuities.

iv. Securities or obligations of a credit union.

v. Contractual arrangements such as repurchase agreements, interest rate swaps, and bankers acceptances.

vi. Purchases of U.S. Savings Bonds through a credit union.

vii. Services offered through a group purchasing plan or a credit union service organization (CUSO).

4. *Options.* All dividend-bearing and interest-bearing accounts are either fixed-rate or variable-rate accounts.

5. *Use of synonyms.* Generally, it is not the purpose of part 707 to prohibit specific descriptive terms for accounts. For example, credit unions can use adjectives and trade names to describe accounts such as "Best Share Draft Account," or "Ultra Money Market Share Account." Synonyms for share, share draft, money market share, and term share accounts may be used to describe various types of credit union share and deposit accounts as long as the synonym is accurate and not misleading and, for account disclosures, is used in conjunction with the correct legal term. For example, the following synonyms may be used:

i. The term "checking account" may be used to describe share draft accounts.

ii. The term "money market account" may be used to describe money market share accounts.

iii. The term "savings account" may be used to describe regular share and share accounts.

iv. The terms "share certificate," "certificate account," or "certificate" may be used to describe share certificates and other dividend-bearing term share accounts.

v. However, under no circumstances may a credit union describe a share account as a deposit account, or vice versa. For example, the term "certificate of deposit" or "CD" may not be used to describe share certificates and other dividend-bearing term share accounts. Similarly, the terms "time account" (used in Regulation DD, 12 CFR 230.2(u)) and "time deposit" (used in Regulation D, 12 CFR 204.2(c)) may not be used to describe term share accounts.

(b) Advertisement

1. *Covered messages.* Advertisements include commercial messages in visual, oral, or print media that invite, offer, or otherwise announce generally to members and potential members the availability of member accounts such as:

i. Telephone solicitations.

ii. Messages on automated teller machine (ATM) screens (including any printout).

iii. Messages on a computer screen in a credit union's lobby (including any printout) other than a screen viewed solely by the credit union's employee.

iv. Messages in a newspaper, magazine, or promotional flyer or on radio or television.

v. Messages promoting an account that are provided along with information about the member's existing account at a credit union and that promote another account at the credit union (such as account promotional messages on the periodic statement).

2. *Other messages.* Examples of messages that are *not* advertisements are:

i. Rate sheets published in newspapers, periodicals, or trade journals (unless the credit union or share and deposit broker that offers accounts at the credit union pays a fee to have the information included or otherwise controls publication).

ii. Telephone conversations initiated by a member or potential member about an account.

iii. An in-person discussion with a member about the terms for a specific account.

iv. Information provided to members about their existing accounts, such as on IRA disbursements, notices for automatically renewable term share accounts sent before renewal, or current rates recorded on a voice response machine.

(c) *Annual Percentage Yield.*

1. *General.* The annual percentage yield (APY) is required for disclosures for new accounts, oral responses to inquiries about rates; disclosures provided upon request; initial disclosures (if the credit union chooses to provide full disclosures instead of the abbreviated notice); notices prior to the renewal of a term share account, if known at the time the notice is sent, and in advertising. The annual percentage yield shows the total amount of dividends for a 365 day period (or a 366 day period for a leap year) on an assumed principal amount based on the dividend rate and frequency of compounding as a percentage of the assumed principal (for accounts such as share or share draft accounts) or for the total amount of dividends over the term of the account for term share accounts. The annual percentage yield assumes the principal amount remains in the account for 365 days (366 days for leap year) or for the term of the account.

2. *How Annual Percentage Yield Differs from Annual Percentage Yield Earned.* The annual percentage yield (APY) differs from the annual percentage yield earned (APYE). The annual percentage yield earned is required for periodic statements only. The annual percentage yield earned shows the total amount of dividends earned for the dividend or statement period as a percent of the actual average daily balance in the member's account. Unlike the annual percentage yield, the annual percentage yield earned is affected by additions and withdrawals during the period. The annual percentage yield and the annual percentage yield earned must be

calculated according to the formulas provided in Appendix A to this rule.

(d) *Average Daily Balance Method*

1. *General.* One of the two required methods (the daily balance is the other) of determining the balance upon which dividends must be accrued and paid. The average daily balance method requires the application of a periodic rate to the average daily balance in the account for the average daily balance calculation period. The average daily balance is determined by adding the full amount of principal in the account for each day of the period and dividing that figure by the number of days in the period.

(e) *Board.*

1. *General.* The NCUA Board.

(f) *Bonus*

1. *General.* Bonuses include items of value offered as incentives to members, such as an offer to pay the final installment deposit for a holiday club account if the final installment is over \$10. Bonuses do not include the payment of dividends (including extraordinary dividends), the waiver or reduction of a fee, the absorption of expenses, non-dividend membership benefits, or other consideration aggregating \$10 or less per year.

2. *Examples.* The following are examples of bonuses.

i. A credit union offers \$25 to potential members for becoming a member and opening an account. The \$25 could be provided by check, cash, or direct deposit.

ii. A credit union offers \$25 to a member with only a regular share account to open a share draft account. The \$25 could be provided by check, cash, or direct deposit.

iii. A credit union offers a portable radio with a value of \$20 to members and potential members for opening a share draft account.

iv. A credit union pays the final installment deposit for a holiday club account if over \$10.

3. *Examples not comprising bonuses.* The following are examples of items that are *not* bonuses:

i. Discount coupons distributed by credit unions for use at restaurants or stores.

ii. A credit union offers \$20 to any member if the member is responsible for encouraging a potential member to open an account. The \$20 is not a bonus because the \$20 is not paid to the individual opening the account. Any item, including cash, given or offered to a third party (that is not a joint member or joint owner in an account being opened) in exchange for a member or potential member opening (or a member renewing or adding to) an account is not a bonus.

iii. A credit union offers \$25 to a member if the member can locate his name in the body of a newsletter.

iv. Life savings benefits. Many credit unions offer life savings benefits to beneficiaries of deceased members. Because the benefit accrues to a third party, such life savings plans offered are not bonuses.

v. A credit union offers to pay annual membership dues in a benevolent organization for a class of members.

4. *De minimis rule.* Items with a *de minimis* value of \$10 or less are not bonuses. Credit unions may rely on the valuation standard used by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to determine if the value of the item is *de minimis*. Items required to be reported by the credit union under IRS rules are bonuses under this regulation. Examples of items of *de minimis* values are:

i. Disability insurance premiums on a share account valued at an amount of \$10 or less per year.

ii. Coffee mugs, T-shirts or other merchandise with a market value of \$10 or less per year.

5. *Aggregation.* In determining if an item valued at \$10 or less is a bonus, credit unions must aggregate per account per calendar year items that may be given to members. In making this determination, credit unions aggregate per account only the market value of items that may be given for a specific promotion. To illustrate, assume a credit union offers in January to give members an item valued at \$7 for each calendar quarter during the year that the average account balance in a share draft account exceeds \$10,000. The bonus rules are triggered, since members are eligible under the promotion to receive up to \$28 during the year. However, the bonus rules are not triggered if an item valued at \$7 is offered to members opening a share draft account during the month of January, even though in November the credit union introduces a new promotion that includes, for example, an offer to existing share draft account holders for an item valued at \$8 for maintaining an average balance of \$5,000 for the month.

6. *Waiver or reduction of a fee or absorption of expenses.* Bonuses do not include value received by members through the waiver or reduction of fees for credit union-related services (even if the fees waived exceed \$10), such as the following:

i. Waiving a safe deposit box rental fee for one year for members who open a new account.

ii. Waiving fees for travelers checks for members, and waiving check and share draft printing fees.

iii. Nondiscriminatorily waiving all fees for a particular class of members, such as seniors or minors.

iv. Discounts on interest rates charged for loans at the credit union.

v. Rebates of loan interest already paid by a member.

vi. Discounts on application fees charged for loans at the credit union.

vii. Packaged, linked, or tied-account services.

7. *Non-dividend membership benefits.* Such benefits are not bonuses because they are sporadic in nature, often difficult to value, and providing non-dividend membership benefits is a long-standing unique credit union practice. (See commentary to §707.2(r) for examples of such benefits.)

(g) Credit Union

1. *General.* Includes credit unions in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and U.S. territories. Applies to credit unions whether or not the accounts in the credit union are federally, state, privately insured, or uninsured.

(h) Daily Balance Method

1. *General.* One of the two required methods (the average daily balance is the other) of determining the balance upon which dividends must be accrued and paid. The daily balance method requires the application of a daily periodic rate to the full amount of principal in the account each day.

(i) Dividend and Dividends

1. *General.* Member savings placed in share accounts are equity investments, and the returns earned on these accounts are dividends. Federal credit unions may only offer dividend-bearing and non-dividend-bearing share accounts. State-chartered credit unions may offer both share and deposit accounts if permitted by state law. State law, including without limitation regulations and official interpretations, will determine if returns earned in accounts in state-chartered credit unions are dividends. Dividends exclude the payment of a bonus or other consideration worth \$10 or less given during a year, the waiver or reduction of a fee, the absorption of expenses, non-dividend membership benefits and extraordinary dividends. Dividend-bearing accounts must be either fixed-rate or variable-rate accounts.

2. *Procedure.* Credit unions must follow appropriate law (state law for state-chartered credit unions and federal law for federal credit unions) in determining dividend policies and declaring dividends. Generally, dividends may be viewed as a portion of the available account and undivided earnings of the credit union which is set apart, after required transfer to reserves, by valid act of the board of directors, for distribution among the members. As a matter of legal procedure, members are usually not entitled to dividends until the following steps are completed: (1) The board of the credit union develops a nondiscriminatory dividend policy, by establishing dividend periods, dividend credit determination dates dividend

distribution dates, any associated penalties (if applicable), and the method of dividend computation for each type of share account; (2) the provisions for required transfers to reserves are made; (3) sufficient and available prior and/or current earnings are available at the end of the dividend period; (4) the board formally makes a dividend declaration in accordance with the credit union's dividend policy; and (5) dividends must be paid to members by a credit to the appropriate share account, payment by check or share draft, or by a combination of the two methods.

3. *When available.* Credit unions must follow the law of their primary chartering authority to determine when dividends are available. Generally, it is the declaration of the dividend itself which creates the dividend and the member has no right to receive a dividend until it is so declared. The decision of when to declare dividends lies within the official discretion of each credit union's board of directors and cannot be abrogated by contract. An agreement to pay dividends on a share account is generally interpreted not as an obligation to pay the stipulated dividends absolutely and unconditionally, but as an undertaking to pay them out of the earnings when sufficiently accumulated from which dividends in general are properly payable. Generally, "prospective rates" are rates set in good faith in advance of the close of a dividend period, that may be altered if sufficient funds are not available, or in the event of a superseding event, such as a strike, plant closure, significant fluctuation in market rates and/or a significant change in financial structure, natural disaster or emergency that alters the assumptions under which the "prospective rates" were made. It is the intent of TISA that all disclosure be accurate when made, and credit unions are urged to make every effort to ratify disclosed "prospective rates." "Prospective rates" may also be referred to as "projected rates" or similar wording, but not as "estimated rates." (See comment 3(b)–2, prohibiting use of estimates).

4. *Sample dividend resolutions.* (i) The following resolution may be used where the dividend rates are set after the close of a dividend period.

RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE
DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS

A. I, _____, certify that I am Secretary of _____ Credit Union Board of Directors, and that the following is a correct copy of the resolution for declaring dividend adopted by the _____ Credit Union at a meeting of the Board of Directors duly and properly held on _____, 19____. This resolution appears in the minutes of this meeting and has not been rescinded or modified.

B. Resolved, that

(1) The Board of Directors has developed a nondiscriminatory dividend policy, by establishing dividend periods, dividend credit determination dates, dividend distribution dates, any associated penalties (if applicable), and the method of dividend computation for each type of share account;

(2) The required transfers to reserves have been made; and

(3) Sufficient and available prior and/or current earnings are available at the end of this dividend period.

C. Resolved, further, that the Board of Directors now formally makes a dividend declaration in accordance with the Credit Union's dividend policy and authorizes that on _____, 19____, dividends must be paid to members by a credit to the appropriate share account, payment by share draft or by a combination of the two methods.

D. I further certify that the Board of Directors of this Credit Union has, and the time of adoption of this resolution had, full power and lawful authority to adopt the foregoing resolutions and that this resolution revokes any prior resolution.

In witness whereof, this is my signature and the date on which I signed this Resolution.

Signature _____

Date _____

[Attach list of accounts with dividend rates for each type of account.]

(ii) The following resolution may be used where the dividend rates are set before the close of a dividend period.

RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE
DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS

A. I, _____, certify that I am the Secretary of _____ Credit Union, and that the following is a correct copy of the resolution for declaring dividends adopted by the _____ Credit Union at a meeting of the Board of Directors duly and properly held on _____, 19____. This resolution appears in the minutes of that meeting and has not been rescinded or modified.

B. Resolved, that the Board of Directors has adopted a nondiscriminatory dividend policy, by establishing dividend periods, dividend credit determination dates, dividend distribution dates, any associated penalties (if applicable) and the method of dividend computation for each type of share account.

C. Resolved, that it is the policy and practice of the Board of Directors to meet periodically to establish prospective dividend rates for each type of dividend-bearing share account.

D. Resolved, that if the required transfers to reserves have been made and there are sufficient and available prior and/or current

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earnings available at the end of a dividend period, the officers of the Credit Union are authorized to pay dividends at the rate prospectively established by the Board of Directors for each account for the dividend period. The officers may pay the dividends without any further action of the Board of Directors. The act of paying the dividends shall constitute the declaration of the dividends and shall be a ratification of the prospective dividend rate.

In witness whereof, this is my signature and the date on which I signed this Resolution.

Signature

Date

[Attach list of accounts with prospective dividend rates for each type of account.]

5. *Referencing.* Except where specifically stated otherwise, use of the term “share” in part 707, as in “share account,” also refers to “deposit,” as in “deposit account,” where appropriate (for interest-bearing or non-interest-bearing deposit accounts at some state-chartered credit unions).

(j) Dividend Declaration Date

1. *General.* The importance of the dividend declaration date is to tie the last paid dividend to a certain period of time to place members and potential members on notice that the last paid dividend is different from the next dividend to be paid. In order to achieve this purpose, a credit union may use any of the following methods:

- i. “As of 3/15/95” (the date the board of directors last met and declared the last paid dividend).
- ii. “As of 3/31/95” (the last day of the last dividend period upon which a dividend has been paid).
- iii. “For the period 1/1/95 to 3/31/95” (the last dividend period upon which a dividend has been paid).
- iv. “For the first quarter of 1995” (the last dividend period upon which a dividend has been paid).
- v. “For April 1995” (the last dividend period upon which a dividend has been paid).
- vi. “As of the last dividend declaration date” (the last dividend period upon which a dividend has been paid).

(k) Dividend Period

1. *General.* The dividend period is to be set by a credit union’s board of directors for each account type, e.g., regular share, share draft, money market share, and term share. The most common dividend periods are weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, and annually. Dividend periods need not agree with calendar months, e.g., a monthly

dividend period could begin March 15 and end April 14.

(l) Dividend Rate

1. *General.* The dividend rate does not reflect compounding. Compounding is reflected in the “annual percentage yield” definition.

2. *Referencing.* Except where specifically stated otherwise, use of the term “dividend rate” in part 707 also refers to “interest rate,” where appropriate (for interest-bearing and non-interest-bearing deposit accounts at some state-chartered credit unions).

(m) Extraordinary Dividends

1. *General.* The definition encompasses all irregularly scheduled and declared dividends, and as dividends, extraordinary dividends are exempt from the “bonus” disclosure requirements. Extraordinary dividends do not have to be disclosed on account disclosures, but the dollar amount of an extraordinary dividend credited to the account during the statement period does have to be separately disclosed on the periodic statement for the dividend period during which the extraordinary dividends are earned. Extraordinary dividends, like ordinary dividends, do not include the payment of a bonus or other consideration worth \$10 or less given during a year, the waiver or reduction of a fee, the absorption of expenses or non-dividend membership benefits. See comments 2(f) 1 through 7 and 2(i) 1 through 4. Extraordinary dividends may be calculated by any means determined by the board of directors of a credit union and may not be used in the annual percentage yield earned calculation.

2. *Use of synonym.* Extraordinary dividends may be described as “bonus dividends.”

(n) Fixed-Rate Account

1. *General.* Includes all accounts in which the credit union, by contract, agrees to give at least 30 days advance written notice of decreases in the dividend rate. Thus, credit unions can decrease rates only after providing advance written notice of rate decreases, e.g., a “change-in-terms notice.”

(o) Grace Period

1. *General.* A period after maturity of an automatically renewing term share account during which the member may withdraw funds without being assessed a penalty. Use of a “grace period” is discretionary, not mandatory. This definition does not refer to the “grace period” account, which is a synonym for “federal rollback method” or “in by the 10th” accounts, which are prohibited by TISA and part 707.

(p) Interest

1. *General.* Member savings placed in deposit accounts are debt investments, and the

return earned on these accounts is interest. Federal credit unions are not authorized to offer any interest-bearing deposit accounts. State-chartered credit unions may offer both share and deposit accounts if permitted by state law. State law, including without limitation regulations and official interpretations, will determine if returns earned in accounts in state-chartered credit unions are interest. Interest excludes the payment of a bonus or other consideration worth \$10 or less given during a year, the waiver of reduction of a fee, the absorption of expenses, non-dividend membership benefits, and extraordinary dividends.

2. *Differences between dividends and interest.* Generally, dividends are returns on an equity investment (shares); interest is return on a debt investment (deposits). Dividends, in general, are not properly payable until declared at the close of a dividend period; interest, in general, is properly payable daily according to the deposit contract. Dividend rates are prospective until actually declared; interest rates are set according to contract in advance and are earned on that basis. Share accounts establish a member (owner)/credit union (cooperative) relationship; deposit accounts establish a depositor (creditor)/depository (debtor) relationship.

3. *Referencing.* Except where specifically stated otherwise, use of the terms “dividend” or “dividends” in part 707 also refers to “interest” where appropriate (for interest-bearing and non-interest-bearing deposit accounts at some state-chartered credit unions).

(q) Member

1. *Professional capacity.* Examples of accounts held by a natural person in a professional capacity for another are:

- i. Attorney-client trust accounts.
- ii. Trust, estate and court-ordered accounts.
- iii. Landlord-tenant security accounts.

2. *Other accounts.* Examples of accounts not held in a professional capacity include accounts held by parents for a child under the Uniform Gifts to Minors Act (or Uniform Transfers to Minors Act).

3. *Retirement plans.* IRAs and SEP accounts are member accounts to the extent that funds are invested in accounts subject to the regulation. Keogh accounts, like sole proprietor accounts, are not subject to the regulation.

(r) Non-Dividend Membership Benefits

1. *General.* Term reflects unique credit union practices that are difficult to value, encourage community spirit, and are not granted in such quantity as to be includable as calculable dividends.

2. *Examples.* Examples include:

i. Food, refreshments, and drawings and raffles at annual meetings, member functions, and branch openings.

ii. Travel club benefits.

iii. Prizes offered at annual meetings, such as U.S. Savings Bonds, a deposit of funds into the winner’s account, trips, and other gifts. Such prizes are not bonuses because they are offered as an incentive to increase attendance at the annual meeting, and not to entice members to open, maintain, or renew accounts or increase an account balance.

iv. Life savings benefits.

(s) Passbook Account

1. *Relation to Regulation E.* Passbook accounts include accounts accessed by preauthorized electronic fund transfers to the account (as defined in 12 CFR §205.2(j)), such as an account credited by direct share and deposit of social security payments. Accounts that permit access by other electronic means are not “passbook accounts,” and any statements that are sent four or more times a year must comply with the requirements of §707.6.

(t) Periodic Statement

1. *General.* Periodic statements are not required by part 707. Passbook and term share accounts are exempt from periodic statement requirements.

2. *Examples.* Periodic statements do not include:

- i. Additional statements provided solely upon request.
- ii. Information provided by computer through home electronic credit union account services.
- iii. General service information such as a quarterly newsletter or other correspondence that describes available services and products.

(u) Potential Member

1. *General.* A potential member is a natural person eligible for membership in a credit union, who has not yet taken the steps necessary to become a member. The term also includes natural person nonmembers eligible to hold accounts in a credit union pursuant to relevant federal or state law.

2. *Verification of eligibility.* It is recommended that credit unions have sound written procedures in place to identify those eligible for membership. If these procedures include verification measures, such as an application process, verification telephone call or letter to an employer or association within the field of membership, witnessing by an existing member, or similar procedure, then the credit union may first verify the membership eligibility of a potential member before providing account disclosures or other information to the potential member. This

process of verifying a member's eligibility status, making a recommendation for membership, and providing account disclosures should be completed within 20 calendar days. This period also applies when potential members not on credit union premises request disclosures.

3. *Nonmembers.* Within its sole discretion, the board of directors of a credit union may provide TISA disclosures to nonmembers who are ineligible for membership or to hold an account at the credit union. If disclosures are made to such nonmembers, it is the position of the Board that no civil liability can accrue to the credit union for any errors in such disclosures. (See commentary to § 707.3(d)).

(v) *State*

1. *General.* Territories and possessions include American Samoa, Guam, the Mariana Islands, and the Marshall Islands.

(w) *Stepped-Rate Account*

1. *General.* Stepped-rate accounts are those accounts in which two or more dividend rates (known at the time the account is opened) will take effect in succeeding periods.

2. *Example.* An example of a stepped-rate account is a one-year term share certificate account in which a 5.00% dividend rate is paid for the first six months, and 5.50% for the second six months.

(x) *Term Share Account*

1. *Relation to Regulation D.* Regulation D permits, in limited circumstances, the withdrawal of funds without penalty during the first six days after a "time deposit" is opened. (See 12 CFR 204.2(c)(1)(i).) But the fact that a member makes a withdrawal as permitted by Regulation D does not disqualify the account from being a term share account for purposes of this regulation (such as withdrawals upon the death of the member, or within a "grace period" for automatically renewable term share accounts).

2. *Club accounts.* Club accounts, including Christmas club, holiday club, and vacation club accounts may be either term share or regular share accounts, depending on the terms of the account. Although club accounts typically have a maturity date, they are not term share accounts unless they also require a penalty of at least seven days' dividends for withdrawals during the first six days after the account is opened.

(y) *Tiered-Rate Account*

1. *General.* Tiered-rate accounts are those accounts in which two or more dividend rates are paid on the account and are determined by reference to a specified balance level. Tiered-rate accounts are of two types: Tiering Method A and Tiering Method B. In

Tiering Method A accounts, the credit union pays the applicable tiered dividends rate on the entire amount in the account. This method is also known as the "hybrid" or "plateau" tiered-rate account. In Tiering Method B accounts, the credit union does not pay the applicable tiered dividends rate on the entire amount in the account, but only on the portion of the share account balance that falls within each specified tier. This method is also known as the "pure" or "split-rate" tiered-rate account. (See Appendix A, part I, D.)

2. *Example.* An example of a tiered-rate account is one in which a credit union pays a 5.00% dividend rate on balances below \$1,000, and 5.50% on balances \$1,000 and above.

3. *Term share accounts.* Term share accounts that pay different rates based solely on the amount of the initial share and deposit are not tiered-rate accounts.

4. *Minimum balance accounts.* A requirement to maintain a minimum balance to earn dividends does not make an account a tiered-rate account. If dividends are not paid on amounts below a specified balance level, then the account has a minimum balance requirement (required to be disclosed under § 707.4(b)(3)(i)), but the account does not constitute a tiered-rate account. A zero rate (0%) cannot constitute a tier. Minimum balance accounts are single rate accounts with a minimum balance requirement.

(z) *Variable-Rate Account*

1. *General.* Includes accounts in which the credit union does not contract to give at least 30 days advance written notice of decreases in the dividend rate. An account meets this definition whether the rate change is determined by reference to an index, by use of a formula, or merely at the discretion of the credit union's board of directors. An account that permits one or more rate adjustments prior to maturity at the member's option, such as a rate relock option, is a variable-rate account.

2. *Differences between fixed-rate and variable-rate accounts.* All accounts must either be fixed-rate or variable-rate accounts. Classifying an account as variable-rate affects credit unions three ways:

- i. Additional account disclosures are required (§ 707.4(b)(1)(ii));
- ii. Rate decreases are exempted from change-in-terms requirements (§ 707.5(a)(2)(i)); and
- iii. Advertising notice required (§ 707.8(c)(1)).

Fixed-rate accounts require a contract term obligating the credit union to a 30-day advance, written notice to members before decreasing the dividend rate on the account. Term changes adversely affecting the member and rate decreases cannot take effect until 30 days after such fixed-rate change-in-

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terms notices are mailed or delivered to members (§ 707.5(a)).

Section 707.3—General Disclosure Requirements

(a) Form

1. *General.* All required disclosures (e.g., account disclosures, change-in-terms notices, term share renewal/maturity notices, statement disclosures and advertising disclosures) must be made clearly and conspicuously, in a form the member may retain. Disclosures need be made only as applicable (e.g., disclosures for a non-dividend-bearing account would not include disclosure of annual percentage yield, dividend rate, or other disclosures pertaining to dividend calculations).

2. *Design requirements.* Disclosures must be presented in a format that allows members and potential members to readily understand the terms of their account. Credit unions are not required to use a particular type size or typeface, nor are credit unions required to state any term more conspicuously than any other term. Disclosures may be made:

- i. In any order.
- ii. In combination with other disclosures or account terms.
- iii. In combination with disclosures for other types of accounts, as long as it is clear to members and potential members which disclosures apply to their account.
- iv. On more than one page and on the front and reverse sides.
- v. By using inserts to a document or filling in blanks.
- vi. On more than one document, as long as the documents are provided at the same time.

3. *Consistent terminology.* A credit union must use the same terminology to describe terms or features that are required to be disclosed. For example, if a credit union describes a monthly fee (regardless of account activity), as a “monthly service fee” in account opening disclosures, the periodic statements and change-in-terms notices must use the same terminology so that members and potential members can readily identify the fee.

(b) General

1. *Terms and conditions.* Credit unions are required to have disclosures reflect the terms of the legal obligation between the credit union and a member at the time the member opens the account. This provision does not impose any contract terms or supersede state or other laws that define how the legal obligations between a credit union and its membership are determined.

2. *Specificity of legal obligation.* Credit unions may refer to the calendar month or to roughly equivalent intervals during a calendar year as a “month.” Use of estimates is prohibited in TISA disclosures.

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3. *Foreign language.* Disclosures may be made in any foreign language, if desired by the board of directors of a credit union. However, disclosures must also be provided in English, upon request.

(c) Relation to Regulation E

1. *General rule.* Compliance with Regulation E (12 CFR part 205) is deemed to satisfy the disclosure requirements of this regulation, such as when:

i. A credit union changes a term that triggers a notice under Regulation E, and the timing and disclosure rules of Regulation E for sending change-in-terms notices.

ii. A member adds an ATM access feature to an account, and the credit union provides disclosures pursuant to Regulation E, including disclosure of fees before the member receives ATM access. (See 12 CFR 205.7.)

iii. A credit union complying with the timing rules of Regulation E discloses at the same time fees for electronic services (such as balance inquiry fees imposed if the inquiry is made at an ATM) that are required to be disclosed by this regulation, but not by Regulation E.

iv. A credit union relies on Regulation E’s rules regarding disclosures of limitations on the frequency and amount of electronic fund transfers, including security-related exceptions. But any limitation on the number of “intra-institutional transfers” to or from the member’s other accounts at the credit union during a given time period must be disclosed, even though intra-institutional transfers are exempt from Regulation E.

(d) Multiple Members

1. *General.* When an account has multiple natural person member accountholders, delivery of disclosures to any member accountholder or agent authorized by the accountholder satisfies the disclosure requirements of part 707.

(e) Oral Response to Inquiries

1. *Application of rule.* Credit unions need not provide rate information orally. Disclosures need be made only as appropriate. For example, the requirement to give a telephone number for a member to call about rates for interest-bearing accounts and dividend-bearing term share accounts, would not be necessary for members calling the credit union for information. Also, the disclosure requirements are applicable only to credit union employees and volunteers acting in the ordinary course of credit union business.

2. *Relation to advertising.* The advertising rules do not cover an oral response to a question about rates.

3. *Existing accounts.* This paragraph does not apply to oral responses about rate information for existing term share accounts or accounts not currently offered. For example,

if a member holding a one-year term share account requests dividend rate information about the account during the term, the credit union need not disclose the annual percentage yield, unless the member is calling for rate information under a maturity notice.

(f) Rounding and Accuracy Rules for Rates and Yields

(f)(1) Rounding

1. *Permissible rounding.* The annual percentage yield, annual percentage yield earned and dividend rate must be rounded to the nearest one-hundredth of one percentage point (.01%) when disclosed. Examples of permissible rounding are an annual percentage yield calculated to be 5.644%, rounded down and shown as 5.64%; 5.645% would be rounded up and disclosed as 5.65%. For account disclosures, the dividend rate may be expressed to more than two decimal places.

(f)(2) Accuracy

1. *Annual percentage yield and annual percentage yield earned.* The tolerance for annual percentage yield and annual percentage yield earned calculations is designed to accommodate inadvertent errors. Credit unions may not purposely incorporate the one-twentieth of one percentage point (.05%) tolerance into their calculation of yields.

2. *Dividend rate.* There is no tolerance for an inaccuracy in the dividend rate.

Section 707.4—Account Disclosures

(a) Delivery of Account Disclosures

(a)(1) Account Opening

1. *New accounts.* New account disclosures must be provided when:

i. A term share account that does not automatically rollover is renewed by a member.

ii. A member changes the term for a renewable term share account (from a one-year term share account to a six-month term share account, for instance) (see comment 5(b)–5 regarding disclosure alternatives).

iii. A credit union transfers funds from an account to open a new account not at the member's request, unless the credit union previously gave account disclosures and any change-in-terms notices for the new account (e.g., funds in a money market share account are transferred by a credit union to open a new account for the member, such as a share draft account, because the member exceeded transaction limitations on the money market share account).

iv. A credit union accepts a deposit from a member to an account that the credit union had previously deemed to be "closed," under applicable federal or state law, for the purpose of treating accrued, but uncredited, dividends as forfeited dividends. New ac-

count numbers are not required by this requirement.

2. *Acquired accounts.* New account disclosures need not be given when a credit union acquires an account through an acquisition of, or merger with, another credit union (but see §707.5(a) regarding advance notice requirements if terms are changed).

3. *Combination disclosures.* New account disclosures need not be given when a member has already received disclosures covering several accounts, and opens a new account properly disclosed by the already received combination disclosures, if the new account is opened within a reasonable amount of time after receipt of the combination disclosures and if the received disclosures and terms are accurate at the time the new account is opened.

(a)(2) Requests

(a)(2)(i)

1. *Inquiries versus requests.* A response to an oral inquiry (by telephone or in person) about rates and yields or fees does not trigger the duty to provide account disclosures. But, when a member asks for written information about an account (whether by telephone, in person, or by other means), the credit union must provide disclosures unless the account is no longer offered to the public.

2. *General requests.* When member's or potential member's request disclosures about a type of account (a share draft account, for example), a credit union that offers several variations may provide disclosures for any one of them. No disclosures need be made to nonmembers, though a credit union may provide disclosures to nonmembers within its sole discretion.

3. *Timing for response.* Twenty calendar days is a reasonable time for responding to a request for account information that a member does not make in person.

(a)(2)(ii)(A)(2)

1. *Recent rates.* Credit unions comply with this paragraph if they disclose an interest rate (or dividend rate on a dividend-bearing term share account) and annual percentage yield accurate within the seven calendar days preceding the date they send the disclosures.

(a)(2)(ii)(B)

1. *Term.* Describing the maturity of a term share account as "1 year" or "6 months," for example, illustrates a response stating the maturity of a term share account as a term rather than a date (e.g., "June 1, 1995").

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(b) Content of Account Disclosures

(b)(1) Rate Information

(b)(1)(i) Annual Percentage Yield and Dividend Rate

1. *Rate disclosures.* In addition to the dividend rate and annual percentage yield, credit unions may disclose a periodic rate corresponding to the dividend rate. No other rate or yield (such as “tax effective yield”) is permitted. If the annual percentage yield is the same as the dividend rate, credit unions may disclose a single figure but must use both terms.

2. *Fixed-rate accounts.* For fixed-rate term share accounts paying the opening rate until maturity, credit unions may disclose the period of time the dividend rate will be in effect by stating, or cross-referencing, the maturity date. For other fixed-rate accounts, credit unions may use a date (such as “This rate will be in effect through June 30, 1995”) or a period (such as “This rate will be in effect for at least 30 days”).

3. *Tiered-rate accounts.* Each dividend rate, along with the corresponding annual percentage yield for each specified balance level (or range of annual percentage yields, if appropriate), must be disclosed for tiered-rate accounts. (See Appendix A, Part I, Paragraph D.)

4. *Stepped-rate accounts.* A single composite annual percentage yield must be disclosed for stepped-rate accounts. (See Appendix A, Part I, Paragraph B.) The dividend rates and the period of time each will be in effect also must be provided. When the initial rate offered for a specified time on a variable-rate account is higher or lower than the rate that would otherwise be paid on the account, the calculation of the annual percentage yield must be made as if for a stepped-rate account. (See Appendix A, Part I, Paragraph C.)

5. *Minimum balance accounts.* If a credit union sets a minimum balance to earn dividends, the credit union may, but need not, state that the annual percentage yield is 0% for those days the balance in the account drops below the minimum balance level when using the daily balance method. Nor is a disclosure of 0% required for credit unions using the average daily balance method, if the member fails to meet the minimum balance required for the average daily balance period.

(b)(1)(ii) Variable Rates

(b)(1)(ii)(B)

1. *Determining dividend rates.* To disclose how the dividend rate is determined, credit unions must:

i. Identify the index and specific margin, if the dividend rate is tied to an index.

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ii. State that rate changes are within the credit union’s discretion, if the credit union does not tie changes to an index.

(b)(1)(ii)(C)

1. *Frequency of rate changes.* A credit union reserving the right to change rates at its discretion must state the fact that rates may change at any time.

(b)(1)(ii)(D)

1. *Limitations.* A floor or ceiling on rates or on the amount the rate may decrease or increase during any time period must be disclosed. Credit unions need not disclose the absence of limitations on rate changes.

(b)(2) Compounding and Crediting

(b)(2)(i) Frequency

1. *General.* Descriptions such as “quarterly” or “monthly” are sufficient. Irregular crediting and compounding periods, such as if a cycle is out short at year end for tax reporting purposes, need not be disclosed.

2. *Dividend period.* For dividend-bearing accounts, the dividend period must be disclosed. (A specific example must also be given, see Appendix B, §B–1(c).) The dividend period for term share accounts generally may be disclosed as the account’s term (e.g., two years).

(b)(2)(ii) Effect of Closing an Account

1. *Deeming an account closed.* A credit union may, subject to state or other law, provide in account contracts the actions by members that will be treated as closing the account and that will result in the forfeiture of accrued but uncredited dividends. An example is the withdrawal of all funds from the account prior to the date dividends are credited. Credit unions are cautioned that bylaw requirements may prevent a credit union from deeming a member’s account closed until certain time periods are extinguished if funds remain in a member’s account. *NCUA Standard FCU Bylaws*, Art. III, §3 (members have at least 6 months to replenish membership share before membership terminates and account is deemed closed). Such bylaw requirements may not be overridden without proper agency approval.

(b)(3) Balance Information

(b)(3)(i) Minimum Balance Requirements

1. *Par value.* Credit unions must disclose any minimum balance required to open the account, to avoid the imposition of a fee, or to obtain the annual percentage yield. Since members cannot generally maintain any accounts until the par value of the membership share is paid in full, this section requires that credit unions disclose the par value of a share necessary to become a member and

maintain accounts at the credit union. The par value of a share and the minimum balance requirement do not have to be the same amount (e.g., a credit union may have a \$5 par value for a membership share, in order for accounts to be opened and maintained, and a \$100 minimum balance requirement, in order for the account to earn dividends).

2. *Disclosures.* The explanation of minimum balance computation methods may be combined with the balance computation method disclosures (§707.4(b)(3)(ii)) if they are the same. If a credit union uses different cycles for determining minimum balance requirements for purposes of assessing fees and for paying dividends, the credit union must disclose the specific cycle or time period used for each purpose (e.g., use of a midmonth statement cycle for determining dividends, and use of a calendar month cycle for determining fees). Credit unions may assess fees by using any method. If fees on one account are tied to the balance in another account, such provision must be explained (e.g., if share draft fees are tied to a minimum balance in the regular share account (or a combination of the share draft and regular share accounts), the share draft account must explain that fact and how the balance in the regular share account (or both accounts) is determined). The fee need not be disclosed in the account disclosures if the fee is not imposed on that account.

(b)(3)(ii) *Balance Computation Method*

1. *Methods and periods.* Credit unions may use different methods or periods to calculate minimum balances for purposes of imposing a fee (the daily balance for a calendar month, for example) and accruing dividends (the average daily balance for a statement period, for example). Each method and corresponding period must be disclosed.

(b)(3)(iii) *When dividends begin to accrue*

1. *Additional information.* Credit unions must include a statement as to when dividends begin to accrue for noncash deposits. Credit unions may disclose additional information such as the time of day after which deposits are treated as having been received the following business day, and may use additional descriptive terms such as “ledger” or “collected” balances to disclose when dividends begin to accrue. Under the ledger balance method, dividends begin to accrue on the day of deposit. Under the collected balance methods, dividends begin to accrue when provisional credit is received for the item deposited.

(b)(4) *Fees*

1. *Types of fees.* Fees related to the routine use of an account must be disclosed. The following are types of fees that must be disclosed in connection with an account:

- i. Maintenance fees, such as monthly service fees.
- ii. Fees related to share deposits or withdrawals.
- iii. Fees for special services, such as stop payment fees, fees for balance inquiries or verification of share and deposits, fees associated with checks returned unpaid, fees for regularly sending to members share drafts that otherwise would be held by the credit union, and overdraft line of credit access fees (if charged against the share account).
- iv. Fees to open or to close an account.
- v. Fees imposed upon dormant or inactive accounts.

2. *Other fees.* Credit unions need not disclose fees such as the following:

- i. Fees for services offered to members and nonmembers alike, such as fees for certain travelers checks, for wire transfers and automated clearinghouse (ACH) transfers, to process credit card cash advances, or to handle U.S. Savings Bond Redemption (even if different amounts are charged to members and nonmembers).
- ii. Incidental fees, such as fees associated with state escheat laws, garnishment or attorneys fees, to change names on an account, to generate a midcycle periodic statement, to wrap loose coins, for photocopying, for statements returned to the credit union because of a wrong address, and locator fees.

3. *Amount of fees.* Credit unions are cautioned that merely providing fee information in an account disclosure may not be sufficient to gain the legal right to impose the fee involved under applicable law. Credit unions must state the amount and conditions under which a fee may be imposed. Naming and describing the fee typically satisfies this requirement. Some examples are:

- i. “\$4.00 monthly service fee”.
- ii. “\$7.00 and up” or “fee depends on style of checks ordered” for check printing fees.

4. *Tied-accounts.* Credit unions must state if fees that may be assessed against an account are tied to other accounts at the credit union. For example, if a credit union ties the fees payable on a share draft account to balances held in the share draft account and in a regular share account, the share draft account disclosures must state that fact and explain how the fee is determined.

5. *Regulation E statements.* Some fees are required to be disclosed under both Regulation E (12 CFR 205.7) and part 707. If such fees, such as ATM transaction fees, are disclosed on a Regulation E statement, they need not be disclosed again on a periodic statement required under part 707.

(b)(5) *Transaction Limitations*

1. *General rule.* Examples of limitations on the number of dollar amount of share deposits or withdrawals that credit unions must disclose are:

i. Limits on the number of share drafts or checks that may be written on an account for a given time period.

ii. Limits on withdrawals or share deposits during the term of a term share account.

iii. Limitations required by Regulation D, such as the number of withdrawals permitted from money market share accounts by check to third parties each month (credit unions need not disclose reservation of right to require a notice for withdrawals from accounts required by federal or state law).

(b)(6) *Features of Term Share Accounts*

(b)(6)(i) *Time Requirements*

1. “Callable” term share accounts. In addition to the maturity date, credit unions must state the date or the circumstances under which the credit union may redeem a term share account at the credit union’s option (a “callable” term share account).

(b)(6)(ii) *Early Withdrawal Penalties*

1. *General.* The term “penalty” may, but need not, be used to describe the loss that may be incurred by members for early withdrawal of funds from term share accounts.

2. *Examples.* Examples of early withdrawal penalties are:

i. Monetary penalties, such a specific dollar amount (e.g., “\$10.00”) or a specific days’ worth of dividends (e.g., “seven days’ dividends plus accrued but uncredited dividends, but only if the account is closed”).

ii. Adverse changes to terms such as the lowering of the dividend rate, annual percentage yield, or reducing the compounding or crediting frequency for funds remaining in shares or on deposit.

iii. Reclamation of bonuses.

3. *Relation to rules for IRAs or similar plans.* Penalties imposed by the Internal Revenue Code for certain withdrawals from IRAs or similar pension or savings plans are not early withdrawal penalties for purposes of this regulation.

4. *Disclosing penalties.* Penalties may be stated in months, whether credit unions assess the penalty using the actual number of days during the period or using another method such as a number of days that occurs in any actual sequence of the total calendar months involved. For example, stating “one month’s dividends” is permissible, whether the credit union assesses 30 days’ dividends during the month of April, or selects a time period between 28 and 31 days for calculating the dividends for all early withdrawals regardless of when the penalty is assessed.

(b)(6)(iv) *Renewal Policies*

1. *Rollover term share accounts.* Credit unions are not required to provide a grace period, to pay dividends during the grace period, or to disclose whether or not dividends

will be paid during the grace period. Credit unions offering a grace period on term share accounts must give the length of the grace period. Commentary, Appendix B, Model Clauses, §B–1(i)(iv).

2. *Nonrollover term share accounts.* Credit unions that pay dividends on funds following the maturity of term share accounts that do not renew automatically need not state the rate (or annual percentage yield) that may be paid.

(b)(7) *Bonuses*

1. *General.* Credit unions are required to state the amount and type of bonus, and disclose any minimum balance or time requirement to obtain the bonus and when the bonus will be provided. If the minimum balance or time requirement is otherwise required to be disclosed, credit unions need not duplicate the disclosure for purposes of this paragraph.

(b)(8) *Nature of Dividends*

1. *General.* Dividends are not payable until declared and unless sufficient current and undivided earnings are available after required transfers to reserves at the close of a dividend period. A disclosure explaining dividends educates members and protects credit unions in the event that a prospective dividend cannot be paid, or is not properly payable. This disclosure is required for all dividend-bearing share accounts. Term share accounts need not include a statement regarding the nature of dividends.

2. *State-chartered credit unions with interest-bearing deposit accounts.* State law controls the nature of accounts (i.e., whether an account is a share account or a deposit account). If a member of a state-chartered credit union is opening only an interest-bearing deposit account, or is requesting account disclosures only for an interest-bearing deposit account (if state law requires the depositor to hold a share account), the disclosures must generally include the following information on any dividend-bearing share portion of the account (e.g., membership share): the par value of a share; a statement that the portion of the deposit that represents the par value of the membership share will earn dividends, and that dividends are paid from current income and available earnings after required transfers to reserves. Further additional disclosures, such as a separate dividend rate and annual percentage yield for the membership share, are not required (if the additional disclosures would agree with the remainder of the account which is invested in an interest-bearing deposit).

(c) *Notice to Existing Accountholders*

1. *General.* Only members who receive periodic statements (provided regularly at least

four times per year) and who hold accounts of the type offered by the credit union as of the compliance date of part 707 (generally January 1, 1995) must receive the notice. If following receipt of the notice members request disclosures, credit unions have twenty calendar days from receipt of the request to provide the disclosures. Rate and annual percentage yield information in such disclosures must conform to that required for disclosures upon request. As an alternative to including the notice in or on the periodic statement, the final rule permits credit unions to send the account disclosures themselves, as long as they are sent at the same time as the periodic statement (the disclosures may be mailed either with the periodic statement or separately).

2. *Form of the notice.* The notice may be included on the periodic statement, in a member newsletter, or on a statement stuffer or other insert, if it is clear and conspicuous. The notice cannot be sent in a separate mailing from the periodic statement.

3. *Timing.* The notice may accompany the first periodic statement after the compliance date for part 707, or the periodic statement for the first cycle beginning after that date. For example, a credit union's statement cycle is December 15, 1994-January 14, 1995. The statement is mailed on January 15. The next cycle is January 15, 1995 through February 14, 1995, and the statement for that cycle is mailed on February 15. The credit union may provide the notice either on or with the January 15 statement or on or with the February 15 statement, as it covers the first cycle after January 1, 1995.

4. *Early compliance.* Credit unions that provide the notice to existing members prior to the compliance date of part 707, must be prepared to provide accurate and timely disclosures when, following receipt of the notice, members ask for account disclosures. Such disclosures must be provided even if they are requested before the compliance date of part 707. Credit unions who provide early notice to existing members need to comply with other aspects of part 707, but need not provide disclosures already provided in compliance with part 707.

Section 707.5—Subsequent Disclosures

(a) Change in Terms

(a)(1) Advance Notice required

1. *Form of notice.* Credit unions may provide a change-in-term notice on or with a regular periodic statement or in another mailing (such as a highlighted portion of a newsletter or statement stuffer insert). If a credit union provides notice through revised account disclosures, the changed term must be highlighted in some manner. For example, credit unions may state that a particular fee has been changed (also specifying the new

amount) or use an accompanying letter that refers to the changed term. Credit unions are cautioned that unless credit unions have reserved the right to change terms in the account agreement or disclosures, a change-in-terms notice may not be sufficient to amend the terms under applicable law.

2. *Effective date.* An example of a language for disclosing the effective date of a change is: "As of May 11, 1995".

3. *Terms that change upon the occurrence of an event.* A credit union offering terms that will automatically change upon the occurrence of a stated event need not send an advance notice of the change provided the credit union fully describes the conditions of the change in the account opening disclosures (and sends any change-in-term notices regardless of whether the changed term affects that member's account at that time).

4. *Examples.* Examples of changes not requiring an advance change-in-terms notice are:

i. The termination of employment for employee-members for whom account maintenance or activity fees were waived during their employment by the credit union.

ii. The expiration of one year in a promotion described in the account opening disclosures to "waive \$4.00 monthly service charges for one year".

(a)(2) No Notice Required

(a)(2)(ii) Check Printing Fees

1. *Increase in fees.* A notice is not required for an increase in fees for printing share drafts (or deposit and withdrawal slips) even if the credit union adds some amount to the price charged by the vendor.

(b) Notice Before Maturity for Term Share Accounts Longer Than One Month That Renew Automatically.

1. *Maturity dates on nonbusiness days.* In determining the term of a term share account, credit unions may disregard the fact that the term will be extended beyond the disclosed number of days if the maturity date falls on a nonbusiness day. For example, a holiday or weekend may cause a "one-year" term share account to extend beyond 365 days (or 366, in a leap year), or a "one-month" term share account to extend beyond 31 days.

2. *Disclosing when rates will be determined.* Ways to disclose when the annual percentage yield will be available include the use of:

i. A specific date, such as "October 28".

ii. A date that is easily discernible, such as "the Tuesday prior to the maturity date stated on the notice" or "as of the maturity date stated on this notice".

3. *Alternative timing rule.* Under the alternative timing rule, a credit union that offers a 10-day grace period would have to provide the disclosures at least 10 calendar days prior to the scheduled maturity date.

4. *Club accounts.* If members have agreed to the transfer of payments from another account to a club term share account for the next club period, the credit union must comply with the requirements for automatically renewable term share accounts—even though members may withdraw funds from the club account at the end of the current club period.

5. *Renewal of a term share account.* In the case of a change-in-terms that becomes effective if a rollover term share account is subsequently renewed:

i. If the change is initiated by the credit union, the disclosure requirements of this paragraph apply. (Section 707.5(a) applies if the change becomes effective prior to the maturity of the existing term share account.)

ii. If the change is initiated by the member, the account opening disclosure requirements of §707.4(b) apply. (If the notice required by this paragraph has been provided, credit unions may give new account disclosures or disclosures that reflect the new term.)

6. *Example.* If a member receives a notice prior to maturity on a one-year term share account and requests a rollover to a six-month account, the credit union must provide either account opening disclosures including the new maturity date or, if all other terms previously disclosed in the pre-maturity notice remain the same, only the new maturity date.

(b)(1) Maturities of Longer Than One Year

1. *Highlighting changed terms.* Credit unions need not highlight terms that have changed since the last account disclosures were provided.

(c) Notice Before Maturity for Term Share Accounts Longer Than One Year That Do not Renew Automatically

1. *Subsequent account.* When funds are transferred following maturity of a nonrollover term share account, credit unions need not provide account disclosures unless a new account is established.

Section 707.6—Periodic Statement Disclosures

(a) Rule When Statement and Crediting Periods Vary

1. *General.* Credit unions are not required to provide periodic statements. If they provide periodic statements, disclosures need only be furnished to the extent applicable. For example, if no dividends are earned for a statement period, credit unions need not state that fact. Or, credit unions may disclose “\$0” dividends earned and “0%” annual percentage yield earned.

2. *Regulation E interim statements.* When a credit union provides regular quarterly statements, and in addition provides a monthly interim statement to comply with Regulation E, the interim statement need not comply with this section unless it states dividend or rate information. (See 12 CFR 205.9). For credit unions that choose not to treat Regulation E activity statements as part 707 periodic statements, the quarterly periodic statement must reflect the annual percentage yield earned and dividends earned for the full quarter. However, credit unions choosing this option need not redisclose fees already disclosed on an interim Regulation E activity statement on the quarterly periodic statement. For credit unions that choose to treat Regulation E activity statements as part 707 periodic statements, the Regulation E statement must meet all part 707 requirements.

3. *Combined statements.* Credit unions may provide certain information about an account (such as a money market share account or regular share account) on the periodic statement for another account (such as a share draft account) without triggering the disclosures required by this section, as long as:

i. The information is limited to information such as the account number, the type of account, balance information, accountholders’ names, and social security or tax identification number; and

ii. The credit union also provides members a periodic statement complying with this section for the account (the money market share account or regular share account, in the example).

4. *Other information.* Additional information that may be given on or with a periodic statement, includes:

i. Dividend rates and corresponding periodic rates to the dividend rate applied to balances during the statement period.

ii. The dollar amount of dividends earned year-to-date.

iii. Bonuses paid (or any *de minimis* consideration of \$10 or less).

iv. Fees for other products, such as safe deposit boxes.

v. Accounts not covered by the periodic statement disclosure requirements (passbook and term share accounts) may disclose any information on the statement related to such accounts, so long as such information is accurate and not misleading.

5. *When statement and crediting periods vary.* This rule permits credit unions, on dividend-bearing share accounts, to report the annual percentage yield earned and the amount of dividends earned on a statement other than on each periodic statement when the dividend period does not agree with, varies from, or is different than, the statement period. For dividend-bearing share accounts, credit

unions may disclose the required information either upon each periodic statement, or on the statement on which dividends are actually earned (credited or posted) to the member's account. In addition, for accounts using the average daily balance method of calculating dividends, when the average daily balance period and the statement periods do not agree, vary or are different, credit unions may also report annual percentage yield earned and the dollar amount of dividends earned on the periodic statement on which the dividends or interest is earned. For example, if a credit union has quarterly dividend periods, or uses a quarterly average daily balance on an account, the first two monthly statements may not state annual percentage yield earned and dividends earned figures; the third "monthly" statement will reflect the dividends earned and the annual percentage yield earned for the entire quarter. The fees imposed disclosure must be given on the periodic statement on which they are imposed.

6. *Length of the period.* Credit unions must disclose the length of both the dividend period (or average daily balance calculation period) and the statement period. For example, a statement could disclose a statement period of April 16 through May 15 and further state that "the dividends earned and the annual percentage yield earned are based on your dividend period (or average daily balance) for the period April 1 through April 30."

7. *Dividend period more frequent than statement period.* Credit unions that calculate dividends on a monthly basis, but send statements on a quarterly basis, may disclose a single dividend (and annual percentage yield earned) figure. Alternatively, a credit union may disclose three dividends earned and three annual percentage yield earned figures, one of each month in the quarter, as long as the credit union states the number of days (or beginning and ending date) in each dividend period if it varies from the statement period.

8. *Additional voluntary disclosures.* For credit unions not disclosing the annual percentage yield earned and dividends earned on all periodic statements, credit unions may place a notice on statements without dividends and annual percentage yield earned figures, that the annual percentage yield earned and dollar amount of dividends earned will appear on the first statement at the close of the dividend (or average daily balance) period, or similar wording. Credit unions may also choose to include a telephone number to call for interim information, if desired by a member.

(b) *Statement Disclosures*

(b)(1) *Annual Percentage Yield Earned*

1. *Ledger and collected balances.* Credit unions that accrue interest using the collected balance method may use either the ledger or collected balance methods to determine the balance used to determine the annual percentage yield earned. Ledger balance means the record of the balance in a member's account, as per the credit union's records. (The ledger balance may reflect additions and deposits for which the credit union has not yet received final payment). Collected balance means the record of balance in a member's account reflecting collected funds, that is, cash or checks deposited in the credit union which have been presented for payment and for which payment has actually been received. (See Regulation CC, 12 CFR 229.14).

(b)(2) *Amount of Dividends or Interest*

1. *Definition of earned.* The term "earned" is defined to include dividends and interest either "accrued" or "paid and credited." Credit unions may use either the "ledger" or the "collected" balance for either option. (See 707.6(b)(1)1. and 707.7(c)2. of this appendix.)

2. *Accrued interest.* Credit unions must state the amount of interest that accrued during the statement period, even if it was not credited.

3. *Terminology.* In disclosing dividends earned for the period, credit unions must use the term "dividends" or terminology such as: "Dividends paid," to describe dividends that have been credited; "Dividends accrued," to indicate that dividends are not yet credited.

4. *Closed accounts.* If a member closes an account between crediting periods and forfeits accrued dividends, the credit union may not show any figures for "dividends earned" or annual percentage yield earned for the period (other than zero, at the credit union's option).

5. *Extraordinary dividends.* Extraordinary dividends are not a component of the annual percentage yield earned or the dividend rate, but are an addition to the member's account. The dollar amount of the extraordinary dividends paid, denoted as a separate, identified figure, must be disclosed on the periodic statement on which the extraordinary dividends are earned. A credit union may also disclose information regarding the calculation of the extraordinary dividends, and additional annual percentage yield earned and dividend rate figures taking into account the extraordinary dividend, so long as such information is accurate and not misleading.

(b)(3) Fees Imposed

1. *General.* Periodic statements must state fees disclosed under §707.4(b) that were debited to the account during the statement period, even if assessed for an earlier period.

2. *Itemizing fees by type.* In itemizing fees imposed more than once in the period, credit unions may group fees if they are the same type. But, the description must make clear that the dollar figure represents more than a single fee, for example, “total fees for checks written this period.”

Examples of fees that may *not* be grouped together are:

i. Monthly maintenance with excess activity fees.

ii. “Transfer” fees, if different dollar amounts are imposed—such as \$.50 for share deposits and \$1.00 for withdrawals.

iii. Fees for electronic fund transfers with fees for other services, such as balance inquiry or maintenance fees.

3. *Identifying fees.* Statement details must enable the member to identify the specific fee. For example:

i. Credit unions may use a code to identify a particular fee if the code is explained on the periodic statement or in documents accompanying the statement.

ii. Credit unions using debit slips may disclose the date the fee was debited on the periodic statement and show the amount and type of fee on the dated debit slip.

4. *Relation to Regulation E.* Disclosure of fees in compliance with Regulation E complies with this section for fees related to electronic fund transfers (for example, totaling all electronic funds transfer fees in a single figure).

(b)(4) Length of Period

1. *General.* Credit unions providing the beginning and ending dates of the period must make clear whether both dates are included in the period. For example, stating “April 1 through April 30” would clearly indicate that both April 1 and April 30 are included in the period.

2. *Opening or closing an account mid-cycle.* If an account is opened or closed during the period for which a statement is sent, credit unions must calculate the annual percentage yield earned based on account balances for each day the account was open.

Section 707.7—Payment of Dividends

(a) Permissible Methods

1. *Prohibited calculation methods.* Calculation methods that do not comply with the requirement to pay dividends on the full amount of principal in the account each day include:

i. The “rollback” method, also known as the “grace period” or “in by the 10th” meth-

od, where credit unions pay dividends on the lowest balance in the account for the period.

ii. The “increments of par value” method, where credit unions only pay dividends on full shares in an account, e.g., a credit union with \$5 par value shares pays dividends on \$20 of a \$24 account balance.

iii. The “ending balance” method, where credit unions pay dividends on the balance in the account at the end of the period.

iv. The “investable balance” method, where credit unions pay dividends on a percentage of the balance, excluding an amount credit unions set aside for reserve requirements.

v. The “low balance” method, where credit unions pay dividends on the lowest balance in the account for any day in that period.

2. *Use of 365-day basis.* Credit unions may apply a daily periodic rate that is greater than $\frac{1}{365}$ of the dividend rate—such as $\frac{1}{360}$ of the dividend rate—as long as it is applied 365 days a year.

3. *Periodic dividend payments.* A credit union can pay dividends each day on the account and still make uniform dividend payments. For example, for a one-year term share account, a credit union could make monthly dividend payments that are equal to $\frac{1}{12}$ of the amount of dividends that will be earned for a 365-day period (or 11 uniform monthly payments—each equal to roughly $\frac{1}{12}$ of the total amount of dividends—and one payment that accounts to the remainder of the total amount of dividends earned for the period).

4. *Leap year.* Credit unions may apply a daily rate of $\frac{1}{366}$ or $\frac{1}{365}$ of the dividend rate for 366 days in a leap year, if the account will earn dividends for February 29.

5. *Maturity of term share accounts.* Credit unions are not required to pay dividends after term share accounts mature. Examples include:

i. During any grace period offered by a credit union for an automatically renewable term share account, if the member decides during that period not to renew the account.

ii. Following the maturity of nonrollover term share accounts.

iii. When the maturity date falls on a holiday, and the member must wait until the next business day to obtain the funds.

6. *Dormant accounts.* Credit unions must pay dividends on funds in an account, even if inactivity or the infrequency of transactions would permit the credit union to consider the account to be “inactive” or “dormant” (or similar status) as defined by state or other law or the account contract.

7. *Insufficient funds.* Credit unions are not required to pay dividends on checks or share drafts deposited to a member’s account that are returned for insufficient funds. If a credit union accrues dividends on a check that it later determines is not good, it may deduct

from the accrued dividends any dividends attributed to the proceeds of the returned check. If dividends have already been credited before the credit union determines the item has insufficient funds, the credit union may deduct the amount of the check and associated dividends from the account balance. The amount deducted will not be reflected in the dividend amount and annual percentage yield earned reported for the next period.

8. *Account drawn below par value of a share.* If a member draws his or her account below the par value of a share, dividends would continue to accrue on the account so long as any minimum balance requirement is met. However, under the *NCUA Standard FCU By-laws*, if a member who reduces his or her share balance below the value of a par value share and does not increase the balance within at least six months, the credit union may terminate the member's membership. State-chartered credit unions may have similar termination provisions.

(a)(2) *Determination of Minimum Balance to Earn Dividends*

1. *General.* Credit unions may set minimum balance requirements that must be met in order to earn dividends. However, credit unions must use the same method to determine a minimum balance required to earn dividends as they use to determine the balance upon which dividends will accrue and pay. For example, a credit union that calculates dividends on the daily balance method must use the daily balance method to determine if the minimum balance to earn dividends has been met. Similarly, a credit union that calculates dividends on the average daily balance method must use the average daily balance method to determine if the minimum to earn dividends has been met. Credit unions may have a par value of a share that is different from the minimum balance requirement to earn dividends. (See commentary to § 707.4(b)(3)(i)).

2. *Daily balance accounts.* Credit unions that require a minimum balance to earn dividends may choose not to pay dividends for days when the balance drops below the required minimum balance if they use the daily balance method to calculate dividends. For example, a credit union could set a minimum daily balance level of \$200 and pay dividends only those days the \$200 daily balance is maintained.

3. *Average daily balance accounts.* Credit unions that require a minimum balance to earn dividends may choose not to pay dividends for the average daily balance calculation period in which the average daily balance drops below the required minimum, if they use the average daily balance method to calculate dividends. For example, a credit union could set a minimum average daily balance level of \$200 and pay dividends only

if the \$200 average daily balance is met for the calculation period.

4. *Beneficial method.* Credit unions may not require members to maintain both a minimum daily balance and a minimum average daily balance to earn dividends, such as by requiring the member to maintain a \$500 daily balance and a prescribed average daily balance (whether higher or lower). But a credit union could offer a minimum balance to earn dividends that includes an additional method that is "unequivocally beneficial" to the member such as the following:

i. A credit union using the daily balance method to calculate dividends and requiring a \$500 minimum daily balance could choose to pay dividends on the account (for those days the minimum balance is not met) as long as the member maintained an average daily balance throughout the month of \$400.

ii. A credit union using the average daily balance method to calculate dividends and requiring a \$400 minimum average daily balance could choose to pay dividends on the account as long as the member maintained a daily balance of \$500 for at least half of the days in the period.

iii. A credit union using either the daily balance method or average daily balance method to calculate dividends that requires: (A) a \$500 daily balance; or (B) a \$400 average daily balance to pay dividends on the account.

5. *Paying on full balance.* Credit unions must pay dividends on the full balance in the account that meets the required minimum balance. For example, if \$300 is the minimum daily balance required to earn dividends, and a member deposits \$500, the credit union must pay the stated dividend rate on the full \$500 and not just on the \$200.

6. *Negative balances prohibited.* Credit unions must treat a negative account balance as zero to determine:

i. The daily or average daily balance on which dividends will be paid.

ii. Whether any minimum balance to earn dividends is met. (See commentary to Appendix A, Part II, which prohibits credit unions from using negative balances in calculating the dividends figure for the annual percentage yield earned.)

7. *Club accounts.* Credit unions offering club accounts (such as a "holiday" or "vacation" club accounts) cannot impose a minimum balance requirement for dividends based on the total number or dollar amount of payments required under the club plan. For example, if a plan calls for \$10 weekly payments for 50 weeks, the credit union cannot set a \$500 minimum balance and then pay only if the member makes all 50 payments.

8. *Minimum balances not affecting dividends.* Credit unions may use the daily balance, average daily balance, or other computation method to calculate minimum balance requirements not involving the payment of

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dividends—such as to compute minimum balances for assessing fees.

(b) Compounding and Crediting Policies

1. *General.* Credit unions choosing to compound dividends may compound or credit dividends annually, semi-annually, quarterly, monthly, daily, continuously, or on any other basis.

2. *Withdrawals prior to crediting date.* If members withdraw funds (without closing the account), prior to a scheduled crediting date, credit unions may delay paying the accrued dividends on the withdrawn amount until the scheduled crediting date, but may not avoid paying dividends.

3. *Closed accounts.* Subject to state or other law, a credit union may choose not to pay accrued dividends if members close an account prior to the date accrued dividends are credited, as long as the credit union has disclosed that fact. If accrued dividends are paid, accrued dividends must be paid on funds up until the account is closed or the account is deemed closed. For example, if an account is closed on a Tuesday, accrued dividends on the funds through Monday would be paid. Whether (and the conditions under which) credit unions are permitted to deem an account closed by a member is determined by state or other law, if any. Credit unions are cautioned that bylaw requirements may prevent a credit union from deeming a member's account closed until certain time periods are extinguished. (See *NCUA Standard FCU Bylaws*, Art. III, §3 (members have at least 6 months to replenish membership share before membership can terminate and the account is deemed closed). Such bylaw requirements may not be overridden without proper agency approval.)

(c) Date Dividends Begin to Accrue

1. *Relation to Regulation CC.* Credit unions may rely on the Expedited Funds Availability Act (EFAA) and Regulation CC (12 CFR part 229) to determine, for example, when a deposit is considered made for purposes of dividend accrual, or when dividends need not be paid on funds because a deposited check is later returned unpaid.

2. *Ledger and collected balances.* Credit unions may calculate dividends by using a "ledger" balance or "collected" balance method, as long as the crediting requirements of the EFAA are met (12 CFR 229.14).

3. *Withdrawal of principal.* Credit unions must accrue dividends on funds until the funds are withdrawn from the account. For example, if a check is debited to an account on a Tuesday, the credit union must accrue dividends on those funds through Monday.

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Section 707.8—Advertising

(a) Misleading or Inaccurate Advertisements

1. *General.* All advertisements are subject to the rule against misleading or inaccurate advertisements, even though the disclosure applicable to various media differ. The word "profit" may be used when referring to dividend-bearing share accounts, as it reflects the nature of dividends. The word "profit" may not be used when referring to interest-bearing deposit accounts.

2. *Indoor signs.* An indoor sign advertising an annual percentage yield is not misleading or inaccurate if:

i. For a tiered-rate account, it also provides the upper and lower dollar amounts of the tier corresponding to the advertised annual percentage yield.

ii. For a term share account, it also provides the term required to obtain the advertised annual percentage yield.

3. *"Free" or "no cost" accounts.* For purposes of determining whether an account can be advertised as "free" or "no cost," maintenance and activity fees include:

i. Any fee imposed if a minimum balance requirement is not met, or if the member exceeds a specified number of transactions.

ii. Transaction and service fees that members reasonably expect to be imposed on an account on a regular basis (see comments 4(b)(4)–1 and 2).

iii. A flat fee, such as a monthly service fee.

iv. Fees imposed to deposit, withdraw or transfer funds, including per-check or per-transaction charges (for example, \$.25 for each withdrawal, whether by check, in person).

4. *Other fees.* Examples of fees that are not maintenance or activity fees include:

i. Fees that are not required to be disclosed under §707.4(b)(4).

ii. Check printing fees of any type.

iii. Fees for obtaining copies of checks, whether or not the original checks have been truncated or returned to the member periodically.

iv. Balance inquiry fees.

v. Fees assessed against a dormant account.

vi. Fees for using an ATM.

vii. Fees for electronic transfer services that are not required to obtain an account, such as preauthorized transfers or home electronic credit union services.

viii. Stop payment fees and fees for share drafts or checks returned unpaid.

5. *Similar terms.* An advertisement may not use a term such as "fees waived" if a maintenance or activity fee may be imposed because it is similar to the terms "free" or "no cost."

6. *Specific account services.* Credit unions may advertise a specific account service or feature as free as long as no fee is imposed

for that service or feature. For example, credit unions offering an account that is free of deposit or withdrawal fees could advertise that fact, as long as the advertisement does not mislead members by implying that the account is free and that no other fee (a monthly service fee, for example) may be charged.

7. *Free for limited time.* If an account (or a specific account service) is free only for a limited period of time—for example, for one year following the account opening—the account (or service) may be advertised as free as long as the time period is stated.

8. *Conditions not related to share accounts.* Credit unions may advertise accounts as “free” for members that meet conditions not related to share accounts, such as the member’s age. For example, credit unions may advertise a share draft account as “free for persons over 65 years old,” even though a maintenance or activity fee may be assessed on accounts held by members that are 65 or younger.

(b) Permissible Rates

1. *Tiered-rate accounts.* An advertisement for a tiered-rate account that states an annual percentage yield must also state the annual percentage yield for each tier, along with corresponding minimum balance requirements. Any dividend rates stated must appear in conjunction with the annual percentage yields for each tier.

2. *Stepped-rate accounts.* An advertisement that states a dividend rate for a stepped-rate account must state all the dividend rates and the time period that each rate is in effect.

3. *Representative examples.* An advertisement that states an annual percentage yield for a type of account (such as a term share account for a specified term) need not state the annual percentage yield applicable to every variation offered by the credit union or indicate that other maturity terms are available. In an advertisement stating that rates for an account may vary depending on the amount of the initial deposit or the term of a term share account, credit unions need not list each balance level and term offered. Instead, the advertisement may:

i. Provide a representative example of the annual percentage yields offered, clearly described as such. For example, if a credit union offers a \$25 bonus on all term share accounts and the annual percentage yield will vary depending on the term selected, the credit union may provide a disclosure of the annual percentage yield as follows: “For example, our 6-month share certificate currently pays a 3.15% annual percentage yield.”

ii. Indicate that various rates are available, such as by stating short-term and longer-term maturities along with the applicable annual percentage yields: “We offer

share certificates with annual percentage yields that depend on the maturity you choose. For example, our one-month share certificate earns a 2.75% APY. Or, earn a 5.25% APY for a three-year share certificate.”

(c) When Additional Disclosures are Required

1. *Trigger terms.* The following are examples of information stated in advertisements that are not “trigger” terms:

- i. “One, three, and five year share certificates available”.
- ii. “Bonus rates available”.
- iii. “1% over our current rate,” so long as the rates are not determinable from the advertisement.

(c)(2) Time Annual Percentage Yield is Offered

1. *Specified recent date.* If an advertisement discloses an annual percentage yield as of a specified date, that date must be recent in relation to the publication or broadcast frequency of the media used. For example, the printing date of a brochure printed once for an account promotion that will be in effect for six months would be considered “recent,” even though rates change during the six-month period. Dividend rates published in a daily newspaper or on television must be a rate offered shortly before (or on) the date the rates are published or broadcast. Similarly, dividend rates published in a daily newspaper or on television must be a rate reflecting either the preceding dividend period, or a prospective rate, and the option chosen should be noted.

2. *Reference to date of publication.* An advertisement may refer to the annual percentage yield as being accurate as of the date of publication, if the date is on the publication itself. For instance, an advertisement in a periodical may state that a rate is “current through the date of this issue,” if the periodical shows the date.

(c)(5) Effect of Fees

1. *Scope.* This requirement applies only to maintenance or activity fees as described in paragraph 8(a).

(c)(6) Features of Term Share Accounts

(c)(6)(i) Time Requirements

1. *Club accounts.* If a club account has a maturity date, but the term may vary depending on when the account is opened, credit unions may use a phrase such as: “The maturity date of this club account is November 15; its term varies depending on when the account is opened.”

(c)(6)(ii) Early Withdrawal Penalties

1. *Discretionary penalties.* Credit unions imposing early withdrawal penalties on a case-by-case basis may disclose that they “may”

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(rather than “will”) impose a penalty if that accurately describes the account terms.

(d) Bonuses

1. *General reference to “bonus.”* General statements such as “bonus checking” or “get a bonus when you open a checking account” do not trigger the bonus disclosures.

(e) Exemption for Certain Advertisements

(e)(1) Certain Media

(e)(1)(i)

1. *ATM messages.* Messages provided on ATM or computer screens are eligible for this exemption.

(e)(1)(iii)

1. *Tiered-rate accounts.* Solicitations for tiered-rate accounts made through telephone response machines must provide all annual percentage yields and the balance requirements applicable to each tier.

(e)(2) Indoor Signs

(e)(2)(i)

1. *General.* Indoor signs include advertisements displayed on computer screens, banners, preprinted posters, and chalk or peg boards. Any advertisement inside the premises that can be retained by a member (such as a brochure or a printout from a computer) is not an indoor sign.

(e)(3) Newsletters

1. *General.* The partial exemption applies to all credit union newsletters, whether instituted before or after the compliance date of part 707. Nor must a newsletter be of any particular circulation frequency (e.g., weekly, monthly, quarterly, biannually, annually, or irregularly) or of any certain format (e.g. magazine, bulletin, broadside, circular, mimeograph, letter, or pamphlet) in order to be eligible for the partial advertising exemption.

2. *Permissible Distribution.* In order for newsletters to retain the partial advertising exemption, newsletters can be sent to existing credit union members only. Any distribution reasonably calculated to reach only members is also acceptable, such as:

- i. Mailing newsletters to existing members.
- ii. Distributing newsletters at a function reasonably limited to members, such as an annual meeting or member picnic.
- iii. Displaying or offering newsletters at a credit union lobby, branch, or office.

3. *Impermissible Distribution.* Distributing a newsletter in a place open to nonmembers, such as a sponsor's lunch room, is not reasonably calculated to reach only members,

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and such newsletter would be subject to all applicable advertising rules.

Section 707.9—Enforcement and Record Retention

(c) Record Retention

1. *Evidence of required actions.* Credit unions comply with the regulation by demonstrating they have done the following:

i. Established and maintained procedures for paying dividends and providing timely disclosures as required by the regulation, and

ii. Retained sample disclosures for each type account offered to members, such as account-opening disclosures, copies of advertisements, and change-in-term notices; and information regarding the dividend rates and annual percentage yields offered.

2. *Methods of retaining evidence.* Credit unions must be able to reconstruct the required disclosures or other actions. They need not keep disclosures or other business records in hard copy. Records evidencing compliance may be retained on microfilm, microfiche, or by other methods that reproduce records accurately (including computer files). Credit unions must retain copies of all printed advertisements and the text of all advertisements conveyed by electronic or broadcast media, and newsletters.

3. *Payment of dividends.* Credit unions must retain sufficient rate and balance information to permit the verification of dividends paid on an account, including the payment of dividends on the full principal balance.

[59 FR 59899, Nov. 21, 1994, as amended at 60 FR 21699, May 3, 1995; 61 FR 68129, Dec. 27, 1996; 63 FR 71575, Dec. 29, 1998]

PART 708a—CONVERSION OF INSURED CREDIT UNIONS TO MUTUAL SAVINGS BANKS

Sec.

708a.1 Definitions.

708a.2 Authority to convert.

708a.3 Board of directors and membership approval.

708a.4 Voting procedures.

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708a.7 NCUA oversight of methods and procedures of membership vote.

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708a.9 Completion of conversion.

708a.10 Limit on compensation of officials.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1766, 12 U.S.C. 1785(b).

SOURCE: 63 FR 65535, Nov. 27, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

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§ 708a.5

§ 708a.1 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *Credit union* has the same meaning as insured credit union in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act.

(b) *Mutual savings bank* and *savings association* have the same meaning as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(c) *Federal banking agencies* has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(d) *Senior management official* means a chief executive officer, an assistant chief executive officer, a chief financial officer, and any other senior executive officer as defined by the appropriate Federal banking agency pursuant to section 32(f) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, 12 U.S.C. 1831i(f).

§ 708a.2 Authority to convert.

An insured credit union, with the approval of its members, may convert to a mutual savings bank or a savings association that is in mutual form without the prior approval of the NCUA, subject to applicable law governing mutual savings banks and savings associations and the other requirements of this part.

§ 708a.3 Board of directors and membership approval.

(a) The board of directors must approve a proposal to convert by majority vote and set a date for a vote on the proposal by the members of the credit union.

(b) The membership must approve the proposal to convert by the affirmative vote of a majority of those members who vote on such proposal.

§ 708a.4 Voting procedures.

(a) A member may vote on the proposal to convert in person at a special meeting held on the date set for the vote or by written ballot filed by the member.

(b) A credit union that proposes to convert must provide written notice of its intent to convert to each member who is eligible to vote on the conversion. The notice to members must be submitted 90 calendar days, 60 calendar days, and 30 calendar days before the date of the membership vote on the conversion and a ballot must be sub-

mitted not less than 30 calendar days before the date of the vote.

(c) The notice to members must adequately describe the purpose and subject matter of the vote to be taken at the special meeting or by submission of the written ballot. The notice must clearly inform the member that the member may vote at the special meeting or by submitting the written ballot. The notice must state the date, time, and place of the meeting.

[63 FR 65535, Nov. 27, 1998, as amended at 64 FR 28735, May 27, 1999]

§ 708a.5 Notice to NCUA.

(a) The credit union must provide the Regional Director for the region where the credit union is located with notice of its intent to convert during the 90 calendar day period preceding the date of the membership vote on the conversion.

(b) The credit union must give notice to the Regional Director by providing a letter describing the material features of the conversion or a copy of the filing the credit union has made with another Federal or State regulatory agency in which the credit union seeks that agency's approval of the conversion. The credit union must include with the notice to the Regional Director a copy of the notice the credit union provides to members under § 708a.4, as well as, the ballot form and all written materials the credit union has distributed or intends to distribute to the members.

(c) If it chooses, the credit union may provide the Regional Director notice of its intent to convert prior to the 90 calendar day period preceding the date of the membership vote on the conversion. In this case, the Regional Director will make a preliminary determination regarding the methods and procedures applicable to the membership vote. The Regional Director will notify the credit union within 30 calendar days of receipt of the credit union's notice of intent to convert if the Regional Director disapproves of the proposed methods and procedures applicable to the membership vote. The credit union's prior submission of the notice of intent does not relieve the credit union of its obligation to certify the results of the membership vote required by § 708a.6 or eliminate the right

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of the Regional Director to disapprove the actual methods and procedures applicable to the membership vote if the credit union fails to conduct the membership vote in a fair and legal manner.

[63 FR 65535, Nov. 27, 1998, as amended at 64 FR 28735, May 27, 1999]

§ 708a.6 Certification of vote on conversion proposal.

The board of directors of the converting credit union must certify the results of the membership vote to the Regional Director within 10 calendar days after the vote is taken. The board of directors must also certify at this time that the notice, ballot and other written materials provided to members were identical to those submitted pursuant to § 708a.5 or provide copies of any new or revised materials and an explanation of the reasons for the changes.

§ 708a.7 NCUA oversight of methods and procedures of membership vote.

(a) The Regional Director will issue a determination that the methods and procedures applicable to the membership vote are approved or disapproved within 10 calendar days of receipt from the credit union of the certification of the result of the membership vote required under § 708a.6.

(b) If the Regional Director disapproves of the methods by which the membership vote was taken or the procedures applicable to the membership vote, the Regional Director may direct that a new vote be taken.

(c) The Regional Director's review of the methods by which the membership vote was taken and the procedures applicable to the membership vote includes determining that the notice to members is accurate and not misleading, that all notices required by this section were timely, and that the membership vote was conducted in a fair and legal manner.

§ 708a.8 Other regulatory oversight of methods and procedures of membership vote.

The Federal or State regulatory agency that will have jurisdiction over the financial institution after conversion must verify the membership vote

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and may direct that a new vote be taken, if it disapproves of the methods by which the membership vote was taken or the procedures applicable to the membership vote.

§ 708a.9 Completion of conversion.

(a) Upon receipt of approvals under § 708a.7 and § 708a.8 of this part, the credit union may complete the conversion transaction.

(b) Upon notification by the board of directors of the mutual savings bank or mutual savings association that the conversion transaction has been completed, the NCUA will cancel the insurance certificate of the credit union and, if applicable, the charter of the federal credit union.

[63 FR 65535, Nov. 27, 1998, as amended at 64 FR 28735, May 27, 1999]

§ 708a.10 Limit on compensation of officials.

No director or senior management official of an insured credit union may receive any economic benefit in connection with the conversion of the credit union other than compensation and other benefits paid to directors or senior management officials of the converted institution in the ordinary course of business.

PART 708b—MERGERS OF FEDERALLY-INSURED CREDIT UNIONS; VOLUNTARY TERMINATION OR CONVERSION OF INSURED STATUS

Sec.

708b.0 Scope.

708b.1 Definitions.

Subpart A—Mergers

708b.101 Mergers generally.

708b.102 Special provisions for Federal insurance.

708b.103 Preparation of merger plan.

708b.104 Submission of merger proposal to NCUA.

708b.105 Approval of merger proposal by NCUA.

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Subpart B—Voluntary Termination or Conversion of Insured Status

- 708b.201 Termination of insurance.
708b.202 Notice to members of termination of insurance.
708b.203 Conversion of insurance.
708b.204 Notice to members of conversion of insurance.

Subpart C—Forms

- 708b.301 Termination of insurance.
708b.302 Conversion of insurance.
708b.303 Modifications to notice.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1766, 1785, 1786, 1789.

SOURCE: 52 FR 12374, Apr. 16, 1987. Redesignated at 59 FR 48792, Sept. 23, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§ 708b.0 Scope.

(a) Subpart A of this part prescribes the procedures for merging one or more credit unions with a continuing credit union where at least one of the credit unions is federally insured.

(b) Subpart B of this part prescribes the procedures and notice requirements for termination of Federal insurance or conversion of Federal insurance to non-federal insurance, including termination or conversion resulting from a merger.

(c) Subpart C of this part sets forth the forms to be used for terminating Federal insurance or converting from Federal insurance to nonfederal insurance.

(d) Nothing in this part shall operate as a restriction or otherwise impair the authority of NCUA to approve a merger pursuant to section 205(h) of the Act.

(e) This part does not address procedures or requirements that may be applicable under state law for a state credit union.

§ 708b.1 Definitions.

(a) *Continuing credit union* means the credit union which will continue in operation after the merger.

(b) *Merging credit union* means the credit union which will cease to exist as an operating credit union at the time of the merger.

(c) *State credit union* means any credit union organized and operated according to the laws of any state, the several territories and possessions of the United States, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Accordingly, *state au-*

thority means the appropriate state or territorial regulatory or supervisory authority for any such credit union.

(d) *Federally-insured* means insured by the Board through the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF).

(e) *Nonfederally-insured* means insured by a private or cooperative insurance fund or guaranty corporation organized or chartered under state law.

(f) *Uninsured* means there is no share or deposit insurance available on the credit union accounts.

(g) The terms *terminate*, *termination* and *terminating*, when used in reference to insurance, refer to the act of canceling Federal insurance and mean that the credit union will become uninsured.

(h) The term *convert*, *conversion* and *converting*, when used in reference to insurance, refer to the act of canceling Federal insurance and simultaneously obtaining share or deposit insurance from another insurance carrier. They mean that after cancellation of Federal insurance the credit union will be non-federally insured.

Subpart A—Mergers

§ 708b.101 Mergers generally.

(a) In any case where a merger will result in the termination of Federal insurance or conversion to nonfederal insurance, the merging credit union must comply with the provisions of subpart B in addition to this subpart A.

(b) No federally-insured credit union shall merge with any other credit union without the prior written approval of the Board.

(c) Where the continuing credit union is a Federal credit union, there must be compliance with the chartering policies of the Board.

(d) Where the continuing or merging credit union is a state credit union, the merger must be permitted by state law or authorized by the state authority.

§ 708b.102 Special provisions for Federal insurance.

(a) Where the continuing credit union is federally insured, an NCUSIF deposit and a prorated insurance premium (unless waived in whole or in part for all insured credit unions during that year)

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will be assessed on the additional share accounts insured as a result of the merger of a nonfederally-insured or uninsured credit union with a federally-insured credit union.

(b) Where the continuing credit union is nonfederally insured or uninsured but desires to be federally insured as of the date of the merger, an application shall be submitted to the appropriate Regional Director when the merging credit union requests approval of the merger proposal. An NCUSIF deposit and a prorated insurance premium (unless waived in whole or in part for all insured credit unions during that year) will be assessed on any additional share accounts insured as a result of the merger.

(c) Where the continuing credit union is nonfederally insured or uninsured and does not make application for insurance, but the merging credit union is federally insured, the continuing credit union is entitled to a refund of the merging credit union's NCUSIF deposit and to a refund of the unused portion of the NCUSIF share insurance premium (if any). If the continuing credit union is uninsured, the refund will be made only after expiration of the one-year period of continued insurance coverage noted in paragraph (e) of this section.

(d) Where the continuing credit union is nonfederally insured, NCUSIF insurance of the member accounts of a merging federally-insured credit union ceases as of the effective date of the merger. (Refer to subpart B, §§ 708b.203 and 708b.204 and subpart C, § 708b.302(b).)

(e) Where the continuing credit union is uninsured, NCUSIF insurance of the member accounts of the merging federally-insured credit union will continue for a period of one year, subject to the restrictions in section 206(d)(1) of the Act as noted in the Notice of Termination set forth in § 708b.301(b)(3). (Refer to subpart B, §§ 708b.201 and 708b.202, and subpart C, § 708b.301(b).)

[52 FR 12374, Apr. 16, 1987. Redesignated at 59 FR 48792, Sept. 23, 1994 and amended at 59 FR 67620, Dec. 30, 1994]

§ 708b.103 Preparation of merger plan.

(a) Upon the approval of a proposition for merger by the boards of di-

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rectors of the credit unions, a plan for the proposed merger shall be prepared. The plan shall include:

- (1) Current financial reports;
- (2) Current delinquent loan schedules annotated to reflect collection problems;
- (3) Combined financial report;
- (4) Analyses of share values;
- (5) Explanation of any proposed share adjustments;
- (6) Explanation of any provisions for reserves, undivided earnings or dividends;
- (7) Provisions with respect to notification and payment of creditors;
- (8) Explanation of any changes relative to insurance such as life savings and loan protection insurance and insurance of member accounts;
- (9) Provisions for determining that all assets and liabilities of the continuing credit union will conform with the requirements of the Act (where the continuing credit union is a Federal credit union); and
- (10) Proposed charter amendments (where the continuing credit union is a Federal credit union). These amendments, if any, will usually pertain to the name of the credit union and the definition of its field of membership.

§ 708b.104 Submission of merger proposal to NCUA.

(a) Upon approval of the merger plan by the boards of directors of the credit unions, the following information will be submitted to the Regional Director:

- (1) The merger plan, as described in this part;
- (2) Resolutions of the boards of directors;
- (3) Proposed Merger Agreement;
- (4) Proposed Notice of Special Meeting of the Members (for merging Federal credit unions);
- (5) Copy of the form of Ballot to be sent to the members (for merging Federal credit unions);
- (6) Evidence that the state's supervisory authority is in agreement with the merger proposal (for states which require such agreement prior to NCUA approval); and
- (7) Application and Agreement for Insurance of Member Accounts (for continuing state credit unions desiring to become federally insured).

§ 708b.105 Approval of merger proposal by NCUA.

(a) In any case where the continuing credit union is federally insured, and the merging credit union is nonfederally insured or uninsured, a determination shall be made by NCUA as to the potential risk to the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF).

(b) If NCUA finds that the merger proposal complies with the provisions of this part and does not present an undue risk to the NCUSIF, it may approve the proposal subject to such other specific requirements as may be prescribed to fulfill the intended purposes of the proposed merger. In the event NCUA determines that the merging credit union, if it is a Federal credit union, is in danger of insolvency, and that the proposed merger would reduce the risk or avoid a threatened loss to the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund, NCUA may permit the merger to become effective without an affirmative vote of the membership of the merging Federal credit union, notwithstanding the provisions of § 708b.106; *Provided*, That the continuing credit union is federally insured.

(c) Any proposed charter amendments for a continuing Federal credit union will be approved contingent upon the completion of the merger.

[52 FR 12374, Apr. 16, 1987. Redesignated at 59 FR 48792, Sept. 23, 1994 and amended at 59 FR 67620, Dec. 30, 1994]

§ 708b.106 Approval of the merger proposal by members.

(a) When the merging credit union is a Federal credit union, the members shall:

(1) Have the right to vote on the merger proposal in person at the annual meeting, if within 60 days after NCUA approval, or at a special meeting to be called within 60 days of such approval, or by mail ballot, received no later than the date and time announced for the annual meeting or the special meeting called for that purpose.

(2) Be given advance notice of the meeting at which the merger proposal is to be submitted, in accordance with the provisions of article V, Meetings of Members, Federal Credit Union By-laws. The notice shall:

(i) Specify the purpose of the meeting and the time and place;

(ii) Include a summary of the merger plan, which shall contain, but not necessarily be limited to, current financial reports for each credit union, a combined financial report for the continuing credit union, analyses of share values, explanation of any proposed share adjustments, explanation of any changes relative to insurance such as life savings and loan protection insurance and insurance of member accounts (refer to subpart B, §§ 708b.202 and 708b.204);

(iii) State reasons for the proposed merger;

(iv) Provide name and location (to include branches) of the continuing credit union;

(v) Inform the members that they have the right to vote on the merger proposal in person at the meeting or by written ballot to be received no later than the date and time announced for the annual meeting or the special meeting called for that purpose; and

(vi) Be accompanied by a Ballot for Merger Proposal.

(b) The proposal to merge a Federal credit union into a federally-insured credit union must be approved by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the merging credit union who vote on the proposal. If the continuing credit union is uninsured, the voting requirements of § 708b.201(c) apply; if it is nonfederally insured, the voting requirements of § 708b.203(c) apply.

[52 FR 12374, Apr. 16, 1987. Redesignated at 59 FR 48792, Sept. 23, 1994 and amended at 59 FR 67620, Dec. 30, 1994]

§ 708b.107 Certificate of vote on merger proposal.

The board of directors of the merging Federal credit union shall certify the results of the membership vote to the Regional Director within 10 days after the vote is taken.

§ 708b.108 Completion of merger.

(a) Upon approval of the merger proposal by NCUA and by the state supervisory authority (where the continuing or merging credit union is a state credit union) and by the members of each

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credit union where required, action may be taken to complete the merger.

(b) Upon completion of the merger, the board of directors of the continuing credit union shall certify the completion of the merger to the Regional Director within 30 days after the effective date of the merger.

(c) Upon NCUA's receipt of certification that the merger has been completed, then the charter of the merging Federal credit union (if applicable) and the insurance certificate of any merging federally-insured credit union will be canceled.

Subpart B—Voluntary Termination or Conversion of Insured Status

§ 708b.201 Termination of insurance.

(a) A state credit union may terminate Federal insurance, if permitted by state law, either on its own or by merging into an uninsured credit union.

(b) A Federal credit union may terminate Federal insurance only by merging into, or converting its charter to, an uninsured state credit union.

(c) Termination of insurance must be approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the credit union's members. The credit union must notify the Board, through the Regional Director, in writing at least 90 days prior to termination and the membership vote must have been obtained within one year prior to giving the Board notice.

(d) No federally-insured credit union shall terminate Federal insurance without the prior written approval of the Board. The Board will approve or disapprove the termination in writing within 90 days after being notified by the credit union.

§ 708b.202 Notice to members of termination of insurance.

(a) When a federally-insured credit union proposes to terminate Federal insurance, including termination due to a merger or conversion of charter, it shall provide its members with written notice of the proposal to terminate and of the date set for the membership vote. The Notice of Proposal shall be as set forth in either § 708b.301 (a)(1) or (b)(1), or as provided in § 708b.301(c), as the circumstances warrant.

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(b) The notice shall be delivered in person to each member, or mailed to each member at the address for such member as it appears on the records of the credit union, not more than 30 nor less than 7 days prior to the date of the vote. The membership shall be given the opportunity to vote by mail ballot. The ballot to be used shall be as set forth in either § 708b.301 (a)(2) or (b)(2), as the circumstances warrant. The notice of the proposal and the ballot may be provided to members at the same time.

(c) If the proposition for termination of insurance is approved by the membership and the Board, prompt and reasonable notice of termination shall be given to all members in the form set forth in either § 708b.301(a)(3) or (b)(3), as the circumstances warrant.

[52 FR 12374, Apr. 16, 1987. Redesignated at 59 FR 48792, Sept. 23, 1994 and amended at 59 FR 67620, Dec. 30, 1994]

§ 708b.203 Conversion of insurance.

(a) A federally-insured state credit union may convert to nonfederal insurance, if permitted by state law, either on its own or by merging into a nonfederally-insured credit union.

(b) A Federal credit union may convert to nonfederal insurance only by merging into, or converting its charter to, a nonfederally-insured state credit union.

(c) Conversion of Federal to nonfederal insurance must be approved by an affirmative vote of a majority of the credit union's members who vote on the proposition, provided at least 20 percent of the total membership participates in the voting. The credit union must notify the Board, through the Regional Director, in writing at least 90 days prior to conversion. Notice to the Board may be given when membership approval is solicited or after membership approval is obtained.

(d) No federally-insured credit union shall convert to nonfederal insurance without the prior written approval of the Board. The Board will approve or disapprove the conversion in writing within 90 days after being notified by the credit union.

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§ 708b.204 Notice to members of conversion of insurance.

(a) When a federally-insured credit union proposes to convert to non-federal insurance, including conversion due to a merger or conversion of charter, it shall provide its members with written notice of the proposal to convert and of the date set for the membership vote. Notice of the proposal shall be as set forth in either § 708b.302 (a)(1) or (b)(1), or as provided in § 708b.302(c), as the circumstances warrant.

(b) The notice shall be delivered in person to each member, or mailed to each member at the address for such member as it appears on the records of the credit union, not more than 30 nor less than 7 days prior to the date for the vote. The membership shall be given the opportunity to vote by mail ballot. The ballot to be used for the membership vote shall be as set forth in either § 708b.302 (a)(2) or (b)(2), as the circumstances warrant. The notice of the proposal and the ballot may be provided to the members at the same time.

(c) If the proposition for conversion of insurance is approved by the membership and the Board, prompt and reasonable notice shall be given to all members in the form set forth in either § 708b.302 (a)(3) or (b)(3), as the circumstances warrant.

[52 FR 12374, Apr. 16, 1987. Redesignated at 59 FR 48792, Sept. 23, 1994 and amended at 59 FR 67620, Dec. 30, 1994]

Subpart C—Forms

§ 708b.301 Termination of insurance.

(a) A federally-insured state credit union shall use the following language for purposes of terminating Federal insurance:

(1) Notice of Proposal to Terminate Federal Insurance

(Date)

The Board of Directors of _____ Credit Union has approved a proposition to terminate Federal share (deposit) insurance, (\$100,000, provided by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), an agency of the Federal Government). Termination of Federal insurance may only take place upon approval by a majority of our members. The

membership vote will be taken on (date). (Add directions regarding membership meeting and/or mail ballot.)

If approved, any deposits made by you after the date of termination, either new deposits or additions to existing accounts, will not be insured by the NCUA or any other entity. In the event the credit union fails, these deposits are not insured by the federal government. No provision has been made for alternative insurance, therefore, these deposits will be uninsured.

Accounts in the Credit Union on the day of termination, up to a maximum of \$100,000 for each member, will continue to be insured, as provided in the Federal Credit Union Act, for one (1) year after the close of business on the day of termination, but any withdrawals after the close of business on that date will reduce the insurance coverage by the amount of the withdrawal.

(2) The ballot for obtaining membership approval to terminate Federal insurance shall contain the following language:

This ballot must be received by the Credit Union by (date for vote).

I understand that if termination of Federal insurance is approved, any new deposits or additions to existing accounts made by me will not be insured by the National Credit Union Administration, an agency of the Federal Government. I also understand that my accounts in the Credit Union on the date of termination, up to a maximum of \$100,000, will continue to be insured for one (1) year after the date of termination, but that any withdrawals after the date of termination will reduce the insurance coverage by the amount of the withdrawal.

☐ Approve termination of insurance.

☐ Do not approve termination of insurance.

Signed

Member's Name

Date

(3) Notice of Termination

(Date)

1. The status of the _____ as an insured credit union under the provisions of the Federal Credit Unions Act will terminate as of the close of business on the _____ day of _____.

2. Any deposits made by you after that date, either new deposits or additions to existing accounts, will not be insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

3. Accounts in the Credit Union on the _____ day of _____, up to a maximum of \$100,000 for each member, will continue to be insured, as provided by the Federal Credit Union Act, for one (1) year after the close of business on the _____ day of _____; Provided, however, that any

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withdrawals after the close of business on the _____ day of _____, will reduce the insurance coverage by the amount of such withdrawals.
(Name of Credit Union)
(Address)

(b) A federally-insured credit union that is merging with an uninsured credit union shall use the following language for purposes of terminating Federal insurance:

(1) Notice of Proposal to Merge and Terminate Federal Insurance

The Board of Directors of (merging) Credit Union has approved a proposition to merge the Credit Union into the (continuing) Credit Union. The merger must be approved by a majority of the members of (merging) Credit Union. The membership vote will be taken on (date). (Add directions regarding membership meeting and/or mail ballot.)

If the membership approves the merger, the share (deposit) insurance you now have (up to \$100,000 provided by the National Credit Union Administration, (NCUA), an agency of the Federal Government) will be affected as follows:

Any deposits made by you after the effective date of the merger, either new deposits or additions to existing accounts, will not be insured by the NCUA or any other entity. In the event the credit union fails, these deposits are not insured by the federal government. No provision has been made for alternative insurance, therefore, these deposits will be uninsured. Accounts in the merging Credit Union on the date of the merger, up to a maximum of \$100,000 for each member, will continue to be insured, as provided in the Federal Credit Union Act, for one (1) year after the close of business on the date of the merger, but any withdrawals after the close of business on that date will reduce the insurance coverage by the amount of the withdrawal.

(2) The language for the ballot set forth in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, modified by substituting "the merger and termination" in lieu of "termination" each time it appears on the ballot, shall be used for obtaining membership approval to merge and terminate Federal insurance.

(3) Notice of Merger and Termination of Federal Insurance

1. The merger of the (merging) Credit Union into the (continuing) Credit Union has been approved, effective (date).

2. The status of the (merging) Credit Union as an insured credit union under the provisions of the Federal Credit Union Act will

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terminate as of the close of business on the _____ day of _____ (day preceding merger date).

3. Any deposits made by you after that date, either new deposits or additions to existing accounts, will not be insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

4. Accounts in the Credit Union on the _____ day of _____, (day preceding merger date), up to a maximum of \$100,000 for each member, will continue to be insured, as provided by the Federal Credit Union Act, for one (1) year after close of business on the _____ day of _____ (day preceding merger date); Provided, however, that any withdrawals after the close of business on the _____ day of _____, (day preceding merger date), will reduce the insurance coverage by the amount of such withdrawals.
(Name of Credit Union)
(Address)

(c) A Federal credit union that is converting its charter to that of an insured state credit union shall use the language contained in paragraph (a) of this section, but shall modify the language in paragraph (a)(1) of this section to indicate that it is converting its charter and terminating Federal insurance.

[52 FR 12374, Apr. 16, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 43280, Oct. 24, 1989; 63 FR 10519, Mar. 4, 1998]

§ 708b.302 Conversion of insurance.

(a) A federally-insured state credit union shall use the following language for purposes of converting from Federal insurance to nonfederal insurance:

(1) Notice of Proposal to Convert to Nonfederally-Insured Status

The Board of Directors of _____ Credit Union has approved a proposition to convert from Federal share (deposit) insurance to nonfederal insurance. The conversion must be approved by a majority of the members who vote on the proposal and at least 20% of the entire membership must participate in the vote. The membership vote will be taken on (date). (Add directions regarding membership meeting and/or mail ballot.)

If the membership approves the conversion, the share (deposit) insurance you now have (up to \$100,000 provided by the National Credit Union Administration, an agency of the Federal Government) will terminate on the effective date of the conversion. Shares (deposit) in the _____ Credit Union will be insured up to \$ _____ by _____, a corporation chartered by the State of _____. The insurance provided by the National Credit

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Union Administration, an independent agency of the United States, is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government. The private insurance you will receive from _____ is not guaranteed by the Federal or any State government.

(2) The ballot to obtain membership approval of the conversion shall contain the following language:

This ballot must be received by the Credit Union by (date for vote).

I understand that, if the conversion of insurance is approved, the share (deposit) insurance that I now have (up to \$100,000 provided by the National Credit Union Administration, an agency of the Federal Government) will terminate upon the effective date of the conversion and my shares will be insured up to \$ _____ by _____, a corporation chartered by the State of _____. The private insurance provided by _____ is not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government as is the Federal insurance provided by the National Credit Union Administration.

☐ Approve conversion of insurance.

☐ Do not approve conversion of insurance.

Signed

Member's Name

Date

(3) Notice of Conversion

(Date)

1. The status of the _____ as an insured credit union under the provisions of the Federal Credit Union Act will cease as of the close of business on the _____ day of _____, _____.

2. As of that date, your deposits will no longer be insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

3. Accounts in the credit union will be insured up to \$ _____ by _____, a corporation chartered by the State of _____.
(Name of Credit Union)
(Address)

(b) A federally-insured credit union that is merging with a nonfederally-insured credit union shall use the following language for purposes of converting from Federal to nonfederal insurance:

(1) Notice of Proposal to Merge and Convert to Nonfederally-Insured Status

The Board of Directors of (merging) Credit Union has approved a proposition to merge the Credit Union into (continuing) Credit Union. The merger must be approved by a majority of the members of (merging) Credit Union who vote on the proposal and at least

20% of the entire membership must participate in the vote. The membership vote will be taken on (date) (Add directions regarding membership meeting and/or mail ballot.)

If the membership approves the merger, the share (deposit) insurance you now have (up to \$100,000 provided by the National Credit Union Administration, an agency of the Federal Government) will terminate on the effective date of the merger. Shares (deposit) in the (continuing) Credit Union will be insured up to \$ _____ by _____, a corporation chartered by the State of _____. The insurance provided by the National Credit Union Administration, an independent agency of the United States, is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government. The private insurance you will receive from _____ is not guaranteed by the Federal or any State government.

(2) The ballot to obtain membership approval shall contain the following language:

This ballot must be received by the Credit Union by (date for vote).

I understand that if the merger of the (merging) Credit Union into the (continuing) Credit Union is approved, the share (deposit) insurance that I now have (up to \$100,000 provided by the National Credit Union Administration, an agency of the Federal Government) will terminate upon the effective date of the merger and my shares in the (continuing) Credit Union will be insured up to \$ _____ by _____, a corporation chartered by the State of _____. The private insurance provided by _____ is not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government as is the federal insurance provided by the National Credit Union Administration.

☐ Approve merger and conversion of insurance.

☐ Do not approve merger and conversion of insurance.

Signed

Member's Name

Date

(3) Notice of Merger and Conversion of Insured Status

(Date)

1. The merger of the (merging) Credit Union into the (continuing) Credit Union has been approved, effective (date).

2. As of that date, your shares (deposit) are no longer insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

3. Accounts in the (continuing) Credit Union will be insured up to \$ _____ by _____, a corporation chartered by the State of _____.
(Name of Credit Union)
(Address)

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(c) A Federal credit union that is converting its charter to that of a non-federally-insured credit union shall use the language contained in paragraph (a) of this section, but shall modify the language in paragraph (a)(1) of this section to indicate that it is converting its charter and converting from Federal insurance.

[52 FR 12374, Apr. 16, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 43280, Oct. 24, 1989; 63 FR 10519, Mar. 4, 1998]

§ 708b.303 Modifications to notice.

(a) Any modifications or additions to the notices or ballot concerning insurance coverage, and any additional communications concerning insurance coverage included with the notices or ballot, may be made with the approval of the Regional Director and, in the case of a state credit union, the appropriate state authority. Approval of such modifications, additions or additional communications will not be withheld unless it is determined that the credit union, by inclusion or omission of information, would materially mislead or misinform its membership.

(b) Federally-insured state credit unions may include additional language in the notice and ballot regarding state requirements for mergers, where appropriate.

[52 FR 12374, Apr. 16, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 43280, Oct. 24, 1989]

PART 709—INVOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS AND ADJUDICATION OF CREDITOR CLAIMS INVOLVING FEDERALLY INSURED CREDIT UNIONS IN LIQUIDATION

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1766; Pub. L. 101–73, 103 Stat. 183, 530 (1989) (12 U.S.C. 1787 *et seq.*).

SOURCE: 56 FR 56925, Nov. 7, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

§ 709.0 Scope.

The rules and procedures set forth in this part apply to charter revocations of Federal credit unions pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1787(a)(1) (A), (B) and the involuntary liquidation and adjudication of creditor claims in all cases involving federally insured credit unions. Section 709.3 applies only to Federal credit unions. Remaining sections of this part are applicable to all federally insured credit unions. This part does not apply to share insurance claims arising out of the liquidation of a federally insured credit union. Insurance claims are decided pursuant to part 745 of this chapter.

§ 709.1 Definitions.

For the purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(a) *General Counsel* means the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration or any attorney assigned to the General Counsel's staff.

(b) *Liquidating Agent* means the NCUA Board or person(s) appointed by it with delegated authority to carry out the liquidation of the credit union.

(c) *Insolvent* means insolvency as that term is defined in § 700.1(j) of this chapter.

(d) *Claim* means a creditor's claim against the credit union in liquidation. This term does not include insurance claims arising out of the liquidation of a federally insured credit union. Insurance claims are decided pursuant to part 745 of this chapter.

(e) *Shareholder* means members, non-members, accountholders or any other party or entity that is the owner of a share, share certificate or share draft account or the equivalent of such accounts under state law.

§ 709.2 NCUA Board as liquidating agent.

(a) The Board, as liquidating agent, by operation of law and without any

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conveyance or other instrument, act or deed, shall succeed to all the rights, titles, powers, and privileges of the credit union, and of its shareholders, officers, and directors, with respect to the credit union and its assets, and such shareholders, officers, or directors, shall not thereafter have or exercise any such rights, powers, or privileges or act in connection with any assets or property of any nature of the credit union.

(b) The Board, as liquidating agent, shall take possession of and title to books, records, and assets of every description of such credit union to which such credit union has rights of possession and title to all offices and other facilities of such credit union.

§ 709.3 Challenge to revocation of charter and involuntary liquidation.

If a Federal credit union is determined to be insolvent and placed into liquidation pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1787, the Federal credit union may, not later than 10 days after the date on which the Board closes the credit union for liquidation, apply to the United States District Court for the Judicial district in which the principal office of the credit union is located or the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for an order requiring the Board to show cause why it should not be prohibited from continuing such liquidation. Notwithstanding other provisions of this part, the board of directors of the credit union may meet following the placing of the institution into liquidation for the sole purpose of considering and authorizing the filing of this action in the name of the credit union. No such action in the name of the credit union may be instituted without the authorization of the board of directors of the institution pursuant to a valid board of directors resolution. No credit union funds shall be available to pay expenses incurred in bringing a legal action to challenge the Board's liquidation action.

§ 709.4 Powers and duties of liquidating agent.

(a) *Inventory of assets.* As soon as practicable after taking possession, the liquidating agent shall inventory the

assets of such credit union as of the date of taking possession, showing the value as carried on the books of the credit union, and the security therefor, if any, a brief description of the assets and any security, and a record of the credit union's creditor and accounts liabilities.

(b) *Notice to creditors.* The liquidating agent shall promptly publish a notice to the credit union's creditors to present their claims, together with proof, to the liquidating agent by a date specified in the notice. This date shall be not less than 90 days after the publication of the notice. The liquidating agent shall republish such notice approximately one and two months, respectively, after the initial publication. At the time of initial publication, the liquidating agent shall mail a notice similar to the published notice to any creditor shown on the credit union's books at the last address appearing therein. If the liquidating agent discovers the name of a creditor whose name does not appear on the credit union's books, a notice similar to the published notice shall be mailed to such creditor within 30 days after the discovery of the name and address.

(c) *General.* The liquidating agent shall collect all obligations and money due such credit union and may, to the extent consistent with its appointment, do all things desirable or expedient in its discretion to wind up the affairs of the credit union including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Exercise all rights and powers of the credit union including, but not limited to, any rights and powers under any mortgage, deed of trust, chose in action, option, collateral note, contract, judgment or decree, or instrument of any nature;

(2) Institute, prosecute, maintain, defend, intervene, and otherwise participate in any and all actions, suits, or other legal proceedings by and against the liquidating agent or the credit union or in which the liquidating agent, the credit union, or its creditors or shareholders, or any of them, shall have an interest, and in every way to represent the credit union, its shareholders and creditors, subject to the direction of General Counsel;

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(3) Employ on a salary or fee basis such persons as in the judgment of the liquidating agent are necessary or desirable to carry out its responsibilities and functions, including, but not limited to, appraisers and Certified Public Accountants, and pay the costs out of the assets of the liquidated credit union;

(4) Employ or retain any attorney or attorneys designated by, or acceptable to, the General Counsel in connection with litigation or for legal advice and assistance, for the liquidation generally or in particular instances, and pay compensation and retainers of such attorney or attorneys, together with all expenses, including, but not limited to, the costs and expenses of any litigation, as approved by the General Counsel, out of the assets of the liquidated credit union;

(5) Execute, acknowledge, and deliver any and all deeds, contracts, leases, assignments, bills of sale, releases, extensions, satisfactions, and other instruments necessary or proper for any purposes, including, but not limited to, the effectuation, termination, or transfer of real, personal or mixed property, or that shall be necessary or proper to liquidate the credit union, and any deed or other instrument executed pursuant to the authority hereby given shall be as valid and effective for all purposes as if the same had been executed as the act and deed of the credit union;

(6) With concurrence of General Counsel, disaffirm or repudiate any contract or lease to which the credit union is a party, the performance of which the liquidating agent, in his sole discretion, determines to be burdensome, and which disaffirmance or repudiation in the liquidating agent's sole discretion will promote the orderly administration of the credit union's affairs;

(7) Deposit, withdraw, or transfer funds, and otherwise exercise complete control over all investment or depository accounts maintained by or for the credit union at financial dispository or similar institutions;

(8) Do such things, and have such rights, powers, privileges, immunities, and duties, whether or not otherwise granted in this part 709, as shall be au-

thorized, directed, conferred, or imposed from time to time by the Board, or as shall be conferred by the Federal Credit Union Act;

(9) Exercise such other authority as is conferred by the Federal Credit Union Act; and

(10) Where acting as liquidating agent for a state-chartered federally insured credit union, exercise all the rights, powers, and privileges granted by state law to such a liquidating agent.

(d) *Expenditure of funds of the liquidation.* The liquidating agent shall have power to:

(1) Pay all costs and expenses of the liquidation as determined by the liquidating agent;

(2) Pay off and discharge taxes and liens;

(3) Pay out and expend such sums as are deemed necessary or advisable for or in connection with the preservation, maintenance, conservation, protection, remodeling, repair, rehabilitation, or improvement of any asset or property of any nature of the credit union or the liquidating agent;

(4) Pay off and discharge any assessments, liens, claims, or charges of any kind against any asset or property of any nature on which the credit union or the liquidating agent has a lien by way of mortgage, deed of trust, pledge, or otherwise, or in which the credit union or liquidating agent has any interest;

(5) Settle, compromise, or obtain the release of, for cash or other consideration, claims and demands against the credit union or the liquidating agent; and

(6) Indemnify its employees and agents from the assets of the credit union against liabilities incurred in the good faith performance of their duties.

(e) *Assets, claims, and contracts.* The liquidating agent shall have power to:

(1) Sell for cash or on terms, exchange, assign, or otherwise dispose of, in whole or in part, any or all of the assets and property of the credit union, real, personal and mixed, tangible and intangible, of any nature, including any mortgage, deed of trust, chose in action, bond, note, contract, judgment, or decree, share or certificate of share

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of stock or debt, owing to the credit union or the liquidating agent; and

(2) Surrender, abandon, and release any chose in action, or other assets or property of any nature, whether the subject of pending litigation or not, and settle, compromise, modify, or release, for cash or other consideration, claims and demands in favor of the credit union or the liquidating agent.

§ 709.5 Payout priorities in involuntary liquidation.

(a) Claimants whose claims are secured shall receive their security. To the extent their respective claims exceed the value of the security for those claims, as determined to the satisfaction of the liquidating agent, they shall each have an unsecured claim against the credit union having priority as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) Unsecured claims against the liquidation estate that are proved to the satisfaction of the liquidating agent shall have priority in the following order:

(1) Administrative costs and expenses of liquidation;

(2) Claims for wages and salaries, including vacation, severance, and sick leave pay;

(3) Taxes legally due and owing to the United States or any state or subdivision thereof;

(4) Debts due and owing the United States, including the National Credit Union Administration;

(5) General creditors, and secured creditors (to the extent that their respective claims exceed the value of the security for those claims);

(6) Shareholders to the extent of their respective uninsured shares and the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund to the extent of its payment of share insurance;

(7) In a case involving liquidation of a corporate credit union, membership capital;

(8) In a case involving liquidation of a low-income designated credit union, any outstanding secondary capital accounts issued pursuant to the authority of §§ 701.34 or 741.204(c) of this chapter; and

(9) In a case involving liquidation of a corporate credit union, paid-in capital.

(c) Priorities are to be based on the circumstances that exist on the date of liquidation.

(d) If the repudiation or disaffirmance of any contract or lease gives rise to a claim for damages, such claim shall be considered a general creditor claim under paragraph (b)(5) of this section and not a cost or expense of liquidation under paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(e) All unsecured claims of any category or class or priority described in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(7) of this section shall be paid in full, or provisions made for such payment, before any claims of lesser priority are paid. If there are insufficient funds to pay all claims of a category or class, payment shall be made pro rata. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the liquidating agent may, at any time, and from time to time, prior to the payment in full of all claims of a category or class with higher priority, make such distributions to claimants in priority categories described in paragraphs (b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(4), and (b)(5) of this section as the liquidating agent believes are reasonably necessary to conduct the liquidation, provided that the liquidating agent determines that adequate funds exist or will be recovered during the liquidation to pay in full all claims of any higher priority. If a surplus remains after making distribution in full on all allowed claims described in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(9) of this section, such surplus shall be distributed pro rata to the credit union's shareholders.

[56 FR 56825, Nov. 7, 1991, as amended at 61 FR 3791, Feb. 2, 1996; 62 FR 12949, Mar. 19, 1997; 64 FR 57365, Oct. 25, 1999]

§ 709.6 Initial determination of creditor claims by the liquidating agent.

(a)(1) Any party wishing to submit a claim against the liquidated credit union must submit a written proof of claim in accordance with the requirements set forth in the notice to creditors. A failure to submit a written claim within the time provided in the notice to creditors shall be deemed a

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waiver of said claim and claimant shall have no further rights or remedies with respect to such claim.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(1) of this section, the liquidating agent may, at his discretion, consider an untimely claim provide the following two criteria are present:

(i) The claimant did not receive notice of the appointment of the liquidating agent in time to file a claim before the date provided for in the notice; and

(ii) The claim is filed in time to permit payment of the claim.

(b) The liquidating agent may require submission of supplemental evidence by the claimant and by interested parties in the event of a dispute concerning a claim against any asset of the liquidated credit union. In requiring the submission of supplemental evidence, the liquidating agent may set such limitations of time, scope, and size as the liquidating agent deems reasonable in the circumstances, and may refuse to include in the record submissions or portions of submissions not in compliance with such limitations or requirements. The liquidating agent shall compile such written record of a claim or dispute as, in its discretion, is deemed sufficient to provide a reasonable basis for allowing or disallowing a claim or resolving a dispute. This written record shall be considered the administrative record.

(c) The liquidating agent shall determine whether to allow or disallow a claim and shall notify the claimant within 180 days from the date a claim against a credit union is filed pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of the section. This 180-day period may be extended by written agreement between the claimant and the liquidating agent. Failure by the liquidating agent to determine a claim and notify the claimant within the 180-day period or, if the period is extended, within the extended period, shall be deemed a denial of the claim.

(d) If a claim or any portion thereof is disallowed, the notice to the claimant shall contain a statement of the reasons for the disallowance and an explanation of appeal rights pursuant to § 709.7 of this part.

(e) Notice of any determination with respect to a claim shall be sufficient if

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mailed to the most recent address of the claimant which appears:

(1) On the credit union's books;

(2) In the claim filed by the claimant; or

(3) In the documents submitted in the proof of claim.

(f) In the event the liquidating agent disallows all or part of a claim, the liquidating agent shall file with the Board, or its designated agent, a report of its determination. This report shall become part of the record and shall include the notice to the claimant and findings on all issues raised and decided by the liquidating agent.

§ 709.7 Procedures for appeal of initial determination.

In order to appeal all or part of an initial decision which disallows a claim, in whole or in part, a claimant must, within 60 days of the mailing of the initial determination, file an administrative appeal pursuant to § 709.8 of this part, or file suit against the liquidated credit union in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or in the United States district court having jurisdiction over the place where the credit union's principal place of business is located, or continue an action commenced before the appointment of the liquidating agent. If the claimant does not appeal or file or continue a suit, any disallowance shall be final and the claimant shall have no further rights or remedies with respect to such claim.

§ 709.8 Administrative appeal of the initial determination.

(a) *General.* A claimant requesting an administrative appeal may request review pursuant to any of the procedures listed in paragraph (b) or (c) of this section. Any appeal of the initial determination must be in writing and must specify what type of appeal the claimant requests. The determination of whether to agree to a request for administrative appeal shall rest solely with the Board, which shall notify the claimant of its decision in writing. The 60 day period for filing a lawsuit in United States district court, provided for in § 709.7 of this part, shall be tolled from the date of claimant's request for an administrative appeal to the date of

the Board's decision regarding that request.

(b) *Hearing on the record.* Except as provided herein, any hearing requested pursuant to this section shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of subpart A, part 747, of this chapter. The Board shall render a final decision with respect to such claim after consideration of the hearing record and recommended decision. The Board's determination shall be subject to judicial review under chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code. Any claimant seeking judicial review of the Board's final decision under this paragraph must file a petition in the court of appeals for the circuit in which the principal office of the credit union is located, or in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, within 30 days of the date of the Board's final decision. If a claimant does not file a petition before the end of the 30-day period, the Board's decision shall be final, and the claimant shall have no further rights or remedies with respect to such claim.

(1) *Burden of proof.* In any hearing on the record, the burden of proof to establish entitlement to any modification of the initial determination shall rest solely upon the claimant.

(2) *Order of procedure.* In any hearing on the record, at the time for opening arguments, counsel for the claimant shall argue first, and at the time for closing arguments, counsel for the claimant shall argue last.

(c) *Alternative dispute resolution.* Paragraphs (c) (1) and (2) of this section list alternatives for dispute resolution which may be available at the discretion of the Board. From time to time, the NCUA Board may authorize additional alternative dispute resolution processes.

(1) *Appeal to the Board.* Pursuant to this paragraph (c)(1), the claimant may file an appeal with the NCUA Board within the time provided for in § 709.7. The appeal must be in writing and filed with the Secretary of the Board, National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3428. There shall be no personal appearance before the Board in connection with an appeal under this paragraph (c)(1).

(i) *Content of appeal.* Any appeal must include:

(A) A statement of the facts on which the appeal is based;

(B) A statement of the basis for the initial determination to which the claimant objects and the alleged error in such determination, including citations to applicable statutes and regulations;

(C) Any other evidence relied upon by the claimant which was not previously provided to the liquidating agent.

(ii) *Procedures for review of the appeal.*

(A) Within 60 days of the date of the Board's receipt of an appeal, pursuant to paragraph (c)(1) of this section, the Board may request in writing that the claimant submit supplemental evidence in support of its appeal. If additional evidence is requested, the claimant shall have 45 days from the date of issuance of such request to provide such additional information. Failure by the claimant to provide such additional information may, as determined solely by the Board, result in denial of the claimant's appeal.

(B) Within 60 days from the date of the Board's receipt of an appeal, pursuant to paragraph (c)(1) of this section, the claimant may amend or supplement the appeal in writing. In the event the claimant does amend or supplement the appeal, the provisions of paragraph (c)(1)(ii)(A) of this section, with respect to requests for additional information and responses to such requests, shall apply with equal force to any such amendment or supplement to an appeal.

(iii) *Determination on appeal.* (A) Within 180 days from the date of receipt of an appeal by the Board, the Board shall issue a decision allowing or disallowing claimant's appeal.

(B) The decision by the Board on appeal shall be provided to the claimant in writing, stating the reasons for the decision, and shall constitute a final agency decision regarding the claimant's claim.

(C) Failure by the Board to issue a decision on appeal of the claimant's claim within the 180-day period provided for under paragraph (c)(1)(iii)(A) of this section shall be deemed to be a denial of such appeal for the purposes of paragraph (c)(1)(iv) of this section.

(iv) *Judicial review.* (A) For the purposes of seeking judicial review of actions taken pursuant to paragraph (c)(1) of this section, only a determination on appeal issued by the NCUA Board pursuant to this section shall constitute a final determination regarding a claim.

(B) A final determination by the Board is reviewable in accordance with the provisions of chapter 7, title 5, United States Code, by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia or the court of appeals for the Federal judicial circuit where the credit union's principal place of business is located. Any request for judicial review under this paragraph must be filed within 60 days of the date of the Board's final decision. If any claimant fails to file before the end of the 60-day period, the Board's decision shall be final, and the claimant shall have no further rights or remedies with respect to such claim.

(2) The following additional procedures for dispute resolution may be made available at the sole discretion of the Board: mediation; nonbinding arbitration; and neutral fact finding.

[56 FR 56925, Nov. 7, 1991, as amended at 59 FR 36041, July 15, 1994]

§ 709.9 Expedited determination of creditor claims.

(a) *General.* The provisions of this section establish procedures under which claimants may request expedited relief in lieu of the procedures set forth in § 709.6 of this part. A claimant shall be entitled to expedited determination of a claim only upon a showing that there exists a legally valid and enforceable or perfected security interest in assets of the liquidated credit union and that irreparable injury will occur if the routine claims procedure is followed.

(b) *Filing of request for expedited relief.* All requests for expedited relief must be filed within 30 days from the date of mailing, by the liquidating agent, of the notice to the creditor concerned. The request shall be deemed to be filed when received by the Secretary of the Board, National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3428. A copy of the request must be simultaneously served upon

the liquidating agent for the credit union concerned. There shall be no right of personal appearance before the Board in connection with any claim submitted under this paragraph.

(c) *Content of request for expedited relief.* Any Request for Expedited Relief must contain the following:

(1) A clear and concise statement of the facts and issues on which the request is based;

(2) A clear and concise statement describing the nature of any security interests in any assets of the credit union;

(3) A clear and concise statement of the probable, imminent and irreparable harm likely to occur if expedited relief is not granted;

(4) An assessment of the likelihood of success on the merits of the underlying claim, including statutory citations and relevant documentation supporting the merits of the claim;

(5) Any other relevant documentation that supports the request;

(6) Citations to applicable statutes, regulations, or other legal authority; and

(7) A signed statement certifying that a copy of the request has been mailed or hand delivered to the liquidating agent on or before the day that the request was filed with the Board.

(d) *Burden of proof.* The burden of proving entitlement to expedited relief rests at all times with the requester.

(e) *Additional information.* The Board may order the filing of additional information and or documentation in order to make its determination. Such filing shall be on a date certain, and failure to provide the additional documentation or information may constitute the sole grounds for denial of the request.

(f) *Decision.* Before the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date a request is filed, the Board shall render its decision and provide it to the requester. The Board will determine whether to grant expedited review and allow or disallow the claim or whether such claim should be resolved pursuant to the claims process described in § 709.6 of this part.

(1) *Expedited review denied.* A decision by the Board that expedited review is not appropriate shall be final and the

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claim shall be decided pursuant to the claims adjudication process set forth in § 709.6 of this part.

(2) *Expedited review granted.* If expedited review is granted, the Board shall decide the claim. If the claim is disallowed, in whole or part, the decision shall contain a statement of each reason for the disallowance and the procedure for obtaining judicial review.

(g) *Period for filing or renewing suit.* Any claimant who files a request for expedited relief shall be permitted to file a suit, or to continue a suit filed before the appointment of the liquidating agent, seeking a determination of the claimant's rights with respect to its security interest after the earlier of:

(1) The end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the filing of a request for expedited relief; or

(2) The date the Board denies all or part of the claim.

(h) *Statute of limitations.* If an action described in paragraph (g) of this section is not filed, or the motion to renew a previously filed suit is not made, before the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which such action or motion may be filed in accordance with paragraph (g) of this section, the claim shall be deemed to be disallowed as of the end of such period (other than any portion of such claim that was allowed by the Board). Such disallowance shall be final and the claimant shall have no further rights or remedies with respect to such claim.

[56 FR 56925, Nov. 7, 1991, as amended at 59 FR 36041, July 15, 1994]

PART 710—VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

Sec.

710.0 Scope.

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710.2 Responsibility for conducting voluntary liquidation.

710.3 Approval of the liquidation proposal by members.

710.4 Transaction of business during liquidation.

710.5 Notice of liquidation to creditors.

710.6 Distribution of assets.

710.7 Retention of records.

710.8 Certificate of dissolution and liquidation.

710.9 Federally insured state credit unions.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1766(a), 1786, and 1787.

SOURCE: 58 FR 35365, July 1, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

§ 710.0 Scope.

This part describes the requirements that must be followed to accomplish the voluntary liquidation of a Federal credit union. Federally insured state credit unions are only subject to the notification requirement provided in § 710.9; voluntary liquidation is to be accomplished in accordance with state law or procedures established by the state regulatory authority.

§ 710.1 Definitions.

For the purpose of this part, the following definitions apply:

(a) *Voluntary liquidation* means the dissolution of a solvent Federal credit union with the assets being sold or collected, liabilities paid, and shares distributed under the direction of the board of directors or its duly appointed liquidating agent.

(b) *Liquidation date* means the date the members vote to approve liquidation.

(c) *Liquidating agent* means the person or persons, including any legally recognized entity, appointed by the board of directors to liquidate the Federal credit union.

§ 710.2 Responsibility for conducting voluntary liquidation.

(a) The board of directors shall be responsible for conserving the assets, for expediting the liquidation, and for equitable distribution of the assets to the members.

(b) After voting to present the question of liquidation to the members, the board of directors may appoint a liquidating agent and delegate all or part of the board's responsibility to such agent and authorize reasonable compensation for the services provided.

(c) The board of directors shall determine that the liquidating agent and all persons who handle or have access to funds of the Federal credit union are adequately covered by surety bond and that either such coverage remains in effect, or the discovery period is extended, for at least four months after final distribution of assets.

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(d) Within three days after the decision of the board of directors to submit the question of liquidation to the members, the Regional Director will be notified in writing, setting forth in detail the reasons for the proposed action. A balance sheet and income statement as of the previous month-end will be included with the notification. During the liquidation process, financial statements will be submitted to the Regional Director as requested.

(e) Promptly after the decision to present the question of liquidation to the members, the board of directors or liquidating agency shall develop a written plan for the liquidation of the assets and payment of shares (liquidation plan). The plan should provide for the liquidation of assets and payment of creditors and shareholders within one year of the liquidation date. If the liquidation period is projected to exceed one year, an explanation must be provided in the liquidation plan. A copy of the liquidation plan will be mailed to the Regional Director within 30 days of the date the board of directors votes to present the question of liquidation to the members.

§710.3 Approval of the liquidation proposal by members.

(a) When the board of directors decides to present the question of liquidation to the members, it shall act promptly to obtain the members' approval. The members shall be given advance notice of the membership meeting at which the liquidation proposal is to be submitted, in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the Federal Credit Union Bylaws. The notice shall:

(1) Inform members that they have the right to vote on the liquidation proposal in person at the membership meeting called for that purpose or by written ballot to be received no later than the time and date indicated on the notice.

(2) Include or be accompanied by a ballot for the liquidation proposal.

(b) The liquidation proposal must be approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Federal credit union members who vote on the proposal.

(c) If the members do not approve the liquidation, the board of directors, or if

delegated the authority, the liquidating agent, must decide within seven days whether the Federal credit union should resume operations or, if good cause exists, to resubmit the question of liquidation to the members.

(d) If the members approve the liquidation, neither the members nor the board of directors may rescind the decision to liquidate unless the Regional Director concurs in the rescission.

(e) The Regional Director will be notified in writing of the results of the membership vote on the voluntary liquidation proposal within three days of the date of the vote.

§710.4 Transaction of business during liquidation.

(a) Immediately upon decision by the board of directors to present the question of liquidation to the members, payments on shares, withdrawal of shares (except for transfer of shares to loans and interest), transfer of shares to another share account, granting of loans, and making of investments other than short-term investments shall be suspended pending action by the members on the proposal to liquidate. Collection of loans and interest, payment of necessary expenses, clearing of share drafts and credit card charges will continue.

(b) Upon approval of the members, payments on shares, withdrawal of shares (except for transfer of shares to loans and interest), transfer of shares to another share account, granting of loans, and making of investments other than short-term investments shall be discontinued permanently. Collection of loans and interest and payment of necessary expenses will continue during the period of liquidation. Members will be notified to discontinue the use of share drafts and credit cards, and items will not be cleared 15 days from the liquidation date.

(c) Approval of the Regional Director must be obtained prior to consummating any sale of assets which would not provide sufficient funds to pay shareholders at par.

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§ 710.5 Notice of liquidation to creditors.

(a) When approval for liquidation is obtained from the members, the board of directors or the liquidating agent shall cause notice to be given to creditors to present their claims.

(1) Federal credit unions with assets in excess of \$5 million as of the month end prior to the liquidation date shall publish the notice once a week in each of three successive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation, in each county in which the Federal credit union maintains an office or branch for the transaction of business on the liquidation date. The first notice shall be published within seven days of the liquidation date.

(2) Federal credit unions with assets in excess of \$500,000 but less than \$5 million as of the month end prior to the liquidation date shall publish the notice once, in a newspaper of general circulation, in each county in which the Federal credit union maintains an office or branch for the transaction of business on the liquidation date. The notice shall be published within seven days of the liquidation date.

(3) Federal credit unions with assets less than \$500,000 as of the month end prior to the liquidation date shall not be required to publish the notice.

(b) Within 10 days of the liquidation date, a copy of the notice of liquidation shall be mailed to all creditors reflected on the records of the Federal credit union.

(c) Creditors shall be provided 30 days from the liquidation date to submit their claims.

§ 710.6 Distribution of assets.

(a) With the approval of the regional director, a partial pro rata distribution of the Federal credit union's assets may be made to its members from cash funds available on authorization by the board of directors or liquidating agent. Payment of a partial distribution may exclude member accounts of less than \$25.00.

(b) After all assets of the Federal credit union have been converted to cash or found to be worthless and all loans and debts owing to it have been collected or found to be uncollectible and all obligations of the Federal cred-

it union have been paid, with the exception of shares due its members, the books shall be closed and the pro rata distribution to the members shall be computed. The computation shall be based on the total amount in each share account.

(c) Promptly after the pro rata distribution to members has been computed, checks shall be drawn for the amounts to be distributed to each member. The checks shall be mailed to the members at their last known address or handed to them in person.

(d) Unclaimed share accounts, unpaid claims, and unpaid claims of members or creditors who failed to cash their final distribution checks shall be trustee or escheated in accordance with the laws of the state in which the member or creditor resides.

(e) The Regional Director will be notified in writing within three days when the final distribution of assets to the members is started.

§ 710.7 Retention of records.

(a) The board of directors or liquidating agent shall appoint a custodian for the Federal credit union's records which are to be retained after the final distribution of assets.

(b) All records of the liquidated Federal credit union necessary to establish that creditors were paid and that assets were equitably distributed to the members shall be retained by the custodian for a period of five years following the date of charter cancellation.

§ 710.8 Certificate of dissolution and liquidation.

Within 120 days after the final distribution of assets to members is started, a duly executed Certificate of Dissolution and Liquidation shall be filed with the Regional Director.

§ 710.9 Federally insured state credit unions.

A federal insured state credit union will notify the Regional Director in writing within three days after the board of directors' decision to liquidate is made. A balance sheet and income statement as of the previous month-end and a copy of any liquidation plan will be included with the notification to the Regional Director.

PART 711—MANAGEMENT OFFICIAL INTERLOCKS

Sec.

- 711.1 Authority, purpose, and scope.
- 711.2 Definitions.
- 711.3 Prohibitions.
- 711.4 Interlocking relationships permitted by statute.
- 711.5 Small market share exemption.
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- 711.8 Enforcement.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1757 and 3201–3208.

SOURCE: 61 FR 50702, Sept. 27, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§ 711.1 Authority, purpose, and scope.

(a) *Authority.* This part is issued under the provisions of the Depository Institution Management Interlocks Act (Interlocks Act) (12 U.S.C. 3201 *et seq.*).

(b) *Purpose.* The purpose of the Interlocks Act and this part is to foster competition by generally prohibiting a management official from serving two nonaffiliated depository organizations in situations where the management interlock likely would have an anti-competitive effect.

(c) *Scope.* This part applies to management officials of federally insured credit unions. Section 711.4(c) exempts a management official of a credit union from the prohibitions of the Interlocks Act when the individual serves as a management official of another credit union. Therefore, the Interlocks Act prohibitions contained in this part only apply to a management official of a credit union when that individual also serves as a management official of another type of depository organization (usually a bank or thrift).

§ 711.2 Definitions.

For purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(a) *Affiliate.* (1) The term *affiliate* has the meaning given in section 202 of the Interlocks Act (12 U.S.C. 3201). For purposes of that section 202, shares held by an individual include shares held by members of his or her immediate family. “Immediate family” means spouse, mother, father, child, grandchild, sister, brother, or any of their spouses,

whether or not any of their shares are held in trust.

(2) For purposes of section 202(3)(B) of the Interlocks Act (12 U.S.C. 3201(3)(B)), an affiliate relationship involving a depository institution based on common ownership does not exist if the appropriate federal supervisory agency determines, after giving the affected persons the opportunity to respond, that the asserted affiliation was established in order to avoid the prohibitions of the Interlocks Act and does not represent a true commonality of interest between the depository organizations. In making this determination, the appropriate Federal supervisory agency considers, among other things, whether a person, including members of his or her immediate family, whose shares are necessary to constitute the group owns a nominal percentage of the shares of one of the organizations and the percentage is substantially disproportionate to that person’s ownership of shares in the other organization.

(b) *Area median income* means:

(1) The median family income for the metropolitan statistical area (MSA), if a depository organization is located in an MSA; or

(2) The statewide nonmetropolitan median family income, if a depository organization is located outside an MSA.

(c) *Community* means a city, town, or village, and contiguous or adjacent cities, towns, or villages.

(d) *Contiguous or adjacent cities, towns, or villages* means cities, towns, or villages whose borders touch each other or whose borders are within 10 road miles of each other at their closest points. The property line of an office located in an unincorporated city, town, or village is the boundary line of that city, town, or village for the purpose of this definition.

(e) *Depository holding company* means a bank holding company or a savings and loan holding company (as more fully defined in section 202 of the Interlocks Act (12 U.S.C. 3201) having its principal office located in the United States.

(f) *Depository institution* means a commercial bank (including a private

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bank), a savings bank, a trust company, a savings and loan association, a building and loan association, a home-stead association, a cooperative bank, an industrial bank, or a credit union, chartered under the laws of the United States and having a principal office located in the United States. Additionally, a United States office, including a branch or agency, of a foreign commercial bank is a depository institution.

(g) *Depository institution affiliate* means a depository institution that is an affiliate of a depository organization.

(h) *Depository organization* means a depository institution or a depository holding company.

(i) *District bank* means any State bank operating under the Code of Law of the District of Columbia.

(j) *Low- and moderate-income areas* means census tracts (or, if an area is not in a census tract, block numbering areas delineated by the United States Bureau of the Census) where the median family income is less than 100 percent of the area median income.

(k) *Management official.* (1) The term *management official* means:

- (i) A director;
- (ii) An advisory or honorary director of a depository institution with total assets of \$100 million or more;
- (iii) A senior executive officer as that term is defined in 12 CFR 701.14(b)(2), or a person holding an equivalent position regardless of title;
- (iv) A branch manager;
- (v) A trustee of a depository organization under the control of trustees; and
- (vi) Any person who has a representative or nominee serving in any of the capacities in this paragraph (m)(1).

(2) The term *management official* does not include:

- (i) A person whose management functions relate exclusively to the business of retail merchandising or manufacturing;
- (ii) A person whose management functions relate principally to the business outside the United States of a foreign commercial bank; or
- (iii) A person described in the provisions of section 202(4) of the Interlocks Act (12 U.S.C. 3201(4)) (referring to an officer of a State-chartered savings

bank, cooperative bank, or trust company that neither makes real estate mortgage loans nor accepts savings).

(l) *Office* means a principal or branch office of a depository institution located in the United States. *Office* does not include a representative office of a foreign commercial bank, an electronic terminal, or a loan production office.

(m) *Person* means a natural person, corporation, or other business entity.

(n) *Relevant metropolitan statistical area (RMSA)* means an MSA, a primary MSA, or a consolidated MSA that is not comprised of designated primary MSAs to the extent that these terms are defined and applied by the Office of Management and Budget.

(o) *Representative or nominee* means a natural person who serves as a management official and has an obligation to act on behalf of another person with respect to management responsibilities. NCUA will find that a person has an obligation to act on behalf of another person only if the first person has an agreement, express or implied, to act on behalf of the second person with respect to management responsibilities. NCUA will determine, after giving the affected persons an opportunity to respond, whether a person is a *representative or nominee*.

(p) *Total assets.* (1) The term *total assets* means assets measured on a consolidated basis and reported in the most recent fiscal year-end Consolidated Report of Condition and Income.

(2) The term *total assets* does not include:

- (i) Assets of a diversified savings and loan holding company as defined by section 10(a)(1)(F) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(a)(1)(F)) other than the assets of its depository institution affiliate;
 - (ii) Assets of a bank holding company that is exempt from the prohibitions of section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 pursuant to an order issued under section 4(d) of that Act (12 U.S.C. 1843(d)) other than the assets of its depository institution affiliate; or
 - (iii) Assets of offices of a foreign commercial bank other than the assets of its United States branch or agency.
- (q) *United States* includes any State or territory of the United States of America, the District of Columbia,

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Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands.

[61 FR 50702, Sept. 27, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 66360, Nov. 26, 1999]

§711.3 Prohibitions.

(a) *Community.* A management official of a depository organization may not serve at the same time as a management official of an unaffiliated depository organization if the depository organizations in question (or a depository institution affiliate thereof) have offices in the same community.

(b) *RMSA.* A management official of a depository organization may not serve at the same time as a management official of an unaffiliated depository organization if the depository organizations in question (or a depository institution affiliate thereof) have offices in the same RMSA and each depository organization has total assets of \$20 million or more.

(c) *Major assets.* A management official of a depository organization with total assets exceeding \$2.5 billion (or any affiliate thereof) may not serve at the same time as a management official of an unaffiliated depository organization with total assets exceeding \$1.5 billion (or any affiliate thereof), regardless of the location of the two depository organizations. The NCUA will adjust these thresholds, as necessary, based on year-to-year change in the average of the Consumer Price Index for the Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, not seasonally adjusted, with rounding to the nearest \$100 million. The NCUA will announce the revised thresholds by publishing a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

[61 FR 50702, Sept. 27, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 66360, Nov. 26, 1999]

§711.4 Interlocking relationships permitted by statute.

The prohibitions of §711.3 do not apply in the case of any one or more of the following organizations or to a subsidiary thereof:

(a) A depository organization that has been placed formally in liquidation, or which is in the hands of a receiver, conservator, or other official exercising a similar function;

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(b) A corporation operating under section 25 or section 25A of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.* and 12 U.S.C. 611 *et seq.*, respectively) (Edge Corporations and Agreement Corporations);

(c) A credit union being served by a management official of another credit union;

(d) A depository organization that does not do business within the United States except as an incident to its activities outside the United States;

(e) A State-chartered savings and loan guaranty corporation;

(f) A Federal Home Loan Bank or any other bank organized solely to serve depository institutions (a bankers' bank) or solely for the purpose of providing securities clearing services and services related thereto for depository institutions and securities companies;

(g) A depository organization that is closed or is in danger of closing as determined by the appropriate Federal depository institutions regulatory agency and is acquired by another depository organization. This exemption lasts for five years, beginning on the date the depository organization is acquired; and

(h)(1) A diversified savings and loan holding company (as defined in section 10(a)(1)(F) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(a)(1)(F)) with respect to the service of a director of such company who also is a director of an unaffiliated depository organization if:

(i) Both the diversified savings and loan holding company and the unaffiliated depository organization notify their appropriate Federal depository institutions regulatory agency at least 60 days before the dual service is proposed to begin; and

(ii) The appropriate regulatory agency does not disapprove the dual service before the end of the 60-day period.

(2) The NCUA Board or its designee may disapprove a notice of proposed service if it finds that:

(i) The service cannot be structured or limited so as to preclude an anti-competitive effect in financial services in any part of the United States;

(ii) The service would lead to substantial conflicts of interest or unsafe or unsound practices; or

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(iii) The notificant failed to furnish all the information required by NCUA.

(3) The NCUA Board or its designee may require that any interlock permitted under this paragraph (h) be terminated if a change in circumstances occurs with respect to one of the interlocked depository organizations that would have provided a basis for disapproval of the interlock during the notice period.

§711.5 Small market share exemption.

(a) *Exemption.* A management interlock that is prohibited by §711.3(a) or §711.3(b) is permissible, provided:

(1) The interlock is not prohibited by §711.3(c); and

(2) The depository organizations (and their depository institution affiliates) hold, in the aggregate, no more than 20% of the deposits, in each RMSA or community in which the depository organizations (or their depository institution affiliates) are located. The amount of deposits will be determined by reference to the most recent annual Summary of Deposits published by the FDIC. This information is available on the Internet at <http://www.fdic.gov>.

(b) *Confirmation and records.* Each depository organization must maintain records sufficient to support its determination of eligibility for the exemption under paragraph (a) of this section, and must reconfirm that determination on an annual basis.

[64 FR 66360, Nov. 26, 1999]

§711.6 General exemption.

(a) *Exemption.* NCUA may, by agency order issued following receipt of an application, exempt an interlock from the prohibitions in §711.3, if NCUA finds that the interlock would not result in a monopoly or substantial lessening of competition, and would not present other safety and soundness concerns.

(b) *Presumptions.* In reviewing applications for an exemption under this section, NCUA will apply a rebuttable presumption that an interlock will not result in a monopoly or substantial lessening of competition if the depository organization seeking to add a management official:

(1) Primarily serves, low- and moderate-income areas;

(2) Is controlled or managed by persons who are members of a minority group or women;

(3) Is a depository institution that has been chartered for less than two years; or

(4) Is deemed to be in “troubled condition” as defined in §701.14(b)(3) of this chapter.

(c) *Duration.* Unless a shorter expiration period is provided in the NCUA approval, an exemption permitted by paragraph (a) of this section may continue so long as it would not result in a monopoly or substantial lessening of competition, or be unsafe or unsound. If the NCUA grants an interlock exemption in reliance upon a presumption under paragraph (b) of this section, the interlock may continue for three years, unless otherwise provided in the approval.

[64 FR 66360, Nov. 26, 1999]

§711.7 Change in circumstances.

(a) *Termination.* A management official shall terminate his or her service if a change in circumstances causes the service to become prohibited. A change in circumstances may include, but is not limited to, an increase in asset size of an organization, a change in the delineation of the RMSA or community, the establishment of an office, an increase in the aggregate deposits of the depository organization, or an acquisition, merger, consolidation, or reorganization of the ownership structure of a depository organization that causes a previously permissible interlock to become prohibited.

(b) *Transition period.* A management official described in paragraph (a) of this section may continue to serve the depository organization involved in the interlock for 15 months following the date of the change in circumstances. NCUA may shorten this period under appropriate circumstances.

[61 FR 50702, Sept. 27, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 66360, Nov. 26, 1999]

§711.8 Enforcement.

Except as provided in this section, NCUA administers and enforces the Interlocks Act with respect to federally insured credit unions, and may

refer any case of a prohibited interlocking relationship involving these entities to the Attorney General of the United States to enforce compliance with the Interlocks Act and this part.

PART 712—CREDIT UNION SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (CUSOs)

Sec.

712.1 What does this part cover?

712.2 How much can an FCU invest in or loan to CUSOs, and what parties may participate?

712.3 What are the characteristics of and what requirements apply to CUSOs?

712.4 What must an FCU and a CUSO do to maintain separate corporate identities?

712.5 What activities and services are preapproved for CUSOs?

712.6 What activities and services are prohibited for CUSOs?

712.7 What must an FCU do to add activities or services that are not preapproved?

712.8 What transaction and compensation limits might apply to individuals related to both an FCU and a CUSO?

712.9 When must an FCU comply with this part?

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1756, 1757(5)(D) and (7)(I), 1766, 1782, 1784, 1785, and 1786.

SOURCE: 63 FR 10756, Mar. 5, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

§ 712.1 What does this part cover?

This part establishes when a Federal credit union (FCU) can invest in and make loans to CUSOs. CUSOs are subject to review by NCUA. This part does not apply to corporate credit unions that have CUSOs subject to § 704.11 of this title. This part does not apply to state-chartered credit unions or the subsidiaries of state-chartered credit unions that do not have FCU investments or loans.

§ 712.2 How much can an FCU invest in or loan to CUSOs, and what parties may participate?

(a) *Investments.* An FCU's total investments in CUSOs must not exceed, in the aggregate, 1% of its paid-in and unimpaired capital and surplus as of its last calendar year-end financial report.

(b) *Loans.* An FCU's total loans to CUSOs must not exceed, in the aggregate, 1% of its paid-in and unimpaired capital and surplus as of its last calendar year-end financial report. Loan authority is independent and separate

from the 1% investment authority of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) *Parties.* An FCU may invest in or loan to a CUSO by itself, with other credit unions, or with non-credit union parties.

(d) *Measurement for calculating regulatory limitation.* For purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section: paid-in and unimpaired capital and surplus means shares and undivided earnings; and total investments in and total loans to CUSOs will be measured consistent with GAAP.

(e) *Divestiture.* If the limitations in paragraph (a) of this section are reached or exceeded because of the profitability of the CUSO and the related GAAP valuation of the investment under the equity method, without an additional cash outlay by the FCU, divestiture is not required. An FCU may continue to invest up to 1% without regard to the increase in the GAAP valuation resulting from a CUSO's profitability.

[63 FR 10756, Mar. 5, 1998, as amended at 64 FR 33187, June 22, 1999]

§ 712.3 What are the characteristics of and what requirements apply to CUSOs?

(a) *Structure.* An FCU can invest in or loan to a CUSO only if the CUSO is structured as a corporation, limited liability company, or limited partnership. An FCU may only participate in a limited partnership as a limited partner. For purposes of this part, "corporation" means a legally incorporated corporation as established and maintained under relevant state law. For purposes of this part, "limited partnership" means a legally established limited partnership as established and maintained under relevant state law. For purposes of this part, "limited liability company" means a legally established limited liability company as established and maintained under relevant state law, provided that the FCU obtains written legal advice that the limited liability company is a recognized legal entity under the applicable laws of the state of formation and that the limited liability company is established in a manner that will limit potential exposure of the FCU to no more

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than the amount of funds invested in, or loaned to, the CUSO.

(b) *Customer base.* An FCU can invest in or loan to a CUSO only if the CUSO primarily serves credit unions, its membership, or the membership of credit unions contracting with the CUSO.

(c) *Federal credit union accounting for financial reporting purposes.* An FCU must account for its investments in or loans to a CUSO in conformity with “generally accepted accounting principles” (GAAP).

(d) *CUSO accounting; audits and financial statements; NCUA access to information.* An FCU must obtain written agreements from a CUSO, prior to investing in or lending to the CUSO, that the CUSO will:

(1) Account for all its transactions in accordance with GAAP;

(2) Prepare quarterly financial statements and obtain an annual opinion audit, by a licensed Certified Public Accountant, on its financial statements in accordance with “generally accepted auditing standards” (GAAS); and

(3) Provide NCUA and its representatives with complete access to any books and records of the CUSO and the ability to review CUSO internal controls, as deemed necessary by NCUA in carrying out its responsibilities under the Act.

(e) *Other laws.* A CUSO must comply with applicable Federal, state and local laws.

[63 FR 10756, Mar. 5, 1998, as amended at 64 FR 33187, June 22, 1999; 64 FR 57365, Oct. 25, 1999]

§ 712.4 What must an FCU and a CUSO do to maintain separate corporate identities?

(a) *Corporate separateness.* An FCU and a CUSO must be operated in a manner that demonstrates to the public the separate corporate existence of the FCU and the CUSO. Good business practices dictate that each must operate so that:

(1) Its respective business transactions, accounts, and records are not intermingled;

(2) Each observes the formalities of its separate corporate procedures;

(3) Each is adequately financed as a separate unit in the light of normal obligations reasonably foreseeable in a business of its size and character;

(4) Each is held out to the public as a separate enterprise;

(5) The FCU does not dominate the CUSO to the extent that the CUSO is treated as a department of the FCU; and

(6) Unless the FCU has guaranteed a loan obtained by the CUSO, all borrowings by the CUSO indicate that the FCU is not liable.

(b) *Legal opinion.* Prior to an FCU investing in a CUSO, the FCU must obtain written legal advice as to whether the CUSO is established in a manner that will limit potential exposure of the FCU to no more than the loss of funds invested in, or lent to, the CUSO. In addition, if a CUSO in which an FCU has an investment plans to change its structure under § 712.3(a), an FCU must also obtain prior, written legal advice that the CUSO will remain established in a manner that will limit potential exposure of the FCU to no more than the loss of funds invested in, or loaned to, the CUSO. The legal advice must address factors that have led courts to “pierce the corporate veil” such as inadequate capitalization, lack of separate corporate identity, common boards of directors and employees, control of one entity over another, and lack of separate books and records. The legal advice may be provided by independent legal counsel of the investing FCU or the CUSO.

§ 712.5 What activities and services are preapproved for CUSOs?

NCUA may at any time, based upon supervisory, legal, or safety and soundness reasons, limit any CUSO activities or services, or refuse to permit any CUSO activities or services. Otherwise, an FCU may invest in, loan to, and/or contract with only those CUSOs that are sufficiently bonded or insured for their specific operations and only provide one or more of the following activities and services related to the routine, daily operations of credit unions:

(a) *Checking and currency services:*

(1) Check cashing;

(2) Coin and currency services; and

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(3) Money order, savings bonds, travelers checks, and purchase and sale of U.S. Mint commemorative coins services;

(b) *Clerical, professional and management services:*

(1) Accounting services;
(2) Courier services;
(3) Credit analysis;
(4) Facsimile transmissions and copying services;

(5) Internal audits for credit unions;
(6) Locator services;
(7) Management and personnel training and support;

(8) Marketing services;
(9) Research services; and
(10) Supervisory committee audits;
(c) *Consumer mortgage loan origination;*
(d) *Electronic transaction services:*

(1) Automated teller machine (ATM) services;

(2) Credit card and debit card services;

(3) Data processing;
(4) Electronic fund transfer (EFT) services;

(5) Electronic income tax filing;
(6) Payment item processing;
(7) Wire transfer services; and
(8) Cyber financial services;

(e) *Financial counseling services:*

(1) Developing and administering Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA), Keogh, deferred compensation, and other personnel benefit plans;

(2) Estate planning;

(3) Financial planning and counseling;

(4) Income tax preparation;
(5) Investment counseling; and
(6) Retirement counseling;

(f) *Fixed asset services:*

(1) Management, development, sale, or lease of fixed assets; and

(2) Sale, lease, or servicing of computer hardware or software;

(g) *Insurance brokerage or agency:*

(1) Agency for sale of insurance;

(2) Provision of vehicle warranty programs; and

(3) Provision of group purchasing programs;

(h) *Leasing:*

(1) Personal property; and
(2) Real estate leasing of excess CUSO property;

(i) *Loan support services:*

(1) Debt collection services;

(2) Loan processing, servicing, and sales; and

(3) Sale of repossessed collateral;

(j) *Record retention, security and disaster recovery services:*

(1) Alarm-monitoring and other security services;

(2) Disaster recovery services;

(3) Microfilm, microfiche, optical and electronic imaging, CD-ROM data storage and retrieval services;

(4) Provision of forms and supplies; and

(5) Record retention and storage;

(k) *Securities brokerage services;*

(l) *Shared credit union branch (service center) operations;*

(m) *Student loan origination;*

(n) *Travel agency services; and*

(o) *Trust and trust-related services:*

(1) Acting as administrator for pre-paid legal service plans;

(2) Acting as trustee, guardian, conservator, estate administrator, or in any other fiduciary capacity; and

(3) Trust services.

(p) *Real estate brokerage services.*

(q) *CUSO investments in non-CUSO*

service providers: In connection with providing a permissible service, a CUSO may invest in a non-CUSO service provider. The amount of the CUSO's investment is limited to the amount necessary to participate in the service provider, or a greater amount if necessary to receive a reduced price for goods or services.

[63 FR 10756, Mar. 5, 1998, as amended at 64 FR 33187, June 22, 1999; 64 FR 66361, Nov. 26, 1999]

§712.6 What activities and services are prohibited for CUSOs?

General. CUSOs must not acquire control of, either directly or indirectly, another depository financial institution, nor invest in shares, stocks, or obligations of an insurance company, trade association, liquidity facility or similar organization, corporation, or association.

[63 FR 10756, Mar. 5, 1998, as amended at 64 FR 66361, Nov. 26, 1999]

§712.7 What must an FCU do to add activities or services that are not preapproved?

In order for an FCU to invest in and/or loan to a CUSO that offers an

unpreapproved activity or service, the FCU must first receive NCUA Board approval. The request for NCUA Board approval of an unpreapproved activity or service must include a full explanation and complete documentation of the activity or service and how that activity or service is associated with routine credit union operations. The request must be submitted jointly to your Regional Office and to the Secretary of the Board. The request will be treated as a petition to amend §712.5 and NCUA will request public comment or otherwise act on the petition within 60 days after receipt.

§712.8 What transaction and compensation limits might apply to individuals related to both an FCU and a CUSO?

(a) *Officials and Senior Management Employees.* The officials, senior management employees, and their immediate family members of an FCU that has outstanding loans or investments in a CUSO must not receive any salary, commission, investment income, or other income or compensation from the CUSO either directly or indirectly, or from any person being served through the CUSO. This provision does not prohibit such FCU officials or senior management employees from assisting in the operation of a CUSO, provided the officials or senior management employees are not compensated by the CUSO. Further, the CUSO may reimburse the FCU for the services provided by such FCU officials and senior management employees only if the account receivable of the FCU due from the CUSO is paid in full at least every 120 days. For purposes of this paragraph (a), “official” means affiliated credit union directors or committee members. For purposes of this paragraph (a), “senior management employee” means affiliated credit union chief executive officer (typically this individual holds the title of President or Treasurer/Manager), any assistant chief executive officers (e.g. Assistant President, Vice President, or Assistant Treasurer/Manager) and the chief financial officer (Comptroller). For purposes of this paragraph (a), “immediate family member” means a spouse or

other family members living in the same household.

(b) *Employees.* The prohibition contained in paragraph (a) of this section also applies to FCU employees not otherwise covered if the employees are directly involved in dealing with the CUSO unless the FCU’s board of directors determines that the FCU employees’ positions do not present a conflict of interest.

(c) *Others.* All transactions with business associates or family members of FCU officials, senior management employees, and their immediate family members, not specifically prohibited by paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section must be conducted at arm’s length and in the interest of the FCU.

§712.9 When must an FCU comply with this part?

(a) *Investments.* An FCU’s investments in CUSOs in existence prior to April 1, 1998, must conform with this part not later than April 1, 2001, unless the Board grants prior approval to continue such investment for a stated period.

(b) *Loans.* An FCU’s loans to CUSOs in existence prior to April 1, 1998, must conform with this part not later than April 1, 2001, unless:

(1) The Board grants prior approval to continue the FCU’s loan for a stated period; or

(2) Under the terms of its loan agreement, the FCU cannot require accelerated repayment without breaching the agreement.

PART 713—FIDELITY BOND AND INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

Sec.

713.1 What is the scope of this section?

713.2 What are the responsibilities of a credit union’s board of directors under this section?

713.3 What bond coverage must a credit union have?

713.4 What bond forms may be used?

713.5 What is the required minimum dollar amount of coverage?

713.6 What is the permissible deductible?

713.7 May the NCUA Board require a credit union to secure additional insurance coverage?

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AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1761a, 1761b, 1766(a), 1766(h), 1789(a)(11).

SOURCE: 64 FR 28720, May 27, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

§ 713.1 What is the scope of this section?

This section provides the requirements for fidelity bonds for Federal credit union employees and officials and for other insurance coverage for losses such as theft, holdup, vandalism, etc., caused by persons outside the credit union.

§ 713.2 What are the responsibilities of a credit union's board of directors under this section?

The board of directors of each Federal credit union must at least annually review its fidelity and other insurance coverage to ensure that it is adequate in relation to the potential risks

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facing the credit union and the minimum requirements set by the Board.

[64 FR 28720, May 27, 1999, as amended at 64 FR 57365, Oct. 25, 1999]

§ 713.3 What bond coverage must a credit union have?

At a minimum, your bond coverage must:

(a) Be purchased in an individual policy from a company holding a certificate of authority from the Secretary of the Treasury; and

(b) Include fidelity bonds that cover fraud and dishonesty by all employees, directors, officers, supervisory committee members, and credit committee members.

§ 713.4 What bond forms may be used?

(a) The following basic bonds may be used without prior NCUA Board approval:

Credit union form No.	Carrier
Credit Union Blanket Bond Standard Form 23 of the Surety Association of America (revised May 1950).	Various.
Extended Form 23	USFG.
100	CUMIS (only approved for corporate credit union use).
200	CUMIS.
300	CUMIS.
400	CUMIS.
AIG 23	National Union Fire Insurance Co. of Pitts., PA.
Reliance Preferred Form 23	Reliance Insurance Company.
Form 31	ITT Hartford.
Form 24 with Credit Union Endorsement	Continental (only approved for corporate credit union use).
Form 40325	St. Paul Fire and Marine.
Form F2350	Fidelity & Deposit Co. Of Maryland.
Form 9993 (6/97)	Progressive Casualty Insurance Co.
Credit Union Blanket Bond (1/96)	Cooperativas de Seguros Multiples de Puerto Rico.

(b) To use any of the following, you need prior written approval from the Board:

- (1) Any other basic bond form; or
- (2) Any rider or endorsement that limits coverage of approved basic bond forms.

§ 713.5 What is the required minimum dollar amount of coverage?

(a) The minimum required amount of fidelity bond coverage for any single loss is computed based on a Federal credit union's total assets.

Assets	Minimum bond
\$0 to \$10,000	Coverage equal to the credit union's assets.
\$10,001 to \$1,000,000	\$10,000 for each \$100,000 or fraction thereof.
\$1,000,001 to \$50,000,000	\$100,000 plus \$50,000 for each million or fraction over \$1,000,000.
\$50,000,001 to \$295,000,000	\$2,550,000 plus \$10,000 for each million or fraction thereof over \$50,000,000.
Over \$295,000,000	\$5,000,000.

(b) This is the minimum coverage required, but a Federal credit union's

board of directors should purchase additional coverage when circumstances,

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such as cash on hand or cash in transit, warrant.

(c) While the above is the required minimum amount of bond coverage, credit unions should maintain increased coverage equal to the greater of either of the following amounts within thirty days of discovery of the need for such increase:

(1) The amount of the daily cash fund, i.e. daily cash plus anticipated daily money receipts on the credit union's premises, or

(2) The total amount of the credit union's money in transit in any one shipment.

(3) Increased coverage is not required pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section, however, when the credit union temporarily increased its cash fund be-

cause of unusual events which cannot reasonably be expected to recur.

(d) Any aggregate limit of liability provided for in a fidelity bond policy must be at least twice the single loss limit of liability. This requirement does not apply to optional insurance coverage.

(e) Any proposal to reduce your required bond coverage must be approved in writing by the NCUA Board at least twenty days in advance of the proposed effective date of the reduction.

§ 713.6 What is the permissible deductible?

(a)(1) The maximum amount of allowable deductible is computed based on a Federal credit union's asset size, as follows:

Assets	Maximum deductible
\$0–\$100,000	No deductibles allowed.
\$100,001–\$250,000	\$1,000.
\$250,001–\$1,000,000	\$2,000.
Over \$1,000,001	\$2,000 plus 1/1000 of total assets up to a maximum deductible of \$200,000.

(2) The deductibles may apply to one or more insurance clauses in a policy. Any deductibles in excess of the above amounts must receive the prior written permission of the NCUA Board.

(b) A deductible may not exceed 10 percent of a credit union's Regular Reserve unless a separate Contingency Reserve is set up for the excess. In computing the maximum deductible, valuation accounts such as the allowance for loan losses cannot be considered.

§ 713.7 May the NCUA Board require a credit union to secure additional insurance coverage?

The NCUA Board may require additional coverage when the Board determines that a credit union's current coverage is inadequate. The credit union must purchase this additional coverage within 30 days.

PART 715—SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE AUDITS AND VERIFICATIONS

Sec.

715.1 Scope of this part.

715.2 Definitions used in this part.

715.3 General responsibilities of the Supervisory Committee.

715.4 Audit responsibility of the Supervisory Committee.

715.5 Audit of Federal Credit Unions.

715.6 Audit of Federally-insured State-chartered credit unions.

715.7 Supervisory Committee audit alternatives to a financial statement audit.

715.8 Requirements for verification of accounts and passbooks.

715.9 Assistance from outside, compensated person.

715.10 Audit report and working paper maintenance and access.

715.11 Sanctions for failure to comply with this part.

715.12 Statutory audit remedies for Federal credit unions.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1761d, 1782(a)(6).

SOURCE: 64 FR 41035, July 29, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

§ 715.1 Scope of this part.

This part implements section 202(a)(6)(D) of the Federal Credit Union Act, 12 U.S.C. 1782(a)(6)(D), as added by section 201(a) of the Credit Union Membership Access Act, Pub. L. No. 105-219, 112 Stat. 918 (1998). This part prescribes the responsibilities of the Supervisory

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Committee to obtain an annual audit of the credit union according to its charter type and asset size, and to conduct a verification of members' accounts.

§715.2 Definitions used in this part.

As used in this part:

(a) *Balance sheet audit* refers to the examination of a credit union's assets, liabilities, and equity under generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS) by an independent public accountant for the purpose of opining on the fairness of the presentation on the balance sheet. Credit unions required to file call reports consistent with GAAP should ensure the audited balance sheet is likewise prepared on a GAAP basis. The opinion under this type of engagement would not address the fairness of the presentation of the credit union's income statement, statement of changes in equity (including comprehensive income), or statement of cash flows.

(b) *Compensated person* refers to any accounting/auditing professional, excluding a credit union employee, who is compensated for performing more than one supervisory committee audit and/or verification of members' accounts per calendar year.

(c) *Financial statements* refers to a presentation of financial data, including accompanying notes, derived from accounting records of the credit union, and intended to disclose a credit union's economic resources or obligations at a point in time, or the changes therein for a period of time, in conformity with GAAP, as defined herein, or regulatory accounting procedures. Each of the following is considered to be a financial statement: a balance sheet or statement of financial condition; statement of income or statement of operations; statement of undivided earnings; statement of cash flows; statement of changes in members' equity; statement of revenue and expenses; and statement of cash receipts and disbursements.

(d) *Financial statement audit* (also known as an "opinion audit") refers to an audit of the financial statements of a credit union performed in accordance with GAAS by an independent person who is licensed by the appropriate

State or jurisdiction. The objective of a financial statement audit is to express an opinion as to whether those financial statements of the credit union present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position and the results of its operations and its cash flows in conformity with GAAP, as defined herein, or regulatory accounting practices.

(e) *GAAP* is an acronym for "generally accepted accounting principles" which refers to the conventions, rules, and procedures which define accepted accounting practice. GAAP includes both broad general guidelines and detailed practices and procedures, provides a standard by which to measure financial statement presentations, and encompasses not only accounting principles and practices but also the methods of applying them.

(f) *GAAS* is an acronym for "generally accepted auditing standards" which refers to the standards approved and adopted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants which apply when an "independent, licensed certified public accountant" audits financial statements. Auditing standards differ from auditing procedures in that "procedures" address acts to be performed, whereas "standards" measure the quality of the performance of those acts and the objectives to be achieved by use of the procedures undertaken. In addition, auditing standards address the auditor's professional qualifications as well as the judgment exercised in performing the audit and in preparing the report of the audit.

(g) *Independent* means the impartiality necessary for the dependability of the compensated auditor's findings. Independence requires the exercise of fairness toward credit union officials, members, creditors and others who may rely upon the report of a supervisory committee audit report.

(h) *Internal control* refers to the process, established by the credit union's board of directors, officers and employees, designed to provide reasonable assurance of reliable financial reporting and safeguarding of assets against unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition. A credit union's internal control structure consists of five components: control environment; risk assessment; control activities; information and

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communication; and monitoring. Reliable financial reporting refers to preparation of Call Reports (NCUA Forms 5300 and 5310) that meet management's financial reporting objectives. Internal control over safeguarding of assets against unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition refers to prevention or timely detection of transactions involving such unauthorized access, use, or disposition of assets which could result in a loss that is material to the financial statements.

(i) *Reportable conditions* refers to a matter coming to the attention of the independent, compensated auditor which, in his or her judgment, represents a significant deficiency in the design or operation of the internal control structure of the credit union, which could adversely affect its ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the representations of management in the financial statements.

(j) *Report on Examination of Internal Control over Call Reporting* refers to an engagement in which an independent, licensed, certified public accountant or public accountant, consistent with attestation standards, examines and reports on management's written assertions concerning the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting in its most recently filed semi-annual or year-end Call Report, with a concentration in high risk areas. For credit unions, such high risk areas most often include: lending activity; investing activity; and cash handling and deposit-taking activity.

(k) *State-licensed person* refers to a certified public accountant or public accountant who is licensed by the State or jurisdiction where the credit union is principally located to perform accounting or auditing services for that credit union.

(l) *Supervisory committee* refers to a supervisory committee as defined in Section 111(b) of the Federal Credit Union Act, 12 U.S.C. 1786(r). For some federally-insured state chartered credit unions, the "audit committee" designated by state statute or regulation is the equivalent of a supervisory committee.

(m) *Supervisory committee audit* refers to an engagement under either § 715.5 or § 715.6 of this part.

(n) *Working papers* refers to the principal record, in any form, of the work performed by the auditor and/or supervisory committee to support its findings and/or conclusions concerning significant matters. Examples include the written record of procedures applied, tests performed, information obtained, and pertinent conclusions reached in the engagement, proprietary audit programs, analyses, memoranda, letters of confirmation and representation, abstracts of credit union documents, reviewer's notes, if retained, and schedules or commentaries prepared or obtained in the course of the engagement.

§ 715.3 General responsibilities of the Supervisory Committee.

(a) *Basic.* The supervisory committee is responsible for ensuring that the board of directors and management of the credit union—

(1) Meet required financial reporting objectives;

(2) And establish practices and procedures sufficient to safeguard members' assets.

(b) *Specific.* To carry out the responsibilities set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, the supervisory committee must determine whether:

(1) Internal controls are established and effectively maintained to achieve the credit union's financial reporting objectives which must be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the supervisory committee audit, verification of members' accounts and its additional responsibilities;

(2) The credit union's accounting records and financial reports are promptly prepared and accurately reflect operations and results;

(3) The relevant plans, policies, and control procedures established by the board of directors are properly administered; and

(4) Policies and control procedures are sufficient to safeguard against error, conflict of interest, self-dealing and fraud.

(c) *Mandates.* In carrying out the responsibilities set forth in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, the Supervisory Committee must:

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(1) Ensure that the credit union adheres to the measurement and filing requirements for reports filed with the NCUA Board under § 741.6 of this chapter;

(2) Perform or obtain a supervisory committee audit, as prescribed in § 715.4 of this part;

(3) Verify or cause the verification of members' passbooks and accounts against the records of the credit union, as prescribed in § 715.8 of this part;

(4) Act to avoid imposition of sanctions for failure to comply with the requirements of this part, as prescribed in §§ 715.11 and 715.12 of this part.

§ 715.4 Audit responsibility of the Supervisory Committee.

(a) *Annual audit requirement.* A federally-insured credit union is required to obtain an annual supervisory committee audit which occurs at least once every calendar year (period of performance) and must cover the period elapsed since the last audit period (period effectively covered).

(b) *Financial statement audit option.* Any federally-insured credit union, whether Federally- or State-chartered

and regardless of asset size, may choose to fulfill its Supervisory Committee audit responsibility by obtaining an annual audit of its financial statements performed in accordance with GAAS by an independent person who is licensed to do so by the State or jurisdiction in which the credit union is principally located. (A "financial statement audit" is distinct from a "supervisory committee audit," although a financial statement audit is included among the options for fulfilling the supervisory committee audit requirement. Compare § 715.2(c) and (j).)

(c) *Other audit options.* A federally insured credit union which does not choose to obtain a financial statement audit as permitted by subsection (b) must fulfill its supervisory audit responsibility under either of § 715.5 or § 715.6 of this part, whichever is applicable. See Table 1. For purposes of this part, a credit union's asset size is the amount of total assets reported in the year-end Call Report (NCUA form 5300) filed for the calendar year-end immediately preceding the period under audit.

Type of Charter	Asset Size	Minimum Audit Required to Fulfill Supervisory Committee Audit Responsibility ¹	Part 715 section
Federal charter	\$500 Million or more	Financial statement audit per GAAS by independent, State-licensed person	§ 715.5
	Less than \$500 Million but greater than \$10 Million	Either financial statement audit or other supervisory committee audit options	
	\$10 Million or less	Either of three supervisory committee audit options	
State charter	\$500 Million or more	Financial statement audit per GAAS by independent, State-licensed person	§ 715.6
	Less than \$500 Million	Either of three supervisory committee audit options unless audit prescribed by State law is more stringent.	

¹ The Supervisory Committee audit responsibility under Part 715 can always be fulfilled by obtaining a financial statement audit. § 715.4(b).

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§ 715.5 Audit of Federal Credit Unions.

(a) *Total assets of \$500 million or greater.* To fulfill its Supervisory Committee audit responsibility, a federal credit union having total assets of \$500 million or greater must obtain an annual audit of its financial statements performed in accordance with GAAS by an independent person who is licensed to do so by the State or jurisdiction in which the credit union is principally located.

(b) *Total assets of less than \$500 million but more than \$10 million.* To fulfill its Supervisory Committee audit responsibility, a Federally-chartered credit union having total assets of less than \$500 million but more than \$10 Million which does not choose to obtain an audit under § 715.5(a), must obtain an annual supervisory committee audit as prescribed in § 715.7.

(c) *Total assets of \$10 million or less.* To fulfill its Supervisory Committee audit responsibility, a Federally-chartered credit union having total assets of \$10 million or less must obtain an annual Supervisory Committee audit as prescribed in § 715.7.

(d) *Other requirements.* A federally chartered credit union, regardless of which audit it is required to obtain under this section, must meet other applicable requirements of this part.

§ 715.6 Audit of Federally-insured State-chartered credit unions.

(a) *Total assets of \$500 million or greater.* To fulfill its Supervisory Committee audit responsibility, a federally-insured State-chartered credit union having total assets of \$500 million or greater must obtain an annual audit of its financial statements performed in accordance with GAAS by an independent person who is licensed to do so by the State or jurisdiction in which the credit union is principally located.

(b) *Total assets of less than \$500 million.* To fulfill its Supervisory Committee audit responsibility, a federally-insured State-chartered credit union having total assets of less than \$500 million must obtain either an annual supervisory committee audit as prescribed under either § 715.6(a) or § 715.7, or an audit as prescribed by the State or jurisdiction in which the credit

union is principally located, whichever audit is more stringent.

(c) *Other requirements.* A federally-insured, state-chartered credit union, regardless of which audit it is required to obtain under this section, must meet other applicable requirements of this part except §§ 715.5 and 715.12.

§ 715.7 Supervisory Committee audit alternatives to a financial statement audit.

A credit union which is not required to obtain a financial statement audit may fulfill its supervisory committee responsibility by any one of the following engagements:

(a) *Balance sheet audit.* A balance sheet audit, as defined in § 715.2(a), performed by a person who is licensed to do so by the State or jurisdiction in which the credit union is principally located; or

(b) *Report on Examination of Internal Control over Call Reporting.* An engagement and report on management's written assertions concerning the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting in the credit union's most recently filed semiannual or year-end call report (NCUA Form 5300), as defined in § 715.2(j), performed by a person who is licensed to do so by the State or jurisdiction in which the credit union is principally located, and in which management specifies the criteria on which it based its evaluation of internal control; or

(c) *Audit per Supervisory Committee Guide.* An audit performed by the supervisory committee, its internal auditor, or any other qualified person (such as a certified public accountant, public accountant, league auditor, credit union auditor consultant, retired financial institutions examiner, etc.) in accordance with the procedures prescribed in NCUA's *Supervisory Committee Guide*. Qualified persons who are not State-licensed cannot provide assurance services under this subsection.

§ 715.8 Requirements for verification of accounts and passbooks.

(a) *Verification obligation.* The Supervisory Committee shall, at least once every two years, cause the passbooks (including any book, statements of account, or other record approved by the

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NCUA Board) and accounts of the members to be verified against the records of the treasurer of the credit union.

(b) *Methods.* Any of the following methods may be used to verify members' passbooks and accounts, as appropriate:

(1) *Controlled verification.* A controlled verification of 100 percent of members' share and loan accounts;

(2) *Statistical method.* A sampling method which provides for:

(i) Random selection;

(ii) A sample which is representative of the population from which it was selected;

(iii) An equal chance of selecting each dollar in the population;

(iv) Sufficient accounts in both number and scope on which to base conclusions concerning management's financial reporting objectives; and

(v) Additional procedures to be performed if evidence provided by confirmations alone is not sufficient.

(3) *Non-statistical method.* When the verification is performed by an Independent person licensed by the State or jurisdiction in which the credit union is principally located, the auditor may choose among the sampling methods set forth in paragraphs (b)(1) and (2) of this section and non-statistical sampling methods consistent with GAAS if such methods provide for:

(i) Sufficient accounts in both number and scope on which to base conclusions concerning management's financial reporting objectives to provide assurance that the General Ledger accounts are fairly stated in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole;

(ii) Additional procedures to be performed by the auditor if evidence provided by confirmations alone is not sufficient; and

(iii) Documentation of the sampling procedures used and of their consistency with GAAS (to be provided to the NCUA Board upon request).

(c) *Retention of records.* The supervisory committee must retain the records of each verification of members' passbooks and accounts until it completes the next verification of members' passbooks and accounts.

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§715.9 Assistance from outside, compensated person.

(a) *Unrelated to officials.* A compensated auditor who performs a Supervisory Committee audit on behalf of a credit union shall not be related by blood or marriage to any management employee, member of either the board of directors, the Supervisory Committee or the credit committee, or loan officer of that credit union.

(b) *Engagement letter.* The engagement of a compensated auditor to perform all or a portion of the scope of a financial statement audit or supervisory committee audit shall be evidenced by an engagement letter. In all cases, the engagement must be contracted directly with the Supervisory Committee. The engagement letter must be signed by the compensated auditor and acknowledged therein by the Supervisory Committee prior to commencement of the engagement.

(c) *Contents of letter.* The engagement letter shall:

(1) Specify the terms, conditions, and objectives of the engagement;

(2) Identify the basis of accounting to be used;

(3) If a Supervisory Committee Guide audit, include an appendix setting forth the procedures to be performed;

(4) Specify the rate of, or total, compensation to be paid for the audit;

(5) Provide that the auditor shall, upon completion of the engagement, deliver to the Supervisory Committee a written report of the audit and notice in writing, either within the report or communicated separately, of any internal control reportable conditions and/or irregularities or illegal acts, if any, which come to the auditor's attention during the normal course of the audit (i.e., no notice required if none noted);

(6) Specify a target date of delivery of the written reports, such target date not to exceed 120 days from date of calendar or fiscal year-end under audit (period covered), unless the supervisory committee obtains a waiver from the supervising NCUA Regional Director;

(7) Certify that NCUA staff and/or the State credit union supervisor, or designated representatives of each, will be provided unconditional access to the complete set of original working papers, either at the offices of the credit

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union or at a mutually agreed upon location, for purposes of inspection; and

(8) Acknowledge that working papers shall be retained for a minimum of three years from the date of the written audit report.

(d) *Complete scope.* If the engagement is to perform a *Supervisory Committee Guide* audit intended to fully meet the requirements of §715.7(c), the engagement letter shall certify that the audit will address the complete scope of that engagement;

(e) *Exclusions from scope.* If the engagement is to perform a *Supervisory Committee Guide* audit which will exclude any item required by the applicable section, the engagement letter shall:

(1) Identify the excluded items;

(2) State that, because of the exclusion(s), the resulting audit will not, by itself, fulfill the scope of a supervisory committee audit; and

(3) Caution that the supervisory committee will remain responsible for fulfilling the scope of a supervisory committee audit with respect to the excluded items.

§715.10 Audit report and working paper maintenance and access.

(a) *Audit report.* Upon completion and/or receipt of the written report of a financial statement audit or a supervisory committee audit, the Supervisory Committee must verify that the audit was performed and reported in accordance with the terms of the engagement letter prescribed herein. The Supervisory Committee must submit the report(s) to the board of directors, and provide a summary of the results of the audit to the members of the credit union orally or in writing at the next annual meeting of the credit union. If a member so requests, the Supervisory Committee shall provide the member access to the full audit report. If the National Credit Union Administration (“NCUA”) so requests, the Supervisory Committee shall provide NCUA a copy of each of the audit reports it receives or produces.

(b) *Working papers.* The supervisory committee shall be responsible for preparing and maintaining, or making available, a complete set of original working papers supporting each super-

visory committee audit. The supervisory committee shall, upon request, provide NCUA staff unconditional access to such working papers, either at the offices of the credit union or at a mutually agreeable location, for purposes of inspecting such working papers.

§715.11 Sanctions for failure to comply with this part.

(a) *Sanctions.* Failure of a supervisory committee and/or its independent compensated auditor or other person to comply with the requirements of this section, or the terms of an engagement letter required by this section, is grounds for:

(1) The regional director to reject the supervisory committee audit and provide a reasonable opportunity to correct deficiencies;

(2) The regional director to impose the remedies available in §715.12, provided any of the conditions specified therein is present; and

(3) The NCUA Board to seek formal administrative sanctions against the supervisory committee and/or its independent, compensated auditor pursuant to section 206(r) of the Federal Credit Union Act, 12 U.S.C. 1786(r).

(b) *State Charters.* In the case of a federally-insured state chartered credit union, NCUA shall provide the state regulator an opportunity to timely impose a remedy satisfactory to NCUA before exercising its authority under §741.202 of this chapter to impose a sanction permitted under paragraph (a) of this section.

§715.12 Statutory audit remedies for Federal credit unions.

(a) *Audit by alternative licensed person.* The NCUA Board may compel a federal credit union to obtain a supervisory committee audit which meets the minimum requirements of §715.5 or §715.7, and which is performed by an independent person who is licensed by the State or jurisdiction in which the credit union is principally located, for any fiscal year in which any of the following three conditions is present:

(1) The Supervisory Committee has not obtained an annual financial statement audit or performed a supervisory committee audit; or

(2) The Supervisory Committee has obtained a financial statement audit or performed a supervisory committee audit which does not meet the requirements of part 715 including those in §715.8.

(3) The credit union has experienced serious and persistent recordkeeping deficiencies as defined in paragraph (c) of this section.

(b) *Financial statement audit required.* The NCUA Board may compel a federal credit union to obtain a financial statement audit performed in accordance with GAAS by an independent person who is licensed by the State or jurisdiction in which the credit union is principally located (even if such audit is not required by §715.5), for any fiscal year in which the credit union has experienced serious and persistent recordkeeping deficiencies as defined in paragraph (c) of this section. The objective of a financial statement audit performed under this paragraph is to reconstruct the records of the credit union sufficient to allow an unqualified or, if necessary, a qualified opinion on the credit union's financial statements. An adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion should be the exception rather than the norm.

(c) *“Serious and persistent recordkeeping deficiencies.”* A record-keeping deficiency is “serious” if the NCUA Board reasonably believes that the board of directors and management of the credit union have not timely met financial reporting objectives and established practices and procedures sufficient to safeguard members' assets. A serious recordkeeping deficiency is “persistent” when it continues beyond a usual, expected or reasonable period of time.

PART 721—FEDERAL CREDIT UNION INSURANCE AND GROUP PURCHASING ACTIVITIES

Sec.

721.1 Authority.

721.2 Reimbursement.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1757(16), 1766 and 1789.

§721.1 Authority.

A Federal credit union may make insurance and group purchasing plans involving outside vendors available to

the membership (including endorsement), and may perform administrative functions on behalf of the vendors.

[47 FR 44243, Oct. 7, 1982]

§721.2 Reimbursement.

(a) For purposes of paragraph (b) of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) *Dollar amount* shall mean \$4 per single payment policy, \$6 per combination policy, or \$4 per annum for any other type of policy; and

(2) *Cost amount* shall mean the total of the direct and indirect costs to the Federal credit union of any administrative functions performed on behalf of the vendor. The Federal credit union must be able to justify this amount using standard accounting procedures.

(b) A Federal credit union may be reimbursed or compensated by a vendor for activities performed under §721.1 as follows:

(1) Except as otherwise provided by applicable state insurance law, reimbursement or compensation is not limited with respect to insurance sales by the credit union or its employees which are directly related to an extension of credit by the credit union or directly related to the opening or maintenance of a share, share draft or share certificate account at the credit union;

(2) For insurance sales other than those described in paragraph (b)(1), a Federal credit union may receive an amount not exceeding the greater of the dollar amount or the cost amount;

(3) For group purchasing plans other than insurance, a Federal credit union may receive an amount not exceeding the cost amount.

(c) No director, committee member, or senior management employee of a Federal credit union or any immediate family member of any such individual may receive any compensation or benefit, directly or indirectly, in conjunction with any activity under this part. For purposes of this section, *immediate family member* means a spouse or other family member living in the same household; and *senior management employee* means the credit union's chief executive officer (typically this individual holds the title of President or Treasurer/Manager), any assistant chief executive officers (e.g., Assistant

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President, Vice President or Assistant Treasurer/Manager) and the chief financial officer (Comptroller).

(d) The prohibition contained in paragraph (c) of this section also applies to any employee not otherwise covered if the employee is directly involved in insurance or group purchasing activities unless the board of directors determines that the employee's involvement does not present a conflict of interest.

(e) All transactions with business associates or family members not specifically prohibited by paragraph (c) of this section must be conducted at arm's length and in the interest of the credit union.

[50 FR 16464, Apr. 26, 1985, as amended at 52 FR 43571, Nov. 13, 1987]

PART 722—APPRAISALS

Sec.

722.1 Authority, purpose, and scope.

722.2 Definitions.

722.3 Appraisals required; transactions requiring a State certified or licensed appraiser.

722.4 Minimum appraisal standards.

722.5 Appraiser independence.

722.6 Professional association membership; competency.

722.7 Enforcement.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1766, 1789 and 3339.

SOURCE: 55 FR 30207, July 25, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

§ 722.1 Authority, purpose, and scope.

(a) *Authority.* Part 722 is issued by the National Credit Union Administration ("NCUA") under title XI of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 ("FIRREA") (Pub. L. 101-73, 103 Stat. 183, 1989) and 12 U.S.C. 1757 and 1766.

(b) *Purpose and scope.* (1) Title XI provides protection for federal financial and public policy interests in real estate-related transactions by requiring real estate appraisals used in connection with federally related transactions to be performed in writing, in accordance with uniform standards, by appraisers whose competency has been demonstrated and whose professional conduct will be subject to effective supervision. This part implements the requirements of title XI and applies to

all federally related transactions entered into by the National Credit Union Administration or by federally insured credit unions ("regulated institutions").

(2) This part: (i) Identifies which real estate-related financial transactions require the services of an appraiser;

(ii) Prescribes which categories of federally related transactions shall be appraised by a state-certified appraiser and which by a state-licensed appraiser; and

(iii) Prescribes minimum standards for the performance of real estate appraisals in connection with federally related transactions under the jurisdiction of the National Credit Union Administration.

§ 722.2 Definitions.

(a) *Appraisal* means a written statement independently and impartially prepared by a qualified appraiser setting forth an opinion as to the market value of an adequately-described property as of a specific date(s), supported by the presentation and analysis of relevant market information.

(b) *Appraisal Foundation* means the Appraisal Foundation established on November 30, 1987, as a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of Illinois.

(c) *Appraisal Subcommittee* means the Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council.

(d) *Complex 1- to 4-family residential property appraisal* means one in which the property to be appraised, the form of ownership or market conditions are atypical.

(e) *Federally related transaction* means any real estate-related financial transaction entered into on or after August 9, 1990 that:

(1) The National Credit Union Administration, or any federally insured credit union, engages in or contracts for; and

(2) Requires the services of an appraiser.

(f) *Market value* means the most probable price which a property should bring in a competitive and open market under all conditions requisite to a fair sale, the buyer and seller each acting prudently and knowledgeably and assuming the price is not affected by

undue stimulus. Implicit in this definition is the consummation of a sale as of a specified date and the passing of title from seller to buyer under conditions whereby:

(1) Buyer and seller are typically motivated;

(2) Both parties are well informed or well advised; and acting in what they consider their own best interests;

(3) A reasonable time is allowed for exposure in the open market;

(4) Payment is made in terms of cash in U.S. dollars or in terms of financial arrangements comparable thereto; and

(5) The price represents the normal consideration for the property sold unaffected by special or creative financing or sales concessions granted by anyone associated with the sale.

(g) *Real estate or real property* means an identified parcel or tract of land, including easements, rights of way, undivided or future interests and similar rights in a parcel or tract of land, but does not include mineral rights, timber rights, and growing crops, water rights and similar interests severable from the land when the transaction does not involve the associated parcel or tract of land.

(h) *Real estate-related financial transaction* means any transaction involving:

(1) The sale, lease, purchase, investment in or exchange of real property, including interests in property, or the financing thereof; or

(2) The refinancing of real property or interests in real property; or

(3) The use of real property or interests in property as security for a loan or investment, including mortgage-backed securities.

(i) *State-certified appraiser* means any individual who has satisfied the requirements for certification in a state or territory whose criteria for certification as a real estate appraiser currently meet the minimum criteria for certification issued by the Appraiser Qualification Board of the Appraisal Foundation. No individual shall be a state-certified appraiser unless such individual has achieved a passing grade upon a suitable examination administered by a state or territory that is consistent with and equivalent to the Uniform State Certification Examina-

tion issued or endorsed by the Appraiser Qualification Board. In addition, the Appraisal Subcommittee must not have issued a finding that the policies, practices, or procedures of a state or territory are inconsistent with title XI of FIRREA. The National Credit Union Administration may, from time to time, impose additional qualification criteria for certified appraisers performing appraisals in connection with federally related transactions within its jurisdiction.

(j) *State-licensed appraiser* means any individual who has satisfied the requirements for licensing in a state or territory where the licensing procedures comply with title XI of FIRREA and where the Appraisal Subcommittee has not issued a finding that the policies, practices, or procedures of the State or territory are inconsistent with title XI. The NCUA may, from time to time, impose additional qualification criteria for licensed appraisers performing appraisals in connection with federally related transactions within its jurisdiction.

(k) *Tract development* means a project of five units or more that is constructed or is to be constructed as a single development.

(l) *Transaction value means:* (1) For loans or other extensions of credit, the amount of the loan or extension of credit; and

(2) For sales, leases, purchases, and investments in or exchanges of real property, the market value of the real property interest involved; and

(3) For the pooling of loans or interests in real property for resale or purchase, the amount of the loan or market value of the real property calculated with respect to each such loan or interest in real property.

[55 FR 30207, July 25, 1990, as amended at 57 FR 28998, June 30, 1992]

§ 722.3 Appraisals required; transactions requiring a State certified or licensed appraiser.

(a) *Appraisals required.* An appraisal performed by a State certified or licensed appraiser is required for all real estate-related financial transactions except those in which:

(1) The transaction value is \$100,000 or less except if it is a business loan

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and then the transaction value is \$50,000 or less;

(2) A lien on real property has been taken as collateral through an abundance of caution and where the terms of the transaction as a consequence have not been made more favorable than they would have been in the absence of a lien;

(3) A lien on real estate has been taken for purposes other than the real estate's value;

(4) A lease of real estate is entered into, unless the lease is the economic equivalent of a purchase or sale of the leased real estate;

(5) The transaction involves an existing extension of credit at the credit union, provided that:

(i) There is no advancement of new monies, other than funds necessary to cover reasonable closing costs; and

(ii) There has been no obvious and material change in market conditions or physical aspects of the property that threatens the adequacy of the credit union's real estate collateral protection after the transaction;

(6) The transaction involves the purchase, sale, investment in, exchange of, or extension of credit secured by, a loan or interest in a loan, pooled loans, or interests in real property, including mortgage-backed securities, and each loan or interest in a loan, pooled loan, or real property interest met the requirements of this regulation, if applicable, at the time of origination;

(7) The transaction is wholly or partially insured or guaranteed by a United States government agency or United States government sponsored agency;

(8) The transaction either:

(i) Qualifies for sale to a United States government agency or United States government sponsored agency; or

(ii) Involves a residential real estate transaction in which the appraisal conforms to the Federal National Mortgage Association or Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation appraisal standards applicable to that category of real estate; or

(9) The regional director has granted a waiver from the appraisal requirement for a category of loans meeting

the definition of a member business loan.

(b) *Transactions requiring a State-certified appraiser.* (1) (All transactions of \$1,000,000 or more) All federally related transactions having a transaction value of \$1,000,000 or more shall require an appraisal prepared by a state-certified appraiser.

(2) (Nonresidential transactions) All federally related transactions having a transaction value of more than \$50,000, other than those involving appraisals of 1- to 4-family residential properties, shall require an appraisal prepared by a state-certified appraiser.

(3) (Complex residential transactions of \$250,000 or more) All complex 1- to 4-family residential property appraisals rendered in connection with federally related transactions shall require a state-certified appraiser if the transaction value is \$250,000 or more. A regulated institution may presume that appraisals of 1- to 4-family residential properties are not complex unless the institution has readily available information that a given appraisal will be complex. The regulated institution shall be responsible for making the final determination of whether the appraisal is complex. If, during the course of the appraisal, a licensed appraiser identifies factors that would result in the property, form of ownership, or market conditions being considered atypical, then either:

(i) The regulated institution may ask the licensed appraiser to complete the appraisal and have a certified appraiser approve and cosign the appraisal; or

(ii) The institution may engage a certified appraiser to complete the appraisal.

(c) *Transactions requiring either a State-certified or -licensed appraiser.* All appraisals for federally related transactions not requiring the services of a state-certified appraiser shall be prepared by either a state-certified appraiser or a state-licensed appraiser.

(d) *Valuation requirement.* Secured transactions exempted from appraisal requirements pursuant to paragraphs (a)(1) of this section and not otherwise exempted from this regulation or fully insured shall be supported by a written estimate of market value, as defined in

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this regulation, performed by an individual having no direct or indirect interest in the property, and qualified and experienced to perform such estimates of value for the type and amount of credit being considered.

(e) *Appraisals to address safety and soundness concerns.* NCUA reserves the right to require an appraisal under this subpart whenever the agency believes it is necessary to address safety and soundness concerns.

[55 FR 30207, July 25, 1990, as amended at 60 FR 51894, Oct. 4, 1995; 63 FR 51799, Sept. 29, 1998]

§ 722.4 Minimum appraisal standards.

For federally related transactions, all appraisals shall, at a minimum:

(a) Conform to generally accepted appraisal standards as evidenced by the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) promulgated by the Appraisal Standards Board of the Appraisal Foundation, 1029 Vermont Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20005;

(b) Be written and contain sufficient information and analysis to support the institution's decision to engage in the transaction;

(c) Analyze and report appropriate deductions and discounts for proposed construction or renovation, partially leased buildings, non-market lease terms, and tract developments with unsold units;

(d) Be based upon the definition of market value as set forth in § 722.2(f); and

(e) Be performed by State licensed or certified appraisers in accordance with requirements set forth in this subpart.

[60 FR 51894, Oct. 4, 1995]

§ 722.5 Appraiser independence.

(a) *Staff appraiser.* If an appraisal is prepared by a staff appraiser, that appraiser must be independent of the lending, investment, and collection functions and not involved, except as an appraiser, in the federally related transaction, and have no direct or indirect interest, financial or otherwise, in the property. If the only qualified persons available to perform an appraisal are involved in the lending, investment, or collection functions of the

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credit union, the credit union shall take appropriate steps to ensure that the appraisers exercise independent judgment. Such steps include, but are not limited to, prohibiting an individual from performing an appraisal in connection with federally related transactions in which the appraiser is otherwise involved.

(b) *Fee Appraisers.* (1) If an appraisal is prepared by a fee appraiser, the appraiser shall be engaged directly by the credit union or its agent and have no direct or indirect interest, financial or otherwise, in the property or the transaction.

(2) A credit union also may accept an appraisal that was prepared by an appraiser engaged directly by another financial services institution; if:

(i) The appraiser has no direct or indirect interest, financial or otherwise, in the property or transaction; and

(ii) The credit union determines that the appraisal conforms to the requirement of this regulation and is otherwise acceptable.

[55 FR 30207, July 25, 1990, as amended at 60 FR 51895, Oct. 4, 1995]

§ 722.6 Professional association membership; competency.

(a) *Membership in appraisal organization.* A state-certified appraiser or a state-licensed appraiser may not be excluded from consideration for an assignment for a federally related transaction solely by virtue of membership or lack of membership in any particular appraisal organization.

(b) *Competency.* All staff and fee appraisers performing appraisals in connection with federally related transactions must be state-certified or -licensed as appropriate. However, a state-certified or -licensed appraiser may not be considered competent solely by virtue of being certified or licensed. Any determination of competency shall be based upon the individual's experience and educational background as they relate to the particular appraisal assignment for which he or she is being considered.

§ 722.7 Enforcement.

Credit unions and institution-affiliated parties, including staff appraisers and fee appraisers, may be subject to

removal and/or prohibition orders, cease-and-desist orders, and the imposition of civil money penalties pursuant to section 1786 of the Federal Credit Union Act, or any other applicable law.

PART 723—MEMBER BUSINESS LOANS

Sec.

- 723.1 What is a member business loan?
- 723.2 What are the prohibited activities?
- 723.3 What are the requirements for construction and development lending?
- 723.4 What are the other applicable regulations?
- 723.5 How do you implement a member business loan program?
- 723.6 What must your member business loan policy address?
- 723.7 What are the collateral and security requirements?
- 723.8 How much may one member, or a group of associated members, borrow?
- 723.9 How do you calculate the aggregate 15% limit?
- 723.10 What waivers are available?
- 723.11 How do you obtain a waiver?
- 723.12 What will NCUA do with my waiver request?
- 723.13 What options are available if the NCUA Regional Director denies my waiver request, or a portion of it?
- 723.14 How do I classify loans so as to reserve for potential losses?
- 723.15 How much must I reserve for potential losses?
- 723.16 What is the aggregate member business loan limit for a credit union?
- 723.17 Are there any exceptions to the aggregate loan limit?
- 723.18 How do I obtain an exception?
- 723.19 What are the recordkeeping requirements?
- 723.20 How can a state supervisory authority develop and enforce a member business loan regulation?
- 723.21 Definitions.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1756, 1757, 1757A, 1766, 1785, 1789.

SOURCE: 64 FR 28729, May 27, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

§ 723.1 What is a member business loan?

(a) *General rule.* A member business loan includes any loan, line of credit, or letter of credit (including any unfunded commitments) where the borrower uses the proceeds for the following purposes:

- (1) Commercial;

- (2) Corporate;

- (3) Other business investment property or venture; or

- (4) Agricultural.

(b) *Exceptions to the general rule.* The following are not member business loans:

- (1) A loan fully secured by a lien on a 1 to 4 family dwelling that is the member's primary residence;

- (2) A loan fully secured by shares in the credit union making the extension of credit or deposits in other financial institutions;

- (3) Loan(s) to a member or an associated member which, when added together, are equal to less than \$50,000;

- (4) A loan where a federal or state agency (or its political subdivision) fully insures repayment, or fully guarantees repayment, or provides an advance commitment to purchase in full; or

- (5) A loan granted by a corporate credit union to another credit union.

[64 FR 28729, May 27, 1999, as amended at 64 FR 57365, Oct. 25, 1999]

§ 723.2 What are the prohibited activities?

(a) *Who is ineligible to receive a member business loan?* You may not grant a member business loan to the following:

- (1) Your chief executive officer (typically this individual holds the title of President or Treasurer/Manager);

- (2) Any assistant chief executive officers (e.g., Assistant President, Vice President, or Assistant Treasurer/Manager);

- (3) Your chief financial officer (Comptroller); or

- (4) Any associated member or immediate family member of anyone listed in paragraphs (a) (1) through (3) of this section.

(b) *Equity agreements/joint ventures.* You may not grant a member business loan if any additional income received by the credit union or senior management employees is tied to the profit or sale of the business or commercial endeavor for which the loan is made.

(c) *Loans to compensated directors.* A credit union may not grant a member

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business loan to a compensated director unless the board of directors approves granting the loan and the compensated director is recused from the decision making process.

§ 723.3 What are the requirements for construction and development lending?

Unless the Regional Director grants a waiver, loans granted for the construction or development of commercial or residential property are subject to the following additional requirements.

(a) The aggregate of all construction and development loans must not exceed 15% of net worth. To determine the aggregate, you may exclude any portion of a loan:

- (1) Secured by shares in the credit union;
 - (2) Secured by deposits in another financial institution;
 - (3) Fully or partially insured or guaranteed by any agency of the federal government, state, or its political subdivisions; or
 - (4) Subject to an advance commitment to purchase by any agency of the federal government, state, or its political subdivisions;
- (b) The borrower must have a minimum of 35% equity interest in the project being financed; and
- (c) The funds may be released only after on-site, written inspections by qualified personnel and according to a preapproved draw schedule and any other conditions as set forth in the loan documentation.

§ 723.4 What are the other applicable regulations?

The provisions of § 701.21(a) through (g) of this chapter apply to member business loans granted by federal credit unions to the extent they are consistent with this part. Except as required by part 741 of NCUA's regulations, federally insured credit unions are not required to comply with the provisions of § 701.21(a) through (g).

§ 723.5 How do you implement a member business loan program?

The board of directors must adopt specific business loan policies and review them at least annually. The board

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must also utilize the services of an individual with at least two years direct experience with the type of lending the credit union will be engaging in. Credit unions do not have to hire staff to meet the requirements of this section; however, credit unions must ensure that the expertise is available. A credit union can meet the experience requirement through various approaches. For example, a credit union can use the services of a credit union service organization, an employee of another credit union, an independent contractor, or other third parties. However, the actual decision to grant a loan must reside with the credit union.

§ 723.6 What must your member business loan policy address?

At a minimum, your policy must address the following:

- (a) The types of business loans you will make;
- (b) Your trade area;
- (c) The maximum amount of your assets, in relation to net worth, that you will invest in business loans;
- (d) The maximum amount of your assets, in relation to net worth, that you will invest in a given category or type of business loan;
- (e) The maximum amount of your assets, in relation to net worth, that you will loan to any one member or group of associated members, subject to § 723.8;
- (f) The qualifications and experience of personnel (minimum of 2 years) involved in making and administering business loans;
- (g) A requirement to analyze and document the ability of the borrower to repay the loan;
- (h) Receipt and periodic updating of financial statements and other documentation, including tax returns;
- (i) A requirement for sufficient documentation supporting each request to extend credit, or increase an existing loan or line of credit (except where the board of directors finds that the documentation requirements are not generally available for a particular type of business loan and states the reasons for those findings in the credit union's written policies). At a minimum, your documentation must include the following:

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- (1) Balance sheet;
- (2) Cash flow analysis;
- (3) Income statement;
- (4) Tax data;
- (5) Analysis of leveraging; and
- (6) Comparison with industry average or similar analysis;
- (j) The collateral requirements must include:
 - (1) Loan-to-value ratios;
 - (2) Determination of value;
 - (3) Determination of ownership;
 - (4) Steps to secure various types of collateral; and
 - (5) How often the credit union will re-evaluate the value and marketability of collateral;
- (k) The interest rates and maturities of business loans;
- (l) General loan procedures which include:
 - (1) Loan monitoring;
 - (2) Servicing and follow-up; and
 - (3) Collection;
- (m) Identification of those individuals prohibited from receiving member business loans.

§ 723.7 What are the collateral and security requirements?

(a) Unless your Regional Director grants a waiver, all member business loans must be secured by collateral as follows:

Lien	Minimum loan to value requirements
All	LTV ratios for all liens cannot exceed 80% unless the value in excess of 80% is covered through private mortgage or equivalent insurance but in no case can it exceed 95%.
First with PMI or similar type of insurer.	You may grant a LTV ratio in excess of 80% only where the value in excess of 80% is covered through: acquisition of private mortgage or equivalent type insurance provided by an insurer acceptable to the credit union (where available); insurance or guarantees by, or subject to advance commitment to purchase by, an agency of the federal government; or insurance or guarantees by, or subject to advance commitment to purchase by, an agency of a state or any of its political subdivisions.
First	LTV ratios up to 80%.
Second	LTV ratios up to 80%.

(b) Principals, other than a not for profit organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Service Code (26 U.S.C. 501) or those where the Regional Director grants a waiver, must provide their personal liability and guarantee.

(c) Federally insured credit unions are exempt from the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section with respect to credit card line of credit programs offered to nonnatural person members that are limited to routine purposes normally made available under those programs.

§ 723.8 How much may one member, or a group of associated members, borrow?

Unless your Regional Director grants a waiver for a higher amount the aggregate amount of outstanding member business loans (including any unfunded commitments) to any one member or group of associated members must not exceed the greater of:

- (a) 15% of the credit union's net worth; or
- (b) \$100,000.

§ 723.9 How do you calculate the aggregate 15% limit?

(a) *Step 1.* Calculate the numerator by adding together the total outstanding balance of member business loans to any one member, or group of associated members. From this amount, subtract any portion:

- (1) Secured by shares in the credit union;
- (2) Secured by deposits in another financial institution;
- (3) Fully or partially insured or guaranteed by any agency of the Federal government, state, or its political subdivisions;
- (4) Subject to an advance commitment to purchase by any agency of the Federal government, state, or its political subdivisions.

(b) *Step 2.* Divide the numerator by net worth.

§ 723.10 What waivers are available?

You may seek a waiver for a category of loans in the following areas:

- (a) Loan-to-value ratios under § 723.7;
- (b) Maximum loan amount to one borrower or associated group of borrowers under § 723.8;

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(c) Construction and development loan limits under § 723.3;

(d) Requirement for personal liability and guarantee under § 723.7; and

(e) Appraisal requirements under § 722.3.

§ 723.11 How do you obtain a waiver?

To obtain a waiver, a federal credit union must submit a request to the Regional Director (a corporate federal credit union submits the waiver request to the Director of the Office of Corporate Credit Unions). A state chartered federally insured credit union must submit the request to its state supervisory authority. If the state supervisory authority approves the request, the state regulator will forward the request to the Regional Director (or if appropriate the Director of the Office of Corporate Credit Unions). A waiver is not effective until it is approved by the Regional Director (or in the case of a corporate federal credit union the Director of the Office of Corporate Credit Unions). The waiver request must contain the following:

(a) A copy of your business lending policy;

(b) The higher limit sought (if applicable);

(c) An explanation of the need to raise the limit (if applicable);

(d) Documentation supporting your ability to manage this activity; and

(e) An analysis of the credit union's prior experience making member business loans, including as a minimum:

(1) The history of loan losses and loan delinquency;

(2) Volume and cyclical or seasonal patterns;

(3) Diversification;

(4) Concentrations of credit to one borrower or group of associated borrowers in excess of 15% of net worth;

(5) Underwriting standards and practices;

(6) Types of loans grouped by purpose and collateral; and

(7) The qualifications of personnel responsible for underwriting and administering member business loans.

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§ 723.12 What will NCUA do with my waiver request?

Your Regional Director (or the Director of the Office of Corporate Credit Unions) will:

(a) Review the information you provided in your request;

(b) Evaluate the level of risk to your credit union;

(c) Consider your credit union's historical CAMEL composite and component ratings when evaluating your request; and

(d) Notify you whenever your waiver request is deemed complete. Notify you of the action taken within 45 calendar days of receiving a complete request from the federal credit union or the state supervisory authority. If you do not receive notification within 45 calendar days of the date the complete request was received by the regional office, the credit union may assume approval of the waiver request.

§ 723.13 What options are available if the NCUA Regional Director denies my waiver request, or a portion of it?

You may appeal the Regional Director's (or the Director of the Office of Corporate Credit Unions) decision in writing to the NCUA Board. Your appeal must include all information requested in § 723.11 and why you disagree with your Regional Director's (or the Office of Corporate Credit Union Director's) decision.

§ 723.14 How do I classify loans so as to reserve for potential losses?

Non-delinquent member business loans may be classified based on factors such as the adequacy of analysis and supporting documentation. You must classify potential loss loans as either substandard, doubtful, or loss. The criteria for determining the classification of loans are:

(a) *Substandard*. Loan is inadequately protected by the current sound worth and paying capacity of the obligor or of the collateral pledged, if any. Loans classified must have a well-defined weakness or weaknesses that jeopardize the liquidation of debt. They are

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characterized by the distinct possibility that the credit union will sustain some loss if the deficiencies are not corrected. Loss potential, while existing in the aggregate amount of substandard loans, does not have to exist in individual loans classified substandard.

(b) *Doubtful*. A loan classified doubtful has all the weaknesses inherent in one classified substandard, with the added characteristic that the weaknesses make collection or liquidation in full, on the basis of currently existing facts, conditions, and values, highly questionable and improbable. The possibility of loss is extremely high, but because of certain important and reasonably specific pending factors which may work to the advantage and strengthening of the loan, its classification as an estimated loss is deferred until its more exact status may be determined. Pending factors include: proposed merger, acquisition, or liquidation actions; capital injection; perfecting liens on collateral; and refinancing plans.

(c) *Loss*. Loans classified loss are considered uncollectible and of such little value that their continuance as loans is not warranted. This classification does not necessarily mean that the loan has absolutely no recovery or salvage value, but rather, it is not practical or desirable to defer writing off this basically worthless asset even though partial recovery may occur in the future.

§ 723.15 How much must I reserve for potential losses?

The following schedule sets the minimum amount you must reserve for classified loans:

Classification	Amount Required
Substandard	10% of outstanding amount unless other factors (for example, history of such loans at the credit union) indicate a greater or lesser amount is appropriate.
Doubtful	50% of the outstanding amount.
Loss	100% of the outstanding amount.

§ 723.16 What is the aggregate member business loan limit for a credit union?

The aggregate limit on a credit union's outstanding member business loans (including any unfunded commitments) is the lesser of 1.75 times the credit union's net worth or 12.25% of the credit union's total assets. Net worth is all of the credit union's retained earnings. Retained earnings normally includes undivided earnings, regular reserves and any other appropriations designated by management or regulatory authorities. Loans that are exempt from the definition of member business loans are not counted for the purpose of the aggregate loan limit.

§ 723.17 Are there any exceptions to the aggregate loan limit?

There are three circumstances where a credit union qualifies for an exception from the aggregate limit. Loans that are excepted from the definition of member business loans are not counted for the purpose of the exceptions. The three exceptions are:

(a) Credit unions that have a low-income designation or participate in the Community Development Financial Institutions program;

(b) Credit unions that were chartered for the purpose of making member business loans and can provide documentary evidence (such evidence includes but is not limited to the original charter, original bylaws, original business plan, original field of membership, board minutes and loan portfolio);

(c) Credit unions that have a history of primarily making member business loans, meaning that either member business loans comprise at least 25% of the credit union's outstanding loans (as evidenced in any call report filed between January 1995 and September 1998 or any equivalent documentation including financial statements) or member business loans comprise the largest portion of the credit union's loan portfolio (as evidenced in any call report filed between January 1995 and September 1998 or any equivalent documentation including financial statements). For example, if a credit union makes 23% member business loans, 22% first mortgage loans, 22% new automobile loans, 20% credit card loans,

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and 13% total other real estate loans, then the credit union meets this exception.

§ 723.18 How do I obtain an exception?

To obtain the exception, a federal credit union must submit documentation to the Regional Director, demonstrating that it meets the criteria of one of the exceptions. A state chartered federally insured credit union must submit documentation to its state supervisory authority. The state supervisory authority will forward its decision to NCUA. The exception does not expire unless revoked by the state supervisory authority for a state chartered federally insured credit union or the Regional Director for a federal credit union. If an exception request is denied for a federal credit union, it may be appealed to the NCUA Board within 60 days of the denial by the Regional Director. Until the NCUA Board acts on the appeal, the credit union can continue to make new member business loans.

§ 723.19 What are the recordkeeping requirements?

You must separately identify member business loans in your records and in the aggregate on your financial reports.

§ 723.20 How can a state supervisory authority develop and enforce a member business loan regulation?

(a) The NCUA Board may exempt federally insured state chartered credit unions in a given state from NCUA's member business loan rule if NCUA approves the state's rule for use for state chartered federally insured credit unions. In making this determination, the Board is guided by safety and soundness considerations and reviews whether the state regulation minimizes the risk and accomplishes the overall objectives of NCUA's member business loan rule in this part. Specifically, the Board will focus its review on:

- (1) The definition of a member business loan;
- (2) Loan to one borrower limits;
- (3) Written loan policies;
- (4) Collateral and security requirements;

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(5) Construction and development lending; and

(6) Loans to senior management.

(b) To receive NCUA's approval of a state's members business loan rule, the state supervisory authority must submit its rule to the NCUA regional office. After reviewing the rule, the region will forward the request to the NCUA Board for a final determination.

§ 723.21 Definitions.

For purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

Associated member is any member with a shared ownership, investment, or other pecuniary interest in a business or commercial endeavor with the borrower.

Construction or development loan is a financing arrangement for acquiring property or rights to property, including land or structures, with the intent to convert it to income-producing property such as residential housing for rental or sale; commercial use; industrial use; or similar uses.

Immediate family member is a spouse or other family member living in the same household.

Loan-to-value ratio is the aggregate amount of all sums borrowed including outstanding balances plus any unfunded commitment or line of credit from all sources on an item of collateral divided by the market value of the collateral used to secure the loan.

Net worth is retained earnings as defined under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Retained earnings normally includes undivided earnings, regular reserves and any other appropriations designated by management or regulatory authorities.

PART 724—TRUSTEES AND CUSTODIANS OF PENSION PLANS

Sec.

724.1 Federal credit unions acting as trustees and custodians of pension and retirement plans.

724.2 Self-directed retirement plans.

724.3 Appointment of successor trustee or custodian.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1757, 1765, 1766 and 1787.

SOURCE: 55 FR 30211, July 25, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

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§ 724.1 Federal credit unions acting as trustees and custodians of pension and retirement plans.

A Federal credit union is authorized to act as trustee or custodian, and may receive reasonable compensation for so acting, under any written trust instrument or custodial agreement created or organized in the United States and forming part of a pension or retirement plan which qualifies or qualified for specific tax treatment under sections 401(d), 408, 408A and 530 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 401(d), 408, 408A and 530), for its members or groups of its members, provided the funds of such plans are invested in share accounts or share certificate accounts of the Federal credit union. All funds held in a trustee or custodial capacity must be maintained in accordance with applicable laws and rules and regulations as may be promulgated by the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of the Treasury, or any other authority exercising jurisdiction over such trust or custodial accounts. The federal credit union shall maintain individual records for each participant which show in detail all transactions relating to the funds of each participant or beneficiary.

[55 FR 30211, July 25, 1990, as amended at 63 FR 14026, Mar. 24, 1998]

§ 724.2 Self-directed retirement plans.

A Federal credit union may act as trustee or custodian of individual retirement plans of its members established pursuant to section 401(d) or 408 of the Internal Revenue Code, and may facilitate transfers of plan funds to assets other than share and share certificates of the credit union, provided the conditions of § 724.1 and the following additional conditions are met:

(a) All contributions of funds are initially made to a share or share certificate account in the Federal credit union;

(b) Any subsequent transfer of funds to other assets is solely at the direction of the member and the Federal credit union exercises no investment discretion and provides no investment advice with respect to plan assets (i.e., the credit union performs only custodial duties); and

(c) The member is clearly notified of the fact that National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund coverage is limited to funds held in share or share certificate accounts of NCUSIF-insured credit unions.

§ 724.3 Appointment of successor trustee or custodian.

Any plan operated pursuant to this part shall provide for the appointment of a successor trustee or custodian by a person, committee, corporation or organization other than the Federal credit union or any person acting in his capacity as a director, employee or agent of the Federal credit union upon notice from the Federal credit union or the Board that the Federal credit union is unwilling or unable to continue to act as trustee or custodian.

PART 725—NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION CENTRAL LIQUIDITY FACILITY

Sec.

- 725.1 Scope.
- 725.2 Definitions.
- 725.3 Regular membership.
- 725.4 Agent membership.
- 725.5 Capital stock.
- 725.6 Termination of membership.
- 725.7 Special share accounts in federally chartered agent members.
- 725.8–725.16 [Reserved]
- 725.17 Applications for extensions of credit.
- 725.18 Creditworthiness.
- 725.19 Collateral requirements.
- 725.20 Repayment, security and credit reporting agreements; other terms and conditions.
- 725.21 Modification of agreements.
- 725.22 Advances to insurance organizations.
- 725.23 Other advances.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 301–307 Federal Credit Union Act, 92 Stat. 3719–3722 (12 U.S.C. 1795–1795f).

SOURCE: 44 FR 49437, Aug. 23, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

§ 725.1 Scope.

This part contains the regulations implementing the National Credit Union Central Liquidity Facility Act, subchapter III of the Federal Credit Union Act. The National Credit Union Administration Central Liquidity Facility is a mixed-ownership Government corporation within the National

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Credit Union Administration. It is managed by the National Credit Union Administration Board and is owned by its member credit unions. The purpose of the Facility is to improve the general financial stability of credit unions by meeting their liquidity needs and thereby encourage savings, support consumer and mortgage lending and provide basic financial resources to all segments of the economy.

§ 725.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *Agent* means an Agent member of the Facility.

(b) *Agent group* means an Agent member of the Facility consisting of a group of central credit unions, one of which is designated as the group's *Agent group representative* and authorized to transact business with the Facility on behalf of the group or any member of the group.

(c) *Agent loan* means an advance of funds by an Agent to a member natural person credit union to meet liquidity needs which have been the basis for a Facility advance.

(d) *Central credit union* means a Federal or state-chartered credit union primarily serving other credit unions. A credit union is primarily serving other credit unions when the total dollar amount of the shares and deposits received from other credit unions plus loans to other credit unions exceeds 50 percent of the total dollar amount of all shares and deposits plus loans during the qualifying period, as defined in paragraph (o) of this section.

(e) *Facility* or *Central Liquidity Facility* means the National Credit Union Administration Central Liquidity Facility.

(f) *Facility advance* means an advance of funds by the Facility to a Regular or Agent member.

(g) *Facility lending officer* means any employee of the Facility or the National Credit Union Administration who has been designated by the NCUA Board as a Facility lending officer.

(h) *Liquid assets* means the following unpledged assets:

(1) Cash on hand;

(2) Share or deposit accounts with remaining maturities of one year or less maintained in central credit unions or

institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation;

(3) Investments in obligations of the United States or any agency thereof, or securities fully guaranteed as to principal and interest thereby, which are authorized under 12 U.S.C. 1757(7) and which have a remaining maturity of one year or less;

(4) Common trust investments and similar investments in funds or securities authorized for Federal credit unions, the objectives of which are to provide daily liquidity for participating credit unions;

(5) Shares in the National Credit Union Administration Central Liquidity Facility or in special share accounts authorized by § 725.7 of this part;

(6) In the case of a federally-insured state-chartered credit union, any asset held in satisfaction of liquidity requirements imposed by applicable state law or regulation; and

(7) Balances maintained by federally-insured credit unions in a Federal Reserve bank, or in a pass-through account to a Federal Reserve bank, pursuant to the requirements of section 19(b) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 461(b)).

(i) *Liquidity needs* means the needs of credit unions primarily serving natural persons for:

(1) Short-term adjustment credit available to assist in meeting temporary requirements for funds or to cushion more persistent outflows of funds pending an orderly adjustment of credit union assets and liabilities;

(2) Seasonal credit available for longer periods to assist in meeting seasonal needs for funds arising from a combination of expected patterns of movement in share and deposit accounts and loans; and

(3) Protracted adjustment credit available in the event of unusual or emergency circumstances of a longer term nature resulting from national, regional or local difficulties.

(j) *Management policies* means policies of a credit union with respect to membership, shares, deposits, dividends, interest rates, lending, investing, borrowing, safeguarding of assets, hiring, training and supervision of employees,

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and general operating and control practices and procedures.

(k) *Member* means a Regular or Agent member of the Facility, unless the context indicates otherwise.

(l) *Member natural person credit union* means a natural person credit union which is a member of an Agent or of any central credit union in an Agent group. Member natural person credit unions are not members of the Facility unless they are also Regular members of the Facility.

(m) *Natural person credit union* means a Federal or state-chartered credit union primarily serving natural persons. A credit union is primarily serving natural persons if it is not a central credit union as defined in paragraph (d) of this section.

(n) *NCUA Board* or *Board* means the National Credit Union Administration Board.

(o) *Paid-in and unimpaired capital and surplus* means the balance of the paid-in share accounts and deposits as of a given date, less any loss that may have been incurred for which there is no reserve or which has not been charged against undivided earnings, plus the credit balance (or less the debit balance) of the undivided earnings account as of a given date, after all losses have been provided for and net earnings or net losses have been added thereto or deducted therefrom. Statutory reserves or special reserves required by regulation or special agreement between the credit union and its regulatory authority or between the credit union and its member account insurer shall not be considered as part of surplus.

(p) *Qualifying Period* means:

(1) For initial qualification, any 7 months out of the 12 months immediately preceding the month in which application is made to become a member of the Facility; and

(2) For qualification during each subsequent calendar year, any 7 months out of the previous calendar year.

(q) *Stock subscription* means the stock subscription required for membership in the Facility. "Total subscribed Facility stock" is the sum of all members' stock subscriptions.

[44 FR 49437, Aug. 23, 1979, as amended at 53 FR 22472, June 16, 1988]

§ 725.3 Regular membership.

(a) A natural person credit union may become a Regular member of the Facility by:

(1) Making application on a form approved by the Facility;

(2) Subscribing to capital stock of the Facility in an amount equal to one-half of 1 percent of the credit union's paid-in and unimpaired capital and surplus, as determined in accordance with § 725.5(b) of this part, and forwarding with its completed application funds equal to one-half of this stock subscription;¹ and

(3) Furnishing the following reports and documents with the completed membership application:

(i) A copy of the credit union's financial and statistical report for the most recent calendar month; and

(ii) Copies of the credit union's charter and bylaws, unless the credit union is federally chartered.

(b) A credit union which becomes a Regular member of the Facility after February 23, 1980, may not receive Facility advances without approval of the NCUA Board for a period of six months after becoming a member. This subsection shall not apply to any credit union which becomes a Regular member of the Facility within six months after such credit union is chartered, or which has had access to Facility funds through an Agent member of the Facility at any time within six months prior to becoming a Regular member of the Facility.

[44 FR 49437, Aug. 23, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 1371, Jan. 13, 1982]

§ 725.4 Agent membership.

(a) A central credit union or a group of central credit unions may become an Agent member of the Facility by (in the case of a group of central credit unions, each central credit union in the group must do each of the following except for paragraph (a)(2) of this section, which shall be done by the Agent group representative):

(1) Making application on a form approved by the Facility;

¹ A credit union which submits its application for membership prior to October 1, 1979, is not required to forward these funds to the Facility until October 1, 1979.

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(2) Subscribing to the capital stock of the Facility in an amount equal to one-half of 1 percent of the paid-in and unimpaired capital and surplus (as determined in accordance with § 725.5(b) of this part) of all the central credit union's or central credit union group's member natural person credit unions, except those which are Regular members of the Facility or which have access to the Facility through, and are included in the stock subscription of, another Agent.² Upon approval of the application, the Agent shall forward funds equal to one-half of this initial stock subscription to the Facility.³

(3) Furnishing the following reports and documents with the completed membership application:

(i) A copy of the central credit union's financial and statistical report for the most recent calendar month;

(ii) Copies of the central credit union's charter and bylaws, unless such credit union is federally chartered; and

(iii) A list of all the central credit union's member natural person credit unions.

(4) Agreeing to submit to the supervision of the NCUA Board and to comply with all regulations and reporting requirements which the NCUA Board shall prescribe for Agent members;

(5) Agreeing to submit to periodic unrestricted examinations by the NCUA Board or its designee; and

(6) Obtaining the written approval of the NCUA Board.

(b) The NCUA Board may approve a central credit union or group of central credit unions as an Agent member of the Facility, provided the NCUA Board is satisfied that such credit union or credit union group meets certain criteria, including but not limited to the following (in the case of a group of central credit unions, each central credit

union in the group must meet these criteria):

(1) The management policies are in writing, approved by the central credit union's board of directors, and reviewed annually by such board;

(2) Adequate internal controls are in place to assure accurate and timely reporting of transactions and the safeguarding of assets;

(3) The financial condition of the central credit union is sound with adequate reserves for losses;

(4) Surety bond coverage provides protection for the central credit union while the central credit union is performing the duties of an Agent member of Facility;

(5) Management has demonstrated its ability to use such techniques as cash flow analysis, budgeting, and projections of sources and uses of funds to manage the affairs of the central credit union efficiently and in conformity with sound business practices; and

(6) There are no practices, procedures, policies, or other factors that would result in discrimination by the central credit union among natural person credit unions or inhibit its ability to act independently in its role as an Agent member of the Facility.

(c) Each Agent, or in the case of an Agent group, each central credit union in the group, must:

(1) Maintain records related to Facility activity in conformity with requirements prescribed by the NCUA Board from time to time; and

(2) Submit such reports as may be required by the Facility to determine financial soundness, quality and level of service, and conformity with established guidelines and procedures.

(d) Each Agent, or in the case of an Agent group, each central credit union in the group, must have on an annual basis a third party independent audit of its books and records and provide the Facility with copies of the report of such audit. The auditor selected must be recognized by a State or territorial licensing authority as possessing the requisite knowledge and experience to perform audits.

(e) Within 30 days after a natural person credit union becomes a member of a central credit union which is an Agent or a member of an Agent group,

² A natural person credit union which is a member of more than one Agent member of the Facility must designate through which Agent it will deal with the Facility, and the designated Agent will be responsible for including the capital and surplus of such credit union in the calculation of its stock subscription.

³ If the application is approved prior to October 1, 1979, these funds are not required to be forwarded to the Facility until October 1, 1979.

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the agent, or in the case of an Agent group, the Agent group representative, shall subscribe to additional capital stock of the Facility in an amount equal to one-half of 1 percent of such credit union's paid-in and unimpaired capital and surplus, and shall forward funds equal to one-half of this stock subscription to the Facility. This subsection shall not apply if the natural person credit union is a Regular member of the Facility or has access to the Facility through, and is included in the stock subscription of, another Agent.

(f) A central credit union or group of central credit unions which becomes an Agent member of the Facility after February 23, 1980, may not receive a Facility advance without approval of the NCUA Board for a period of six months after becoming a member. This subsection shall not apply to any credit union which becomes an Agent member or a member of an Agent group within six months after such credit union is chartered within six months after such credit union has been an Agent or a member of another Agent group.

(g) Agent members will be compensated for the services they perform for the Facility in a manner to be specified by the NCUA Board.

§ 725.5 Capital stock.

(a) The capital stock of the Facility is divided into nonvoting shares having a par value of \$50 each. The Facility issues whole and fractional shares. Shares are issued in book entry form upon receipt of payment for such shares, and cannot be transferred or hypothecated except to the Facility.

(b) The capital stock subscriptions provided for in §§ 725.3 and 725.4 shall be:

(1) Based on an arithmetic average of paid-in and unimpaired capital and surplus over the six months preceding application for membership, and

(2) Adjusted at the close of each calendar year in accordance with an arithmetic average of paid-in and unimpaired capital and surplus over the twelve months in such calendar year. Payments for adjustments to the capital stock subscription must be received by the Facility no later than March 31 of the following year.

(c) That part of a member's stock subscription which is not paid-in shall be held by the member on call of the NCUA Board and shall be invested in liquid assets.

(d) Any member may at any time purchase additional shares of capital stock in the Facility. Any shares in excess of the member's required paid-in portion of its stock subscription can be redeemed by the member as long as the member maintains investments in other assets sufficient to meet the requirement of paragraph (c) of this section. The member's required paid-in portion of its stock subscription includes one-half of its stock subscription plus any "calls" that may have been issued by the NCUA Board against the "on-call" portion of such stock subscription.

(e) Dividends will be paid on capital stock at such times and rates as are determined by the NCUA Board. The NCUA Board shall declare such dividends no less frequently than annually. All issued (paid for) capital stock shall share in dividend distributions without preference. Payment of dividends will be made by the issuance of capital stock to the member in the amount of the dividend.

[44 FR 49437, Aug. 23, 1979, as amended at 45 FR 47122, July 14, 1980; 47 FR 1371, Jan. 13, 1982; 53 FR 22472, June 16, 1988]

§ 725.6 Termination of membership.

(a) A member of the Facility whose stock subscription constitutes less than 5 percent of total subscribed Facility stock may withdraw from membership in the Facility six months after notifying the NCUA Board in writing of its intention to do so.

(b) A member of the Facility whose stock subscription constitutes 5 percent or more of total subscribed Facility stock may withdraw from membership in the Facility twenty-four months after notifying the NCUA Board in writing of its intention to do so.

(c) The NCUA Board may terminate membership in the Facility if, after the opportunity for a hearing, the NCUA Board determines the member has failed to comply with any provision of the National Credit Union Central Liquidity Facility Act or any regulation

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issued pursuant thereto. If membership is terminated under this subsection, the credit union will be required to obtain the approval of the NCUA Board before becoming a member of the Facility again. Such approval will be granted only if the NCUA Board is satisfied that the credit union will comply with such Act and regulations.

(d)(1) If membership is terminated under any provision of this section, the terminated member's stock shall be redeemed upon termination. In such event, the Facility may retain any amount owed to the Facility by the member.

(2) When a member natural person credit union withdraws from membership in a central credit union which is an Agent or a member of an Agent group, the stock subscription of the Agent, or in the case of an Agent group, the stock subscription of the Agent group representative, will be adjusted after the waiting period which would apply under paragraph (a) or (b) of this section if the withdrawing credit union were a member of the Facility.

§ 725.7 Special share accounts in federally chartered agent members.

(a) A federally chartered Agent member of the Facility may require its member natural person credit unions to establish and maintain special share accounts in the Agent member to reimburse it for the portion of the Agent's Facility stock subscription which is attributable to the paid-in and unimpaired capital and surplus of each such natural person credit union.

(b) The amount which the Agent member requires each member natural person credit union to maintain in such special share accounts shall be based on a uniform percentage of the paid-in and unimpaired capital and surplus of such credit unions, and shall not exceed the amount of the Agent's stock subscription which is attributable to the capital and surplus of each such credit union. An Agent shall not permit a member to maintain in a special share account any amounts in excess of the required amount.

(c) A natural person credit union that withdraws from membership in an Agent member or that becomes a Regular member of the Facility, shall be

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entitled to the return of all amounts in its special share account upon withdrawal from membership in the Agent or upon becoming a Regular member, as applicable.

[45 FR 47122, July 14, 1980]

§§ 725.8-725.16 [Reserved]

§ 725.17 Applications for extensions of credit.

(a) A Regular member may apply for a Facility advance to meet its liquidity needs by filing an application on a Facility-approved form, or by any other method approved by the Facility.

(b)(1) An Agent member may apply for a Facility advance by filing an application on a Facility-approved form, or by any other method approved by the Facility.⁴

(2) The Agent's application shall be based on the following:

(i) Approved applications to the Agent by its member natural person credit unions for pending loans to meet liquidity needs; or

(ii) Outstanding loans previously made by the Agent to meet liquidity needs of its member natural person credit unions; or

(iii) Such other demonstrable liquidity needs as the NCUA Board may specify.

(3) An Agent shall not submit an application to the Facility based on the liquidity needs of any member natural person credit union which has not agreed to the repayment, security and credit reporting terms prescribed by the Facility for Agent loans;

(4) Any loan to meet liquidity needs which have been or will be the basis for an application by the Agent for a Facility advance must be applied for on an application form approved by the Facility.

(5) Unless approved by the Facility, an Agent shall not submit an application to the Facility based on the liquidity needs of any credit union which became a member natural person credit union of the Agent after February 2, 1980, unless such credit union has been

⁴If the Agent is an Agent group, the application must be filed by the Agent group representative, and any Facility advance will be made to the Agent group representative.

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a member natural person credit union of the Agent for six months, was chartered within six months before becoming a member natural person credit union of the Agent, or had access to the Facility either as a Regular member or through another Agent within six months before becoming a member natural person credit union of the Agent.

(c) In emergency circumstances, the applications for extensions of credit required under paragraph (a) and paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(4) of this section may be verbal, but must be confirmed within five working days by an application as required by such subsection or paragraphs.

(d) Applications of Regular and Agent members shall be filed with a Facility lending officer. Each application for credit which is completed and properly filed will be approved or denied within five working days after the day of receipt.

[44 FR 49437, Aug. 23, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 1371, Jan. 13, 1982]

§ 725.18 Creditworthiness.

(a) Prior to Facility approval of each application of a Regular member for a Facility advance, the Facility shall consider the creditworthiness of such member.

(b) Prior to an Agent's approval of each application of a member natural person credit union for an extension of credit on which an application by the Agent to the Facility will be based, an Agent shall consider the creditworthiness of such member natural person credit union.

(c) Specific characteristics of an uncreditworthy credit union include, but are not limited to, insolvency as defined by § 700.1(k) of this chapter, unsatisfactory practices in extending credit, lower than desirable reserve levels, high expense ratio, failure to repay previous Facility advances as agreed, excessive dependence on borrowed funds, inadequate cash management policies and planning, or any other relevant characteristics creating a less than satisfactory condition. The presence of one or more of these characteristics will not necessarily mean that a credit union will be considered uncreditworthy.

(d) A natural person credit union (whether a Regular member of the Facility or a member natural person credit union) which does not meet the Facility's creditworthiness standards may be limited in or denied the use of advances for its liquidity needs.

§ 725.19 Collateral requirements.

(a) Each Facility advance and each Agent loan shall be secured by a first priority security interest in collateral of the credit union with a net book value at least equal to 110% of all amounts due under the applicable Facility advance or Agent loan, or by guarantee of the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

(b) The Facility may accept as collateral for each Facility advance to a Regular member, a security interest in all assets of the Regular member; provided however, that the value of any assets in which any third party has a perfected security interest that is superior to the security interest of the Facility shall be excluded for purposes of complying with the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) The Facility may accept as collateral for each Facility advance to an Agent member, a security interest in the Agent loans for which the Facility advance was made; provided however, that the collateral for such Agent loan meets the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section.

[62 FR 67550, Dec. 29, 1997]

§ 725.20 Repayment, security and credit reporting agreements; other terms and conditions.

(a) Regular and Agent members, or in the case of an Agent group, the Agent group representative, shall sign the repayment, security and credit reporting agreements prescribed by the Facility, and all Facility advances to Regular and Agent members shall be governed by the terms and conditions of such agreements.

(b) All Agent loans shall be made subject to the repayment, security and credit reporting terms prescribed by the Facility for Agent loans.

(c) Other terms and conditions applicable to Facility advances and Agent loans will be specified in confirmations of credit provided in connection with

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such advances and loans, and/or in operating circulars of the Facility.

§ 725.21 Modification of agreements.

The repayment, security, and credit reporting terms under which Facility advances and Agent loans will be made, as provided in § 725.20 of this part, shall be subject to modification from time to time as the NCUA Board may determine. Any change in such terms shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and shall apply to all advances disbursed by the Facility after the effective date of the change.

§ 725.22 Advances to insurance organizations.

(a) In accordance with policies established by the NCUA Board, the Facility may advance funds to a State credit union share or deposit insurance corporation, guaranty credit union, guaranty association, or similar organization. Requests for such advances shall be supported by an application which sets forth and supports the need for the advance.

(b) Advances under paragraph (a) shall be subject to the approval of the NCUA Board and shall be made subject to the following terms:

(1) The advance shall be fully secured,

(2) The maturity of the advance shall not exceed 12 months,

(3) The advance shall not be renewable at maturity, and

(4) The funds advanced shall not be relent at an interest rate exceeding that imposed by the Facility.

§ 725.23 Other advances.

(a) The NCUA Board may authorize extensions of credit to members of the Facility for purposes other than liquidity needs if the NCUA Board, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and the Secretary of the Treasury concur in a determination that such extensions of credit are in the national economic interest.

(b) Extensions of credit approved under the conditions of paragraph (a) of this section shall be subject to such terms and conditions as shall be established by the NCUA Board.

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PART 740—ADVERTISING

Sec.

740.0 Scope.

740.1 Definitions.

740.2 Accuracy of advertising.

740.3 Mandatory requirements with regard to the official sign and its display.

740.4 Mandatory requirements with regard to the official advertising statement and manner of use.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1766, 1781, 1789 and 4311.

SOURCE: 51 FR 37556, Oct. 23, 1986, unless otherwise noted.

§ 740.0 Scope.

This part applies to all federally-insured credit unions. It prescribes the requirements with regard to the official sign insured credit unions must display and the requirements with regard to the official advertising statement insured credit unions must include in their advertisements. It also prescribes a general requirement that all other kinds of advertisements must be accurate.

§ 740.1 Definitions.

(a) *Account* or *accounts* as used in this part means share, share certificate or share draft accounts (or their equivalent under state law, as determined by the Board in the case of insured state credit unions) of a member (which includes other credit unions, public units, and nonmembers where permitted under the Act) in a credit union of a type approved by the Board which evidences money or its equivalent received or held by a credit union in the usual course of business and for which it has given or is obligated to give credit to the account of the member.

(b) *Insured credit union* as used in this part means a credit union insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

§ 740.2 Accuracy of advertising.

No insured credit union shall use any advertising (which includes print or broadcast media, displays and signs, stationery, and all other promotional material) or make any representation which is inaccurate or deceptive in any

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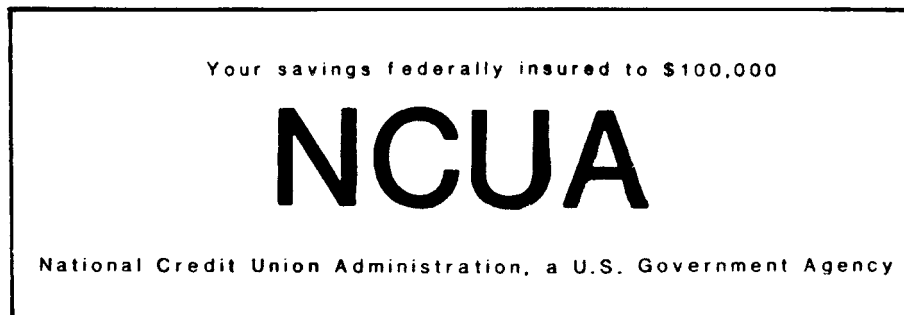
particular, or which in any way misrepresents its services, contracts, or financial condition, or which violates the requirements of § 707.8 of this subchapter, if applicable. Any advertising that mentions share or savings account insurance provided by a party other than the NCUA must clearly explain the type and amount of such insurance and the identity of the carrier, and must avoid any statement or implication that the carrier is affiliated with the NCUA or the Federal government.

[51 FR 37556, Oct. 23, 1986, as amended at 58 FR 50461, Sept. 27, 1993]

§ 740.3 Mandatory requirements with regard to the official sign and its display.

(a) Each insured credit union shall continuously display the official sign described in paragraph (b) of this section at each station or window where insured account funds or deposits are usually and normally received in its principal place of business and in all its branches 30 days after its first day of operation as an insured credit union.

(b) The official sign shall be as depicted below, having a blue background with white lettering:



(1) All insured credit unions will automatically be furnished an initial supply of official signs, at no cost, from the Administration for compliance with paragraph (a) of this section. If the initial supply is not adequate, an immediate request for additional signs must be made. Any credit union that does not have an adequate supply but requests additional signs from NCUA shall not be deemed to have violated paragraph (a) of this section unless the credit union shall omit to display the signs after receipt thereof.

(2) Additional signs reflecting variations in color, materials and size, for use other than as prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section may be procured by insured credit unions from commercial suppliers.

(c) An insured credit union shall not receive account funds at any teller's station or window where any non-insured credit union or institution receives deposits. Excepted from this prohibition are credit union centers,

service centers, or branches servicing more than one credit union where only some of the credit unions are insured by the NCUA. In such instances there must be placed immediately above or beside each official sign another sign stating "Only the following credit unions serviced by this facility are federally insured by the NCUA" (the full name of each credit union insured will follow the word NCUA). The lettering will be of such size and print to be clearly legible to all members conducting share or share deposit transactions.

(d) The Board may require any insured credit union, upon at least 30 days' written notice, to change the wording of its official signs in a manner deemed necessary for the protection of shareholders or others.

(e) For purposes of this section, the terms "branch," "station," "teller station," and "window" do not include automated teller machines or point of sale terminals.

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§ 740.4 Mandatory requirements with regard to the official advertising statement and manner of use.

(a) Each insured credit union shall include the official advertising statement, prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section, in all of its advertisements except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section.

(1) An insured credit union must include the official advertising statement in its advertisements thirty (30) days after its first day of operations as an insured credit union unless it has been granted an extension by the Regional Director.

(2) In cases where advertising copy not including the official advertising statement is on hand on the date the requirements of this section become operative, the insured credit union may cause the official advertising statement to be included by use of an overstamp or by other means until the supplies are exhausted.

(b) The official advertising statement shall be in substance as follows:

This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

The short title “Federally insured by NCUA” and a reproduction of the official sign may be used by insured credit unions at their option as the official advertising statement. The official advertising statement shall be of such size and print to be clearly legible.

(c) The following advertisements need not include the official advertising statement:

(1) Statements of condition and reports of condition of an insured credit union which are required to be published by State and Federal law or regulation;

(2) Credit union supplies such as stationery (except when used for circular letters), envelopes, deposit slips, checks, drafts, signature cards, account passbooks, and noninsurable certificates, etc;

(3) Signs or plates in the credit union office or attached to the building or buildings in which the offices are located;

(4) Listings in directories;

(5) Advertisements not setting forth the name of the insured credit union;

(6) Display advertisements in credit union directories, provided the name of the credit union is listed on any page in the directory with a symbol or other descriptive matter indicating it is insured;

(7) Joint or group advertisements of credit union services where the names of insured credit unions and noninsured credit unions are listed and form a part of such advertisement;

(8) Advertisements by radio which do not exceed thirty (30) seconds in time;

(9) Advertisements by television, other than display advertisement, which do not exceed thirty (30) seconds in time;

(10) Advertisements which are of the type or character making it impractical to include thereon the official advertising statement, including but not limited to, promotional items such as calendars, matchbooks, pens, pencils, and key chains;

(11) Advertisements which contain a statement to the effect that the credit union is insured by the National Credit Union Administration, or that its accounts and shares or members are insured by the Administration to the maximum of \$100,000 for each member or shareholder;

(12) Advertisements which do not relate to member accounts, including but not limited to:

(i) Advertisements relating specifically and only to the making of loans by the credit union or loan services;

(ii) Advertisements relating specifically and only to safekeeping box business or services;

(iii) Advertisements relating specifically and only to traveler's checks on which the credit union issuing or causing to be issued the advertisement is not primarily liable; and

(iv) Advertisements relating specifically and only to loan life insurance.

(d) The non-English equivalent of the official advertising statement may be used in any advertisement: *Provided*, That the translation has had the prior written approval of the Regional Director.

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PART 741—REQUIREMENTS FOR INSURANCE

Sec.

741.0 Scope.

Subpart A—Regulations That Apply to Both Federal Credit Unions and Federally Insured State-Chartered Credit Unions and That Are Not Codified Elsewhere in NCUA's Regulations

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741.2 Maximum borrowing authority.

741.3 Criteria.

741.4 Insurance premium and one percent deposit.

741.5 Notice of termination of excess insurance coverage.

741.6 Financial and statistical and other reports.

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741.201 Minimum fidelity bond requirements.

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741.205 Reporting requirements for credit unions that are newly chartered or in troubled condition.

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741.214 Report of crime or catastrophic act and Bank Secrecy Act compliance.

741.215 Records preservation program.

741.216 Flood insurance.

741.217 Truth in savings.

741.218 Involuntary liquidation and creditor claims.

741.219 Investment requirements.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1757, 1766, and 1781–1790.

Section 741.4 is also authorized by 31 U.S.C. 3717.

SOURCE: 60 FR 58504, Nov. 28, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

§ 741.0 Scope.

The provisions of this part apply to federal credit unions, federally insured state-chartered credit unions, and credit unions making application for insurance of accounts pursuant to Title II of the Act, unless the context of a provision indicates its application is otherwise limited. This part prescribes various requirements for obtaining and maintaining federal insurance and the payment of insurance premiums and capitalization deposit. Subpart A of this part contains substantive requirements that are not codified elsewhere in this chapter. Subpart B of this part lists additional regulations, set forth elsewhere in this chapter as applying to federal credit unions, that also apply to federally insured state-chartered credit unions. As used in this part, “insured credit union” means a credit union whose accounts are insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF).

Subpart A—Regulations That Apply to Both Federal Credit Unions and Federally Insured State-Chartered Credit Unions and That Are Not Codified Elsewhere in NCUA's Regulations

§ 741.1 Examination.

As provided in Sections 201 and 204 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1781 and 1784), the NCUA Board is authorized to examine any insured credit union or any credit union making application for insurance of its accounts. Such examination may require access to all records, reports, contracts to which the credit union is a party, and information concerning the affairs of the credit union. Upon request, such documentation must be provided to the NCUA Board or its representative. Any credit union which makes application for insurance will be

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required to pay the cost of such examination and processing. To the maximum extent feasible, the NCUA Board will utilize examinations conducted by state regulatory agencies.

§ 741.2 Maximum borrowing authority.

Any credit union which makes application for insurance of its accounts pursuant to Title II of the Act, or any insured credit union, must not borrow, from any source, an aggregate amount in excess of 50 per centum of its paid-in and unimpaired capital and surplus (shares and undivided earnings, plus net income or minus net loss).

§ 741.3 Criteria.

In determining the insurability of a credit union which makes application for insurance and in continuing the insurability of its accounts pursuant to Title II of the Act, the following criteria shall be applied:

(a) *Adequacy of reserves*—(1) *General rule.* State-chartered credit unions must meet, at a minimum, the statutory reserve and full and fair disclosure requirements imposed on federal credit unions by Section 116 of the Act and part 702 of this chapter.

(2) *Charges against reserves.* State-chartered credit unions may charge losses, including losses other than loan losses, against the statutory reserve in accordance with either state law or procedures established by the state supervisory authority. However, charges for losses other than loan losses shall be made only after notification to the Regional Director, unless the credit union's ratio of capital to assets is greater than 6 percent and the charge reduces the ratio by no more than ½ percent. For purposes of this section, capital is defined as the total of the Regular Reserve, the Allowance for Loan Losses, the Allowance for Investment Losses, Undivided Earnings, and other reserves.

(3) *Special reserve for nonconforming investments.* State-chartered credit unions (except state-chartered corporate credit unions) are required to establish an additional special reserve for investments if those credit unions are permitted by their respective state laws to make investments beyond those authorized in the Act or the

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NCUA Rules and Regulations. For any investment other than loans to members and obligations or securities expressly authorized in Title I of the Act and part 703 of this chapter, as amended, state-chartered credit unions (except state-chartered corporate credit unions) are required to establish and maintain at the end of each accounting period and prior to payment of any dividend, an Appropriation for Non-conforming Investments in an amount at least equal to the net excess of book value over current market value of the investments. If the market value cannot be determined, an amount equal to the full book value will be established. When at the end of any dividend period, the amount in the Appropriation for Non-conforming Investments exceeds the difference between book value and market value, the board of directors may authorize the transfer of the excess to Undivided Earnings.

(b) *Financial condition and policies.* The following factors are to be considered in determining whether the credit union's financial condition and policies are both safe and sound:

(1) The existence of unfavorable trends which may include excessive losses on loans (i.e., losses which exceed the regular reserve or its equivalent [in the case of state-chartered credit unions] plus other irrevocable reserves established as a contingency against losses on loans), the presence of special reserve accounts used specifically for charging off loan balances of deceased borrowers, and an expense ratio so high that the required transfers to reserves create a net operating loss for the period or that the net gain after these transfers is not sufficient to permit the payment of a nominal dividend;

(2) The existence of written lending policies, including adequate documentation of secured loans and the protection of security interests by recording, bond, insurance, or other adequate means, adequate determination of the financial capacity of borrowers and co-makers for repayment of the loan, and adequate determination of value of security on loans to ascertain that said security is adequate to repay the loan in the event of default;

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(3) Investment policies which are within the provisions of applicable law and regulations, i.e., the Act and part 703 of this chapter for federal credit unions and the laws of the state in which the credit union operates for state-chartered credit unions, except state-chartered corporate credit unions. State-chartered corporate credit unions are permitted to make only those investments that are in conformance with part 704 of this chapter and applicable state laws and regulations;

(4) The presence of any account or security, the form of which has not been approved by the Board, except for accounts authorized by state law for state-chartered credit unions.

(c) *Fitness of management.* The officers, directors, and committee members of the credit union must have conducted its operations in accordance with provisions of applicable law, regulations, its charter and bylaws. No person shall serve as a director, officer, committee member, or employee of an insured credit union who has been convicted of any criminal offense involving dishonesty or breach of trust, except with the written consent of the Board.

(d) *Insurance of member accounts would not otherwise involve undue risk to the NCUSIF.* The credit union must maintain adequate fidelity bond coverage as specified in § 741.201. Any circumstances which may be unique to the particular credit union concerned shall also be considered in arriving at the determination of whether or not an undue risk to the NCUSIF is or may be present. For purposes of this section, the term “undue risk to the NCUSIF” is defined as a condition which creates a probability of loss in excess of that normally found in a credit union and which indicates a reasonably foreseeable probability of the credit union becoming insolvent because of such condition, with a resultant claim against the NCUSIF.

(e) *Powers and purposes.* The credit union must not perform services other than those which are consistent with the promotion of thrift and the creation of a source of credit for its members, except as otherwise permitted by law or regulation.

(f) *Letter of disapproval.* A credit union whose application for share insurance is disapproved shall receive a letter indicating the reasons for such disapproval, a citation of the authority for such disapproval, and suggested methods by which the applying credit union may correct its deficiencies and thereby qualify for share insurance.

(g) Nothing in this section shall preclude the NCUA Board from imposing additional terms or conditions pursuant to the insurance agreement.

[60 FR 58504, Nov. 28, 1995, as amended at 64 FR 41040, July 29, 1999]

§ 741.4 Insurance premium and one percent deposit.

(a) *Scope.* This section implements the requirements of Section 202 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1782) providing for capitalization of the NCUSIF through the maintenance of a deposit by each insured credit union in an amount equaling one percent of its insured shares and payment of an insurance premium.

(b) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section:

(1) *Available assets ratio* means the ratio of:

(i) The amount determined by subtracting all liabilities of the NCUSIF, including contingent liabilities for which no provision for losses has been made, from the sum of cash and the market value of unencumbered investments authorized under 12 U.S.C. 1783(c), to:

(ii) The aggregate amount of the insured shares in all insured credit unions.

(iii) Shown as an abbreviated mathematical formula, the available assets ratio is:

$$\frac{(\text{cash} + \text{market value of unencumbered investments}) - (\text{liabilities} + \text{contingent liabilities for which no provision for losses has been made})}{\text{aggregate amount of all insured shares from final reporting period of calendar year}}$$

(2) *Equity ratio* means the ratio of:

(i) The amount of NCUSIF's capitalization, meaning insured credit unions' one percent capitalization deposits plus the retained earnings balance of the NCUSIF (less contingent liabilities

for which no provision for losses has been made) to:

(ii) The aggregate amount of the insured shares in all insured credit unions.

(iii) Shown as an abbreviated mathematical formula, the equity ratio is:

$$\frac{\text{insured credit unions' 1.0\% capitalization deposits} + (\text{NCUSIF's retained earnings} - \text{contingent liabilities for which no provision for losses has been made})}{\text{aggregate amount of all insured shares}}$$

(3) *Insured shares* means the total amount of a credit union's share, share draft and share certificate accounts, or their equivalent under state law (which may include deposit accounts), authorized to be issued to members, other credit unions, public units, or nonmembers (where permitted under the Act or equivalent state law). "Insured shares" does not include amounts in excess of insurance coverage as provided in part 745 of this chapter; and

(4) *Normal operating level* means an equity ratio not less than 1.2 percent and not more than 1.5 percent, as established by action of the NCUA Board.

(5) *Reporting period* means calendar year for credit unions with total assets of less than \$50,000,000 and means semiannual period for credit union with total assets of \$50,000,000 or more.

(c) *One percent deposit*. Each insured credit union shall maintain with the NCUSIF during each reporting period a deposit in an amount equaling one percent of the total of the credit union's insured shares at the close of the preceding reporting period. For credit unions with total assets of less than \$50,000,000, insured shares will be measured and adjusted annually based on the insured shares reported in the credit union's semiannual 5300 report due in January of each year. For credit unions with total assets of \$50,000,000 or more, insured shares will be measured and adjusted semiannually based on the insured shares reported in the credit union's quarterly 5300 reports due in January and July of each year.

(d) *Insurance premium charges*. (1) *In general*. Each insured credit union will pay to the NCUSIF, on dates the NCUA

Board determines, but not more than twice in any calendar year, an insurance premium in an amount stated as a percentage of insured shares, which will be the same for all insured credit unions.

(2) *Relation of premium charge to equity ratio of NCUSIF*. (i) The NCUA Board may assess a premium charge only if the NCUSIF's equity ratio is less than 1.3 percent and the premium charge does not exceed the amount necessary to restore the equity ratio to 1.3 percent.

(ii) If the equity ratio of NCUSIF falls below 1.2 percent, the NCUA Board is required to assess a premium in an amount it determines is necessary to restore the equity ratio to, and maintain that ratio at, 1.2 percent.

(e) *Distribution of NCUSIF equity*. If, as of the end of a calendar year, the NCUSIF exceeds its normal operating level and its available assets ratio exceeds 1.0 percent, the NCUA Board will make a proportionate distribution of NCUSIF equity to insured credit unions. The distribution will be the maximum amount possible that does not reduce the NCUSIF's equity ratio below its normal operating level and does not reduce its available assets ratio below 1.0 percent. The distribution will be after the calendar year and in the form determined by the NCUA Board. The form of the distribution may include a waiver of insurance premiums, premium rebates, or distributions from NCUSIF equity in the form of dividends. The NCUA Board will use the aggregate amount of the insured shares from all insured credit unions from the final reporting period of the

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calendar year in calculating the NCUSIF's equity ratio and available assets ratio for purposes of this paragraph.

(f) *Invoices.* The NCUA provides invoices to all federally insured credit unions stating any change in the amount of a credit union's one percent deposit and the computation and funding of any premium payment due. Invoices for federal credit unions also include any annual operating fees that are due. Invoices are calculated based on a credit union's insured shares as of the most recently ended reporting period. The invoices may also provide for any distribution the NCUA Board declares in accordance with paragraph (e) of this section, resulting in a single net transfer of funds between a credit union and the NCUA.

(g) *New charters.* A newly-chartered credit union that obtains share insurance coverage from the NCUSIF during the calendar year in which it has obtained its charter shall not be required to pay an insurance premium for that calendar year. The credit union shall fund its one percent deposit on a date to be determined by the NCUA Board in the following calendar year, but shall not participate in any distribution from NCUSIF equity related to the period prior to the credit union's funding of its deposit.

(h) *Conversion to Federal insurance.* An existing credit union that converts to insurance coverage with the NCUSIF shall immediately fund its one percent deposit based on the total of its insured shares as of the close of the month prior to conversion and, if any premiums have been assessed in that calendar year, will pay a prorated premium amount to reflect the remaining number of months in that calendar year. The credit union will be entitled to a prorated share of any distribution from NCUSIF equity declared subsequent to the credit union's conversion.

(i) *Mergers of nonfederally insured credit unions.* Where a nonfederally insured credit union merges into a federally insured credit union, the continuing federally insured credit union shall immediately pay to the NCUSIF a prorated insurance premium (unless waived in whole or in part for all federally insured credit unions), and an ad-

ditional one percent deposit based upon the increase in insured shares resulting from the merger.

(j) *Return of deposit.* Any insolvent credit union that is closed for involuntary liquidation will not be entitled to a return of its deposit. Any solvent credit union that is closed due to involuntary liquidation shall be entitled to a return of its deposit prior to final distribution of member shares. Any other credit union whose insurance coverage with the NCUSIF terminates will be entitled to a return of the full amount of its deposit immediately after the final date on which any shares of the credit union are insured, except that the NCUA Board reserves the right to delay payment by up to one year if it determines that immediate payment would jeopardize the financial condition of the NCUSIF. This includes termination of insurance due to mergers and consolidations. A credit union that receives a return of its deposit during an calendar year shall have the option of leaving a nominal sum on deposit with the NCUSIF until the next distribution from NCUSIF equity and will thus qualify for a prorated share of the distribution.

(k) *Assessment of administrative fee and interest for delinquent payment.* Each federally insured credit union shall pay to the NCUA an administrative fee, the costs of collection, and interest on any delinquent payment of its capitalization deposit or insurance premium. A payment will be considered delinquent if it is postmarked later than the date stated in the invoice provided to the credit union. The NCUA may waive or abate charges or collection of interest, if circumstances warrant.

(1) The administrative fee for a delinquent payment shall be an amount as fixed from time to time by the NCUA Board based upon the administrative costs of such delinquent payments to the NCUA in the preceding year.

(2) The costs of collection shall be calculated as the actual hours expended by NCUA personnel multiplied by the average hourly cost of the salaries and benefits of such personnel.

(3) The interest rate charged on any delinquent payment shall be the U.S. Department of the Treasury Tax and Loan Rate in effect on the date when

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the payment is due as provided in 31 U.S.C. 3717.

[60 FR 58504, Nov. 28, 1995, as amended at 64 FR 56150, Oct. 18, 1999]

§ 741.5 Notice of termination of excess insurance coverage.

In the event of a credit union's termination of share insurance coverage other than that provided by the NCUSIF, the credit union must notify all members in writing of such termination at least thirty days prior to the effective date of termination.

§ 741.6 Financial and statistical and other reports.

(a) Each operating insured credit union with assets in excess of \$50,000,000 shall file with the NCUA a quarterly Financial and Statistical Report on Form NCUA 5300, on or before January 22 (as of the previous December 31), April 22 (as of the previous March 31), July 22 (as of the previous June 30) and October 22 (as of the previous September 30) of each year. All other operating insured credit unions shall file with the NCUA on or before January 22 and on or before July 22 of each year a semiannual Financial and Statistical Report on Form NCUA 5300, as of the previous December 31 (in the case of the January filing) or June 30 (in the case of the July filing).

(b) *Consistency with GAAP.* The accounts of financial statements and reports required to be filed quarterly or semiannually under paragraph (a) of this section must reflect GAAP if the credit union has total assets of \$10 million or greater, but may reflect regulatory accounting principles other than GAAP if the credit union has total assets of less than \$10 million (except that a Federally-insured State-chartered credit union may be required by its state credit union supervisor to follow GAAP regardless of asset size).

(c) *GAAP sources.* GAAP means generally accepted accounting principles, as defined in § 715.2(e) of this chapter. GAAP is distinct from GAAS, which means generally accepted auditing standards, as defined in § 715.2(f) of this chapter. Authoritative sources of GAAP include, but are not limited to, pronouncements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) and

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its predecessor organizations, the Accounting Standards Executive Committee (AcSEC) of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the FASB's Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF), and the applicable AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide.

(d) Insured credit unions shall, upon written notice from the NCUA Board or Regional Director, file such financial or other reports in accordance with instructions contained in such notice.

[60 FR 58504, Nov. 28, 1995, as amended at 64 FR 41040, July 29, 1999]

§ 741.7 Conversion to a state-chartered credit union.

Any federal credit union that petitions to convert to a state-chartered federally insured credit union is required to apply to the Regional Director for continued insurance of its accounts and meet the requirements as stated in the Act and this part. If the application for continued insurance is not approved, such insurance will terminate subject to the conditions set forth in section 206(d) of the Act.

§ 741.8 Purchase of assets and assumption of liabilities.

(a) Any credit union insured pursuant to Title II of the Act must apply for and receive approval from the NCUA Board before either purchasing or acquiring loans or assuming or receiving an assignment of deposits, shares, or liabilities from:

(1) Any credit union that is not insured pursuant to Title II of the Act;

(2) Any other financial-type institution (including depository institutions, mortgage banks, consumer finance companies, insurance companies, loan brokers, and other loan sellers or liability traders); or

(3) Any successor in interest to any institution identified in paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section.

(b) Approval is not required for:

(1) Purchases of student loans or real estate secured loans to facilitate the packaging of a pool of loans to be sold or pledged on the secondary market under § 701.23(b)(1) (iii) or (iv) of this chapter or comparable state law for state-chartered credit unions, or purchases of member loans under

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§ 701.23(b)(1)(i) of this chapter or comparable state law for state-chartered credit unions; or

(2) Assumptions or receipt of deposits, shares or liabilities as rollovers or transfers of member retirement accounts or in which an NCUSIF-insured credit union perfects a security interest in connection with an extension of credit to any member.

§ 741.9 Uninsured membership shares.

Any credit union that is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act may not offer membership shares that, due to the terms and conditions of the account, are not eligible for insurance coverage. This prohibition does not apply to shares that are uninsured solely because the amount is in excess of the maximum insurance coverage provided pursuant to part 745 of this chapter.

§ 741.10 Disclosure of share insurance.

Any credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act and is permitted by state law to accept nonmember shares or deposits from sources other than other credit unions and public units (or, for low-income designated credit unions, any nonmembers), shall identify such nonmember accounts as nonmember shares or deposits on any statement or report required by the NCUA Board for insurance purposes. Immediately after a state-chartered credit union receives notice from NCUA that its member accounts are federally insured, the credit union shall advise any present nonmember share and deposit holders by letter that their accounts are not insured by the NCUSIF. Also, future nonmember share and deposit fund holders will be so advised by letter as they open accounts.

Subpart B—Regulations Codified Elsewhere in NCUA's Regulations as Applying to Federal Credit Unions That Also Apply to Federally Insured State-Chartered Credit Unions

§ 741.201 Minimum fidelity bond requirements.

(a) Any credit union which makes application for insurance of its accounts pursuant to Title II of the Act must possess the minimum fidelity bond coverage stated in part 713 of this chapter in order for its application for such insurance to be approved and for such insurance coverage to continue. A federally insured credit union whose fidelity bond coverage is terminated shall mail notice of such termination to the Regional Director not less than 35 days prior to the effective date of such termination.

(b) Corporate credit unions must comply with § 704.17 of this chapter in lieu of part 713 of this chapter.

[60 FR 58504, Nov. 28, 1995, as amended at 64 FR 28721, May 27, 1999]

§ 741.202 Audit and verification requirements.

(a) The supervisory committee of each credit union insured pursuant to Title II of the Act shall make or cause to be made an audit of the credit union at least once every calendar year covering the period elapsed since the last audit. The audit must fully meet the applicable requirements set forth in part 715 of this chapter or applicable state law, whichever requirement is more stringent.

(b) Each credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act shall verify or cause to be verified, under controlled conditions, all passbooks and accounts with the records of the financial officer not less frequently than once every 2 years. The

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verification must fully meet the requirements set forth in § 715.8 of this chapter.

[60 FR 58504, Nov. 28, 1995, as amended at 64 FR 41040, July 29, 1999]

§ 741.203 Minimum loan policy requirements.

Any credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act must:

(a) Adhere to the requirements stated in part 723 of this chapter concerning member business loans, § 701.21(c)(8) of this chapter concerning prohibited fees, and § 701.21(d)(5) of this chapter concerning nonpreferential loans. State-chartered, NCUSIF-insured credit unions in a given state are exempt from these requirements if the state supervisory authority for that state adopts substantially equivalent regulations as determined by the NCUA Board or, in the case of the member business loan requirements, if the state supervisory authority adopts member business loan regulations that are approved by the NCUA Board pursuant to § 723.20. In nonexempt states, all required NCUA reviews and approvals will be handled in coordination with the state credit union supervisory authority; and

(b) Adhere to the requirements stated in part 722 of this chapter concerning appraisals.

[60 FR 58504, Nov. 28, 1995, as amended at 63 FR 51802, Sept. 29, 1998; 64 FR 28733, May 27, 1999]

§ 741.204 Maximum public unit and nonmember accounts, and low-income designation.

Any credit union that is insured, or that makes application for insurance, pursuant to Title II of the Act must:

(a) Adhere to the requirements of § 701.32 of this chapter regarding public unit and nonmember accounts, provided it has the authority to accept such accounts. Requests by federally insured state-chartered credit unions for an exemption from the limitation of § 701.32 of this chapter will be made and reviewed on the same basis as that provided in § 701.32 of this chapter for federal credit unions, provided, however that NCUA will not grant an exemption without the concurrence of the appropriate state regulator.

(b) Obtain a low-income designation in order to accept nonmember accounts, other than from public units or other credit unions, provided it has the authority to accept such accounts under state law. The state regulator shall make the low-income designation with the concurrence of the appropriate regional director. The designation will be made and reviewed by the state regulator on the same basis as that provided in § 701.34(a) of this chapter for federal credit unions. Removal of the designation by the state regulator for such credit unions shall be with the concurrence of NCUA.

(c) Receive secondary capital accounts only if the credit has a low-income designation pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section, and then only in accordance with the terms and conditions authorized for Federal credit unions pursuant to § 701.34 of this chapter and to the extent not inconsistent with applicable state law and regulation. State chartered federally insured credit unions offering secondary capital accounts must submit the plan required by § 701.34 to both the state supervisory authority and the NCUA Regional Director.

[60 FR 58504, Nov. 28, 1995, as amended at 61 FR 3792, Feb. 2, 1996]

§ 741.205 Reporting requirements for credit unions that are newly chartered or in troubled condition.

Any federally insured credit union chartered for less than 2 years or any credit union defined to be in troubled condition as set forth in § 701.14(b)(3) of this chapter must adhere to the requirements stated in § 701.14(c) of this chapter concerning the prior notice and NCUA review. Federally insured state-chartered credit unions must submit required information to both the appropriate NCUA Regional Director and their state supervisor. NCUA will consult with the state supervisor before making its determination pursuant to § 701.14 (d)(2) and (f) of this chapter. NCUA will notify the state supervisor of its approval/disapproval no later than the time that it notifies the affected individual pursuant to § 701.14(d)(1) of this chapter.

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§ 741.206 Corporate credit unions.

Any corporate credit union insured pursuant to Title II of the Act shall adhere to the requirements of part 704 of this chapter.

§ 741.207 Community development revolving loan program for credit unions.

Any credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act and is a "participating credit union," as defined in § 705.3 of this chapter, shall adhere to the requirements stated in part 705 of this chapter.

§ 741.208 Mergers of federally insured credit unions: voluntary termination or conversion of insured status.

Any credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act and which merges with another credit union or non-credit union institution, and any state-chartered credit union which voluntarily terminates its status as a federally-insured credit union, or converts from federal insurance to other insurance from a government or private source authorized to insure member accounts, shall adhere to the applicable requirements stated in section 206 of the Act and parts 708a and 708b of this chapter concerning mergers and voluntary termination or conversion of insured status.

§ 741.209 Management official interlocks.

Any credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act shall adhere to the requirements stated in part 711 of this chapter concerning management official interlocks, issued under the provisions of the Depository Institution Management Interlocks Act (12 U.S.C. 3201 et seq.).

§ 741.210 Central liquidity facility.

Any credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act and is a member of the Central Liquidity Facility, shall adhere to the requirements stated in part 725 of this chapter.

§ 741.211 Advertising.

Any credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act shall ad-

here to the requirements prescribed by part 740 of this chapter.

§ 741.212 Share insurance.

(a) Member share accounts received by any credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act in its usual course of business, including regular shares, share certificates, and share draft accounts, are insured subject to the limitations and rules in subpart A of part 745 of this chapter.

(b) The payment of share insurance and the appeal process applicable to any credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act are addressed in subpart B of part 745 of this chapter.

§ 741.213 Administrative actions, adjudicative hearings, rules of practice and procedure.

Any credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act shall adhere to the applicable rules of practice and procedures for administrative actions and adjudicative hearings prescribed by part 747 of this chapter. Subpart E of part 747 of this chapter applies only to federal credit unions.

§ 741.214 Report of crime or catastrophic act and Bank Secrecy Act compliance.

Any credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act shall adhere to the requirements stated in part 748 of this chapter.

§ 741.215 Records preservation program.

Any credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act shall maintain a records preservation program as prescribed by part 749 of this chapter.

§ 741.216 Flood insurance.

Any credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act shall adhere to the requirements stated in part 760 of this chapter.

§ 741.217 Truth in savings.

Any credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act shall adhere to the requirements stated in part 707 of this chapter.

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§ 741.218 Involuntary liquidation and creditor claims.

Any credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act shall adhere to the applicable provisions in part 709 of this chapter. Section 709.3 of this chapter applies only to federal credit unions.

§ 741.219 Investment requirements.

Any credit union which is insured pursuant to Title II of the Act must adhere to the requirements stated in part 703 of this chapter concerning transacting business with corporate credit unions.

[62 FR 12949, Mar. 19, 1997]

PART 745—SHARE INSURANCE AND APPENDIX

Subpart A—Clarification and Definition of Account Insurance Coverage

Sec.

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745.1 Definitions.

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Subpart B—Payment of Share Insurance and Appeals

745.200 General.

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745.202 Appeal.

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APPENDIX TO PART 745—EXAMPLES OF INSURANCE COVERAGE AFFORDED ACCOUNTS IN CREDIT UNIONS INSURED BY THE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION SHARE INSURANCE FUND

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C 1752(5), 1757, 1765, 1766, 1781, 1782, 1787, 1789.

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SOURCE: 51 FR 37560, Oct. 23, 1986, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Clarification and Definition of Account Insurance Coverage

§ 745.0 Scope.

The regulation and appendix contained in this part describe the insurance coverage of various types of member accounts. In general, all types of member share accounts received by the credit union in its usual course of business, including regular shares, share certificates, and share draft accounts, represent equity and are insured. For the purposes of applying the rules in this part, it is presumed that the owner of funds in an account is an insured credit union member or otherwise eligible to maintain an insured account in a credit union. These rules do not extend insurance coverage to persons not entitled to maintain an insured account or to account relationships that have not been approved by the Board as an insured account. Where there are multiple owners of a single account, generally only that part which is allocable to the member(s) is insured.

§ 745.1 Definitions.

(a) The terms *account* or *accounts* as used in this part mean share, share certificate or share draft accounts (or their equivalent under state law, as determined by the Board in the case of insured state credit unions) of a member (which includes other credit unions, public units and nonmembers where permitted under the Act) in a credit union of a type approved by the Board which evidences money or its equivalent received or held by a credit union in the usual course of business and for which it has given or is obligated to give credit to the account of the member.

(b) The terms *member* or *members* as used in this part mean those persons enumerated in the credit union's field of membership who have been elected to membership in accordance with the Act or state law in the case of state credit unions. It also includes those nonmembers permitted under the Act to maintain accounts in an insured credit union, including nonmember

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credit unions and nonmember public units and political subdivisions.

(c) The term *public unit* means the United States, any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Panama Canal Zone, any territory or possession of the United States, any county, municipality, or political subdivision thereof, or any Indian tribe as defined in section 3(c) of the Indian Financing Act of 1974.

(d) The term *political subdivision* includes any subdivision of a public unit, as defined in paragraph (c) of this section, or any principal department of such public unit, (1) the creation of which subdivision or department has been expressly authorized by state statute, (2) to which some functions of government have been delegated by state statute, and (3) to which funds have been allocated by statute or ordinance for its exclusive use and control. It also includes drainage, irrigation, navigation improvement, levee, sanitary, school or power districts and bridge or port authorities, and other special districts created by state statute or compacts between the states. Excluded from the term are subordinate or nonautonomous divisions, agencies, or boards within principal departments.

§ 745.2 General principles applicable in determining insurance of accounts.

(a) *General.* This part provides for determination by the Board of the amount of members' insured accounts. The rules for determining the insurance coverage of accounts maintained by members in the same or different rights and capacities in the same insured credit union are set forth in the following provisions of this part. The appendix provides examples of the application of these rules to various factual situations. Insofar as rules of local law enter into such determinations, the law of the jurisdiction in which the insured credit union's principal office is located shall govern.

(b) The regulations in this part in no way are to be interpreted to authorize any type of account that is not authorized by Federal law or regulation or State law or regulation or by the by-

laws of a particular credit union. The purpose is to be as inclusive as possible of all situations.

(c) *Records.* (1) The account records of the insured credit union shall be conclusive as to the existence of any relationship pursuant to which the funds in the account are deposited and on which a claim for insurance coverage is founded. Examples would be trustee, agent, custodian, or executor. No claim for insurance based on such a relationship will be recognized in the absence of such disclosure.

(2) If the account records of an insured credit union disclose the existence of a relationship which may provide a basis for additional insurance, the details of the relationship and the interest of other parties in the account must be ascertainable either from the records of the credit union or the records of the member maintained in good faith and in the regular course of business.

(3) The account records of an insured credit union in connection with a trust account shall disclose the name of both the settlor (grantor) and the trustee of the trust and shall contain an account signature card executed by the trustee.

(4) The interests of the co-owners of a joint account shall be deemed equal, unless otherwise stated on the insured credit union's records in the case of a tenancy in common.

(d) *Valuation of trust interests.* (1) Trust interests in the same trust deposited in the same account will be separately insured if the value of the trust interest is capable of determination, without evaluation of contingencies, except for those covered by the present worth tables and rules of calculation for their use set forth in § 20.2031-7 of the Federal Estate Tax Regulations (26 CFR 20.2031-7).

(2) In connection with any trust in which certain trust interests are not capable of evaluation in accordance with the foregoing rule, payment by the Board to the trustee with respect to all such trust interests shall not exceed the basic insured amount of \$100,000.

(3) Each trust interest in any trust established by two or more settlors shall be deemed to be derived from

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each settlor pro rata to his contribution to the trust.

(4) The term “trust interest” means the interest of a beneficiary in an irrevocable express trust, whether created by trust instrument or statute, but does not include any interest retained by the settlor.

§ 745.3 Single ownership accounts.

(a) Funds owned by an individual and deposited in the manner set forth below shall be added together and insured up to \$100,000 in the aggregate.

(1) *Individual accounts.* Funds owned by an individual (or by the husband-wife community of which the individual is a member) and deposited in one or more accounts in the individual’s own name shall be insured up to \$100,000 in the aggregate.

(2) *Accounts held by agents or nominees.* Funds owned by a principal and deposited in one or more accounts in the name or names of agents or nominees shall be added to any individual account of the principal and insured up to \$100,000 in the aggregate.

(3) *Custodial loan accounts.* Loan payments received by a Federal credit union prior to remittance to other parties to whom the loan was sold pursuant to section 107(13) of the Federal Credit Union Act and § 701.23 of NCUA’s Regulations shall be considered to be funds owned by the borrower and shall be added to any individual accounts of the borrower and insured up to \$100,000 in the aggregate.

(b) Funds held by a guardian, custodian, or conservator for the benefit of his ward or for the benefit of a minor under a Uniform Gifts to Minors Act and deposited in one or more accounts in the name of the guardian, custodian, or conservator are insured up to \$100,000 in the aggregate, separately from any other accounts of the guardian, custodian, conservator, ward, or minor.

§ 745.4 Revocable trust accounts.

(a) For purposes of this part, the term “revocable trust account” includes a testamentary account, tentative or “Totten” trust account, “payable-on-death” account, or any similar account which evidences an intention that the funds shall pass on the

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death of the owner of the funds to a named beneficiary.

(b) If the named beneficiary of a revocable trust account is a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, brother or sister of the account owner, the account shall be insured up to \$100,000 in the aggregate as to each such beneficiary, separately from any other accounts of the owner or beneficiary, regardless of the membership status of the beneficiary.

(c) If the named beneficiary of a revocable trust account is other than the spouse, child, grandchild, parent, brother or sister of the account owner, the funds in such account shall be added to any individual accounts of the owner and insured up to \$100,000 in the aggregate.

(d) For purposes of this section, the term “child” includes the biological, adopted or step-child of the owner; the term “grandchild” includes the biological, adopted or step-child of any of the owner’s children; the term “parent” includes the biological, adoptive or step-parent of the owner; the term “brother” includes a full brother, half brother, brother through adoption or step-brother; and the term “sister” includes a full sister, half sister, sister through adoption or step-sister.

[64 FR 19687, Apr. 22, 1999]

§ 745.5 Accounts held by executors or administrators.

Funds of a decedent held in the name of the decedent or in the name of the executor or administrator of the decedent’s estate and deposited in one or more accounts shall be insured up to \$100,000 in the aggregate for all such accounts, separately from the individual accounts of the beneficiaries of the estate or of the executor or administrator.

§ 745.6 Accounts held by a corporation, partnership, or unincorporated association.

Accounts of a corporation, partnership, or unincorporated association engaged in any independent activity shall be insured up to \$100,000 in the aggregate. The account of a corporation, partnership, or unincorporated association not engaged in an independent activity shall be deemed to be owned by

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the person or persons owning such corporation or comprising such partnership or unincorporated association and, for account insurance purposes, the interest of each person in such an account shall be added to any other account individually owned by such person and insured up to \$100,000 in the aggregate. For purposes of this section, “independent activity” means an activity other than one directed solely at increasing insurance coverage.

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§ 745.8 Joint ownership accounts.

(a) *Separate insurance coverage.* Qualifying joint accounts, whether owned as joint tenants with right of survivorship, as tenants by the entireties, as tenants in common, or by husband and wife as community property, shall be insured separately from accounts individually owned by any of the co-owners. The interest of a co-owner in all qualifying joint accounts shall be added together and the total for that co-owner shall be insured up to \$100,000.

(b) *Qualifying joint accounts.* A joint account is a qualifying joint account if each of the co-owners has personally signed a membership or account signature card and has a right of withdrawal on the same basis as the other co-owners. The signature requirement does not apply to share certificates, or to any accounts maintained by an agent, nominee, guardian, custodian or conservator on behalf of two or more persons if the records of the credit union properly reflect that the account is so maintained.

(c) *Failure to qualify.* A joint account that does not meet the requirements for a qualifying joint account shall be treated as owned by the named persons as individuals and the actual ownership interest of each such person in such account shall be added to any other accounts individually owned by such person and insured up to \$100,000 in the aggregate. An account will not fail to qualify as a joint account if a joint owner is a minor and applicable state law limits or restricts a minor’s withdrawal rights.

(d) *Nonmember joint owners.* A nonmember may become a joint owner with a member on a joint account with

right of survivorship. The nonmember’s interest in such accounts will be insured in the same manner as the member joint-owner’s interest.

[64 FR 19687, Apr. 22, 1999]

§ 745.9–1 Trust accounts.

(a) For purposes of this section, “trust” refers to an irrevocable trust.

(b) All trust interests (as defined in § 745.2(d)(4)), for the same beneficiary, deposited in an account and established pursuant to valid trust agreements created by the same settlor (grantor) shall be added together and insured up to \$100,000 in the aggregate, separately from other accounts of the trustee of such trust funds or the settlor or beneficiary of such trust arrangements.

§ 745.9–2 IRA/Keogh accounts.

(a) The present vested ascertainable interest of a participant or designated beneficiary in a trust or custodial account maintained pursuant to a pension or profit-sharing plan described under section 401(d) (Keogh account) or section 408(a) (IRA) of the Internal Revenue Code shall each be insured up to \$100,000 separately from other accounts of the participant or designated beneficiary. An IRA account shall be separately insured from a Keogh account.

(b) Upon liquidation of the credit union, any share insurance payment shall be made by the NCUA Board to the trustee or custodian, or the successor trustee or custodian, unless otherwise directed in writing by the plan participant or beneficiary.

§ 745.9–3 Deferred compensation accounts.

Funds deposited by an employer pursuant to a deferred compensation plan (including section 401(K) of the Internal Revenue Code) shall be insured up to \$100,000 as to the interest of each plan participant who is a member, separately from other accounts of the participant or employer.

§ 745.10 Public unit accounts.

(a) Public funds invested in Federal credit unions and federally-insured

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state credit unions authorized to accept such investments shall be insured as follows:

(1) Each official custodian of funds of the United States lawfully investing the same in a federally-insured credit union shall be separately insured up to \$100,000;

(2) Each official custodian of funds of any state of the United States or any county, municipality, or political subdivision thereof lawfully investing the same in a federally-insured credit union in the same state shall be separately insured up to \$100,000;

(3) Each official custodian of funds of the District of Columbia lawfully investing the same in a federally-insured credit union in the District of Columbia shall be separately insured up to \$100,000;

(4) Each official custodian of funds of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Panama Canal Zone, or any territory or possession of the United States, or any county, municipality, or political subdivision thereof lawfully investing the same in a federally-insured credit union in Puerto Rico, the Panama Canal Zone, or any such territory or possession, respectively, shall be separately insured up to \$100,000;

(5) Each official custodian of tribal funds of any Indian tribe (as defined in section 3(c) of the Indian Financing Act of 1974) or agency thereof lawfully investing the same in a federally-insured credit union shall be separately insured up to \$100,000.

(b) Each official custodian referred to in paragraphs (a) (2), (3), and (4) of this section lawfully investing such funds in a federally-insured credit union outside their respective jurisdictions shall be separately insured up to \$100,000; and

(c) For purposes of this section, if the same person is an official custodian of more than one public unit, he shall be separately insured with respect to the public funds held by him for each such unit, but he shall not be separately insured with respect to all public funds of the same public unit by virtue of holding different offices in such unit or by holding such funds for different purposes.

(d) For purposes of this section, “lawfully investing” means pursuant to the

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statutory or regulatory authority of the custodian or public unit.

§745.11 Accounts evidenced by negotiable instruments.

If any insured account obligation of a credit union is evidenced by a negotiable certificate account, negotiable draft, negotiable cashier’s or officer’s check, negotiable certified check, or negotiable traveler’s check or letter of credit, the owner of such account obligation will be recognized for all purposes of a claim for insured accounts to the same extent as if his name and interest were disclosed on the records of the credit union provided the instrument was in fact negotiated to such owner prior to the date of the closing of the credit union. Affirmative proof of such negotiation must be offered in all cases to substantiate the claim.

§745.12 Account obligations for payment of items forwarded for collection by depository institution acting as agent.

Where a closed credit union has become obligated for the payment of items forwarded for collection by a depository institution acting solely as agent, the owner of such items will be recognized for all purposes of a claim for insured accounts to the same extent as if his name and interest were disclosed on the records of the credit union when such claim for insured accounts, if otherwise payable, has been established by the execution and delivery of prescribed forms. Such depository institution forwarding such items for the owners thereof will be recognized as agent for such owners for the purpose of making an assignment of the rights of such owners against the closed insured credit union to the Board and for the purpose of receiving payment on behalf of such owners.

§745.13 Notification to members/shareholders.

Each insured credit union shall provide notice to its members concerning NCUA insurance coverage of member accounts. This may be accomplished by placing either a copy of part 745 of these rules, the appendix, or one or more copies of the NCUA brochure “Your Insured Funds” in each branch

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office and main office of the credit union. Copies of these materials shall also be made available to members upon request. For purposes of this section, an automated teller machine or point of sale terminal is not a branch office.

Subpart B—Payment of Share Insurance and Appeals

SOURCE: 55 FR 5586, Feb. 16, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

§ 745.200 General.

(a) *Payment.* In the event of the liquidation of an insured credit union, the Board will promptly determine the insured accountholders thereof and the amount of the insured account or accounts of each such accountholder. Payment may be in cash, or its equivalent, or may be made by making available to each accountholder a transferred account in a new federally-insured credit union in the same community or in another federally-insured credit union or institution in an amount equal to the accountholder's insured account. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board may withhold payment of such portion of the insured account of any member as may be required to provide for payment of any direct or indirect liability to the closed credit union or the liquidating agent, which is not offset against a claim due from such credit union, pending the determination and payment of such liability by the member or any person liable therefor.

(b) *Amount of insurance.* The amount of insurance on an insured account shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Subpart A of this part and the Federal Credit Union Act. For the purpose of determining insurance coverage, dividends earned in the ordinary course of business and posted to share accounts for any prior accounting or dividend period shall be deemed to be principal under this part. Dividends earned or accrued in the ordinary course of business, but not posted to share accounts, may be paid at the discretion of the liquidating agent. In making such determination, the liquidating agent will take into consideration whether the failure to post divi-

dends earned or accrued was due to the fraud, embezzlement or accounting errors of credit union personnel. The liquidating agent may require an accountholder to submit documentation supporting any claim for unposted dividends not otherwise evidenced in the credit union records. However, in no event will dividend amounts be considered as principal for insurance purposes pursuant to this section if not consistent with the amounts paid on similar classes of shares.

(c) *Multiple accounts.* In the event an insured member holds more than one insured account in the same capacity, and the aggregate amount of such accounts (including share draft accounts held in such capacity) exceeds the amount of insurance afforded thereon, the insurance coverage will be prorated among the member's interest in all accounts held in the same capacity. In the case of individual accounts, the insurance proceeds shall be paid to the holder of the account, whether or not the holder is the beneficial owner. In the case of accounts which are owned jointly, the insurance proceeds shall be paid to the owners jointly. In the case of trust estates, the insurance proceeds shall be paid to the indicated trustee unless otherwise provided for in the trust instrument or under state law. In the case of corporations, partnerships and unincorporated associations engaged in an independent activity, the insurance proceeds shall be paid to the indicated holder of the account. Where insurance payment is in the form of a transferred account to another insured institution, the same rules shall be applied.

(d) *Computing time.* In computing any period of time prescribed by this subpart, the provisions of § 747.12(a) shall apply.

[55 FR 5586, Feb. 16, 1990, as amended at 61 FR 60186, Nov. 27, 1996]

§ 745.201 Processing of insurance claims.

(a) *Delegations of authority.* The Agent for the Liquidating Agent ("Liquidating Agent") or his or her designee is authorized to make initial determinations with respect to insurance claims pursuant to the principles set forth in

this part, and to act on requests for reconsideration of the initial determination.

(b) *Initial determination.* In the event the Liquidating Agent determines that all or a portion of an accountholder's account is uninsured, the Liquidating Agent shall so notify the accountholder in writing, stating the reason(s) for such initial determination, and shall provide the accountholder with a certificate of claim in liquidation in the amount of the uninsured account from the Board in its capacity as Liquidating Agent for the insured credit union to enable the accountholder to share in the proceeds of the liquidation of the credit union, if any, up to the amount of the uninsured account.

(c) *Request for reconsideration.* An accountholder may, at his or her option, request reconsideration from the Liquidating Agent of the initial determination within 30 days of the date of the initial determination, or directly appeal the initial determination to the Board pursuant to § 745.202 of this subpart. The Liquidating Agent shall act on the request for reconsideration within 30 days from its receipt.

§ 745.202 Appeal.

(a) *Time for filing.* Within 60 days after issuance of an initial determination, or of the determination on a request for reconsideration by the liquidating agent, the accountholder may appeal by filing with the Board a written request for appeal. The appeal may be filed with the Secretary of the Board, National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314–3428.

(b) *Content of request.* Any appeal must include:

(1) A statement of the facts on which the claim for insurance is based;

(2) A statement of the basis for the initial determination or determination on the request for reconsideration to which the accountholder objects and the alleged error in such determination, including citations to applicable statutes and regulations;

(3) Any other evidence relied upon by the accountholder which was not previously provided to the Liquidating Agent.

(c) *Procedures for review of request.* (1) Within 60 days of the date of the Board's receipt of an appeal, the Board may request in writing that the accountholder submit additional facts and records in support of its request. The accountholder shall have 45 days from the date of issuance of such written request to provide such additional information. Failure by the accountholder to provide additional information may, as determined solely by the Board, result in denial of the accountholder's appeal.

(2) Within 60 days from the date of the Board's receipt of an appeal, the accountholder may amend or supplement the request in writing. In the event that the accountholder does amend or supplement the request, the provisions of paragraph (c)(1) of this section with respect to requests for additional information and responses to such requests shall apply with equal force to any such amendment or supplement to a request.

(d) *Determination on appeal.* (1) Within 180 days from the date of the receipt of an appeal by the Board, the Board shall issue a decision determining the extent of the accountholder's insurance pursuant to the rules of this part.

(2) The determination by the Board on appeal shall be provided to the accountholder in writing, stating the reason(s) for the determination, and shall constitute a final Agency order regarding the accountholder's claim for insurance.

(3) If the Board determines that the accountholder is entitled to the amount of insurance claimed or a portion thereof, upon payment of such insurance the accountholder shall promptly surrender to the Board the certificate of claim in liquidation provided in connection with the initial determination. In the event that the Board determines that the accountholder is only entitled to a portion of the amount of insurance claimed, upon the accountholder's surrender of such certificate a new certificate of claim in liquidation will be provided which reflects the revised amount of the uninsured account.

(4) Failure by the Board to issue a determination on appeal of the accountholder's claim for insurance

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within the 180-day period provided for under paragraph (d)(1) of this section, shall be deemed to be a denial of such claim for purposes of § 745.203 of this subpart.

[55 FR 5586, Feb. 16, 1990, as amended at 59 FR 36041, July 15, 1994]

§ 745.203 Judicial review.

(a) For purposes of seeking judicial review of actions taken pursuant to this subpart, only a determination on appeal issued by the Board pursuant to § 745.202 of this subpart shall constitute a final determination regarding an accountholder's claim for insurance.

(b) Failure to file an appeal with regard to an initial determination, or a decision rendered on a request for reconsideration with the applicable time periods shall constitute a failure by the accountholder to exhaust available administrative remedies and, due to such failure, any objections to the initial determination or request for reconsideration shall be deemed to be waived and such determination shall be deemed to have been accepted by, and binding upon, the accountholder.

(c) Final determination by the Board is reviewable in accordance with the provisions of chapter 7, title 5, United States Code, by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia or the court of appeals for the Federal judicial circuit where the credit union's principal place of business is located. Such action must be filed not later than 60 days after such final determination is ordered.

APPENDIX TO PART 745—EXAMPLES OF INSURANCE COVERAGE AFFORDED ACCOUNTS IN CREDIT UNIONS INSURED BY THE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION SHARE INSURANCE FUND

The following examples illustrate insurance coverage on accounts maintained in the same federally-insured credit union. They are intended to cover various types of ownership interests and combinations of accounts which may occur in connection with funds invested in insured credit unions. These examples interpret the rules for insurance of accounts contained in 12 CFR part 745.

The examples, as well as the rules which they interpret, are predicated upon the assumption that: (1) Invested funds are actually owned in the manner indicated on the credit union's records and (2) the owner of

funds in an account is a credit union member or otherwise eligible to maintain an insured account in a credit union. If available evidence shows that ownership is different from that on the institution's records, the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund may pay claims for insured accounts on the basis of actual rather than ostensible ownership. Further, the examples and the rules which they interpret do not extend insurance coverage to persons otherwise not entitled to maintain an insured account or to account relationships that have not been approved by the Board as an insured account.

A. Single Ownership Accounts

All funds owned by an individual member (or, in a community property state, by the husband-wife community of which the individual is a member) and invested in one or more individual accounts are added together and insured to the \$100,000 maximum. This is true whether the accounts are maintained in the name of the individual member owning the funds, in the name of the member's agent or nominee, or in a custodial loan account on behalf of the member as a borrower. (§ 745.3(a) (1), (2) and (3).) All such accounts are added together and insured as one individual account. Funds held in one or more accounts in the name of a guardian, custodian, or conservator for the benefit of a ward or minor are added together and insured up to \$100,000. However, such an account or accounts will not be added to any other individual accounts of the guardian, custodian, conservator, ward, or minor for purposes of determining insurance coverage. (§ 745.3(b).)

Example 1

Question: Members A and B, husband and wife, each maintain an individual account containing \$100,000. In addition, they hold a joint account containing \$100,000. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: Each account is separately insured up to \$100,000, for a total coverage of \$300,000. The coverage would be the same whether the individual accounts contain funds owned as community property or as individual property of the spouses (§ 745.3(a)(1) and § 745.8(a)).

Example 2

Question: Members H and W, husband and wife, reside in a community property state. H maintains a \$100,000 account consisting of his separately-owned funds and invests \$100,000 of community property funds in another account, both of which are in his name alone. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: The two accounts are added together and insured to a total of \$100,000. \$100,000 is uninsured (§ 745.3(a)(1)).

Example 3

Question: Member A has \$92,500 invested in an individual account, and his agent, Member B, invests \$25,000 of A's funds in a properly designated agency account. B also holds a \$100,000 individual account. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: A's individual account and the agency account are added together and insured to the \$100,000 maximum, leaving \$17,500 uninsured. The investment of funds through an agent does not result in additional insurance coverage for the principal (§745.3(a)(2)). B's individual account is insured separately from the agency account (§745.3(a)(1)). However, if the account records of the credit union do not show the agency relationship under which the funds in the \$25,000 account are held, the \$25,000 in B's name could, at the option of the NCUSIF, be added to his individual account and insured to \$100,000 in the aggregate, leaving \$25,000 uninsured (§745.2(c)).

Example 4

Question: Member A holds a \$100,000 individual account. Member B holds two accounts in his own name, the first containing \$25,000 and the second containing \$92,500. In processing the claims for payment of insurance on these accounts, the NCUSIF discovers that the funds in the \$25,000 account actually belong to A and that B had invested these funds as agent for A, his undisclosed principal. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: Since the available evidence shows that A is the actual owner of the funds in the \$25,000 account, those funds would be added to the \$100,000 individual account held by A (rather than to B's \$92,500 account) and insured to the \$100,000 maximum, leaving \$25,000 uninsured. (§745.3(a)(2).) B's \$92,500 individual account would be separately insured.

Example 5

Question: Member C, a minor, maintains an individual account of \$750. C's grandfather makes a gift to him of \$100,000, which is invested in another account by C's father, designated on the credit union's records as custodian under a Uniform Gift to Minors Act. C's father, also a member, maintains an individual account of \$100,000. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: C's individual account and the custodian account held for him by his father are each separately insured: The \$100,000 maximum on the custodian account, and \$750 on his individual account. The individual account held by C's father is also separately insured to the \$100,000 maximum. (§745.3 (a)(1) and (b).)

Example 6

Question: Member G, a court-appointed guardian, invests in a properly designated account \$100,000 of funds in his custody which belong to member W, his ward. W and G each maintain \$25,000 individual accounts. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: W's individual account and the guardianship account in G's name are each insured to \$100,000 providing W with \$125,000 in insured funds. G's individual account is also separately insured. (§745.3 (a)(1) and (b).)

Example 7

Question: X Credit Union acts as a servicer of FHA, VA, and conventional mortgage loans made to its members but sold to other parties. Each month X receives loan payments, for remittance to the other parties, from approximately 2,000 member mortgagors. The monies received each month total \$1,000,000 and are maintained in a custodial loan account. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: X Credit Union acts as custodian for the 2,000 individual mortgagors. The interest of each mortgagor is separately insured as his individual account (but added to any other individual accounts which the mortgagor holds in the Credit Union) (§745.3(a)(3)).

B. Revocable Trust Accounts

The term "revocable trust account" includes a testamentary account, tentative or "Totten" trust account, "payable-on-death" account, or any similar account which evidences an intention that the funds shall pass on the death of the owner of the funds to a named beneficiary. If the named beneficiary is a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, brother or sister (as defined in subsection 745.4(d)) of the owner, the funds in all such accounts are insured for the owner up to \$100,000 in the aggregate as to each such beneficiary. If the beneficiary of such an account is other than the spouse, child, grandchild, parent, brother or sister of the owner, the funds in the account are, for insurance purposes, added to any other individual (single ownership) accounts of the owner and insured up to \$100,000 in the aggregate. If a revocable trust account is held in the name of a fiduciary other than the owner of the funds, any other accounts held by the fiduciary are insured separately from such revocable trust account.

Example 1

Question: Member H invests \$200,000 in a revocable trust account with his son, S, and his daughter, D, as named beneficiaries. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: Since S and D are children of H, the owner of the account, the funds are insured up to \$100,000 as to each beneficiary

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(§745.4(b)). Assuming that S and D have equal beneficial interests (\$100,000 each), H is fully insured for this account.

Example 2

Question: Member H invests \$100,000 in each of four “payable-on-death” accounts. Under the terms of each account contract, H has the right to withdraw any or all of the funds in the account at any time. Any funds remaining in the account at the time of H’s death are to be paid to a named beneficiary. The respective beneficiaries of the four accounts are H’s wife, his mother, his brother, and his nephew. H also holds an individual account containing \$100,000. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: The accounts payable on death to H’s wife, mother and brother are each separately insured to the \$100,000 maximum (Sec. 745.4(b)). The account payable to H’s nephew is added to H’s individual account and insured to \$100,000 in the aggregate, leaving \$100,000 uninsured (Sec. 745.4(c)).

Example 3

Question: Member H and W jointly invest in a “payable-on-death” account for the benefit of their son, S, and daughter, D. The account is held by H and W with right of survivorship. What is the maximum insurance coverage available on the account?

Answer: Since S and D are the children of H and W, the account will be insured up to \$100,000 as to each beneficiary separately from any accounts of the owner, H and W (§745.4(b)). H would be entitled to \$100,000 insurance for S and \$100,000 for D. W would be entitled to the same coverage for a total of \$400,000 on the account. However, upon the death of either H or W, insurance coverage would be reduced to \$200,000.

C. Accounts Held by Executors or Administrators

All funds belonging to a decedent and invested in one or more accounts, whether held in the name of the decedent or in the name of his executor or administrator, are added together and insured to the \$100,000 maximum. Such funds are insured separately from the individual accounts of any of the beneficiaries of the estate or of the executor or administrator.

Example 1

Question: Member A, administrator of Member D’s estate, sells D’s automobile and invests the proceeds of \$12,500 in an account entitled “A Administrator of the estate of D.” A has an individual account in that same credit union containing \$100,000. Prior to his death, D had opened an individual account of \$100,000. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: The \$12,500 is added to D’s individual account and insured to \$100,000, leav-

ing \$12,500 uninsured. A’s individual account is separately insured for \$100,000 (§745.5).

D. Accounts Held by a Corporation, Partnership or Unincorporated Association

All funds invested in an account or accounts by a corporation, a partnership or an unincorporated association engaged in any independent activity are added together and insured to the \$100,000 maximum. The term “independent activity” means any activity other than the one directed solely at increasing coverage. If the corporation, partnership or unincorporated association is not engaged in an independent activity, any account held by the entity is insured as if owned by the persons owning or comprising the entity, and the imputed interest of each such person is added for insurance purposes to any individual account which he maintains.

Example 1

Question: Member X Corporation maintains a \$100,000 account. The stock of the corporation is owned by members A, B, C, and D in equal shares. Each of these stockholders also maintains an individual account of \$100,000 with the same credit union. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: Each of the five accounts would be separately insured to \$100,000 if the corporation is engaged in an independent activity and has not been established merely for the purpose of increasing insurance coverage. The same would be true if the business were operated as a bona fide partnership instead of as a corporation (§745.6). However, if X corporation was not engaged in an independent activity, then \$25,000 (¼ interest) would be added to each account of A, B, C, and D. The accounts of A, B, C, and D would then each be insured to \$100,000, leaving \$25,000 in each account uninsured.

Example 2

Question: Member C College maintains three separate accounts with the same credit union under the titles: “General Operating Fund,” “Teachers Salaries,” and “Building Fund.” What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: Since all of the funds are the property of the college, the three accounts are added together and insured only to the \$100,000 maximum (§745.6).

Example 3

Question: The men’s club of X Church carries on various social activities in addition to holding several fund-raising campaigns for the church each year. The club is supported by membership dues. Both the club and X Church maintain member accounts in the same credit union. What is the insurance coverage?

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Answer: The men's club is an unincorporated association engaged in an independent activity. If the club funds are, in fact, legally owned by the club itself and not the church, each account is separately insured to the \$100,000 maximum (§ 745.6).

Example 4

Question: The PQR Union, a member of the ABC Federal Credit Union, has three locals in a certain city. Each of the locals maintains an account containing funds belonging to the parent organization. All three accounts are in the same insured credit union. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: The three accounts are added together and insured up to the \$100,000 maximum (§ 745.6).

E. Public Unit Accounts

For insurance purposes, the official custodian of funds belonging to a public unit, rather than the public unit itself, is insured as the accountholder. All funds belonging to a public unit and invested by the same custodian in an insured credit union are added together and insured to the \$100,000 maximum, regardless of the number of accounts involved and regardless of whether the funds are invested in accounts located in or outside the state. If there is more than one official custodian for the same public unit, the funds invested by each custodian are separately insured up to \$100,000. If the same person is custodian of funds for more than one public unit, he is separately insured to \$100,000 with respect to the funds of each unit held by him in properly designated accounts. The maximum coverage for an official custodian of funds of the United States would be \$100,000.

For insurance purposes, a "political subdivision" is entitled to the same insurance coverage as any other public unit. "Political subdivision" includes any subdivision of a public unit or any principal department of such unit: (1) The creation of which has been expressly authorized by state statute, (2) to which some functions of government have been allocated by state statute, and (3) to which funds have been allocated by statute or ordinance for its exclusive use and control.

Example 1

Question: As Comptroller of Y Consolidated School District, A maintains a \$125,000 account in the credit union containing school district funds. He also maintains his own \$100,000 member account in the same credit union. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: The two accounts will be separately insured, assuming the credit union's records indicate that the account containing the school district funds is held by A in a fi-

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duciary capacity. Thus, \$100,000 of the school's funds and the entire \$100,000 in A's personal account will be insured (§ 745.10(a)(2) and § 745.3).

Example 2

Question: A, as city treasurer, and B, as chief of the city police department, each have \$100,000 in city funds invested in custodial accounts. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: Assuming that both A and B have official custody of the city funds, each account is separately insured to the \$100,000 maximum (§ 745.10(a)(2)).

Example 3

Question: A is Treasurer of X County and collects certain tax assessments, a portion of which must be paid to the state under statutory requirement. A maintains an account for general funds of the county and establishes a separate account for the funds which belong to the State Treasurer. The credit union's records indicate that the separate account contains funds held for the State. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: Since two public units own the funds held by A, the accounts would each be separately insured to the \$100,000 maximum (§ 745.10(a)(2)).

Example 4

Question: A city treasurer invests city funds in each of the following accounts: "General Operating Account," "School Transportation Fund," "Local Maintenance Fund," and "Payroll Fund." By administrative direction the city treasurer has allocated the funds for the use of and control by separate departments of the city. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: All of the accounts are added together and insured in the aggregate to \$100,000. Because the allocation of the city's funds is not by statute or ordinance for the specific use of and control by separate departments of the city, separate insurance coverage to the maximum of \$100,000 is not afforded to each account (§§ 745.1(d) and 745.10(a)(2)).

Example 5

Question: A, the custodian of retirement funds of a military exchange, invests \$1,000,000 in an insured credit union. The military exchange, a nonappropriated fund instrumentality of the United States, is deemed to be a public unit. The employees of the exchange are the beneficiaries of the retirement funds but are not members of the credit union. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: Because A invested the funds on behalf of a public unit, in his capacity as custodian, those funds qualify for \$100,000

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share insurance even though A and the public unit are not within the credit union's field of membership. Since the beneficiaries are neither public units nor members of the credit union they are not entitled to separate share insurance. Therefore, \$900,000 is uninsured (§ 745.10(a)(1)).

Example 6

Question: A is the custodian of the County's employee retirement funds. He deposits \$1,000,000 in retirement funds with the credit union. The "beneficiaries" of the retirement fund are not themselves public units nor are they within the credit union's field of membership. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: Because A invested the funds on behalf of a public unit, in his capacity as custodian, those funds qualify for \$100,000 share insurance even though A and the public unit are not within the credit union's field of membership. Since the beneficiaries are neither public units nor members of the credit union they are not entitled to separate share insurance. Therefore, \$900,000 is uninsured (§ 745.10(a)(2)).

Example 7

Question: A county treasurer deposits in an insured credit union \$100,000 in each of the following accounts:

"General Operating Fund"
"County Roads Department Fund"
"County Water District Fund"
"County Public Improvement District Fund"
"County Emergency Fund"

What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: The "County Roads Department," "County Water District" and "County Public Improvement District" accounts would each be separately insured to \$100,000 if the funds in each such account have been allocated by law for the exclusive use of a separate county department or subdivision expressly authorized by State statute.

Funds in the "General Operating" and "Emergency Fund" accounts would be added together and insured in the aggregate to \$100,000, if such funds are for countywide use and not for the exclusive use of any subdivision or principal department of the county, expressly authorized by State statute (§§ 745.1(d) and 745.10(a)(2)).

Example 8

Question: A, the custodian of Indian tribal funds, lawfully invests \$1,000,000 in an account in an insured credit union on behalf of 15 different tribes; the records of the credit union show that no tribe's interest exceeds \$100,000. A, as official custodian, also invests \$1,000,000 in the same credit union on behalf of 100 individual Indians, who are not members; each Indian's interest is \$10,000. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: Because each tribe is considered a separate public unit, the custodian of each tribe, even though the same person, is entitled to separate insurance for each tribe (§ 745.10(a)(5)). Since the credit union's records indicate no tribe has more than \$100,000 in the account, the \$1,000,000 would be fully insured as 15 separate tribal accounts. If any one tribe had more than a \$100,000 interest in the funds, it would be insured only to \$100,000 and any excess would be uninsured.

However, the \$1,000,000 invested on behalf of the individual Indians would not be insured since the individual Indians are neither public units nor, in the example, members of the credit union. If A is the custodian of the funds in his capacity as an official of a governmental body that qualified as a public unit, then the account would be insured for \$100,000, leaving \$900,000 uninsured.

F. Joint Accounts

The interest of a co-owner in all accounts held under any form of joint ownership valid under state law (whether as joint tenants with right of survivorship, tenants by the entirety, tenants in common, or by husband and wife as community property) is insured up to \$100,000. This insurance is separate from that afforded individual accounts held by any of the co-owners.

An account is insured as a joint account only if each of the co-owners has personally signed a membership card or an account signature card and possesses the same withdrawal rights as the other co-owners. (The signature requirement does not apply to share certificates, or to any accounts maintained by an agent, nominee, guardian, custodian or conservator on behalf of two or more persons. However, the records of the credit union must show that the account is being maintained for joint owners. There is also another exception in the case of a minor discussed below.) An account owned jointly which does not qualify as a joint account for insurance purposes is insured as if owned by the named persons as individuals. In that case, the actual ownership interest in the account of each person is added to any other accounts individually owned by such person and insured up to \$100,000 in the aggregate.

Any individual, including a minor, may be a co-owner of a joint account. Although, generally, each co-owner must have signed an account signature card and must have the same rights of withdrawal as other co-owners in order for the account to qualify for separate joint account insurance, there is an exception for minors. If state law limits or restricts a minor's withdrawal rights—for example, a minimum age requirement to make a withdrawal—the account will still be insured as a joint account.

The interests of a co-owner in all joint accounts that qualify for separate insurance

coverage are insured up to the \$100,000 maximum. For insurance purposes, the co-owners of any joint account are deemed to have equal interests in the account, except in the case of a tenancy in common. With a tenancy in common, equal interests are presumed unless otherwise stated on the records of the credit union.

Example 1

Question: Members A and B maintain an account as joint tenants with right of survivorship and, in addition, each holds an individual account. Is each account separately insured?

Answer: If both A and B have signed the membership or signature card and possess equal withdrawal rights with respect to the joint funds, their interests in the joint account are separately insured from their interests in the individual accounts. (§745.8 (a) and (b).) If the joint account is represented by a share certificate, their individual signatures are not required for that account.

Example 2

Question: Members H and W, husband and wife, reside in a community property state. Each holds an individual account and, in addition, they hold a qualifying joint account. The funds in all three accounts consist of community property. Is each account separately insured?

Answer: Yes. An account in the individual name of a spouse will be insured up to \$100,000 whether the funds consist of community property or separate property of the spouse. A joint account containing community property is separately insured. Thus, community property can be used for individual accounts in the name of each spouse and for a joint account in the name of both spouses. In this example, each individual account is insured up to \$100,000 (§745.3(a)(1)), and the interests of both the husband and wife in the joint account are each insured up to \$100,000 (§745.8(a)).

Example 3

Question: Two accounts of \$100,000 each are held by a member husband and his wife under the following names: John Doe and Mary Doe, husband and wife, as joint tenants with right of survivorship. Mrs. John Doe and John Q. Doe (community property). How much insurance do the husband and wife have?

Answer: They have \$200,000 of insurance. Both the husband and wife are deemed to have a one half interest (\$50,000) in each account. (§745.2(c)(4).) The husband's interest in both accounts would be added together and insured for \$100,000. The wife's insurance coverage would be determined the same way. (§745.8(a).)

Example 4

Question: The following accounts are held by members A, B and C, each of whom has personally executed signature cards for the accounts in which he has an interest. Each co-owner of a joint account possesses the necessary withdrawals rights.

1. A, as an individual—\$100,000.
2. B, as an individual—\$100,000.
3. C, as an individual—\$100,000.
4. A and B, as joint tenants w/r/o survivorship—\$90,000.
5. A and C, as joint tenants w/r/o survivorship—\$90,000.
6. B and C, as joint tenants w/r/o survivorship—\$90,000.
7. A, B and C, as joint tenants w/r/o survivorship—\$90,000.

What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: Accounts numbered 1, 2 and 3 are each separately insured for \$100,000 as individual accounts held by A, B and C, respectively (§745.3(a)(1)). The interest of the co-owners of each joint account are deemed equal for insurance purposes (§745.2(c)(4)). A's interest in accounts numbered 4, 5, and 7 are added together for insurance purposes (§745.8(e)). Thus, A has an interest of \$45,000 in account No. 4, \$45,000 in account No. 5 and \$30,000 in account No. 7, for a total joint account interest of \$120,000, of which \$100,000 is insured. The interest of B and C are similarly insured.

Example 5(a)

Question: A, B and C hold accounts as set forth in Example 4. Members A and B are husband and wife; C, their minor child, has failed to sign the signature card for Account No. 7. In Account No. 5, according to the terms of the account, C cannot make a withdrawal without A's written consent. (This is not a limitation imposed under state law.) In Account No. 6, the signatures of both B and C are required for withdrawal. A has provided all of the funds for Accounts numbered 5 and 7 and under state law has the entire actual ownership interest in these two accounts. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: If any of the co-owners of a joint account have failed to meet any of the joint account requirements, the account is not a qualifying joint account. Instead, the account is treated as if it consisted of commingled individual accounts of each of the co-owners in accordance with his or her actual ownership interest in the funds, as determined under applicable state law. (§745.8(c).)

Account No. 5 is not a qualifying joint account because C does not have equal withdrawal rights with A. Based on the terms of the account, C can only make a withdrawal if he has A's written consent. Account No. 7 is not a qualifying joint account because C did not personally sign the signature card. Therefore, all of the funds in Accounts 5 and

7 are treated as individually owned by A and added to A's individual account, Account No. 1. For insurance purposes then, A has \$280,000 in one individual account that is insured for \$100,000, leaving \$180,000 uninsured.

Account 6 is a qualifying joint account for insurance purposes since each co-owner has the right to withdraw funds on the same basis. Account 4 is also a qualifying joint account. A's interest in Account 4 is insured for \$45,000. B's interest of \$45,000 in Account 4 is added to her interest of \$45,000 in Account 6 and insured for \$90,000. C's interest in Account 6 is insured for \$45,000.

Example 5(b)

Question: Assume the same accounts as Example 5(a) except that, on Account No. 5, C's right to make a withdrawal is limited by state law which precludes a minor from making a withdrawal without the co-owner's written consent. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: In this situation, Accounts 4, 5, and 6 all qualify as joint accounts. A, B, and C will each have \$90,000 of insured funds based on: A's interest in Account 4 (\$45,000) and 5 (\$45,000), B's interest in Accounts 4 (\$45,000) and 6 (\$45,000), and C's interest in Accounts 5 (\$45,000) and 6 (\$45,000). As in Example 5(a), Account No. 7 does not qualify as a joint account and would be added to A's individual account for insurance purposes.

G. Trust Accounts and Retirement Accounts

A trust estate is the interest of a beneficiary in an irrevocable express trust, whether created by trust instrument or statute, that is valid under state law. Thus, funds invested in an account by a trustee under an irrevocable express trust are insured on the basis of the beneficial interests under such trust. The interest of each beneficiary in an account (or accounts) established under such a trust arrangement is insured to \$100,000 separately from other accounts held by the trustee, the settlor (grantor), or the beneficiary. However, in cases where a beneficiary has an interest in more than one trust arrangement created by the same settlor, the interests of the beneficiary in all accounts established under such trusts are added together for insurance purposes, and the beneficiary's aggregate interest derived from the same settlor is separately insured to the \$100,000 maximum.

A beneficiary's interest in an account established pursuant to an irrevocable express trust arrangement is insured separately from other beneficial interests (trust estates) invested in the same account if the value of the beneficiary's interest (trust estate) can be determined (as of the date of a credit union's insolvency) without evaluation of contingencies except for those covered by the present worth tables and rules of calculation

for their use set forth in §20.2031-10 of the Federal Estate Tax Regulations (26 CFR 20.2031-10). If any trust estates in such an account cannot be so determined, the insurance with respect to all such trust estates together shall not exceed the basic insured amount of \$100,000.

In order for insurance coverage of trust accounts to be effective in accordance with the foregoing rules, certain recordkeeping requirements must be met. In connection with each trust account, the credit union's records must indicate the name of both the settlor and the trustee of the trust and must contain an account signature card executed by the trustee indicating the fiduciary capacity of the trustee. In addition, the interests of the beneficiaries under the trust must be ascertainable from the records of either the credit union or the trustee, and the settlor or beneficiary must be a member of the credit union. If there are two or more settlors or beneficiaries, then either all the settlors or all the beneficiaries must be members of the credit union.

Although each ascertainable trust estate is separately insured, it should be noted that in short-term trusts the insurable interest or interests may be very small, since the interests are computed only for the duration of the trust. Thus, if a trust is made irrevocable for a specified period of time, the beneficial interest will be calculated in terms of the length of time stated. A reversionary interest retained by the settlor is treated in the same manner as an individual account of the settlor.

As stated, the trust must be valid under local law. A trust which does not meet local requirements, such as one imposing no duties on the trustee or conveying no interest to the beneficiary, is of no effect for insurance purposes. An account in which such funds are invested is considered to be an individual account.

An account established pursuant to a revocable trust arrangement is insured as a form of individual account and is treated under section B, *supra*, dealing with Testamentary Accounts.

IRA and Keogh accounts are separately insured, each up to \$100,000. Although credit unions may serve as trustees or custodians for self-directed IRA and Keogh accounts, once the funds are taken out of the credit union, they are no longer insured.

In the case of an employee retirement fund where only a portion of the fund is placed in a credit union account, the amount of insurance available to an individual member/beneficiary on his interest in the account will be in proportion to his interest in the entire employee retirement fund. If, for example, the member's interest represents 10% of the entire plan funds, then he is presumed to have only a 10% interest in the plan account. Said another way, if a member has a vested

interest of \$10,000 in a municipal employees retirement plan and the trustee invests 25% of the total plan funds in a credit union, the member would be insured for only \$2,500 on that credit union account. There is an exception, however. The member would be insured for \$10,000 if the trustee can document, through records maintained in the ordinary course of business, that individual beneficiary's interests are segregated and the total vested interest of the member was, in fact, invested in that account.

Example 1

Question: Member S invests \$45,000 in trust for B, the beneficiary. S also has an individual account containing \$90,000 in the same credit union. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: Both accounts are fully insured. The trust account is separately insured from the individual account of S (§§ 745.3(a)(1) and 745.9–1).

Example 2

Question: S invests funds in trust for A, B, C, D, and E. A, B, and C are members of the credit union, D, E and S are not. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: This is an uninsurable account. Where there is more than one settlor or more than one beneficiary, all the settlors or all the beneficiaries must be members to establish this type of account. Since D, E and S are not members, this account cannot legally be established or insured.

Example 3(a)

Question: Member S invests \$500,000 in trust for ABC Employees Retirement Fund. Some of the beneficiaries are members and some are not. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: The account is insured as to the determinable interests of each member beneficiary to a maximum of \$100,000 per member. Member interests not capable of evaluation and nonmember interests shall be added together and insured to a maximum of \$100,000 in the aggregate (§ 745.9–1).

Example 3(b)

Question: Member S is trustee for the ABC Employees Retirement Fund containing \$1,000,000. Member A has a determinable interest of \$90,000 in the Fund (9% of the total). S invests \$500,000 of the Fund in trust in an insured credit union and the remaining \$500,000 elsewhere. Some of the beneficiaries of the Fund are members of the credit union and some are not. S does not segregate each employee's interest in the Fund. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: The account is insured as to determinable interest of each member beneficiary, adjusted in proportion to the Fund's

investment in the credit union. A's insured interest in the account is \$45,000, or 9% of \$500,000. This reflects the fact that only 50% of the Fund is in the account and A's interest in the account is in the same proportion as his interest in the overall plan. Each beneficiary who is a member would be similarly insured. Members' interests not capable of evaluation and nonmembers' interests are added together and insured to a maximum of \$100,000 in the aggregate. (§ 745.9–1.)

Example 4

Question: Member A has an individual account of \$100,000 and establishes an IRA and accumulates \$50,000 in that account. Subsequently A becomes self employed and establishes a Keogh account in the same credit union and accumulates \$100,000 in that account. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: Each of A's accounts would be separately insured for up to \$100,000. In the example, A would be fully insured for \$250,000 (§ 745.3(a)(1) and § 745.9–2).

Example 5

Question: Member A has a self-directed IRA account with \$70,000 in it. The FCU is the trustee of the account. Member transfers \$40,000 into a blue chip stock; \$30,000 remains in the FCU. What is the insurance coverage?

Answer: Originally, the full \$70,000 in A's IRA account is insured. The \$40,000 is no longer insured once it is moved out of the FCU. The \$30,000 remaining in the FCU is insured (§ 745.9–2).

[51 FR 37560, Oct. 23, 1986, as amended at 53 FR 22473, June 16, 1988; 55 FR 47455, Nov. 14, 1990; 64 FR 19687, 19688, Apr. 22, 1999]

PART 747—ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS, ADJUDICATIVE HEARINGS, RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE, AND INVESTIGATIONS

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AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1766, 1784, 1786, and 1787; 42 U.S.C. 4012a; Pub. L. 101–410, 104 Stat. 890; Pub. L. 104–134, 110 Stat. 1321–358 (28 U.S.C. 2461 note).

SOURCE: 56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

§ 747.0 Scope of part 747.

(a) This part describes the various formal and informal adjudicative actions and non-adjudicative proceedings available to the National Credit Union Administration Board (“NCUA Board”), the grounds for those actions and proceedings, and the procedures used in formal and informal hearings related to each available action. As mandated by section 916 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (“FIRREA”) (12 U.S.C. 1818 note), this part incorporates uniform rules of practice and procedure governing formal adjudications generally, as well as proceedings involving cease-and-desist actions, assessment of civil money penalties, and removal, prohibition and suspension actions. In addition, the Uniform Rules are incorporated in

other subparts of this part which provide for formal adjudications. The administrative actions and proceedings described herein, as well as the grounds and hearing procedures for each, are controlled by sections 120(b) (except where the Federal credit union is closed due to insolvency), 202(a)(3) and 206 of the Federal Credit Union Act (“the Act”), 12 U.S.C. 1766(b), 1782(a)(3), 1786. Should any provision of this part be inconsistent with these or any other provisions of the Act, as amended, the Act shall control. Judicial enforcement of any action or order described in this part, as well as judicial review thereof, shall be as prescribed under the Act (12 U.S.C. 1751 *et seq.*) and the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 500 *et seq.*).

(b) As used in this part, the term insured credit union means any Federal credit union or any state chartered credit union insured under subchapter II of the Act unless the context indicates otherwise.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992]

Subpart A—Uniform Rules of Practice and Procedure

§ 747.1 Scope.

This subpart prescribes uniform rules of practice and procedure applicable to adjudicatory proceedings required to be conducted on the record after opportunity for a hearing under the following statutory provisions:

(a) Cease-and-desist proceedings under section 206(e) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1786(e));

(b) Removal and prohibition proceedings under section 206(g) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1786(g));

(c) Assessment of civil money penalties by the NCUA Board against institutions and institution-affiliated parties for any violation of:

(1) Section 202 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1782);

(2) Section 1120 of FIRREA (12 U.S.C. 3349), or any order or regulation issued thereunder;

(3) The terms of any final or temporary order issued under section 206 of the Act or any written agreement executed by the National Credit Union Administration (“NCUA”), any condition

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imposed in writing by the NCUA in connection with the grant of an application or request, certain unsafe or unsound practices or breaches of fiduciary duty, or any law or regulation not otherwise provided herein, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1786(k); and

(4) Any provision of law referenced in section 102(f) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4012a(f)) or any order or regulation issued thereunder;

(d) Remedial action under section 102(g) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4012a(g)); and

(e) This subpart also applies to all other adjudications required by statute to be determined on the record after opportunity for an agency hearing, unless otherwise specifically provided for in subparts B through J of this part.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 28025, June 4, 1996]

§ 747.2 Rules of construction.

For purposes of this subpart:

(a) Any term in the singular includes the plural, and the plural includes the singular, if such use would be appropriate;

(b) Any use of a masculine, feminine, or neuter gender encompasses all three, if such use would be appropriate;

(c) The term *counsel* includes a non-attorney representative; and

(d) Unless the context requires otherwise, a party's counsel of record, if any, may, on behalf of that party, take any action required to be taken by the party.

§ 747.3 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart, unless explicitly stated to the contrary:

(a) *Administrative law judge* means one who presides at an administrative hearing under authority set forth at 5 U.S.C. 556.

(b) *Adjudicatory proceeding* means a proceeding conducted pursuant to this subpart and leading to the formulation of a final order other than a regulation.

(c) *Decisional employee* means any member of the NCUA's or administrative law judge's staff who has not engaged in an investigative or prosecutorial role in a proceeding and who may assist the Agency or the administrative law judge, respectively, in pre-

paring orders, recommended decisions, decisions, and other documents under the Uniform Rules.

(d) *Enforcement Counsel* means any individual who files a notice of appearance as counsel on behalf of the NCUA in an adjudicatory proceeding.

(e) *Final order* means an order issued by the NCUA with or without the consent of the affected institution or the institution-affiliated party, that has become final, without regard to the pendency of any petition for reconsideration or review.

(f) *Institution* includes: (1) Any Federal credit union as that term is defined in section 101(1) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1752(1)); and

(2) Any insured state credit union as that term is defined in section 101(7) of the FCUA (12 U.S.C. 1752(7)).

(g) *Institution-affiliated party* means any institution-affiliated party as that term is defined in section 206(r) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1786(r)).

(h) *Local Rules* means those rules promulgated by the NCUA in the subparts of this part other than subpart A of this part.

(i) *OFIA* means the Office of Financial Institution Adjudication, which is the executive body charged with overseeing the administration of administrative enforcement proceedings for the NCUA, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency ("OCC"), the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System ("Board"), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), and the Office of Thrift Supervision ("OTS").

(j) *Party* means the NCUA and any person named as a party in any notice.

(k) *Person* means an individual, sole proprietor, partnership, corporation, unincorporated association, trust, joint venture, pool, syndicate, agency or other entity or organization, including an institution as defined in paragraph (f) of this section.

(l) *Respondent* means any party other than the NCUA.

(m) *Uniform Rules* means those rules in subpart A of this part that are common to the NCUA, the OCC, the Board, the FDIC and the OTS.

(n) *Violation* includes any action (alone or with another or others) for or

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toward causing, bringing about, participating in, counseling, or aiding or abetting a violation.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992]

§ 747.4 Authority of the NCUA Board.

The NCUA Board may, at any time during the pendency of a proceeding perform, direct the performance of, or waive performance of, any act which could be done or ordered by the administrative law judge.

§ 747.5 Authority of the administrative law judge.

(a) *General rule.* All proceedings governed by this part shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 5 of title 5 of the United States Code. The administrative law judge shall have all powers necessary to conduct a proceeding in a fair and impartial manner and to avoid unnecessary delay.

(b) *Powers.* The administrative law judge shall have all powers necessary to conduct the proceeding in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section, including the following powers:

(1) To administer oaths and affirmations;

(2) To issue subpoenas, subpoenas duces tecum, and protective orders, as authorized by this part, and to quash or modify any such subpoenas and orders;

(3) To receive relevant evidence and to rule upon the admission of evidence and offers of proof;

(4) To take or cause depositions to be taken as authorized by this subpart;

(5) To regulate the course of the hearing and the conduct of the parties and their counsel;

(6) To hold scheduling and/or pre-hearing conferences as set forth in § 747.31;

(7) To consider and rule upon all procedural and other motions appropriate in an adjudicatory proceeding, provided that only the NCUA Board shall have the power to grant any motion to dismiss the proceeding or to decide any other motion that results in a final determination of the merits of the proceeding;

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(8) To prepare and present to the NCUA Board a recommended decision as provided herein;

(9) To recuse himself or herself by motion made by a party or on his or her own motion;

(10) To establish time, place and manner limitations on the attendance of the public and the media for any public hearing; and

(11) To do all other things necessary and appropriate to discharge the duties of a presiding officer.

§ 747.6 Appearance and practice in adjudicatory proceedings.

(a) *Appearance before the NCUA or an administrative law judge.* (1) *By attorneys.* Any member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of any state, commonwealth, possession, territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia may represent others before the NCUA if such attorney is not currently suspended or debarred from practice before the NCUA.

(2) *By non-attorneys.* An individual may appear on his or her own behalf; a member of a partnership may represent the partnership; a duly authorized officer, director, or employee of any government unit, agency, institution, corporation or authority may represent that unit, agency, institution, corporation or authority if such officer, director, or employee is not currently suspended or debarred from practice before the NCUA.

(3) *Notice of appearance.* Any individual acting as counsel on behalf of a party, including the NCUA Board, shall file a notice of appearance with OFIA at or before the time that the individual submits papers or otherwise appears on behalf of a party in the adjudicatory proceeding. The notice of appearance must include a written declaration that the individual is currently qualified as provided in paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section and is authorized to represent the particular party. By filing a notice of appearance on behalf of a party in an adjudicatory proceeding, the counsel agrees and represents that he or she is authorized to accept service on behalf of the represented party and that, in the event of withdrawal from representation, he or she will, if required by the

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administrative law judge, continue to accept service until new counsel has filed a notice of appearance or until the represented party indicates that he or she will proceed on a *pro se* basis.

(b) *Sanctions.* Dilatory, obstructive, egregious, contemptuous or contumacious conduct at any phase of any adjudicatory proceeding may be grounds for exclusion or suspension of counsel from the proceeding.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991, as amended at 61 FR 28025, June 4, 1996]

§ 747.7 Good faith certification.

(a) *General requirement.* Every filing or submission of record following the issuance of a notice shall be signed by at least one counsel of record in his or her individual name and shall state that counsel's address and telephone number. A party who acts as his or her own counsel sign his or her individual name and state his or her address and telephone number on every filing or submission of record.

(b) *Effect of signature.* (1) The signature of counsel or a party shall constitute a certification that: the counsel or party has read the filing or submission of record; to the best of his or her knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the filing or submission of record is well-grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law; and the filing or submission of record is not made for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation.

(2) If a filing or submission of record is not signed, the administrative law judge shall strike the filing or submission of record, unless it is signed promptly after the omission is called to the attention of the pleader or movant.

(c) *Effect of making oral motion or argument.* The act of making any oral motion or oral argument by any counsel or party constitutes a certification that to the best of his or her knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, his or her statements are well-grounded in fact and are warranted by existing law or a

good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law, and are not made for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation.

§ 747.8 Conflicts of interest.

(a) *Conflict of interest in representation.* No person shall appear as counsel for another person in an adjudicatory proceeding if it reasonably appears that such representation may be materially limited by that counsel's responsibilities to a third person or by the counsel's own interests. The administrative law judge may take corrective measures at any stage of a proceeding to cure a conflict of interest in representation, including the issuance of an order limiting the scope of representation or disqualifying an individual from appearing in a representative capacity for the duration of the proceeding.

(b) *Certification and waiver.* If any person appearing as counsel represents two or more parties to an adjudicatory proceeding or also represents a non-party on a matter relevant to an issue in the proceeding, counsel must certify in writing at the time of filing the notice of appearance required by § 747.6(a):

(1) That the counsel has personally and fully discussed the possibility of conflicts of interest with each such party and non-party; and

(2) That each such party and non-party waives any right it might otherwise have had to assert any known conflicts of interest or to assert any non-material conflicts of interest during the course of the proceeding.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991, as amended at 61 FR 28025, June 4, 1996]

§ 747.9 Ex parte communications.

(a) *Definition*—(1) *Ex parte communication* means any material oral or written communication relevant to the merits of an adjudicatory proceeding that was neither on the record nor on reasonable prior notice to all parties that takes place between—

(i) An interested person outside the NCUA (including such person's counsel); and

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(ii) The administrative law judge handling that proceeding, the NCUA Board, or a decisional employee.

(2) *Exception.* A request for status of the proceeding does not constitute an ex parte communication.

(b) *Prohibition of ex parte communications.* From the time the notice is issued by the NCUA Board until the date that the NCUA Board issues its final decision pursuant to § 747.40(c):

(1) No interested person outside the NCUA shall make or knowingly cause to be made an ex parte communication to any member of the NCUA Board, the administrative law judge, or a decisional employee; and

(2) No member of the NCUA Board, administrative law judge, or decisional employee shall make or knowingly cause to be made to any interested person outside the NCUA any ex parte communication.

(c) *Procedure upon occurrence of ex parte communication.* If an ex parte communication is received by the administrative law judge, a member of the NCUA Board or any other person identified in paragraph (a) of this section, that person shall cause all such written communications (or, if the communication is oral, a memorandum stating the substance of the communication) to be placed on the record of the proceeding and served on all parties. All other parties to the proceeding shall have an opportunity, within ten days of receipt of service of the ex parte communication, to file responses thereto and to recommend any sanctions, in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section, that they believe to be appropriate under the circumstances.

(d) *Sanctions.* Any party or his or her counsel who makes a prohibited ex parte communication, or who encourages or solicits another to make any such communication, may be subject to any appropriate sanction or sanctions imposed by the NCUA Board or the administrative law judge including, but not limited to, exclusion from the proceedings and an adverse ruling on the issue which is the subject of the prohibited communication.

(e) *Separation of functions.* Except to the extent required for the disposition of ex parte matters as authorized by law, the administrative law judge may

not consult a person or party on any matter relevant to the merits of the adjudication, unless on notice and opportunity for all parties to participate. An employee or agent engaged in the performance of investigative or prosecuting functions for the NCUA in a case may not, in that or a factually related case, participate or advise in the decision, recommended decision, or agency review of the recommended decision under section 747.40, except as witness or counsel in public proceedings.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 28025, June 4, 1996]

§ 747.10 Filing of papers.

(a) *Filing.* Any papers required to be filed, excluding documents produced in response to a discovery request pursuant to §§ 747.25 and 747.26, shall be filed with the OFIA, except as otherwise provided.

(b) *Manner of filing.* Unless otherwise specified by the NCUA Board or the administrative law judge, filing may be accomplished by:

(1) Personal service;

(2) Delivering the papers to a reliable commercial courier service, overnight delivery service, or to the U.S. Post Office for Express Mail delivery;

(3) Mailing the papers by first class, registered, or certified mail; or

(4) Transmission by electronic media, only if expressly authorized, and upon any conditions specified, by the NCUA Board or the administrative law judge. All papers filed by electronic media shall also concurrently be filed in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) *Formal requirements as to papers filed.* (1) *Form.* All papers filed must set forth the name, address, and telephone number of the counsel or party making the filing and must be accompanied by a certification setting forth when and how service has been made on all other parties. All papers filed must be double-spaced and printed or typewritten on 8½ x 11 inch paper, and must be clear and legible.

(2) *Signature.* All papers must be dated and signed as provided in § 747.7.

(3) *Caption.* All papers filed must include at the head thereof, or on a title page, the name of the NCUA and of the

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filing party, the title and docket number of the processing, and the subject of the particular paper.

(4) *Number of copies.* Unless otherwise specified by the NCUA Board, or the administrative law judge, an original and one copy of all documents and papers shall be filed, except that only one copy of transcripts of testimony and exhibits shall be filed.

§ 747.11 Service of papers.

(a) *By the parties.* Except as otherwise provided, a party filing papers shall serve a copy upon the counsel of record for all other parties to the proceeding so represented, and upon any party not so represented.

(b) *Method of service.* Except as provided in paragraphs (c)(2) and (d) of this section, a serving party shall use one or more of the following methods of service:

(1) Personal service;

(2) Delivering the papers to a reliable commercial courier service, overnight delivery service, or to the U.S. Post Office for Express Mail delivery;

(3) Mailing the papers by first class, registered, or certified mail; or

(4) Transmission by electronic media, only if the parties mutually agree. Any papers served by electronic media shall also concurrently be served in accordance with the requirements of § 747.10(c).

(c) *By the NCUA Board or the administrative law judge.* (1) All papers required to be served by the NCUA Board or the administrative law judge upon a party who has appeared in the proceeding in accordance with § 747.6, shall be served by any means specified in paragraph (b) of this section.

(2) If a party has not appeared in the proceeding in accordance with § 747.6, the NCUA Board or the administrative law judge shall make service by any of the following methods:

(i) By personal service;

(ii) If the person to be served is an individual, by delivery to a person of suitable age and discretion at the physical location where the individual resides or works;

(iii) If the person to be served is a corporation or other association, by delivery to an officer, managing or general agent, or to any other agent au-

thorized by appointment or by law to receive service and, if the agent is one authorized by statute to receive service and the statute so requires, by also mailing a copy to the party;

(iv) By registered or certified mail addressed to the person's last known address; or

(v) By any other method reasonably calculated to give actual notice.

(d) *Subpoenas.* Service of a subpoena may be made:

(1) By personal service;

(2) If the person to be served is an individual, by delivery to a person of suitable age and discretion at the physical location where the individual resides or works;

(3) By delivery to an agent, which, in the case of a corporation or other association, is delivery to an officer, managing or general agent, or to any other agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service and, if the agent is one authorized by statute to receive service and the statute so requires, by also mailing a copy to the party;

(4) By registered or certified mail addressed to the person's last known address; or

(5) By any other method reasonably calculated to give actual notice.

(e) *Area of service.* Service in any state, territory, possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, on any person or company doing business in any state, territory, possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, or on any person as otherwise provided by law, is effective without regard to the place where the hearing is held, provided that if service is made on a foreign bank in connection with an action or proceeding involving one or more of its branches or agencies located in any state, territory, possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, service shall be made on at least one branch or agency so involved.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991, as amended at 61 FR 28025, June 4, 1996]

§ 747.12 Construction of time limits.

(a) *General rule.* In computing any period of time prescribed by this subpart, the date of the act or event that commences the designated period of time is not included. The last day so computed

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is included unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday. When the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the period runs until the end of the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday. Intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays are included in the computation of time. However, when the time period within which an act is to be performed is ten days or less, not including any additional time allowed for in § 747.12(c), intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays are not included.

(b) *When papers are deemed to be filed or served.* (1) Filing and service are deemed to be effective:

(i) In the case of personal service or same day commercial courier delivery, upon actual service;

(ii) In the case of overnight commercial delivery service, U.S. Express Mail delivery, or first class, registered, or certified mail, upon deposit in or delivery to an appropriate point of collection;

(iii) In the case of transmission by electronic media, as specified by the authority receiving the filing, in the case of filing, and as agreed among the parties, in the case of service.

(2) The effective filing and service dates specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section may be modified by the NCUA Board or administrative law judge in the case of filing or by agreement of the parties in the case of service.

(c) *Calculation of time for service and filing of responsive papers.* Whenever a time limit is measured by a prescribed period from the service of any notice or paper, the applicable time limits are calculated as follows:

(1) If service is made by first class, registered, or certified mail, add three calendar days to the prescribed period;

(2) If service is made by express mail or overnight delivery service, add one calendar day to the prescribed period; or

(3) If service is made by electronic media transmission, add one calendar day to the prescribed period, unless otherwise determined by the NCUA Board or the administrative law judge in the case of filing, or by agreement

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among the parties in the case of service.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991, as amended at 61 FR 28026, June 4, 1996]

§ 747.13 Change of time limits.

Except as otherwise provided by law, the administrative law judge may, for good cause shown, extend the time limits prescribed by the Uniform Rules or by any notice or order issued in the proceedings. After the referral of the case to the NCUA Board pursuant to § 747.38, the NCUA Board may grant extensions of the time limits for good cause shown. Extensions may be granted upon the motion of a party after notice and opportunity to respond is afforded all non-moving parties, or upon the NCUA Board's or the administrative law judge's own motion.

§ 747.14 Witness fees and expenses.

Witnesses subpoenaed for testimony or depositions shall be paid the same fees for attendance and mileage as are paid in the United States district courts in proceedings in which the United States is a party, provided that, in the case of a discovery subpoena addressed to a party, no witness fees or mileage need be paid. Fees for witnesses shall be tendered in advance by the party requesting the subpoena, except that fees and mileage need not be tendered in advance where the NCUA is the party requesting the subpoena. The NCUA shall not be required to pay any fees to, or expenses of, any witness not subpoenaed by the NCUA.

§ 747.15 Opportunity for informal settlement.

Any respondent may, at any time in the proceeding, unilaterally submit to Enforcement Counsel written offers or proposals for settlement of a proceeding, without prejudice to the rights of any of the parties. No such offer or proposal shall be made to any NCUA representative other than Enforcement Counsel. Submission of a written settlement offer does not provide a basis for adjourning or otherwise delaying all or any portion of a proceeding under this part. No settlement offer or proposal, or any subsequent negotiation or resolution, is admissible as evidence in any proceeding.

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§ 747.16 NCUA's right to conduct examination.

Nothing contained in this subpart limits in any manner the right of the NCUA to conduct any examination, inspection, or visitation of any institution or institution-affiliated party, or the right of the NCUA to conduct or continue any form of investigation authorized by law.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992]

§ 747.17 Collateral attacks on adjudicatory proceeding.

If an interlocutory appeal or collateral attack is brought in any court concerning all or any part of an adjudicatory proceeding, the challenged adjudicatory proceeding shall continue without regard to the pendency of that court proceeding. No default or other failure to act as directed in the adjudicatory proceeding within the times prescribed in this subpart shall be excused based on the pendency before any court of any interlocutory appeal or collateral attack.

§ 747.18 Commencement of proceeding and contents of notice.

(a) *Commencement of proceeding.* (1) A proceeding governed by this subpart is commenced by issuance of a notice by the NCUA Board.

(2) The notice must be served by the NCUA Board upon the respondent and given to any other appropriate financial institution supervisory authority where required by law.

(3) The notice must be filed with the OFIA.

(b) *Contents of notice.* The notice must set forth:

(1) The legal authority for the proceeding and for the NCUA's jurisdiction over the proceeding;

(2) A statement of the matters of fact or law showing that the NCUA is entitled to relief;

(3) A proposed order or prayer for an order granting the requested relief;

(4) The time, place, and nature of the hearing as required by law or regulation;

(5) The time within which to file an answer as required by law or regulation;

(6) The time within which to request a hearing as required by law or regulation; and

(7) That the answer and/or request for a hearing shall be filed with OFIA.

§ 747.19 Answer.

(a) *When.* Within 20 days of service of the notice, respondent shall file an answer as designated in the notice. In a civil money penalty proceeding, respondent shall also file a request for a hearing within 20 days of service of the notice.

(b) *Content of answer.* An answer must specifically respond to each paragraph or allegation of fact contained in the notice and must admit, deny, or state that the party lacks sufficient information to admit or deny each allegation of fact. A statement of lack of information has the effect of a denial. Denials must fairly meet the substance of each allegation of fact denied; general denials are not permitted. When a respondent denies part of an allegation, that part must be denied and the remainder specifically admitted. Any allegation of fact in the notice which is not denied in the answer must be deemed admitted for purposes of the proceeding. A respondent is not required to respond to the portion of a notice that constitutes the prayer for relief or proposed order. The answer must set forth affirmative defenses, if any, asserted by the respondent.

(c) *Default—(1) Effect of failure to answer.* Failure of a respondent to file an answer required by this section within the time provided constitutes a waiver of his or her right to appear and contest the allegations in the notice. If no timely answer is filed, the administrative law judge, upon motion of the Enforcement Counsel, shall file with the NCUA Board a recommended decision containing the findings and the relief sought in the notice. Any final order issued by the NCUA Board based upon a respondent's failure to answer is deemed to be an order issued upon consent.

(2) *Effect of failure to request a hearing in civil money penalty proceedings.* If respondent fails to request a hearing as required by law within the time provided, the notice of assessment constitutes a final and unappealable order.

§ 747.20 Amended pleadings.

(a) *Amendments.* The notice or answer may be amended or supplemented at any stage of the proceeding. The respondent must answer an amended notice within the time remaining for the respondent's answer to the original notice, or within ten days after service of the amended notice, whichever period is longer, unless the NCUA Board or administrative law judge orders otherwise for good cause.

(b) *Amendments to conform to the evidence.* When issues not raised in the notice or answer are tried at the hearing by express or implied consent of the parties, they will be treated in all respects as if they had been raised in the notice or answer, and no formal amendments are required. If evidence is objected to at the hearing on the ground that it is not within the issues raised by the notice or answer, the administrative law judge may admit the evidence when admission is likely to assist in adjudicating the merits of the action and the objecting party fails to satisfy the administrative law judge that the admission of such evidence would unfairly prejudice that party's action or defense upon the merits. The administrative law judge may grant a continuance to enable the objecting party to meet such evidence.

[61 FR 28026, June 4, 1996]

§ 747.21 Failure to appear.

Failure of a respondent to appear in person at the hearing or by a duly authorized counsel constitutes a waiver of respondent's right to a hearing and is deemed an admission of the facts as alleged and consent to the relief sought in the notice. Without further proceedings or notice to the respondent, the administrative law judge shall file with the NCUA Board a recommended decision containing the findings and the relief sought in the notice.

§ 747.22 Consolidation and severance of actions.

(a) *Consolidation.* (1) On the motion of any party, or on the administrative law judge's own motion, the administrative law judge may consolidate, for some or all purposes, any two or more proceedings, if each such proceeding in-

volves or arises out of the same transaction, occurrence or series of transactions or occurrences, or involves at least one common respondent or a material common question of law or fact, unless such consolidation would cause unreasonable delay or injustice.

(2) In the event of consolidation under paragraph (a)(1) of this section, appropriate adjustment to the prehearing schedule must be made to avoid unnecessary expense, inconvenience, or delay.

(b) *Severance.* The administrative law judge may, upon the motion of any party, sever the proceeding for separate resolution of the matter as to any respondent only if the administrative law judge finds that:

(1) Undue prejudice or injustice to the moving party would result from not severing the proceeding; and

(2) Such undue prejudice or injustice would outweigh the interests of judicial economy and expedition in the complete and final resolution of the proceeding.

§ 747.23 Motions.

(a) *In writing.* (1) Except as otherwise provided herein, an application or request for an order or ruling must be made by written motion.

(2) All written motions must state with particularity the relief sought and must be accompanied by a proposed order.

(3) No oral argument may be held on written motions except as otherwise directed by the administrative law judge. Written memorandum, briefs, affidavits or other relevant material or documents may be filed in support of or in opposition to a motion.

(b) *Oral motions.* A motion may be made orally on the record unless the administrative law judge directs that such motion be reduced to writing.

(c) *Filing of motions.* Motions must be filed with the administrative law judge, except that upon the filing of the recommended decision, motions must be filed with the NCUA Board.

(d) *Responses.* (1) Except as otherwise provided herein, within ten days after service of any written motion, or within such other period of time as may be established by the administrative law judge or the NCUA Board, any party

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may file a written response to a motion. The administrative law judge shall not rule on any oral or written motion before each party has had an opportunity to file a response.

(2) The failure of a party to oppose a written motion or an oral motion made on the record is deemed a consent by that party to the entry of an order substantially in the form of the order accompanying the motion.

(e) *Dilatory motions.* Frivolous, dilatory or repetitive motions are prohibited. The filing of such motions may form the basis for sanctions.

(f) *Dispositive motions.* Dispositive motions are governed by §§ 747.29 and 747.30.

§ 747.24 Scope of document discovery.

(a) *Limits on discovery.* (1) Subject to the limitations set out in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section, a party to a proceeding under this subpart may obtain document discovery by serving a written request to produce documents. For purposes of a request to produce documents, the term “documents” may be defined to include drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, recordings, data stored in electronic form, and other data compilations from which information can be obtained, or translated, if necessary, by the parties through detection devices into reasonably usable form, as well as written material of all kinds.

(2) Discovery by use of deposition is governed by subpart I of this part.

(3) Discovery by use of interrogatories is not permitted.

(b) *Relevance.* A party may obtain document discovery regarding any matter, not privileged, that has material relevance to the merits of the pending action. Any request to produce documents that calls for irrelevant material, that is unreasonable, oppressive, excessive in scope, unduly burdensome, or repetitive of previous requests, or that seeks to obtain privileged documents will be denied or modified. A request is unreasonable, oppressive, excessive in scope, or unduly burdensome if, among other things, it fails to include justifiable limitations on the time period covered and the geographic locations to be searched, the time provided to respond in the request is inad-

equuate, or the request calls for copies of documents to be delivered to the requesting party and fails to include the requester’s written agreement to pay in advance for the copying, in accordance with § 747.25.

(c) *Privileged matter.* Privileged documents are not discoverable. Privileges include the attorney-client privilege, work-product privilege, any government’s or government agency’s deliberative-process privilege, and any other privileges the Constitution, any applicable act of Congress, or the principles of common law provide.

(d) *Time limits.* All discovery, including all responses to discovery requests, shall be completed at least 20 days prior to the date scheduled for the commencement of the hearing, except as provided in the Local Rules. No exceptions to this time limit shall be permitted, unless the administrative law judge finds on the record that good cause exists for waiving the requirements of this paragraph.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991, as amended at 61 FR 28026, June 4, 1996]

§ 747.25 Request for document discovery from parties.

(a) *General rule.* Any party may serve on any other party a request to produce for inspection any discoverable documents that are in the possession, custody, or control of the party upon whom the request is served. The request must identify the documents to be produced either by individual item or by category, and must describe each item and category with reasonable particularity. Documents must be produced as they are kept in the usual course of business or must be organized to correspond with the categories in the request.

(b) *Production or copying.* The request must specify a reasonable time, place, and manner for production and performing any related acts. In lieu of inspecting the documents, the requesting party may specify that all or some of the responsive documents be copied and the copies delivered to the requesting party. If copying of fewer than 250 pages is requested, the party to whom the request is addressed shall bear the cost of copying and shipping charges. If a party requests 250 pages or more of

copying, the requesting party shall pay for the copying and shipping charges. Copying charges are the current per-page copying rate imposed by 12 CFR 792.5(b) implementing the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). The party to whom the request is addressed may require payment in advance before producing the documents.

(c) *Obligation to update responses.* A party who has responded to a discovery request with a response that was complete when made is not required to supplement the response to include documents thereafter acquired, unless the responding party learns that:

(1) The response was materially incorrect when made; or

(2) The response, though correct when made, is no longer true and a failure to amend the response is, in substance, a knowing concealment.

(d) *Motions to limit discovery.* (1) Any party that objects to a discovery request may, within ten days of being served with such request, file a motion in accordance with the provisions of § 747.23 to strike or otherwise limit the request. If an objection is made to only a portion of an item or category in a request, the portion objected to shall be specified. Any objections not made in accordance with this paragraph and § 747.23 are waived.

(2) The party who served the request that is the subject of a motion to strike or limit may file a written response within five days of service of the motion. No other party may file a response.

(e) *Privilege.* At the time other documents are produced, the producing party must reasonably identify all documents withheld on the grounds of privilege and must produce a statement of the basis for the assertion of privilege. When similar documents that are protected by deliberative process, attorney work-product, or attorney-client privilege are voluminous, these documents may be identified by category instead of by individual document. The administrative law judge retains discretion to determine when the identification by category is insufficient.

(f) *Motions to compel production.* (1) If a party withholds any documents as privileged or fails to comply fully with

a discovery request, the requesting party may, within ten days of the assertion of privilege or of the time the failure to comply becomes known to the requesting party, file a motion in accordance with the provisions of § 747.23 for the issuance of a subpoena compelling production.

(2) The party who asserted the privilege or failed to comply with the request may file a written response to a motion to compel within five days of service of the motion. No other party may file a response.

(g) *Ruling on motions.* After the time for filing responses pursuant to this section has expired, the administrative law judge shall rule promptly on all motions filed pursuant to this section. If the administrative law judge determines that a discovery request, or any of its terms, calls for irrelevant material, is unreasonable, oppressive, excessive in scope, unduly burdensome, or repetitive of previous requests, or seeks to obtain privileged documents, he or she may deny or modify the request, and may issue appropriate protective orders, upon such conditions as justice may require. The pendency of a motion to strike or limit discovery or to compel production is not a basis for staying or continuing the proceeding, unless otherwise ordered by the administrative law judge. Notwithstanding any other provision in this part, the administrative law judge may not release, or order a party to produce, documents withheld on grounds of privilege if the party has stated to the administrative law judge its intention to file a timely motion for interlocutory review of the administrative law judge's order to produce the documents, and until the motion for interlocutory review has been decided.

(h) *Enforcing discovery subpoenas.* If the administrative law judge issues a subpoena compelling production of documents by a party, the subpoenaing party may, in the event of noncompliance and to the extent authorized by applicable law, apply to any appropriate United States district court for an order requiring compliance with the subpoena. A party's right to seek court enforcement of a subpoena shall not in any manner limit the sanctions that may be imposed by the administrative

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law judge against a party who fails to produce subpoenaed documents.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991, as amended at 61 FR 28026, June 4, 1996; 61 FR 45876, Aug. 30, 1996]

§ 747.26 Document subpoenas to non-parties.

(a) *General rules.* (1) Any party may apply to the administrative law judge for the issuance of a document discovery subpoena addressed to any person who is not a party to the proceeding. The application must contain a proposed document subpoena and a brief statement showing the general relevance and reasonableness of the scope of documents sought. The subpoenaing party shall specify a reasonable time, place, and manner for making production in response to the document subpoena.

(2) A party shall only apply for a document subpoena under this section within the time period during which such party could serve a discovery request under § 747.24(d). The party obtaining the document subpoena is responsible for serving it on the subpoenaed person and for serving copies on all parties. Document subpoenas may be served in any state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or as otherwise provided by law.

(3) The administrative law judge shall promptly issue any document subpoena requested pursuant to this section. If the administrative law judge determines that the application does not set forth a valid basis for the issuance of the subpoena, or that any of its terms are unreasonable, oppressive, excessive in scope, or unduly burdensome, he or she may refuse to issue the subpoena or may issue it in a modified form upon such conditions as may be consistent with the Uniform Rules.

(b) *Motion to quash or modify.* (1) Any person to whom a document subpoena is directed may file a motion to quash or modify such subpoena, accompanied by a statement of the basis for quashing or modifying the subpoena. The movant shall serve the motion on all parties, and any party may respond to such motion within ten days of service of the motion.

(2) Any motion to quash or modify a document subpoena must be filed on the same basis, including the assertion of privilege, upon which a party could object to a discovery request under § 747.25(d), and during the same time limits during which such an objection could be filed.

(c) *Enforcing document subpoenas.* If a subpoenaed person fails to comply with any subpoena issued pursuant to this section or any order of the administrative law judge which directs compliance with all or any portion of a document subpoena, the subpoenaing party or any other aggrieved party may, to the extent authorized by applicable law, apply to an appropriate United States district court for an order requiring compliance with so much of the document subpoena as the administrative law judge has not quashed or modified. A party's right to seek court enforcement of a document subpoena shall in no way limit the sanctions that may be imposed by the administrative law judge on a party who induces a failure to comply with subpoenas issued under this section.

§ 747.27 Deposition of witness unavailable for hearing.

(a) *General rules.* (1) If a witness will not be available for the hearing, a party desiring that witness' testimony for the record may apply in accordance with the procedures set forth in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, to the administrative law judge for the issuance of a subpoena, including a subpoena duces tecum, requiring the attendance of the witness at a deposition. The administrative law judge may issue a deposition subpoena under this section upon showing that:

(i) The witness will be unable to attend or may be prevented from attending the hearing because of age, sickness or infirmity, or will otherwise be unavailable;

(ii) The witness' unavailability was not procured or caused by the subpoenaing party;

(iii) The testimony is reasonably expected to be material; and

(iv) Taking the deposition will not result in any undue burden to any other party and will not cause undue delay of the proceeding.

(2) The application must contain a proposed deposition subpoena and a brief statement of the reasons for the issuance of the subpoena. The subpoena must name the witness whose deposition is to be taken and specify the time and place for taking the deposition. A deposition subpoena may require the witness to be deposed at any place within the country in which that witness resides or has a regular place of employment or such other convenient place as the administrative law judge shall fix.

(3) Any requested subpoena that sets forth a valid basis for its issuance must be promptly issued, unless the administrative law judge on his or her own motion, requires a written response or requires attendance at a conference concerning whether the requested subpoena should be issued.

(4) The party obtaining a deposition subpoena is responsible for serving it on the witness and for serving copies on all parties. Unless the administrative law judge orders otherwise, no deposition under this section shall be taken on fewer than ten days' notice to the witness and all parties. Deposition subpoenas may be served in any state, territory, possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, on any person or company doing business in any state, territory, possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, or as otherwise permitted by law.

(b) Objections to deposition subpoenas.

(1) The witness and any party who has not had an opportunity to oppose a deposition subpoena issued under this section may file a motion with the administrative law judge to quash or modify the subpoena prior to the time for compliance specified in the subpoena, but not more than ten days after service of the subpoena.

(2) A statement of the basis for the motion to quash or modify a subpoena issued under this section must accompany the motion. The motion must be served on all parties.

(c) Procedure upon deposition. (1) Each witness testifying pursuant to a deposition subpoena must be duly sworn, and each party shall have the right to examine the witness. Objections to questions or documents must be in short

form, stating the grounds for the objection. Failure to object to questions or documents is not deemed a waiver except where the ground for the objection might have been avoided if the objection had been timely presented. All questions, answers, and objections must be recorded.

(2) Any party may move before the administrative law judge for an order compelling the witness to answer any questions the witness has refused to answer or submit any evidence the witness has refused to submit during the deposition.

(3) The deposition must be subscribed by the witness, unless the parties and the witness, by stipulation, have waived the signing, or the witness is ill, cannot be found, or has refused to sign. If the deposition is not subscribed by the witness, the court reporter taking the deposition shall certify that the transcript is a true and complete transcript of the deposition.

(d) Enforcing subpoenas. If a subpoenaed person fails to comply with any order of the administrative law judge which directs compliance with all or any portion of a deposition subpoena under paragraph (b) or (c)(3) of this section, the subpoenaing party or other aggrieved party may, to the extent authorized by applicable law, apply to an appropriate United States district court for an order requiring compliance with the portions of the subpoena that the administrative law judge has ordered enforced. A party's right to seek court enforcement of a deposition subpoena in no way limits the sanctions that may be imposed by the administrative law judge on a party who fails to comply with, or procures a failure to comply with, a subpoena issued under this section.

§ 747.28 Interlocutory review.

(a) General rule. The NCUA Board may review a ruling of the administrative law judge prior to the certification of the record to the NCUA Board only in accordance with the procedures set forth in this section and § 747.23.

(b) Scope of review. The NCUA Board may exercise interlocutory review of a ruling of the administrative law judge if the NCUA Board finds that:

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(1) The ruling involves a controlling question of law or policy as to which substantial grounds exist for a difference of opinion;

(2) Immediate review of the ruling may materially advance the ultimate termination of the proceeding;

(3) Subsequent modification of the ruling at the conclusion of the proceeding would be an inadequate remedy; or

(4) Subsequent modification of the ruling would cause unusual delay or expense.

(c) *Procedure.* Any request for interlocutory review shall be filed by a party with the administrative law judge within ten days of his or her ruling and shall otherwise comply with § 747.23. Any party may file a response to a request for interlocutory review in accordance with § 747.23(d). Upon the expiration of the time for filing all responses, the administrative law judge shall refer the matter to the NCUA Board for final disposition.

(d) *Suspension of proceeding.* Neither a request for interlocutory review nor any disposition of such a request by the NCUA Board under this section suspends or stays the proceeding unless otherwise ordered by the administrative law judge or the NCUA Board.

§ 747.29 Summary disposition.

(a) *In general.* The administrative law judge shall recommend that the NCUA Board issue a final order granting a motion for summary disposition if the undisputed pleaded facts, admissions, affidavits, stipulations, documentary evidence, matters as to which official notice may be taken, and any other evidentiary materials properly submitted in connection with a motion for summary disposition show that:

(1) There is no genuine issue as to any material fact; and

(2) The moving party is entitled to a decision in its favor as a matter of law.

(b) *Filing of motions and responses.* (1) Any party who believes that there is no genuine issue of material fact to be determined and that he or she is entitled to a decision as a matter of law may move at any time for summary disposition in its favor of all or any part of the proceeding. Any party, within 20 days after service of such a motion, or

within such time period as allowed by the administrative law judge, may file a response to such motion.

(2) A motion for summary disposition must be accompanied by a statement of the material facts as to which the moving party contends there is no genuine issue. Such motion must be supported by documentary evidence, which may take the form of admissions in pleadings, stipulations, depositions, investigatory depositions, transcripts, affidavits and any other evidentiary materials that the moving party contends support his or her position. The motion must also be accompanied by a brief containing the points and authorities in support of the contention of the moving party. Any party opposing a motion for summary disposition must file a statement setting forth those material facts as to which he or she contends a genuine dispute exists. Such opposition must be supported by evidence of the same type as that submitted with the motion for summary disposition and a brief containing the points and authorities in support of the contention that summary disposition would be inappropriate.

(c) *Hearing on motion.* At the request of any party or on his or her own motion, the administrative law judge may hear oral argument on the motion for summary disposition.

(d) *Decision on motion.* Following receipt of a motion for summary disposition and all responses thereto, the administrative law judge shall determine whether the moving party is entitled to summary disposition. If the administrative law judge determines that summary disposition is warranted, the administrative law judge shall submit a recommended decision to that effect to the NCUA Board. If the administrative law judge finds that no party is entitled to summary disposition, he or she shall make a ruling denying the motion.

§ 747.30 Partial summary disposition.

If the administrative law judge determines that a party is entitled to summary disposition as to certain claims only, he or she shall defer submitting a recommended decision as to those claims. A hearing on the remaining issues must be ordered. Those claims

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for which the administrative law judge has determined that summary disposition is warranted will be addressed in the recommended decision filed at the conclusion of the hearing.

§ 747.31 Scheduling and prehearing conferences.

(a) *Scheduling conference.* Within 30 days of service of the notice or order commencing a proceeding or such order time as parties may agree, the administrative law judge shall direct counsel for all parties to meet with him or her in person at a specified time and place prior to the hearing or to confer by telephone for the purpose of scheduling the recourse and conduct of the proceeding. This meeting or telephone conference is called a “scheduling conference.” The identification of potential witnesses, the time for and manner of discovery, and the exchange of any prehearing materials including witness lists, statements of issues, stipulations, exhibits and any other materials may also be determined at the scheduling conference.

(b) *Prehearing conferences.* The administrative law judge may, in addition to the scheduling conference, on his or her own motion or at the request of any party, direct counsel for the parties to meet with him or her (in person or by telephone) at a prehearing conference to address any or all of the following:

- (1) Simplification and clarification of the issues;
- (2) Stipulations, admissions of fact, and the contents, authenticity and admissibility into evidence of documents;
- (3) Matters of which official notice may be taken;
- (4) Limitation of the number of witnesses;
- (5) Summary disposition of any or all issues;
- (6) Resolution of discovery issues or disputes;
- (7) Amendments to pleadings; and
- (8) Such other matters as may aid in the orderly disposition of the proceeding.

(c) *Transcript.* The administrative law judge, in his or her discretion, may require that a scheduling or prehearing conference be recorded by a court reporter. A transcript of the conference

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and any materials filed, including orders, becomes part of the record of the proceeding. A party may obtain a copy of the transcript at its expense.

(d) *Scheduling or prehearing orders.* At or within a reasonable time following the conclusion of the scheduling conference or any prehearing conference, the administrative law judge shall serve on each party an order setting forth any agreements reached and any procedural determinations made.

§ 747.32 Prehearing submissions.

(a) Within the time set by the administrative law judge, but in no case later than 14 days before the start of the hearing, each party shall serve on every other party, his or her:

- (1) Prehearing statement;
- (2) Final list of witnesses to be called to testify at the hearing, including name and address of each witness and a short summary of the expected testimony of each witness;
- (3) List of the exhibits to be introduced at the hearing along with a copy of each exhibit; and
- (4) Stipulations of fact, if any.

(b) *Effect of failure to comply.* No witness may testify and no exhibits may be introduced at the hearing if such witness or exhibit is not listed in the prehearing submissions pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, except for good cause shown.

§ 747.33 Public hearings.

(a) *General rule.* All hearings shall be open to the public, unless the NCUA Board, in its discretion, determines that holding an open hearing would be contrary to the public interest. Within 20 days of service of the notice, any respondent may file with the NCUA Board a request for a private hearing, and any party may file a reply to such a request. A party must serve on the administrative law judge a copy of any request or reply the party files with the NCUA Board. The form of, and procedure for, these requests and replies are governed by § 747.23. A party's failure to file a request or a reply constitutes a waiver of any objections regarding whether the hearing will be public or private.

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(b) *Filing document under seal.* Enforcement Counsel, in his or her discretion, may file any document or part of a document under seal if disclosure of the document would be contrary to the public interest. The administrative law judge shall take all appropriate steps to preserve the confidentiality of such documents or parts thereof, including closing portions of the hearing to the public.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 28027, June 4, 1996]

§ 747.34 Hearing subpoenas.

(a) *Issuance.* (1) Upon application of a party showing general relevance and reasonableness of scope of the testimony or other evidence sought, the administrative law judge may issue a subpoena or a subpoena *duces tecum* requiring the attendance of a witness at the hearing or the production of documentary or physical evidence at the hearing. The application for a hearing subpoena must also contain a proposed subpoena specifying the attendance of a witness or the production of evidence from any state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or as otherwise provided by law at any designated place where the hearing is being conducted. The party making the application shall serve a copy of the application and the proposed subpoena on every other party.

(2) A party may apply for a hearing subpoena at any time before the commencement of a hearing. During a hearing, a party may make an application for a subpoena orally on the record before the administrative law judge.

(3) The administrative law judge shall promptly issue any hearing subpoena requested pursuant to this section. If the administrative law judge determines that the application does not set forth a valid basis for the issuance of the subpoena, or that any of its terms are unreasonable, oppressive, excessive in scope, or unduly burdensome, he or she may refuse to issue the subpoena or may issue it in a modified form upon any conditions consistent with this subpart. Upon issuance by the administrative law judge, the party making the application shall serve the subpoena on the

person named in the subpoena and on each party.

(b) *Motion to quash or modify.* (1) Any person to whom a hearing subpoena is directed or any party may file a motion to quash or modify the subpoena, accompanied by a statement of the basis for quashing or modifying the subpoena. The movant must serve the motion on each party and on the person named in the subpoena. Any party may respond to the motion within ten days of service of the motion.

(2) Any motion to quash or modify a hearing subpoena must be filed prior to the time specified in the subpoena for compliance, but not more than ten days after the date of service of the subpoena upon the movant.

(c) *Enforcing subpoenas.* If a subpoenaed person fails to comply with any subpoena issued pursuant to this section or any order of the administrative law judge which directs compliance with all or any portion of a document subpoena, the subpoenaing party or any other aggrieved party may seek enforcement of the subpoena pursuant to § 747.26(c).

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991, as amended at 61 FR 28027, June 4, 1996]

§ 747.35 Conduct of hearings.

(a) *General rules.* (1) Hearings shall be conducted so as to provide a fair and expeditious presentation of the relevant disputed issues. Each party has the right to present its case or defense by oral and documentary evidence and to conduct such cross examination as may be required for full disclosure of the facts.

(2) *Order of hearing.* Enforcement Counsel shall present its case-in-chief first, unless otherwise ordered by the administrative law judge, or unless otherwise expressly specified by law or regulation. Enforcement Counsel shall be the first party to present an opening statement and a closing statement, and may make a rebuttal statement after the respondent's closing statement. If there are multiple respondents, respondents may agree among themselves as to their order of presentation of their cases, but if they do not agree the administrative law judge shall fix the order.

(3) *Examination of witnesses.* Only one counsel for each party may conduct an examination of a witness, except that in the case of extensive direct examination, the administrative law judge may permit more than one counsel for the party presenting the witness to conduct the examination. A party may have one counsel conduct the direct examination and another counsel conduct re-direct examination of a witness, or may have one counsel conduct the cross examination of a witness and another counsel conduct the re-cross examination of a witness.

(4) *Stipulations.* Unless the administrative law judge directs otherwise, all stipulations of fact and law previously agreed upon by the parties, and all documents, the admissibility of which have been previously stipulated, will be admitted into evidence upon commencement of the hearing.

(b) *Transcript.* The hearing must be recorded and transcribed. The reporter will make the transcript available to any party upon payment by that party to the reporter of the cost of the transcript. The administrative law judge may order the record corrected, either upon motion to correct, upon stipulation of the parties, or following notice to the parties upon the administrative law judge's own motion.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991, as amended at 61 FR 28027, June 4, 1996]

§ 747.36 Evidence.

(a) *Admissibility.* (1) Except as is otherwise set forth in this section, relevant, material, and reliable evidence that is not unduly repetitive is admissible to the fullest extent authorized by the Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable law.

(2) Evidence that would be admissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence is admissible in a proceeding conducted pursuant to this subpart.

(3) Evidence that would be inadmissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence may not be deemed or ruled to be inadmissible in a proceeding conducted pursuant to this subpart if such evidence is relevant, material, reliable and not unduly repetitive.

(b) *Official notice.* (1) Official notice may be taken of any material fact which may be judicially noticed by a

United States district court and any material information in the official public records of any Federal or state government agency.

(2) All matters officially noticed by the administrative law judge or NCUA Board shall appear on the record.

(3) If official notice is requested or taken of any material fact, the parties, upon timely request, shall be afforded an opportunity to object.

(c) *Documents.* (1) A duplicate copy of a document is admissible to the same extent as the original, unless a genuine issue is raised as to whether the copy is in some material respect not a true and legible copy of the original.

(2) Subject to the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section, any document, including a report of examination, supervisory activity, inspection or visitation, prepared by an appropriate Federal financial institution regulatory agency or by a state regulatory agency, is admissible either with or without a sponsoring witness.

(3) Witnesses may use existing or newly created charts, exhibits, calendars, calculations, outlines or other graphic material to summarize, illustrate, or simplify the presentation of testimony. Such materials may, subject to the administrative law judge's discretion, be used with or without being admitted into evidence.

(d) *Objections.* (1) Objections to the admissibility of evidence must be timely made and rulings on all objections must appear on the record.

(2) When an objection to a question or line of questioning propounded to a witness is sustained, the examining counsel may make a specific proffer on the record of what he or she expected to prove by the expected testimony of the witness, either by representation of counsel or by direct interrogation of the witness.

(3) The administrative law judge shall retain rejected exhibits, adequately marked for identification, for the record, and transmit such exhibits to the NCUA Board.

(4) Failure to object to admission of evidence or to any ruling constitutes a waiver of the objection.

(e) *Stipulations.* The parties may stipulate as to any relevant matters of fact or the authentication of any relevant

documents. Such stipulations must be received in evidence at a hearing, and are binding on the parties with respect to the matters therein stipulated.

(f) *Depositions of unavailable witnesses.*

(1) If a witness is unavailable to testify at a hearing, and that witness has testified in a deposition to which all parties in a proceeding had notice and an opportunity to participate, a party may offer as evidence all or any part of the transcript of the deposition, including deposition exhibits, if any.

(2) Such deposition transcript is admissible to the same extent that testimony would have been admissible had that person testified at the hearing, provided that if a witness refused to answer proper questions during the depositions, the administrative law judge may, on that basis, limit the admissibility of the deposition in any manner that justice requires.

(3) Only those portions of a deposition received in evidence at the hearing constitute a part of the record.

§ 747.37 Post-hearing filings.

(a) *Proposed findings and conclusions and supporting briefs.* (1) Using the same method of service for each party, the administrative law judge shall serve notice upon each party that the certified transcript, together with all hearing exhibits and exhibits introduced but not admitted into evidence at the hearing, has been filed. Any party may file with the administrative law judge proposed findings of fact, proposed conclusions of law, and a proposed order within 30 days following service of this notice by the administrative law judge or within such longer period as may be ordered by the administrative law judge.

(2) Proposed findings and conclusions must be supported by citation to any relevant portions of the record. A post-hearing brief may be filed in support of proposed findings and conclusions, either as part of the same document or in a separate document. Any party who fails to file timely with the administrative law judge any proposed finding or conclusion is deemed to have waived the right to raise in any subsequent filing or submission any issue not addressed in such party's proposed finding or conclusion.

(b) *Reply briefs.* Reply briefs may be filed within 15 days after the date on which the parties' proposed findings, conclusions, and order are due. Reply briefs must be strictly limited to responding to new matters, issues, or arguments raised in another party's papers. A party who has not filed proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law or a post-hearing brief may not file a reply brief.

(c) *Simultaneous filing required.* The administrative law judge shall not order the filing by any party of any brief or reply brief in advance of the other party's filing of its brief.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991, as amended at 61 FR 28027, June 4, 1996]

§ 747.38 Recommended decision and filing of record.

(a) *Filing of recommended decision and record.* Within 45 days after expiration of the time allowed for filing reply briefs under § 747.37(b), the administrative law judge shall file with and certify to the NCUA Board, for decision, the record of the proceeding. The record must include the administrative law judge's recommended decision, recommended findings of fact, recommended conclusions of law, and proposed order; all prehearing and hearing transcripts, exhibits, and rulings; and the motions, briefs, memoranda, and other supporting papers filed in connection with the hearing. The administrative law judge shall serve upon each party the recommended decision, findings, conclusions, and proposed order.

(b) *Filing of index.* At the same time the administrative law judge files with and certifies to the NCUA Board for final determination the record of the proceeding, the administrative law judge shall furnish to the NCUA Board a certified index of the entire record of the proceeding. The certified index shall include, at a minimum, an entry for each paper, document or motion filed with the administrative law judge in the proceeding, the date of the filing, and the identity of the filer. The certified index shall also include an exhibit index containing, at a minimum, an entry consisting of exhibit number

and title or description for: Each exhibit introduced and admitted into evidence at the hearing; each exhibit introduced but not admitted into evidence at the hearing; each exhibit introduced and admitted into evidence after the completion of the hearing; and each exhibit introduced but not admitted into evidence after the completion of the hearing.

[61 FR 28027, June 4, 1996]

§ 747.39 Exceptions to recommended decision.

(a) *Filing exceptions.* Within 30 days after service of the recommended decision, findings, conclusions, and proposed order under § 747.38, a party may file with the NCUA Board written exceptions to the administrative law judge's recommended decision, findings, conclusions or proposed order, to the admission or exclusion of evidence, or to the failure of the administrative law judge to make a ruling proposed by a party. A supporting brief may be filed at the time the exceptions are filed, either as part of the same document or in a separate document.

(b) *Effect of failure to file or raise exceptions.* (1) Failure of a party to file exceptions to those matters specified in paragraph (a) of this section within the time prescribed is deemed a waiver of objection thereto.

(2) No exception need be considered by the NCUA Board if the party taking exception had an opportunity to raise the same objection, issue, or argument before the administrative law judge and failure to do so.

(c) *Contents.* (1) All exceptions and briefs in support of such exceptions must be confined to the particular matters in, or omissions from, the administrative law judge's recommendations to which that party takes exception.

(2) All exceptions and briefs in support of exceptions must set forth page or paragraph references to the specific parts of the administrative law judge's recommendations to which exception is taken, the page or paragraph references to those portions of the record relied upon to support each exception, and the legal authority relied upon to support each exception.

§ 747.40 Review by the NCUA Board.

(a) *Notice of submission to NCUA Board.* When the NCUA Board determines that the record in the proceeding is complete, the NCUA Board shall serve notice upon the parties that the proceedings has been submitted to the NCUA Board for final decision.

(b) *Oral argument before NCUA Board.* Upon the initiative of the NCUA Board or on the written request of any party filed with the NCUA Board within the time for filing exceptions, the NCUA Board may order and hear oral argument on the recommended findings, conclusions, decision, and order of the administrative law judge. A written request by a party must show good cause for oral argument and state reasons why arguments cannot be presented adequately in writing. A denial of a request for oral argument may be set forth in the NCUA Board's final decision. Oral argument before the NCUA Board must be on the record.

(c) *Final Decision of NCUA Board.* (1) Decisional employees may advise and assist the NCUA Board in the consideration and disposition of the case. The final decision of the NCUA Board will be based upon review of the entire record of the proceeding, except that the NCUA Board may limit the issues to be reviewed to those findings and conclusions to which opposing arguments or exceptions have been filed by the parties.

(2) The NCUA Board shall render a final decision within 90 days after notification of the parties that the case has been submitted for final decision, or 90 days after oral argument, whichever is later, unless the NCUA Board orders that the action or any aspect thereof be remanded to the administrative law judge for further proceedings. Copies of the final decision and order of the NCUA Board shall be served upon each party to the proceeding, upon other persons required by statute, and, if directed by the NCUA Board or required by statute, upon any appropriate state or Federal supervisory authority.

§ 747.41 Stays pending judicial review.

The commencement of proceedings for judicial review of a final decision and order of the NCUA Board may not, unless specifically ordered by the

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NCUA Board or a reviewing court, operate as a stay of any order issued by the NCUA Board. The NCUA Board may, in its discretion, and on such terms as it finds just, stay the effectiveness of all or any part of its order pending a final decision on a petition for review of that order.

Subpart B—Local Rules of Practice and Procedure

§ 747.100 Discovery limitations.

(a) Parties to a proceeding set forth either at § 747.1 of subpart A or in subpart C, E or G of this part may obtain discovery only through the production of documents. No other form of discovery shall be allowed.

(b) In the event that a person producing documents pursuant to a document subpoena is permitted to be deposed, all questioning shall be strictly limited to the identification of documents produced by that person and a reasonable examination to determine whether the subpoenaed person made an adequate search for, and has produced, all subpoenaed documents.

Subpart C—Local Rules and Procedures Applicable to Proceedings for the Involuntary Termination of Insured Status

§ 747.201 Scope.

Under the authority of section 206(b) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1786(b)), the NCUA Board may terminate the insured status of an insured credit union upon the grounds set forth therein and enumerated in § 747.202. The procedure for terminating the insured status of an insured credit union as therein prescribed will be followed and hearings required thereunder will be conducted in accordance with the rules and procedures set forth in this subpart and subpart A of this part. To the extent any rule or procedure of subpart A is inconsistent with a rule or procedure prescribed in this subpart C, subpart C shall control.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992]

§ 747.202 Grounds for termination of insurance.

The NCUA Board may institute proceedings to terminate the insured status of an insured credit union whenever it determines that an insured credit union is:

(a) Engaging or has engaged in unsafe or unsound practices in conducting its business;

(b) In unsafe or unsound condition to continue as an insured credit union; or

(c) Violating or has violated any applicable law, rule, regulation, order, written condition imposed by the NCUA Board in response to any application or request of the credit union, or any written agreement entered into with the NCUA Board.

§ 747.203 Notice of charges.

(a) Whenever the NCUA Board determines that grounds for termination of insured status exists, it will, for the purpose of securing correction of errant or illegal conditions, serve a notice of charges upon the concerned credit union. This notice will contain a statement describing the unsafe or unsound practices, condition or the relevant violations.

(b) In the case of an insured State-chartered credit union, the NCUA Board shall send a copy of the Notice of Charges to the appropriate State authority, if any, having supervision over the credit union.

§ 747.204 Notice of intention to terminate insured status.

Unless correction of the practices, condition, or violations set forth in the Notice of Charges is made within 120 days after service of such statement, or within a shorter period of not less than 20 days after such service as the NCUA Board may require in any case where it determines that the insurance risk with respect to such credit union could be unduly jeopardized by further delay or as the appropriate State supervisory authority shall require in the case of an insured State-chartered credit union, the Board, if it determines to proceed further, shall give to the credit union not less than 30 days written notice of its intent to terminate the status of the credit union as an insured credit union. The notice shall contain a

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statement of the facts constituting the alleged unsafe or unsound practices or conditions or violations on which a hearing will be held. Such hearing shall commence not earlier than 30 days nor later than 60 days after the date of service of such notice upon the credit union, unless an earlier or later date is set by the NCUA Board at the request of the credit union.

§ 747.205 Order terminating insured status.

If, upon the record of the hearing held pursuant to § 747.204, the NCUA Board finds that any unsafe or unsound practice or condition or violation specified in the notice has been established and has not been corrected within the time prescribed under § 747.204, the NCUA Board may issue and serve upon the credit union an order terminating its status as an insured credit union on a date subsequent to the date of such finding and subsequent to the expiration of the time specified in the Notice.

§ 747.206 Consent to termination of insured status.

Unless the credit union appears at the hearing designated in the notice of hearing by a duly authorized representative, it will be deemed to have consented to the termination of its status as an insured credit union. In the event the credit union fails to so appear at such hearing, the administrative law judge shall forthwith report the matter to the NCUA Board and the NCUA Board may thereupon issue an order terminating the credit union's insured status.

§ 747.207 Notice of termination of insured status.

Prior to the effective date of the termination of the insured status of an insured credit union under section 206(b) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1786(b)) and at such time as the Board shall specify, the credit union shall mail to each member at his or her last address of record on the books of the credit union, and publish in not less than two issues of a local newspaper of general circulation, notices of the termination of its insured status, and the credit union shall furnish the NCUA Board with

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proof of publication of such notice. The notice shall be as follows:

NOTICE

(Date)

1. The status of the _____ as an insured credit union under the provisions of the Federal Credit Union Act, will terminate as of the close of business on the _____ day of _____;

2. Any deposits made by you after that date, either new deposits or additions to existing accounts, will not be insured by the National Credit Union Administration;

3. Accounts in the credit union on the day of _____, up to a maximum of \$100,000 for each member, will continue to be insured, as provided by the Federal Credit Union Act, for one (1) years after the close of business on the _____ day of _____; *Provided, however,* That any withdrawals after the close of business on the day of _____, _____; will reduce the insurance coverage by the amount of such withdrawals.

(Name of Credit Union)

(Address)

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992]

§ 747.208 Duties after termination.

(a) After the termination of the insured status of any credit union under section 206(b) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1786(b)), insurance of its member accounts to the extent they were insured on the effective date of such termination, less any amounts thereafter withdrawn which reduce the accounts below the amount covered by insurance on the effective date of such termination, shall continue for a period of one year, but no shares issued by the credit union or deposits made after the date of such termination shall be insured by the NCUA Board.

(b) The credit union shall continue to pay premiums to the NCUA Board during such period and the Board shall have the right to examine the credit union from time to time during the period. The credit union shall, in all other respects, be subject to the duties and obligations of an insured credit union during the one year period. If the credit union is closed for liquidation within this period, the Board shall have the same powers and rights with respect to such credit union as in the case of an insured credit union.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992]

Subpart D—Local Rules and Procedures Applicable to Suspensions and Prohibitions Where Felony Charged**§ 747.301 Scope.**

The rules and procedures set forth in this subpart are applicable to informal proceedings conducted by the NCUA Board, or a Presiding Officer designated by the Board, pursuant to section 206(i) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1786(i)), to suspend, remove and/or prohibit from office or from further participation any institution-affiliated party of an insured credit union who:

(a) Is charged in a state, Federal or territorial information or indictment or complaint with committing or participating in a crime involving dishonesty or breach of trust, which crime is punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year under state or Federal law; or

(b) Enters a pretrial diversion or other similar program as result of being charged in such information or indictment or complaint with participating or committing such crime; or

(c) Is convicted of such crime.

Subpart A of this part does not apply to proceedings under this subpart.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992]

§ 747.302 Rules of practice; remainder of board of directors.

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this subpart, the following provisions shall apply to proceedings conducted under this subpart:

(a)(1) *Power of attorney and notice of appearance.* Any person who is a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of any State, possession, territory, Commonwealth, or the District of Columbia may represent others before the NCUA Board or Presiding Officer designated by the NCUA Board upon filing with the NCUA Board a written declaration that he or she is currently qualified as provided by this paragraph, and is authorized to represent the particular party or whose behalf he acts. Any other person desiring to appear before or transact business with the NCUA Board in a representative capacity may be required

to file with the NCUA Board a power of attorney showing his or her authority to act in such capacity, and he or she may be required to show to the satisfaction of the NCUA Board that he or she has the requisite qualifications. Attorneys and representatives of parties to proceedings shall file a written notice of appearance with the NCUA Board or with the Presiding Officer designated by the NCUA Board.

(2) *Summary suspension.* Contemptuous conduct by any person at an argument before the NCUA Board or at the hearing before a Presiding Officer shall be grounds for exclusion therefrom and suspension for the duration of the argument or hearing.

(b)(1) *Notice of hearing.* Whenever a hearing within the scope of this subpart is ordered by the NCUA Board, a notice of hearing shall be given by the NCUA Board to the party afforded the hearing and to any appropriate state supervisory authority. The notice shall state the time, place, and nature of the hearing and the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held, and shall contain a statement of the matters of fact or law constituting the grounds for the hearing. It shall be delivered by personal service, by registered or certified mail to the last known address, or by other appropriate means, not later than 30 nor earlier than 60 days before the hearing.

(2) *Party.* The term “party” means a person or agency named or admitted as a party, or any person or agency who has filed a written request and is entitled as of right to be admitted as a party; but a person or agency may be admitted for a limited purpose.

(c)(1) *Computation of time.* In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by this subpart, the date of the act, event or default from which the designated period of time begins to run is not to be included. The last day so computed shall be included, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday in the District of Columbia, in which event the period shall run until the end of the next day which is neither a Saturday, Sunday, nor such legal holiday. Intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays shall be included in the computation unless the time within which the act is to be performed is ten

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days or less in which event Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays shall not be included.

(2) *Service by mail.* Whenever any party has the right or is required to do some act or take some proceeding, within a period of time prescribed in this subpart, after the service upon him of any document or other paper of any kind, and such service is made by mail, three days shall be added to the prescribed period from the date when the matter served is deposited in the U.S. mail.

(d) *Nonpublication of submissions.* Unless and until otherwise ordered by the NCUA Board, the notice of hearing, the transcript, written materials submitted during the hearing, the Presiding Officer's recommendation to the NCUA Board and any other papers filed in connection with a hearing under this subpart, shall not be made public, and shall be for the confidential use only of the NCUA Board, the Presiding Officer, the parties and appropriate authorities.

(e) *Remainder of board of directors.* (1) If at any time, because of the suspension of one or more directors pursuant to this subpart, there shall be on the board of directors of an insured credit union less than a quorum of directors not so suspended, all powers and functions vested in or exercisable by such board shall vest in and be exercisable by the director or directors on the board not so suspended, until such time as there shall be a quorum on the board of directors.

(2) In the event all of the directors of an insured credit union are suspended pursuant to this subpart, the NCUA Board shall appoint persons to serve temporarily as directors in their place pending the termination of such suspensions, or until such time as those who have been suspended cease to be directors of the credit union and their respective successors have been elected by the members at an annual or special meeting and have taken office.

(3) Directors appointed temporarily by the NCUA Board pursuant to paragraph (e)(2) of this section, shall, within 30 days following their appointment, call a special meeting for the election of new directors, unless during such 30-day period—

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(i) The regular annual meeting is convened; or

(ii) The suspensions giving rise to the appointment of temporary directors are terminated.

§ 747.303 Notice of suspension or prohibition.

Whenever an institution-affiliated party of an insured credit union is charged in any state, Federal or territorial information or indictment or complaint with the commission of or participation in a crime involving dishonesty or breach of trust, which crime is punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year under state or Federal law, the NCUA Board may, if continued service or participation by the concerned party may pose a threat to the interests of the credit union's members or may threaten to impair public confidence in the credit union, by written notice served upon such party, suspend him or her from office, or prohibit him or her from further participation in any manner in the affairs of the credit union, or both. A copy of the notice of suspension or prohibition shall also be served upon the credit union. This suspension or prohibition shall remain in effect until such information, indictment, or complaint is finally disposed of, or until such suspension or prohibition is terminated by the NCUA Board.

§ 747.304 Removal or permanent prohibition.

In the event that a judgment of conviction or an agreement to enter a pre-trial diversion or other similar program is entered against the institution-affiliated party, and at such time as the judgment, if any, is not subject to further appellate review, the NCUA Board may, if continued service or participation by such party may pose a threat to the interests of the credit union's members or may threaten to impair public confidence in the credit union, issue and serve upon the individual an order removing him or her from office or prohibiting him or her from further participation in any manner in the conduct of the affairs of the credit union except with the consent of the NCUA Board. A copy of such order will also be served upon such credit

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union. A finding of not guilty or other disposition of the charge will not preclude the NCUA Board from thereafter instituting proceedings, pursuant to the provisions of section 206(g) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1786(g)) and subpart A of this part, to remove such director, committee member, officer, or other person from office or to prohibit his or her further participation in the affairs of the credit union.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992]

§ 747.305 Effectiveness of suspension or removal until completion of hearing.

Any notice of suspension or prohibition issued under § 747.303 and any order of removal or prohibition issued under § 747.304 will be effective upon service on the concerned party and will remain effective and outstanding until the completion of any hearing or appeal authorized under section 206(i) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1786(i)) and this subpart, unless such notice of suspension or order of removal is terminated by the NCUA Board.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992]

§ 747.306 Notice of opportunity for hearing.

(a) Any notice of suspension or prohibition issued pursuant to § 747.303, and any order of removal or prohibition issued pursuant to § 747.304, shall be accompanied by a further notice to the concerned individual that he or she may, within 30 days of service of such notice, request in writing an informal hearing at which he or she may present evidence and argument that his or her continued service to or participation in the conduct of the affairs of the credit union does not, or is not likely to, pose a threat to the interests of the credit union's members or threaten to impair confidence in the credit union. Any notice of the opportunity for such a hearing shall be accompanied by a description of the hearing procedure and the criteria to be considered.

(b) A request for a hearing filed pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section shall state with particularity the relief desired, the grounds thereof, and shall include, when available, supporting

evidence. The request and supporting evidence shall be filed in writing with the Secretary of the Board, National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3428.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992, as amended at 59 FR 36041, July 15, 1994]

§ 747.307 Hearing.

(a) Upon receipt of a request for a hearing which complies with § 747.306, the NCUA Board will order an informal hearing to commence within the following 30 days in the Washington, DC metropolitan area or at such other place as the NCUA Board designates before a Presiding Officer designated by the NCUA Board to conduct the hearing. At the request of the concerned party, the NCUA Board may order the hearing to commence at a time more than 30 days after the receipt of the request for such hearing.

(b) The notice of hearing shall be served by the NCUA Board upon the party or parties afforded the hearing and shall set forth the time and place of the hearing and the name and address of the Presiding Officer.

(c) The subject individual may appear at the hearing personally, through counsel, or personally with counsel. The individual shall have the right to introduce relevant and material written materials (or, at the discretion of the NCUA Board, oral testimony), and to present an oral argument before the Presiding Officer. A member of the enforcement staff of the Office of General Counsel of the NCUA may attend the hearing and may participate as a party. Neither the formal rules of evidence nor the adjudicative procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 554-557), nor subpart A of this part shall apply to the hearing. The proceedings shall be recorded and a transcript furnished to the individual upon request and after the payment of the cost thereof. The NCUA Board shall have the discretion to permit the presentation of witnesses, within specified time limits, so long as a list of such witnesses is furnished to the Presiding Officer at least ten days prior to the hearing. Witnesses shall not be sworn, unless specifically requested by either party or directed by the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer may examine

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any witnesses and each party shall have the opportunity to cross-examine any witness presented by an opposing party. Upon the request of either the subject individual or the representative of the Office of General Counsel, the record shall remain open for a period of five business days following the hearing, during which time the parties may make any additional submissions to the record. Thereafter, the record shall be closed.

(d) In the course of or in connection with any proceeding under this subpart, the NCUA Board and the Presiding Officer will have the power to administer oaths and affirmations, to take or cause depositions to be taken, and to issue, revoke, quash, or modify subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum. If the NCUA Board permits the presentation of witnesses, the NCUA Board or the Presiding Officer may require the attendance of witnesses from any place in any state or in any territory or other place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States at any designated place where such proceeding is being conducted. Witnesses subpoenaed shall be paid the same fees and mileage as are paid witnesses in the District Courts of the United States. The NCUA Board or the Presiding Officer may require the production of documents from any place in any such state, territory, or other place.

(e) The Presiding Officer will make his or her recommendations to the Board, where possible, within ten business days following the close of the record.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991, as amended at 59 FR 36042, July 15, 1994]

§ 747.308 Waiver of hearing; failure to request hearing or review based on written submissions; failure to appear.

(a) The subject individual may, in writing, waive an oral hearing and instead elect to have the matter determined by the NCUA Board on the basis of written submissions alone.

(b) Should any concerned party fail to request in writing an oral hearing or consideration based on written submissions alone within 30 days of service of the notice described in § 747.306, he or

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she will be deemed to have consented to the NCUA Board's action.

(c) Unless the concerned party appears at the hearing personally or by duly appointed representative, he or she will be deemed to have consented to the NCUA Board's action.

§ 747.309 Decision of the NCUA Board.

Within 60 days following the hearing, or receipt of the subject individual's written submissions where hearing has been waived pursuant to § 747.308, the NCUA Board shall notify the institution-affiliated party whether the suspension or prohibition will be continued, terminated, or otherwise modified, or whether the order of removal or prohibition will be rescinded or otherwise modified. Such notification shall contain a statement of the basis for the decision of the NCUA Board, if that decision is adverse to the respondent party. In the case of a decision favorable to the respondent on the subject of a prior order of removal or prohibition, the NCUA Board shall take prompt action to rescind or otherwise modify the order of removal or prohibition.

§ 747.310 Reconsideration by the NCUA Board.

(a) The subject individual shall have ten business days following receipt of the decision of the NCUA Board in which to petition the NCUA Board for initial reconsideration.

(b) The subject individual also shall be entitled to petition the NCUA Board for reconsideration of its decision any time after the expiration of a 12-month period from the date of the NCUA Board's decision, but no petition for reconsideration may be made within 12 months of a previous petition.

(c) Any petition shall state with particularity the basis for reconsideration, the relief sought, and any exceptions the individual has to the NCUA Board's findings. An individual's petition may be accompanied by a memorandum of points and authorities in support of his or her petition and any supporting documentation the individual may wish to have considered.

(d) No hearing need be granted on such petition for reconsideration.

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Promptly following receipt of the petition, the Board shall render its decision.

§ 747.311 Relevant considerations.

In deciding the question of suspension, prohibition, or removal under this subpart, the NCUA Board will consider the following:

(a) Whether the alleged offense is a crime which is punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year under state or Federal law, and which involves dishonesty or breach of trust;

(b) Whether the continued presence of the subject individual in his or her position may pose a threat to the interests of the credit union's members because of the nature and extent of the individual's participation in the affairs of the insured credit union and/or the nature of the offense with the commission of or participation in which the individual has been charged;

(c) Whether there is cause to believe that there may be an erosion of public confidence in the integrity, safety, or soundness of a particular credit union (either generally or in the particular locality in which the credit union is situated) if the subject individual is permitted to remain in his or her position in an insured credit union;

(d) Whether the individual is covered by the credit union's fidelity bond and, if so, whether the bond is likely to be revoked, or whether coverage under the bond will be affected adversely as a result of the information, indictment, complaint, judgment of conviction or entry into a pretrial diversion or other similar program; and

(e) The NCUA Board may consider any other factors which, in the specific case, appear relevant to the decision to continue in effect, rescind, terminate, or modify a suspension, prohibition, or removal order, except that it shall not consider the ultimate question of the guilt or innocence of the subject individual with regard to the crime with which he or she has been charged.

Subpart E—Local Rules and Procedures Applicable to Proceedings Relating to the Suspension or Revocation of Charters and to Involuntary Liquidations Under Title I

§ 747.401 Scope.

The rules and procedures set forth in this subpart and subpart A of this part are applicable to proceedings by the NCUA Board pursuant to section 120(b)(1) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1766(b)(1)) to suspend or revoke the charter of a solvent Federal credit union, and to place a solvent Federal credit union into involuntary liquidation. To the extent a rule or procedure set forth in subpart A of this part is inconsistent with a rule or procedure set forth in this subpart E, subpart E shall control.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992]

§ 747.402 Grounds for suspension or revocation of charter and for involuntary liquidation.

(a) *Grounds in general.* The NCUA Board may suspend or revoke the charter of any Federal credit union, and place such credit union into involuntary liquidation and appoint a liquidating agent therefor, upon its finding that the credit union has violated any provision of its charter or bylaws or of the FCUA or regulations issued thereunder.

(b) *Immediate suspension.* In any case where the Board determines that the grounds set forth in paragraph (a) of this section exist and that immediate action is necessary in order to prevent further dissipation or credit union assets or earnings, or further weakening of the credit union's condition, or to otherwise protect the interest of the credit union's insured members or the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund, it may order without prior notice the immediate suspension of the charter of such credit union, and if the circumstances so warrant, may take possession of all books, records, assets,

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and property of every description of such credit union.

§ 747.403 Notice of intent to suspend or revoke charter; notice of suspension.

(a) Upon its determination that one or more of the grounds listed in § 747.402(a) exists, or that because of conditions described in § 747.402(b) immediate suspension of charter is necessary, the NCUA Board shall cause to be served upon that credit union a notice of intent to suspend or revoke charter and of intent to place into involuntary liquidation, or a notice of suspension. Such notice shall contain a statement of the facts which constitute the grounds for this action, a recitation of the options available to the credit union under paragraph (b) of this section, and an explanation of the results that will occur if the credit union fails to exercise said options.

(b) Not later than 40 days after the receipt of the notice provided for in paragraph (a) of this section, the Federal credit union may file with the NCUA Board a statement in writing setting forth the grounds and reasons why its charter should not be suspended or revoked and why it should not be placed into involuntary liquidation; or in lieu of a written statement, request an oral hearing which shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in this subpart. This statement or request shall be accompanied by a certified copy of a resolution of the board of directors of the Federal credit union concerned authorizing such statement or request, such certification to be made by the president and secretary of the board of directors.

(c) If the Federal credit union concerned does not exercise either alternative available in paragraph (b) of this section within the time required, it shall be deemed to have admitted the facts alleged in the notice and may be deemed to have consented to the relief sought.

§ 747.404 Notice of hearing.

(a) Upon receipt of a request for hearing which complies with § 747.403(b), the NCUA Board shall transmit the request to the Office of Financial Institution

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Adjudication (“OFIA”). Such hearing shall commence no earlier than 30 days nor later than 60 days after the date the OFIA receives the request for a hearing, unless an earlier or later date is requested by the Federal credit union concerned and is granted by the NCUA Board in its discretion.

(b) Except as provided in § 747.405(b), the procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 554–557) and subpart A of this part will apply to the hearing.

(c) Unless the Federal credit union shall appear at such hearing by a duly authorized representative it shall be deemed to have consented to the suspension or revocation of its charter and to the placing of said credit union into involuntary liquidation.

§ 747.405 Issuance of order.

(a) In the event of such consent as referred to in § 747.403(c) or § 747.404(c), or if upon the record made at any such hearing as referred to in § 747.403(b), the NCUA Board finds that the charter of the Federal credit union concerned should be suspended or revoked and the credit union closed and placed into involuntary liquidation, it shall cause to be served on such credit union an order directing the suspension or revocation of its charter and directing that it be closed and placed into involuntary liquidation. Such order shall contain a statement of the findings upon which the order is based. Additionally, the NCUA Board shall appoint a liquidating agent or agents.

(b) The NCUA Board shall render its decision and cause such order to be served not later than 45 days after receipt of consent, or written submissions as the case may be, or in the case of a formal hearing after service or the notice of submission referred to in § 747.40(a).

(c) Upon the receipt of a copy of the order which provides that the Federal credit union concerned be placed into involuntary liquidation, the officers and directors of that Federal credit union shall immediately deliver to the agent for the liquidating agent possession and control of all books, records, assets, and property of every description of the Federal credit union, and the agent for the liquidating agent

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shall proceed to convert said assets to cash, collect all debts due to said Federal credit union and to wind up its affairs in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992]

§ 747.406 Cancellation of charter.

Upon the completion of the liquidation and certification by the agent for the liquidating agent that the distribution of the assets of the Federal credit union has been completed, the NCUA Board shall cancel the charter of the Federal credit union concerned.

Subpart F—Local Rules and Procedures Applicable to Proceedings Relating to the Termination of Membership in the Central Liquidity Facility [Reserved]

Subpart G—Local Rules and Procedures Applicable to Recovery of Attorneys Fees and Other Expenses Under the Equal Access To Justice Act in NCUA Board Adjudications

§ 747.601 Purpose and scope.

This subpart contains the regulations of the NCUA implementing the Equal Access to Justice Act (5 U.S.C. 504), as amended (“EAJA”). The EAJA provides for the award of attorneys fees and other expenses to eligible individuals and entities who are parties to proceedings conducted under this part. An eligible party may receive an award when it prevails over NCUA in a proceeding, or in a significant and discrete substantive portion of the proceeding, unless the position of the NCUA was substantially justified or special circumstances make an award unjust. The rules in this subpart describe the parties eligible for fee awards, explain how to apply for awards and the procedures and standards that NCUA will use to make them. To the extent a rule or procedure set forth in subpart A of this part is inconsistent with a rule or procedure set forth in this subpart G, subpart G will control.

§ 747.602 Eligibility of applicants.

(a) To be eligible for an award of attorneys fees and expenses, an applicant must be a prevailing party in the proceeding for which it seeks an award and must be:

(1) An individual with a net worth of not more than \$2 million;

(2) The sole owner of an unincorporated business who has a net worth of not more than \$7 million, including both personal and business interests and not more than 500 employees at the time the proceeding was commenced (an applicant who owns an unincorporated business will be considered as an “individual” rather than a “sole owner of an unincorporated business” if the issues on which the applicant prevails are related primarily to personal interests rather than to business interests);

(3) A charitable or other tax-exempt organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)) with not more than 500 employees;

(4) A cooperative association as defined in section 15(a) of the Agricultural Marketing Act (12 U.S.C. 1141j(a)) with not more than 500 employees; or

(5) Any other partnership, corporation, association, or public or private organization with a net worth of not more than \$7 million and not more than 500 employees.

(b) For the purpose of determining eligibility, the net worth of an applicant and the number of employees of an applicant shall be determined as of the date the proceeding was initiated.

(c) The applicant’s net worth includes the value of any assets disposed of for the purpose of meeting an eligibility standard and excludes any obligations incurred for this purpose. Transfers of assets or obligations incurred for less than reasonably equivalent value will be presumed to have been made for this purpose.

(d) The employees of an applicant include all persons who regularly perform services for remuneration for the applicant, under the applicant’s direction and control; part-time employees shall be included on a proportional basis.

(e) The net worth and number of employees of the applicant and all of its

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affiliates shall be aggregated to determine eligibility. Any individual, corporation or other entity that directly or indirectly controls or owns a majority of the voting shares or other interest of the applicant, or any corporation or other entity of which the applicant directly or indirectly owns or controls a majority of the voting shares or other interest, will be considered an affiliate for purposes of this subpart, unless the NCUA Board determines that such treatment would be unjust and contrary to the purposes of the EAJA in light of the actual relationship between the affiliated entities. In addition, the NCUA board may determine that financial relationships of the applicant other than those described in this paragraph constitute special circumstances that would make an award unjust.

(f) An applicant that participates in a proceeding primarily on behalf of one or more other persons or entities that would be ineligible is not itself eligible for an award.

§ 747.603 Prevailing party.

An eligible applicant may be a “prevailing party” if the applicant wins an action after a full hearing or trial on the merits, if a settlement of the proceeding was effected on terms favorable to it, or if the proceeding against it has been dismissed. In appropriate situations an applicant may also have prevailed if the outcome of the proceeding has substantially vindicated the applicant’s position on the significant substantive matters at issue, even though the applicant has not totally avoided adverse final action.

§ 747.604 Standards for award.

(a) A prevailing party may receive an award for fees and expenses incurred in connection with a proceeding, or in a significant and discrete substantive portion of the proceeding, by or against NCUA unless the position of NCUA during the proceeding was substantially justified. The burden of proving that an award should not be made is on counsel for NCUA. To avoid an award, counsel for NCUA must show that its position was reasonable in law and in fact.

(b) An award will be reduced or denied if the applicant has unduly or un-

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reasonably protracted the proceeding or if special circumstances make the award sought unjust.

(c) Where an applicant has prevailed on one or more discrete substantive issues in a proceeding, even though all the issues were not resolved in its favor, any award shall be based on the fees and expenses incurred in connection with the discrete significant substantive issue or issues on which the applicant’s position has been upheld. If such segregation of costs is not practicable, the award may be based on a fair proration of those fees and expenses incurred in the entire proceeding which would be recoverable under this section if proration were not performed.

(d) Whether separate or prorated treatment under the preceding paragraph, including the applicable proration percentage, is appropriate shall be determined on the facts of the particular case. Attention shall be given to the significance and nature of the respective issues and their separability and interrelationship.

§ 747.605 Allowable fees and expenses.

(a) Except as provided by § 747.604(b), awards will be based on rates customarily charged by persons engaged in the business of acting as attorneys, agents and expert witnesses, even if the services were made available without charge or at a reduced rate.

(b) No award under this subpart for the fee of an attorney or agent may exceed \$75.00 per hour. No award to compensate an expert witness may exceed the highest rate at which NCUA is permitted to pay expert witnesses. However, an award may also include the reasonable expenses of the attorney, agent or witness as a separate item, if the attorney, agent or witness ordinarily charges clients separately for such expenses.

(c) In determining the reasonableness of the fee sought for an attorney, agent, or expert witness, the NCUA Board shall consider the following:

(1) If the attorney, agent, or expert witness is in private practice, his or her customary fee for like services, or, if he or she is an employee of the applicant, the fully allocated cost of the services;

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(2) The prevailing rate for similar services in the community in which the attorney, agent, or expert witness ordinarily performs services;

(3) The time actually spent in the representation of the applicant;

(4) Such other factors as may bear on the value of the services provided.

(d) The reasonable cost of any study, analysis, report, test, project, or similar matter prepared on behalf of the party may be awarded to the extent that the charge for the service does not exceed the prevailing rate for similar services, and the study or other matter was necessary for preparation of the applicant's case.

§ 747.606 Contents of application.

(a) A prevailing eligible party, as defined in §§ 747.602, 747.603, and 747.604, seeking an award under this section, must file an application for an award of fees and expenses with the Secretary of the NCUA Board. The application shall include the following information:

(1) The identity of the applicant and the proceeding for which an award is sought;

(2) A showing that the applicant has prevailed and an identification of the issues in the proceeding on which the applicant believes that the position of NCUA was not substantially justified;

(3) A statement, with supporting documentation, that the applicant is an eligible party, as defined by § 747.602. If the applicant is an individual, he or she must state that his or her net worth does not exceed \$2 million. If the applicant is not an individual, it shall state the number of its employees and that its net worth does not exceed \$7 million as of the date the proceeding was initiated. However, an applicant may omit a statement of net worth if:

(i) It attaches a copy of a ruling by the Internal Revenue Service that it qualifies as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)) or, in the case of a tax-exempt organization not required to obtain a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service on its exempt status, a statement that describes the basis for the applicant's belief that it qualifies under such section; or

(ii) It states that it is a cooperative association as defined in section 15(a)

of the Agricultural Marketing Act (12 U.S.C. 1141j(a));

(4) A Statement of the amount of fees and expenses for which an award is sought; and

(5) Any other matters that the applicant believes may assist or wishes the NCUA Board to consider in determining whether and in what amount an award should be made.

(b) The application shall be signed by the applicant or an authorized officer or attorney of the applicant. It shall also contain or be accompanied by a written verification under oath or under penalty of perjury that the information provided in the application is true and correct.

(c) The application and documentation requirements of this subpart are required by law as a prerequisite to obtaining a benefit under the EAJA and this subpart.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992]

§ 747.607 Statement of net worth.

(a) Each applicant (other than a qualified tax exempt organization or cooperative association) must provide a detailed statement showing the net worth of the applicant and any affiliates, as defined in § 747.602(a), when the proceeding was initiated. The exhibit may be in any form convenient to the applicant that provides full disclosure of the applicant's and its affiliates' assets and liabilities and is sufficient to determine whether the applicant is an eligible party. The administrative law judge or the NCUA Board may require additional information from the applicant to determine eligibility. Unless otherwise ordered by the Board or required by law, the statement shall be kept confidential and used by the NCUA Board only in making its determination of an award.

(b) If the applicant or any of its affiliates is a Federal credit union, the portion of the statement of net worth which relates to the Federal credit union shall consist of a copy of the Federal credit union's last Statement of Financial Condition filed before the initiation of the underlying proceeding.

(c) All statements of net worth shall describe any transfers of assets from or

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obligations incurred by the applicant or any affiliate, occurring in the six-month period prior to the date on which the proceeding was initiated, which reduced the net worth of the applicant and its affiliates below the applicable net-worth ceiling. If there were none, the applicant shall so state.

§ 747.608 Documentation of fees and expenses.

The application shall be accompanied by full documentation of the fees and expenses, including the cost of any study, analysis, audit, test, project or similar matter, for which an award is sought. A separate itemized statement shall be submitted for each professional firm or individual whose services are covered by the application, showing hours spent in connection with the proceeding by each individual, a description of the specific services performed, the rate at which each fee has been computed, any expenses for which reimbursement is sought, the total amount claimed, and the total amount paid or payable by the applicant or by any other person or entity for the services provided. The administrative law judge or the NCUA Board may require the applicant to provide vouchers, receipts, or other substantiation for any expenses claimed.

§ 747.609 Filing and service of applications.

(a) An application may be filed whenever the applicant has prevailed in the proceeding or in a significant and discrete substantive portion of the proceeding, but in no case later than 30 days after the Board's final disposition of the proceeding.

(b) If review or reconsideration is sought or taken of a decision on which an applicant believes it has prevailed, proceedings for the award of fees shall be stayed pending final disposition of the underlying controversy.

(c) As used in this subpart, final disposition means the issuance of a final order or any other final resolution of a proceeding, such as a settlement or voluntary dismissal.

(d) Any application for an award of fees and expenses shall be filed with the Secretary of the Board, National Credit Union Administration, 1775

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Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3428. Any application for an award and any other pleading or document related to an application, shall be filed and served on all parties to the proceeding in the same manner as other pleadings in the proceeding, except as provided in § 747.607(a) for statements of net worth.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991, as amended at 59 FR 36041, July 15, 1994]

§ 747.610 Answer to application.

(a) Within 30 days after service of an application, counsel for NCUA may file an answer to the application. Unless counsel for NCUA requests and is granted an extension of time for filing or files a statement of intent to negotiate under paragraph (b) of this section, failure to file an answer within the 30-day period will be treated as a consent to the award requested.

(b) If counsel for NCUA and the applicant believe that the issues in the fee application can be settled, they may jointly file a statement of their intent to negotiate a settlement. The filing of this statement shall extend the time for filing an answer for an additional 30 days, and further extensions may be granted by the NCUA Board upon the joint request of counsel for NCUA and the applicant.

(c) The answer shall explain in detail any objections to the award requested and identify the facts relied on in support of counsel's position. If the answer is based on any alleged facts not already in the record of the proceeding, counsel shall include with the answer a request for further proceedings under § 747.613.

(d)(1) The applicant may file a reply if counsel for NCUA has addressed in his or her answer any of the following issues:

(i) That the position of NCUA in the proceeding was substantially justified;

(ii) That the applicant unduly protracted the proceedings; or

(iii) That special circumstances make an award unjust.

(2) The reply shall be filed within 15 days after service of the answer. If the reply is based on any alleged facts not already in the record of the proceeding, the applicant shall include with the reply a request for further proceedings under § 747.613.

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§ 747.611 Comments by other parties.

Any party to a proceeding other than the applicant and counsel for NCUA may file comments on an application within 30 days after service of the application or on an answer within 15 days after service of the answer. A commenting party may not participate further in proceedings on the application unless the administrative law judge or the NCUA Board determines that the public interest requires such participation in order to permit full exploration of matters raised in the comment.

§ 747.612 Settlement.

The applicant and counsel for NCUA may agree on a proposed settlement of the award before final action on the application, either in connection with a settlement of the underlying proceeding, or after the underlying proceeding has been concluded, in accordance with NCUA's standard settlement procedure. If a prevailing party and counsel for NCUA agree on a proposed settlement of an award before an application has been filed, the application shall be filed with the proposed settlement.

§ 747.613 Further proceedings.

(a) After the expiration of the time allowed for the filing of all documents necessary for the determination of a recommended fee award, the NCUA Board shall transmit the entire record to the administrative law judge who presided at the underlying proceeding. Ordinarily, the determination of an award will be made on the basis of the written record. However, on request of either the applicant or counsel for NCUA, or on its own initiative, the administrative law judge or the NCUA Board may order further proceedings, such as an informal conference, oral argument, additional written submissions or an evidentiary hearing. Such further proceedings shall be held only when necessary for full and fair resolution of the issues arising from the application, and shall be conducted as promptly as possible.

(b) A request that the administrative law judge or the NCUA Board order further proceedings under this section shall specifically identify the informa-

tion sought or the disputed issues and shall explain why the additional proceedings are necessary to resolve the issues.

§ 747.614 Recommended decision.

The administrative law judge shall file a recommended decision on the application with the NCUA Board within 60 days after completion of the proceedings on the application. The recommended decision shall include written findings and conclusions on the applicant's eligibility and status as a prevailing party, and an explanation of the reasons for any difference between the amount requested and the amount awarded. The recommended decision shall also include, if at issue, findings on whether NCUA's position was substantially justified, whether the applicant unduly protracted the proceedings, or whether special circumstances make an award unjust. If the applicant has sought an award against more than one agency, the recommended decision shall allocate responsibility for payment of any award made among the agencies, and shall explain the reasons for the allocation made. The administrative law judge shall file with and certify to the NCUA Board the record of the proceeding on the fee application, the recommended decision and proposed order. Promptly upon such filing, the NCUA Board shall serve upon each party to the proceeding a copy of the administrative law judge's recommended decision, findings, conclusions and proposed order. The provisions of this section and § 747.613 shall not apply, however, in any case where the hearing was held before the NCUA Board.

§ 747.615 Decision of the NCUA Board.

Within 15 days after service of the recommended decision, findings, conclusions, and proposed order, the applicant or counsel for NCUA may file with the NCUA Board written exceptions thereto. A supporting brief may also be filed. The NCUA Board shall render its decision within 60 days after the matter is submitted to it. The NCUA Board shall furnish copies of its decision and order to the parties. Judicial review of the NCUA Board's final decision and

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order may be obtained as provided in 5 U.S.C. 504(c)(2).

§ 747.616 Payment of award.

An applicant seeking payment of an award granted by the NCUA Board shall submit to the NCUA's Office of the Controller a copy of the NCUA Board's Final Decision and Order granting the award, accompanied by a statement that it will not seek review of the decision and order in the United States court. All submissions shall be addressed to the Office of the Controller, National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3428. The NCUA will pay the amount awarded within 60 days after receiving the applicant's statement, unless judicial review of the award or of the underlying decision of the adversary adjudication has been sought by the applicant or any other party to the proceeding.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991, as amended at 59 FR 36041, July 15, 1994]

Subpart H—Local Rules and Procedures Applicable to Investigations

§ 747.701 Applicability.

The rules in this subpart apply only to informal and formal investigations conducted by the NCUA Board itself or its delegates. They do not apply to adjudicative or rulemaking proceedings or to routine, periodic or special examinations conducted by the NCUA Board's staff.

§ 747.702 Information obtained in investigations.

Information and documents obtained by the Board in the course of any investigation, unless made a matter of public record by the NCUA Board, shall be deemed non-public, but the NCUA Board approves the practice whereby the General Counsel may engage in, and may authorize any person acting on his or her behalf or at his or her direction to engage in, discussions with representatives of domestic or foreign governmental authorities, self-regulatory organizations, and with receivers, trustees, masters and special counsels or special agents appointed by and

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subject to the supervision of the courts of the United States, concerning information obtained in individual investigations, including investigations conducted pursuant to any order entered by the NCUA Board or its General Counsel pursuant to delegated authority.

§ 747.703 Authority to conduct investigations.

(a) The General Counsel and persons acting on his or her behalf and at his or her direction may conduct such investigations into the affairs of any insured credit union or institution-affiliated parties as deemed appropriate to determine whether such credit union or party has violated, is violating or is about to violate any provision of the Act, the NCUA Board's regulations or other relevant statutes or regulations that may bear on a party's fitness to participate in the affairs of a credit union. The General Counsel and persons acting on his or her behalf may investigate whether any party is unfit to participate in the affairs of a credit union, whether formal enforcement proceedings are warranted, or such other matters as the General Counsel or his or her designee, in his or her discretion, shall deem appropriate. Such investigations may be conducted either informally or formally.

(b) Formal investigations involve the exercise of the NCUA Board's subpoena power and are referred to here as formal investigative proceedings. In formal investigative proceedings, the General Counsel and those to whom he or she delegates authority to act on his or her behalf and at his or her direction have augmented investigatory powers and need not rely on the powers available to them in informal investigations, and they may gather evidence through the issuance of subpoenas compelling the production of documents or testimony as well. In informal investigations evidence may be gathered ordinarily through the use of investigatory procedures or credit union examinations and through voluntary statements and submissions.

(c) The NCUA Board has delegated authority to the General Counsel, or designee thereof, to institute formal investigative proceedings by the entry

of an order indicating the purpose of the investigation and the designation of persons to conduct that investigation on his or her behalf and at his or her direction. This delegation also extends to the NCUA Board's role as liquidator and conservator of insured credit unions. The power to issue a subpoena may not be delegated outside the agency. The General Counsel may amend such order as he deems appropriate.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992]

Subpart I—Local Rules Applicable to Formal Investigative Proceedings

§ 747.801 Applicability.

The rules in this subpart are applicable to a witness who is sworn in a formal investigative proceeding. Formal investigative proceedings may be held before the NCUA Board, before one or more of its members, or before any officer designated by the NCUA Board or its General Counsel, as described in subpart H of this part, and with or without the assistance of such other counsel as the NCUA Board deems appropriate, for the purpose of taking testimony of witnesses, conducting an investigation and receiving other evidence. The term "officer conducting the investigation" shall mean any of the foregoing.

§ 747.802 Non-public formal investigative proceedings.

Unless otherwise ordered by the NCUA Board, all formal investigative proceedings shall be non-public.

§ 747.803 Subpoenas.

(a) *Issuance.* In the course of a formal investigative proceeding the officer conducting the investigation may issue a subpoena directing the party named therein to appear before the officer conducting the investigation at a specified time and place to testify or to produce documentary evidence, or both, relating to any matter under investigation.

(b) *Service.* Service of subpoenas shall be effected in the following manner:

(1) *Service upon a natural party.* Delivery of a copy of a subpoena to a natural person may be effected by—

- (i) Handling it to the person;
- (ii) Leaving it at his or her office with the person in charge thereof or, if there is no one in charge, by leaving it at a conspicuous place there;
- (iii) Leaving it at his or her dwelling place or usual place of abode with some person of suitable age and discretion who is found there; or

(iv) Mailing it by registered or certified mail to him or her at his or her last known address. In the event that personal service as described in this paragraph is impracticable, any other method whereby actual notice is given to the respondent may be employed.

(2) *Service upon other persons.* When the person to be served is not a natural person, delivery of a copy of the subpoena may be effected by—

(i) Handing it to a registered agent for service, or to any officer, director, or agent in charge of any office of such person;

(ii) Mailing it by registered or certified mail to any such representative at his or her last known address; or

(iii) Any other method whereby actual notice is given to any such representative.

(c) *Witness fees and mileage.* Witnesses appearing pursuant to subpoena shall be paid the same fees and mileage that are paid to witnesses in the United States district courts. Any such fees and mileage payments need be paid only upon submission of a properly completed application for reimbursement and in no event need they be paid sooner than 30 days after the appearance of the witness pursuant to subpoena.

(d) *Enforcement.* Whenever it appears to the General Counsel that any person upon whom a subpoena was properly served pursuant to these Rules is refusing to fully comply with the terms of that subpoena, then the General Counsel, in his or her discretion, may apply to the courts of the United States for enforcement of such subpoena.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992]

§ 747.804 Oath; false statements.

At the discretion of the officer conducting the investigation, testimony of a witness may be taken under oath and administered by the officer. Any person making false statements under oath during the course of a formal investigative proceeding is subject to the criminal penalties for perjury in 18 U.S.C. 1621. Any person who knowingly and willfully makes false and fraudulent statements, whether under oath or otherwise, or who falsifies, conceals or covers up any material fact, or submits any false, fictitious or fraudulent information in connection with such a proceeding, is subject to the criminal penalties set forth in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

§ 747.805 Self-incrimination; immunity.

(a) *Self-incrimination.* Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, a witness testifying or otherwise giving information in a formal investigative proceeding may refuse to answer questions on the basis of his or her right against self-incrimination granted by the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

(b) *Immunity.* (1) No officer conducting any formal investigative proceeding (or any other informal investigation or examination) shall have the power to grant or promise any party any immunity from criminal prosecution under the laws of the United States or of any other jurisdiction.

(2) If the NCUA Board believes that the testimony or other information sought to be obtained from any party may be necessary to the public interest and that party has refused or is likely to refuse to testify or provide other information on the basis of his or her privilege against self-incrimination, the NCUA Board, with the approval of the Attorney General, may issue an order requiring the party to give testimony or provide other information that he or she has previously refused to provide on the basis of self-incrimination.

(3) Whenever a witness refuses, on the basis of his privilege against self-incrimination, to testify or provide other information in a formal investigative proceeding, and the officer conducting the investigation communicates to that person an order of the

NCUA Board requiring him or her to testify or provide other information, the witness may not refuse to comply with the order on the basis of his or her privilege against self-incrimination; but no testimony or other information compelled under the order (or any information directly or indirectly derived from such testimony or other information) may be used against the witness in any criminal case, except a prosecution for perjury, giving a false statement, or otherwise failing to comply with the order.

§ 747.806 Transcripts.

Transcripts, if any, of formal investigative proceedings shall be recorded solely by the official reporter, or by any other person or means designated by the officer conducting the investigation. A party who has submitted documentary evidence or testimony in a formal investigative proceeding shall be entitled, upon written request, to procure a copy of his or her documentary evidence or a transcript of his or her testimony on payment of the appropriate fees; provided, however, that in a non-public formal investigative proceeding the NCUA Board may for good cause deny such request or the NCUA Board may place reasonable limitations upon the use of the documentary evidence and transcript. In any event, any witness, upon proper identification, shall have the right to inspect the official transcript of the witness's own testimony.

§ 747.807 Rights of witnesses.

(a) In the event that a formal investigative proceeding is conducted pursuant to a specific order entered by the NCUA Board or by its General Counsel, then any party who is compelled or requested to provide documentary evidence or testimony as part of such proceeding shall, upon request, be shown a copy of the NCUA Board's or its delegate's order. Copies of such orders shall not be provided for their retention to such persons requesting same except in the sole discretion of the General Counsel or his designee.

(b) Any party compelled to appear, or who appears by request or permission

of the officer conducting the investigation, in person at a formal investigative proceeding may be accompanied, represented and advised by counsel who is a member of the bar of the highest court of any state; provided however, that all witnesses in such proceeding shall be sequestered, and unless permitted in the discretion of the officer conducting the investigation, no witness or the counsel accompanying any such witness shall be permitted to be present during the examination of any other witness called in such proceeding.

(c)(1) The right of a witness to be accompanied, represented and advised by counsel shall mean the right to have an attorney present during any formal investigative proceeding and to have the attorney—

(i) Advise such person before, during and after such testimony;

(ii) Question such person briefly at the conclusion of his testimony to clarify any answers such person has given; and

(iii) Make summary notes during such testimony solely for the use of such person.

(2) From time to time, in the discretion of the officer, it shall be necessary for persons other than the witness and his or her counsel to attend non-public investigative proceedings. For example, the officer may deem it appropriate that outside counsel to the NCUA Board attend and advise him or her concerning the proceeding including the examination of a particular witness. In these circumstances, outside counsel would not be an officer as that term is used. In other circumstances, it may be appropriate that a technical expert (such as an accountant) accompany the witness and his or her counsel in order to assist counsel in understanding technical issues. These latter circumstances should be rare, are left to the discretion of the officer conducting the investigation, and shall not in any event be allowed to serve as a ruse to coordinate testimony between witnesses, to oversee or supervise the testimony of any witnesses, or otherwise defeat the beneficial effects of the witness sequestration rule.

(d) The officer conducting the investigation may report to the NCUA

Board any instances where any witness or counsel has been guilty of dilatory, obstructionist or contumacious conduct during the course of a formal investigative proceeding or any other instance of violations of these rules. The NCUA Board will thereupon take such further action as the circumstance may warrant including barring the offending person from further participation in the particular formal investigative proceeding or even from further practice before the Board.

Subpart J—Local Procedures and Standards Applicable to a Notice of Change in Senior Executive Officers, Directors of Committee Members Pursuant to Section 212 of the Act

§ 747.901 Scope.

The rules and procedures set forth in this subpart shall apply to the notice filed by a credit union pursuant to section 212 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1790a) and § 701.14 of this chapter, for the consent of the NCUA to add to or replace an individual on the board of directors or supervisory or credit committee, or to employ any individual as a senior executive officer or change the responsibilities of any individual to a position of senior executive officer where the credit union either has been chartered less than 2 years; or is in “troubled condition,” as defined in § 701.14 of this chapter. Subpart A of this part shall not apply to any proceeding under this subpart.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992, as amended at 60 FR 31911, June 19, 1995]

§ 747.902 Grounds for disapproval of notice.

The NCUA Board or its designee may issue a notice of disapproval with respect to a notice submitted by a credit union pursuant to section 212 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1790a) and § 701.14 of this chapter, where the competence, experience character or integrity of the individual with respect to whom such notice is submitted indicates that it would not be in the best interest of the members of the credit union or the public to permit the individual to be

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employed by or associated with, such credit union.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992, as amended at 60 FR 31911, June 19, 1995]

§ 747.903 Procedures where notice of disapproval issued; reconsideration.

(a) The notice of disapproval shall be served upon the federally insured credit union and the candidate for director, committee member or senior executive officer. The notice of disapproval shall:

(1) Summarize or cite the relevant consideration specified in § 747.902;

(2) Inform the individual and the credit union that, within 15 days of receipt of the notice of disapproval, they can request reconsideration by the Regional Director of the initial determination, or can appeal the determination directly to the NCUA Board;

(3) Specify what additional information, if any, must be considered in the reconsideration.

(b) The request for reconsideration by the Regional Director must be filed at the appropriate Regional Office.

(c) The Regional Director shall act on a request for reconsideration within 30 days of its receipt.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992]

§ 747.904 Appeal.

(a) *Time for filing.* Within 15 days after issuance of a Notice of Disapproval or a determination on a request for reconsideration by the Regional Director, the individual or credit union (henceforth petitioner) may appeal by filing with the NCUA Board a written request for appeal.

(b) *Contents of request.* Any appeal must be in writing and include:

(1) The reasons why the NCUA Board should review the disapproval; and

(2) Relevant, substantive and material facts that for good cause were not previously set forth in the notice required to be filed pursuant to section 212 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1790a) and § 701.14 of this chapter.

(c) *Procedures for review of request.* Within 30 days of the NCUA Board's receipt of an appeal, the NCUA Board may request in writing that the petitioner submit additional facts and records to support the appeal. The petitioner shall have 15 days from the date

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of issuance of such written request to provide such additional information. Failure by the petitioner to provide additional information may, as determined solely by the NCUA Board or its designee, result in denial of the petitioner's appeal.

(d) *Determination on appeal by NCUA Board or its designee.* (1) Within 90 days from the date of the receipt of an appeal by the NCUA Board or its designee or of its receipt of additional information requested under paragraph (c) of this section, the NCUA Board or its designee shall notify the petitioner whether the disapproval will be continued, terminated, or otherwise modified. The NCUA Board or its designee shall promptly rescind or modify the notice of disapproval where the decision is favorable to the petitioner.

(2) The determination by the NCUA Board on the appeal shall be provided to the petitioner in writing, stating the basis for any decision of the NCUA Board or its designee that is adverse to the petitioner, and shall constitute a final order of the NCUA Board.

(3) Failure by the NCUA Board to issue a determination on the petitioner's appeal within the 90-day period prescribed under paragraph (d)(1) of this section shall be deemed a denial of the appeal for purpose of § 747.905.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 523, Jan. 7, 1992, as amended at 60 FR 31911, June 19, 1995]

§ 747.905 Judicial review.

(a) Failure to file an appeal within the applicable time periods, either to the initial determination or to the decision on a request for reconsideration, shall constitute a failure by the petitioner to exhaust available administrative remedies and, due to such failure, any objections to the initial determination or request for reconsideration shall be deemed to be waived and such determination shall be deemed to have been accepted by, and shall be binding upon, the petitioner.

(b) For purposes of seeking judicial review of actions taken pursuant to this section, suit may be filed in the United States District Court for the district where the requester resides, for the district where the credit union's

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principal place of business is located, or for the District of Columbia.

[56 FR 37767, Aug. 8, 1991; 57 FR 524, Jan. 7, 1992]

Subpart K—Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties

§ 747.1001 Adjustment of civil money penalties by the rate of inflation pursuant to section 31001(s) of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321-358 (28 U.S.C. 2461 note)).

(a) A first tier civil money penalty imposed pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1786(k)(2)(A), for a violation occurring after October 23, 1996, shall not exceed \$5,500 per day for each day the violation continues.

(b) A second tier civil money penalty imposed pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1786(k)(2)(B), for a violation, practice or breach occurring after October 23, 1996, shall not exceed \$27,500 per day for each day the violation, practice or breach continues.

(c) A third tier civil money penalty imposed pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1786(k)(2)(C) upon any person other than an insured credit union, for a violation, practice or breach occurring after October 23, 1996, shall not exceed \$1,100,000 per day for each day the violation, practice or breach continues.

(d) A third tier civil money penalty imposed pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1786(k)(2)(C) upon an insured credit union, for a violation, practice or breach occurring after October 23, 1996, shall not exceed the lesser of—

(1) \$1,100,000 per day for each day the violation, practice or breach continues; or

(2) 1 percent of the total assets of such credit union for each day the violation, practice or breach continues.

[61 FR 57291, Nov. 6, 1996]

PART 748—SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORT; REPORT OF CATASTROPHIC ACT AND BANK SECRECY ACT COMPLIANCE

Sec.

748.0 Security program.

748.1 Filing of reports.

748.2 Bank Secrecy Act compliance programs and procedures.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1766(a), 1786(q); 31 U.S.C. 5311.

§ 748.0 Security program.

(a) Each federally insured credit union will develop a written security program within 90 days of the effective date of insurance.

(b) The security program will be designed to protect each credit union office from robberies, burglaries, larcenies and embezzlement; to prevent destruction of vital records as defined in the *Accounting Manual for Federal Credit Unions*; and to assist in the identification of persons who commit or attempt such crimes.

[50 FR 53295, Dec. 31, 1985, as amended at 53 FR 4845, Feb. 18, 1988]

§ 748.1 Filing of reports.

(a) *Compliance report.* Each federally insured credit union shall file with the regional director an annual statement certifying its compliance with the requirements of this part. The statement shall be dated and signed by the president or other managing officer of the credit union. The statement is contained on the Report of Officials which is submitted annually by federally insured credit unions after the election of officials. In the case of federally insured state-chartered credit unions, this statement can be mailed to the regional director via the state supervisory authority, if desired. In any event, a copy of the statement shall always be sent to the appropriate state supervisory authority.

(b) *Catastrophic act report.* Each federally insured credit union will notify the regional director within 5 business days of any catastrophic act that occurs at its office(s). A catastrophic act is any natural disaster such as a flood, tornado, earthquake, etc., or major fire or other disaster resulting in some physical destruction or damage to the credit union. Within a reasonable time after a catastrophic act occurs, the credit union shall ensure that a record of the incident is prepared and filed at its main office. In the preparation of such record, the credit union should include information sufficient to indicate the office where the catastrophic act

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occurred; when it took place; the amount of the loss, if any; whether any operational or mechanical deficiency(ies) might have contributed to the catastrophic act; and what has been done or is planned to be done to correct the deficiency(ies).

(c) *Suspicious Activity Report.* (1) Each federally-insured credit union will report any crime or suspected crime that occurs at its office(s), utilizing NCUA Form 2362, Suspicious Activity Report (SAR), within thirty calendar days after discovery. Each federally-insured credit union must follow the instructions and reporting requirements accompanying the SAR. Copies of the SAR may be obtained from the appropriate NCUA Regional Office.

(2) Each federally-insured credit union shall maintain a copy of any SAR that it files and the original of all attachments to the report for a period of five years from the date of the report, unless the credit union is informed in writing by the National Credit Union Administration that the materials may be discarded sooner.

(3) Failure to file a SAR in accordance with the instructions accompanying the report may subject the federally-insured credit union, its officers, directors, agents or other institution-affiliated parties to the assessment of civil money penalties or other administrative actions.

(4) Filing of Suspicious Activity Reports will ensure that law enforcement agencies and NCUA are promptly notified of actual or suspected crimes. Information contained on SARs' will be entered into an interagency database and will assist the federal government in taking appropriate action.

[50 FR 53295, Dec. 31, 1985, as amended at 53 FR 26232, July 12, 1988; 58 FR 17492, Apr. 5, 1993; 61 FR 11527, Mar. 21, 1996]

§ 748.2 Bank Secrecy Act compliance programs and procedures.

(a) *Purpose.* This section is issued to ensure that all federally-insured credit unions establish and maintain procedures reasonably designed to assure and monitor compliance with the requirements of subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, the Financial Recordkeeping and Reporting of Currency and Foreign Trans-

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actions Act, and the implementing regulations promulgated thereunder by the Department of Treasury, 31 CFR part 103.

(b) *Compliance Procedures.* On or before August 1, 1987, each federally-insured credit union shall develop and provide for the continued administration of a program reasonably designed to assure and monitor compliance with recordkeeping and reporting requirements set forth in subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, the Financial Recordkeeping and Reporting of Currency and Foreign Transactions Act and the implementing regulations promulgated thereunder by the Department of Treasury, 31 CFR part 103. This program shall be reduced to writing, approved by the board of directors of the institution, and noted in the minutes.

(c) *Contents of compliance program.* Such compliance program shall at a minimum—

(1) Provide for a system of internal controls to assure ongoing compliance;

(2) Provide for independent testing for compliance to be conducted by credit union personnel or outside parties;

(3) Designate an individual responsible for coordinating and monitoring day-to-day compliance; and

(4) Provide training for appropriate personnel.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3133-0094)

[52 FR 2861, Jan. 27, 1987, as amended at 52 FR 8062, Mar. 16, 1987]

PART 749—RECORDS PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Sec.

749.0 Records preservation.

749.1 Implementation.

749.2 Vital records to be stored.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1766, 1783 and 1789.

SOURCE: 55 FR 30212, July 25, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

§ 749.0 Records preservation.

All federally insured credit unions must maintain a records preservation program to identify, store and reconstruct vital records in the event that

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the credit union's records are destroyed.

§ 749.1 Implementation.

The financial officer of the credit union is responsible for storing duplicate vital records at a vital records center. This responsibility may be delegated.

(a) The Records Preservation Program must be operational within 6 months after the credit union's insurance certificate is issued.

(b) The vital records center is defined as any location far enough from the credit union's offices to avoid the simultaneous loss of both sets of records in the event of disaster.

(c) Records must be stored every 3 months, within 30 days after the end of the 3-month period. Previously stored records may be destroyed when the current records are stored.

(d) A records preservation log will be maintained showing what records were stored, where the records were stored, when the records were stored, and who sent the records for storage.

(e) Stored records may be in any format which can be used to reconstruct the credit union's records. Formats include paper originals, machine copies, micro film or fiche, magnetic tape, etc.

(f) Credit unions which have some or all of their records maintained by an off-site data processor are considered to be in compliance for the storage of those records.

§ 749.2 Vital records to be stored.

At least the following records, as of the most recent month-end, must be stored:

(a) A list of share and/or deposit and loan balances for each member's account.

(1) The list of balances will be individually identified by a name or number.

(2) Multiple loans of one account will be listed separately.

(3) Information sufficient to enable the credit union to locate each member, such as address and telephone number, shall also be included, unless the board of directors determines that such information is readily available from another source.

(b) A financial report which lists all of the credit union's asset and liability accounts.

(c) A list of the credit union's banks, insurance policies, and investments. This information may be marked "permanent" and be updated only when changes are made.

PART 760—LOANS IN AREAS HAVING SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARDS

Sec.

760.1 Authority, purpose, and scope.

760.2 Definitions.

760.3 Requirement to purchase flood insurance where available.

760.4 Exemptions.

760.5 Escrow requirement.

760.6 Required use of standard flood hazard determination form.

760.7 Forced placement of flood insurance.

760.8 Determination fees.

760.9 Notice of special flood hazards and availability of Federal disaster relief assistance.

760.10 Notice of servicer's identity.

APPENDIX TO PART 760—SAMPLE FORM OF NOTICE OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARDS AND AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1757, 1789; 42 U.S.C. 4012a, 4104a, 4104b, 4106, and 4128.

SOURCE: 61 FR 45713, Aug. 29, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§ 760.1 Authority, purpose, and scope.

(a) *Authority.* This part is issued pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1757, 1789 and 42 U.S.C. 4012a, 4104a, 4104b, 4106, 4128.

(b) *Purpose.* The purpose of this part is to implement the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4001–4129).

(c) *Scope.* This part, except for §§ 760.6 and 760.8, applies to loans secured by buildings or mobile homes located or to be located in areas determined by the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to have special flood hazards. Sections 760.6 and 760.8 apply to loans secured by buildings or mobile homes, regardless of location.

§ 760.2 Definitions.

(a) *Act* means the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4001–4129).

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(b) *Credit union* means a Federal or State-chartered credit union that is insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

(c) *Building* means a walled and roofed structure, other than a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground and affixed to a permanent site, and a walled and roofed structure while in the course of construction, alteration, or repair.

(d) *Community* means a State or a political subdivision of a State that has zoning and building code jurisdiction over a particular area having special flood hazards.

(e) *Designated loan* means a loan secured by a building or mobile home that is located or to be located in a special flood hazard area in which flood insurance is available under the Act.

(f) *Director of FEMA* means the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(g) *Mobile home* means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, that is built on a permanent chassis and designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when attached to the required utilities. The term *mobile home* does not include a recreational vehicle. For purposes of this part, the term *mobile home* means a mobile home on a permanent foundation. The term *mobile home* means a manufactured home as that term is used in the NFIP.

(h) *NFIP* means the National Flood Insurance Program authorized under the Act.

(i) *Residential improved real estate* means real estate upon which a home or other residential building is located or to be located.

(j) *Servicer* means the person responsible for:

(1) Receiving any scheduled, periodic payments from a borrower under the terms of a loan, including amounts for taxes, insurance premiums, and other charges with respect to the property securing the loan; and

(2) Making payments of principal and interest and any other payments from the amounts received from the borrower as may be required under the terms of the loan.

(k) *Special flood hazard area* means the land in the flood plain within a

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community having at least a one percent chance of flooding in any given year, as designated by the Director of FEMA.

(l) *Table funding* means a settlement at which a loan is funded by a contemporaneous advance of loan funds and an assignment of the loan to the person advancing the funds.

§760.3 Requirement to purchase flood insurance where available.

(a) *In general.* A credit union shall not make, increase, extend, or renew any designated loan unless the building or mobile home and any personal property securing the loan is covered by flood insurance for the term of the loan. The amount of insurance must be at least equal to the lesser of the outstanding principal balance of the designated loan or the maximum limit of coverage available for the particular type of property under the Act. Flood insurance coverage under the Act is limited to the overall value of the property securing the designated loan minus the value of the land on which the property is located.

(b) *Table funded loan.* A credit union that acquires a loan from a mortgage broker or other entity through table funding shall be considered to be making a loan for the purposes of this part.

§760.4 Exemptions.

The flood insurance requirement prescribed by §760.3 does not apply with respect to:

(a) Any State-owned property covered under a policy of self-insurance satisfactory to the Director of FEMA, who publishes and periodically revises the list of States falling within this exemption; or

(b) Property securing any loan with an original principal balance of \$5,000 or less and a repayment term of one year or less.

§760.5 Escrow requirement.

If a credit union requires the escrow of taxes, insurance premiums, fees, or any other charges for a loan secured by *residential* improved real estate or a mobile home that is made, increased, extended, or renewed on or after November 1, 1996, the credit union shall also require the escrow of all premiums

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and fees for any flood insurance required under § 760.3. The credit union, or a servicer acting on behalf of the credit union, shall deposit the flood insurance premiums on behalf of the borrower in an escrow account. This escrow account will be subject to escrow requirements adopted pursuant to section 10 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2609) (RESPA), which generally limits the amount that may be maintained in escrow accounts for certain types of loans and requires escrow account statements for those accounts, only if the loan is otherwise subject to RESPA. Following receipt of a notice from the Director of FEMA or other provider of flood insurance that premiums are due, the credit union, or a servicer acting on behalf of the credit union, shall pay the amount owed to the insurance provider from the escrow account by the date when such premiums are due.

§ 760.6 Required use of standard flood hazard determination form.

(a) *Use of form.* A credit union shall use the standard flood hazard determination form developed by the Director when determining whether the building or mobile home offered as collateral security for a loan is or will be located in a special flood hazard area in which flood insurance is available under the Act. The standard flood hazard determination form may be used in a printed, computerized, or electronic manner. A credit union may obtain the standard flood hazard determination form from FEMA, P.O. Box 2012, Jessup, MD 20794-2012.

(b) *Retention of form.* A credit union shall retain a copy of the completed standard flood hazard determination form, in either hard copy or electronic form, for the period of time the credit union owns the loan.

[61 FR 45713, Aug. 29, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 71274, Dec. 21, 1999]

§ 760.7 Forced placement of flood insurance.

If a credit union, or a servicer acting on behalf of the credit union, determines, at any time during the term of a designated loan that the building or mobile home and any personal property

securing the designated loan is not covered by flood insurance or is covered by flood insurance in an amount less than the amount required under § 760.3, then the credit union or its servicer shall notify the borrower that the borrower should obtain flood insurance, at the borrower's expense, in an amount at least equal to the amount required under § 760.3, for the remaining term of the loan. If the borrower fails to obtain flood insurance within 45 days after notification, then the credit union or its servicer shall purchase insurance on the borrower's behalf. The credit union or its servicer may charge the borrower for the cost of premiums and fees incurred in purchasing the insurance.

§ 760.8 Determination fees.

(a) *General.* Notwithstanding any Federal or State law other than the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4001-4129), any credit union, or a servicer acting on behalf of the credit union, may charge a reasonable fee for determining whether the building or mobile home securing the loan is located or will be located in a special flood hazard area. A determination fee may also include, but is not limited to, a fee for life-of-loan monitoring.

(b) *Borrower fee.* The determination fee authorized by paragraph (a) of this section may be charged to the borrower if the determination:

(1) Is made in connection with a making, increasing, extending, or renewing of the loan that is initiated by the borrower;

(2) Reflects the Director of FEMA's revision or updating of floodplain areas or flood-risk zones;

(3) Reflects the Director of FEMA's publication of a notice or compendium that:

(i) Affects the area in which the building or mobile home securing the loan is located; or

(ii) By determination of the Director of FEMA, may reasonably require a determination whether the building or mobile home securing the loan is located in a special flood hazard area; or

(4) Results in the purchase of flood insurance coverage by the credit union or its servicer on behalf of the borrower under § 760.7.

(c) *Purchaser or transferee fee.* The determination fee authorized by paragraph (a) of this section may be charged to the purchaser or transferee of a loan in the case of the sale or transfer of the loan.

§ 760.9 Notice of special flood hazards and availability of Federal disaster relief assistance.

(a) *Notice requirement.* When a credit union makes, increases, extends, or renews a loan secured by a building or a mobile home located or to be located in a special flood hazard area, the credit union shall mail or deliver a written notice to the borrower and to the servicer in all cases whether or not flood insurance is available under the Act for the collateral securing the loan.

(b) *Contents of notice.* The written notice must include the following information:

(1) A warning, in a form approved by the Director of FEMA, that the building or the mobile home is or will be located in a special flood hazard area;

(2) A description of the flood insurance purchase requirements set forth in section 102(b) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4012a(b));

(3) A statement, where applicable, that flood insurance coverage is available under the NFIP and may also be available from private insurers; and

(4) A statement whether Federal disaster relief assistance may be available in the event of damage to the building or mobile home caused by flooding in a Federally-declared disaster.

(c) *Timing of notice.* The credit union shall provide the notice required by paragraph (a) of this section to the borrower within a reasonable time before the completion of the transaction and to the servicer as promptly as practicable after the credit union provides notice to the borrower and in any event no later than the time the credit union provides other similar notices to the servicer concerning hazard insurance and taxes. Notice to the servicer may be made electronically or may take the form of a copy of the notice to the borrower.

(d) *Record of receipt.* The credit union shall retain a record of the receipt of

the notices by the borrower and the servicer for the period of time the credit union owns the loan.

(e) *Alternate method of notice.* Instead of providing the notice to the borrower required by paragraph (a) of this section, a credit union may obtain satisfactory written assurance from a seller or lessor that, within a reasonable time before the completion of the sale or lease transaction, the seller or lessor has provided such notice to the purchaser or lessee. The credit union shall retain a record of the written assurance from the seller or lessor for the period of time the credit union owns the loan.

(f) *Use of prescribed form of notice.* A credit union will be considered to be in compliance with the requirement for notice to the borrower of this section providing written notice to the borrower containing the language presented in the appendix to this part within a reasonable time before the completion of the transaction. The notice presented in the appendix to this part satisfies the borrower notice requirements of the Act.

§ 760.10 Notice of servicer's identity.

(a) *Notice requirement.* When a credit union makes, increases, extends, renews, sells, or transfers a loan secured by a building or mobile home located or to be located in a special flood hazard area, the credit union shall notify the Director of FEMA (or the Director's designee) in writing of the identity of the servicer of the loan. The Director of FEMA has designated the insurance provider to receive the credit union's notice of the servicer's identity. This notice may be provided electronically if electronic transmission is satisfactory to the Director of FEMA's designee.

(b) *Transfer of servicing rights.* The credit union shall notify the Director of FEMA (or the Director's designee) of any change in the servicer of a loan described in paragraph (a) of this section within 60 days after the effective date of the change. This notice may be provided electronically if electronic transmission is satisfactory to the Director of FEMA's designee. Upon any change in the servicing of a loan described in paragraph (a) of this section, the duty

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to provide notice under this paragraph (b) shall transfer to the transferee servicer.

APPENDIX TO PART 760—SAMPLE FORM OF NOTICE OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARDS AND AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

We are giving you this notice to inform you that:

The building or mobile home securing the loan for which you have applied is or will be located in an area with special flood hazards.

The area has been identified by the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a special flood hazard area using FEMA's *Flood Insurance Rate Map* or the *Flood Hazard Boundary Map* for the following community: . This

area has at least a one percent (1%) chance of a flood equal to or exceeding the base flood elevation (a 100-year flood) in any given year. During the life of a 30-year mortgage loan, the risk of a 100-year flood in a special flood hazard area is 26 percent (26%).

Federal law allows a lender and borrower jointly to request the Director of FEMA to review the determination of whether the property securing the loan is located in a special flood hazard area. If you would like to make such a request, please contact us for further information.

The community in which the property securing the loan is located participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Federal law will not allow us to make you the loan that you have applied for if you do not purchase flood insurance. The flood insurance must be maintained for the life of the loan. If you fail to purchase or

renew flood insurance on the property, Federal law authorizes and requires us to purchase the flood insurance for you at your expense.

- Flood insurance coverage under the NFIP may be purchased through an insurance agent who will obtain the policy either directly through the NFIP or through an insurance company that participates in the NFIP. Flood insurance also may be available from private insurers that do not participate in the NFIP.

- At a minimum, flood insurance purchased must cover *the lesser of*:

- (1) the outstanding principal balance of the loan; or

- (2) the maximum amount of coverage allowed for the type of property under the NFIP.

Flood insurance coverage under the NFIP is limited to the overall value of the property securing the loan minus the value of the land on which the property is located.

- Federal disaster relief assistance (usually in the form of a low-interest loan) may be available for damages incurred in excess of your flood insurance if your community's participation in the NFIP is in accordance with NFIP requirements.

Flood insurance coverage under the NFIP is not available for the property securing the loan because the community in which the property is located does not participate in the NFIP. In addition, if the non-participating community has been identified for at least one year as containing a special flood hazard area, properties located in the community will not be eligible for Federal disaster relief assistance in the event of a Federally-declared flood disaster.

SUBCHAPTER B—REGULATIONS AFFECTING THE OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

PART 790—DESCRIPTION OF NCUA; REQUESTS FOR AGENCY ACTION

Sec.

790.1 Scope.

790.2 Central and regional office organization.

790.3 Requests for action.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1766, 1789, 1795f.

SOURCE: 58 FR 45431, Aug. 30, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

§ 790.1 Scope.

This part contains a description of NCUA's organization and the procedures for public requests for action by the Board. Part 790 pertains to the practices of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) only and does not apply to credit union operations.

§ 790.2 Central and regional office organization.

(a) *General organization.* NCUA is composed of the Board with a Central Office in Alexandria, Virginia, six Regional Offices, the Asset Management and Assistance Center, the Community Development Revolving Loan Program, and the NCUA Central Liquidity Facility (CLF).

(b) *Central Office.* The Central Office address is NCUA, 1775 Duke St., Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3428.

(1) *The NCUA Board.* NCUA is managed by its Board. The Board consists of three members appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for six-year terms. One Board member is designated by the President to be Chairman of the Board. The Chairman shall be the spokesman for the Board and shall represent the Board and the NCUA in its official relations with other branches of the government. A second member is designated by the Board to be Vice-Chairman. The Board is also responsible for management of the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) and serves as the Board of Directors of the CLF.

(2) *Secretary of the Board.* The Secretary of the Board is responsible for the secretarial functions of the Board. The Secretary's responsibilities include preparing agendas for meetings of the Board, preparing and maintaining the minutes for all official actions taken by the Board, and executing and maintaining all documents adopted by the Board or under its direction. The Secretary also serves as the Secretary of the CLF.

(3) *Office of Administration.* The Director of the Office of Administration is responsible for providing NCUA's executive offices and Regional Directors with administrative services generally, including: Agency security; information resources management; contracting and procurement; contract management; management of equipment and supplies; acquisition; records management; printing and graphics; and warehousing and distribution. The Director is also responsible for carrying out the Board's responsibilities under the Privacy Act, the Paperwork Reduction Act, and in directing NCUA responses to reporting requirements.

(4) *Asset Management and Assistance Center.* The President of the Asset Management and Assistance Center (AMAC) is responsible for monitoring, evaluating, disposing, and/or managing major assets acquired by NCUA; responsible for managing involuntary liquidations for all federally insured credit unions placed into involuntary liquidation including the orderly processing of payments of share insurance, sale and/or collection of loan portfolios, liquidation of other assets and achieving other recoveries, payments to creditors, and distributions to any uninsured shareholders. The President, AMAC, serves as a primary consultant with regional offices on asset sales or purchases to restructure problem case credit unions, as technical expert to evaluate specific areas of credit union operations, and as instructor in training classes; responsible to prepare and negotiate bond claims; responsible to

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manage or assist in the management of conservatorships. The address of AMAC is 4807 Spicewood Springs Road, Suite 5100, Austin, Texas 78759-8490.

(5) *Office of Chief Financial Officer.* NCUA's chief financial officer is in charge of budgetary, accounting and financial matters for the NCUA, including responsibility for submitting annual budget and staffing requests for approval by the Board and, as required, by the Office of Management and Budget; for managing NCUA's budgetary resources; for managing the operations of the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) to include accounting, financial reporting and the collection and payment of capitalization deposits, insurance premiums and insurance dividends; for collecting annual operating fees from federal credit unions, for maintaining NCUA's accounting system and accounting records; for processing payroll, travel, and accounts payable disbursements; and for preparing internal and external financial reports.

(6) *Office of Examination and Insurance.* (i) The Director of the Office of Examination and Insurance: Formulates standards and procedures for examination and supervision of the community of federally insured credit unions, and reports to the Board on the performance of the examination program; manages the risk to the NCUSIF, to include overseeing the NCUSIF Investment Committee, monitoring the adequacy of NCUSIF reserves, analyzing the reasons for NCUSIF losses, formulating policies and procedures regarding the supervision of financially troubled credit unions, and evaluating certain requests for special assistance pursuant to Section 208 of the Federal Credit Union Act and for certain proposed administrative actions regarding federally-insured credit unions; serves as the Board expert on accounting principles and standards and on auditing standards; represents NCUA at meetings with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) and General Accounting Office (GAO); and collects data and provides statistical reports. The Director is also responsible for de-

veloping and conducting research in support of NCUA programs, and for preparing reports on research activities for the information and use of agency staff, credit union officials, state credit union supervisory authorities, and other governmental and private groups.

(ii) *NCUA Central Liquidity Facility (CLF).* The CLF was created to improve general financial stability by providing funds to meet the liquidity needs of credit unions. It is a mixed-ownership government corporation under the Government Corporation Control Act (31 U.S.C. 9101 *et seq.*). The CLF is managed by the President, under the general supervision of the NCUA Board which serves as the CLF Board of Directors. The Chairman of the NCUA Board serves as the Chairman of the CLF Board of Directors. The Secretary of the NCUA Board serves as the Secretary of the CLF Board of Directors. The NCUA Board shall appoint the CLF President and Vice President.

(7) *Office of the Executive Director.* The Executive Director reports to the entire NCUA Board. The Executive Director translates NCUA Board policy decisions into workable programs, delegates responsibility for these programs to appropriate staff members, and coordinates the activities of the senior executive staff, which includes: The General Counsel; the Regional Directors; and the Office Directors for Administration, Chief Financial Officer, Examination and Insurance, Human Resources, Technology and Information Systems, and Public and Congressional Affairs. Because of the nature of the attorney/client relationship between the Board and General Counsel, the General Counsel may be directed by the Board not to disclose discussions and/or assignments with anyone, including the Executive Director. The Executive Director is otherwise to be privy to all matters within senior executive staff's responsibility.

(8) *Office of General Counsel.* The General Counsel reports to the entire NCUA Board. The General Counsel has overall responsibility for all legal matters affecting NCUA and for liaison with the Department of Justice. The General Counsel represents NCUA in

all litigation and administrative hearings when such direct representation is permitted by law and, in other instances, assists the attorneys responsible for the conduct of such litigation. The General Counsel also provides NCUA with legal advice and opinions on all matters of law, and the public with interpretations of the Federal Credit Union Act, the NCUA Rules and Regulations, and other NCUA Board directives. The Office has responsibility for processing Freedom of Information Act requests and appeals. The General Counsel has responsibility for the drafting, reviewing, and publication of all items which appear in the FEDERAL REGISTER, including rules, regulations, and notices required by law.

(9) *The Office of Human Resources.* The Office of Human Resources provides a comprehensive program for the management of NCUA's human resources. This is done in support of NCUA's goal to recruit, develop, and retain a quality and representative workforce. The Director is responsible for managing NCUA's compensation program, for facilitating good organization design, for staffing positions through recruitment and merit promotion programs, and for maintaining an automated personnel records system. The Director is also responsible for the Board's performance management, incentive awards, employee assistance, and benefit programs. These programs are geared to foster healthy employee/management relations and to provide employees with good working conditions.

(10) *Office of Technology and Information Services.* The Director of the Office of Technology and Information Services has responsibility for the management and administration of NCUA's information resources. This includes the development, maintenance, operation, and support of information systems which directly support the Agency's mission, maintaining and operating the Agency's information processing infrastructure, responding to requests for releasable Agency information, and insuring all related material security and integrity risks are recognized and controlled as much as possible.

(11) *Office of the Inspector General.* The Inspector General reports directly to the Board and provides semi-annual

reports regarding audit and investigation activities to the Board and the Congress. The Inspector General is responsible for: (a) Conducting independent audits and investigations of all NCUA programs and functions to promote efficiency; (b) reviewing policies and procedures to evaluate controls to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse; and (c) reviewing existing and proposed legislation and regulations to evaluate their impact on the economic and efficient administration of the Agency.

(12) *Office of Public and Congressional Affairs.* The Director of the Office of Public Congressional Affairs is responsible for maintaining NCUA's relationship with the public and the media; for liaison with the U.S. Congress, and with other Executive Branch agencies concerning legislative matters; and for the analysis and development of legislative proposals and public affairs programs.

(13) *Office of Community Development Credit Unions.* This Office is responsible for coordinating NCUA policy as it relates to community development credit unions, including those credit unions designated as "low-income." The Office administers the Community Development Revolving Loan Program for Credit Unions (Program). This Program was funded from a congressional appropriation and serves as a loan and technical assistance vehicle for low-income credit unions. The Office Director serves as Program Chairman and authorizes loans and technical assistance to participating credit unions. The Program is governed by part 705 of subchapter A of this chapter.

(14) *Office of Investment Services.* The Office of Investment Services is responsible for providing investment expertise and advice to the Board and agency staff. A working relationship is maintained with the financial marketplace to develop resources available to the NCUA and keep abreast of product initiatives. The NCUA Investment Hotline housed in this Office is a toll-free number that is available to examiners, credit unions, and financial product vendors to ask investment related questions. The Hotline provides NCUA an opportunity to be aware of current investment issues as they arise in credit unions and has permitted NCUA to

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become proactive, rather than reactive, to such issues. In addition, investment officers advise agency management on the purchase of authorized investments for the NCUSIF and the CLF.

(15) *Office of Training and Development.* This Office provides a comprehensive program for the training and development of NCUA's staff. The Office is responsible for developing policy, consistent with the Government Employees Training Act, related to its training program; for providing training opportunities equitably so that all employees have the skills necessary to help meet the agency's mission; for evaluating the agency's training and development efforts; and for ensuring that the agency's training monies are spent in a cost efficient manner and in accordance with the law.

(16) *Office of Corporate Credit Unions.* The Director, Office of Corporate Credit Unions, manages NCUA's corporate credit union program in accordance with established policies and the corporate regulation. The Director's duties include directing chartering, examination and supervision programs to promote and assure safety and soundness; managing NCUA's corporate resources to meet program objectives in the most economical and practical manner; and maintaining good public relations with public, private and governmental organizations, corporate credit union officials, credit union organizations, and other groups which have an interest in corporate credit union matters.

(c) *Regional offices.* (1) NCUA's programs are conducted through six regional offices:

Region No.	Area within region	Office address
I	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont.	9 Washington Square, Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, NY 12205.
II	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia.	1775 Duke Street, suite 4206, Alexandria, VA 22314-3437.
III	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virgin Islands.	7000 Central Parkway, Suite 1600, Atlanta, GA 30328.
IV	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin	4225 Naperville Rd., suite 125, Lisle, IL 60532.
V	Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Wyoming.	4807 Spicewood Springs Road, suite 5200, Austin, TX 78759.
VI	Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington.	2300 Clayton Road, suite 1350, Concord, CA 94520.

(2) A Regional Director is in charge of each Regional Office. The Regional Director manages NCUA's programs in the Region assigned in accordance with established policies. This person's duties include: Directing chartering, insurance, examination, and supervision programs to promote and assure safety and soundness; managing regional resources to meet program objectives in the most economical and practical manner; and maintaining good public relations with public, private, and governmental organizations, Federal credit union officials, credit union organizations, and other groups which have an interest in credit union matters in the assigned Region. The Director maintains liaison and cooperation with other regional offices of Federal departments and agencies, state agencies,

city and county officials, and other governmental units that affect credit unions. The Regional Director is aided by an Associate Regional Director for Operations and Associate Regional Director for Programs. Staff working in the Regional Office report to the Associate Regional Director for Operations. Each region is divided into examiner districts, each assigned to a Supervisory Credit Union Examiner; groups of examiners are directed by a Supervisory Credit Union Examiner, each of whom in turn reports directly to the

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Associate Regional Director for Programs. Special Actions staff also report to the Associate Regional Director.

[58 FR 45431, Aug. 30, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 36042, July 15, 1994; 59 FR 47072, Sept. 14, 1994; 60 FR 31911, June 19, 1995; 61 FR 45876, Aug. 30, 1996; 62 FR 8155, Feb. 24, 1997; 62 FR 37126, July 11, 1997; 62 FR 65197, Dec. 11, 1997; 64 FR 17086, Apr. 8, 1999; 64 FR 57365, Oct. 25, 1999]

§ 790.3 Requests for action.

Except as otherwise provided by NCUA regulation, all applications, requests, and submittals for action by the NCUA shall be in writing and addressed to the appropriate office described in § 790.2. This will usually be one of the Regional Offices. In instances where the appropriate office cannot be determined, requests should be sent to the Office of Public and Congressional Affairs.

PART 791—RULES OF NCUA BOARD PROCEDURE; PROMULGATION OF NCUA RULES AND REGULATIONS; PUBLIC OBSERVATION OF NCUA BOARD MEETINGS

Subpart A—Rules of NCUA Board Procedure

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Subpart C—Public Observation of NCUA Board Meetings Under the Sunshine Act

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791.18 Public availability of meeting records and other documents.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1766, 1789 and 5 U.S.C. 552b.

SOURCE: 53 FR 29647, Aug. 8, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Rules of NCUA Board Procedure

§ 791.1 Scope.

The rules contained in this subpart are the rules of procedure governing how the Board conducts its business. These rules concern the Board's exercise of its authority to act on behalf of NCUA; the conduct, scheduling and subject matter of Board meetings; and the recording of Board action.

§ 791.2 Number of votes required for board action.

The agreement of at least two of the three Board members is required for any action by the Board.

§ 791.3 Voting by proxy.

Proxy voting shall not be allowed for any action by the Board.

§ 791.4 Methods of acting.

(a) *Board meetings*—(1) *Applicability of the Sunshine Act*. The Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. 552b, “Sunshine Act”) requires that joint deliberations of the Board be held in accordance with its open meetings provisions (5 U.S.C. 552b (b) through (f)). (Subpart C of this part contains NCUA's regulations implementing the Sunshine Act.)

(2) *Presiding officer*. The Chairman is the presiding officer, and in the Chairman's absence, the designated Vice Chairman shall preside. The presiding officer shall make procedural rulings. Any Board member may appeal a ruling made by the presiding officer. The appeal of a procedural ruling by the presiding officer shall be immediately considered by the Board, and a majority decision by the Board shall decide the procedural ruling.

(b) *Notation voting*. Notation voting is the circulation of written memoranda and voting sheets to the office of each Board member simultaneously and the tabulation of responses.

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(1) *Matters that may be decided by notation voting.* Notation voting may be used only for routine matters.

(2) *Notation vote sheets.* Notation vote sheets will be used to record the vote tally on a notation vote. The Secretary of the Board has administrative responsibility over notation voting, including the authority to establish deadlines for voting, receive notation vote sheets, count votes, and determine whether further action is required.

(3) *Veto of notation voting.* In view of public policy for openness reflected in the Sunshine Act, each Board member is authorized to veto the use of notation voting for the consideration of any particular matter, and thus requires that the matter be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting that is held at least ten days after the date of the veto.

(4) *Disclosure of result.* A record is to be maintained of Board transactions by use of the notation voting procedure. Public disclosure of this record is determined by the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

[53 FR 29647, Aug. 8, 1988, as amended at 62 FR 64267, Dec. 5, 1997]

§ 791.5 Scheduling of board meetings.

(a) *Meeting calls—(1) Regular meetings.* The Board will hold regular meetings each month unless there is no business or a quorum is not available. The Secretary of the Board will coordinate the dates for meetings.

(2) *Special meetings.* The Chairman shall call special meetings either on the Chairman's own initiative or within fourteen days of a request from two Board members that is accompanied by an NCUA B-1 form and a Board Action Memorandum that states the specific issue(s) or action(s) to be considered by the Board.

(b) *Notice of meetings—(1) Notifying the public.* The Sunshine Act and subpart C set forth the procedures for notifying the public of Board meetings.

(2) *Notifying board members—(i) Special meetings.* Except in cases of emergency as determined by a majority of the Board, each Board member is entitled to receive notice of any special meeting at least twenty-four hours in advance of such meeting. The notice shall set forth the place, day, hour, and na-

ture of business to be transacted at the meeting. In cases of emergency a record of the vote, including a statement explaining the decision that an emergency exists, will be maintained.

(ii) *Regular meetings.* Each Board member is entitled to receive notice of the agenda and/or notice of any changes in the subject matter of such meetings concurrent with the public release of such notices under the Sunshine Act. Each Board member shall be entitled to at least twenty-four hours advance notice of the consideration of a particular subject matter, except in cases of emergency as determined by a majority of the Board. In cases of emergency, a record of the vote, including a statement explaining the decision that an emergency exists, will be maintained.

[53 FR 29647, Aug. 8, 1988, as amended at 62 FR 64267, Dec. 5, 1997; 63 FR 5859, Feb. 5, 1998]

§ 791.6 Subject matter of a meeting.

(a) *Agenda.* The Chairman is responsible for the final order of each meeting agenda. Items shall be placed on the agenda by determination of the Chairman or, at the request of any Board Member, an item will be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting provided that the request is submitted at least ten days in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting and is accompanied by an NCUA B-1 form and a Board Action Memorandum that states the specific issue(s) or action(s) to be considered by the Board.

(b) *Submission of recommended agenda items.* Recommended agenda items may be submitted to the Secretary of the Board by Board members, the Executive Staff (which includes all Office Directors and President of the Central Liquidity Facility), and Regional Directors.

[61 FR 55208, Oct. 25, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 64267, Dec. 5, 1997; 63 FR 5859, Feb. 5, 1998]

Subpart B—Promulgation of NCUA Rules and Regulations

§ 791.7 Scope.

The rules contained in this subpart B pertain to the promulgation of NCUA rules and regulations.

§ 791.8 Promulgation of NCUA rules and regulations.

(a) NCUA's procedures for developing regulations are governed by the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 551 *et seq.*) the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), and NCUA's policies for the promulgation of rules and regulations as set forth in its Interpretive Ruling and Policy Statement 87–2.

(b) *Proposed rulemaking.* Notices of proposed rulemaking are published in the FEDERAL REGISTER except as specified in paragraph (d) of this section or as otherwise provided by law. A notice of proposed rulemaking may also be identified as a "request for comments" or as a "proposed rule." The notice will include:

- (1) A statement of the nature of the rulemaking proceedings;
- (2) Reference to the authority under which the rule is proposed;
- (3) Either the terms or substance of the proposed rule or a description of the subjects and issues involved; and
- (4) A statement of the effect of the proposed rule on state-chartered federally-insured credit unions.

(c) *Public participation.* After publication of notice of proposed rulemaking, interested persons will be afforded the opportunity to participate in the making of the rule through the submission of written data, views, or arguments, delivered within the time prescribed in the notice of proposed rulemaking, to the Secretary, NCUA Board, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314–3428. Interested persons may also petition the Board for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of any rule by mailing such petition to the Secretary of the Board at the address given in this section.

(d) *Exceptions to notice.* The following are not subject to the notice requirement contained in paragraph (b) of this section:

- (1) Matters relating to agency management or personnel or to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts;
- (2) When persons subject to the proposed rule are named and either personally served or otherwise have actual notice thereof in accordance with law;

(3) Interpretive rules, general statements of policy, or rules of agency organization, procedure or practice, unless notice or hearing is required by statute; and

(4) If the Board, for good cause, finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement therefor in the rules issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest, unless notice or hearing is required by statute.

(e) *Effective dates.* No substantive rule issued by NCUA shall be effective less than 30 days after its publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER, except that this requirement may not apply to:

- (1) Rules which grant or recognize an exemption or relieve a restriction;
- (2) Interpretive rules and statements of policy; or
- (3) Any substantive rule which the Board makes effective at an earlier date upon good cause found and published with such rule.

[53 FR 29647, Aug. 8, 1988, as amended at 59 FR 36041, July 15, 1994]

Subpart C—Public Observation of NCUA Board Meetings Under the Sunshine Act

§ 791.9 Scope.

This subpart contains regulations implementing subsections (b) through (f) of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. 552b). The primary purpose of these regulations is to provide the public with the fullest access authorized by law to the deliberations and decisions of the Board, while protecting the rights of individuals and preserving the ability of the agency to carry out its responsibilities.

§ 791.10 Definitions.

For the purpose of this subpart:

- (a) *Agency* means the National Credit Union Administration;
- (b) *Board* means the National Credit Union Administration Board, whose members were appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate;
- (c) *Subdivision of the Board* means a group composed of two Board members

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authorized by the Board to act on behalf of the agency;

(d) *Meeting* means any deliberations by two or more members of the Board or any subdivision of the Board that determine or result in the joint conduct or disposition of official agency business with the exception of: (1) Deliberations to determine whether a meeting or a portion thereof will be open or closed to public observation and whether information regarding closed meetings will be withheld from public disclosure; (2) deliberations to determine whether or when to schedule a meeting; and (3) infrequent dispositions of official agency business by sequential circulation of written recommendations to individual Board members (“notation voting procedure”), provided the votes of each Board member and the action taken are recorded for each matter and are publicly available, unless exempted from disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552 (the Freedom of Information Act);

(e) *Public observation* means that a member or group of the public may listen to and observe any open meeting and may record in an unobtrusive manner any portion of that meeting by use of a camera or any other electronic device, but shall not participate in any meeting unless authorized by the Board;

(f) *Public announcement* or *publicly announce* means making reasonable efforts under the particular circumstances to fully inform the public, especially those individuals who have expressed interest in the subject matters to be discussed or the decisions of the agency;

(g) *Sunshine Act* means the open meeting provisions of the “Government in the Sunshine Act” (5 U.S.C. 552b.)

§ 791.11 Open meetings.

Except as provided in § 791.12(a), any portion of any meeting of the Board shall be open to public observation. The Board, and any subdivision of the Board, shall jointly conduct official agency business only in accordance with this subpart.

§ 791.12 Exemptions.

(a) Under the procedures specified in § 791.14, the Board may close a meeting

or any portion of a meeting from public observation or may withhold information pertaining to such meetings provided the Board has properly determined that the public interest does not require otherwise and that the meeting (or any portion thereof) or the disclosure of meeting information is likely to:

(1) Disclose matters that are:

(i) Specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive Order to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or foreign policy, and

(ii) In fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive Order;

(2) Relate solely to internal personnel rules and practices;

(3) Disclose matters specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552 of title 5 of the United States Code, the Freedom of Information Act), provided that such statute:

(i) Requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or

(ii) Establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;

(4) Disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;

(5) Involve accusing any person of a crime, or formally censuring any person;

(6) Disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(7) Disclose investigatory records compiled for enforcement purposes, or information which if written would be contained in such records, but only to the extent that the production of such records or information would:

(i) Interfere with enforcement proceedings,

(ii) Deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication,

(iii) Constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy,

(iv) Disclose the identity of a confidential source and, in the case of a record compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by a Federal

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agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, confidential information furnished only by the confidential source,

(v) Disclose investigative techniques and procedures, or

(vi) Endanger the life or physical safety of law enforcement personnel;

(8) Disclose information contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of Federal agencies responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions;

(9) Disclose information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to (i)(A) lead to significant speculation in currencies, securities, or commodities, or (B) significantly endanger the stability of any financial institution, or (ii) be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed action,

except that this paragraph (a)(9) shall not apply in any instance where the Board has already disclosed to the public the content or nature of its proposed action, or where the Board is required by law to make such disclosure on its own initiative prior to taking final action on such proposal; or

(10) Specifically concern the issuance of a subpoena, participation in a civil action or proceeding, an action in a foreign court or international tribunal, or an arbitration, or the initiation, conduct or disposition of a particular case of formal agency adjudication pursuant to the procedures in section 554 of title 5 of the United States Code or otherwise involving a determination on the record after opportunity for a hearing.

(b) Prior to closing a meeting whose discussions are likely to fall within the exemptions stated in paragraph (a) of this section, the Board will balance the public interest in observing the deliberations of an exemptible matter and the agency need for confidentiality of the exemptible matter. In weighing these interests, the Board is assisted by the General Counsel as provided in § 791.16, by expressions of the public interest set forth in requests for open meetings as provided by § 791.15(b), and by the brief staff analysis of public interest which will accompany each staff

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recommendation that an agenda item be considered in a closed meeting.

§ 791.13 Public announcement of meetings.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Board shall, for each meeting, make a public announcement, at least one week in advance of the meeting, of the time, place and subject matter of the meeting, whether it will be open or closed to public observation, and the name and telephone number of the Secretary of the Board or the person designated by the Board to respond to requests for information about the meeting.

(b) Advance notice is required unless a majority of the members of the Board determine by a recorded vote that agency business requires that a meeting be called at an earlier date, in which case, the information to be announced in paragraph (a) of this section shall be publicly announced at the earliest practicable time.

(c) A change, including a postponement or a cancellation, in the time or place of a meeting after a published announcement may be made only if announced at the earliest practicable time.

(d) A change in or deletion of the subject matter of a meeting or any portion of a meeting or a redetermination to open or close a meeting or any portion of a meeting after a published announcement may be made only if:

(1) A majority of the Board determines by recorded vote that agency business so requires and that no earlier announcement of the change was possible and

(2) Public announcement of the change and of the vote of each member on such change shall be made at the earliest practicable time.

(e) Each meeting announcement or amendment thereof shall be posted on the Public Notice Bulletin Board in the reception area of the agency headquarters and may be made available by other means deemed desirable by the Board. Immediately following each public announcement required by this section, the stated information shall be submitted to the FEDERAL REGISTER for publication.

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(f) No announcement shall contain information which is determined to be exempt from disclosure under § 791.12(a).

(g) The agency shall maintain a mailing list of names and addresses of all persons who wish to receive copies of agency announcements of meetings open to public observation and amendments to such announcements. Requests to be placed on the mailing list should be made by telephoning or by writing to the Secretary of the Board.

§ 791.14 Regular procedure for closing meeting discussions or limiting the disclosure of information.

(a) A decision to close any portion of a meeting and to withhold information about any portion of a meeting closed pursuant to § 791.12(a) will be taken only when a majority of the entire Board votes to take such action. In deciding whether to close a meeting or any portion of a meeting or to withhold information, the Board shall independently consider whether the public interest requires an open meeting. A separate vote of the Board will be taken and recorded for each portion of a meeting to be closed to public observation pursuant to § 791.12(a) or to withhold information from the public pursuant to § 791.12(a). A single vote may be taken and recorded with respect to a series of meetings, or any portions of meetings which are proposed to be closed to the public, or with respect to any information concerning the series of meetings, so long as each meeting in the series involves the same particular matters and is scheduled to be held no more than thirty days after the initial meeting in such series. No proxies shall be allowed.

(b) Any person whose interests may be directly affected by any portion of a meeting for any of the reasons stated in § 791.12(a) (5), (6) or (7) may request that the Board close such portion of the meeting. After receiving notice of a person's desire for any specified portion of a meeting to be closed, the Board, upon a request by one member, will decide by recorded vote whether to close the relevant portion or portions of the meeting. This procedure applies to requests received either prior or sub-

sequent to the announcement of a decision to hold an open meeting.

(c) Within one day after any vote is taken pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of this section, the Board shall make publicly available a written copy of the vote taken indicating the vote of each Board member. Except to the extent that such information is withheld and exempt from disclosure, for each meeting or any portion of a meeting closed to the public, the Board shall make publicly available within one day after the required vote, a written explanation of its action, together with a list of all persons expected to attend the closed meeting and their affiliation. The list of persons to attend need not include the names of individual staff, but shall state the offices of the agency expected to participate in the meeting discussions.

§ 791.15 Requests for open meeting.

(a) Following any announcement that the Board intends to close a meeting or any portion of any meeting, any person may make a written request to the Secretary of the Board that the meeting or a portion of the meeting be open. The request shall be circulated to the members of the Board, and the Board, upon the request of one member, shall reconsider its action under § 791.14 before the meeting or before discussion of the matter at the meeting. If the Board decides to open a portion of a meeting proposed to be closed, the Board shall publicly announce its decision in accordance with § 791.13(e). If no request is received from a Board member to reconsider the decision to close a meeting or portion thereof prior to the meeting discussion, the Chairman of the Board shall certify that the Board did not receive a request to reconsider its decision to close the discussion of the matter.

(b) The request to open a portion of a meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Board in advance of the meeting in question. The request shall set forth the requestor's interest in the matter to be discussed and the reasons why the requestor believes that the public interest requires that the meeting or portions thereof be open to public observation.

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(c) The submission of a request to open a portion of a meeting shall not act to stay the effectiveness of Board action or to postpone or delay the meeting unless the Board decides otherwise.

(d) The Secretary of the Board shall advise the requestor of the Board's consideration of the request to open a portion of the meeting as soon as practicable.

§791.16 General counsel certification.

For each meeting or any portion of a meeting closed to public observation under §791.14, the General Counsel shall publicly certify, whether in his or her opinion, the meeting or portion thereof may be closed to public observation and shall state each relevant exemption provision of law. A copy of the certification, together with a statement from the presiding officer of the meeting setting forth the time and place of the meeting and the persons present, shall be retained as a part of the permanent meeting records. As part of the certification, the General Counsel shall recommend to the Board whether the public interest requires that the meeting or portions thereof proposed to be closed to public observation be held in the open.

§791.17 Maintenance of meeting records.

(a) Except in those circumstances which are beyond the control of the agency, the Board shall maintain a complete transcript or electronic recording adequate to record fully the proceedings of each meeting, or any portion thereof, closed to public observation. However, for meetings closed under §791.12(a) (8), (9)(i) or (10), the Board shall maintain either a transcript, a recording or a set of minutes. The Board shall maintain a complete electronic recording for each open meeting or any portion thereof. All records shall clearly identify each speaker.

(b) A set of minutes shall fully and clearly describe all matters discussed and shall provide a full and accurate summary of any actions taken, and the reasons for taking such action. Minutes shall also include a description of each of the views expressed by each

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person in attendance on any item and the record of any roll call vote, reflecting the vote of each member. All documents considered in connection with any action shall be identified in the minutes.

(c) The agency shall maintain a complete verbatim copy of the transcript, a complete copy of the minutes or a complete electronic recording of each meeting, or any portion of a meeting, closed to public observation, for at least two years after such meeting or for one year after the conclusion of any agency proceeding with respect to which the meeting or any portion was held, whichever occurs later. The agency shall maintain a complete electronic recording of each open meeting for at least three months after the meeting date. A complete set of minutes shall be maintained on a permanent basis for all meetings.

§791.18 Public availability of meeting records and other documents.

(a) The agency shall make promptly available to the public, in the Public Reference Room, the transcript, electronic recording, or minutes of any meeting, deleting any agenda item or any item of the testimony of a witness received at a closed meeting which the Board determined, pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section, was exempt from disclosure under §791.12(a). The exemption or exemptions relied upon for any deleted information shall be reflected on any record or recording.

(b) Copies of any transcript, minutes or transcription of a recording, disclosing the identity of each speaker, shall be furnished to any person requesting such information in the form specified in paragraph (a) of this section. Copies shall be furnished at the actual cost of duplication or transcription unless waived by the Secretary of the Board.

(c) Following each meeting or any portion of a meeting closed pursuant to §791.12(a), the General Counsel or his designee, after consultation with the Secretary of the Board, shall determine which, if any, portions of the meeting transcript, electronic recording or minutes not otherwise available under 5 U.S.C. 552a (the Privacy Act) contain information which should be withheld

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pursuant to §791.12(a). If, at a later time, the Board determines that there is no further justification for withholding any meeting record or other item of information from the public which has previously been withheld, then such information shall be made available to the public.

(d) Except for information determined by the Board to be exempt from disclosure pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section, meeting records shall be promptly available to the public in the Public Reference Room. Meeting records include but are not limited to: The transcript, electronic recording or minutes of each meeting, as required by §791.17(a); the notice requirements of §§791.13 and 791.14(c); and the General Counsel Certification along with the presiding officer's statement, as required by §791.16.

(e) These provisions do not affect the procedures set forth in part 792, subpart A, governing the inspection and copying of agency records, except that the exemptions set forth in §791.12(a) of this subpart and in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) shall govern in the case of a request made pursuant to part 792, subpart A, to copy or inspect the meeting records described in this section. Any documents considered or mentioned at Board meetings may be obtained subject to the procedures set forth in part 792, subpart A.

[53 FR 29647, Aug. 8, 1988, as amended at 58 FR 17493, Apr. 5, 1993; 64 FR 57365, Oct. 25, 1999]

PART 792—REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AND PRIVACY ACT, AND BY SUBPOENA; SECURITY PROCEDURES FOR CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Subpart A—The Freedom of Information Act

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- 792.68 Use and collection of Social Security numbers.
792.69 Training and employee standards of conduct with regard to privacy.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301, 552, 552a, 552b; 12 U.S.C. 1752a(d), 1766, 1789, 1795f; E.O. 12600, 52 FR 23781, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 235; E.O. 12958, 60 FR 19825, 3 CFR, 1995 Comp., p.333.

SOURCE: 54 FR 18476, May 1, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—The Freedom of Information Act

SOURCE: 63 FR 14338, Mar. 25, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

GENERAL PURPOSE

§ 792.01 What is the purpose of this subpart?

This subpart describes the procedures you must follow to obtain records from NCUA under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), (5 U.S.C. 552).

RECORDS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

§ 792.02 What records does NCUA make available to the public for inspection and copying?

Except for records that are exempt from public disclosure under FOIA as amended (5 U.S.C. 552) or are promptly published and copies are available for purchase, NCUA routinely makes the following five types of records available for you to inspect and copy:

(a) Final opinions, including concurring and dissenting opinions, and orders made in the adjudication of cases;

(b) Statements of policy and interpretations which have been adopted by the agency but not published in the FEDERAL REGISTER;

(c) Administrative staff manuals and instructions to staff that affect a member of the public;

(d) Copies of all records, regardless of form or format, which have been released after March 31, 1997, in response to a FOIA request and which, because of the nature of their subject matter, NCUA determines have been or are likely to become the subject of subsequent requests; and

(e) Indices of the documents referred to in this paragraph.

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§ 792.03 How will I know which records to request?

NCUA maintains current indices providing identifying information for the public for any matter referred to in § 792.02, issued, adopted, or promulgated after July 4, 1967. The listing of material in an index is for the convenience of possible users and does not constitute a determination that all of the items listed will be disclosed. NCUA has determined that publication of the indices is unnecessary and impractical. You may obtain copies of indices by making a request to the Office of Administration, at NCUA, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2387 or, as indicated, on the NCUA web site. The indices are available for public inspection and copying and are provided at their duplication cost. The indices are:

(a) NCUA Publications List: Manuals relating to general and technical information, booklets published by NCUA, and the Credit Union Directory. The NCUA Publications list is available on the NCUA web site.

(b) Directives Control Index: A list of statements of policy, NCUA Instructions, Bulletins, Letters to Credit Unions, and certain internal manuals.

(c) Popular FOIA Index: Records released in response to a FOIA request, that NCUA determines are likely to be the subject of subsequent requests because of the nature of their subject matter. The Popular FOIA Index will be available on the NCUA web site on or before December 31, 1999.

§ 792.04 How can I obtain these records?

You may obtain these types of records or information in the following ways:

(a) You may obtain copies of the records referenced in § 792.02 by obtaining the index referred to in § 792.03 and following the ordering instructions it contains, or by making a request to the FOIA Officer, NCUA, Office of General Counsel at 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3428.

(b) If they were created by NCUA on or after November 1, 1996, records referenced in § 792.02 are available on the NCUA web site, found at <http://www.ncua.gov>.

§ 792.05 What is the significance of records made available and indexed?

The records referred to in § 792.02 may be relied on, used, or cited as precedent by NCUA against a party, provided:

(a) The materials have been indexed and either made available or published; or

(b) The party has actual and timely notice of the materials' contents.

RECORDS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

§ 792.06 Can I obtain other records?

Except with respect to records routinely made available under § 792.02 or published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, or to the extent that records are exempt under the FOIA, if you make a request for records in accordance with this subpart, NCUA will make such records available to you, including records maintained in electronic format, as long as you agree to pay the actual, direct costs.

§ 792.07 Where do I send my request?

(a) You must send your request to one of NCUA's Information Centers. The Central Office, Regional Offices, Office of Inspector General and the Asset Management and Assistance Center are designated as Information Centers for the NCUA. The Freedom of Information Officer of the Office of General Counsel is responsible for the operations of the Information Center maintained at the Central Office. The Regional Directors are responsible for the operation of the Information Centers in their Regional Offices. The Inspector General is responsible for the operation of the Office of Inspector General Information Center.

(b) If you think that the records are located at one of NCUA's Regional Offices, then you should send your request to the appropriate Regional Director, whose address can be found in § 790.2(c) of this chapter.

(c) If you think that the records are located at the Asset Management and Assistance Center, then you should send your request to the President, Asset Management and Assistance Center, 4807 Spicewood Springs Road, Suite 5100, Austin, Texas 78759-8490.

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(d) If you think that the records you want are in the files of the Office of Inspector General, then you should send your request to the Inspector General, NCUA, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314–3428.

(e) When you are not sure of the location of records, or if you think that the records you want are located in the Central Office, you should send your request to the Freedom of Information Officer at NCUA, Office of the General Counsel, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314–3428. You may also send your request by electronic mail to FOIA@NCUA.gov.

§ 792.08 What must I include in my request?

Your request must include the following:

(a) Your name, address and a telephone number where you can be reached during normal business hours.

(b) A reasonable description of the records you seek. A reasonable description is one that enables an NCUA employee, who is familiar with the subject area of the request, to locate the record with a reasonable amount of effort.

(c) A statement agreeing to pay all applicable fees or to pay fees up to a certain maximum amount, or requesting a fee reduction or waiver in accordance with § 792.27. If the actual fees are expected to exceed the maximum amount you indicate in your request, NCUA will contact you to see if you are willing to pay the estimated fees. If you do not want to pay the estimated fees, your request will be closed and no bill will be sent.

(d) If other than paper copy, you must identify the form and format of responsive information you are requesting.

§ 792.09 What if my request does not meet the requirements of this subpart?

NCUA need not accept or process your request if it does not comply with the requirements of this subpart. NCUA may return such a request to you with an explanation of the deficiency. You may then submit a corrected request, which will be treated as a new request.

§ 792.10 What will NCUA do with my request?

(a) On receipt of any request, the Information Center assigns it to the appropriate processing schedule, pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section. The date of receipt for any request, including one that is addressed incorrectly or that is referred to NCUA by another agency, is the date the appropriate Information Center actually receives the request.

(b) NCUA has a multi-track processing system. Requests for records that are readily identifiable by the Information Center and have already been cleared for public release may qualify for fast track processing. Requests which meets the requirements of § 792.18 will be processed on the expedited track. All other requests will be handled under normal processing procedures.

(c) The Information Center will make the determination whether a request qualifies for fast track processing or expedited track processing. You may contact the Information Center to learn to which track your request has been assigned. If your request has not qualified for fast track processing, you will have an opportunity to limit the scope of material requested to qualify for fast track processing. Limitations of requests must be in writing. If your request for expedited processing is not granted, you will be advised of your right to appeal.

(d) The Information Center will normally process requests in the order they are received in the separate processing tracks. However, in NCUA's discretion, a particular request may be processed out of turn.

(e) Upon a determination by the appropriate Information Center to comply with your initial request for records, the records will be made promptly available to you. If we notify you of a denial of your request, we will include the names and titles or positions of each person responsible for the denial.

§ 792.11 What kind of records are exempt from public disclosure?

(a) All records of NCUA or any officer, employee, or agent thereof, are confidential, privileged and exempt

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from disclosure, except as otherwise provided in this subpart, if they are:

(1) Records specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are in fact properly classified pursuant to an Executive Order.

(2) Records related solely to NCUA internal personnel rules and practices. This exemption applies to internal rules or instructions which must be kept confidential in order to assure effective performance of the functions and activities for which NCUA is responsible and which do not materially affect members of the public. This exemption also applies to manuals and instructions to the extent that release of the information would permit circumvention of laws or regulations.

(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute, where the statute either makes nondisclosure mandatory or establishes particular criteria for withholding information.

(4) Records which contain trade secrets and commercial or financial information which relate to the business, personal or financial affairs of any person or organization, are furnished to NCUA, and are confidential or privileged. This exemption includes, but is not limited to, various types of confidential sales and cost statistics, trade secrets, and names of key customers and personnel. Assurances of confidentiality given by staff are not binding on NCUA.

(5) Inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters which would not be available by law to a private party in litigation with NCUA. This exemption preserves the existing freedom of NCUA officials and employees to engage in full and frank written or taped communications with each other and with officials and employees of other agencies. It includes, but is not limited to, inter-agency and intra-agency reports, memoranda, letters, correspondence, work papers, and minutes of meetings, as well as staff papers prepared for use within NCUA or in concert with other governmental agencies.

(6) Personnel, medical, and similar files (including financial files), the disclosure of which without written permission would constitute a clearly un-

warranted invasion of personal privacy. Files exempt from disclosure include, but are not limited to:

(i) The personnel records of the NCUA;

(ii) The personnel records voluntarily submitted by private parties in response to NCUA's requests for proposals; and

(iii) Files containing reports, records or other material pertaining to individual cases in which disciplinary or other administrative action has been or may be taken.

(7) Records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information:

(i) Could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings;

(ii) Would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;

(iii) Could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(iv) Could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a state, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of a record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by the confidential source;

(v) Would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigation or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; or

(vi) Could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual. This includes, but is not limited to, information relating to enforcement proceedings upon which NCUA has acted or will act in the future.

(8) Contained in or related to examination, operating or condition reports

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prepared by, or on behalf of, or for the use of NCUA or any agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions. This includes all information, whether in formal or informal report form, the disclosure of which would harm the financial security of credit unions or would interfere with the relationship between NCUA and credit unions.

(b) We will provide any reasonably segregable portion of a requested record after deleting those portions that are exempt from disclosure under this section.

§ 792.12 How will I know what records NCUA has determined to be exempt?

As long as it is technically feasible and does not threaten an interest protected by the FOIA, we will:

(a) Mark the place where we redacted information from documents released to you and note the exemption that protects the information from public disclosure; or

(b) Make reasonable efforts to include with our response to you an estimate of the volume of information withheld.

§ 792.13 Can I get the records in different forms or formats?

NCUA will provide a copy of the record in any form or format requested, such as computer disk, if the record is readily reproducible by us in that form or format, but we will not provide more than one copy of any record.

§ 792.14 Who is responsible for responding to my request?

The appropriate Regional Director, the Inspector General, the President of the Asset Management and Assistance Center, or the Freedom of Information Officer, or, in their absence, their designee, is responsible for making the initial determination on whether to grant or deny a request for information. This official may refer a request to an NCUA employee who is familiar with the subject area of the request. Other NCUA staff members may aid the official by providing information, advice, recommending a decision, or implementing a decision, but no NCUA

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employee other than an authorized official may make the initial determination. Referral of a request by the official to an employee will not affect the time limitation imposed in § 792.15 unless the request involves an unusual circumstance as provided in § 792.16.

§ 792.15 How long will it take to process my request?

NCUA will respond to requests within 20 working days, except:

(a) Where the running of such time is suspended for payment of fees pursuant to § 792.26;

(b) In unusual circumstances, as defined in 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6)(B) and § 792.16, the time limit may be extended for:

(1) An additional 10 working days as provided by written notice to you, stating the reasons for the extension and the date on which a determination will be sent; or

(2) Such alternative time period as mutually agreed by you and the Information Office, when NCUA notifies you that the request cannot be processed in the specified time limit.

§ 792.16 What unusual circumstances can delay NCUA's response?

(a) In unusual circumstances, the time limits for responding to your request (or your appeal) may be extended by NCUA. If NCUA extends the time it will provide you with written notice, setting forth the reasons for such extension and the date on which a determination is expected to be dispatched. Our notice will not specify a date that would result in an extension for more than 10 working days, except as set forth in paragraph (c) of this section. The unusual circumstances that can delay NCUA's response to your request are:

(1) The need to search for, and collect the requested records from field facilities or other establishments that are separate from the office processing the request;

(2) The need to search for, collect, and appropriately examine a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records which are demanded in a single request; or

(3) The need for consultation, which will be conducted with all practicable

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speed, with another agency having substantial interest in the determination of the request or among two or more components of NCUA having a substantial interest in the subject matter.

(b) If you, or you and a group of others acting in concert, submit multiple requests that NCUA believes actually constitute a single request, which would otherwise satisfy the unusual circumstances criteria specified in this section, and the requests involve related matters, then NCUA may aggregate those requests and the provisions of § 792.15(b) will apply.

(c) If NCUA sends you an extension notice, it will also advise you that you can either limit the scope of your request so that it can be processed within the statutory time limit or agree to an alternative time frame for processing your request.

§ 792.17 What can I do if the time limit passes and I still have not received a response?

You can file suit against NCUA because you will be deemed to have exhausted your administrative remedies if NCUA fails to comply with the time limit provisions of this subpart. If NCUA can show that exceptional circumstances exist and that it is exercising due diligence in responding to your request, the court may retain jurisdiction and allow NCUA to complete its review of the records. In determining whether exceptional circumstances exist, the court may consider your refusal to modify the scope of your request or arrange an alternative time frame for processing after being given the opportunity to do so by NCUA, when it notifies you of the existence of unusual circumstances as set forth in § 792.16.

EXPEDITED PROCESSING

§ 792.18 What if my request is urgent and I cannot wait for the records?

You may request expedited processing of your request if you can show a compelling need for the records. In cases where your request for expedited processing is granted or if NCUA has determined to expedite the response, it will be processed as soon as practicable.

(a) To demonstrate a compelling need for expedited processing, you must provide a certified statement. The statement, certified by you to be true and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief, must demonstrate that:

(1) The failure to obtain the records on an expedited basis could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; or

(2) The requester is a representative of the news media, as defined in § 792.20, and there is urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged NCUA activity.

(b) In response to a request for expedited processing, the Information Center will notify you of the determination within ten days of receipt of the request. If the Information Center denies your request for expedited processing, you may file an appeal pursuant to the procedures set forth in § 792.28, and NCUA will expeditiously respond to the appeal.

(c) The Information Center will normally process requests in the order they are received in the separate processing tracks. However, in NCUA's discretion, a particular request may be processed out of turn.

FEES

§ 792.19 How does NCUA calculate the fees for processing my request?

We will charge you our allowable direct costs, unless they are less than the cost of billing you. Direct costs means those expenditures that NCUA actually incurs in searching for, duplicating and reviewing documents to respond to a FOIA request. Search means all time spent looking for material that is responsive to a request, including page-by-page or line-by-line identification of material within documents. Searches may be done manually or by computer. Search does not include modification of an existing program or system that would significantly interfere with the operation of an automated information system. Review means examining documents to determine whether any portion should be withheld and preparing documents for disclosure. Fees are subject to change as costs increase. The current rate schedule is available on

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our web site at <http://www.ncua.gov>. We may contract with the private sector to locate, reproduce or disseminate records. NCUA will not contract out responsibilities that FOIA requires it to discharge, such as determining the applicability of an exemption, or determining whether to waive or reduce fees. The following labor and duplication rate calculations apply:

(a) NCUA will charge fees at the following rates for manual searches for and review of records:

(1) If search/review is done by clerical staff, the hourly rate for CU–5, plus 16% of that rate to cover benefits;

(2) If search/review is done by professional staff, the hourly rate for CU–13, plus 16% of that rate to cover benefits.

(b) NCUA will charge fees at the hourly rate for CU–13, plus 16% of that rate to cover benefits, plus the hourly cost of operating the computer for computer searches for records.

(c) NCUA will charge the following duplication fees:

(1) The per-page fee for paper copy reproduction of a document is \$.05;

(2) The fee for documents generated by computer is the hourly fee for the computer operator, plus the cost of materials (computer paper, tapes, labels, etc.);

(3) If any other method of duplication is used, NCUA will charge the actual direct cost of duplication.

§ 792.20 What are the charges for each fee category?

The fee category definitions are:

If your fee category is	You'll receive	And you'll be charged
Commercial use	0 hours free search	search time
	0 hours free review	review time
	0 free pages	duplication
Educational institution, noncommercial scientific institution, newsmedia.	Unlimited free search hours	duplication
	Unlimited free review hours	
	100 free pages	
All others	2 hours free search	search time
	Unlimited free review hours.	
	100 free pages	duplication

(a) *Commercial use request* means a request from or on behalf of one who seeks information for a use or purpose that furthers the commercial, trade, or profit interests of the requester or the person on whose behalf the request is made.

(b) *Educational institution* means a preschool, an elementary or secondary school, an institution of undergraduate higher education, an institution of graduate higher education, an institution of professional education, and an institution of vocational education operating a program or programs of scholarly research.

(c) *Noncommercial scientific institution* means an institution that is not operated for a “commercial” purpose as that term is used in paragraph (a) of this section and is operated solely for the purpose of conducting scientific research, the results of which are not intended to promote any particular product or industry.

(d) *Representative of the news media* means any person actively gathering news for an entity that is organized and operated to publish or broadcast news to the public. Included within the meaning of public is the credit union community. The term news means information that is about current events or that would be of current interest to the public. You may consult the following chart to find the fees applicable to your request:

§ 792.21 Will NCUA provide a fee estimate?

NCUA will notify you of the estimated amount if fees are likely to exceed \$25, unless you have indicated in advance a willingness to pay fees as high as those anticipated. You will

then have the opportunity to confer with NCUA personnel to reformulate the request to meet your needs at a lower cost.

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§ 792.22 What will NCUA charge for other services?

Complying with requests for special services is entirely at the discretion of NCUA. NCUA will recover the full costs of providing such services to the extent it elects to provide them.

§ 792.23 Can I avoid charges by sending multiple, small requests?

You may not file multiple requests, each seeking portions of a document or similar documents, solely to avoid payment of fees. If this is done, NCUA may aggregate any such requests and charge you accordingly.

§ 792.24 Can NCUA charge me interest if I fail to pay my bill?

NCUA can assess interest charges on an unpaid bill starting on the 31st day following the date of the bill. If you fail to pay your bill within 30 days, interest will be at the rate prescribed in 31 U.S.C. 3717, and will accrue from the date of the billing.

§ 792.25 Will NCUA charge me if the records are not found or are determined to be exempt?

NCUA may assess fees for time spent searching and reviewing, even if it fails to locate the records or if records located are determined to be exempt from disclosure.

§ 792.26 Will I be asked to pay fees in advance?

NCUA will require you to give an assurance of payment or an advance payment only when:

(a) NCUA estimates or determines that allowable charges that you may be required to pay are likely to exceed \$250. NCUA will notify you of the likely cost and obtain satisfactory assurance of full payment where you have a history of prompt payment of FOIA fees, or require an advance payment of an amount up to the full estimated charges in the case where you have no history of payment; or

(b) You have previously failed to pay a fee charged in a timely fashion. NCUA may require you to pay the full amount owed, plus any applicable interest, or demonstrate that you have, in fact, paid the fee, and to make an advance payment of the full amount of

the estimated fee before we begin to process a new request or a pending request from you.

(c) If you are required to make an advance payment of fees, then the administrative time limits prescribed in § 792.16 will begin only after NCUA has received the fee payments described.

FEE WAIVER OR REDUCTION

§ 792.27 Can fees be reduced or waived?

You may request that NCUA waive or reduce fees if disclosure of the information you request is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government, and is not primarily in your commercial interest.

(a) NCUA will make a determination of whether the public interest requirement above is met based on the following factors:

(1) Whether the subject of the requested records concerns the operations or activities of the government;

(2) Whether the disclosure is likely to contribute to an understanding of government operations or activities;

(3) Whether disclosure of the requested information will contribute to public understanding; and

(4) Whether the disclosure is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations or activities,

(b) If the public interest requirement is met, NCUA will make a determination on the commercial interest requirement based upon the following factors:

(1) Whether you have a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure; and if so

(2) Whether the magnitude of your commercial interest is sufficiently large in comparison with the public interest in disclosure, that disclosure is primarily in your commercial interest.

(c) If the required public interest exists and your commercial interest is not primary in comparison, NCUA will waive or reduce fees.

(d) If you are not satisfied with our determination on your fee waiver or reduction request, you may submit an appeal to the General Counsel in accordance with § 792.28.

APPEALS

§ 792.28 What if I am not satisfied with the response I receive?

If you are not satisfied with NCUA's response to your request, you can file an administrative appeal. Your appeal must be in writing and must be filed within 30 days from receipt of the initial determination (in cases of denials of an entire request, or denial of a request for fee waiver or reduction), or from receipt of any records being made available pursuant to the initial determination (in cases of partial denials.) In its response to your initial request, the Freedom of Information Act Officer, Inspector General, President of the Asset Management and Assistance Center, or responsible Regional Director, (or designee,) will notify you that you may appeal any adverse determination to the Office of General Counsel. The General Counsel, or designee, as set forth in this paragraph, will:

(a) Make a determination with respect to any appeal within 20 days (excepting Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) after the receipt of such appeal. If, on appeal, the denial of the request for records is, in whole or in part, upheld, the Office of General Counsel will notify you of the provisions for judicial review of that determination under FOIA. Where you do not address your request or appeal to the proper official, the time limitations stated above will be computed from the receipt of the request or appeal by the proper official.

(b) The General Counsel is the official responsible for determining all appeals from initial determinations. In case of this person's absence, the appropriate officer acting in the General Counsel's stead will make the appellate determination, unless such officer was responsible for the initial determination, in which case the Vice-Chairman of the NCUA Board will make the appellate determination.

(c) All appeals should be addressed to the General Counsel in the Central Office and should be clearly identified as such on the envelope and in the letter of appeal by using the indicator "FOIA-APPEAL." Failure to address an appeal properly may delay commencement of the time limitation stat-

ed in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, to take account of the time reasonably required to forward the appeal to the Office of General Counsel.

SUBMITTER NOTICE

§ 792.29 If I send NCUA confidential commercial information, can it be disclosed under FOIA?

(a) If you submit confidential commercial information to NCUA, it may be disclosed in response to a FOIA request in accordance with this section.

(b) For purposes of this section:

(1) *Confidential commercial information* means commercial or financial information provided to NCUA by a submitter that arguably is protected from disclosure under § 792.11(a)(4) because disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause substantial competitive harm.

(2) *Submitter* means any person or entity who provides business information, directly or indirectly, to NCUA.

(c) Submitters of business information must use good faith efforts to designate, by appropriate markings, either at the time of submission or at a reasonable time thereafter, those portions of their submissions deemed to be protected from disclosure under § 792.11(a)(4). Such a designation shall expire ten years after the date of submission.

(d) We will provide a submitter with written notice of a FOIA request or administrative appeal encompassing designated business information when:

(1) The information has been designated in good faith by the submitter as confidential commercial information deemed protected from disclosure under § 792.11(a)(4); or

(2) NCUA has reason to believe that the information may be protected from disclosure under § 792.11(a)(4).

(e) A copy of the notice to the submitter will also be provided to the FOIA requester.

(f) Through the notice described in paragraph (d) of this section, NCUA will afford the submitter a reasonable period of time within which to provide a detailed written statement of any objection to disclosure. The statement must describe why the information is confidential commercial information and why it should not be disclosed.

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(g) Whenever we decide that we must disclose confidential commercial information over the objection of the submitter, we will send both the submitter and the FOIA requester, within a reasonable number of days prior to the specified disclosure date, a written notice which will include:

(1) A statement of the reasons for which the submitter's disclosure objection was not sustained; and

(2) A description of the information to be disclosed; and

(3) A specified disclosure date.

(h) If a requester brings suit to compel disclosure of confidential commercial information, we will promptly notify the submitter.

(i) The notice requirements of paragraph (d) of this section do not apply if:

(1) We determine that the information should not be disclosed;

(2) The information has been lawfully published or has been officially made available to the public;

(3) Disclosure of the information is required by law; or

(4) The designation made by the submitter in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section appears obviously frivolous; except that in such case, NCUA will provide the submitter with written notice of any final administrative decision to disclose the information within a reasonable number of days prior to the specified disclosure date.

RELEASE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

§792.30 Is there a prohibition against disclosure of exempt records?

Except those authorized officials listed in §792.14, or as provided in §§792.31–792.32, and subpart C of this part, no officer, employee, or agent of NCUA or of any federally-insured credit union shall disclose or permit the disclosure of any exempt records of NCUA to any person other than those NCUA or credit union officers, employees, or agents properly entitled to such information for the performance of their official duties.

§792.31 Can exempt records be disclosed to credit unions, financial institutions and state or federal agencies?

The NCUA Board, in its sole discretion, or any person designated by it in

writing, may make available to certain governmental agencies and insured financial institutions copies of reports of examination and other documents, papers or information for their use, when necessary, in the performance of their official duties or functions. All reports, documents and papers made available pursuant to this paragraph shall remain the property of NCUA. No person, agency or employee shall disclose the reports or exempt records without NCUA's express written authorization.

§792.32 Can exempt records be disclosed to investigatory agencies?

The NCUA Board, or any person designated by it in writing, in its discretion and in appropriate circumstances, may disclose to proper federal or state authorities copies of exempt records pertaining to irregularities discovered in credit unions which may constitute either unsafe or unsound practices or violations of federal or state, civil or criminal law.

Subpart B [Reserved]

Subpart C—Production of Non-public Records and Testimony of NCUA Employees in Legal Proceedings

SOURCE: 62 FR 56054, Oct. 29, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§792.40 What does this subpart prohibit?

This subpart prohibits the release of nonpublic records or the appearance of an NCUA employee to testify in legal proceedings except as provided in this subpart. Any person possessing nonpublic records may release them or permit their disclosure only as provided in this subpart.

(a) *Duty of NCUA employees.* (1) If an NCUA employee is served with a subpoena requiring him or her to appear as a witness or produce records, the employee must promptly notify the Office of General Counsel. The General Counsel has the authority to instruct NCUA employees to refuse appearing as a witness or to withhold nonpublic records. The General Counsel may let an NCUA employee provide testimony, including

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expert or opinion testimony, if the General Counsel determines that the need for the testimony clearly outweighs contrary considerations.

(2) If a court or other appropriate authority orders or demands expert or opinion testimony or testimony beyond authorized subjects contrary to the General Counsel's instructions, an NCUA employee must immediately notify the General Counsel of the order and respectfully decline to comply. An NCUA employee must decline to answer questions on the grounds that this subpart forbids such disclosure and should produce a copy of this subpart, request an opportunity to consult with the Office of General Counsel, and explain that providing such testimony without approval may expose him or her to disciplinary or other adverse action.

(b) *Duty of persons who are not NCUA employees.* (1) If you are not an NCUA employee but have custody of nonpublic records and are served with a subpoena requiring you to appear as a witness or produce records, you must promptly notify the NCUA about the subpoena. Also, you must notify the issuing court or authority and the person or entity for whom the subpoena was issued of the contents of this subpart. Notice to the NCUA is made by sending a copy of the subpoena to the General Counsel of the NCUA, Office of General Counsel, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3428. After receiving notice, the NCUA may advise the issuing court or authority and the person or entity for whom the subpoena was issued that this subpart applies and, in addition, may intervene, attempt to have the subpoena quashed or withdrawn, or register appropriate objections.

(2) After notifying the Office of General Counsel, you should respond to a subpoena by appearing at the time and place stated in the subpoena. Unless authorized by the General Counsel, you should decline to produce any records or give any testimony, basing your refusal on this subpart. If the issuing court or authority orders the disclosure of records or orders you to testify, you should continue to decline to

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produce records or testify and should advise the Office of General Counsel.

(c) *Penalties.* Anyone who discloses nonpublic records or gives testimony related to those records, except as expressly authorized by the NCUA or as ordered by a federal court after NCUA has had the opportunity to be heard, may face the penalties provided in 18 U.S.C. 641 and other applicable laws. Also, former NCUA employees, in addition to the prohibition contained in this subpart, are subject to the restrictions and penalties of 18 U.S.C. 207.

§792.41 When does this subpart apply?

This subpart applies if you want to obtain nonpublic records or testimony of an NCUA employee for legal proceedings. It doesn't apply to the release of records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, or the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a, or the release of records to federal or state investigatory agencies under §792.4(b)(2).

§792.42 How do I request nonpublic records or testimony?

(a) To request nonpublic records or the testimony of an NCUA employee, you must submit a written request to the General Counsel of the NCUA. If you serve a subpoena on the NCUA or an NCUA employee before submitting a written request and receiving a final determination, the NCUA will oppose the subpoena on the grounds that you failed to follow the requirements of this subpart. You may serve a subpoena as long as it is accompanied by a written request that complies with this subpart.

(b) To request nonpublic records that are part of the records of the Office of the Inspector General or the testimony of an NCUA employee on matters within the knowledge of the NCUA employee as a result of his or her employment with the Office of the Inspector General, you must submit a written request to the Office of the Inspector General. Your request will be handled in accordance with the provisions of this subpart except that the Inspector General will be responsible for those determinations that would otherwise be made by the General Counsel.

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§ 792.43 What must my written request contain?

Your written request for records or testimony must include:

(a) The caption of the legal proceeding, docket number, and name of the court or other authority involved.

(b) A copy of the complaint or equivalent document setting forth the assertions in the case and any other pleading or document necessary to show relevance.

(c) A list of categories of records sought, a detailed description of how the information sought is relevant to the issues in the legal proceeding, and a specific description of the substance of the testimony or records sought.

(d) A statement as to how the need for the information outweighs the need to maintain the confidentiality of the information and outweighs the burden on the NCUA to produce the records or provide testimony.

(e) A statement indicating that the information sought is not available from another source, such as a credit union's own books and records, other persons or entities, or the testimony of someone other than an NCUA employee, for example, retained experts.

(f) A description of all prior decisions, orders, or pending motions in the case that bear upon the relevance of the records or testimony you want.

(g) The name, address, and telephone number of counsel to each party in the case.

(h) An estimate of the amount of time you anticipate that you and other parties will need with each NCUA employee for interviews, depositions, or testifying.

§ 792.44 When should I make a request?

You should submit your request at least 45 days before the date that you need the records or testimony. If you want to have your request processed in less time, you must explain why you couldn't submit the request earlier and why you need expedited processing. If you are requesting the testimony of an NCUA employee, the NCUA expects you to anticipate your need for the testimony in sufficient time to obtain it by a deposition. The General Counsel may deny a request for testimony at a

legal proceeding unless you explain why you could not use deposition testimony. The General Counsel will determine the location of a deposition taking into consideration the NCUA's interest in minimizing the disruption for an NCUA employee's work schedule and the costs and convenience of other persons attending the deposition.

§ 792.45 Where do I send my request?

You must send your request or subpoena for records or testimony to the attention of the General Counsel for the NCUA, Office of General Counsel, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3428. You must send your request or subpoena for records or testimony from the Office of the Inspector General to the attention of the NCUA Inspector General, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3428.

§ 792.46 What will the NCUA do with my request?

(a) *Factors the NCUA will consider.* The NCUA may consider various factors in reviewing a request for non-public records or testimony of NCUA employees, including:

(1) Whether disclosure would assist or hinder the NCUA in performing its statutory duties or use NCUA resources unreasonably, including whether responding to the request will interfere with NCUA employees' ability to do their work.

(2) Whether disclosure is necessary to prevent the perpetration of a fraud or other injustice in the matter or if you can get the records or testimony you want from sources other than the NCUA.

(3) Whether the request is unduly burdensome.

(4) Whether disclosure would violate a statute, executive order, or regulation, for example, the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a.

(5) Whether disclosure would reveal confidential, sensitive or privileged information, trade secrets or similar, confidential commercial or financial information, or would otherwise be inappropriate for release and, if so, whether a confidentiality agreement or protective order as provided in § 792.48(a) can adequately limit the disclosure.

(6) Whether the disclosure would interfere with law enforcement proceedings, compromise constitutional rights, or hamper NCUA research or investigatory activities.

(7) Whether the disclosure could result in NCUA appearing to favor one litigant over another.

(8) Any other factors the NCUA determines to be relevant to the interests of the NCUA.

(b) *Review of your request.* The NCUA will process your request in the order it is received. The NCUA will try to respond to your request within 45 days, but this may vary depending on the scope of your request.

(c) *Final determination.* The General Counsel makes the final determination on requests for nonpublic records or NCUA employee testimony. All final determinations are in the sole discretion of the General Counsel. The General Counsel will notify you and the court or other authority of the final determination of your request. In considering your request, the General Counsel may contact you to inform you of the requirements of this subpart, ask that the request or subpoena be modified or withdrawn, or may try to resolve the request or subpoena informally without issuing a final determination. You may seek judicial review of the final determination under the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 702.

§ 792.47 If my request is granted, what fees apply?

(a) *Generally.* You must pay any fees associated with complying with your request, including copying fees for records and witness fees for testimony. The General Counsel may condition the production of records or appearance for testimony upon advance payment of a reasonable estimate of the fees.

(b) *Fees for records.* You must pay all fees for searching, reviewing and duplicating records produced in response to your request. The fees will be the same as those charged by the NCUA under its Freedom of Information Act regulations, § 792.5.

(c) *Witness fees.* You must pay the fees, expenses, and allowances prescribed by the court's rules for attendance by a witness. If no such fees are

prescribed, the local federal district court rule concerning witness fees, for the federal district court closest to where the witness appears, will apply. For testimony by current NCUA employees, you must pay witness fees, allowances, and expenses to the General Counsel by check made payable to the "National Credit Union Administration" within 30 days from receipt of NCUA's billing statement. For the testimony of a former NCUA employee, you must pay witness fees, allowances, and expenses directly to the former employee, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. 1821 or other applicable statutes.

(d) *Certification of records.* The NCUA may authenticate or certify records to facilitate their use as evidence. If you require authenticated records, you must request certified copies at least 45 days before the date they will be needed. The request should be sent to the General Counsel. You will be charged a certification fee of \$5.00 per document.

(e) *Waiver of fees.* A waiver or reduction of any fees in connection with the testimony, production, or certification or authentication of records may be granted in the discretion of the General Counsel. Waivers will not be granted routinely. If you request a waiver, your request for records or testimony must state the reasons why a waiver should be granted.

§ 792.48 If my request is granted, what restrictions apply?

(a) *Records.* The General Counsel may impose conditions or restrictions on the release of nonpublic records, including a requirement that you obtain a protective order or execute a confidentiality agreement with the other parties in the legal proceeding that limits access to and any further disclosure of the nonpublic records. The terms of a confidentiality agreement or protective order must be acceptable to the General Counsel. In cases where protective orders or confidentiality agreements have already been executed, the NCUA may condition the release of nonpublic records on an amendment to the existing protective order or confidentiality agreement.

(b) *Testimony.* The General Counsel may impose conditions or restrictions on the testimony of NCUA employees,

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including, for example, limiting the areas of testimony or requiring you and the other parties to the legal proceeding to agree that the transcript of the testimony will be kept under seal or will only be used or made available in the particular legal proceeding for which you requested the testimony. The General Counsel may also require you to provide a copy of the transcript of the testimony to the NCUA at your expense.

§ 792.49 Definitions.

Legal proceedings means any matter before any federal, state or foreign administrative or judicial authority, including courts, agencies, commissions, boards or other tribunals, involving such proceedings as lawsuits, licensing matters, hearings, trials, discovery, investigations, mediation or arbitration. When the NCUA is a party to a legal proceeding, it will be subject to the applicable rules of civil procedure governing production of documents and witnesses, however, this subpart will still apply to the testimony of former NCUA employees.

NCUA employee means current and former officials, members of the Board, officers, directors, employees and agents of the National Credit Union Administration, including contract employees and consultants and their employees. This definition does not include persons who are no longer employed by the NCUA and are retained or hired as expert witnesses or agree to testify about general matters, matters available to the public, or matters with which they had no specific involvement or responsibility during their employment.

Nonpublic records means any NCUA records that are exempt from disclosure under § 792.3, the NCUA regulations implementing the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. For example, this means records created in connection with NCUA's examination and supervision of insured credit unions, including examination reports, internal memoranda, and correspondence, and, also, records created in connection with NCUA's enforcement and investigatory responsibilities.

Subpoena means any order, subpoena for records or other tangible things or

for testimony, summons, notice or legal process issued in a legal proceeding.

Testimony means any written or oral statements made by an individual in connection with a legal proceeding including personal appearances in court or at depositions, interviews in person or by telephone, responses to written interrogatories or other written statements such as reports, declarations, affidavits, or certifications or any response involving more than the delivery of records.

Subpart D—Security Procedures for Classified Information

§ 792.50 Program.

(a) The Director of the Office of Administration (“Director”) is designated as the person responsible for implementation and oversight of NCUA's program for maintaining the security of confidential information regarding national defense and foreign relations. The Director receives questions, suggestions and complaints regarding all elements of this program. The Director is solely responsible for changes to the program and assures that the program is consistent with legal requirements.

(b) The Director is the Agency's official contact for declassification requests regardless of the point of origin of such requests. The Director is also responsible for assuring that requests submitted under the Freedom of Information Act are handled in accordance with that Act and other applicable law.

[54 FR 18476, May 1, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 36042, July 15, 1994]

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(a) *Mandatory review.* All declassification requests made by a member of the public, by a government employee or by an agency shall be handled by the Director or the Director's designee. Under no circumstances shall the Director refuse to confirm the existence or nonexistence of a document under the Freedom of Information Act or the mandatory review provisions of other applicable law, unless the fact of its existence or nonexistence would itself be

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classifiable under applicable law. Although NCUA has no authority to classify or declassify information, it occasionally handles information classified by another agency. The Director shall refer all declassification requests to the agency that originally classified the information. The Director or the Director's designee shall notify the requesting person or agency that the request has been referred to the originating agency and that all further inquiries and appeals must be made directly to the other agency.

(b) *Handling and safeguarding national security information.* All information classified "Top Secret," "Secret," and "Confidential" shall be delivered to the Director or the Director's designee immediately upon receipt. The Director shall advise those who may come into possession of such information of the name of the current designee. If the Director is unavailable, the designee shall lock the documents, unopened, in the combination safe located in the Administrative Office. If the Director or the designee is unavailable to receive such documents, the documents shall be delivered to the Director of the Personnel Office who shall lock them, unopened, in the combination safe in the Personnel Office. Under no circumstances shall classified materials that cannot be delivered to the Director be stored other than in the two designated safes.

(c) *Storage.* All classified documents shall be stored in the combination safe located in the Director's Office, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section. The combination shall be known only to the Director and the Director's designee holding the proper security clearance.

(d) *Employee education.* The Director shall send a memo to every NCUA employee who:

- (1) Has a security clearance and
- (2) May handle classified materials.

This memo shall describe NCUA procedures for handling, reproducing and storing classified documents. The Director shall require each such employee to review Executive Order 12356.

(e) *Agency terminology.* The National Credit Union Administration's Central Office shall use the terms "Top Secret," "Secret" or "Confidential" only

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in relation to materials classified for national security purposes.

Subpart E—The Privacy Act

SOURCE: 54 FR 18476, May 1, 1989. Redesignated at 63 FR 14338, Mar. 25, 1998.

§ 792.52 Scope.

This subpart governs requests made of NCUA under the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). The regulation applies to all records maintained by NCUA which contain personal information about an individual and some means of identifying the individual, and which are contained in a system of records from which information may be retrieved by use of an identifying particular; sets forth procedures whereby individuals may seek and gain access to records concerning themselves and request amendments of those records; and sets forth requirements applicable to NCUA employees' maintaining, collecting, using, or disseminating such records.

§ 792.53 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart:

(a) *Individual* means a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(b) *Maintain* includes maintain, collect, use, or disseminate.

(c) *Record* means any item, collection, or grouping of information about an individual that is maintained by NCUA, and that contains the name, or an identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual.

(d) *System of records* means a group of any records under NCUA's control from which information is retrieved by the name of the individual or by some identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual.

(e) *Routine use* means, with respect to the disclosure of a record, the use of such record for a purpose which is compatible with the purpose for which it was collected.

(f) *Statistical record* means a record in a system of records maintained for statistical research or reporting purposes only and not used in whole or in part in making any determination about an

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identifiable individual, except as provided by section 8 of title 13 of the United States Code.

§ 792.54 Procedures for requests pertaining to individual records in a system of records.

(a) An individual seeking notification of whether a system of records contains a record pertaining to that individual, or an individual seeking access to information or records pertaining to that individual which are available under the Privacy Act shall present a request to the NCUA official identified in the access procedure section of the "Notice of Systems of Records" published in the FEDERAL REGISTER which describes the system of records to which the individual's request relates. An individual who does not have access to the FEDERAL REGISTER and who is unable to determine the appropriate official to whom a request should be submitted may submit a request to the Director of the Administrative Office, National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3428, in which case the request will then be referred to the appropriate NCUA official and the date of receipt of the request will be determined as the date of receipt by the official.

(b) In addition to meeting the identification requirements set forth in § 792.55, an individual seeking notification or access, either in person or by mail, shall describe the nature of the record sought, the approximate dates covered by the record, and the system in which it is thought to be included, as described in the "Notice of Systems of Records" published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

[54 FR 18476, May 1, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 36041, July 15, 1994; 64 FR 57365, Oct. 25, 1999]

§ 792.55 Times, places, and requirements for identification of individuals making requests and identification of records requested.

(a) The following standards are applicable to an individual submitting requests either in person or by mail under § 792.54:

(1) If not personally known to the NCUA official responding to the request, an individual seeking access to

records about that individual in person shall establish identity by the presentation of a single document bearing a photograph (such as a passport or identification badge) or by the presentation of two items of identification which do not bear a photograph but do bear both a name and address (such as a driver's license or credit card);

(2) An individual seeking access to records about that individual by mail may establish identity by a signature, address, date of birth, employee identification number if any, and one other identifier such as a photocopy of driver's license or other document. If less than all of this requisite identifying information is provided, the NCUA official responding to the request may require further identifying information prior to any notification or responsive disclosure.

(3) An individual seeking access to records about that individual by mail or in person, who cannot provide the required documentation or identification, may provide a notarized statement affirming identity and recognition of the penalties for false statements pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1001.

(b) The parent or guardian of a minor or a person judicially determined to be incompetent shall, in addition to establishing identity of the minor or other person as required in paragraph (a) of this section, furnish a copy of a birth certificate showing parentage or a court order establishing guardianship.

(c) An individual may request by telephone notification of the existence of and access to records about that individual and contained in a system of records. In such a case, the NCUA official responding to the request shall require, for the purpose of comparison and verification of identity, at least two items of identifying information (such as date of birth, home address, social security number) already possessed by the NCUA. If the requisite identifying information is not provided, or otherwise at the discretion of the responsible NCUA official, an individual may be required to submit the request by mail or in person in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section.

(d) An individual seeking to review records about that individual may be accompanied by another person of their

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own choosing. In such cases, the individual seeking access shall be required to furnish a written statement authorizing discussion of that individual's records in the accompanying person's presence.

(e) In addition to the requirements set forth in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this section, the published "Notice of System of Records" for individual systems may include further requirements of identification where necessary to retrieve the individual records from the system.

[54 FR 18476, May 1, 1989. Redesignated at 63 FR 14338, Mar. 25, 1998, as amended at 64 FR 57365, Oct. 25, 1999]

§ 792.56 Notice of existence of records, access decisions and disclosure of requested information; time limits.

(a) The NCUA official identified in the record access procedure section of the "Notice of Systems of Records" and identified in accordance with § 792.54(a), by an individual seeking notification of, or access to, a record, shall be responsible:

(1) For determining whether access is available under the Privacy Act; (2) for notifying the requesting individual of that determination; and (3) for providing access to information determined to be available. In the case of an individual access request made in person, information determined to be available shall be provided by allowing a personal review of the record or portion of a record containing the information requested and determined to be available, and the individual shall be allowed to have a copy of all or any portion of available information made in a form comprehensible to him. In the case of an individual access request made by mail, information determined to be available shall be provided by mail, unless the individual has requested otherwise.

(b) The following time limits shall be applicable to the required determinations, notification and provisions of access set forth in paragraph (a) of this section:

(1) A request concerning a single system of records which does not require consultation with or requisition of records from another agency shall be

responded to within 10 working days after receipt of the request;

(2) A request requiring requisition of records from or consultation with another agency shall be responded to within 10 working days after such requisition or resolution of the required consultation. Such required requisition or consultation shall be initiated within 10 working days after receipt of the request;

(3) If a request under paragraph (b) (1) or (2) of this section presents unusual difficulties in determining whether the records involved are exempt from disclosure, the Director of the Office of Administration may, upon written request of the official responsible for action upon the record request, extend the time period established by these regulations for an additional 15 working days.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow an individual access to any information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action or proceeding, or any information exempted from the access provisions of the Privacy Act.

[54 FR 18476, May 1, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 36042, July 15, 1994; 64 FR 57365, Oct. 25, 1999]

§ 792.57 Special procedures: Information furnished by other agencies; medical records.

(a) When a request for records or information from NCUA includes information furnished by other Federal agencies, the NCUA official responsible for action on the request shall consult with the appropriate agency prior to making a decision to disclose or refuse access to the record, but the decision whether to disclose the record shall be made in the first instance by the NCUA official.

(b) When an individual requests medical records concerning that individual, the NCUA official responsible for action on the request may advise the individual that the records will be provided only to a physician designated in writing by the individual. Upon receipt of the designation and upon proper verification of identity, the NCUA official shall permit the physician to review the records or to receive copies of the records by mail. The determination

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of which records should be made available directly to the individual and which records should not be disclosed directly because of possible harm to the individual shall be made by the NCUA official responsible for action on the request.

§ 792.58 Requests for correction or amendment to a record; administrative review of requests.

(a) An individual may request amendment of a record concerning that individual by addressing a request, either in person or by mail, to the NCUA official identified in the “contesting record procedures” section of the “Notice of Systems of Records” published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and describing the system of records which contains the record sought to be amended. The request must indicate the particular record involved, the nature of the correction sought, and the justification for the correction or amendment. Requests made by mail should be addressed to the responsible NCUA official at the address specified in the “Notice of Systems of Records” describing the system of records which contains the contested record. An individual who does not have access to the NCUA’s “Notice of Systems of Records,” and to whom the appropriate address is otherwise unavailable may submit a request to the Director of the Office of Administration, National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3428, in which case the request will then be referred to the appropriate NCUA official. The date of receipt of the request will be determined as of the date of receipt by that official.

(b) Within 10 working days of receipt of the request, the appropriate NCUA official shall advise the individual that the request has been received. The appropriate NCUA official shall then promptly (under normal circumstances, not later than 30 working days after receipt of the request) advise the individual that the record is to be amended or corrected, or inform the individual of rejection of the request to amend the record, the reason for the rejection, and the procedures estab-

lished by § 792.27 for the individual to request a review of that rejection.

[54 FR 18476, May 1, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 36041, 36042, July 15, 1994]

§ 792.59 Appeal of initial determination.

(a) A rejection, in whole or in part, of a request to amend or correct a record may be appealed to the General Counsel within 30 working days of receipt of notice of the rejection. Appeals shall be in writing, and shall set forth the specific item of information sought to be corrected and the documentation justifying the correction. Appeals shall be addressed to the Office of General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3428. Appeals shall be decided within 30 working days of receipt unless the General Counsel, for good cause, extends such period for an additional 30 working days.

(b) Within the time limits set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, the General Counsel shall either advise the individual of a decision to amend or correct the record, or advise the individual of a determination that an amendment or correction is not warranted on the facts, in which case the individual shall be advised of the right to provide for the record a “Statement of Disagreement” and of the right to further appeal pursuant to the Privacy Act. For records under the jurisdiction of the Office of Personnel Management, appeals will be made pursuant to that agency’s regulations.

(c) A statement of disagreement may be furnished by the individual. The statement must be sent, within 30 days of the date of receipt of the notice of General Counsel refusal to authorize correction, to the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3428. Upon receipt of a statement of disagreement in accordance with this section, the General Counsel shall take steps to ensure that the statement is included in the system of records containing the disputed item and that the original item is so marked to indicate that there is a statement of dispute and where, within the system of records, that statement may be found.

(d) When a record has been amended or corrected or a statement of disagreement has been furnished, the system manager for the system of records containing the record shall, within 30 days thereof, advise all prior recipients of information to which the amendment or statement of disagreement relates whose identity can be determined by an accounting made as required by the Privacy Act of 1974 or any other accounting previously made, of the amendment or statement of disagreement. When a statement of disagreement has been furnished, the system manager shall also provide any subsequent recipient of a disclosure containing information to which the statement relates with a copy of the statement and note the disputed portion of the information disclosed. A concise statement of the reasons for not making the requested amendment may also be provided if deemed appropriate.

(e) If access is denied because of an exemption, the individual shall be notified of the right to appeal that determination to the General Counsel within 180 days after receipt of the determination. Such an appeal shall be determined within 30 days.

[54 FR 18476, May 1, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 36041, July 15, 1994]

§ 792.60 Disclosure of record to person other than the individual to whom it pertains.

No record or item of information concerning an individual which is contained in a system of records maintained by NCUA shall be disclosed by any means of communication to any person, or to another agency, without the prior written consent of the individual to whom the record or item of information pertains, unless the disclosure would be—

(a) To an employee of the NCUA who has need for the record in the performance of duty;

(b) Required by the Freedom of Information Act;

(c) For a routine use as described in the “Notice of Systems of Records,” published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, which describes the system of records in which the record or item of information is contained;

(d) To the Bureau of the Census for purposes of planning or carrying out a census or survey or related activity pursuant to the provisions of title 13 of the United States Code;

(e) To a recipient who has provided the NCUA with advance adequate written assurance that the record or item will be used solely as a statistical research or reporting record, and the record is to be transferred in a form that is not individually identifiable;

(f) To the National Archives and Records Administration as a record or item which has sufficient historical or other value to warrant its continued preservation by the United States Government, or for evaluation by the Archivist of the United States or the designee of the Archivist to determine whether the record has such value;

(g) To another agency or to an instrumentality of any governmental jurisdiction within or under the control of the United States for a civil or criminal law enforcement activity if the activity is authorized by law, and if the head of the agency or instrumentality has made a written request to NCUA specifying the particular portion desired and the law enforcement activity for which the record or item is sought;

(h) To a person pursuant to a showing of compelling circumstances affecting the health or safety of an individual if, upon such disclosure, notification is transmitted to the last known address of such individual;

(i) To either House of Congress, or, to the extent of matter within its jurisdiction, any committee or subcommittee thereof, any joint committee of Congress or subcommittee of any such joint committee;

(j) To the Comptroller General, or any of his authorized representatives, in the course of the performance of the duties of the General Accounting Office; or

(k) Pursuant to the order of a court of competent jurisdiction; or

(l) To a consumer reporting agency in accordance with section 3711(f) of title 31 of the United States Code (31 U.S.C. 3711(f)).

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§ 792.61 Accounting for disclosures.

(a) Each system manager identified in the “Notice of Systems of Records” as published in the FEDERAL REGISTER for each system of records maintained by the NCUA, shall establish a system of accounting for all disclosures of information or records concerning individuals and contained in the system of records, made outside NCUA. Accounting procedures may be established in the least expensive and most convenient form that will permit the system manager to advise individuals, promptly upon request, of the persons or agencies to which records concerning them have been disclosed.

(b) Accounting records, at a minimum, shall include the information disclosed, the name and address of the person or agency to whom disclosure was made, and the date of disclosure. When records are transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration for storage in records centers, the accounting pertaining to those records shall be transferred with the records themselves.

(c) Any accounting made under this section shall be retained for at least five years or the life of the record, whichever is longer, after the disclosure for which the accounting is made.

§ 792.62 Requests for accounting for disclosures.

At the time of the request for access or correction or at any other time, an individual may request an accounting of disclosures made of the individual’s record outside the NCUA. Request for accounting shall be directed to the system manager. Any available accounting, whether kept in accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act or under procedures established prior to September 27, 1975, shall be made available to the individual, except that an accounting need not be made available if it relates to:

(a) A disclosure made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552);

(b) A disclosure made within the NCUA;

(c) A disclosure made to a law enforcement agency pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(7);

(d) A disclosure which has been exempted from the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552a(c)(3) pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a (j) or (k).

§ 792.63 Collection of information from individuals; information forms.

(a) The system manager, as identified in the “Notice of Systems of Records” published in the FEDERAL REGISTER for each system of records maintained by the Administration, shall be responsible for reviewing all forms developed and used to collect information from or about individuals for incorporation into the system of records.

(b) The purpose of the review shall be to eliminate any requirement for information that is not relevant and necessary to carry out an NCUA function and to accomplish the following objectives:

(1) To ensure that no information concerning religion, political beliefs or activities, association memberships (other than those required for a professional license), or the exercise of other First Amendment rights is required to be disclosed unless such requirement of disclosure is expressly authorized by statute or is pertinent to and within the scope of any authorized law enforcement activity;

(2) To ensure that the form or accompanying statement makes clear to the individual which information by law must be disclosed and the authority for that requirement, and which information is voluntary;

(3) To ensure that the form or accompanying statement makes clear the principal purpose or purposes for which the information is being collected, and states concisely the routine uses that will be made of the information;

(4) To ensure that the form or accompanying statement clearly indicates to the individual the existing rights, benefits or privileges not to provide all or part of the requested information; and

(5) To ensure that any form requesting disclosure of a social security number, or an accompanying statement, clearly advises the individual of the statute or regulation requiring disclosure of the number, or clearly advises the individual that disclosure is voluntary and that no consequence will flow from a refusal to disclose it, and

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the uses that will be made of the number whether disclosed mandatorily or voluntarily.

(c) Any form which does not meet the objectives specified in the Privacy Act and this section shall be revised to conform thereto.

§ 792.64 Contracting for the operation of a system of records.

(a) No NCUA component shall contract for the operation of a system of records by or on behalf of the Agency without the express approval of the NCUA Board.

(b) Any contract which is approved shall continue to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Privacy Act. The contracting component shall have the responsibility for ensuring that the contractor complies with the contract requirements relating to the Privacy Act.

§ 792.65 Fees.

(a) Fees pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(f)(5) shall be assessed for actual copies of records provided to individuals on the following basis, unless the NCUA official determining access waives the fee because of the inability of the individual to pay or the cost of collecting the fee exceeds the fee:

(1) For actual copies of documents, 25 cents per page; and

(2) For copying information, if any, maintained in nondocument form, the direct cost to NCUA may be assessed.

(b) If it is determined that access fees chargeable under this section will amount to more than \$25, and the individual has not indicated in advance willingness to pay fees as high as are anticipated, the individual shall be notified of the amount of the anticipated fees before copies are made, and the individual's access request shall not be considered to have been received until receipt by NCUA of written agreement to pay.

§ 792.66 Exemptions.

(a) NCUA maintains three systems of records which are exempted from some of the provisions of the Privacy Act. In paragraph (b) of this section, those systems of records are identified by System Name and System Number, as stated in the NCUA's "Notice of Sys-

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tems of Records," published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The provisions from which each system is exempted and the reasons therefor are also set forth.

(b)(1) System NCUA-1, entitled "Employee Security Investigations Containing Adverse Information," consists of adverse information about NCUA employees which has been obtained as a result of routine Office of Personnel Management Security Investigations. To the extent that NCUA maintains records in this system pursuant to Office of Personnel Management guidelines which require or may require retrieval of information by use of individual identifiers, those records are encompassed by and included in the Office of Personnel Management Government-Wide System of Records Number 4, entitled "Personnel Investigations Records," and thus are subject to the applicable specific exemptions promulgated by the Office of Personnel Management. Additionally, in order to ensure the protection of properly confidential sources, particularly as to those records which are not maintained pursuant to such Office of Personnel Management requirements, the records in these systems of records are exempted, pursuant to section k(5) of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(5)), from section (d) of the Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(d)). To the extent that disclosure of a record would reveal the identity of a confidential source, NCUA need not grant access to that record by its subject. Information which would reveal a confidential source shall, however, whenever possible, be extracted or summarized in a manner which protects the source and the summary or extract shall be provided to the requesting individual.

(2) System NCUA-15, entitled "Investigative Reports Involving Any Crime, Suspected Crime or Suspicious Activity Against a Credit Union, NCUA" consists of a limited number of records about individuals suspected or involvement in felonies or infractions under the Federal Credit Union Act or criminal statutes. These records are maintained in an overall context of general investigative information concerning crimes against credit unions. To the extent that individually identifiable

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information is maintained, however, for purposes of protecting the security of any investigations by appropriate law enforcement authorities and promoting the successful prosecution of all actual criminal activity, the records in this system are exempted, pursuant to section k(2) of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(2)), from sections (c)(3), and (d)). NCUA need not make an accounting of previous disclosures of a record in this system of records available to its subject, the NCUA need not grant access to any records in this system of records by their subject. Further, whenever individuals request records about themselves and maintained in this system of records, the NCUA shall, to the extent necessary to realize the above-stated purposes, neither confirm nor deny the existence of the records but shall advise the individuals only that no records available to them pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974 have been identified. However, should review of the record reveal that the information contained therein has been used or is being used to deny the individuals any right, privilege or benefit for which they are eligible or to which they would otherwise be entitled under Federal law, the individuals shall be advised of the existence of the information and shall be provided the information, except to the extent disclosure would identify a confidential source. Information which would identify a confidential source shall, if possible, be extracted or summarized in a manner which protects the source and the summary or extract shall be provided to the requesting individual.

(3) System NCUA-20, entitled, "Office of Inspector General (OIG) Investigative Records," consists of OIG records of closed and pending investigations of individuals alleged to have been involved in criminal violations. The records in this system are exempted pursuant to Sections (k)(2) of the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(2), from sections (c)(3); (d); (e)(1); (e)(4)(G); (e)(4)(H); (e)(4)(I); and (f). The records in this system are also exempted pursuant to Section (j)(2) of the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a(j)(2), from sections (c)(3); (c)(4); (d); (e)(1); (e)(2); (e)(3); and (g).

(c) For purposes of this section, a "confidential source" means a source who furnished information to the Government under an express promise that the identity of the source would remain confidential, or, prior to September 27, 1976, under an implied promise that the identity of the source would be held in confidence.

[54 FR 18476, May 1, 1989, as amended at 60 FR 31912, June 19, 1995; 64 FR 57365, Oct. 25, 1999]

§ 792.67 Security of systems of records.

(a) Each system manager, with the approval of the head of that Office, shall establish administrative and physical controls to insure the protection of a system of records from unauthorized access or disclosure and from physical damage or destruction. The controls instituted shall be proportional to the degree of sensitivity of the records, but at a minimum must insure: that records are enclosed in a manner to protect them from public view; that the area in which the records are stored is supervised during all business hours to prevent unauthorized personnel from entering the area or obtaining access to the records; and that the records are inaccessible during nonbusiness hours.

(b) Each system manager, with the approval of the head of that Office, shall adopt access restriction to insure that only those individuals within the agency who have a need to have access to the records for the performance of duty have access. Procedures shall also be adopted to prevent accidental access to or dissemination of records.

§ 792.68 Use and collection of Social Security numbers.

The head of each NCUA Office shall take such measures as are necessary to ensure that employees authorized to collect information from individuals are advised that individuals may not be required without statutory or regulatory authorization to furnish Social Security numbers, and that individuals who are requested to provide Social Security numbers voluntarily must be advised that furnishing the number is not required and that no penalty or denial of benefits will flow from the refusal to provide it.

§ 792.69 Training and employee standards of conduct with regard to privacy.

(a) The Director of the Office of Administration, with advice from the General Counsel, shall be responsible for training NCUA employees in the obligations imposed by the Privacy Act and this subpart.

(b) The head of each NCUA Office shall be responsible for assuring that employees subject to that person's supervision are advised of the provisions of the Privacy Act, including the criminal penalties and civil liabilities provided therein, and that such employees are made aware of their responsibilities to protect the security of personal information, to assure its accuracy, relevance, timeliness, and completeness, to avoid unauthorized disclosure either orally or in writing, and to insure that no information system concerning individuals, no matter how small or specialized, is maintained without public notice.

(c) With respect to each system of records maintained by NCUA, Agency employees shall:

(1) Collect no information of a personal nature from individuals unless authorized to collect it to achieve a function or carry out an NCUA responsibility;

(2) Collect from individuals only that information which is necessary to NCUA functions or responsibilities;

(3) Collect information, wherever possible, directly from the individual to whom it relates;

(4) Inform individuals from whom information is collected of the authority for collection, the purposes thereof, the routine uses that will be made of the information, and the effects, both legal and practical of not furnishing the information;

(5) Not collect, maintain, use, or disseminate information concerning an individual's religious or political beliefs or activities or his membership in associations or organizations, unless:

(i) The individual has volunteered such information for his own benefit;

(ii) The information is expressly authorized by statute to be collected, maintained, used, or disseminated; or

(iii) Activities involved are pertinent to and within the scope of an authorized investigation or adjudication.

(6) Advise their supervisors of the existence or contemplated development of any record system which retrieves information about individuals by individual identifier.

(7) Maintain an accounting, in the prescribed form, of all dissemination of personal information outside NCUA, whether made orally or in writing;

(8) Disseminate no information concerning individuals outside NCUA except when authorized by 5 U.S.C. 552a or pursuant to a routine use as set forth in the "routine use" section of the "Notice of Systems of Records" published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(9) Maintain and process information concerning individuals with care in order to ensure that no inadvertent disclosure of the information is made either within or outside NCUA; and

(10) Call to the attention of the proper NCUA authorities any information in a system maintained by NCUA which is not authorized to be maintained under the provisions of the Privacy Act, including information on First Amendment activities, information that is inaccurate, irrelevant or so incomplete as to risk unfairness to the individuals concerned.

(c) Heads of offices within NCUA shall, at least annually, review the record systems subject to their supervision to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Privacy Act.

[54 FR 18476, May 1, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 36042, July 15, 1994]

PART 793—TORT CLAIMS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

Subpart A—General

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AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1766.

SOURCE: 37 FR 5928, Mar. 23, 1972, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 49 FR 559, Jan. 5, 1984.

Subpart A—General

§ 793.1 Scope of regulations.

The regulation in this part shall apply only to claims asserted under the Federal Tort Claims Act, as amended, 28 U.S.C. 2671–2680, accruing on or after January 18, 1967, for money damages against the United States for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or death caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission of any employee of the National Credit Union Administration while acting within the scope of his office of employment.

Subpart B—Procedures

§ 793.2 Administrative claim; when presented; place of filing.

(a) For purposes of the regulations in this part, a claim shall be deemed to have been presented when the National Credit Union Administration receives, at a place designated in paragraph (b) of this section, an executed Standard Form 95 or other written notification of an incident accompanied by a claim for money damages in a sum certain for damage to or loss of property, for personal injury, or for death, alleged to have occurred by reason of the incident. A claim which should have been presented to the National Credit Union Administration but which was mistakenly addressed to or filed with another Federal agency, shall be deemed to be presented to the National Credit Union Administration as of the date that the claim is received by the National Credit Union Administration. A claim mistakenly addressed to or filed with the National Credit Union Administration shall forthwith be transferred to the appropriate Federal agency, if ascertainable, or returned to the claimant.

(b) A claim presented in compliance with paragraph (a) of this section may be amended by the claimant at any time prior to final action by the Office

of General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration or prior to the exercise of the claimant's option to bring suit under 28 U.S.C. 2675(a). Amendments shall be submitted in writing and signed by the claimant or his duly authorized agent or legal representative. Upon the timely filing of an amendment to a pending claim, the National Credit Union Administration shall have 6 months in which to make a final disposition of the claim as amended and the claimant's option under 28 U.S.C. 2675(a) shall not accrue until 6 months after the filing of an amendment.

(c) Forms may be obtained and claims may be filed with the regional office of the National Credit Union Administration having jurisdiction over the employee involved in the accident or incident, or with the Office of General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314–3428.

[37 FR 5928, Mar. 23, 1972. Redesignated at 49 FR 559, Jan. 5, 1984, and amended at 59 FR 36041, July 15, 1994]

§ 793.3 Administrative claim; who may file.

(a) A claim for injury to or loss of property may be presented by the owner of the property interest which is the subject matter of the claim, his duly authorized agent, or his legal representative.

(b) A claim for personal injury may be presented by the injured person, his duly authorized agent, or his legal representative.

(c) A claim based on death may be presented by the executor or administrator of the decedent's estate or by any other person legally entitled to assert such a claim under applicable State law.

(d) A claim for loss wholly compensated by an insurer with the rights of a subrogee may be presented by the insurer. A claim for loss partially compensated by an insurer with the rights of a subrogee may be presented by the insurer or the insured individually, as their respective interests appear, or jointly. Whenever an insurer presents a claim asserting the rights of a subrogee, he shall present with his

claim appropriate evidence that he has the rights of a subrogee.

(e) A claim presented by an agent or legal representative shall be presented in the name of the claimant, be signed by the agent or legal representative, show the title or legal capacity of the person signing, and be accompanied by evidence of his authority to present a claim on behalf of the claimant as agent, executor, administrator, parent, guardian, or other representative.

§ 793.4 Administrative claims; evidence and information to be submitted.

(a) *Death.* In support of a claim based on death, the claimant may be required to submit the following evidence or information:

(1) An authenticated death certificate or other competent evidence showing the cause of death, date of death, and age of the decedent.

(2) Decedent's employment or occupation at the time of death, including his monthly or yearly salary or earnings (if any), and the duration of his last employment or occupation.

(3) Full names, addresses, birthdates, kinship, and marital status of the decedent's survivors, including those survivors who were dependent for support upon the decedent at the time of his death.

(4) Degree of support afforded by the decedent to each survivor dependent upon him for support at the time of his death.

(5) Decedent's general physical and mental condition before death.

(6) Itemized bills for medical and burial expenses incurred by reason of the incident causing death, or itemized receipts or payments for such expenses.

(7) If damages for pain and suffering before death are claimed, a physician's detailed statement specifying the injuries suffered, duration of pain and suffering, any drugs administered for pain and the decedent's physical condition in the interval between injury and death.

(8) Any other evidence or information which may have a bearing on the responsibility of the United States for the death or the damages claimed.

(b) *Personal injury.* (1) A written report by his attending physician or dentist setting forth the nature and extent

of the injury, nature and extent of the treatment, any degree of temporary or permanent disability, the prognosis, period of hospitalization, and any diminished earning capacity. In addition, the claimant may be required to submit to a physical and/or mental examination by a physician employed or designated by the National Credit Union Administration. A copy or report of the examining physician shall be made available to the claimant upon the claimant's written request provided that claimant has, upon request, furnished the report referred to in the first sentence of this paragraph and has made or agrees to make available to the National Credit Union Administration any other physician's reports previously or thereafter made of the physical or mental condition which is the subject of his claim.

(2) Itemized bills for medical, dental, and hospital expenses incurred, or itemized receipts of payment for such expenses.

(3) If the prognosis reveals the necessity for future treatment, a statement of expected duration of and expenses for such treatment.

(4) If a claim is made for loss of time from employment, a written statement from his employer showing actual time lost from his employment, whether he is a full or part time employee, and wages or salary actually lost.

(5) If a claim is made for loss of income and the claimant is self-employed, documentary evidence showing the amount of earnings actually lost.

(6) Any other evidence or information which may have a bearing on the responsibility of the United States for the personal injury or the damages claimed.

(c) *Property damage.* In support of a claim for damages to or loss of property, real or personal, the claimant may be required to submit the following information or evidence:

(1) Proof of ownership.

(2) A detailed statement of the amount claimed with respect to each item of property.

(3) An itemized receipt of payment for necessary repairs or itemized written estimates of the cost of such repairs.

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(4) A statement listing date of purchase, purchase price, market value of the property as of date of damage, and salvage value, where repair is not economical.

(5) Any other evidence or information which may have a bearing on the responsibility of the United States for the injury to or loss of property or the damages claimed.

(d) *Time limit.* All evidence required to be submitted by this section shall be furnished by the claimant within a reasonable time. Failure of a claimant to furnish evidence necessary for a determination of his claim within 3 months after a request therefor has been mailed to his last known address may be deemed an abandonment of the claim. The claim may be thereupon disallowed.

§ 793.5 Investigation, examination, and determination of claims.

When a claim is received, the constituent agency out of whose activities the claim arose shall make such investigation as may be necessary or appropriate for a determination of the validity of the claim and thereafter shall forward the claim, together with all pertinent material, and a recommendation based on the merits of the case, with regard to the allowance or disallowance of the claim, to the Office of General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration to whom authority has been delegated to adjust, determine, compromise and settle all claims hereunder.

§ 793.6 Final denial of claim.

(a) Final denial of an administrative claim shall be in writing and sent to the claimant, his attorney, or legal representative by certified or registered mail. The notification of final denial may include a statement of the reasons for the denial and shall include a statement that, if the claimant is dissatisfied with the action of the National Credit Union Administration, he may file suit in an appropriate U.S. District Court not later than 6 months after the date of mailing the notification.

(b) Prior to the commencement of suit and prior to the expiration of the 6-month period after the date of mail-

ing, by certified or registered mail of notice of final denial of the claim as provided in 28 U.S.C. 2401(b), a claimant, his duly authorized agent, or legal representative, may file a written request with the National Credit Union Administration for reconsideration of a final denial of a claim under paragraph (a) of this section. Upon the timely filing of a request for reconsideration the National Credit Union Administration shall have 6 months from the date of filing in which to make a final disposition of the claim and the claimant's option under 28 U.S.C. 2675(a) to bring suit shall not accrue until 6 months after the filing of a request for reconsideration. Final National Credit Union Administration action on a request for reconsideration shall be effected in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 793.7 Payment of approved claims.

(a) Upon allowance of his claim, claimant or his duly authorized agent shall sign the voucher for payment, Standard Form 1145, before payment is made.

(b) When the claimant is represented by an attorney, the voucher for payment (S.F. 1145) shall designate both the claimant and his attorney as "payees." The check shall be delivered to the attorney whose address shall appear on the voucher.

§ 793.8 Release.

Acceptance by the claimant, his agent or legal representative, of any award, compromise or settlement made hereunder, shall be final and conclusive on the claimant, his agent or legal representative and any other person on whose behalf or for whose benefit the claim has been presented, and shall constitute a complete release of any claim against the United States and any employee of the Government whose act or omission gave rise to the claim, by reason of the same subject matter.

§ 793.9 Penalties.

A person who files a false claim or makes a false or fraudulent statement in a claim against the United States may be liable to a fine of not more than \$10,000 or to imprisonment of not

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more than 5 years, or both (18 U.S.C. 287–1001), and, in addition, to a forfeiture of \$2,000 and a penalty of double the loss or damage sustained by the United States (31 U.S.C. 231).

§ 793.10 Limitation on National Credit Union Administration's authority.

(a) An award, compromise or settlement of a claim hereunder in excess of \$25,000 shall be effected only with the prior written approval of the Attorney General or his designee. For purposes of this paragraph, a principal claim and any derivative or subrogated claim shall be treated as a single claim.

(b) An administrative claim may be adjusted, determined, compromised or settled hereunder only after consultation with the Department of Justice when, in the opinion of the National Credit Union Administration:

(1) A new precedent or a new point of law is involved; or

(2) A question of policy is or may be involved; or

(3) The United States is or may be entitled to indemnity or contribution from a third party and the National Credit Union Administration is unable to adjust the third party claim; or

(4) The compromise of a particular claim, as a practical matter, will or may control the disposition of a related claim in which the amount to be paid may exceed \$25,000.

(c) An administrative claim may be adjusted, determined, compromised or settled only after consultation with the Department of Justice when it is learned that the United States or any employee, agent or cost-plus contractor of the United States is involved in litigation based on a claim arising out of the same incident or transaction.

PART 794—ENFORCEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAP IN PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY THE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

Sec.

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794.149 Program accessibility: Discrimination prohibited.

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794.160 Communications.

794.161–794.169 [Reserved]

794.170 Compliance procedures.

794.171–794.999 [Reserved]

AUTHORITY: 29 U.S.C. 794.

SOURCE: 51 FR 22889, 22896, June 23, 1986, unless otherwise noted.

§ 794.101 Purpose.

This part effectuates section 119 of the Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978, which amended section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of handicap in programs or activities conducted by Executive agencies or the United States Postal Service.

§ 794.102 Application.

This part applies to all programs or activities conducted by the agency.

§ 794.103 Definitions.

For purposes of this part, the term—
Assistant Attorney General means the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice.

Auxiliary aids means services or devices that enable persons with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills to have an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, programs or activities conducted by the agency. For example, auxiliary aids useful for persons with impaired vision include readers, brailled materials, audio recordings, telecommunications devices and other similar services and devices. Auxiliary aids useful for persons with impaired hearing include telephone handset amplifiers, telephones compatible with hearing aids, telecommunication devices for deaf

persons (TDD's), interpreters, notetakers, written materials, and other similar services and devices.

Complete complaint means a written statement that contains the complainant's name and address and describes the agency's alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the agency of the nature and date of the alleged violation of section 504. It shall be signed by the complainant or by someone authorized to do so on his or her behalf. Complaints filed on behalf of classes or third parties shall describe or identify (by name, if possible) the alleged victims of discrimination.

Facility means all or any portion of buildings, structures, equipment, roads, walks, parking lots, rolling stock or other conveyances, or other real or personal property.

Handicapped person means any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment.

As used in this definition, the phrase:

(1) *Physical or mental impairment* includes—

(i) Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: Neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genitourinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or

(ii) Any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities. The term *physical or mental impairment* includes, but is not limited to, such diseases and conditions as orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, mental retardation, emotional illness, and drug addiction and alcoholism.

(2) *Major life activities* includes functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.

(3) *Has a record of such an impairment* means has a history of, or has been

misclassified as having, a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

(4) *Is regarded as having an impairment* means—

(i) Has a physical or mental impairment that does not substantially limit major life activities but is treated by the agency as constituting such a limitation;

(ii) Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits major life activities only as a result of the attitudes of others toward such impairment; or

(iii) Has none of the impairments defined in paragraph (1) of this definition but is treated by the agency as having such an impairment.

Historic preservation programs means programs conducted by the agency that have preservation of historic properties as a primary purpose.

Historic properties means those properties that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or properties designated as historic under a statute of the appropriate State or local government body.

Qualified handicapped person means—

(1) With respect to preschool, elementary, or secondary education services provided by the agency, a handicapped person who is a member of a class of persons otherwise entitled by statute, regulation, or agency policy to receive education services from the agency.

(2) With respect to any other agency program or activity under which a person is required to perform services or to achieve a level of accomplishment, a handicapped person who meets the essential eligibility requirements and who can achieve the purpose of the program or activity without modifications in the program or activity that the agency can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in its nature;

(3) With respect to any other program or activity, a handicapped person who meets the essential eligibility requirements for participation in, or receipt of benefits from, that program or activity; and

(4) *Qualified handicapped person* is defined for purposes of employment in 29

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CFR 1613.702(f), which is made applicable to this part by § 794.140.

Section 504 means section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Pub. L. 93-112, 87 Stat. 394 (29 U.S.C. 794)), as amended by the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-516, 88 Stat. 1617), and the Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-602, 92 Stat. 2955). As used in this part, section 504 applies only to programs or activities conducted by Executive agencies and not to federally assisted programs.

Substantial impairment means a significant loss of the integrity of finished materials, design quality, or special character resulting from a permanent alteration.

§§ 794.104–794.109 [Reserved]

§ 794.110 Self-evaluation.

(a) The agency shall, by August 24, 1987, evaluate its current policies and practices, and the effects thereof, that do not or may not meet the requirements of this part, and, to the extent modification of any such policies and practices is required, the agency shall proceed to make the necessary modifications.

(b) The agency shall provide an opportunity to interested persons, including handicapped persons or organizations representing handicapped persons, to participate in the self-evaluation process by submitting comments (both oral and written).

(c) The agency shall, until three years following the completion of the self-evaluation, maintain on file and make available for public inspection:

(1) A description of areas examined and any problems identified, and

(2) A description of any modifications made.

§ 794.111 Notice.

The agency shall make available to employees, applicants, participants, beneficiaries, and other interested persons such information regarding the provisions of this part and its applicability to the programs or activities conducted by the agency, and make such information available to them in such manner as the head of the agency

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finds necessary to apprise such persons of the protections against discrimination assured them by section 504 and this regulation.

§§ 794.112–794.129 [Reserved]

§ 794.130 General prohibitions against discrimination.

(a) No qualified handicapped person shall, on the basis of handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by the agency.

(b)(1) The agency, in providing any aid, benefit, or service, may not, directly or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, on the basis of handicap—

(i) Deny a qualified handicapped person the opportunity to participate in or benefit from the aid, benefit, or service;

(ii) Afford a qualified handicapped person an opportunity to participate in or benefit from the aid, benefit, or service that is not equal to that afforded others;

(iii) Provide a qualified handicapped person with an aid, benefit, or service that is not as effective in affording equal opportunity to obtain the same result, to gain the same benefit, or to reach the same level of achievement as that provided to others;

(iv) Provide different or separate aid, benefits, or services to handicapped persons or to any class of handicapped persons than is provided to others unless such action is necessary to provide qualified handicapped persons with aid, benefits, or services that are as effective as those provided to others;

(v) Deny a qualified handicapped person the opportunity to participate as a member of planning or advisory boards; or

(vi) Otherwise limit a qualified handicapped person in the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage, or opportunity enjoyed by others receiving the aid, benefit, or service.

(2) The agency may not deny a qualified handicapped person the opportunity to participate in programs or

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activities that are not separate or different, despite the existence of permissibly separate or different programs or activities.

(3) The agency may not, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, utilize criteria or methods of administration the purpose or effect of which would—

(i) Subject qualified handicapped persons to discrimination on the basis of handicap; or

(ii) Defeat or substantially impair accomplishment of the objectives of a program activity with respect to handicapped persons.

(4) The agency may not, in determining the site or location of a facility, make selections the purpose or effect of which would—

(i) Exclude handicapped persons from, deny them the benefits of, or otherwise subject them to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by the agency; or

(ii) Defeat or substantially impair the accomplishment of the objectives of a program or activity with respect to handicapped persons.

(5) The agency, in the selection of procurement contractors, may not use criteria that subject qualified handicapped persons to discrimination on the basis of handicap.

(6) The agency may not administer a licensing or certification program in a manner that subjects qualified handicapped persons to discrimination on the basis of handicap, nor may the agency establish requirements for the programs or activities of licensees or certified entities that subject qualified handicapped persons to discrimination on the basis of handicap. However, the programs or activities of entities that are licensed or certified by the agency are not, themselves, covered by this part.

(c) The exclusion of nonhandicapped persons from the benefits of a program limited by Federal statute or Executive order to handicapped persons or the exclusion of a specific class of handicapped persons from a program limited by Federal statute or Executive order to a different class of handicapped persons is not prohibited by this part.

(d) The agency shall administer programs and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified handicapped persons.

§§ 794.131–794.139 [Reserved]

§ 794.140 Employment.

No qualified handicapped person shall, on the basis of handicap, be subjected to discrimination in employment under any program or activity conducted by the agency. The definitions, requirements, and procedures of section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791), as established by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 29 CFR part 1613, shall apply to employment in federally conducted programs or activities.

§§ 794.141–794.148 [Reserved]

§ 794.149 Program accessibility: Discrimination prohibited.

Except as otherwise provided in § 794.150, no qualified handicapped person shall, because the agency's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by handicapped persons, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by the agency.

§ 794.150 Program accessibility: Existing facilities.

(a) *General.* The agency shall operate each program or activity so that the program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons. This paragraph does not—

(1) Necessarily require the agency to make each of its existing facilities accessible to and usable by handicapped persons;

(2) In the case of historic preservation programs, require the agency to take any action that would result in a substantial impairment of significant historic features of an historic property; or

(3) Require the agency to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. In those circumstances where

agency personnel believe that the proposed action would fundamentally alter the program or activity or would result in undue financial and administrative burdens, the agency has the burden of proving that compliance with § 794.150(a) would result in such alteration or burdens. The decision that compliance would result in such alteration or burdens must be made by the agency head or his or her designee after considering all agency resources available for use in the funding and operation of the conducted program or activity, and must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. If an action would result in such an alteration or such burdens, the agency shall take any other action that would not result in such an alteration or such burdens but would nevertheless ensure that handicapped persons receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.

(b) *Methods*—(1) *General*. The agency may comply with the requirements of this section through such means as redesign of equipment, reassignment of services to accessible buildings, assignment of aides to beneficiaries, home visits, delivery of services at alternate accessible sites, alteration of existing facilities and construction of new facilities, use of accessible rolling stock, or any other methods that result in making its programs or activities readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons. The agency is not required to make structural changes in existing facilities where other methods are effective in achieving compliance with this section. The agency, in making alterations to existing buildings, shall meet accessibility requirements to the extent compelled by the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4151–4157), and any regulations implementing it. In choosing among available methods for meeting the requirements of this section, the agency shall give priority to those methods that offer programs and activities to qualified handicapped persons in the most integrated setting appropriate.

(2) *Historic preservation programs*. In meeting the requirements of § 794.150(a) in historic preservation programs, the

agency shall give priority to methods that provide physical access to handicapped persons. In cases where a physical alteration to an historic property is not required because of § 794.150(a)(2) or (a)(3), alternative methods of achieving program accessibility include—

(i) Using audio-visual materials and devices to depict those portions of an historic property that cannot otherwise be made accessible;

(ii) Assigning persons to guide handicapped persons into or through portions of historic properties that cannot otherwise be made accessible; or

(iii) Adopting other innovative methods.

(c) *Time period for compliance*. The agency shall comply with the obligations established under this section by October 21, 1986, except that where structural changes in facilities are undertaken, such changes shall be made by August 22, 1989, but in any event as expeditiously as possible.

(d) *Transition plan*. In the event that structural changes to facilities will be undertaken to achieve program accessibility, the agency shall develop, by February 23, 1987, a transition plan setting forth the steps necessary to complete such changes. The agency shall provide an opportunity to interested persons, including handicapped persons or organizations representing handicapped persons, to participate in the development of the transition plan by submitting comments (both oral and written). A copy of the transition plan shall be made available for public inspection. The plan shall, at a minimum—

(1) Identify physical obstacles in the agency's facilities that limit the accessibility of its programs or activities to handicapped persons;

(2) Describe in detail the methods that will be used to make the facilities accessible;

(3) Specify the schedule for taking the steps necessary to achieve compliance with this section and, if the time period of the transition plan is longer than one year, identify steps that will be taken during each year of the transition period; and

(4) Indicate the official responsible for implementation of the plan.

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§ 794.151 Program accessibility: New construction and alterations.

Each building or part of a building that is constructed or altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of the agency shall be designed, constructed, or altered so as to be readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons. The definitions, requirements, and standards of the Architectural Barriers Act (42 U.S.C. 4151–4157), as established in 41 CFR 101–19.600 to 101–19.607, apply to buildings covered by this section.

§§ 794.152–794.159 [Reserved]

§ 794.160 Communications.

(a) The agency shall take appropriate steps to ensure effective communication with applicants, participants, personnel of other Federal entities, and members of the public.

(1) The agency shall furnish appropriate auxiliary aids where necessary to afford a handicapped person an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, a program or activity conducted by the agency.

(i) In determining what type of auxiliary aid is necessary, the agency shall give primary consideration to the requests of the handicapped person.

(ii) The agency need not provide individually prescribed devices, readers for personal use or study, or other devices of a personal nature.

(2) Where the agency communicates with applicants and beneficiaries by telephone, telecommunication devices for deaf person (TDD's) or equally effective telecommunication systems shall be used.

(b) The agency shall ensure that interested persons, including persons with impaired vision or hearing, can obtain information as to the existence and location of accessible services, activities, and facilities.

(c) The agency shall provide signage at a primary entrance to each of its inaccessible facilities, directing users to a location at which they can obtain information about accessible facilities. The international symbol for accessibility shall be used at each primary entrance of an accessible facility.

(d) This section does not require the agency to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a funda-

mental alteration in the nature of a program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. In those circumstances where agency personnel believe that the proposed action would fundamentally alter the program or activity or would result in undue financial and administrative burdens, the agency has the burden of proving that compliance with § 794.160 would result in such alteration or burdens. The decision that compliance would result in such alteration or burdens must be made by the agency head or his or her designee after considering all agency resources available for use in the funding and operation of the conducted program or activity, and must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. If an action required to comply with this section would result in such an alteration or such burdens, the agency shall take any other action that would not result in such an alteration or such burdens but would nevertheless ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, handicapped persons receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.

§§ 794.161–794.169 [Reserved]

§ 794.170 Compliance procedures.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, this section applies to all allegations of discrimination on the basis of handicap in programs or activities conducted by the agency.

(b) The agency shall process complaints alleging violations of section 504 with respect to employment according to the procedures established by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 29 CFR part 1613 pursuant to section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791).

(c) The Director, Office of Administration, shall be responsible for coordinating implementation of this section. Complaints may be sent to NCUA, 1776 G Street NW., Room 7261, Washington, DC 20456.

(d) The agency shall accept and investigate all complete complaints for which it has jurisdiction. All complete complaints must be filed within 180

days of the alleged act of discrimination. The agency may extend this time period for good cause.

(e) If the agency receives a complaint over which it does not have jurisdiction, it shall promptly notify the complainant and shall make reasonable efforts to refer the complaint to the appropriate government entity.

(f) The agency shall notify the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board upon receipt of any complaint alleging that a building or facility that is subject to the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4151–4157), or section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 792), is not readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons.

(g) Within 180 days of the receipt of a complete complaint for which it has jurisdiction, the agency shall notify the complainant of the results of the investigation in a letter containing—

(1) Findings of fact and conclusions of law;

(2) A description of a remedy for each violation found; and

(3) A notice of the right to appeal.

(h) Appeals of the findings of fact and conclusions of law or remedies must be filed by the complainant within 90 days of receipt from the agency of the letter required by § 794.170(g). The agency may extend this time for good cause.

(i) Timely appeals shall be accepted and processed by the head of the agency.

(j) The head of the agency shall notify the complainant of the results of the appeal within 60 days of the receipt of the request. If the head of the agency determines that additional information is needed from the complainant, he or she shall have 60 days from the date of receipt of the additional information to make his or her determination on the appeal.

(k) The time limits cited in paragraphs (g) and (j) of this section may be extended with the permission of the Assistant Attorney General.

(l) The agency may delegate its authority for conducting complaint investigations to other Federal agencies, except that the authority for making

the final determination may not be delegated to another agency.

[51 FR 22889, 22896, June 23, 1986, as amended at 51 FR 22889, June 23, 1986; 59 FR 36042, July 15, 1994]

§§ 794.171–794.999 [Reserved]

PART 795—OMB CONTROL NUMBERS ASSIGNED PURSUANT TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1766(a) and 5 U.S.C. 3507(f).

§ 795.1 OMB control numbers.

(a) *Purpose.* This subpart collects and displays the control numbers assigned to information collection requirements of the NCUA by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. 96–511. The NCUA intends to comply with the requirements of section 3507(f) of the Paperwork Reduction Act, which requires that agencies display a current control number assigned by the Director of OMB for each agency information collection requirement.

(b) *Display.*

12 CFR part or section where identified and described	Current OMB control No.
701.1	3133–0015
701.6	3133–0142
701.12	3133–0059
701.13	3133–0059
701.14	3133–0121
701.21	3133–0139
701.22	3133–0141
701.26	3133–0149
701.31	3133–0068
701.32	3133–0114
701.33	3133–0130
701.34	3133–0117
703	3133–0133
704	3133–0129
704.11	3133–0149
705	3133–0137
708a	3133–0138
708b	3133–0153
711	3133–0024
712	3133–0152
714	3133–0149
723	3133–0151
724	3133–0101
725	3133–0035
	3133–0061
	3133–0063
	3133–0064
	3133–0136
	3133–0155
	3133–0156
	3133–0157

National Credit Union Administration

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12 CFR part or section where identified and described	Current OMB control No.
	3133-0158
	3133-0159
741	3133-0067
741.6	3133-0004
748	3133-0108
	3133-0121
749	3133-0032

12 CFR part or section where identified and described	Current OMB control No.
760	3133-0143
792	3133-0146

[53 FR 29652, Aug. 8, 1988, as amended at 64 FR 49080, Sept. 10, 1999]

CHAPTER VIII—FEDERAL FINANCING BANK

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PART 810—FEDERAL FINANCING BANK BILLS

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810.0 Authority for issue and sale.

810.1 Description of Federal Financing Bank bills.

810.2 Public notice of offering.

810.3 Payment at maturity.

810.4 Acceptance of FFB bills for various purposes.

810.5 Taxation.

810.6 Exemption.

810.7 Federal Reserve Banks as fiscal agents.

810.8 Reservations as to terms of circular.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 9–11, 87 Stat. 939, 940; (12 U.S.C. 2288, 2289, 2290).

SOURCE: 39 FR 26397, July 19, 1974, unless otherwise noted.

§810.0 Authority for issue and sale.

The Federal Financing Bank is authorized under the Federal Financing Bank Act of 1973, to issue publicly, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, obligations having such maturities and bearing such rate or rates of interest as may be determined by the Bank. Pursuant to this authority, Federal Financing Bank bills, referred to herein as “FFB bills,” are offered for sale from time to time and tenders invited therefor, through the Federal Reserve Banks. The FFB bills so offered, the tenders made, and all subsequent transactions therein are subject to the terms and conditions of the public notice offering the bills for sale, this circular, and to the extent not inconsistent with such notice and circular, to Department of the Treasury Circular No. 418, current revision, the regulations governing United States Treasury bills, and all other regulations governing United States securities.

§810.1 Description of Federal Financing Bank bills.

(a) *General.* Federal Financing Bank bills are bearer obligations of the Federal Financing Bank, the terms of which provide for payment of a specified amount on a specified date. They are issued only by Federal Reserve Banks and Branches, pursuant to tenders accepted by the Federal Financing Bank, and are available in both definitive and book-entry form.

Where issued as a definitive security, it shall not be valid unless the issue date, the maturity date and the CUSIP number are imprinted thereon.

(b) *Denominations.* Federal Financing Bank bills will be issued in denominations of \$10,000, \$15,000, \$50,000, \$100,000, \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 (maturity value).

§810.2 Public notice of offering.

On the occasion of an offering of FFB bills, tenders therefor will be invited through public notices issued by the Federal Financing Bank. Each notice will set forth the amount offered, the issue date, the date they will be due and payable, the place and the date of the closing hour for the receipt of tenders and the date on which payment for accepted tenders must be made or completed.

§810.3 Payment at maturity.

Each FFB bill will be paid in its face amount at maturity upon presentation and surrender to any Federal Reserve Bank or Branch or to the Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Public Debt, Securities Transaction Branch, Washington, DC 20226. If a FFB bill is presented and surrendered for redemption after it has become overdue, the Federal Financing Bank may require satisfactory proof of ownership, as provided in §306.25 of Department of the Treasury Circular No. 300, current revision.

§810.4 Acceptance of FFB bills for various purposes.

Federal Financing Bank bills are lawful investments and may be accepted as security for all fiduciary, trust, and public funds, the investment or deposit of which shall be under the authority or control of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any territory or possession of the United States. They are eligible for purchase by national banks, and will be accepted at maturity value to secure public monies.

§810.5 Taxation.

All FFB bills shall be subject to Federal taxation to the same extent as obligations of private corporations are taxed.

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§810.6 Exemption.

Obligations of the Federal Financing Bank are deemed to be exempted securities within the meaning of section 3(a)(2) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77c(a)(2)), of section 3(a)(12) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78(a)(12)), and of section 304(a)(4) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (15 U.S.C. 77ddd(a)(4)).

§810.7 Federal Reserve Banks as fiscal agents.

The Federal Reserve Banks, as fiscal agents of the United States, have been authorized by the Department of the Treasury to perform all such acts as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this and other circulars of the Department of the Treasury as may be applicable to FFB bills, and of any public notice or notices issued in connection with any offering of these securities.

§810.8 Reservations as to terms of circular.

The Federal Financing Bank reserves the right to amend, supplement, revise or withdraw all or any of the provisions of this circular at any time or from time to time.

PART 811—BOOK-ENTRY PROCEDURE FOR FEDERAL FINANCING BANK SECURITIES

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811.1 Authority of Reserve Banks.

811.2 Scope and effect of book-entry procedure.

811.3 Transfer or pledge.

811.4 Withdrawal of Federal Financing Bank securities.

811.5 Delivery of Federal Financing Bank securities.

811.6 Registered bonds and notes.

811.7 Servicing book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities; payment of interest; payment at maturity or upon call.

AUTHORITY: The Federal Financing Bank Act of 1973, sections 9–11, 87 Stat. 939, 940; 12 U.S.C. 2288, 2289, 2290.

SOURCE: 40 FR 5532, Feb. 6, 1975, unless otherwise noted.

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§811.0 Definition of terms.

In this part, unless the context otherwise requires or indicates:

(a) *Reserve Bank* means the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (and any other Federal Reserve Bank which agrees to issue Federal Financing Bank securities in book-entry form) as fiscal agent of the United States acting on behalf of the Federal Financing Bank and, when indicated, acting in its individual capacity.

(b) *Federal Financing Bank security* means a Federal Financing Bank bond, note, certificate of indebtedness, or bill issued under the Federal Financing Bank Act of 1973, in the form of a definitive Federal Financing Bank security or a book-entry Federal Financing Bank security.

(c) *Definitive Federal Financing Bank security* means a Federal Financing Bank bond, note, certificate of indebtedness, or bill issued under the Federal Financing Bank Act of 1973, in engraved or printed form.

(d) *Book-entry Federal Financing Bank security* means a Federal Financing Bank bond, note, certificate of indebtedness, or bill issued under the Federal Financing Bank Act of 1973, in the form of an entry made as prescribed in this part on the records of a Reserve Bank.

(e) *Pledge* includes a pledge of, or any other security interest in, Federal Financing Bank securities as collateral for loans or advances or to secure deposits of public monies or the performance of an obligation.

(f) *Date of call* is the date fixed in the official notice of call published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on which the Federal Financing Bank will make payment of the security before maturity in accordance with its terms.

(g) *Member bank* means any national bank, State bank or bank or trust company which is a member of a Reserve Bank.

§811.1 Authority of Reserve Banks.

Each Reserve Bank is hereby authorized, in accordance with the provisions of this part, to: (a) Issue book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities by means of entries on its records which shall include the name of the depositor, the amount, the loan title (or series)

Federal Financing Bank

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and maturity date; (b) effect conversions between book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities and definitive Federal Financing Bank securities; (c) otherwise service and maintain book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities; and (d) issue a confirmation of transaction in the form of a written advice (serially numbered or otherwise) which specifies the amount and description of any securities, that is, loan title (or series) and maturity date, sold or transferred and the date of the transaction.

§811.2 Scope and effect of book-entry procedure.

(a) A Reserve Bank, as fiscal agent of the United States acting on behalf of the Federal Financing Bank, may apply the book-entry procedure provided for in this part to any Federal Financing Bank securities which have been or are hereafter deposited for any purpose in accounts with it in its individual capacity under terms and conditions which indicate that the Reserve Bank will continue to maintain such deposit accounts in its individual capacity, notwithstanding application of the book-entry procedure to such securities. This paragraph is applicable, but not limited, to securities deposited:

(1) As collateral pledged to a Reserve Bank (in its individual capacity) for advances by it;

(2) By a member bank for its sole account;

(3) By a member bank held for the account of its customers;

(4) In connection with deposits in a member bank of funds of States, municipalities, or other political subdivisions; or,

(5) In connection with the performance of an obligation or duty under Federal, State, municipal, or local law, or judgments or decrees of courts.

The application of the book-entry procedure under this paragraph shall not derogate from or adversely affect the relationship that would otherwise exist between a Reserve Bank in its individual capacity and its depositors covering any deposits under this paragraph. Whenever the book-entry procedure is applied to such Federal Financing Bank securities, the Reserve Bank is authorized to take all action nec-

essary in respect of the book-entry procedure to enable such Reserve Bank in its individual capacity to perform its obligations as depositary with respect to such Federal Financing Bank securities.

(b) A Reserve Bank, as fiscal agent of the United States acting on behalf of the Federal Financing Bank, shall apply the book-entry procedure to Federal Financing Bank securities deposited as collateral pledged to the United States under current revisions of Department of the Treasury Circulars Nos. 92 and 176 (31 CFR, parts 203 and 202), and may apply the book-entry procedure, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to any other Federal Financing Bank securities deposited with a Reserve Bank, as fiscal agent of the United States.

(c) Any person having an interest in Federal Financing Bank securities which are deposited with a Reserve Bank (in either its individual capacity or as fiscal agent of the United States) for any purpose shall be deemed to have consented to their conversion to book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities pursuant to the provisions of this part, and in the manner and under the procedures prescribed by the Reserve Bank.

(d) No deposits shall be accepted under this section on or after the date of maturity or call of the securities.

§811.3 Transfer or pledge.

(a) A transfer or a pledge of book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities to a Reserve Bank (in its individual capacity or as fiscal agent of the United States), or to the United States, or to any transferee or pledgee eligible to maintain an appropriate book-entry account in its name with a Reserve Bank under this part, is effected and perfected, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, by a Reserve Bank making an appropriate entry in its records of the securities transferred or pledged. The making of such an entry in the records of a Reserve Bank shall:

(1) Have the effect of a delivery in bearer form of definitive Federal Financing Bank securities; (2) have the effect of a taking of delivery by the transferee or pledgee; (3) constitute the

transferee or pledgee a holder; and (4) if a pledge, effect a perfected security interest therein in favor of the pledgee. A transfer or pledge of book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities effected under this paragraph shall have priority over any transfer, pledge, or other interest, theretofore or thereafter effected or perfected under paragraph (b) of this section or in any other manner.

(b) A transfer or a pledge of transferable Federal Financing Bank securities, or any interest therein, which is maintained by a Reserve Bank (in its individual capacity or as fiscal agent of the United States) in a book-entry account under this part, including securities in book-entry form under §811.2(a)(3), is effected, and a pledge is perfected, by any means that would be effective under applicable law to effect a transfer or to effect and perfect a pledge of the Federal Financing Bank securities, or any interest therein, if the securities were maintained by the Reserve Bank in bearer definitive form. For purposes of transfer or pledge hereunder, book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities maintained by a Reserve Bank shall, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, be deemed to be maintained in bearer definitive form. A Reserve Bank maintaining book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities either in its individual capacity or as fiscal agent of the United States is not a bailee for purposes of notification of pledges of those securities under this subsection, or a third person in possession for purposes of acknowledgement of transfers thereof under this subsection. Where transferable Federal Financing Bank securities are recorded on the books of a depository (a bank, banking institution, financial firm, or a similar party, which regularly accepts in the course of its business Federal Financing Bank securities as a custodial service for customers, and maintains accounts in the names of such customers reflecting ownership of or interest in such securities) for account of the pledgor or transferor thereof and such securities are on deposit with a Reserve Bank in a book-entry account hereunder, such depository shall, for purposes of perfecting a pledge of such securities or

effecting delivery of such securities to a purchaser under applicable provisions of law, be the bailee to which notification of the pledge of the securities may be given or the third person in possession from which acknowledgment of the holding of the securities for the purchaser may be obtained. A Reserve Bank will not accept notice or advice of a transfer or pledge effected or perfected under this subsection, and any such notice or advice shall have no effect. A Reserve Bank may continue to deal with its depositor in accordance with the provisions of this part, notwithstanding any transfer or pledge effected or perfected under this subsection.

(c) No filing or recording with a public recording office or officer shall be necessary or effective with respect to any transfer or pledge of book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities or any interest therein.

(d) A Reserve Bank shall, upon receipt of appropriate instructions, convert book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities into definitive Federal Financing Bank securities and deliver them in accordance with such instructions; no such conversion shall affect existing interests in such Federal Financing Bank securities.

(e) A transfer of book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities within a Reserve Bank shall be made in accordance with procedures established by the Bank not inconsistent with this part. The transfer of book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities by a Reserve Bank may be made through a telegraphic transfer procedure.

(f) All requests for transfer or withdrawal must be made prior to the maturity or date of call of the securities.

§811.4 Withdrawal of Federal Financing Bank securities.

(a) A depositor of book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities may withdraw them from a Reserve Bank by requesting delivery of like definitive Federal Financing Bank securities to itself or on its order to a transferee.

(b) Federal Financing Bank securities which are actually to be delivered upon withdrawal may be issued either in registered or in bearer form, except

Federal Financing Bank

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that Federal Financing Bank bills will be issued in bearer form only.

§811.5 Delivery of Federal Financing Bank securities.

A Reserve Bank which has received Federal Financing Bank securities and effected pledges, made entries regarding them, or transferred or delivered them according to the instructions of its depositor is not liable for conversion or for participation in breach of fiduciary duty even though the depositor had no right to dispose of or take other action in respect of the securities. A Reserve Bank shall be fully discharged of its obligations under this part by the delivery of Federal Financing Bank securities in definitive form to its depositor or upon the order of such depositor. Customers of a member bank or other depository (other than a Reserve Bank) may obtain Federal Financing Bank securities in definitive form only by causing the depositor of the Reserve Bank to order the withdrawal thereof from the Reserve Bank.

§811.6 Registered bonds and notes.

Registered Federal Financing Bank securities deposited with a Reserve Bank for any purpose specified in §811.2

shall be assigned for conversion to book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities. The assignment, which shall be executed in accordance with the provisions of subpart F of 31 CFR, part 306, so far as applicable, shall be to—

Federal Reserve Bank of _____, as fiscal agent of the United States acting on behalf of the Federal Financing Bank for conversion to book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities.

§811.7 Servicing book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities; payment of interest; payment at maturity or upon call.

Interest becoming due on book-entry Federal Financing Bank securities shall be charged against the special agent account maintained by the Department of the Treasury for the Federal Financing Bank on the interest due date and remitted or credited in accordance with the depositor's instructions. Such securities shall be redeemed and charged against the above said account on the date of maturity or call, and the redemption proceeds, principal and interest, shall be disposed of in accordance with the depositor's instructions.

CHAPTER IX—FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD

SUBCHAPTER A—GENERAL

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SUBCHAPTER A—GENERAL

PART 900—DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS

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900.2 General statement and statutory authority.

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900.51 Forms.

900.52 Submittal of requests for information.

900.53 Official Seal.

900.54 Official logo.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552; 12 U.S.C. 1422b(a), 1423.

SOURCE: 56 FR 67155, Dec. 30, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Functions and Responsibilities of Finance Board

§900.1 Definitions.

As used in this part:

Bank means a Federal Home Loan Bank.

Bank Act means the Federal Home Loan Bank Act.

Bank System means the Federal Home Loan Bank System, consisting of the Federal Home Loan Banks.

Finance Board means the Federal Housing Finance Board.

§900.2 General statement and statutory authority.

(a) The Finance Board is an independent, executive agency in the Federal Government, responsible for regulating the Federal Home Loan Bank System. It is funded through assessments levied upon the Federal Home Loan Banks. These funds are not considered Government Funds or appropriated monies. The Finance Board is governed by a five-member Board of Directors and administered by a full-time staff.

(b) The members of the Board of Directors are individually referred to as Directors. The heads of the various administrative units, called offices or directorates, are also called Directors.

(c) The Finance Board administers chapter 11 of the Bank Act, as amended, and is authorized to issue rules, regulations and orders affecting the Banks. The Finance Board performs all such duties and responsibilities as may be required by statute. Under section 302(b)(2) of the Federal National Mortgage Association Charter Act, it also conducts a monthly survey of all major lenders to calculate a national average for interest rates on mortgages for one-family homes, on behalf of the Federal National Mortgage Association. Under section 305(b) of the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Act, it conducts a similar survey for the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

§900.3 Location and business hours.

(a) *Location*. All office units of the Finance Board are located at 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006.

(b) *Hours of operation*. The regular hours of operation of the Finance Board are from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

§900.4 Federal Home Loan Bank System.

(a) The Finance Board regulates the Banks, created under the Bank Act. Specifically, its duties are:

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(1) To ensure that the Banks operate in a safe and sound manner;

(2) To supervise all lending and related operations of the Banks, which may include:

(i) Prescribing conditions upon which Banks may advance funds to their member lending institutions;

(ii) Prescribing rules and conditions under which a Bank may borrow funds, pay interest on those funds, or issue obligations;

(iii) Requiring examinations of the Banks;

(iv) Appointing the public members of the boards of directors of the Banks, conducting the elections of the members who are elected by the members of the Banks, and designating the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the boards of directors of the Banks;

(v) Approving dividends paid by the Banks on their capital stock;

(vi) Approving applications for membership in a Bank; and

(vii) Approving the Bank Presidents selected by the Banks' board of directors and approving the salaries of top level Bank officers;

(3) To ensure that the Banks fulfill their mission of channeling funds to the housing finance industry by making long-term loans to financial lending institutions for use in mortgage lending;

(4) To ensure that the Banks remain adequately capitalized; and

(5) To ensure that the Banks are able to raise funds in the capital markets.

(b) The Finance Board issues the Federal Home Loan Bank consolidated bonds or notes that are the joint and several obligations of the Banks. The Finance Board issues these obligations through the Office of Finance, which is a joint office of the Bank System.

§ 900.5 Financing Corporation.

The Finance Board oversees the operations of the Financing Corporation, including its issuance of obligations. The Financing Corporation is a mixed ownership government corporation chartered by the Finance Board under section 302 of the Competitive Equality Banking Act of 1987, 101 Stat. 552, 585 (1987) (12 U.S.C. 1441).

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APPENDIX A TO SUBPART A OF PART 900—FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANKS

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK DISTRICT 1

(Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)

Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston

One Financial Center, 20th Floor, Boston, MA 02111

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK DISTRICT 2

(New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands)

Federal Home Loan Bank of New York

One World Trade Center, 103rd Floor, New York, NY 10048

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK DISTRICT 3

(Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia)

Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh

One Riverfront Center, 20 Stanwix Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4893

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK DISTRICT 4

(Alabama, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia)

Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta

1475 Peachtree Street, NE., Atlanta, GA 30309

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK DISTRICT 5

(Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee)

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

2400 Atrium Two, 221 East Fourth Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK DISTRICT 6

(Indiana, Michigan)

Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis

8250 Woodfield Crossing Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46240

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK DISTRICT 7

(Illinois, Wisconsin)

Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago

111 East Wacker Drive, Suite 700, Chicago, IL 60601

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK DISTRICT 8

(Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota)

Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines

907 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309

Federal Housing Finance Board

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FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK DISTRICT 9

(Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Texas)

Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas

5605 North MacArthur Boulevard, Irving, TX 75038

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK DISTRICT 10

(Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma)

Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka

Townsite Plaza Two, 120 East Sixth Street, Topeka, KS 66603

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK DISTRICT 11

(Arizona, California, Nevada)

Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco

600 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK DISTRICT 12

(Alaska, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming)

Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle

1501 Fourth Avenue, 19th Floor, Seattle, WA 98101-1693

[56 FR 67155, Dec. 30, 1991, as amended at 63 FR 3455, Jan. 23, 1998]

Subpart B—General Organization

§ 900.10 Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors consists of five members (“Directors”). Four Directors are appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for seven-year terms. The fifth Director, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, is an *ex officio* Director. Not more than three Directors may belong to the same political party. By law, the four appointed Directors must have backgrounds in housing finance or a demonstrated commitment to providing specialized housing credit, and one such Director must have a background with an organization with a two-year record of representing consumer or community interests on either banking services, credit needs, financial consumer protection or housing. The Board of Directors sets agency policy and issues resolutions, rules, regulations and orders, as necessary.

§ 900.11 Chairperson.

The President designates one appointed Director as Chairperson of the Board of Directors, who presides over the meetings of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has delegated, by resolution, the responsibility of overall management and organizational or personnel administration of the Finance Board to the Chairperson.

§ 900.12 Office of the Managing Director.

(a) The Managing Director is the Finance Board’s chief operating officer. By order of the Chairperson, the Managing Director has been delegated the authority and power necessary and convenient to effect the day-to-day management, functioning, and organization of the Finance Board, including the authority to appoint, remove, promote, direct, set compensation for, and pay Finance Board personnel. The Managing Director is authorized to execute documents on behalf of the Board of Directors, including regulations, resolutions, or orders duly passed by the Board of Directors. The Managing Director is also the Finance Board’s Chief Information Officer.

(b) The Executive Secretariat is a division within the Office of the Managing Director. The Executive Secretary is the recording officer for the Board of Directors and is responsible for maintaining the Finance Board’s records, including copies of all resolutions and rules adopted by the Board of Directors and orders issued by the Chairperson. The Executive Secretary also is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the minutes or other records of all official actions and proceedings of the Board of Directors, and is responsible for the official seals of the Finance Board. This division also is responsible for the agency’s Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Act, and Records Management Programs. The Executive Secretary is the primary liaison with the Office of the Federal Register.

(c) The District Banks Secretariat is a division within the Office of the Managing Director responsible for administering the election of directors of the Banks and for maintaining records on

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each of the Banks' policies and marketing activities.

[61 FR 68129, Dec. 27, 1996]

§ 900.13 Office of Policy.

(a) The Office of Policy coordinates the Finance Board's policy development activities and provides advice to the Chairperson and the Board of Directors on the economic, financial, housing and community and economic development, and competitive environments in which the Bank System and its members operate. The responsibilities of the Office of Policy include:

(1) Analysis and modeling of the financial performance of the Banks;

(2) Collection and analysis of financial data in order to prepare the Bank System's annual combined financial reports and other periodic reports on Bank System operations;

(3) Collection and analysis of data on the housing and community and economic development activities of the Banks;

(4) Analysis of the Banks' performance under the Affordable Housing Program and the Community Investment Program;

(5) Analysis of policy issues arising under the Affordable Housing Program and the Community Investment Program;

(6) Preparation of the Monthly Survey of Rates and Terms of Conventional One-Family Nonfarm Mortgage Loans and determination of the conforming loan limit for Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) purchases and guarantees; and

(7) Review of the Banks' quarterly dividend recommendations.

(b) The Office of Policy is the Finance Board's primary liaison with the Banks' Chief Financial Officers concerning financial management issues, the Banks' Community Investment Officers concerning community and economic development, the Banks' Advisory Councils concerning Bank System support of affordable housing, and the Bank System's fiscal agent, the Office of Finance. It prepares the annual reports to Congress and to the Banks' Advisory Councils concerning Bank

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System support for low-income housing and community development.

[61 FR 68130, Dec. 27, 1996]

§ 900.14 Office of Supervision.

The Office of Supervision oversees the Banks, the Office of Finance and the Financing Corporation to ensure that they operate in a financially safe and sound manner, that the Banks are carrying out their housing and community and economic development finance mission and are in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations, as well as Finance Board policies and orders. The responsibilities of the Office of Supervision include:

(a) The conduct of examinations, at least annually, of the Banks, the Office of Finance and the Financing Corporation and the furnishing of reports thereon to the Chairpersons of their Boards of Directors;

(b) The follow-up and resolution of outstanding examination issues;

(c) Liaison with each Bank's audit committee and the review and evaluation of the work of each Bank's internal audit staff;

(d) The monitoring of Bank and System interest rate risk, financial trends and mission-related activities; and

(e) The review of Community Support Statements of Bank System members.

[61 FR 68130, Dec. 27, 1996]

§ 900.15 Office of General Counsel.

The General Counsel is the chief legal officer of the Finance Board. The Office of General Counsel provides advice to the Board of Directors, the Chairperson, and other Finance Board officials, on interpretations of statutes and regulations. The Office of General Counsel prepares all legal documents on behalf of the Finance Board and prepares opinions, regulations, and memoranda of law. It represents the Finance Board in all administrative adjudicatory proceedings before the Board of Directors. The Chairman appoints the Finance Board's Designated Agency Ethics Official from the staff of the Office of General Counsel.

[61 FR 68130, Dec. 27, 1996]

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§ 900.16 Office of Inspector General.

The Inspector General is subject to, and operates under, the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (5 U.S.C. app. 3). The Inspector General reports to and is under the general supervision of the Chairperson. The Inspector General's responsibilities under the Inspector General Act include providing policy direction for, and conducting, supervising, and coordinating audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations of the Finance Board, and recommending policies for promoting economy and efficiency in the administration of, or preventing and detecting fraud and abuse in, the Finance Board's programs and operations. The Inspector General prepares and furnishes to the Chairman for transmittal to the Congress semiannual reports on the activities of the Office of Inspector General.

[61 FR 68130, Dec. 27, 1996]

§ 900.17 Office of Congressional Affairs.

The Office of Congressional Affairs is responsible for ensuring the effective coordination and communication with the Congress and interest groups, and for briefing the Chairperson, the other Directors, and the Managing Director, on legislative issues before Congress pertaining to the Finance Board, the Bank System, and the Financing Corporation.

[61 FR 68130, Dec. 27, 1996]

§ 900.18 Office of Public Affairs.

The Office of Public Affairs is responsible for the dissemination of information about the Finance Board to the public and the news media. The Office of Public Affairs is the Finance Board's primary liaison with news reporters. It also responds to general inquiries about the activities of the Finance Board.

[61 FR 68130, Dec. 27, 1996]

§ 900.19 Office of Resource Management.

The Office of Resource Management advises the Chairperson and the Board of Directors on internal agency man-

agement and organization and provides support services to the agency and to individual employees. The responsibilities of the Office of Resource Management include:

(a) Developing and managing agency policies and procedures governing employment and personnel action requirements, compensation and agency payroll requirements, travel, awards, insurance, retirement benefits, and other employee benefits;

(b) Providing support for all facility and supply requirements;

(c) Agency procurement and contracting programs;

(d) Agency financial management, budgeting and accounting; and

(e) Coordinating the design, programming, operation, and maintenance of the Finance Board's electronic data systems.

[61 FR 68130, Dec. 27, 1996]

Subpart C—Delegations of Authority

§ 900.30 Office of Finance Board of Directors.

(a) *Consolidated obligations.* Subject to Finance Board regulations, resolutions or policies, the Office of Finance Board of Directors is delegated the authority:

(1) To issue through the Office of Finance the Federal Home Loan Bank consolidated debentures, bonds or notes pursuant to the Finance Board's authority under section 11 of the Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1431); and

(2) To determine their denominations, interest rate and terms.

(b) *Treasury policy.* The Office of Finance Board of Directors shall implement this delegation in accordance with the policies and guidelines issued by the Secretary of the Treasury under section 9108 of title 31 of the United States Code (31 U.S.C. 9108).

[57 FR 6468, Feb. 25, 1992]

Subpart D—Procedures

§ 900.50 General statement on procedures and forms.

Regulations and rules of procedure of the Finance Board are published in chapter IX of title 12 of the Code of

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Federal Regulations and in supplementary material published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The Finance Board will prescribe the procedures governing the course and conduct of proceedings before the Board of Directors in its General Regulations. When and wherever appropriate, the Finance Board may supplement its administrative procedures with informal procedures designed to aid the public or facilitate the proceedings, including the rendering of advice or assistance to persons dealing with the Finance Board or its Board of Directors.

§ 900.51 Forms.

The following forms are available at the Finance Board headquarters facility (see § 900.3) and shall be used for the purpose indicated:

FORM

- 10-91—Monthly Survey of Rates and Terms on Conventional 1 Family Nonfarm Mortgage Loans.
- 9102—Certificate of Nomination, Election of Federal Home Loan Bank Directors.
- 9103—Election Ballot, Election of Federal Home Loan Bank Directors.
- A-1—Appointive Director Candidates—Personal Certification and Disclosure Form.
- E-1—Elective Director Nominees—Personal Certification and Disclosure Form.
- 90-T04—Local Travel Claim.

[60 FR 49199, Sept. 22, 1995, as amended at 63 FR 65687, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 900.52 Submittal of requests for information.

Requests for general information concerning the Finance Board or the Bank System should be made in person at the headquarters facility, at the address listed in § 900.3, or in writing addressed to the Executive Secretary at the same address.

§ 900.53 Official Seal.

This section describes and displays the official seals used by the Finance Board to certify and authenticate offi-

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cial documents of the Board of Directors:

(a)(1) *Description.* A disc with the term “SEAL” in capital letters in its center, encircled by a designation scroll having an outer border with a roped edge and an inner border with a beaded edge, and containing the words “FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD” in capital letters, in caslon type, with a mullet, in base.

(2) *Display.*



(b)(1) *Description.* A disc with a large mullet at its center and the term “FEDERAL” atop the term “HOUSING” in capital letters, in uncial type, arranged in a curved format on the upper part of the disc above the large mullet and the term “FINANCE” atop the term “BOARD” in capital letters, in uncial type, both terms arranged in a curved format on the lower part of the disc below the mullet, with two smaller mullets separating the two aforementioned terms “HOUSING” and “FINANCE”, and with six mullets arranged three each in a vertical row on the left and right sides of the disc, and surrounded by a boarder consisting of two plain lines.

(2) *Display.*



(c) *Description.* A disc having the same design and description as the official logo, contained in § 900.54 and displayed in paragraph (b) of that section.

[56 FR 67155, Dec. 30, 1991; 57 FR 749, Jan. 8, 1992]

§ 900.54 Official logo.

This section describes and displays the logo adopted by the Board of Directors as the official symbol representing the Finance Board. It is displayed on correspondence and selected documents.

(a) *Description.* A disc with its center consisting of three polygons arranged in an irregular line partially overlapping—each polygon drawn in a manner resembling a silhouette of a pitched roof house and with distinctive eaves under its roof—encircled by a designation scroll having an outer and inner border of plain heavy lines and containing the words “FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD” in capital letters, in sans serif type, with two mullets on the extreme left and right of the scroll.

(b) *Display.*



PART 902—OPERATIONS

Sec.

902.1 Definitions.

902.2 Assessments on the Banks.

902.3 Monthly interest rate survey.

902.4 Schedule of charges for agency services.

902.5 Minority Contractors Outreach Program.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1422b and 1438(b).

SOURCE: 58 FR 19195, Apr. 13, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

§ 902.1 Definitions.

As used in this part:

Bank means a Federal Home Loan Bank.

Bank System means the Federal Home Loan Bank System, consisting of all twelve Banks.

Business means an enterprise, including a firm, corporation, joint stock company, partnership, joint venture or association that engages in commercial activity on a regular basis.

Chairperson means the Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

Finance Board means the Federal Housing Finance Board.

Minority means:

(1) A male person or persons classified as either an African-American, a Native-American, a Hispanic-American, or an Asian-American; or

(2) A female person or persons regardless of ethnic or racial classification.

Minority-owned entity means a business that is:

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(1) Owned or controlled by any combination of African-Americans, Native-Americans, Hispanic-Americans or Asian-Americans, regardless of gender, where such ownership or control includes the management of the daily business operations; or

(2) Owned or controlled by female persons, regardless of ethnic origin, where such ownership or control includes the management of its daily business operations.

§ 902.2 Assessments on the Banks.

(a) *Assessment authority.* The Finance Board may impose a semiannual assessment on the Banks in an aggregate amount the Finance Board determines is sufficient to provide for the payment of its estimated expenses for the period for which it makes such assessment.

(b) *Assessment procedure.* (1) At or near the end of each fiscal year, the Finance Board shall approve an annual budget of Finance Board expenses for the next fiscal year. The Finance Board shall promptly provide a copy of the approved budget to each Bank president.

(2) The Finance Board shall assess the Banks semiannually in an aggregate amount it determines is sufficient to pay the expenses approved under paragraph (b)(1) of this section. The Finance Board shall offset the amount of the semiannual assessments it imposes on the Banks by any amount it determines is remaining from previous semiannual assessments. The Finance Board shall promptly notify each Bank president in writing of the amount on any assessment.

(3) Each Bank shall pay a *pro rata* share of the semiannual assessments imposed under paragraph (b)(2) of this section. The Finance Board shall calculate each Bank's *pro rata* share based on the ratio between the total paid-in value of the Bank's capital stock and the aggregate total paid-in value of the capital stock of every Bank. The Finance Board shall promptly notify each Bank in writing of the amount of its *pro rata* share of any semiannual assessment.

(4) Unless otherwise instructed in writing by the Finance Board, each Bank shall pay to the Finance Board its *pro rata* share of an assessment in

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equal monthly installments during the semiannual period covered by the assessment.

[62 FR 35949, July 3, 1997]

§ 902.3 Monthly interest rate survey.

The Finance Board conducts its Monthly Survey of Rates and Terms on Conventional One-Family Nonfarm Mortgage Loans in the following manner:

(a) *Initial survey.* Each month, the Finance Board samples approximately 1,000 mortgage lenders (savings and loan associations, savings banks, commercial banks, and mortgage loan companies) and asks them to report the terms and conditions on all conventional mortgages (not federally insured or guaranteed) used to purchase single-family homes that each such lender closes during the last five working days of the month. In most cases, the information is reported electronically in a format similar to Finance Board Form FHFB 10-91. The data is weighted so that the pattern of weighted responses matches the actual pattern of mortgage originations by lender type and by region. The Finance Board tabulates the data and publishes standard data tables late in the following month.

(b) *Adjustable-rate mortgage index.* The weighted data, tabulated and published pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, is used to compile the Finance Board's adjustable-rate mortgage index, entitled the "National Average Contract Mortgage Rate for the Purchase of Previously Occupied Homes by Combined Lenders." This index is the successor to the index maintained by the former Federal Home Loan Bank Board and is used for determining the movement of the interest rate on the renegotiable-rate mortgages and on some other adjustable-rate mortgages.

(c) *Means of survey.* The Finance Board collects the data for the compilation of the indices described in this section by contract. Pursuant to such contract, a Finance Board form, entitled "Monthly Survey of Rates and Terms on Conventional One-Family Nonfarm Mortgage Loans" (FHFB Form 10-91), is distributed to selected lending institutions. The data is collected, compiled and processed, and the

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completed survey results are forwarded to the Housing Finance Directorate of the Finance Board for tabulation and distribution.

§ 902.4 Schedule of charges for agency services.

(a) *Authority.* Section 9701 of title 31, United States Code, directs government agencies to charge a fee for any special service provided to a selected segment of the public that makes use of such special service (31 U.S.C. 9701). The Office of Management and Budget's Circular A-25 contains guidelines for agencies to follow when promulgating regulations for such user fee charges. This section implements that authority.

(b) *ARM Index special programming service.* (1) The Finance Board develops and makes available special tabulations of its monthly interest rate survey data for individual users, upon request.

(2) Each request for a specialized interest rate survey will be made in writing to the Housing Finance Directorate.

(3) The fee for such special service is a \$100 per hour for the analyst's time, with a minimum charge of \$100, prepaid, to accompany the written request.

§ 902.5 Minority Contractors Outreach Program.

(a) *Scope.* (1) This section establishes the Finance Board's Minority Contractors Outreach Program and designates the officials responsible for implementing the Program and its oversight.

(2) The Minority Contractor Outreach Program:

(i) Seeks to encourage the maximum participation of minorities in all Finance Board procurement contracts for goods or services;

(ii) Shall operate consistent with the principle of full and open competition and the concept of contracting for minimum agency needs at the lowest practical cost; and

(iii) Shall not be construed to be a substitute means of procurement for the Finance Board's established procedural process for the procurement of goods or services.

(b) *Responsibilities.* (1) The Director of Administration shall have general oversight of the Minority Contractors Outreach Program.

(2) The Chairperson shall:

(i) Appoint an Minority Contractors Advocate, who shall—

(A) Have primary responsibility for furthering the purposes of the Minority Contractors Outreach Program;

(B) Be responsible for challenging barriers to, and promoting maximum participation by, minorities or minority-owned entities in the Finance Board procurement process; and

(C) Develop a manual describing the procedures by which the Finance Board will implement the Minority Contractors Outreach Program.

(ii) Assign such Advocate only such duties or responsibilities, with respect to the Minority Contractors Outreach Program, as are consistent with this section, and shall not assign such Advocate any duties of a contracting officer or of a technical representative on a contract.

(c) *Program components.* The Minority Contractors Outreach Program procedures shall include the following:

(1) *Contractor File.* (i) The Minority Contractors Advocate shall compile and maintain an ongoing file consisting of minority-owned entities that are interested in contracting with the Finance Board for goods or services through the competitive bidding or negotiated procurement process.

(ii) The information in such file shall list the current name and address of each such minority-owned entity and shall categorize each name and address as follows:

- (A) Accounting services;
- (B) Building support services;
- (C) Computer services;
- (D) Consulting services;
- (E) Legal services;
- (F) Office supplies and equipment; or
- (G) Other services.

(2) *Solicitation.* The Minority Contractors Advocate shall implement a procedure for soliciting potential candidates for the contractor file provided for in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, by means of any of the following:

(i) Referrals from executive departments, agencies or instrumentalities of the Federal Government;

(ii) Direct solicitation of selected candidates;

(iii) Advertising by direct mail or publications specifically directed to minorities, or minority-owned entities;

(iv) Sponsoring Finance Board seminars designed to explain the Minority Contractors Outreach Program to minority contractors or minority-owned entities who have the potential of contracting with the Finance Board;

(v) Attendance at conventions, seminars or other professional conferences of minorities or minority-owned entities located in the greater Washington metropolitan area.

(3) *Certification.* (i) No minority-owned entity (whether solicited by the Minority Contractors Advocate or not) may participate in the Finance Board procurement process as a minority-owned entity unless certified as such by the Chairperson, or designee.

(ii) The certification shall be by a means and form approved by the Finance Board.

(iii) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent a non-certified minority-owned entity from participating in the procurement process as an entity not designated or deemed a minority or minority-owned entity.

(4) *Promotion.* (i) The Minority Contractors Advocate shall maintain an ongoing campaign of promotion of the Minority Contractors Outreach Program with all certified minority-owned entities.

(ii) This campaign shall include:

(A) Ongoing dissemination of information about the Minority Contractors Outreach Program with certified minority-owned entities;

(B) Alerting appropriate certified minority-owned entities when the Finance Board makes a solicitation for a bid or initiates the negotiation of a procurement contract for goods or services;

(C) Acting as a liaison between the Finance Board contracting authorities and a particular minority-owned entity; and

(D) Assisting any certified minority-owned entity to understand Finance Board contracting procedures or other information regarding a particular bid or contract.

(iii) Nothing in this paragraph (c)(4) shall authorize the Minority Contractors Advocate to represent the interests of any minority-owned entity in any contract matter or bid before the Finance Board.

(5) *Contract award guidelines—*(i) *Contracts not exceeding \$25,000.* The Finance Board Contracting Officer shall, from time to time, award contracts for the procurement of goods or services, that do not exceed \$25,000 in costs, to certified minority-owned entities listed in the contractor file provided for in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, to the extent not inconsistent with the principles of Federal Government procurement laws. Such awards shall be made after consultation with the Minority Contractors Advocate.

(ii) *Contracts exceeding \$25,000.* Contracts for goods or services that exceed \$25,000 will be awarded on the basis and consistent with the principles of the Federal Government procurement laws. The Finance Board Contracting Officer and the Minority Contractors Advocate shall work to ensure, promote and facilitate the maximum participation of minority-owned entities in the Finance Board's procurement of goods or services that exceed \$25,000.

PART 903—PROCEDURES

Subpart A—Definitions

Sec.

903.1 Definitions.

Subpart B—Waivers, Approvals, No-Action Letters, and Regulatory Interpretations

903.2 Waivers.

903.3 Approvals.

903.4 No-Action Letters.

903.5 Regulatory Interpretations.

903.6 Submission requirements.

903.7 Issuance of Waivers, Approvals, No-Action Letters, and Regulatory Interpretations.

Subpart C—Case-by-Case Determinations; Review of Disputed Supervisory Determinations

903.8 Case-by-Case Determinations.

903.9 Review of Disputed Supervisory Determinations.

903.10 Petitions.

903.11 Requests to Intervene.

903.12 Finance Board procedures.

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903.13 Consideration and Final Decisions.

903.14 Meetings of the Board of Directors to consider Petitions.

903.15 General provisions.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1422b(a)(1).

SOURCE: 64 FR 30883, June 9, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Definitions

§ 903.1 Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

(a) *Approval* means a written statement issued to a Bank or the Office of Finance approving a transaction, activity, or item that requires Finance Board approval under the Bank Act or a Finance Board rule, regulation, policy, or order.

(b) *Bank* means a Federal Home Loan Bank.

(c) *Bank Act* means the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1421–1449).

(d) *Board of Directors* means the Board of Directors of the Finance Board.

(e) *Case-by-Case Determination* means a Final Decision concerning any matter that requires a determination, finding, or approval by the Board of Directors under the Bank Act or Finance Board regulations, for which no controlling statutory, regulatory, or other Finance Board standard previously has been established, and that, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, is best resolved on a case-by-case basis by a ruling applicable only to the Petitioner and any Intervener, and not by adoption of a rule of general applicability.

(f) *Chairperson* means the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Finance Board.

(g) *Final Decision* means a decision rendered by the Board of Directors on issues raised in a Petition or Request to Intervene that have been accepted for consideration.

(h) *Finance Board* means the agency established as the Federal Housing Finance Board.

(i) *Intervener* means a Bank, Member, or other entity that has been granted leave to intervene in the consideration of a Petition by the Board of Directors.

(j) *Managing Director* means the Managing Director of the Finance Board.

(k) *Member* means an institution admitted to membership and owning capital stock in a Bank.

(l) *No-Action Letter* means a written statement issued to a Bank or the Office of Finance providing that Finance Board staff will not recommend supervisory or other action to the Board of Directors for failure to comply with a specific provision of the Bank Act or a Finance Board rule, regulation, policy, or order, if a requester undertakes a proposed transaction or activity.

(m) *Office of Finance* means the joint office of the Banks established pursuant to 12 CFR part 941.

(n) *Party* means a Petitioner, an Intervener, or the Finance Board.

(o) *Petition* means a Petition for Case-by-Case Determination or a Petition for Review of a Disputed Supervisory Determination.

(p) *Petitioner* means the Office of Finance or a Bank that has filed a Petition.

(q) *Regulatory Interpretation* means written guidance issued by Finance Board staff with respect to application of the Bank Act or a Finance Board rule, regulation, policy, or order to a proposed transaction or activity.

(r) *Requester* means an entity or person that has submitted an application for a Waiver or Approval or a request for a No-Action Letter or Regulatory Interpretation.

(s) *Secretary to the Board* means the Secretary to the Board of Directors of the Finance Board.

(t) *Supervisory determination* means a Finance Board finding in a report of examination, order, or directive, or a Finance Board order or directive concerning safety and soundness or compliance matters that requires mandatory action by a Bank or the Office of Finance.

(u) *Waiver* means a written statement issued to a Bank, a Member, or the Office of Finance that waives a provision, restriction, or requirement of a Finance Board rule, regulation, policy, or order, or a required submission of information, not otherwise required by law, in connection with a particular transaction or activity.

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Subpart B—Waivers, Approvals, No-Action Letters, and Regulatory Interpretations

§ 903.2 Waivers.

(a) *Authority.* The Board of Directors reserves the right, in its discretion and in connection with a particular transaction or activity, to waive any provision, restriction, or requirement of this chapter, or any required submission of information, not otherwise required by law, if such waiver is not inconsistent with the law and does not adversely affect any substantial existing rights, upon a determination that application of the provision, restriction, or requirement would adversely affect achievement of the purposes of the Bank Act, or upon a showing of good cause.

(b) *Application.* A Bank, a Member, or the Office of Finance may apply for a Waiver in accordance with § 903.6.

§ 903.3 Approvals.

(a) *Application.* A Bank or the Office of Finance may apply for an Approval of any transaction, activity, or item that requires Finance Board approval under the Bank Act or a Finance Board rule, regulation, policy, or order in accordance with § 903.6, unless alternative application procedures are prescribed by the Bank Act or a Finance Board rule, regulation, policy, or order for the transaction, activity, or item at issue.

(b) *Reservation.* The Finance Board reserves the right, in its discretion, to prescribe additional or alternative procedures for any application for Approval of a transaction, activity, or item.

§ 903.4 No-Action Letters.

(a) *Authority.* Finance Board staff, in its discretion, may issue a No-Action Letter to a Bank or the Office of Finance stating that staff will not recommend supervisory or other action to the Board of Directors for failure to comply with a specific provision of the Bank Act or a Finance Board rule, regulation, policy, or order, if a requester undertakes a proposed transaction or activity. The Board of Directors may modify or supersede a No-Action Letter.

(b) *Requests.* A Bank or the Office of Finance may request a No-Action Letter in accordance with § 903.6.

§ 903.5 Regulatory Interpretations.

(a) *Authority.* Finance Board staff, in its discretion, may issue a Regulatory Interpretation to a Bank, a Member, an official of a Bank or Member, the Office of Finance, or any other entity or person, providing guidance with respect to application of the Bank Act or a Finance Board rule, regulation, policy, or order to a proposed transaction or activity. The Board of Directors may modify or supersede a Regulatory Interpretation.

(b) *Requests.* A Bank, a Member, an official of a Bank or Member, the Office of Finance, or any other entity or person may request a Regulatory Interpretation in accordance with § 903.6.

§ 903.6 Submission requirements.

Applications for a Waiver or Approval and requests for a No-Action Letter or Regulatory Interpretation shall comply with the following requirements:

(a) *Filing.* Each application or request shall be in writing. The original and three copies shall be filed with the Secretary to the Board, Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street NW., Washington, DC 20006.

(b) *Authorization—(1) Waivers and Approvals.* Applications for Waivers and Approvals shall be signed by an official with authority to sign such applications on behalf of the requester. Applications for Waivers and Approvals from a Bank or the Office of Finance shall be accompanied by a resolution of the board of directors of the Bank or the Office of Finance concurring in the substance and authorizing the filing of the application.

(2) *Requests for No-Action Letters.* The president of the Bank making a Request for a No-Action Letter shall sign the Request. Requests for a No-Action Letter from the Office of Finance shall be signed by the chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Office of Finance.

(3) *Requests for Regulatory Interpretations.* The requester or an authorized representative of the requester shall

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sign a request for a Regulatory Interpretation.

(c) *Information requirements.* Each application or request shall contain:

(1) The name of the requester, and the name, title, address, telephone number, and electronic mail address, if any, of the official filing the application or request on its behalf;

(2) The name, address, telephone number, and electronic mail address, if any, of a contact person from whom Finance Board staff may seek additional information if necessary;

(3) The section numbers of the particular provisions of the Bank Act or Finance Board rules, regulations, policies, or orders to which the application or request relates;

(4) Identification of the determination or relief requested, including any alternative relief requested if the primary relief is denied, and a clear statement of why such relief is needed;

(5) A statement of the particular facts and circumstances giving rise to the application or request and identifying all relevant legal and factual issues;

(6) References to all relevant authorities, including the Bank Act, Finance Board rules, regulations, policies, and orders, judicial decisions, administrative decisions, relevant statutory interpretations, and policy statements;

(7) References to any Waivers, No-Action Letters, Approvals, or Regulatory Interpretations issued to the requester in the past in response to circumstances similar to those surrounding the request or application;

(8) For any application or request involving interpretation of the Bank Act or Finance Board regulations, a reasoned opinion of counsel supporting the relief or interpretation sought and distinguishing any adverse authority;

(9) Any non-duplicative, relevant supporting documentation; and

(10) A certification by a person with knowledge of the facts that the representations made in the application or request are accurate and complete. The following form of certification is sufficient for this purpose: "I hereby certify that the statements contained in the submission are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. [Name and Title]."

(d) *Waiver of requirements.* The Managing Director may waive any requirement of this section for good cause. The Managing Director shall provide prompt notice of any such waiver to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may overrule any waiver granted by the Managing Director under this paragraph.

(e) *Withdrawal.* Once filed, an application or request may be withdrawn only upon written request. The Finance Board will not consider a request for withdrawal after transmission by the Secretary to the Board to the requester of a response in final form.

§ 903.7 Issuance of Waivers, Approvals, No-Action Letters, and Regulatory Interpretations.

(a) *Board of Directors review.* At least three business days prior to issuance to the requester, the Secretary to the Board shall transmit each Approval, No-Action Letter, or Regulatory Interpretation issued by the Chairperson or Finance Board staff to the Board of Directors for review.

(b) *Issuance and effectiveness.* A Waiver, Approval, No-Action Letter, or Regulatory Interpretation is not effective until the Secretary to the Board has transmitted it in final form to the requester.

(c) *Abbreviated form.* The Finance Board may respond to an application or request in an abbreviated form, consisting of a concise statement of the nature of the response, without restatement of the underlying facts.

Subpart C—Case-by-Case Determinations; Review of Disputed Supervisory Determinations

§ 903.8 Case-by-Case Determinations.

(a) *Petition for Case-by-Case Determination.* A Bank or the Office of Finance may seek a Case-by-Case Determination concerning any matter that may require a determination, finding or approval under the Bank Act or Finance Board regulations by the Board of Directors, and for which no controlling statutory, regulatory or other Finance Board standard previously has been established. The Office of Finance or a Bank seeking a Case-by-Case Determination shall file a Petition for

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Case-by-Case Determination in accordance with § 903.10.

(b) *Intervention.* A Member, a Bank, or the Office of Finance may file a Request to Intervene in the consideration of the Petition in accordance with § 903.11 if it believes its rights may be affected.

§ 903.9 Review of Disputed Supervisory Determinations.

(a) *Petition for Review of a Disputed Supervisory Determination.* A Bank or the Office of Finance may seek review by the Board of Directors of a Finance Board finding in a report of examination, order, or directive, or a Finance Board order or directive concerning safety and soundness or compliance matters requiring mandatory action by the Bank or Office of Finance. The Office of Finance or a Bank seeking review of a disputed Supervisory Determination shall file a Petition for Review of a Disputed Supervisory Determination within 60 calendar days from the date of the disputed Supervisory Determination in accordance with § 903.10.

(b) *No stay while Petition is pending.* All Supervisory Determinations directed to a Bank or the Office of Finance shall remain in full force and effect while a Petition is pending. That a Petition is pending shall not operate or be deemed to operate as a suspension of the obligation of a Bank or the Office of Finance to take corrective action as required by a Supervisory Determination, except as the Bank or the Office of Finance may be otherwise directed by order of the Board of Directors.

(c) *Notice to affected entities.* With the approval of the Managing Director, a Petitioner may, pursuant to 12 CFR 960.12(d) or otherwise, provide notice of the issuance of a Supervisory Determination or the filing of a Petition for Review of a Disputed Supervisory Determination, to another Bank, the Office of Finance, or a Member or other entity named in 12 CFR 960.12(d), if the Petitioner believes the entity's rights may be affected by the Supervisory Determination or the Petition.

(d) *Intervention.* A Bank, the Office of Finance, a Member, or other entity named in 12 CFR 960.12(d) may file a Request to Intervene in the consider-

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ation of a Petition in accordance with § 903.11 if it believes its rights may be adversely affected by a Final Decision on the Petition.

§ 903.10 Petitions.

Each Petition brought pursuant to this subpart shall comply with the following requirements:

(a) *Filing.* The Petition shall be in writing. The original and three copies shall be filed with the Secretary to the Board, Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street NW., Washington, DC 20006.

(b) *Information requirements.* Each Petition shall contain:

(1) The name of the Petitioner, and the name, title, address, telephone number, and electronic mail address, if any, of the official filing the Petition on its behalf;

(2) The name, address, telephone number, and electronic mail address, if any, of a contact person from whom Finance Board staff may seek additional information if necessary;

(3) The section numbers of the particular provisions of the Bank Act or Finance Board rules, regulations, policies, or orders to which the Petition relates, and, if the Petition is for Review of a Disputed Supervisory Determination, identification of the disputed Supervisory Determination;

(4) Identification of the determination or relief requested, including any alternative relief requested if the primary relief is denied, and a clear statement of why such relief is needed;

(5) A statement of the particular facts and circumstances giving rise to the Petition and identifying all relevant legal and factual issues;

(6) A summary of any steps taken to date by the Petitioner to address or resolve the dispute or issue; or, in cases involving safety and soundness or compliance issues, a summary of any actions taken by the Petitioner in the interim to implement corrective action;

(7) The Petitioner's argument in support of its position, including citation to any supporting legal opinions, policy statements, or other relevant precedent and supporting documentation, if any;

(8) References to all relevant authorities, including the Bank Act, Finance

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Board rules, regulations, policies, and orders, judicial decisions, administrative decisions, relevant statutory interpretations, and policy statements;

(9) A reasoned opinion of counsel supporting the relief or interpretation sought and distinguishing any adverse authority;

(10) Any non-duplicative, relevant supporting documentation; and

(11) A certification by a person with knowledge of the facts that the representations made in the Petition are accurate and complete. The following form of certification is sufficient for this purpose: "I hereby certify that the statements contained in the Petition are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. [Name and Title]."

(c) *Authorization.* Each Petition shall be accompanied by a resolution of the Petitioner's board of directors concurring in the substance and authorizing the filing of the Petition.

(d) *Request to Appear.* The Petition may contain a request that staff or an agent of the Petitioner be permitted to make a personal appearance before the Board of Directors at any meeting convened to consider the Petition pursuant to these procedures. A statement of the reasons a written presentation would not suffice shall accompany a Request to Appear. The statement shall specifically:

(1) Identify any questions of fact that are in dispute;

(2) Summarize the evidence that would be presented at the meeting; and

(3) Identify any proposed witnesses, and state the substance of their anticipated testimony.

§ 903.11 Requests to Intervene.

(a) *Filing—(1) Date.* Any Request to Intervene in consideration of a Petition under this subpart shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Secretary to the Board within 45 days from the date the Petition is filed.

(2) *Information requirements.* A Request to Intervene shall include the information required by § 903.10(b), where applicable, and a concise statement of the position and interest of the Intervener and the grounds for the proposed intervention.

(3) *Authorization.* If the entity requesting intervention is a Bank or the

Office of Finance, the Request to Intervene shall be accompanied by a resolution of the Petitioner's board of directors concurring in the substance and authorizing the filing of the Request. If the entity requesting intervention is not a Bank or the Office of Finance, the Request to Intervene shall be signed by an official of the entity with authority to authorize the filing of the Request, and shall include a statement describing such authority.

(4) *Request to Appear.* A Request to Intervene may include a Request to Appear before the Board of Directors in any meeting conducted under these procedures to consider a Petition. A Request to Appear shall be accompanied by a statement containing the information required by § 903.10(d), and, in addition, setting forth the likely impact that intervention will have on the expeditious progress of the meeting. A Request to Appear shall be filed with the Secretary to the Board either with the Request to Intervene or at least 20 days prior to the meeting scheduled to consider the Petition.

(5) *Intervener is bound.* Any Request to Intervene shall include a statement that, if such leave to intervene is granted, the Intervener shall be bound expressly by the Final Decision of the Board of Directors, as described in § 903.13(b), subject only to judicial review or as otherwise provided by law.

(b) *Grounds for approval.* The Managing Director may grant leave to intervene if the entity requesting intervention has complied with paragraph (a) of this section and, in the judgment of Managing Director:

(1) The presence of the entity requesting intervention would not unduly prolong or otherwise prejudice the adjudication of the rights of the original parties; and

(2) The entity requesting intervention may be adversely affected by a Final Decision on the Petition.

§ 903.12 Finance Board procedures.

(a) *Notice of Receipt of Petition or Request to Intervene.* No later than three business days following receipt of a Petition or Request to Intervene, the Secretary to the Board shall transmit a written Notice of Receipt to the Petitioner or Intervener. In the case of a

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Petition for Case-by-Case Determination, the Finance Board shall promptly publish a notice of receipt of Petition, including a brief summary of the issue(s) involved, in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) *Transmittal of filings.* The Secretary to the Board shall promptly transmit copies of any Petition, Request to Intervene, or other filing under this subpart to the Board of Directors and all other parties to the filing.

(c) *Opportunity to cure defects.* The Managing Director shall afford the Petitioner or Intervener a reasonable opportunity to cure any failure to comply with the requirements of § 903.10.

(d) *Information request.* The Managing Director may request additional information from the Petitioner or Intervener. No later than 20 calendar days after the date of a request under this paragraph, the Petitioner shall provide to the Secretary to the Board all information requested.

(e) *Supplemental information.* Upon good cause shown, the Managing Director may grant permission to a Petitioner or Intervener to submit supplemental written information pertaining to the Petition or Request to Intervene.

(f) *Consolidation and severance—(1) Consolidation.* The Managing Director may consolidate any or all matters at issue in two or more meetings on Petitions where:

(i) There exist common parties or common questions of fact or law;

(ii) Consolidation would expedite and simplify consideration of the issues; and

(iii) Consolidation would not adversely affect the rights of parties engaged in otherwise separate proceedings.

(2) *Severance.* The Managing Director may order any meetings and issues severed with respect to any or all parties or issues.

(g) *Notice of Board Consideration.* Within 30 calendar days of receipt of a Petition deemed by the Managing Director to be in compliance with the requirements of § 903.10, or, if the Petition has been the subject of a request under paragraph (d) of this section, within 30 calendar days of receipt of a

response from the Petitioner deemed by the Managing Director to complete the information necessary for the Board of Directors to consider the Petition, the Managing Director, after consultation with the Board of Directors, through the Secretary to the Board, shall provide all parties with a Notice of Board Consideration containing the following information:

(1) Identification of the issues accepted for consideration;

(2) Any decision to consolidate or sever pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section;

(3) Whether the Petition will be considered by the Board of Directors on the written record pursuant to § 903.13(a)(1), or at a meeting pursuant to § 903.13(a)(2); and

(4) If the Petition will be considered by the Board of Directors at a meeting:

(i) The date, time and place of the meeting; and

(ii) A decision as to any Request to Appear filed pursuant to §§ 903.10(d) or 903.11(a)(4).

§ 903.13 Consideration and Final Decisions.

(a) *Consideration by Board of Directors.* The Board of Directors may consider a Petition and render a decision:

(1) Solely on the basis of the written record; or

(2) At a regularly scheduled meeting or a meeting convened specifically for the purpose of considering the Petition. Consideration of a Petition at a meeting shall be governed by the procedures described in § 903.14.

(b) *Final Decision.* The Board of Directors shall render a Final Decision on the issue(s) presented in a Petition or Request to Intervene that has been accepted for consideration, based upon consideration of the entire record of the proceeding. The terms and conditions of the Final Decision shall bind the parties as to any issue(s) presented in the Petition or Request to Intervene and decided by the Board of Directors. The decision of the Board of Directors is a final decision for purposes of obtaining judicial review or as otherwise provided by law.

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(c) *Time periods.* Subject to extension by such additional time as may reasonably be required, the Board of Directors shall render a Final Decision within 120 calendar days of the date the Petition is received in a form deemed by the Managing Director to be in compliance with the requirements of § 903.10 or, if the Petition has been the subject of a request under § 903.12(d), within 120 calendar days of receipt of a response from the Petitioner deemed by the Managing Director to complete the information necessary for the Board of Directors to consider the Petition.

(d) *Transmittal of Final Decision.* The Secretary to the Board shall transmit the Final Decision of the Board of Directors to all parties to the submission.

§ 903.14 Meetings of the Board of Directors to consider Petitions.

(a) *Full and fair opportunity to be heard.* Any meeting of the Board of Directors to consider a Petition shall be conducted in a manner that provides the parties a full and fair opportunity to be heard on the issues accepted for consideration. Any such meeting shall be conducted so as to permit an expeditious presentation of such issues.

(b) *Participation in meeting.* (1) The presence of a quorum of the Board if Directors is required to conduct a meeting under this section. Members of the Board of Directors are deemed present if they appear in person or by telephone.

(2) An act of the Board of Directors requires the vote of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors voting at a meeting at which a quorum of the Board of Directors is present.

(3) A Final Decision may be reached by a vote of the Board of Directors after the meeting at which the Petition has been considered. Only those members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting at which the Petition was considered may vote on issues presented in the Petition and accepted for consideration. A vote of the majority of the members of the Board of Directors eligible to vote and voting shall be an act of the Board of Directors.

(c) *Chairperson—(1) Presiding officer.* The Chairperson, or a member of the Board of Directors designated by the Chairperson, shall preside over a meet-

ing of the Board of Directors convened under this section.

(2) *Authority of the Chairperson.* The Chairperson shall have all powers and discretion necessary to conduct the meeting in a fair and impartial manner, to avoid unnecessary delay, to regulate the course of the meeting and the conduct of the parties and their counsel, and to discharge the duties of a presiding officer.

(3) *Board of Directors may overrule the Chairperson.* Any member of the Board of Directors may, by motion, challenge any action, finding, or determination made by the Chairperson in the course of the meeting, and the Board of Directors, by majority vote, may overrule any action, finding or determination of the Chairperson.

(d) *Meeting may be closed.* A party may request that the meeting, or portion thereof, be closed to public observation. A request to close a meeting shall be processed in accordance with the requirements of the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. 552b) and the Finance Board's implementing regulation (12 CFR part 906).

(e) *Location of meeting.* Unless otherwise specified, all meetings of the Board of Directors will be held in the Board Room of the Finance Board at 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC, at the time specified in the notice of meeting issued pursuant to 12 CFR 906.6.

(f) *Presentation of issues—(1) Stipulations.* Subject to the Chairperson's discretion, the parties may agree to stipulations of law or fact, including stipulations as to the admissibility of exhibits, and present such stipulations at the meeting. Stipulations shall be made a part of the record of the proceeding.

(2) *Order of presentation.* The Chairperson shall determine the order of presentation of the issues, testimony of any witnesses, presentation of any other information or document, and all other procedural matters at the meeting.

(g) *Record.* The meeting shall be recorded and transcribed. Transcripts of the proceedings shall be governed by 12 CFR 906.5(c). The Petition and all supporting documentation shall be made a

part of the record, unless otherwise determined by the Chairperson. The Chairperson may order the record corrected, upon motion to correct, upon stipulation of the parties, or at the Chairperson's discretion.

(h) *Admissibility of documents and testimony.* (1) The Chairperson has discretion to admit and make a part of the record documents and testimony that are relevant, material, and reliable, and may elect not to admit documents and testimony that are privileged, unduly repetitious, or of little probative value.

(2) The Board of Directors shall give such weight to documents and testimony admitted and made part of the record as it may deem reasonable and appropriate.

(3) The Chairperson may admit and make a part of the record, in lieu of oral testimony, statements of fact or opinion prepared by a witness. The admissibility of the information contained in the statement shall be subject to the same rules as if the testimony were provided orally.

(i) *Official notice.* All matters officially noticed by the Chairperson shall appear on the record.

(j) *Exhibits and documents—(1) Copies.* A legible duplicate copy of a document shall be admissible to the same extent as the original.

(2) *Exhibits.* Witnesses may use existing or newly created charts, exhibits, calendars, calculations, outlines, or other graphic materials to summarize, illustrate, or simplify the presentation of testimony. Subject to the Chairperson's discretion, such materials may be used with or without being admitted into the record.

(3) *Identification.* All exhibits offered into the record shall be numbered sequentially and marked with a designation identifying the sponsor. The original of each exhibit offered into the record or marked for identification shall be retained in the record of the meeting, unless the Chairperson permits substitution of a copy for the original.

(4) *Exchange of Exhibits.* One copy of each exhibit offered into the record shall be furnished to each of the parties and to each member of the Board of Directors. If the Chairperson does not fix

a time for the exchange of exhibits, the parties shall exchange copies of proposed exhibits at the earliest practicable time before the commencement of the meeting to consider the Petition. Parties are not required to exchange exhibits submitted as rebuttal information before the meeting commences if submission of the exhibits is not reasonably certain at that time.

(5) *Authenticity.* The authenticity of all documents submitted or exchanged as proposed exhibits prior to the meeting shall be admitted unless written objection is filed before the commencement of the meeting, or unless good cause is shown for failing to file such a written objection.

(k) *Sanction for obstruction of the proceedings.* The Board of Directors may impose sanctions it deems appropriate for violation of any applicable provision of this subpart or any applicable law, rule, regulation, or order, or any dilatory, frivolous, or obstructionist conduct by any witness or counsel during the course of a meeting.

§ 903.15 General provisions.

(a) *Waiver of requirements.* The Managing Director may waive any filing requirement or deadline in this subpart for good cause shown. The Managing Director shall provide prompt notice of any such waiver to the Board of Directors.

(b) *Actions of the Managing Director subject to the authority of the Board of Directors.* The Board of Directors may overrule any action by the Managing Director under this subpart.

(c) *Withdrawal.* At any time prior to the issuance by the Managing Director of a Notice of Board Consideration pursuant to § 903.12(g), an authorized representative of a Petitioner may withdraw the Petition, or an authorized representative of an Intervener may withdraw the Request to Intervene, by filing a written request to withdraw with the Secretary to the Board. Only the Board of Directors may grant a request to withdraw after issuance by the Managing Director of a Notice of Board Consideration pursuant to § 903.12(g). Unless otherwise agreed, withdrawal of a Petition or Request to Intervene shall not foreclose a Petitioner from

resubmitting a Petition, or an Intervener from submitting a Request to Intervene, on the same or similar issues.

(d) *Settlement agreement.* (1) At any time during the course of proceedings pursuant to this subpart, the Finance Board shall give Petitioners and Interveners the opportunity to submit offers of settlement when the nature of the proceedings and the public interest permit. With the approval of the Managing Director, an authorized representative of a Petitioner or Intervener may enter into a proposed settlement agreement with the Finance Board disposing of some or all of the issues presented in a Petition or Request to Intervene.

(2) No proposed settlement agreement shall be final until approved by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consider any proposed settlement agreement within 30 calendar days of receiving a notice of the proposed settlement agreement. If the Board of Directors disapproves or fails to approve a proposed settlement agreement within 30 days, the proposed settlement agreement shall be null and void and the previously filed Petition or Request to Intervene shall be considered in accordance with this subpart.

(3) A settlement agreement approved by the Board of Directors shall be deemed final and binding on all parties to the agreement. At the time a proposed settlement agreement becomes final, a Petition or Request to Intervene previously filed by a party to the agreement shall be deemed withdrawn as to all issues resolved in the agreement, and the parties to the agreement shall be estopped from raising objection to those issues or to the terms of the settlement agreement.

(e) *No rights created; Finance Board not prohibited.* Nothing in this subpart shall be deemed to create any substantive or discovery right in any party. Nothing in this subpart shall limit in any manner the right of the Finance Board to conduct any examination or inspection of any Bank or the Office of Finance, or to take any action with respect to a Bank or the Office of Finance, or its directors, officers, employees or agents, otherwise authorized by law.

(f) *Exhaustion requirement.* When seeking a Case-by-Case Determination of any matter or review by the Board of Directors of any Supervisory Determination, a Bank or the Office of Finance shall follow the procedures in this subpart as a prerequisite to seeking judicial review. Failure to do so shall be deemed to be a failure to exhaust all available administrative remedies.

(g) *Improper conduct prohibited.* No party shall, by act or omission, unduly burden or frustrate the efforts of the Board of Directors to carry out its duties under the laws and regulations of the Finance Board. A Petitioner or Intervener shall confine its communications with the Board of Directors, or any individual member thereof, concerning issues raised in a pending Petition, to written communications for inclusion in the record of the proceeding, filed with the Secretary to the Board.

(h) *Costs.* Petitioners are encouraged to contain costs associated with the preparation and filing of Petitions and related personal appearances, if any, at any meeting held by the Board of Directors under this subpart. The Petitioner shall be solely responsible for all costs associated with any such Petitions and appearances.

(i) *Procedures are exclusive.* All Case-by-Case Determinations by the Board of Directors and all Reviews of Disputed Supervisory Determinations shall be considered exclusively pursuant to the procedures described in this subpart.

PART 904—FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REGULATION

Sec.

- 904.1 Definitions.
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- 904.8 Appeals.
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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552; 52 FR 10012 (Mar. 27, 1987).

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SOURCE: 63 FR 37485, July 13, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

§ 904.1 Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

(a) *Agency* has the same meaning as in 5 U.S.C. 552(f)(1).

(b) *Duplication* means the process of making a copy of a record in order to respond to a FOIA request, including paper copies, microfilm, audio-video materials, and computer diskettes or other electronic copies.

(c) *Finance Board* means the agency established as the Federal Housing Finance Board.

(d) *Financial regulatory agency* means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Office of Thrift Supervision, National Credit Union Administration, Farm Credit Administration, or a state officer, agency, supervisor, or other entity that has regulatory authority over, or is empowered to institute enforcement action against, a financial institution, including an insurance company.

(e) *FOIA* means the Freedom of Information Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552).

(f) *Record* means information or documentary material the Finance Board maintains in any form or format, including an electronic form or format, which the Finance Board:

(1) Made or received under federal law or in connection with the transaction of public business;

(2) Preserved or determined is appropriate for preservation as evidence of Finance Board operations or activities or because of the value the information it contains; and

(3) Controls at the time it receives a request.

(g) *Requester* means any person, including an individual, corporation, firm, organization, or other entity, who makes a request to the Finance Board under FOIA for records.

(h) *Review* means the process of examining a record to determine whether all or part of the record may be withheld, and includes redacting or otherwise processing the record for disclosure to a requester. It does not include time spent:

(1) Resolving legal or policy issues regarding the application of exemptions to a record; or

(2) At the administrative appeal level, unless the Finance Board determines that the exemption under which it withheld records does not apply and the records are reviewed again to determine whether a different exemption may apply.

(i) *Search* means the time spent locating records responsive to a request, manually or by electronic means, including page-by-page or line-by-line identification of responsive material within a record.

(j) *Secretary to the Board* means the Secretary to the Board of Directors of the Finance Board. The address for the Secretary to the Board is Executive Secretariat, Office of the Managing Director, Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street NW., Washington, DC 20006.

(k) *Unusual circumstances* means the need to:

(1) Search for and collect records from establishments that are separate from the office processing the request;

(2) Search, review, and duplicate a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records in order to process a single request; or

(3) Consult with another agency or among two or more components of the Finance Board that have a substantial interest in the determination of a request.

(l) *Working days* do not include Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays.

§ 904.2 Records available to the public.

(a) *General.* (1) It is the policy of the Finance Board to respond promptly to all FOIA requests.

(2) The Finance Board may disclose records that were previously published or disclosed or are customarily furnished to the public in the course of the performance of official duties without complying with this part. These records include, but are not limited to, the annual report the Finance Board submits to Congress pursuant to section 2B(d) of the Federal Home Loan

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Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1422b(d)), press releases, Finance Board forms, and materials published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(3) Except as provided in the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a), the Finance Board's Privacy Act regulation (12 CFR part 909), or paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the Finance Board shall not disclose records except in accordance with the requirements of this part.

(b) *Reading room.* (1) Subject to §§ 904.5 through 904.7, the following records shall be available for public inspection and copying in the Finance Board reading room from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each working day:

(i) Final opinions or orders of the Finance Board in the adjudication of cases.

(ii) A record of the final votes of each member of the Board of Directors in every Finance Board proceeding.

(iii) Statements of policy and interpretations adopted by the Finance Board that are not published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(iv) Administrative staff manuals and instructions to staff that affect a member of the public.

(v) Records previously disclosed to any requester pursuant to this part which, because of the nature of their subject matter, the Finance Board has determined will likely be the subject of subsequent requests for substantially the same records, and a general index thereof.

(vi) Current indices that provide identifying information about all matters issued, adopted, or promulgated by the Finance Board.

(vii) The report the Finance Board submits to the Attorney General pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(e).

(2) The Finance Board shall make each reading room record created on or after November 1, 1996 available by computer telecommunications or other electronic means, such as on computer diskettes or on the Finance Board's Internet Web site, found at <http://www.fhfb.gov>.

(3) The Finance Board shall assess fees for searching, reviewing, or duplicating reading room records in accordance with § 904.9.

§ 904.3 Requests for records.

(a) *Request requirements.* Requests for access to, or copies of, Finance Board records shall be in writing and addressed to the Secretary to the Board. Each request shall include the following:

(1) A description of the requested record that provides sufficient detail to enable the Finance Board to locate the record with a reasonable amount of effort;

(2) The requester's full name, mailing address, and a telephone number where the requester can be reached during normal business hours;

(3) A statement that the request is made pursuant to FOIA; and

(4) At the discretion of the requester, a dollar limit on the fees the Finance Board may incur to respond to the request for records. The Finance Board shall not exceed such limit.

(b) *Incomplete requests.* If a request does not meet all of the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section, the Secretary to the Board may advise the requester that additional information is needed. If the requester submits a corrected request, the Finance Board shall treat the corrected request as a new request.

§ 904.4 Finance Board response to requests for records.

(a) *Response deadline.* Subject to § 904.9(f), within 20 working days of receipt of a request meeting the requirements of § 904.3(a) and any extensions of time under paragraph (c) of this section, the Secretary to the Board shall:

(1) Determine whether to grant or deny the request in whole or in part;

(2) Notify the requester in writing of the determination and the reasons therefor; and

(3) Make the records, if any, available to the requester.

(b) *Denials.* If the Secretary to the Board denies the request in whole or in part, the notice required under paragraph (a)(2) of this section shall state that the Secretary to the Board is the person responsible for the denial, the denial is not a final agency action, and the requester may appeal the denial under § 904.8.

(c) *Extensions of time.* In unusual circumstances, the Secretary to the

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Board may extend the time limit in paragraph (a) of this section for a period not to exceed 10 working days by notifying the requester in writing of:

- (1) The reasons for the extension;
- (2) The date on which a determination is expected; and
- (3) The opportunity for the requester to either limit the scope of the request so that the Finance Board may process it in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section, or arrange an alternative time frame for processing the request or a modified request.

(d) *Expedited processing.* (1) The Finance Board shall process a request for records as soon as practicable if it determines that expedited processing is appropriate or the requester demonstrates a compelling need. To demonstrate a compelling need, a requester shall submit a written application certified to be true and correct to the best of the requester's knowledge and belief to the Secretary to the Board. The application shall state that:

- (i) The failure to obtain the records on an expedited basis could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; or
- (ii) With respect to a requester who is primarily engaged in disseminating information, such as a representative of the news media as defined in § 904.9(a)(4)(iv), there is urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Finance Board activity.

(2) Within 10 working days of receipt of an application for expedited processing that meets the requirements of paragraph (c)(1) of this section, the Secretary to the Board shall determine whether to grant or deny the application and notify the requester in writing of the determination.

(3) A requester may appeal the denial of an application for expedited processing by submitting a written application stating the grounds for the appeal to the Secretary to the Board. The Finance Board shall expeditiously determine whether to grant or deny the appeal and shall notify the requester in writing of the determination, the name and title or position of the person responsible for the determination, and of the provisions for judicial review of

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this final action under 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(4) and (6).

(e) *Providing responsive records.* The Finance Board shall provide one copy of a record to a requester in any form or format requested if the record is readily reproducible by the Finance Board in that form or format by regular U.S. mail to the address indicated in the request unless other arrangements are made, such as taking delivery of the document at the Finance Board. At the option of the requester and upon the requester's agreement to pay fees in accordance with § 904.9, the Finance Board shall provide copies by facsimile transmission or other express delivery methods.

§ 904.5 Records not disclosed.

(a) *Records exempt from disclosure.* Except as otherwise provided in this part, the Finance Board shall not disclose records that are:

(1) Specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order.

(2) Related solely to the Finance Board's internal personnel rules and practices.

(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by a statute other than FOIA if such statute requires the record to be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, establishes particular criteria for withholding, or refers to particular types of records to be withheld.

(4) Trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential.

(5) Inter- or intra-agency memorandums or letters that would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the Finance Board.

(6) Personnel, medical, or similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

(7) Compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information:

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(i) Could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings;

(ii) Would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;

(iii) Could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(iv) Could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority, any private institution, or a Federal Home Loan Bank, which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of a record compiled by criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation or by an agency conducting a lawful national security investigation, information furnished by a confidential source;

(v) Would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; or

(vi) Could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual.

(8) Contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of the Finance Board, a Federal Home Loan Bank, or a financial regulatory agency.

(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

(b) *Reasonably segregable portions.* (1) The Finance Board shall provide a requester with any reasonably segregable portion of a record after redacting the portion that is exempt from disclosure under paragraph (a) of this section.

(2) The Finance Board shall make a reasonable effort to estimate the volume of redacted information and provide that information to the requester unless providing the estimate would harm an interest protected by the exemption under which the redaction is made.

(3) The Finance Board shall indicate the estimated volume of redacted information on the released portion of

the record unless providing the estimate would harm an interest protected by the exemption under which the redaction is made. If technically feasible, the Finance Board shall make the indication at the place in the record where the redaction is made.

(c) *Public interest.* The Finance Board may disclose records it has authority to withhold under paragraph (a) of this section upon a determination that disclosure would be in the public interest.

§ 904.6 Disclosure of Federal Home Loan Bank examination reports.

The Finance Board may disclose an examination, operating, or condition report of a Federal Home Loan Bank or a related record to a financial regulatory agency upon a determination that:

(a) The person requesting the record on behalf of the financial regulatory agency has the authority to make such request;

(b) The financial regulatory agency is requesting the record for a legitimate regulatory purpose; and

(c) The financial regulatory agency making the request agrees that it shall not disclose the record pursuant to FOIA, the agency's regulations, or any other authority.

§ 904.7 Records of financial regulatory agencies held by the Finance Board.

The Finance Board shall not disclose an examination, operating, or condition report, or other record prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of a financial regulatory agency. Upon a receipt of a request for such records, the Finance Board shall promptly refer the request to the appropriate agency and notify the requester of the referral.

§ 904.8 Appeals.

(a) *Procedure.* (1) If the Secretary to the Board has denied a request in whole or in part, the requester may appeal the denial by submitting a written application to the Secretary to the Board stating the grounds for the appeal within 30 working days of the date of the Finance Board's determination under § 904.4.

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(2) Subject to §904.9(f), within 20 working days of receipt of an application for appeal meeting the requirements of paragraph (a)(1) of this section and any extensions of time under paragraph (a)(3) of this section, the Finance Board shall determine whether to grant or deny the appeal and notify the requester in writing of the determination, the name and title or position of the person responsible for the determination, and the provisions for judicial review of this final action under 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(4).

(3) In unusual circumstances, the Secretary to the Board may extend the time limit in paragraph (a)(2) of this section for a period not to exceed 10 working days by notifying the requester in writing of the reasons for the extension and the date on which a determination is expected.

(b) *Appeal during pendency of judicial review.* If a requester files an action in a United States district court under 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(4) concerning a request for Finance Board records before exhausting the administrative appeals process for that request under paragraph (a) of this section, the Finance Board may:

(1) Initiate and process an administrative appeal; or

(2) Continue to process an administrative appeal previously filed under paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 904.9 Fees.

(a) *Fees.* Except as otherwise provided in a statute specifically providing for setting fees for particular types of records or in this section, the Finance Board shall assess against each requester the direct costs of responding to a request for records.

(1) If the records are requested for a commercial use, the direct costs are limited to the reasonable operating costs the Finance Board incurs to search, review, and duplicate records.

(2) If the records are not requested for a commercial use and the requester is an educational institution, non-commercial scientific institution, or representative of the news media, the direct costs are limited to the reasonable operating costs the Finance Board incurs to duplicate records in excess of 100 pages.

(3) If neither the request nor the requester is described in paragraphs (a)(1) or (2) of this section, the direct costs are limited to the reasonable operating costs the Finance Board incurs to search in excess of two hours and duplicate records in excess of 100 pages.

(4) For purposes of this section, the term:

(i) *Commercial use request* means a request from, or on behalf of, a person who seeks records for a use or purpose that furthers the commercial, trade, or profit interests of the requester or the person on whose behalf the request is made.

(ii) *Educational institution* means a preschool, public or private elementary or secondary school, or institution of undergraduate, graduate, professional, or vocational higher education that operates a program of scholarly research.

(iii) *Non-commercial scientific institution* means a nonprofit institution operated solely for the purpose of conducting scientific research the results of which are not intended to promote any particular product or industry.

(iv) *Representative of the news media* means a requester who is actively gathering information that is about current events or would be of current interest to the public for an entity that is organized and operated to publish or broadcast news to the public.

(b) *Fees when no records are provided.* The Finance Board may assess a fee for the direct costs of searching for a requested record the Finance Board cannot locate or if located, determines to be exempt from disclosure under §904.5.

(c) *Interest.* The Finance Board may assess interest at the rate prescribed in 31 U.S.C. 3717 on any unpaid fees beginning 31 days after the earlier of the date of the Finance Board's determination under §904.4 or the date a fee statement is mailed to a requester. Interest shall accrue from such date.

(d) *Exceptions.* Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section, the Finance Board may determine not to assess a fee or to reduce a fee if:

(1) The routine cost of collecting and processing the fee is likely to equal or exceed the amount of the fee.

(2) The fee is equal to or less than 10 dollars.

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(3) Disclosure of the record is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

(i) A requester may apply in writing to the Secretary to the Board for a waiver of fees under this paragraph (b)(3). A fee waiver request shall include the following:

(A) The requester's interest in and proposed use of the record;

(B) Whether the requester will derive income or other benefit from the record;

(C) An explanation of how the public will benefit from disclosure, including the requester's ability and intention to disseminate the information to the public; and

(D) The requester's expertise in the subject area of the record.

(ii) In determining whether disclosure of a record is in the public interest, the Finance Board shall consider whether the record:

(A) Concerns identifiable operations or activities of the Finance Board;

(B) Is meaningfully informative in relation to the subject matter of the request;

(C) Contributes to an understanding of the subject matter by the public at large, and the significance of that contribution; and

(D) Furthers, or is primarily in, the requester's commercial interest.

(e) *Aggregating requests.* If the Finance Board reasonably believes that a requester or a group of requesters acting in concert is attempting to break a request down into a series of requests for the purpose of evading the assessment of fees, it may aggregate such re-

quests and assess fees in accordance with this section.

(f) *Collecting fees.* (1) The Finance Board shall deem any request for Finance Board records as an agreement by the requester to pay fees and interest assessed in accordance with this section.

(2) To pay fees and interest assessed under this section, a requester shall deliver to the Office of Resource Management, located at the Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street NW., Washington, DC 20006, a check or money order made payable to the "Federal Housing Finance Board."

(3) Prior to disclosing any record, the Finance Board may require a requester to agree in writing to pay actual fees and interest incurred in accordance with this section if the estimated fee will likely exceed \$25 but not \$250.

(4) The Finance Board may require a requester to pay an estimated fee in advance if:

(i) The Secretary to the Board determines that the fee will likely exceed \$250; or

(ii) The requester has previously failed to pay a fee assessed under this section within 30 days of the earlier of the date of the Finance Board's determination under § 904.4 or the date a fee statement was mailed to a requester.

(5) The Finance Board shall promptly refund to a requester any estimated advance fee paid under paragraph (f)(4) of this section that exceeds the actual fee. The Finance Board shall assess the requester for the amount by which the actual fee exceeds the estimated advance fee payment.

(g) *Fee schedule.* The Finance Board shall assess fees in accordance with the following schedule:

Search:

Manual: Supervisory/Professional Staff	\$34.00 per hour.
Manual: Clerical Staff	\$17.00 per hour.
Computer: Operator	\$34.00 per hour.
Computer output (PC)	actual cost.
Diskettes (3½ × 5¼)	\$5.00 per diskette.
Review	\$34.00 per hour.

Duplication:

Photocopy	\$.10 per page.
Computer generated	\$.76 per 1000 lines.
Copy of microfiche	\$.30 per page.
Transcription of audio tape	\$4.50 per page.
Certification, seal and attestation by the Secretary to the Board ...	\$5.00 per document.

Delivery:

Facsimile transmission (long distance)	Long distance charges plus \$.25 per page.
Facsimile transmission (local)	\$.25 per call plus \$.25 per page.
Express delivery service	Actual cost.

[63 FR 37485, July 13, 1998, as amended at 64 FR 5930, Feb. 8, 1999]

PART 905—AVAILABILITY OF UNPUBLISHED INFORMATION

Sec.

- 905.1 Definitions.
- 905.2 Purpose and scope.
- 905.3 Prohibition on unauthorized use and disclosure of unpublished information.
- 905.4 Requests for unpublished information by document or testimony.
- 905.5 Consideration of requests.
- 905.6 Persons and entities with access to unpublished information.
- 905.7 Availability of unpublished information by testimony.
- 905.8 Availability of unpublished information by document.
- 905.9 Fees.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301; 12 U.S.C. 1422b(a)(1).

SOURCE: 64 FR 44106, Aug. 13, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

§ 905.1 Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

(a) *Finance Board* means the agency established as the Federal Housing Finance Board.

(b) *Legal proceeding* means any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding, including a grand jury or discovery proceeding, in which neither the Finance Board nor the United States is a party.

(c) *Unpublished information* means information and documents created or obtained by the Finance Board in connection with the performance of official duties, whether the information or documents are in the possession of the Finance Board, a current or former Finance Board employee or agent, a supervised entity, a Federal Home Loan Bank member, government agency, or some other person or entity; and information and documents created or obtained by, or in the memory of, a current or former Finance Board employee or agent, that was acquired in the person's official capacity or in the course

of performing official duties. It does not include information or documents the Finance Board must disclose under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a), or the Finance Board's implementing regulations (12 CFR parts 904 and 909, respectively). It also does not include information or documents that were previously published or disclosed or are customarily furnished to the public in the course of the performance of official duties such as the annual report the Finance Board submits to Congress pursuant to section 2B(d) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1422b(d)), press releases, Finance Board forms, and materials published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(d) *Supervised entity* means a Federal Home Loan Bank, the Office of Finance, and the Financing Corporation.

§ 905.2 Purpose and scope.

(a) *Purpose*. The purposes of this part are to:

(1) Maintain the confidentiality and control the dissemination of unpublished information;

(2) Conserve the time of employees for official duties and ensure that Finance Board resources are used in the most efficient manner;

(3) Maintain the Finance Board's impartiality among private litigants; and

(4) Establish an orderly mechanism for the Finance Board to process expeditiously and respond appropriately to requests for unpublished information.

(b) *Scope*. (1) This part applies to a request for and use and disclosure of unpublished information, including a request for unpublished information by document or testimony arising out of a legal proceeding in which neither the Finance Board nor the United States is a party. It does not apply to a request for unpublished information in a legal proceeding in which the Finance Board or the United States is a party or a request for information or records the Finance Board must disclose under the

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Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Act, or the Finance Board's implementing regulations.

(2) This part does not, and may not be relied upon to create any substantive or procedural right or benefit enforceable against the Finance Board.

§ 905.3 Prohibition on unauthorized use and disclosure of unpublished information.

(a) *In general.* Possession or control by any person, supervised entity, Federal Home Loan Bank member, government agency, or other entity of unpublished information does not constitute a waiver by the Finance Board of any privilege or its right to control, supervise, or impose limitations on, the subsequent use and disclosure of the information.

(b) *Current and former employees and agents.* Except as authorized by this part or otherwise by the Finance Board, no current or former Finance Board employee or agent may disclose or permit the disclosure in any manner of any unpublished information to anyone other than a Finance Board employee or agent for use in the performance of official duties.

(c) *Other persons or entities possessing unpublished information.* (1) Except as authorized in writing by the Finance Board, no person, supervised entity, Federal Home Loan Bank member, government agency, or other entity in possession or control of unpublished information may disclose or permit the use or disclosure of such information in any manner or for any purpose.

(2) All unpublished information made available under this part remains the property of the Finance Board and may not be used or disclosed for any purpose other than that authorized under this part without the prior written permission of the Finance Board.

(3) Reports of examination, supervisory correspondence, and other unpublished information lawfully in the possession of a supervised entity, Federal Home Loan Bank member, or government agency remains the property of the Finance Board and may not be used or disclosed for any purpose other than that authorized under this part

without the prior written permission of the Finance Board.

(4) Any person or entity that discloses or uses unpublished information except as expressly authorized under this part may be subject to the penalties provided in 18 U.S.C. 641 and other applicable laws. A current Finance Board, Federal Home Loan Bank, or Office of Finance employee also may be subject to administrative or disciplinary proceedings.

(d) *Exception for supervised entities and Federal Home Loan Bank members.* When necessary or appropriate for business purposes, a supervised entity, Federal Home Loan Bank member, or any director, officer, employee, or agent thereof, may disclose unpublished information, including information contained in, or related to, supervisory correspondence or reports of examination, to a person or entity officially connected with the supervised entity or Federal Home Loan Bank member as officer, director, employee, attorney, agent, auditor, or independent auditor. A supervised entity, Federal Home Loan Bank member, or a director, officer, employee, or agent thereof, also may disclose unpublished information to a consultant under this paragraph if the consultant is under a written contract to provide services to the supervised entity or Federal Home Loan Bank member and the consultant has agreed in writing:

(1) To abide by the prohibition on the disclosure of unpublished information contained in this section; and

(2) That it will not to use the unpublished information for any purposes other than those stated in its contract to provide services to the supervised entity or Federal Home Loan Bank member.

(e) *Government agencies.* The Finance Board may make reports of examination, supervisory correspondence, and other unpublished information available to another federal agency or a state agency for use where necessary in the performance of the agency's official duties. As used in this paragraph, the term agency does not include a grand jury.

§ 905.4 Requests for unpublished information by document or testimony.

(a) *Form of requests.* A request for unpublished information must be submitted to the Finance Board in writing and include a detailed description of the basis for the request. At a minimum, the request must demonstrate that:

(1) The requested information is highly relevant to the purpose for which it is sought;

(2) The requested information is not available from any other source;

(3) The need for the information clearly outweighs the need to maintain its confidentiality; and

(4) The need for the information clearly outweighs the burden on the Finance Board to produce it.

(b) *Requests for documents.* If the request is for unpublished information by document, the request must include the elements in paragraph (a) of this section and also must adequately describe the record or records sought by type and date.

(c) *Requests for testimony.* (1) If the request is for unpublished information by testimony, the request must include the elements in paragraph (a) of this section and also must set forth the intended use of the testimony, a summary of the scope of the testimony requested, and a showing that no document or the testimony of other non-Finance Board persons, including retained experts, could be provided and used in lieu of the testimony.

(2) Upon submitting a request to the Finance Board for unpublished information by testimony, the requester must notify all other parties to the matter at issue of the request.

(3) After receipt of a request for unpublished information by testimony but before the requested testimony occurs, a party to the matter at issue who did not join in the request and who wishes to question the witness beyond the scope of the testimony sought by the request, must timely submit its own request for unpublished information pursuant to this part.

(d) *Requests in connection with legal proceedings.* If the request for unpublished information arises out of a legal proceeding, the Finance Board generally will require that the legal pro-

ceeding already be filed before it will consider the request. In addition to the elements in paragraph (a) of this section, requests in connection with legal proceedings must include the caption and docket number of the case; the forum; the name, address, phone number, and electronic mail address, if available, of counsel to all other parties to the legal proceeding; the requester's interest in the case; a summary of the issues in litigation; and the reasons for the request, including the relevance of the unpublished information and how the requested information will contribute substantially to the resolution of one or more specifically identified issues in the legal proceeding.

(e) *Expedited requests.* If a requester seeks a response in less than 60 days, the request must explain why the request was not submitted earlier and why the Finance Board should expedite the request.

(f) *Where to submit requests.* Send requests for unpublished information to the Office of General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006.

(g) *Additional information.* (1) *From the requester.* The Office of General Counsel may consult with the requester to refine and limit the scope of the request to make compliance less burdensome or to obtain information necessary to make an informed determination on the request. A requester's failure to cooperate in good faith with the Office of General Counsel may serve as the basis for a determination not to grant the request.

(2) *From others.* The Office of General Counsel may inquire into the facts and circumstances underlying a request for unpublished information and rely on sources of information other than the requester, including other parties to the matter at issue.

§ 905.5 Consideration of requests.

(a) *Discretion.* Each decision concerning the availability of unpublished information is at the sole discretion of the Finance Board based on a weighing of all appropriate factors. The decision is a final agency action that exhausts administrative remedies for disclosure of the information.

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(b) *Time to respond.* The Finance Board generally will respond in writing to a request for unpublished information within 60 days of receipt absent exigent or unusual circumstances and dependent upon the scope and completeness of the request.

(c) *Factors the Finance Board may consider.* The factors the Finance Board may consider in making a determination regarding the availability of unpublished information include:

(1) Whether and how the requested information is relevant to the purpose for which it is sought;

(2) Whether information reasonably suited to the requester's needs other than the requested information is available from another source;

(3) Whether the requested information is privileged;

(4) If the request is in connection with a legal proceeding, whether the proceeding has been filed;

(5) The burden placed on the Finance Board to respond to the request;

(6) Whether production of the information would be contrary to the public interest; and

(7) Whether the need for the information clearly outweighs the need to maintain the confidentiality of the information.

(d) *Disclosure of unpublished information by others.* When a person or entity other than the Finance Board has a claim of privilege regarding unpublished information and the information is in the possession or control of that person or entity, the Finance Board, at its sole discretion, may respond to a request for the information by authorizing the person or entity to disclose the information to the requester pursuant to an appropriate confidentiality order. Finance Board authorization to disclose information under this paragraph does not preclude the person or entity in possession of the unpublished information from asserting its own privilege, arguing that the information is not relevant, or asserting any other argument to protect the information from disclosure.

(e) *Notice to supervised entities and Federal Home Loan Bank members.* The Finance Board generally will notify a supervised entity or Federal Home Loan Bank member that it is the sub-

ject of a request, unless the Finance Board, in its sole discretion, determines that to do so would advantage or prejudice any of the parties to the matter at issue.

§ 905.6 Persons and entities with access to unpublished information.

(a) *Notice to Finance Board.* Any person, including a current or former Finance Board employee or agent, or any entity, including a supervised entity, Federal Home Loan Bank member, or government agency that receives a request for, or is served with a subpoena, order, or other legal process to disclose unpublished information by document or testimony, must immediately notify the Office of General Counsel.

(b) *Response of person or entity served with request.* Unless the Finance Board has authorized in writing disclosure of the requested information:

(1) A current or former Finance Board employee or agent or a supervised entity that must respond to a subpoena, order, or other legal process, must decline to disclose the requested information, citing this part as authority.

(2) A non-Finance Board person or entity may not disclose unpublished information unless:

(i) The requester has sought the information from the Finance Board under this part; and

(ii) After the Finance Board or the Department of Justice has had the opportunity to appear and oppose disclosure, a Federal court has ordered the person or entity to disclose the information.

(c) *Finance Board response.* If the Finance Board does not authorize in writing disclosure of the requested information, the Finance Board will provide a copy of this part to the person or entity at whose instance the process was issued and advise that person or entity or the court or other body that the Finance Board has prohibited disclosure of the information under this part. The Finance Board or the Department of Justice may intervene in the matter at issue, attempt to have the compulsory process withdrawn, or register other appropriate objections.

§ 905.7 Availability of unpublished information by testimony.

(a) *Scope.* (1) The scope of permissible testimony is limited to that set forth in the written authorization granted by the Finance Board. The Finance Board may act to ensure that the scope of testimony provided is consistent with the written authorization.

(2) A party to the matter at issue that did not join in a request for unpublished information who wishes to question a witness beyond the authorized scope must request expanded authorization under this part. The Finance Board will attempt to render decisions on such requests in an expedited manner.

(3) The Finance Board generally will not authorize a current employee or agent to provide expert or opinion testimony for a private party.

(b) *Manner in which testimony is given.* (1) The Finance Board ordinarily will make the authorized testimony of a former or current employee or agent available only through written interrogatories or deposition. The Finance Board will not authorize testimony at a trial or hearing unless the requester shows that properly developed deposition testimony could not be used or would be inadequate at the trial or hearing.

(2) If the Finance Board has authorized testimony in connection with a legal proceeding, the requester must cause a subpoena to be served on the employee in accordance with applicable rules of procedure, with a copy by registered or certified mail to the Office of General Counsel.

(3) If the authorized testimony is through deposition, the deposition ordinarily will take place at the Finance Board's offices at a time that will avoid substantial interference with the performance of the employee's official duties.

(4) The requester is responsible for all costs associated with an employee's appearance, including provision of a copy of a transcript of the deposition at the request of the Office of General Counsel. The person whose deposition was transcribed does not waive his or her right to review the transcript and note errors.

(c) *Restrictions on use and disclosure.* The Finance Board may condition its authorization of deposition testimony on an agreement of the parties to appropriate limitations, such as an agreement to keep the transcript of the testimony under seal or to make the transcript available only to the parties, the court or other body, or the jury. Upon request made pursuant to this part or on its own initiative, the Finance Board may authorize use of a deposition transcript in another legal proceeding or non-adversarial matter.

(d) *Responsibility of litigants.* If the testimony is disclosed in connection with a legal proceeding, the requester is responsible for:

(1) Promptly notifying all other parties to the legal proceeding of the disclosure, and, after entry of a protective order, providing copies of the testimony to the other parties who are signatories and subject to the protective order; and

(2) At the conclusion of the legal proceeding, retrieving the testimony from the court or other body's file as soon as it is no longer required and certifying to the Finance Board that every party covered by the protective order has destroyed the unpublished information.

§ 905.8 Availability of unpublished information by document.

(a) *Scope.* The scope of permissible document disclosure is limited to that set forth in the written authorization granted by the Finance Board. The Finance Board may act to ensure that the scope of documents provided is consistent with the written authorization.

(b) *Restrictions on use and disclosure.* The Finance Board may condition a decision to disclose unpublished information by document on entry of a protective order satisfactory to the Finance Board by the court or other body presiding in a legal proceeding or, in non-adversarial matters, on a written agreement of confidentiality that limits access of third parties to the unpublished information. In a legal proceeding in which a protective order already has been entered, the Finance

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Board may condition a decision to disclose unpublished information upon inclusion of additional or amended provisions in the protective order. Upon request made pursuant to this part or on its own initiative, the Finance Board may authorize use of the documents in another legal proceeding or non-adversarial matter.

(c) *Responsibility of litigants.* If the documents are disclosed in connection with a legal proceeding, the requester is responsible for:

(1) Promptly notifying all other parties to the legal proceeding of the disclosure, and, after entry of a protective order, providing copies of the documents to the other parties that are signatories and subject to the protective order; and

(2) At the conclusion of the legal proceeding, retrieving the documents from the court or other body's file as soon as they are no longer required and certifying to the Finance Board that every party covered by the protective order has destroyed the unpublished information.

(d) *Certification or authentication.* If the Finance Board has authorized disclosure of unpublished information by document, it will provide certified or authenticated copies of the document upon request.

§ 905.9 Fees.

(a) *Fees for records search, copying, and certification.* Unless waived or reduced, a requester must pay a fee to the Finance Board for the costs of searching, copying, authenticating, or certifying unpublished information in accordance with 12 CFR 904.9. The Office of Resource Management generally will bill a requester upon completion of the production, but, in certain instances, may require a requester to remit payment prior to providing the requested information. To pay fees assessed under this section, a requester must deliver to the Office of Resource Management, located at the Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006, a check or money order made payable to the "Federal Housing Finance Board."

(b) *Witness fees and mileage.* (1) *Current Finance Board or federal employees.* If the Finance Board authorizes disclo-

sure of unpublished information by testimony of a current Finance Board employee or agent or a former Finance Board employee or agent who is still in the employ of the United States, upon completion of the testimonial appearance the requester must remit promptly to the Office of Resource Management payment for witness fees and mileage computed in accordance with 28 U.S.C. 1821.

(2) *Former employees or agents.* If the Finance Board authorizes disclosure of unpublished information by testimony of a former Finance Board employee or agent who is not currently employed by the United States, upon completion of the testimonial appearance the requester must remit promptly to the witness any witness fees or mileage due in accordance with 28 U.S.C. 1821.

PART 906—INFORMATION REGARDING MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD

Sec.

906.1 Purpose and scope.

906.2 Definitions.

906.3 Open meetings.

906.4 Closed meetings.

906.5 Procedures for closing meetings.

906.6 Notice of meetings.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552b.

SOURCE: 58 FR 19202, Apr. 13, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

§ 906.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) This part is issued by the Federal Housing Finance Board pursuant to the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. 552b), that requires Federal agencies, headed by collegial bodies, to promulgate regulations to implement its provisions. The purpose of these regulations is to provide the public with access to information regarding the decisionmaking processes of the Board of Directors of the Finance Board, while protecting the privacy rights of individuals and the ability of the Board of Directors to carry out its responsibilities.

(b) The Board of Directors shall not jointly conduct or dispose of official Finance Board business other than in accordance with this part.

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§ 906.2 Definitions.

For the purpose of this part:

Board of Director or *Director* means a member of the Board of Directors.

Board of Directors means the five member governing Board of Directors of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

Chairperson means the Chairperson of the Board of Directors and includes the Acting Chairperson.

Executive Secretary means the Executive Secretary to the Board of Directors, and includes the Acting Secretary in the event the Executive Secretary position is vacant.

FHLBank means a Federal Home Loan Bank.

Finance Board means the Federal Housing Finance Board.

Meeting means any deliberations of three or more Directors of the Board of Directors, that determines or results in the joint conduct or disposition of official Finance Board business, but does not include:

(1) Discussions to determine whether meetings will be open or closed or whether information pertaining to closed meetings will be disclosed;

(2) Discussions to determine whether to schedule a meeting with less than seven days notice, or to change the time, place or subject matter of a scheduled meeting; and

(3) Disposition of Finance Board business by circulation of written materials on proposed actions to individual Directors for proposed actions, and notational voting by the individual Directors on such proposed actions.

Public observation means the right of the general public to attend open meetings of the Board of Directors, but does not include the right to participate therein unless invited to do so by the Chairperson.

Sunshine Act means the Government in the Sunshine Act.

§ 906.3 Open meetings.

(a) Except as provided in § 906.4, every portion of every meeting of the Board of Directors shall be open to public observation.

(b) Unless otherwise specified in the public notice, open meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in the Board Room of the Finance Board at

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1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC, at the time specified in the public notice.

§ 906.4 Closed meetings.

(a) The Board of Directors may close a meeting, or portion thereof, to public observation, or withhold information from the public pertaining to a meeting, when it determines that opening the meeting, or a portion thereof, or the public disclosure of information pertaining to such meeting, or portion thereof, is likely to:

(1) Disclose matters that are:

(i) Specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive Order to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or foreign policy; and

(ii) Are, in fact, properly classified pursuant to such Executive Order;

(2) Relate solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Finance Board;

(3) Disclose matters specifically exempt from disclosure by statute (other than the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552)), *Provided* that such statute:

(i) Requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue; or

(ii) Establishes particular criteria for withholding matters from the public or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;

(4) Disclose trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is obtained from a person and is privileged or confidential;

(5) Involve accusing any person of a crime, or formally censuring any person;

(6) Disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(7) Disclose investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes, or information which if written would be contained in such records, but only to the extent that the production of such records or information would:

(i) Interfere with enforcement proceedings;

(ii) Deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;

(iii) Constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

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(iv) Disclose the identity of a confidential source and, in the case of a record compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, confidential information furnished only by the confidential source;

(v) Disclose investigative techniques and procedures; or

(vi) Endanger the life or physical safety of law enforcement personnel;

(8) Disclose information contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of the Finance Board or another agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of FHLBanks or other financial institutions.

(9) Disclose information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to:

(i) (A) Lead to significant financial speculation in currencies, securities, or commodities;

(B) Significantly endanger the stability of any of the FHLBanks or any other financial institution; or

(ii) Significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed Finance Board action, except that this paragraph shall not apply in any instance where the Finance Board has already disclosed to the public the content or nature of its proposed action, or where the Finance Board is required by law to make such disclosure on its own initiative prior to taking final action on such proposal; or

(10) Specifically concern the issuance of a subpoena by the Board of Directors, or the Finance Board's participation in a civil action or proceeding, an action in a foreign court or international tribunal, or an arbitration, or the initiation, conduct or disposition of a particular case of formal adjudication pursuant to the procedures in 5 U.S.C. 554 or otherwise involving a determination on the record after opportunity for a hearing.

(b) A meeting or portions of a meeting shall not be closed nor information withheld pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section if the Board of Directors finds that the public interest requires otherwise.

§ 906.5 Procedures for closing meetings.

(a) *Regular procedures.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, a meeting of the Board of Directors, or portion thereof, will be closed to public observation, and information pertaining to such meeting, or portion thereof, will be withheld from the public, when a majority of the Board of Directors determines by recorded vote that such meeting, or portion thereof, or the withholding of information qualifies for exemption under § 906.4, and the Board of Directors does not find that the public interest requires otherwise.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, a separate vote of the Board Directors will be taken with respect to the closing or the withholding of information as to each meeting or portion thereof that is proposed to be closed to public observation, or with respect to information that is proposed to be withheld pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section.

(3) A single vote may be taken with respect to a series of meetings, a portion or portions of which are proposed to be closed to public observation, or with respect to any information concerning such series of meetings proposed to be withheld, so long as each meeting in such series involves the same particular matters and is scheduled to be held no more than thirty days after the initial meeting in such series.

(4) The vote of each Board Director taken pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section shall be recorded, and no proxies shall be allowed.

(5) Whenever any person's interests may be directly affected by any portion of a meeting for any of the reasons referred to in paragraphs (a) (5), (6), or (7) of § 906.4, such person may send a written request to the Executive Secretary asking that such portion of the meeting be closed to public observation. The Executive Secretary will transmit the request to each Board Director, and upon the request of a Director, a recorded vote will be taken of the Board of Directors whether to close the meeting to public observation.

(6)(i) Within one day of any vote taken pursuant to paragraph (a) of this

section, the Finance Board will make publicly available through the Executive Secretary a written copy of such vote reflecting the vote of each Board Director.

(ii) If a meeting or portion thereof is to be closed to public observation, the Finance Board within one day of the vote taken pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section will make publicly available through the Executive Secretary a full, written explanation of its action closing the meeting, or portion thereof, together with a list of all persons expected to attend the meeting and their affiliation, except to the extent such information is determined by the Board to be exempt from disclosure under paragraph (a) of § 906.4.

(7) Any person may request in writing to the Executive Secretary that an announced closed meeting, or portion thereof, be open to public observation. The Executive Secretary will transmit the request to each Board Director, and upon the request of a Director, a recorded vote will be taken of the Board of Directors on whether to open the meeting to public observation.

(b) *Expedited procedures.* (1) Since a majority of the meetings, of the Board of Directors may be closed pursuant to paragraphs (a) (4), (8), (9)(i) or (10) of § 906.4, 5 U.S.C. 552b(d)(4) allows the Finance Board to use expedited procedures in closing such meetings. The following are examples of meetings of the Board of Directors, or portions thereof, that may be closed to the public under these expedited procedures: sale of FHLBank consolidated bonds or notes, and review of examination, operating or condition reports of FHLBanks.

(2) A decision to close a meeting, or portion thereof, under paragraph (b) of this section shall be made at the beginning of the meeting, or portion thereof, by majority vote of the Directors.

(3)(i) The Finance Board shall maintain a record of each of the votes taken by its Board of Directors to close a meeting, or portion thereof, or to withhold public access to information thereof, under paragraph (b) of this section.

(ii) A copy of such record, reflecting the vote of each Board Director on the question of closing a meeting, or portion thereof, or withholding public ac-

cess to information thereof, under this paragraph (b) of this section, shall be made available to any member of the public upon request to the Executive Secretary.

(4) Public announcement of the time, place and subject matter of meetings, or portions thereof, closed under this paragraph (b) of this section shall be made at the earliest practical time.

(c) *Records of closed proceedings—*(1) *Transcripts or electronic recording.* Except as provided in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the Finance Board shall make and maintain a complete transcript or verbatim electronic recording of the proceedings at each meeting, or portion thereof, closed to public observation under paragraph (a) or (b) of this section.

(2) *Minutes.* The Finance Board may make and maintain a set of complete minutes, in lieu of such transcript or electronic recording, with respect to meetings, or portions thereof, closed or information withheld under paragraphs (a) (8), (9)(i) or (10) of § 906.4. Such set of minutes shall fully and clearly describe all matters discussed and provide a full and accurate summary of any action taken, and the reasons therefor, including a description of each of the views expressed on any item and the record of any roll call vote (reflecting the vote of each Board Director on the question). All documents considered in connection with any action shall be identified in such set of minutes.

(3) *Availability of Records.* (i) The transcript, electronic recording or set of minutes of an item discussed, or of testimony received, at a meeting, shall be made available promptly to the public through the Executive Secretary except in cases where the Board of Directors determines that the item or testimony contains information which may be withheld under § 906.4(a).

(ii) Copies of such transcript, electronic recording or set of minutes, disclosing the identity of each speaker, shall be furnished to any person at the actual cost of duplication or transcription.

(iii) The Finance Board shall maintain a complete copy of the transcript, verbatim electronic recording or complete set of minutes of each meeting, or portion thereof closed to the public, for

at least two years after such meeting, or until one year after the conclusion of any proceeding of the Board of Directors with respect to which the meeting or portion thereof was held, whichever occurs later.

(d) *Legal certification for closing meeting.* (1) For every meeting, or portion thereof, of the Board of Directors closed pursuant to paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section, the General Counsel (or in the General Counsel's absence or incapacity the senior legal officer available) shall publicly certify that the meeting or portion thereof may be closed to the public pursuant to the Sunshine Act and this part, and specifically state the relevant exemption in support thereof.

(2) A copy of the certification, together with a statement from the Chairperson or, when appropriate, the Acting Chairperson or designee, setting forth the time and place of the meeting and the persons present, shall be retained in the permanent files of the Finance Board.

§ 906.6 Notice of meetings.

(a) *Scope of notice.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (a) of § 906.4 that such information is determined to be exempt from disclosure, each open meeting of the Board of Directors, or each meeting closed under the regular procedures in paragraph (a) of § 906.5, will be preceded by public notice as described in this section.

(2) The notices for meetings of the Board of Directors closed under the expedited procedures pursuant to paragraph (b) of § 906.5 will be made in accordance with § 906.5(b)(4).

(b) *Content of notice.* A notice of an open meeting or a meeting closed under the regular procedures in paragraph (a) of § 906.5 will state the time, place, and subject matter of the meeting, whether it is to be open or closed to the public, and the name and telephone number of the Executive Secretary for information about the meeting. Each such notice shall be posted in the lobby of the Finance Board offices, and may be made available in addition by other means or at other locations as deemed desirable. Immediately following the posting of each such notice,

the Finance Board will publish the notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(c) *Time*—(1) *Seven days notice.* Except as provided in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, a public notice of open meetings or meetings closed under paragraph (a) of § 906.5 will be made at least seven days in advance of each meeting.

(2) *Less than seven days notice.* When a majority of the Board of Directors determine by recorded vote that Finance Board business requires a meeting to be called at any earlier date, the seven-day prior notice rule may be suspended and notice shall be made at the earliest practicable time.

(d) *Amendment of notice*—(1) *Time and place.* A change in the time or place of a meeting following public notice may be made only if announced at the earliest practicable time.

(2) *Subject matter.* A change in the subject matter of a meeting or a re-determination to open or close a meeting, or portions thereof, may be made, after public notice, only if:

(i) At least a majority of the Board Directors determines by recorded vote that Finance Board business so requires and that no earlier notice of the change was possible; and

(ii) The Finance Board publicly announces the change and the vote of each Board Director by posting a notice thereof in the lobby of the Finance Board offices at the earliest practicable time.

(3) *Timing of amendment.* A public announcement of a change in either the time, place or subject matter of a meeting may be made after the commencement of the meeting affected.

(4) *Publication of amendment.* Each change to a notice of a meeting will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, following the Finance Board's public announcement of the change.

PART 908—INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT [RESERVED]

PART 909—PRIVACY ACT PROCEDURES

Sec.

909.1 General.

909.2 Definitions.

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- 909.3 Procedures for requesting individual records in a system of records; appeal of denials.
- 909.4 Time, place and identification requirements for requests.
- 909.5 Disclosure of requested records.
- 909.6 Procedures for requesting amendment to a record in a system of records; appeal of denials.
- 909.7 Fees.
- 909.8 Penalties.
- 909.9 Exemptions.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552a.

SOURCE: 58 FR 19205, Apr. 13, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

§ 909.1 General.

(a) *Purpose.* This part implements the provisions of the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a, which require each executive agency to promulgate regulations for the protection of the privacy of individuals on whom the agency maintains information that is retrieved by reference to an individual's name or an identifying particular assigned to the individual.

(b) *Scope.* These regulations establish procedures by which: an individual may seek access under the Privacy Act to records pertaining to him or her, may request correction or amendment of such records, or may seek an accounting of disclosures of such records maintained by the agency.

§ 909.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *Amendment* means any correction, addition or deletion of information contained in a record, as defined in paragraph (g) of this section.

(b) *Board of Directors* means the five member governing Board of Directors of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

(c) *Business days* means all days except Saturdays, Sundays, or Federal Government holidays.

(d) *Finance Board* means the Federal Housing Finance Board.

(e) *Individual* means a natural person who is either a citizen of the United States of America or an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence. The term includes the parent(s) having custody of any minor or the legal guardian of any individual who has been declared to be incompetent due to physical or mental

incapacity or age by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(f) *Maintain* means to keep or hold and preserve in an existing state, and includes the terms “collect,” “use,” “disseminate” and “control.”

(g) *Record* means any item, collection, or grouping of information about an individual that is maintained by the Finance Board within a system of records, and that contains such individual's name, or identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual, including a fingerprint, voice print or photograph.

(h) *Records systems manager* means the employee responsible for maintaining a designated system of records at the Finance Board, as such official or employee may be identified through public notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER from time to time by the Finance Board entitled: “Privacy Act of 1974: Systems of Records.”

(i) *Routine use* means the use of a record for a purpose compatible with the purpose for which it was originally created.

(j) *System of records* means a group of records maintained or controlled by the Finance Board from which information is or may be retrieved by the name of an individual or some identifying number, symbol or other identifying particular assigned to the individual.

(k) *Designated system of records* means a system of records, as defined in paragraph (j) of this section, that has been listed in the FEDERAL REGISTER as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(e).

§ 909.3 Procedures for requesting individual records in a system of records; appeal of denials.

(a) *Current or former employees.* Any current or former Finance Board employee seeking access to such employee's official personnel record maintained by the Finance Board shall submit a request to the Finance Board in the manner prescribed by regulations of the Office of Personnel Management, at title 5, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) *Other requests.* Other requests for access to a record that contains information on the requesting individual and is maintained in a Finance Board designated system of records shall be writing, shall contain a reasonable,

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succinct description of the record sought, and shall identify the particular designated system of records in which the record may be maintained, as identified in a notice published by the Finance Board from time to time in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(c) *Accounting for previous disclosures.* An individual may use the procedures of this section to request an accounting from the Finance Board of previous disclosures of records pertaining to such individual in a designated system of records, pursuant to the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a(c).

(d) *Medical records procedures.* Information on an individual contained in medical records will be disclosed to a requesting individual in accordance with the procedures in paragraph (b) of this section and the requirements of this part, except, if in the judgment of the Finance Board the disclosure of such information could have an adverse effect on the individual, the Finance Board may withhold such information from the individual and transmit it to a licensed medical physician named by the requesting individual.

(e) *Response policy.* The Finance Board will acknowledge, or substantially respond to if practicable, a request made under this section within ten (10) business days of its receipt.

(f) *Initial review.* (1) The Executive Secretary will make the initial determination whether to grant or deny a request for records under this part, after consultation with the systems manager of the appropriate designated system of records.

(2) The Executive Secretary will notify the requesting individual whether the Finance Board:

(i) Has the requested record in a Finance Board designated system of records; and

(ii) Will release the requested record or not.

(3) If the request is denied, the Executive Secretary will inform the requesting individual of the reasons for nondisclosure, and describe the individual's right to appeal the determination.

(g) *Appeal process.* (1) An individual who has been denied a request made pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section, may appeal to the Board of Direc-

tors, or designee, within 30 business days of being notified of the denial pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section.

(2) The appeal shall be in writing, shall be mailed or delivered to the Executive Secretary, and shall give the reasons why the initial determination should be overturned.

(3) The Board of Directors, or such official designated by the Board of Directors, shall decide on the appeal within 30 business days following receipt of the appeal by the Executive Secretary. The Board of Directors or designated official may extend the time period for good cause, after giving notice, and reason therefor, to the individual making the appeal.

(4) If a decision is made to affirm the initial denial of a request for a record by an individual, the Board of Directors or designated official shall notify the individual making the appeal of the decision and the reason therefor, and shall inform the individual of the right of judicial review of the appeal.

§ 909.4 Time, place and identification requirements for requests.

(a) *Time.* An individual may hand deliver a written request for access to or amendment of records, made under § 909.3(b) or § 909.6 of this part, to the Finance Board on any business day, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

(b) *Place.* All written requests for access to or amendment of records shall be mailed or hand delivered to the Executive Secretary, Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006.

(c) *Identification—(1) Mailed requests.* All requests for access to or amendment of records that are mailed to the Finance Board shall be signed by the individual who is the subject of the requested record and who is making the request. The validity of each such signature shall be attested to by a notary public.

(2) *Hand delivered requests.* All requests for access to or amendment of records that are hand delivered to the Finance Board by the requesting individual shall be authenticated as to the identity of the requesting individual by

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two forms of identification with photographs, or by one such form of identification and a properly authenticated birth certificate.

§ 909.5 Disclosure of requested record.

(a) *Requesting individual.* Except to the extent that records pertaining to an individual are exempt from disclosure under § 909.9 of this part, or were compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action or proceedings, the Finance Board will make such records available upon request, pursuant to § 909.3 of this part in either of the following methods, at the option of the requesting individual:

(1) By mailing a copy of the record to the address of the requesting individual; or

(2) By making the record available for inspection and copying by the requesting individual, as soon as practicable, at the offices of the Executive Secretary on regular business days, from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The requesting individual may choose to be accompanied by another person during the inspection and copying by submitting a signed statement authorizing the presence of such person.

(b) *Other individuals.* (1) The Finance Board will disclose a record to a person or entity other than the requesting individual, in the manner provided by paragraph (a) of this section, only when the Finance Board:

(i) Receives a copy of a written authorization for disclosure to such person or entity signed by the requesting individual and attested to by a notary public; and

(ii) Receives adequate identification from such person or entity.

(2) The restrictions contained in paragraph (b)(1) of this section on disclosure of a record shall not apply to:

(i) A disclosure to Finance Board officers or employees who have a need for the record in the performance of their duties;

(ii) A disclosure otherwise required by the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552);

(iii) A routine use listed with respect to a designated system of records;

(iv) A disclosure to the Bureau of the Census for purposes of planning or carrying out a census or survey or related

activity pursuant to the provisions of title 13 of the United States Code;

(v) A disclosure to a recipient who has provided the Finance Board with advance written assurance that the record will be used solely as a statistical research or reporting record, and that the record is to be transferred in a form that is not individually identifiable;

(vi) A disclosure to the National Archives and Records Administration as a record with sufficient historical or other value to warrant its continued preservation by the Federal Government or for evaluation by the Archivist of the United States to determine whether it has such value.

(vii) A disclosure to another agency or to an instrumentality of any government jurisdiction within or under the control of the United States for civil or criminal law enforcement activity authorized by law if the head of such agency or instrumentality has made a written request to the Finance Board specifying the particular record requested and the law enforcement activity for which it is sought;

(viii) A disclosure to any person pursuant to a showing of compelling circumstances affecting the health and safety of an individual if notification of the disclosure is transmitted to the last known address of the individual who is the subject of the disclosed record;

(ix) A disclosure to a joint committee of Congress, or any subcommittee thereof, or to either House of Congress, or to any committee or joint committee, or subcommittee thereof, but only to the extent of matter within such joint committee's, committee's or subcommittee's jurisdiction;

(x) A disclosure to the Comptroller General, or authorized representative, made in the course of performing the duties of the General Accounting Office.

(xi) Pursuant to the order of a court of competent jurisdiction; or

(xii) To a consumer reporting agency in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3711(f).

(c) The Finance Board, with respect to each system of records under its control shall:

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(1) Except for disclosures made under paragraphs (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section, keep an accurate accounting of:

(i) The date, nature, and purpose of each disclosure of a record to any person or to another agency made under paragraph (b) of this section; and

(ii) The name and address of the person or agency to whom the disclosure is made;

(2) Retain the accounting made under paragraph (c)(1) of this section for at least five years or the life of the record, whichever is longer, after the disclosure for which the accounting is made; and

(3) Except for disclosures made under paragraph (b)(2)(vii) of this section, make the accounting made under paragraph (c)(1) of this section available to the individual named in the record at his or her request.

(4) When a record has been amended or corrected or when a statement of disagreement has been filed, the Finance Board will advise all prior recipients of the affected record whose identities may be determined pursuant to the disclosure accountings required by the Privacy Act or any other accounting previously made, of the amendment or correction or the filing of the statement of disagreement. Any disclosure of disputed information occurring after a statement of disagreement has been filed will clearly identify the specific information disputed and be accompanied by a copy of the statement of disagreement and a copy of the statement of explanation, if any, as set forth in § 909.6 of this part.

§ 909.6 Procedures for requesting amendment to a record in a system of records; appeal of denials.

(a) *Scope.* This section applies only to amendment of records on an individual maintained in a Finance Board system of records used in making a determination about such individual.

(b) *Individual request.* (1) Any individual may request the Finance Board to amend any portion of a record in a designated system of records pertaining to that individual, where such portion of the record is not accurate, relevant, timely or complete.

(2) A request to amend a record pursuant to this section shall be in writ-

ing, shall identify the particular designated system of records containing the record which the individual requests to amend and the portion of that record to be amended, and shall describe the reasons for the requested amendment.

(c) *Prior proceeding.* Nothing in this section shall permit a collateral attack upon any matter decided in a prior judicial, quasi-judicial or other proceeding.

(d) *Response policy.* The Finance Board shall acknowledge, or substantially reply to, if practicable, a request for amendment of records under this section.

(e) *Initial review.* (1) The Executive Secretary shall acknowledge all requests by individuals for amendment of records. The Executive Secretary shall refer all requests to the appropriate systems manager of the designated system of records containing the record to be reviewed, for disposition of the request within 10 business days of the referral. The systems manager shall promptly review the request and review the record for accuracy, relevance, timeliness, completeness or necessity.

(2) The systems manager will promptly provide to the Executive Secretary a recommendation whether the record should be amended and shall state any reasons for denying the request in any part.

(3) The Executive Secretary will promptly notify the requesting individual of his decision and reasons for any denial, and describe the individual's right to appeal any denial.

(f) *Appeal process.* (1) An individual who has been denied a request made pursuant to this section may appeal to the Board of Directors, or an official designated by the Board of Directors, within 30 business days of being notified of the denial pursuant to paragraph (e)(3) of this section.

(2) The appeal shall be in writing, shall be mailed to the Executive Secretary, and shall give the reasons why the initial determination should be overturned.

(3) The Board of Directors, or designated official, shall decide the appeal within 30 business days of its receipt by the Executive Secretary. The Board of

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Directors or designated official may extend the 30 day limit for good cause, after giving notice, and the reasons therefor, to the individual making the appeal.

(4) If a decision is made to affirm the initial denial of a request for a record by an individual, the Board of Directors or designated official shall notify the individual making the appeal of the decision and the reason therefor, and shall inform the individual of the right of judicial review of the appeal.

(g) *Statements.* (1) Within 30 business days after being denied an appeal pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section, an individual may submit a concise written statement of disagreement setting forth the individual's reasons for disagreeing with the Finance Board's refusal to amend the record.

(2) Such statement shall be provided to persons or other agencies or entities to whom the record is disclosed.

(3) The Finance Board may, if deemed appropriate, prepare a concise statement of explanation of the reason(s) why the requested amendment or correction was not made. Any statement of explanation will be included in the system of records in the same manner as the statement of disagreement. A copy of the statement of explanation and of the notation of the dispute as marked on the original record will be provided to the individual who requested correction or amendment of the record.

§ 909.7 Fees.

The Finance Board, upon a request for records disclosable pursuant to these regulations, shall charge a fee of \$0.10 per page for duplicating, unless:

(a) The Finance Board determines that it shall grant access to the record only by making a copy thereof;

(b) The total fee will not exceed \$2.00; or

(c) The Finance Board determines, in its sole discretion, that a reduction or waiver of the fees is warranted for good cause.

§ 909.8 Penalties.

Subsection (i)(3) of the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(3)) imposes criminal penalties for obtaining Finance Board records on individuals

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under false pretenses. It provides as follows:

Any person who knowingly and willfully requests or obtains any record concerning an individual from an agency under false pretense shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$5,000.00.

§ 909.9 Exemptions.

The following information is exempt from disclosure:

(a) The Office of Inspector General Investigative Files system of records is exempt from all sections of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) except the following: (b) relating to conditions of disclosure; (c) (1) and (2) relating to keeping and maintaining a disclosure accounting; (e)(4) (A) through (F) relating to publishing a system notice setting forth name, location, categories of individuals and records, routing uses and policies regarding storage, retrievability, access controls, retention and disposal of the records; (e) (6), (7), (9), (10) and (11) relating to dissemination and maintenance of records, and relating to criminal penalties. This system of records is also exempt from §§ 909.3, 909.4, 909.5 (a) and (c) (3) and (4), and 909.6 of this part. This exemption applies to those records and information contained in the system of records pertaining to the enforcement of criminal laws.

(b) To the extent that there may exist within this system of records and investigative files compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than material within the scope of subsection (j)(2) of the Privacy Act, the Inspector General Investigative Case Files system of records is exempt from the following sections of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552(a)): (c)(3) relating to access to the disclosure accounting, (d) relating to access to records, (e)(1) relating to the type of information maintained in the records; (e)(4) (G), (H) and (I) relating to publishing the system notice information as to agency procedures of access and amendment and information as to the categories of sources or records, and (f) relating to developing agency rules for gaining access and making corrections. This system of records is also exempt from §§ 909.3, 909.4, 909.5 (a) and (c)(3), and 909.6 of this part.

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(c) Reason for exemptions. (1) The Office of Inspector General is a component of the Finance Board which performs, as its principal function, activity pertaining to the enforcement of criminal laws, within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 552a(j)(2). This exemption applies only to those records and information contained in the system of records pertaining to criminal investigations. This system of records is exempt for one or more of the following reasons:

(i) To prevent interference with law enforcement proceedings.

(ii) To avoid unwarranted invasion of personal privacy by disclosure of information about third parties, including other subjects of investigation, investigators, and witnesses.

(iii) To protect the identity of Federal employees who furnish a complaint or information to the Office of the Inspector General, consistent with section 7(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 3.

(iv) To protect the confidentiality of non-Federal employee sources of information.

(v) To assure access to sources of confidential information, including those contained in Federal, State and local criminal law enforcement information systems.

(vi) To prevent disclosure of law enforcement techniques and procedures.

(vii) To avoid endangering the life or physical safety of confidential sources and law enforcement personnel.

(2) Investigative records within this system of records which are compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than material within the scope of subsection (j)(2), are exempt under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(2); provided, however, that if any individual is denied any right, privilege, or benefit that they would otherwise be entitled by Federal law, or for which they would otherwise be eligible, as a result of the maintenance of such material, such material shall be provided to such individual except to the extent that the disclosure of such material would reveal the identity of a source who furnished information to the Government under an express promise that the identity of the source would be held in confidence, or, prior to January 1, 1975,

under an implied promise that the identity of the source would be held in confidence. This system of records is exempt for one or more of the following reasons:

(i) To prevent interference with law enforcement proceedings.

(ii) To protect investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes.

(iii) To avoid unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, by disclosure of information about third parties, including other subjects of investigation, law enforcement personnel and sources of information.

(iv) To fulfill commitments made to protect the confidentiality of sources.

(v) To protect the identity of Federal employees who furnish a complaint or information of OIG, consistent with section 7(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 3.

(vi) To assure access to sources of confidential information, including those contained in Federal, State and local criminal law enforcement systems.

(vii) To prevent disclosure of law enforcement techniques and procedures.

(viii) To avoid endangering the life or physical safety of confidential sources and law enforcement personnel.

(d) Records within a Finance Board System of records comprised of investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability or eligibility for Federal civilian employment, Federal contractors, or access to classified information, are exempt under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(5), but only to the extent that disclosure would reveal the identity of a source who furnished information to the Government under an express promise that the identity of the source would be held in confidence, or, prior to January 1, 1975, under an implied promise that the identity of the source would be held in confidence. This system of records is exempt for one or more of the following reasons:

(1) To fulfill commitments made to protect the confidentiality of sources.

(2) To assure access to sources of confidential information; including those contained in Federal, State, and local criminal law enforcement information systems.

(e) Testing or examination material used solely to determine or assess individual qualifications for appointment to employment at the Finance Board, or promotion therein—the disclosure of which would compromise the objectivity or fairness of the testing, evaluation or examining process is exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(6).

PART 910—CONSOLIDATED BONDS AND DEBENTURES

Sec.

- 910.0 Definitions.
- 910.1 Issuance of consolidated bonds.
- 910.2 Form of consolidated bonds.
- 910.3 Transactions in consolidated bonds.
- 910.4 Lost, stolen, destroyed, mutilated, or defaced bonds.
- 910.5 Administrative provision.
- 910.6 Reservation of right to revoke or amend; limitations thereon.
- 910.7 Joint and several liability.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1422a, 1422b and 1431.

§910.0 Definitions.

(a) *Finance Board* means the Federal Housing Finance Board.

(b) *Bank* means Federal Home Loan Bank.

(c) *Consolidated bond* means any bond or note issued on behalf of one or more Banks by the Finance Board pursuant to section 11(c) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as amended (the Act) (12 U.S.C. 1431(c)).

(d) *Senior bonds* means consolidated bonds issued pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1431 and this part and not defeased, other than bonds specifically subordinated to any then outstanding consolidated bonds.

(e) *Unsecured, senior liabilities* means all obligations of the Banks recognized as a liability under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, except:

- (1) Liabilities that are covered by a perfected security interest;
- (2) Consolidated bonds;
- (3) Bonds issued pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1431(a); and
- (4) Allowance for losses for off-balance sheet obligations.

(f) *Direct Obligation* means an obligation of a Bank to make any principal or interest payment due on a consolidated bond, whether such obligation arises from:

(1) The Bank's receipt of sale proceeds from the issuance of that consolidated bond or the assumption of the obligation in a voluntary transaction subsequent to the issuance of the bond;

(2) An obligation to make an assistance payment to any other Bank, whether made pursuant to an agreement between one or more Banks or pursuant to a Finance Board payment order; or

(3) An assistance payment reimbursement obligation.

(g) *Non-complying Bank* means any Bank that fails to certify, pursuant to §910.7(b)(1) of this part, that it is able to pay all of its current obligations, including direct obligations, in full when due; that fails to make consolidated bond payments in full when due; that is required to file a notice pursuant to §910.7(b)(2) or a consolidated bond payment plan pursuant to §910.7(c); or that is determined by the Finance Board to require assistance in meeting its direct obligations on consolidated bonds.

[57 FR 62186, Dec. 30, 1992, as amended at 64 FR 55130, Oct. 12, 1999]

§910.1 Issuance of consolidated bonds.

(a) *General*. The Board will determine and authorize the issuance of all consolidated bonds, dates of issue, maturities, rates of interest, terms and conditions thereof, and the manner in which such bonds shall be issued, subject to the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 9108. The Board in its discretion may delegate this responsibility.

(b) *Leverage limit*. The Board shall not issue senior bonds, other than bonds issued to refund consolidated bonds previously issued, if, immediately following such issuance, the aggregate amount of senior bonds and unsecured, senior liabilities of the Federal Home Loan Banks exceeds twenty (20) times the total paid-in capital stock, retained earnings and reserves (excluding loss reserves and deposit reserves pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1431(g)), of all the Federal Home Loan Banks.

(c) *Negative pledge requirement*. The Federal Home Loan Banks shall at all times maintain assets of the following types, free from any lien or pledge, in a total amount at least equal to the amount of senior bonds outstanding:

- (1) Cash;

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(2) Obligations of or fully guaranteed by the United States;

(3) Secured advances;

(4) Mortgages as to which one or more Federal Home Loan Banks have any guaranty or insurance, or commitment therefore, by the United States or any agency thereof;

(5) Investments described in section 16(a) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1436(a)); and

(6) Other securities which have been assigned a rating or assessment by a major nationally recognized securities rating agency that is equivalent to or higher than the rating or assessment assigned by such agency on senior bonds outstanding.

Provided, however, that any assets of the types described in paragraphs (c)(1) through (6) of this section which are subject to a lien or pledge for the benefit of the holders of any issue of senior bonds shall be treated as if they were assets free from any lien or pledge for purposes of compliance with this provision.

[57 FR 62186, Dec. 30, 1992]

§910.2 Form of consolidated bonds.

Consolidated Federal Home Loan Bank bonds shall be issued in series and all consolidated bonds of the same series shall be of like date, tenor, and effect except as to denominations, which shall be in such amounts as may be authorized by the Board. The form of each consolidated bond shall be prescribed by the Board. Consolidated bonds issued with maturities of 1 year or less may be designated consolidated notes.

[42 FR 56316, Oct. 25, 1977. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989]

§910.3 Transactions in consolidated bonds.

The general regulations of the Department of Treasury now or hereafter in force governing transactions in United States securities, except 31 CFR part 357 (regarding book-entry procedure), are hereby incorporated into this part, so far as applicable and as necessarily modified to relate to consolidated Federal Home Loan Bank bonds, as the regulations of the Board for similar transactions in consolidated

Federal Home Loan Bank bonds. The book-entry procedure for consolidated Federal Home Loan Bank bonds is contained in part 912 of this subchapter.

[63 FR 8059, Feb. 18, 1998]

§910.4 Lost, stolen, destroyed, mutilated, or defaced bonds.

The statutes of the United States now or hereafter in force, and the regulations of the Treasury Department, now or hereafter in force, governing relief on account of the loss, theft, destruction, mutilation, or defacement of United States securities, so far as applicable and as necessarily modified to relate to consolidated Federal Home Loan Bank bonds, are hereby adopted as the regulations of the Board for the issuance of substitute consolidated Federal Home Loan Bank bonds or the payment of lost, stolen, destroyed, mutilated, or defaced consolidated Federal Home Loan Bank bonds.

[23 FR 9878, Dec. 23, 1958. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989]

§910.5 Administrative provision.

The Secretary of the Treasury, or the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, is hereby authorized and empowered, as the agent of the Board and the Federal Home Loan Banks, to administer the regulations of the Board adopted by §§910.3 and 910.4, and to delegate such authority at his discretion to other officers, employees, and agents of the United States Treasury Department. Any such regulations may be waived on behalf of the Board and the Federal Home Loan Banks by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Acting Secretary of the Treasury or by an officer of the United States Treasury Department authorized to waive similar regulations with respect to United States securities, but only in any particular case in which a similar regulation, with respect to United States Securities would be waived. The terms “securities” and “bonds” as used in this section shall, unless the context otherwise requires, include and apply to coupons and interim certificates.

[23 FR 9878, Dec. 23, 1958. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989, and amended at 55 FR 2229, Jan. 23, 1990]

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§910.6 Reservation of right to revoke or amend; limitations thereon.

(a) *General.* The right to revoke or amend this part, or to prescribe and issue supplemental or amendatory rules and regulations thereto, is hereby reserved.

(b) *Limitation on amendment of leverage limit or negative pledge requirement.* No revocation or relaxation of any of the restrictions or requirements contained in or imposed by §910.1 (b) or (c) shall be effected except:

(1) If there are no senior bonds then outstanding or if there shall have been deposited with the Treasurer of the United States, noncallable (or called) direct obligations of the United States of America or obligations fully guaranteed by the United States of America of such maturities or redemption dates and interest payment dates, and to bear such interest, as will be sufficient to pay in full (together with any other moneys placed in trust and irrevocably committed for such payment and without further investment or reinvestment of either the principal amount thereof or the interest earnings therefrom) the principal of and interest to date of maturity or to such date designated for redemption and any redemption premium on all senior bonds the holders of which have not consented to such revocation or relaxation; or

(2) Section 910.1(b) may be changed by the Board in any manner if the Board receives either:

(i) Written evidence from at least one major nationally recognized securities rating agency which rates or makes an assessment of the senior bonds that such change in that provision will not result in the lowering of its then-current rating or assessment on senior bonds outstanding or next to be issued; or

(ii) A written opinion from an investment banking firm that such change would not have a materially adverse effect on the creditworthiness of senior bonds outstanding or next to be issued.

[57 FR 62186, Dec. 30, 1992]

§910.7 Joint and several liability.

(a) *In general.* (1) Each and every Bank, individually and collectively,

has an obligation to make full and timely payment of all principal and interest on consolidated bonds when due.

(2) Each and every Bank, individually and collectively, shall ensure that the timely payment of principal and interest on all consolidated bonds is given priority over, and is paid in full in advance of, any payment to or redemption of shares from any shareholder.

(3) The provisions of this section shall not limit, restrict or otherwise diminish, in any manner, the joint and several liability of all of the Banks on all of the consolidated bonds issued by the Finance Board pursuant to section 11(c) of the Act.

(b) *Certification and reporting.* (1) Before the end of each calendar quarter, and before declaring or paying any dividend for that quarter, the President of each Bank shall certify in writing to the Finance Board that, based on known current facts and financial information, the Bank will remain in compliance with the liquidity requirements set forth in section 11(g) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1431(g)), and the Finance Board's Financial Management Policy (as the same may be amended, modified or replaced), and will remain capable of making full and timely payment of all of its current obligations, including direct obligations, coming due during the next quarter.

(2) A Bank shall immediately provide written notice to the Finance Board if at any time:

(i) The Bank is unable to provide the certification required in paragraph (b)(1) of this section;

(ii) The Bank projects at any time that it will fail to comply with statutory or regulatory liquidity requirements, or will be unable to timely and fully meet all of its current obligations, including direct obligations, due during the quarter;

(iii) The Bank actually fails to comply with statutory or regulatory liquidity requirements or to timely and fully meet all of its current obligations, including direct obligations, due during the quarter; or

(iv) The Bank negotiates to enter or enters into an agreement with one or more other Banks to obtain financial assistance from such Bank(s) to meet

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its current obligations, including direct obligations, due during the quarter; the notice of which shall be accompanied by a copy of the agreement, which shall be subject to the approval of the Finance Board.

(c) *Consolidated bond payment plans.*

(1) A Bank promptly shall file a consolidated bond payment plan for Finance Board approval:

(i) If it becomes a non-complying Bank as a result of failing to provide the certification required in paragraph (b)(1) of this section;

(ii) If it becomes a non-complying Bank as a result of being required to provide the notice required pursuant to paragraph (b)(2) of this section, except in the event that a failure to make a principal or interest payment on a consolidated bond when due was caused solely by a temporary interruption in the Bank's debt servicing operations resulting from an external event such as a natural disaster or a power failure; or

(iii) If the Finance Board determines that a Bank will cease to be in compliance with the statutory or regulatory liquidity requirements, or will lack the capacity to timely and fully meet all of its current obligations, including direct obligations, due during the quarter.

(2) A consolidated bond payment plan shall specify the measures the non-complying Bank will undertake to make full and timely payments of all of its current obligations, including direct obligations, due during the applicable quarter.

(3) A non-complying Bank may continue to incur and pay normal operating expenses incurred in the regular course of business (including salaries, benefits, or costs of office space, equipment and related expenses), but shall not incur or pay any extraordinary expenses, or declare, or pay dividends, or redeem any capital stock, until such time as the Finance Board has approved the Bank's consolidated bond payment plan or inter-Bank assistance agreement, or ordered another remedy, and all of the non-complying Bank's direct obligations have been paid.

(d) *Finance Board Payment Orders; Obligation to Reimburse.* (1) The Board of Directors of the Finance Board, in its

discretion and notwithstanding any other provision in this section, may at any time order any Bank to make any principal or interest payment due on any consolidated obligation.

(2) To the extent that a Bank makes any payment on any consolidated obligation on behalf of another Bank, the paying Bank shall be entitled to reimbursement from the non-complying Bank, which shall have a corresponding obligation to reimburse the Bank providing assistance, to the extent of such payment and other associated costs (including interest to be determined by the Finance Board).

(e) *Adjustment of equities.* (1) Any non-complying Bank shall apply its assets to fulfill its direct obligations.

(2) If a Bank is required to meet, or otherwise meets, the direct obligations of another Bank due to a temporary interruption in the latter Bank's debt servicing operations (*e.g.*, in the event of a natural disaster or power failure), the assisting Bank shall have the same right to reimbursement as set forth in paragraph (e)(1) of this section.

(3) If the Finance Board determines that the assets of a non-complying Bank are insufficient to satisfy all of its direct obligations as set forth in paragraph (e)(1) of this section, then the Finance Board may allocate the outstanding liability among the remaining Banks on a pro rata basis in proportion to each Bank's participation in all consolidated obligations outstanding as of the end of the most recent month for which the Finance Board has data.

(f) *Reservation of authority.* Nothing in this section shall affect the Finance Board's authority to adjust the equities between the Banks in any manner different than the manner described in this section, or to take such enforcement or other action against any Bank pursuant to the Finance Board's authority under the Act or otherwise to supervise the Banks and ensure that they are operated in a safe and sound manner.

(g) *No rights created.* (1) Nothing in this section shall create or be deemed to create any rights in any third party.

(2) Payments made by a Bank toward the direct obligations of another Bank

are made for the sole purpose of discharging the joint and several liability of the Banks on the consolidated bonds.

(3) Compliance, or the failure to comply, with any provision in this section shall not be deemed a default under the terms and conditions of the consolidated bonds.

[64 FR 55130, Oct. 12, 1999]

PART 912—BOOK-ENTRY PROCEDURE FOR Federal HOME LOAN BANK SECURITIES

Sec.

912.1 Definitions.

912.2 Law governing rights and obligations of Federal Home Loan Banks, Finance Board, Office of Finance, United States and Federal Reserve Banks; rights of any Person against Federal Home Loan Banks, Finance Board, Office of Finance, United States and Federal Reserve Banks.

912.3 Law governing other interests.

912.4 Creation of Participant's Security Entitlement; security interests.

912.5 Obligations of Federal Home Loan Banks and the Office of Finance; no Adverse Claims.

912.6 Authority of Federal Reserve Banks.

912.7 Liability of Federal Home Loan Banks, Finance Board, Office of Finance and Federal Reserve Banks.

912.8 Additional requirements; notice of attachment for Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Securities.

912.9 Reference to certain Department of Treasury commentary and determinations.

912.10 Obligations of United States with respect to Federal Home Loan Bank Securities.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1422a, 1422b, 1431, 1435.

SOURCE: 63 FR 8059, Feb. 18, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

§912.1 Definitions.

For purposes of this part, unless the context otherwise requires or indicates:

(a) *Adverse Claim* means a claim that a claimant has a property interest in a Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Security and that it is a violation of the rights of the claimant for another Person to hold, transfer, or deal with the Security.

(b) *Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Security* means a Federal Home

Loan Bank Security maintained in the book-entry system of the Federal Reserve Banks.

(c) *Entitlement Holder* means a Person or a Federal Home Loan Bank to whose account an interest in a Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Security is credited on the records of a Securities Intermediary.

(d) *Federal Home Loan Bank Security* means a consolidated bond, debenture, note, or other obligation of the Federal Home Loan Bank issued by the Finance Board under authority of section 11 of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1431).

(e) *Federal Reserve Bank* means a Federal Reserve Bank or branch, acting as fiscal agent for the Office of Finance, unless otherwise indicated.

(f) *Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circular* means the publication issued by each Federal Reserve Bank that sets forth the terms and conditions under which the Federal Reserve Bank maintains Book-entry Securities accounts and transfers Book-entry Securities.

(g) *Finance Board* means the Federal Housing Finance Board.

(h) *Funds account* means a reserve and/or clearing account at a Federal Reserve Bank to which debits or credits are posted for transfers against payment, Book-entry Securities transaction fees, or principal and interest payments.

(i) *Office of Finance* means the Office of Finance established under part 941 of this chapter, acting as agent of the Finance Board in all matters relating to the issuance of Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Securities, or as agent of the Federal Home Loan Banks in the performance of all other necessary and proper functions relating to Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Securities, including the payment of principal and interest due thereon.

(j) *Participant* means a Person or a Federal Home Loan Bank that maintains a Participant's Securities Account with a Federal Reserve Bank.

(k) *Participant's Securities Account* means an account in the name of a Participant at a Federal Reserve Bank to which Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Securities held for a Participant are or may be credited.

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(l) *Person* means and includes an individual, corporation, company, governmental entity, association, firm, partnership, trust, estate, representative, and any other similar organization, but does not mean or include a Federal Home Loan Bank, the Finance Board, the Office of Finance, the United States, or a Federal Reserve Bank.

(m) *Revised Article 8* means Uniform Commercial Code, Revised Article 8, Investment Securities (with Conforming and Miscellaneous Amendments to Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, and 10) 1994 Official Text. Copies of this publication are available from the Executive Office of the American Law Institute, 4025 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, and the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, 676 North St. Clair Street, Suite 1700, Chicago, IL 60611.

(n) *Securities Intermediary* means:

(1) A Person that is registered as a “clearing agency” under the Federal securities laws; a Federal Reserve Bank; any other person that provides clearance or settlement services with respect to a Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Security that would require it to register as a clearing agency under the Federal securities laws but for an exclusion or exemption from the registration requirement, its activities as a clearing corporation, including promulgation of rules, are subject to regulation by a Federal or State governmental authority; or

(2) A Person (other than an individual, unless such individual is registered as a broker or dealer under the Federal securities laws) including a bank or broker, that in the ordinary course of its business maintains securities accounts for others and is acting in that capacity.

(o) *Security Entitlement* means the rights and property interest of an Entitlement Holder with respect to a Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Security.

(p) *State* means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States.

(q) *Transfer Message* means an instruction of a Participant to a Federal Reserve Bank to effect a transfer of a

Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Security, as set forth in Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circulars.

§912.2 Law governing rights and obligations of Federal Home Loan Banks, Finance Board, Office of Finance, United States and Federal Reserve Banks; rights of any Person against Federal Home Loan Banks, Finance Board, Office of Finance, United States and Federal Reserve Banks.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the rights and obligations of the Federal Home Loan Banks, the Finance Board, the Office of Finance, the United States and the Federal Reserve Banks with respect to: A Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Security or Security Entitlement and the operation of the Book-entry system, as it applies to Federal Home Loan Bank Securities; and the rights of any Person, including a Participant, against the Federal Home Loan Banks, the Finance Board, the Office of Finance, the United States and the Federal Reserve Banks with respect to: A Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Security or Security Entitlement and the operation of the Book-entry system, as it applies to Federal Home Loan Bank Securities; are governed solely by regulations of the Finance Board, including the regulations of this part 912, the applicable offering notice, applicable procedures established by the Office of Finance, and Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circulars.

(b) A security interest in a Security Entitlement that is in favor of a Federal Reserve Bank from a Participant and that is not recorded on the books of a Federal Reserve Bank pursuant to §912.4(c)(1), is governed by the law (not including the conflict-of-law rules) of the jurisdiction where the head office of the Federal Reserve Bank maintaining the Participant’s Securities Account is located. A security interest in a Security Entitlement that is in favor of a Federal Reserve Bank from a Person that is not a Participant, and that is not recorded on the books of a Federal Reserve Bank pursuant to §912.4(c)(1), is governed by the law determined in the manner specified in §912.3.

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(c) If the jurisdiction specified in the first sentence of paragraph (b) of this section is a State that has not adopted Revised Article 8, then the law specified in the first sentence of paragraph (b) of this section shall be the law of that State as though Revised Article 8 had been adopted by that State.

§912.3 Law governing other interests.

(a) To the extent not inconsistent with this part 912, the law (not including the conflict-of-law rules) of a Securities Intermediary's jurisdiction governs:

(1) The acquisition of a Security Entitlement from the Securities Intermediary;

(2) The rights and duties of the Securities Intermediary and Entitlement Holder arising out of a Security Entitlement;

(3) Whether the Securities Intermediary owes any duties to an adverse claimant to a Security Entitlement;

(4) Whether an Adverse Claim can be asserted against a Person who acquires a Security Entitlement from the Securities Intermediary or a Person who purchases a Security Entitlement or interest therein from an Entitlement Holder; and

(5) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) of this section, the perfection, effect of perfection or non-perfection, and priority of a security interest in a Security Entitlement.

(b) The following rules determine a "Securities Intermediary's jurisdiction" for purposes of this section:

(1) If an agreement between the Securities Intermediary and its Entitlement Holder specifies that it is governed by the law of a particular jurisdiction, that jurisdiction is the Securities Intermediary's jurisdiction.

(2) If an agreement between the Securities Intermediary and its Entitlement Holder does not specify the governing law as provided in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, but expressly specifies that the securities account is maintained at an office in a particular jurisdiction, that jurisdiction is the Securities Intermediary's jurisdiction.

(3) If an agreement between the Securities Intermediary and its Entitlement Holder does not specify a jurisdiction as provided in paragraph (b)(1)

or (b)(2) of this section, the Securities Intermediary's jurisdiction is the jurisdiction in which is located the office identified in an account statement as the office serving the Entitlement Holder's account.

(4) If an agreement between the Securities Intermediary and its Entitlement Holder does not specify a jurisdiction as provided in paragraph (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section and an account statement does not identify an office serving the Entitlement Holder's account as provided in paragraph (b)(3) of this section, the Securities Intermediary's jurisdiction is the jurisdiction in which is located the chief executive office of the Securities Intermediary.

(c) Notwithstanding the general rule in paragraph (a)(5) of this section, the law (but not the conflict-of-law rules) of the jurisdiction in which the Person creating a security interest is located governs whether and how the security interest may be perfected automatically or by filing a financing statement.

(d) If the jurisdiction specified in paragraph (b) of this section is a State that has not adopted Revised Article 8, then the law for the matters specified in paragraph (a) of this section shall be the law of that State as though Revised Article 8 had been adopted by that State. For purposes of the application of the matters specified in paragraph (a) of this section, the Federal Reserve Bank maintaining the Securities Account is a clearing corporation, and the Participant's interest in a Federal Home Loan Bank Book-entry Security is a Security Entitlement.

§912.4 Creation of Participant's Security Entitlement; security interests.

(a) A Participant's Security Entitlement is created when a Federal Reserve Bank indicates by book entry that a Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Security has been credited to a Participant's Securities Account.

(b) A security interest in a Security Entitlement of a Participant in favor of the United States to secure deposits of public money, including, without limitation, deposits to the Treasury tax and loan accounts, or other security interest in favor of the United

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States that is required by Federal statute, regulation, or agreement, and that is marked on the books of a Federal Reserve Bank is thereby effected and perfected, and has priority over any other interest in the Securities. Where a security interest in favor of the United States in a Security Entitlement of a Participant is marked on the books of a Federal Reserve Bank, such Federal Reserve Bank may rely, and is protected in relying, exclusively on the order of an authorized representative of the United States directing the transfer of the Security. For purposes of this paragraph (b), an “authorized representative of the United States” is the official designated in the applicable regulations or agreement to which a Federal Reserve Bank is a party, governing the security interest.

(c)(1) The Federal Home Loan Banks, the Finance Board, the Office of Finance, the United States and the Federal Reserve Banks have no obligation to agree to act on behalf of any Person or to recognize the interest of any transferee of a security interest or other limited interest in a Security Entitlement in favor of any Person except to the extent of any specific requirement of Federal law or regulation or to the extent set forth in any specific agreement with the Federal Reserve Bank on whose books the interest of the Participant is recorded. To the extent required by such law or regulation or set forth in an agreement with a Federal Reserve Bank, or the Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circular, a security interest in a Security Entitlement that is in favor of a Federal Reserve Bank or a Person may be created and perfected by a Federal Reserve Bank marking its books to record the security interest. Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, a security interest in a Security Entitlement marked on the books of a Federal Reserve Bank shall have priority over any other interest in the Securities.

(2) In addition to the method provided in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, a security interest in a Security Entitlement, including a security interest in favor of a Federal Reserve Bank, may be perfected by any method by which a security interest may be perfected under applicable law as de-

scribed in §912.2(b) or §912.3. The perfection, effect of perfection or non-perfection, and priority of a security interest are governed by that applicable law. A security interest in favor of a Federal Reserve Bank shall be treated as a security interest in favor of a clearing corporation in all respects under that law, including with respect to the effect of perfection and priority of the security interest. A Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circular shall be treated as a rule adopted by a clearing corporation for such purposes.

§912.5 Obligations of the Federal Home Loan Banks and the Office of Finance; no Adverse Claims.

(a) Except in the case of a security interest in favor of the United States or a Federal Reserve Bank or otherwise as provided in §912.4(c)(1), for the purposes of this part 912, the Federal Home Loan Banks, the Office of Finance and the Federal Reserve Banks shall treat the Participant to whose Securities Account an interest in a Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Security has been credited as the person exclusively entitled to issue a Transfer Message, to receive interest and other payments with respect thereof and otherwise to exercise all the rights and powers with respect to the Security, notwithstanding any information or notice to the contrary. Neither the Federal Home Loan Banks, the Finance Board, the Office of Finance, the United States, nor the Federal Reserve Banks are liable to a Person asserting or having an Adverse Claim to a Security Entitlement or to a Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Security in a Participant's Securities Account, including any such claim arising as a result of the transfer or disposition of a Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Security by a Federal Reserve Bank pursuant to a Transfer Message that the Federal Reserve Bank reasonably believes to be genuine.

(b) The obligation of the Federal Home Loan Banks and the Office of Finance to make payments of interest and principal with respect to Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Securities is discharged at the time payment in the appropriate amount is made as follows:

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(1) Interest on Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Securities is either credited by a Federal Reserve Bank to a Funds Account maintained at the Federal Reserve Bank or otherwise paid as directed by the Participant.

(2) Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Securities are paid, either at maturity or upon redemption, in accordance with their terms by a Federal Reserve Bank withdrawing the securities from the Participant's Securities Account in which they are maintained and by either crediting the amount of the proceeds, including both principal and interest, where applicable, to a Funds Account at the Federal Reserve Bank or otherwise paying such principal and interest as directed by the Participant. No action by the Participant is required in connection with the payment of a Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Security, unless otherwise expressly required.

§912.6 Authority of Federal Reserve Banks.

(a) Each Federal Reserve Bank is hereby authorized as fiscal agent of the Office of Finance: To perform functions with respect to the issuance of Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Securities, in accordance with the terms of the applicable offering notice and with procedures established by the Office of Finance; to service and maintain Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Securities in accounts established for such purposes; to make payments of principal, interest and redemption premium (if any), as directed by the Office of Finance; to effect transfer of Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Securities between Participants' Securities Accounts as directed by the Participants; and to perform such other duties as fiscal agent as may be requested by the Office of Finance.

(b) Each Federal Reserve Bank may issue Operating Circulars not inconsistent with this part 912, governing the details of its handling of Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Securities, Security Entitlements, and the operation of the Book-entry system under this part 912.

§912.7 Liability of Federal Home Loan Banks, Finance Board, Office of Finance and Federal Reserve Banks.

The Federal Home Loan Banks, the Finance Board, the Office of Finance and the Federal Reserve Banks may rely on the information provided in a tender, transaction request form, other transaction documentation, or Transfer Message, and are not required to verify the information. Neither the Federal Home Loan Banks, the Finance Board, the Office of Finance, the United States, nor the Federal Reserve Banks shall be liable for any action taken in accordance with the information set out in a tender, transaction request form, other transaction documentation, or Transfer Message, or evidence submitted in support thereof.

§912.8 Additional requirements; notice of attachment for Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Securities.

(a) *Additional requirements.* In any case or any class of cases arising under the regulations in this part 912, the Office of Finance may require such additional evidence and a bond of indemnity, with or without surety, as may in its judgment, or in the judgment of the Federal Home Loan Banks or the Finance Board, be necessary for the protection of the interests of the Federal Home Loan Banks, the Finance Board, the Office of Finance or the United States.

(b) *Notice of attachment.* The interest of a debtor in a Security Entitlement may be reached by a creditor only by legal process upon the Securities Intermediary with whom the debtor's securities account is maintained, except where a Security Entitlement is maintained in the name of a secured party, in which case the debtor's interest may be reached by legal process upon the secured party. The regulations in this part 912 do not purport to establish whether a Federal Reserve Bank is required to honor an order or other notice of attachment in any particular case or class of cases.

§912.9 Reference to certain Department of Treasury commentary and determinations.

(a) The Department of Treasury TRADES Commentary (31 CFR part

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357, appendix B) addressing the Department of Treasury regulations governing book-entry procedure for Treasury Securities is hereby referenced, so far as applicable and as necessarily modified to relate to Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank Securities, as an interpretive aid to this part 912.

(b) Determinations of the Department of Treasury regarding whether a State shall be considered to have adopted Revised Article 8 for purposes of 31 CFR part 357, as published in the FEDERAL REGISTER or otherwise, shall also apply to this part 912.

§ 912.10 Obligations of United States with respect to Federal Home Loan Bank Securities.

Federal Home Loan Bank Securities are not obligations of the United States and are not guaranteed by the United States.

PART 914—HEARINGS [RESERVED]

PART 916—PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS AND AMENDMENTS [RESERVED]

PART 918—IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT [RESERVED]

PART 920—USE OF PENALTY MAIL IN THE LOCATION AND RECOVERY OF MISSING CHILDREN [RESERVED]

PART 924—PRACTICE BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS [RESERVED]

SUBCHAPTER B—FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK SYSTEM

PART 931—DEFINITIONS

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931.1 Act.

931.2 Bank.

931.3 Board.

931.4 Creditor liabilities.

931.5 Obligations of the United States.

931.6 Paid-in value of stock in a bank.

931.7–10 [Reserved]

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1422a and 1422b.

SOURCE: 43 FR 46836, Oct. 11, 1978. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

§ 931.1 Act.

The Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1421 *et seq.*).

§ 931.2 Bank.

A Federal Home Loan Bank.

§ 931.3 Board.

The Federal Housing Finance Board or any official duly authorized to act in its behalf.

[55 FR 2229, Jan. 23, 1990]

§ 931.4 Creditor liabilities.

Obligations, secured or unsecured, of a member.

§ 931.5 Obligations of the United States.

All evidences of indebtedness issued, or fully guaranteed as to principal and interest, by the United States.

[43 FR 46836, Oct. 11, 1978. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989, and further redesignated at 63 FR 65687, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 931.6 Paid-in value of stock in a bank.

Aggregate payments on the par value of stock.

[43 FR 46836, Oct. 11, 1978. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989, and further redesignated at 63 FR 65687, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 931.7–10 [Reserved]

PART 932—DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BANKS

Subpart A—Definitions

Sec.

932.1 Definitions.

932.2 Dates.

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932.3 Director elections.

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932.6 Elective director nominations.

932.7 Eligibility requirements for elective directors.

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932.10 Selection of appointive directors.

932.11 Conflict of interests policy for Bank directors.

932.12 Reporting requirements for Bank directors

932.13 Ineligible Bank directors.

932.14 Vacant Bank directorships.

932.15 Minimum number of elective directorships.

932.16 Site and frequency of board of directors and committee meetings.

932.17 Compensation and expenses of Bank directors.

Subpart C—Selection of Bank Officers and Employees [Reserved]

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1422a(a)(3), 1422b(a), 1426, 1427, and 1432.

Subpart A—Definitions

§ 932.1 Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

Act means the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1421 *et seq.*).

Bank or *Banks* means a Federal Home Loan Bank or the Federal Home Loan Banks.

Bona fide resident of a Bank district means an individual who:

(1) Maintains a principal residence within the Bank district; or

(2) If serving as an elective director, owns or leases in his or her own name a residence within the Bank district

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and is an officer or director of a member located in a voting state within the Bank district; or

(3) If serving as an appointive director, owns or leases in his or her own name a residence within the Bank district and is employed within a voting state within the Bank district.

Docket number means the number assigned to each member by the Finance Board and used by the Finance Board and the Banks to identify a particular member.

Finance Board means the agency established as the Federal Housing Finance Board.

Member means an institution admitted to membership and owning capital stock in a Bank.

Record date means December 31 of the calendar year immediately preceding the election year.

Voting state means the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or the state of the United States in which a member's principal place of business, as determined in accordance with part 933 of this chapter, is located as of the record date. The voting state of a member with a principal place of business located in the U.S. Virgin Islands as of the record date shall be Puerto Rico, and the voting state of a member with a principal place of business located in American Samoa, Guam, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as of the record date shall be Hawaii.

[63 FR 65688, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 932.2 Dates.

If any date specified in this part, or specified by a Bank pursuant to this part, falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the relevant time period shall be deemed to include the next business day.

[63 FR 65688, Nov. 30, 1998]

Subpart B—Bank Directors

§ 932.3 Director elections.

(a) *Responsibilities of the Banks.* Each Bank annually shall conduct an election the purpose of which is to fill all elective directorships designated by the Finance Board as commencing on January 1 of the calendar year imme-

diately following the year of the election. Subject to the provisions of the Act and in accordance with the requirements of this part, the disinterested members of the board of directors of each Bank, or a committee of disinterested directors, shall administer and conduct the annual election of directors. In so doing, the disinterested directors may use Bank staff or independent contractors to perform ministerial and administrative functions concerning the elections process. The term of office of each elective directorship shall be 2 years and shall commence on January 1 of the calendar year immediately following the year in which the election is held. Each Bank shall complete the election in sufficient time to allow newly elected directors to assume their seats on January 1 of the year immediately following the election.

(b) *Designation of elective directorships.* The Finance Board annually shall establish the number of elective directorships for each Bank, which are to be allocated as follows:

(1) One elective directorship shall be allocated to each State within the Bank district;

(2) If the total number of elective directorships allocated pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this section is less than eight, the Finance Board shall allocate additional elective directorships among the States, using the method of equal proportions, until the total allocated for the Bank equals eight;

(3) If the number of elective directorships allocated to any State pursuant to paragraphs (b)(1) and (2) of this section is less than the number allocated to that State on December 31, 1960, as specified in § 932.15, the Finance Board shall allocate such additional elective directorships to that State until the total allocated equals the number allocated to the Bank on December 31, 1960;

(4) Pursuant to section 7(e) of the Act, the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York is hereby allocated one additional elective directorship, which is designated as representing the members in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(5) Pursuant to section 7(a) of the Act, in any Bank district that includes five or more states, the Finance Board,

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after consultation with the affected Banks, may increase the number of elective directorships up to thirteen, and the number of appointive directorships up to three-fourths of the number of elective directorships. In determining the number of appointive directorships, the Finance Board may round to the nearest whole number.

(c) *Notification.* On or before June 1 of each year, the Finance Board shall notify each Bank in writing of the total number of elective directorships established for the Bank and the number of elective directorships designated as representing the members in each voting State in the Bank district. The annual designation of elective directorships shall not cause any incumbent director to surrender his or her directorship prior to the expiration of the full term of office.

(d) In accordance with section 7(c) of the Act, unless otherwise designated by the Finance Board, for purposes of election of directors a member shall be deemed to be located in its voting State.

(e) *Transition.* The term of office of each elective directorship existing on the effective date of this section shall continue to its scheduled expiration date, and the Banks may not thereafter alter the commencement or expiration date for any elective directorship in conducting the annual election of directors.

[63 FR 65688, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 932.4 Capital stock report.

(a) On or before April 10 of each year, each Bank shall submit to the Finance Board, for its use in designating the elective directorships a capital stock report that indicates, as of the record date, the number of members in each voting State in the Bank's district, and the number of shares of capital stock required to be held by each member (identified by docket number), and the aggregate total number of shares of capital stock required to be held by all members in each voting State in the Bank's district. The Bank shall certify to the Finance Board that to the best of its knowledge the information provided in the capital stock report is accurate and complete, and that it has notified each member of its minimum

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capital stock holdings pursuant to § 933.22(b)(1) of this chapter.

(b) A Bank shall determine the number of shares of capital stock each member is required to hold as of the record date in the following manner:

(1) The number of shares of capital stock shall be equal to the greater of the advances-to-capital stock requirement under § 935.15(a) of this chapter, or the minimum capital stock requirement under § 933.20(a) of this chapter.

(2) If a member has elected to purchase its minimum required capital stock in installments under § 933.20(b)(2) of this chapter, the number of shares of capital stock required to be held as of the record date shall be the cumulative total of shares of capital stock actually purchased as of the record date.

[63 FR 65689, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 932.5 Determination of member votes.

(a) *Authority.* The Bank shall determine, in accordance with this section, the number of votes each member of the Bank may cast in the election of directors.

(b) *Determination.* The number of votes a member may cast for any elective director nominee shall be the lesser of the number of shares of capital stock the member was required to hold as of the record date, as determined in accordance with § 932.4(b), or the average number of capital shares of capital stock required to be held by all of the members in its voting State as of the record date.

[63 FR 65689, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 932.6 Elective director nominations.

(a) *Election announcement.* Within a reasonable time in advance of an election, a Bank shall provide to each member in its district a written notice of the election that includes:

(1) The number of elective directorships designated as representing the members in each voting State in the Bank district;

(2) The name of each incumbent Bank director, the name and location of the member at which each elective director serves, and the name and location of

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the organization with which each appointive director is affiliated, if any, and the expiration date of each Bank director's term of office;

(3) An attachment indicating the name, location, and docket number of every member in the member's voting State, and the number of votes each such member may cast in the election, as determined in accordance with § 932.5(b); and (4) A nominating certificate.

(b) *Nominations.* (1) Any member that is entitled to vote in the election may nominate an eligible individual to fill each available elective directorship for its voting State by submitting to its Bank, prior to a deadline to be established by the Bank, a nominating certificate duly adopted by the member's governing body or by an individual authorized to act on behalf of the member's governing body.

(2) The nominating certificate shall include the name of the nominee and the name, location, and docket number of the member at which the nominee serves as an officer or director.

(3) The Bank shall establish a deadline for submitting nominating certificates, which shall be no earlier than 30 calendar days after the date on which the Bank mails the notice required by paragraph (a) of this section, and the Bank shall not accept certificates received after that deadline. The Bank shall retain all nominating certificates for at least two years after the date of the election.

(c) *Accepting nominations.* A Bank shall notify in writing any person nominated for an elective directorship promptly upon receipt of the nominating certificate. A person may accept the nomination only by submitting an executed director eligibility certification, as prescribed by the Finance Board, to the Bank prior to the deadline established by the Bank. A Bank shall allow each nominee at least 30 calendar days after the date of the notice of nomination within which to submit the executed form. A nominee may decline the nomination by so advising the Bank in writing, or by failing to submit a properly executed director eligibility certification prior to the deadline. Each Bank shall retain all information received under this

paragraph for at least two years after the date of the election.

[63 FR 65689, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 932.7 Eligibility requirements for elective directors.

(a) *Eligibility verification.* Based on the information provided on the director eligibility certification form prescribed by the Finance Board, a Bank shall verify that each nominee meets all of the eligibility requirements for elective directors set forth in the Act and this part before placing that nominee on the ballot prepared by the Bank under § 932.8(a).

(b) *Eligibility requirements.* Each elective director, and each nominee, shall be:

(1) A citizen of the United States;

(2) A bona fide resident of the Bank district; and

(3) An officer or director of a member that is located in the voting State to be represented by the elective directorship, that was a member of the Bank as of the record date, and that meets all minimum capital requirements established by its appropriate federal regulator or appropriate State regulator. For purposes of this paragraph (b)(3), the term *appropriate federal regulator* has the same meaning as the term "appropriate Federal banking agency" in section 3(q) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(q)), and, for federally insured credit unions, shall mean the National Credit Union Administration, and the term *appropriate State regulator* means any State officer, agency, supervisor, or other entity that has regulatory authority over, or is empowered to institute enforcement action against, a member.

(c) *Restrictions.* A nominee is not eligible if he or she:

(1) Is an incumbent elective director, unless:

(i) The incumbent director's term of office would expire before the new term of office would begin; and

(ii) The new term of office would not be barred by the term limit provision of section 7(d) of the Act.

(2) Is a former elective director whose service would be barred by the term limit provision of section 7(d) of the Act.

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(3) Is an incumbent appointive director.

[63 FR 65689, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 932.8 Election process.

(a) *Ballots.* Promptly after verifying the eligibility of all nominees in accordance with § 932.7(a), a Bank shall prepare a ballot for each voting State for which an elective directorship is to be filled and shall mail the ballot to all members within that State that were members as of the record date. A ballot shall include at least the following provisions:

(1) An alphabetical listing of the names of each nominee for the member's voting State, the name, location, and docket number of the member at which each nominee serves, the nominee's title or position with the member, and the number of elective directorships to be filled by members in that voting State in the election;

(2) A statement that write-in candidates are not permitted; and

(3) A confidentiality statement prohibiting the Bank from disclosing how a member voted.

(b) *Lack of nominees.* If, for any voting State, the number of nominees is equal to or less than the number of elective directorships to be filled in the election, the Bank shall notify the members in the affected voting state in writing (in lieu of providing a ballot) that the directorships are to be filled without an election due to a lack of nominees. The Bank shall declare elected any eligible nominee, who shall be included as a director-elect in the report of election required under paragraph (e). If necessary, the board of directors shall fill, any elective directorship that has become vacant due to a lack of a nominee in accordance with § 932.14(a).

(c) *Voting.* For each directorship to be filled, a member may cast the number of votes determined by the Bank pursuant to § 932.5. A member may not split its votes among multiple nominees for a single directorship, nor, where there are multiple directorships to be filled for a voting State, may it cumulatively vote for a single nominee. Any ballots cast in violation of this subsection shall be void. To vote, a member shall:

(1) Mark on the ballot the name of not more than one of the nominees for each elective directorship to be filled in the member's voting State. Each nominee so selected shall receive all of the votes that the member is entitled to cast.

(2) Execute the ballot by resolution of the member's governing body, or by an appropriate writing signed by an individual authorized to act on behalf of the governing body.

(3) Deliver the executed ballot to the Bank on or before the closing date that has been established by the Bank, which shall be no earlier than 30 calendar days after the date the ballots are mailed in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section. A member may not change a ballot after it has been delivered to the Bank.

(d) *Counting ballots.* A Bank shall not open any ballot until after the closing date, and may not include in the election results any ballot received after the closing date. Promptly after the closing date, each Bank shall tabulate, by each voting State, the votes cast in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section, and shall declare elected the nominee receiving the highest number of votes.

(1) If more than one elective directorship is to be filled in a voting State, the Bank shall declare elected each successive nominee receiving the next highest number of votes until all open elective directorships for that voting State are filled.

(2) In the event of a tie for the last available seat, the incumbent board of directors of the Bank shall, by a majority vote, declare elected one of the nominees for whom the number of votes cast was tied.

(3) The Bank shall retain all ballots it receives for at least two years after the date of the election, and shall not disclose how any member voted.

(e) *Report of election.* Promptly following the election, each Bank shall provide written notice to its members, to each nominee, and to the Finance Board of the following:

(1) The name of each director-elect, the name and location of the member at which he or she serves, and his or her title or position at the member;

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(2) The voting State represented by each director-elect;

(3) The expiration date of the term of office of each director-elect;

(4) The number of members voting in the election and the total number of votes cast, both reported by State; and

(5) The number of votes cast for each nominee.

[63 FR 65690, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 932.9 Prohibition on actions to influence director elections.

(a) *Prohibition.* Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section:

(1) No director, officer, attorney, employee, or agent of the Finance Board or of a Bank may:

(i) Communicate in any manner that a director, officer, attorney, employee, or agent of the Finance Board or of a Bank, directly or indirectly, supports the nomination or election of a particular individual for an elective directorship; or

(ii) Take any other action to influence votes for a directorship.

(2) No member may take any action prohibited by paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section.

(b) *Exception for incumbent Bank directors.* A Bank director acting in his or her personal capacity may support the nomination or election of any individual for an elective directorship, provided that no Bank director shall purport to represent the views of the Bank, the Finance Board, any other director, or any officer, attorney, employee, or agent of the Bank or of the Finance Board concerning the nomination or election of a particular individual for an elective directorship.

[63 FR 65690, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 932.10 Selection of appointive directors.

(a) *Selection.* In accordance with the Act, the Finance Board, in its sole discretion, shall select all appointive directors.

(b) *Term of office.* The term of office of each appointive directorship shall commence on January 1.

[63 FR 65690, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 932.11 Conflict of interests policy for Bank directors.

(a) *Adoption of conflict of interests policy.* Each Bank shall adopt a written conflict of interests policy that shall apply to all Bank directors. At a minimum, the conflict of interests policy of each Bank shall:

(1) Require the directors to administer the affairs of the Bank fairly and impartially and without discrimination in favor of or against any member or nonmember borrower;

(2) Prohibit appointed directors from serving as an officer of any Bank or as an officer or director of any member, and from owning any equity or debt security issued by a member or from having any other financial interest in a member;

(3) Prohibit the use of a director's official position for personal gain;

(4) Require directors to disclose actual or apparent conflict of interests and establish procedures for addressing such conflicts;

(5) Provide internal controls to ensure that reports are filed and that conflicts are disclosed and resolved in accordance with this section; and

(6) Establish procedures to monitor compliance with the conflict of interests policy.

(b) *Disclosure and recusal.* A director shall disclose to the board of directors any personal financial interests he or she has, as well as any financial interests known to the director of any immediate family member or business associate of the director, in any matter to be considered by the board of directors and in any other matter in which another person or entity does, or proposes to do, business with the Bank. A director shall fully disclose the nature of his or her interest in the matter and shall provide to the board of directors any information requested to aid in its consideration of the director's interest. A director shall refrain from considering or voting on any issue in which the director, any immediate family member, or any business associate has a financial interest.

(c) *Confidential Information.* Directors shall not disclose or use confidential information received by them solely by reason of their position with the Bank

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to obtain a financial interest for themselves or for any other person.

(d) *Gifts.* Directors shall not accept, and shall discourage their immediate family members from accepting, any substantial gift where the director has reason to believe that the gift is given in order to influence the director's actions as a member of the Bank's board of directors, or where acceptance of such gift gives the appearance of influencing the director's actions as a member of the board.

(e) *Compensation.* Directors shall not accept compensation for services performed for the Bank from any source other than the Bank for which the services are performed.

(f) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section:

(1) *Immediate family member* means parent, sibling, spouse, child, or dependent, or any other relative sharing the same residence as the director.

(2) *Financial interest* means a direct or indirect financial interest in any activity, transaction, property, or relationship that involves receiving or providing something of monetary value, and includes, but is not limited to any right, contractual or otherwise, to the payment of money, whether contingent or fixed. It does not include a deposit or savings account maintained with a member, nor does it include a loan or extension of credit obtained from a member in the normal course of business on terms that are generally available to the public.

(3) *Business associate* means any individual or entity with whom a director has a business relationship, including, but not limited to:

(i) Any corporation or organization of which the director is an officer or partner, or in which the director beneficially owns ten percent or more of any class of equity security, including subordinated debt;

(ii) Any other partner, officer, or beneficial owner of ten percent or more of any class of equity security, including subordinated debt, of any such corporation or organization; and

(iii) Any trust or other estate in which a director has a substantial beneficial interest or as to which the director serves as trustee or in a similar fiduciary capacity.

(4) *Substantial Gifts* includes:

(i) Gifts of more than token value;

(ii) Entertainment or hospitality, the cost of which is in excess of what is considered reasonable, customary, and accepted business practices; or

(iii) Any other items or services for which a director pays less than market value.

[63 FR 65690, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 932.12 Reporting requirements for Bank directors.

(a) *Annual reporting.* On or before March 1 of each year, each director shall submit to his or her Bank the appropriate executed director eligibility certification, as prescribed by the Finance Board. (The forms are available pursuant to 12 CFR 900.51). The Bank shall promptly forward to the Finance Board a copy of the certification filed by each appointive director.

(b) *Report of noncompliance.* If an elective or appointive director knows or has reason to believe that he or she no longer meets the eligibility requirements set forth in the Act or this part, the director shall so inform the Bank in writing within 30 calendar days of first learning of the facts causing the loss of eligibility. An appointive director also shall inform the Finance Board in writing at the same time that he or she informs the Bank.

[63 FR 65691, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 932.13 Ineligible Bank directors.

(a) *Elective directors.* Upon a determination by the Finance Board or a Bank that an elective director no longer satisfies the eligibility requirements set forth in the Act or this part, or has failed to comply with the reporting requirements of § 932.12, the elective directorship shall immediately become vacant. Any elective director that is determined to have failed to comply with the eligibility or reporting requirements shall not continue to act as a Bank director.

(b) *Appointive directors.* Except as provided herein, upon a determination by the Finance Board that an appointive director no longer satisfies the eligibility requirements set forth in the Act, or has failed to comply with the reporting requirements of § 932.12, the

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appointive directorship shall immediately become vacant. Notwithstanding the vacancy, an appointive director may continue to serve until a successor assumes the directorship or the term of office expires, whichever occurs first, and the Finance Board, in its sole discretion, may allow an appointive director up to 90 calendar days to comply with the eligibility or reporting requirements.

[63 FR 65691, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 932.14 Vacant Bank directorships.

(a) *Vacant elective directorships.* (1) As soon as practicable after a vacancy occurs, a Bank shall fill the unexpired term of office of a vacant elective directorship by a majority vote of the remaining Bank directors regardless of whether the remaining Bank directors constitute a quorum of the Bank's board of directors.

(2) An individual so selected to fill a vacant elective directorship shall satisfy all of the eligibility requirements for elective directors set forth in the Act and this part, and shall provide to the Bank an executed director eligibility certification. The Bank shall verify the individual's eligibility in accordance with § 932.7(a) before allowing the individual to assume the directorship, and shall retain the information it receives in accordance with § 932.6(c).

(3) Promptly after verifying the individual's eligibility under paragraph (a)(2) of this section, a Bank shall notify the Finance Board and each member located in the Bank's district in writing of the following:

(i) The name of the new elective director, the name, location and docket number of the member at which the new director serves, and the new director's title or position with the member;

(ii) The voting State that the new elective director represents; and

(iii) The expiration date of the new elective director's term of office.

(b) *Vacant appointive directorships.* (1) As soon as practicable after a vacancy occurs, the Finance Board shall fill the unexpired term of office of a vacant appointive directorship.

(2) Promptly after filling a vacant appointive directorship, the Finance Board shall notify the affected Bank in writing of the following:

(i) The name of the new appointive director, the name and location of the organization with which the new director is affiliated, if any, and the new director's title or position with such organization; and

(ii) The expiration date of the new appointive director's term of office.

(3) Promptly after receiving the notice required by paragraph (b)(2) of this section, a Bank shall provide each of its members with the information described in paragraphs (b)(2)(i) and (ii) of this section.

[63 FR 65691, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 932.15 Minimum number of elective directorships.

Under section 7(c) of the Act, the number of elective directorships allocated to members located in each State cannot be less than the number of directorships that were filled by the members from that State on December 31, 1960. The following list sets forth the States whose members held more than one (1) seat on December 31, 1960:

State	No. of elective directorships on December 31, 1960
California	3
Colorado	2
Illinois	4
Indiana	5
Iowa	2
Kansas	3
Kentucky	2
Louisiana	2
Massachusetts	3
Michigan	3
Minnesota	2
Missouri	2
New Jersey	4
New York	4
Ohio	4
Oklahoma	2
Pennsylvania	6
Tennessee	2
Texas	3
Wisconsin	4

[55 FR 1399, Jan. 16, 1990, as amended at 56 FR 55221, Oct. 25, 1991. Redesignated and amended at 63 FR 65692, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 932.16 Site and frequency of board of directors and committee meetings.

(a) *Site.* Meetings of a Bank's board of directors and committees thereof usually should be held within the district served by the Bank. No meetings of a

Bank's board of directors and committees thereof may be held in any location that is not within the United States, including its possessions and territories.

(b) *Maintenance of effort.* (1) Notwithstanding the limits on annual directors' compensation established by section 7(i) of the Act, as amended, the board of directors of each Bank shall continue to maintain its level of oversight of the management of the Bank, and, except as provided in paragraph (b)(2), the board of directors shall hold no fewer in-person meetings in any year than it has held on average over the immediately preceding three years.

(2) A Bank may apply to the Finance Board for approval, upon a showing of good cause, to hold in any year fewer than the number of in-person board of directors meetings required under paragraph (b)(1).

[64 FR 71277, Dec. 21, 1999]

§932.17 Compensation and expenses of bank directors.

(a) *Definition.* As used in this section, compensation means any payment of money or provision of any other thing of value (or the accrual of a right to receive money or a thing of value in a subsequent year) in consideration of a director's performance of official duties for the Bank, including, without limitation, daily meeting fees, incentive payments and fringe benefits.

(b) *Annual compensation policy.* Beginning in 2000 and annually thereafter, each Bank's board of directors shall adopt by resolution a written policy to provide for the payment to Bank directors of reasonable compensation for the performance of their duties as members of the Bank's board of directors, subject to the requirements set forth in paragraph (c) of this section. At a minimum, such policy shall address the activities or functions for which attendance is necessary and appropriate and may be compensated, and shall explain and justify the methodology for determining the amount of compensation to be paid to directors.

(c) *Policy requirements.* Payment to directors under each Bank's policy on director compensation may be based upon factors that the Bank determines to be appropriate, but each Bank's pol-

icy shall conform to the following requirements:

(1) *Statutory limits on annual compensation.* Pursuant to section 7(i) of the Act, as amended, for 2000, the following limits on compensation shall apply: for a Chairperson—\$25,000; for a Vice Chairperson—\$20,000; for any other member of the Bank's board of directors—\$15,000. Beginning in 2001 and for subsequent years, these limits on annual compensation shall be adjusted annually by the Finance Board to reflect any percentage increase in the preceding year's Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all urban consumers, as published by the Department of Labor. Each year, as soon as practicable after the publication of the previous year's CPI, the Finance Board shall publish notice by FEDERAL REGISTER, distribution of a memorandum, or otherwise, of the CPI-adjusted limits on annual compensation.

(2) *Compensation permitted only for performance of official Bank business.* The total compensation received by each director in a year shall reflect the amount of time spent on official Bank business, such that greater or lesser attendance at board and committee meetings during a given year will be reflected in the compensation received by the director for that year. A Bank shall not pay fees to a director, such as retainer fees, that do not reflect the director's performance of official Bank business.

(d) *Expenses.* Each Bank may pay its directors for such necessary and reasonable travel, subsistence and other related expenses incurred in connection with the performance of their official duties as are payable to senior officers of the Bank under the Bank's travel policy, except that directors may not be paid for gift or entertainment expenses.

(e) *Disclosure.* Each Bank shall, in its annual report:

(1) State the sum of the total actual compensation paid to its directors in that year;

(2) State the sum of the total actual expenses paid to its directors in that year; and

(3) Summarize its policy on director compensation.

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(f) *Approval.* Payments made to directors in compliance with the limits on annual directors' compensation and the standards set forth in this section are deemed to be approved by the Finance Board for purposes of section 7(i) of the Act, as amended.

[61 FR 43154, Aug. 21, 1996. Redesignated at 63 FR 65692, Nov. 30, 1998, as amended at 64 FR 71278, Dec. 21, 1999]

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PART 933—MEMBERS OF THE BANKS

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AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1422, 1422a, 1422b, 1423, 1424, 1426, 1430, 1442.

SOURCE: 58 FR 43542, Aug. 17, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Definitions

§ 933.1 Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

(a) *Act* means the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1421 through 1449).

(b) *Adjusted net income* means net income, excluding extraordinary items such as income received from or expense incurred in sales of securities or fixed assets, reported on a regulatory financial report.

(c) *Aggregate unpaid loan principal* means the aggregate unpaid principal of a subscriber's or member's home mortgage loans, home-purchase contracts, and similar obligations.

(d) *Allowance for loan and lease losses* means a specified balance-sheet account held to fund potential losses on loans or leases, that is reported on a regulatory financial report.

(e) *Appropriate Federal banking agency* has the same meaning as used in 12

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U.S.C. 1813(q) and, for federally insured credit unions, shall mean the National Credit Union Administration.

(f) *Appropriate state regulator* means any state officer, agency, supervisor or other entity that has regulatory authority over, or is empowered to institute enforcement action against, an applicant for Bank membership.

(g) *Bank* means a Federal Home Loan Bank established under the authority of the Act.

(h) *Board* means the Federal Housing Finance Board.

(i) *Combination business or farm property* means real property for which the total appraised value is attributable to residential, and business or farm uses.

(j) *Composite regulatory examination rating* means a composite rating assigned to an institution following the guidelines of the Uniform Financial Institutions Rating System (Issued by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council; for availability contact the Federal Housing Finance Board, FOIA Office, 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006.), including a CAMEL rating, a MACRO rating, or other similar rating, contained in a written regulatory examination report.

(k) *Dwelling unit* means a single room or a unified combination of rooms designed for residential use.

(l) *Enforcement action* means any written notice, directive, order or agreement initiated by an applicant for Bank membership or by its appropriate regulator to address any operational, financial, managerial or other deficiencies of the applicant identified by such regulator, but does not include a board of directors resolution adopted by the applicant in response to examination weaknesses identified by such regulator.

(m) *Funded residential construction loan* means the portion of a loan secured by real property made to finance the on-site construction of dwelling units on one-to-four family property or multifamily property disbursed to the borrower.

(n) *Home mortgage loan* means:

(1) A loan, whether or not fully amortizing, or an interest in such a loan, which is secured by a mortgage, deed of trust, or other security agreement that

creates a first lien on one of the following interests in property:

(i) One-to-four family property or multifamily property, in fee simple;

(ii) A leasehold on one-to-four family property or multifamily property under a lease of not less than 99 years that is renewable, or under a lease having a period of not less than 50 years to run from the date the mortgage was executed; or

(iii) Combination business or farm property where at least 50 percent of the total appraised value of the combined property is attributable to the residential portion of the property or, in the case of any community financial institution, combination business or farm property, on which is located a permanent structure actually used as a residence (other than for temporary or seasonal housing), where the residence constitutes an integral part of the property. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term *community financial institution* means an institution that has average total assets of \$500,000,000 or less, based on an average of total assets over the three preceding years. The Board shall adjust the limit annually based on the annual increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, as published by the Department of Labor; or

(2) A mortgage pass-through security that represents an undivided ownership interest in:

(i) Long-term loans, provided that, at the time of issuance of the security, all of the loans meet the requirements of paragraph (n)(1) of this section; or

(ii) A security that represents an undivided ownership interest in long-term loans, provided that, at the time of issuance of the security, all of the loans meet the requirements of paragraph (n)(1) of this section.

(o) *Institutions which are eligible to make application to become members* means, for purposes of 12 U.S.C. 1431(e)(2)(A), any building and loan association, savings and loan association, cooperative bank, homestead association, insurance company, savings bank, or any insured depository institution, regardless of whether the institution applies for or would be approved for membership.

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(p) *Insured depository institution* means an insured depository institution as defined in 12 U.S.C. 1422(12).

(q) *Long-term* means a term to maturity of five years or greater.

(r) *Manufactured housing* means a manufactured home as defined in section 603(6) of the Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5402(6)).

(s) *Member* means an institution that has been approved for membership in a Bank and has purchased capital stock in the Bank in accordance with §§ 933.20 or 933.25 of this part.

(t) *Multifamily property* means:

(1) Real property that is solely residential and includes five or more dwelling units; or

(2) Real property that includes five or more dwelling units combined with commercial units, provided that the property is primarily residential; or

(3) Nursing homes, dormitories, or homes for the elderly.

(u) *Nonperforming loans and leases* means the sum of the following, reported on a regulatory financial report: Loans and leases that have been past due for 90 days (60 days in the case of credit union applicants) or longer but are still accruing; loans and leases on a nonaccrual basis; and restructured loans and leases (not already reported as nonperforming).

(v) *Nonresidential real property* means real property that is not used for residential purposes, including business or industrial property, hotels, motels, churches, hospitals, educational and charitable institution buildings or facilities, clubs, lodges, association buildings, golf courses, recreational facilities, farm property not containing a dwelling unit, or similar types of property.

(w) *One-to-four family property* means:

(1) Real property that is solely residential, including one-to-four family dwelling units or more than four family dwelling units if each dwelling unit is separated from the other dwelling units by dividing walls that extend from ground to roof, such as row houses, townhouses or similar types of property;

(2) Manufactured housing if applicable state law defines the purchase or

holding of manufactured housing as the purchase or holding of real property;

(3) Individual condominium dwelling units or interests in individual cooperative housing dwelling units that are part of a condominium or cooperative building without regard to the number of total dwelling units therein; or

(4) Real property which includes one-to-four family dwelling units combined with commercial units, provided the property is primarily residential.

(x) *Other real estate owned* means all other real estate owned (*i.e.*, foreclosed and repossessed real estate), reported on a regulatory financial report, and does not include direct and indirect investments in real estate ventures.

(y) *Appropriate regulator* means a regulatory entity listed in § 933.8, as applicable.

(z) *Regulatory examination report* means a written report of examination prepared by the applicant's appropriate regulator, containing, in the case of insured depository institution applicants, a composite rating assigned to the institution following the guidelines of the Uniform Financial Institutions Rating System, including a CAMEL rating, a MACRO rating, or other similar rating.

(aa) *Regulatory financial report* means a financial report that an applicant is required to file with its appropriate regulator on a specific periodic basis, including the quarterly call report for commercial banks, thrift financial report for savings associations, quarterly or semi-annual call report for credit unions, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' annual or quarterly report for insurance companies, or other similar report, including such report maintained by the appropriate regulator on a computer on-line database.

(bb) *Residential mortgage loan* means any one of the following types of loans, whether or not fully amortizing:

(1) Home mortgage loans;

(2) Funded residential construction loans;

(3) Loans secured by manufactured housing whether or not defined by state law as secured by an interest in real property;

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(4) Loans secured by junior liens on one-to-four family property or multi-family property;

(5) Mortgage pass-through securities representing an undivided ownership interest in:

(i) Loans that meet the requirements of paragraphs (bb) (1) through (4) of this section at the time of issuance of the security;

(ii) Securities representing an undivided ownership interest in loans, provided that, at the time of issuance of the security, all of the loans meet the requirements of paragraphs (bb) (1) through (4) of this section; or

(iii) Mortgage debt securities as defined in paragraph (bb)(6) of this section;

(6) Mortgage debt securities secured by:

(i) Loans, provided that, at the time of issuance of the security, substantially all of the loans meet the requirements of paragraphs (bb) (1) through (4) of this section;

(ii) Securities that meet the requirements of paragraph (bb)(5) of this section; or

(iii) Securities secured by assets, provided that, at the time of issuance of the security, all of the assets meet the requirements of paragraphs (bb) (1) through (5) of this section;

(7) Home mortgage loans secured by a leasehold interest, as defined in paragraph (n)(1)(ii) of this section, except that the period of the lease term may be for any duration; or

(8) Loans that finance properties or activities that, if made by a member, would satisfy the statutory requirements for the Community Investment Program established under section 10(i) of the Act, or the regulatory requirements established for any community investment cash advance program authorized by section 10(j)(10) of the Act.

(cc) *State* includes a State of the United States, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands of the United States.

(dd) *Total assets* means the total assets reported on a regulatory financial report.

(ee) *Consolidation* includes a consolidation, a merger, or a purchase of all of

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the assets and assumption of all of the liabilities of an entity by another entity.

[61 FR 42542, Aug. 16, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 3455, Jan. 23, 1998; 63 FR 35127, June 29, 1998; 63 FR 40023, July 27, 1998]

Subpart B—Membership Application Process

SOURCE: 61 FR 42543 Aug. 16, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§ 933.2 Membership application requirements.

(a) *Application.* An applicant for membership in a Bank shall submit to that Bank an application that satisfies the requirements of this part. The application shall include a written resolution or certification duly adopted by the applicant's board of directors, or by an individual with authority to act on behalf of the applicant's board of directors, of the following:

(1) *Applicant review.* Applicant has reviewed the requirements of this part and, as required by this part, has provided to the best of applicant's knowledge the most recent, accurate and complete information available; and

(2) *Duty to supplement.* Applicant will promptly supplement the application with any relevant information that comes to applicant's attention prior to the Bank's decision on whether to approve or deny the application, and if the Bank's decision is appealed pursuant to § 933.5 of this part, prior to resolution of any appeal by the Board.

(b) *Digest.* The Bank shall prepare a written digest for each applicant stating whether or not the applicant meets each of the requirements in §§ 933.6 to 933.18 of this part, the Bank's findings and the reasons therefor.

(c) *File.* The Bank shall maintain a membership file for each applicant for at least three years after the Bank decides whether to approve or deny membership and the resolution of any appeal to the Board. The membership file shall contain at a minimum:

(1) *Digest.* The digest required by paragraph (b) of this section.

(2) *Required documents.* All documents required by §§ 933.6 to 933.18 of this part, including those documents required to establish or rebut a presumption under

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this part, shall be described in and attached to the digest. The Bank may retain in the file only the relevant portions of the regulatory financial reports required by this part. If an applicant's appropriate regulator requires return or destruction of a regulatory examination report, the date that the report is returned or destroyed shall be noted in the file.

(3) *Additional documents.* Any additional document submitted by the applicant, or otherwise obtained or generated by the Bank, concerning the applicant.

(4) *Decision resolution.* The decision resolution described in § 933.3(b) of this part.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

[61 FR 42543, Aug. 16, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 40023, July 27, 1998]

§ 933.3 Decision on application.

(a) *Authority.* The Board authorizes the Banks to approve or deny all applications for membership, subject to the requirements of this part. The Bank may delegate the authority to approve membership applications only to a committee of the Bank's board of directors, the Bank president, or a senior officer who reports directly to the Bank president other than an officer with responsibility for business development.

(b) *Decision resolution.* For each applicant, the Bank shall prepare a written resolution duly adopted by the Bank's board of directors, by a committee of the board of directors, or by an officer with delegated authority to approve membership applications. The decision resolution shall state:

(1) That the statements in the digest are accurate to the best of the Bank's knowledge, and are based on a diligent and comprehensive review of all available information identified in the digest; and

(2) The Bank's decision and the reasons therefor. Decisions to approve an application should state specifically that: the applicant is authorized under the laws of the United States and the laws of the appropriate state to become a member of, purchase stock in, do

business with, and maintain deposits in, the Bank to which the applicant has applied; and the applicant meets all of the membership eligibility criteria of the Act and this part.

(c) *Action on applications.* The Bank shall act on an application within 60 calendar days of the date the Bank deems the application to be complete. An application is "complete" when a Bank has obtained all the information required by this part, and any other information the Bank deems necessary, to process the application. If an application that was deemed complete subsequently is deemed incomplete because the Bank determines during the review process that additional information is necessary to process the application, the Bank may stop the 60-day clock until the application again is deemed complete, and then resume the clock where it left off. The Bank shall notify an applicant in writing when its application is deemed by the Bank to be complete, and shall maintain a copy of such letter in the applicant's membership file. The Bank shall notify an applicant if the 60-day clock is stopped, and when the clock is resumed, and shall maintain a written record of such notifications in the applicant's membership file. Within 3 business days of a Bank's decision on an application, the Bank shall provide the applicant and the Board's Executive Secretary with a copy of the Bank's decision resolution.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

[61 FR 42543, Aug. 16, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 40023, July 27, 1998]

§ 933.4 Automatic membership.

(a) *Automatic membership for mandatory members.* Any institution required by law to become a member of a Bank automatically shall become a member of the Bank of the district in which its principal place of business is located upon the purchase of stock in that Bank pursuant to § 933.20(b)(1) of this part.

(b) *Automatic membership for certain charter conversions.* An insured depository institution member that converts

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from one charter type to another automatically shall become a member of the Bank of which the converting institution was a member on the effective date of such conversion, provided that the converting institution continues to be an insured depository institution and the assets of the institution immediately before and immediately after the conversion are not materially different. In such case, all relationships existing between the member and the Bank at the time of such conversion may continue.

(c) *Automatic membership for transfers.* Any member whose membership is transferred pursuant to § 933.18(d) of this part automatically shall become a member of the Bank to which it transfers.

(d) *Automatic membership, in the Bank's discretion, for certain consolidations.* (1) If a member institution (or institutions) and a nonmember institution are consolidated and the consolidated institution has its principal place of business in a state in the same Bank district as the disappearing institution (or institutions), and the consolidated institution will operate under the charter of the nonmember institution, on the effective date of the consolidation, the consolidated institution may, in the discretion of the Bank of which the disappearing institution (or institutions) was a member immediately prior to the effective date of the consolidation, automatically become a member of such Bank upon the purchase of stock in that Bank pursuant to § 933.20, provided that:

(i) 90 percent or more of the total assets of the consolidated institution are derived from the total assets of the disappearing member institution (or institutions); and

(ii) The consolidated institution provides written notice to such Bank, within 60 calendar days after the effective date of the consolidation, that it desires to be a member of the Bank.

(2) The provisions of § 933.25(d)(1)(i) shall apply, and upon approval of automatic membership by the Bank, the

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provisions of §§ 933.25(d)(2)(i), (e) and (f) shall apply.

[61 FR 42543, Aug. 16, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 40024, July 27, 1998]

§ 933.5 Appeals.

(a) *Appeals by applicants*—(1) *Filing procedure.* Within 90 calendar days of the date of a Bank's decision to deny an application for membership, the applicant may file a written appeal of the decision with the Board.

(2) *Documents.* The applicant's appeal shall be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006, with a copy to the Bank, and shall include the following documents:

(i) *Bank's decision resolution.* A copy of the Bank's decision resolution; and

(ii) *Basis for appeal.* A statement of the basis for the appeal by the applicant with sufficient facts, information, analysis and explanation to rebut any applicable presumptions and otherwise support the applicant's position.

(b) *Record for appeal*—(1) *Copy of membership file.* Upon receiving a copy of an appeal, the Bank whose action has been appealed (appellee Bank) shall provide the Board with a copy of the applicant's complete membership file. Until the Board resolves the appeal, the appellee Bank shall supplement the materials provided to the Board as any new materials are received.

(2) *Additional information.* The Board may request additional information or further supporting arguments from the appellant, the appellee Bank or any other party that the Board deems appropriate.

(c) *Deciding appeals.* The Board shall consider the record for appeal described in paragraph (b) of this section and shall resolve the appeal based on the requirements of the Act and this part within 90 calendar days of the date the appeal is filed with the Board. In deciding the appeal, the Board shall apply the presumptions in this part, unless the appellant or appellee Bank

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presents evidence to rebut a presumption as provided in § 933.17 of this part.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

Subpart C—Eligibility Requirements

SOURCE: 61 FR 42545, Aug. 16, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§ 933.6 General eligibility requirements.

(a) *Requirements.* Any building and loan association, savings and loan association, cooperative bank, homestead association, insurance company, savings bank, or insured depository institution, upon application satisfying all of the requirements of the Act and this part, shall be eligible to become a member of a Bank if:

(1) It is duly organized under the laws of any State or of the United States;

(2) It is subject to inspection and regulation under the banking laws, or under similar laws, of any State or of the United States;

(3) It makes long-term home mortgage loans;

(4) Its financial condition is such that advances may be safely made to it;

(5) The character of its management is consistent with sound and economical home financing; and

(6) Its home financing policy is consistent with sound and economical home financing.

(b) *Additional eligibility requirement for insured depository institutions.* In order to be eligible to become a member of a Bank, an insured depository institution applicant also must have at least 10 percent of its total assets in residential mortgage loans.

(c) *Additional eligibility requirement for applicants that are not insured depository institutions.* In order to be eligible to become a member of a Bank, an applicant that is not an insured depository institution also must have mortgage-related assets that reflect a commitment to housing finance, as determined by the Bank in its discretion.

(d) *Ineligibility.* Except as otherwise provided in this part, if an applicant

does not satisfy the requirements of this part, the applicant is ineligible for membership.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

§ 933.7 Duly organized requirement.

An applicant shall be deemed to be duly organized as required by section 4(a)(1)(A) of the Act and § 933.6(a)(1) of this part, if it is chartered by a state or federal agency as a building and loan association, savings and loan association, cooperative bank, homestead association, insurance company, savings bank or insured depository institution.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

§ 933.8 Subject to inspection and regulation requirement.

An applicant shall be deemed to be subject to inspection and regulation as required by section 4(a)(1)(B) of the Act and § 933.6(a)(2) of this part, if, in the case of a depository institution applicant, it is subject to inspection and regulation by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve Board, the National Credit Union Administration, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Office of Thrift Supervision, or other appropriate state regulator, and, in the case of an insurance company applicant, it is subject to inspection and regulation by an appropriate state regulator accredited by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

§ 933.9 Makes long-term home mortgage loans requirement.

An applicant shall be deemed to make long-term home mortgage loans as required by section 4(a)(1)(C) of the Act and § 933.6(a)(3) of this part, if, based on the applicant's most recent regulatory financial report filed with its appropriate regulator, the applicant

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originates or purchases long-term home mortgage loans.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069–0004)

[61 FR 42545, Aug. 16, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 40023, July 27, 1998]

§ 933.10 10 percent requirement for insured depository institution applicants.

An insured depository institution applicant shall be deemed to be in compliance with the 10 percent requirement of section 4(a)(2)(A) of the Act and § 933.6(b) of this part, if, based on the applicant's most recent regulatory financial report filed with its appropriate regulator, the applicant has at least 10 percent of its total assets in residential mortgage loans, except that any assets used to secure mortgage debt securities as described in § 933.1(bb)(6) of this part shall not be used to meet this requirement.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069–0004)

[61 FR 42545, Aug. 16, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 40023, July 27, 1998]

§ 933.11 Financial condition requirement for applicants other than insurance companies.

(a) *Review requirement.* In determining whether an applicant other than an insurance company has complied with the financial condition requirement of section 4(a)(2)(B) of the Act and § 933.6(a)(4) of this part, the Bank shall obtain as a part of the membership application and review each of the following documents:

(1) *Regulatory financial reports.* The regulatory financial reports filed by the applicant with its appropriate regulator for the last six calendar quarters and three year-ends preceding the date the Bank receives the application;

(2) *Financial statement.* In order of preference: the most recent independent audit of the applicant conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by a certified public accounting firm which submits a report on the applicant; the most recent independent audit of the

applicant's parent holding company conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by a certified public accounting firm which submits a report on the consolidated holding company but not on the applicant separately; the most recent Directors' examination of the applicant conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by a certified public accounting firm; the most recent Directors' examination of the applicant performed by other external auditors; the most recent review of the applicant's financial statements by external auditors; the most recent Compilation of the applicant's financial statements by external auditors; or the most recent audit of other procedures of the applicant;

(3) *Regulatory examination report.* The applicant's most recent available regulatory examination report prepared by its appropriate regulator, a summary prepared by the Bank of the applicant's strengths and weaknesses as cited in the regulatory examination report, and a summary prepared by the Bank or applicant of actions taken by the applicant to respond to examination weaknesses;

(4) *Enforcement actions.* A description prepared by the Bank or applicant of any outstanding enforcement actions against the applicant, responses by the applicant, reports as required by the enforcement action, and verbal or written indications, if available, from the appropriate regulator of how the applicant is complying with the terms of the enforcement action; and

(5) *Additional information.* Any other relevant document or information concerning the applicant that comes to the Bank's attention in reviewing the applicant's financial condition.

(b) *Standards.* An applicant other than an insurance company shall be deemed to be in compliance with the financial condition requirement of section 4(a)(2)(B) of the Act and § 933.6(a)(4) of this part, if:

(1) *Recent composite regulatory examination rating.* The applicant has received a composite regulatory examination rating from its appropriate regulator within two years preceding the date the Bank receives the application;

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(2) *Capital requirement.* The applicant meets all of its minimum statutory and regulatory capital requirements as reported in its most recent quarter-end regulatory financial report filed with its appropriate regulator; and

(3) *Minimum performance standard.* (i) The applicant's most recent composite regulatory examination rating from its appropriate regulator within the past two years was "1;" or, was "2" or "3" and, based on the applicant's most recent regulatory financial report filed with its appropriate regulator, the applicant satisfied all of the following performance trend criteria:

(A) *Earnings.* The applicant's adjusted net income was positive in four of the six most recent calendar quarters;

(B) *Nonperforming assets.* The applicant's nonperforming loans and leases plus other real estate owned, did not exceed 10 percent of its total loans and leases plus other real estate owned, in the most recent calendar quarter; and

(C) *Allowance for loan and lease losses.* The applicant's ratio of its allowance for loan and lease losses plus the allocated transfer risk reserve to nonperforming loans and leases was 60 percent or greater during 4 of the 6 most recent calendar quarters.

(ii) For applicants that are not required to report financial data to their appropriate regulator on a quarterly basis, the information required in paragraph (b)(3)(i) of this section may be reported on a semiannual basis.

(c) *Eligible collateral not considered.* The availability of sufficient eligible collateral to secure advances to the applicant is presumed and shall not be considered in determining whether an applicant is in the financial condition required by section 4(a)(2)(B) of the Act and § 933.6(a)(4) of this part.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

[61 FR 42545, Aug. 16, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 40023, 40024, July 27, 1998]

§ 933.12 Character of management requirement.

An applicant shall be deemed to be in compliance with the character of management requirement of section

4(a)(2)(C) of the Act and § 933.6(a)(5) of this part, if the applicant provides to the Bank an unqualified written certification duly adopted by the applicant's board of directors, or by an individual with authority to act on behalf of the applicant's board of directors, that:

(a) *Enforcement actions.* Neither the applicant nor any of its directors or senior officers is subject to, or operating under, any enforcement action instituted by its appropriate regulator;

(b) *Criminal, civil or administrative proceedings.* Neither the applicant nor any of its directors or senior officers has been the subject of any criminal, civil or administrative proceedings reflecting upon creditworthiness, business judgment, or moral turpitude since the most recent regulatory examination report; and

(c) *Criminal, civil or administrative monetary liabilities, lawsuits or judgments.* There are no known potential criminal, civil or administrative monetary liabilities, material pending lawsuits, or unsatisfied judgments against the applicant or any of its directors or senior officers since the most recent regulatory examination report, that are significant to the applicant's operations.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

[61 FR 42545, Aug. 16, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 40023, July 27, 1998]

§ 933.13 Home financing policy requirement.

(a) *Standard.* An applicant shall be deemed to be in compliance with the home financing policy requirement of section 4(a)(2)(C) of the Act and § 933.6(a)(6) of this part, if the applicant has received a Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) rating of "Satisfactory" or better on its most recent formal, or if unavailable, informal or preliminary, CRA performance evaluation.

(b) *Written justification required.* An applicant that is not subject to the CRA shall file as part of its application for membership a written justification acceptable to the Bank of how and why the applicant's home financing policy

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is consistent with the Bank System's housing finance mission.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

§ 933.14 De novo insured depository institution applicants.

(a)(1) *Duly organized, subject to inspection and regulation, financial condition and character of management requirements.* An insured depository institution applicant whose date of charter approval is within three years prior to the date the Bank receives the applicant's application for membership in the Bank, is deemed to meet the requirements of §§ 933.7, 933.8, 933.11 and 933.12.

(2) *Makes long-term home mortgage loans requirement.* The applicant shall be deemed to make long-term home mortgage loans as required by § 933.9 of this part, if it has filed as part of its application for membership a written justification acceptable to the Bank of how its home financing credit policy and lending practices will include originating or purchasing long-term home mortgage loans.

(3) *10 percent requirement.* The applicant shall have until one year after commencing its initial business operations to meet the 10 percent requirement of § 933.10 of this part.

(4) *Home financing policy requirement—*

(i) *Conditional approval.* An applicant that has not received its first formal, or if unavailable, informal or preliminary, Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) performance evaluation, shall be conditionally deemed to be in compliance with the home financing policy requirement of section 4(a)(2)(C) of the Act and § 933.6(a)(6) of this part, if the applicant has filed as part of its application for membership a written justification acceptable to the Bank of how and why its home financing credit policy and lending practices will meet the credit needs of its community. An applicant that receives such conditional membership approval is subject to the stock purchase requirements of § 933.20 of this part and the advances provisions of 12 CFR part 935.

(ii) *Approval.* The applicant shall be deemed to be in compliance with the

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home financing policy requirement of section 4(a)(2)(C) of the Act and § 933.6(a)(6) of this part upon receipt by the Bank of evidence from the applicant that it received a CRA rating of "Satisfactory" or better on its first formal, or if unavailable, informal or preliminary, CRA performance evaluation.

(iii) *Conditional approval deemed null and void.* If the applicant's first such CRA rating is "Needs to Improve" or "Substantial Non-Compliance," the applicant shall be deemed to be in non-compliance with the home financing policy requirement of section 4(a)(2)(C) of the Act and § 933.6(a)(6) of this part, subject to rebuttal by the applicant under § 933.17(f) of this part, and its conditional membership approval is deemed null and void.

(iv) *Treatment of outstanding advances and Bank stock.* If the applicant's conditional membership approval is deemed null and void pursuant to paragraph (a)(4)(iii) of this section, the liquidation of any outstanding indebtedness owed by the applicant to the Bank and redemption of stock of such Bank shall be carried out in accordance with § 933.29 of this part.

(b) [Reserved]

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

[61 FR 42545, Aug. 16, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 40024, July 27, 1998]

§ 933.15 Recent merger or acquisition applicants.

An applicant that merged with or acquired another institution prior to the date the Bank receives its application for membership is subject to the requirements of §§ 933.7 to 933.13 of this part except as provided in this section.

(a) *Financial condition requirement—*(i) *Regulatory financial reports.* For purposes of § 933.11(a)(1) of this part, an applicant that, as a result of a merger or acquisition preceding the date the Bank receives its application for membership, has not yet filed regulatory financial reports with its appropriate regulator for the last six calendar quarters and three year-ends preceding such date, shall provide any regulatory

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financial reports that the applicant has filed with its appropriate regulator.

(ii) *Performance trend criteria.* For purposes of § 933.11(b)(3)(i) (A) to (C) of this part, an applicant that, as a result of a merger or acquisition preceding the date the Bank receives its application for membership, has not yet filed combined regulatory financial reports with its appropriate regulator for the last six calendar quarters preceding such date, shall provide pro forma combined financial statements for those calendar quarters in which actual combined regulatory financial reports are unavailable.

(b) *Home financing policy requirement.* For purposes of § 933.13 of this part, an applicant that, as a result of a merger or acquisition preceding the date the Bank receives its application for membership, has not received its first formal, or if unavailable, informal or preliminary, Community Reinvestment Act performance evaluation, shall file as part of its application a written justification acceptable to the Bank of how and why the applicant's home financing credit policy and lending practices will meet the credit needs of its community.

(c) *Makes long-term home mortgage loans requirement; 10 percent requirement.* For purposes of determining compliance with §§ 933.9 and 933.10, a Bank may, in its discretion, permit an applicant that, as a result of a merger or acquisition preceding the date the Bank receives its application for membership, has not yet filed a consolidated regulatory financial report as a combined entity with its appropriate regulator, to provide the combined pro forma financial statement for the combined entity filed with the regulator that approved the merger or acquisition.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

[61 FR 42545, Aug. 16, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 40023, 40024, July 27, 1998]

§ 933.16 Financial condition requirement for insurance company applicants.

An insurance company applicant shall be deemed to meet the financial

condition requirement of section 4(a)(2)(B) of the Act and § 933.6(a)(4) of this part, if, based on the information contained in the applicant's most recent regulatory financial report filed with its appropriate regulator, the applicant meets all of its minimum statutory and regulatory capital requirements and the capital standards established by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

[61 FR 42545, Aug. 16, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 40023, July 27, 1998]

§ 933.17 Rebuttable presumptions.

(a) *Rebutting presumptive compliance.* The presumption that an applicant meeting the requirements of §§ 933.7 to 933.16 of this part is in compliance with section 4(a) of the Act and § 933.6 (a) and (b) of this part, may be rebutted, and the Bank may deny membership to the applicant, if the Bank obtains substantial evidence to overcome the presumption of compliance.

(b) *Rebutting presumptive noncompliance.* The presumption that an applicant not meeting a particular requirement of §§ 933.8, 933.11, 933.12, 933.13, or 933.16 of this part is in noncompliance with section 4(a) of the Act and § 933.6(a) (2), (4), (5) or (6) of this part, may be rebutted, and the applicant shall be deemed to meet such requirement, if the applicable requirements in this section are satisfied.

(c) *Presumptive noncompliance by insurance company applicant with "subject to inspection and regulation" requirement of § 933.8.* If an insurance company applicant is not subject to inspection and regulation by an appropriate state regulator accredited by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), as required by § 933.8 of this part, the applicant or the Bank shall prepare a written justification that provides substantial evidence acceptable to the Bank that the applicant is subject to inspection and regulation as required by § 933.6(a)(2) of this part, notwithstanding the lack of NAIC accreditation.

(d) *Presumptive noncompliance with financial condition requirements of §§ 933.11*

and 933.16—(1) *Applicants other than insurance companies.* For applicants other than insurance companies, in the case of an applicant's lack of a composite regulatory examination rating within the two-year period required by §933.11(b)(1) of this part, a variance from the rating required by §933.11(b)(3)(i) of this part, or a variance from a performance trend criterion required by §933.11(b)(3)(i) of this part, the applicant or the Bank shall prepare a written justification pertaining to such requirement that provides substantial evidence acceptable to the Bank that the applicant is in the financial condition required by §933.6(a)(4) of this part, notwithstanding the lack of rating or variance.

(2) *Insurance company applicants.* In the case of an insurance company applicant's variance from a capital requirement or standard of §933.16 of this part, the applicant or the Bank shall prepare a written justification pertaining to such requirement or standard that provides substantial evidence acceptable to the Bank that the applicant is in the financial condition required by §933.6(a)(4) of this part, notwithstanding the variance.

(e) *Presumptive noncompliance with character of management requirement of §933.12—(1) Enforcement actions.* If an applicant or any of its directors or senior officers is subject to, or operating under, any enforcement action instituted by its appropriate regulator, the applicant shall provide or the Bank shall obtain:

(i) *Regulator confirmation.* Written or verbal confirmation from the applicant's appropriate regulator that the applicant or its directors or senior officers are in substantial compliance with all aspects of the enforcement action; or

(ii) *Written analysis.* A written analysis acceptable to the Bank indicating that the applicant or its directors or senior officers are in substantial compliance with all aspects of the enforcement action. The written analysis shall state each action the applicant or its directors or senior officers are required to take by the enforcement action, the actions actually taken by the applicant or its directors or senior officers, and whether the applicant regards this as

substantial compliance with all aspects of the enforcement action.

(2) *Criminal, civil or administrative proceedings.* If an applicant or any of its directors or senior officers has been the subject of any criminal, civil or administrative proceedings reflecting upon creditworthiness, business judgment, or moral turpitude since the most recent regulatory examination report, the applicant shall provide or the Bank shall obtain:

(i) *Regulator confirmation.* Written or verbal confirmation from the applicant's appropriate regulator that the proceedings will not likely result in enforcement action; or

(ii) *Written analysis.* A written analysis acceptable to the Bank indicating that the proceedings will not likely result in enforcement action. The written analysis shall state the severity of the charges, and any mitigating action taken by the applicant or its directors or senior officers.

(3) *Criminal, civil or administrative monetary liabilities, lawsuits or judgments.* If there are any known potential criminal, civil or administrative monetary liabilities, material pending lawsuits, or unsatisfied judgments against the applicant or any of its directors or senior officers since the most recent regulatory examination report, that are significant to the applicant's operations, the applicant shall provide or the Bank shall obtain:

(i) *Regulator confirmation.* Written or verbal confirmation from the applicant's appropriate regulator that the liabilities, lawsuits or judgments will not likely cause the applicant to fall below its applicable capital requirements set forth in §§933.11(b)(2) and 933.16 of this part; or

(ii) *Written analysis.* A written analysis acceptable to the Bank indicating that the liabilities, lawsuits or judgments will not likely cause the applicant to fall below its applicable capital requirements set forth in §§933.11(b)(2) and 933.16 of this part. The written analysis shall state the likelihood of the applicant or its directors or senior officers prevailing, and the financial consequences if the applicant or its directors or senior officers do not prevail.

(f) *Presumptive noncompliance with home financing policy requirements of §§ 933.13, 933.14(a)(4), and 933.14(b)(3).* If an applicant received a “Substantial Non-Compliance” rating on its most recent formal, or if unavailable, informal or preliminary, Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) performance evaluation, or a “Needs to Improve” CRA rating on its most recent formal, or if unavailable, informal or preliminary, CRA performance evaluation and a CRA rating of “Needs to Improve” or better on any immediately preceding CRA performance evaluation, the applicant shall provide or the Bank shall obtain:

(1) *Regulator confirmation.* Written or verbal confirmation from the applicant’s appropriate regulator of the applicant’s recent satisfactory CRA performance, including any corrective action that substantially improved upon the deficiencies cited in the most recent CRA performance evaluation(s); or

(2) *Written analysis.* A written analysis acceptable to the Bank demonstrating that the CRA rating is unrelated to home financing, and providing substantial evidence of how and why the applicant’s home financing credit policy and lending practices meet the credit needs of its community.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

[61 FR 42545, Aug. 16, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 40023, July 27, 1998]

§ 933.18 Determination of appropriate Bank district for membership.

(a) *Eligibility.* (1) An institution eligible to become a member of a Bank under the Act and this part may become a member only of the Bank of the district in which the institution’s principal place of business is located, except as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section. A member shall promptly notify its Bank in writing whenever it relocates its principal place of business to another state and the Bank shall inform the Finance Board in writing of any such relocation.

(2) An institution eligible to become a member of a Bank under the Act and this part may become a member of the Bank of a district adjoining the dis-

trict in which the institution’s principal place of business is located, if demanded by convenience and then only with the approval of the Board.

(b) *Principal place of business.* Except as otherwise designated in accordance with this section, the principal place of business of an institution is the state in which the institution maintains its home office established as such in conformity with the laws under which the institution is organized.

(c) *Designation of principal place of business.* (1) A member or an applicant for membership may request in writing to the Bank in the district where the institution maintains its home office that a state other than the state in which it maintains its home office be designated as its principal place of business. Within 90 calendar days of receipt of such written request, the board of directors of the Bank in the district where the institution maintains its home office shall designate a state other than the state where the institution maintains its home office as the institution’s principal place of business, provided all of the following criteria are satisfied:

(i) At least 80 percent of the institution’s accounting books, records and ledgers are maintained, located or held in such designated state;

(ii) A majority of meetings of the institution’s board of directors and constituent committees are conducted in such designated state; and

(iii) A majority of the institution’s five highest paid officers have their place of employment located in such designated state.

(2) Written notice of a designation made pursuant to paragraph (c)(1) of this section shall be sent to the Bank in the district containing the designated state, the Board and the institution.

(3) The notice of designation made pursuant to paragraph (c)(1) of this section shall include the state designated as the principal place of business and the resulting Bank to which membership will be transferred.

(4) If the board of directors of the Bank in the district where the institution maintains its home office fails to make the designation requested by the

member or applicant pursuant to paragraph (c)(1) of this section, then the member or applicant may request in writing that the Board make the designation.

(d) *Transfer of membership.* (1) No transfer of membership from one Bank to another Bank shall take effect until the Banks involved reach agreement on a method of orderly transfer.

(2) In the event that the Banks involved fail to agree on a method of orderly transfer, the Board shall determine the conditions under which the transfer shall take place.

(e) *Effect of transfer.* A transfer of membership pursuant to this section shall be effective for all purposes, but shall not affect voting rights in the year of the transfer and shall not be subject to the provisions on termination of membership set forth in section 6 of the Act or §§ 933.26, 933.27, and 933.28, nor the restriction on reacquiring Bank membership within 10 years set forth in § 933.30.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069–0004)

[61 FR 42545, Aug. 16, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 65692, Nov. 30, 1998]

Subpart D—Stock Requirements

SOURCE: 58 FR 43542, Aug. 17, 1993, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 61 FR 42542, Aug. 16, 1996.

§ 933.19 Par value and price of stock.

The capital stock of each Bank shall be sold at par, unless the Board has fixed a higher price.

§ 933.20 Stock purchase.

(a) *Minimum stock purchase.* (1) Each member shall purchase stock in the Bank in which it is a member in an amount equal to one percent of the member's aggregate unpaid loan principal, but not less than \$500.

(2) If a member has less than 30 percent of its total assets in home mortgage loans, it shall purchase stock in an amount that would be required under paragraph (a)(1) of this section if at least 30 percent of such member's total assets were home mortgage loans.

(b) *Timing of minimum stock purchase.*

(1) Within 60 calendar days after an institution is approved for membership in a Bank pursuant to § 933.3 of this part, or an institution is automatically approved for membership pursuant to § 933.4 (a) or (d) of this part, the institution shall purchase its minimum stock requirement as set forth in paragraph (a) of this section.

(2) At the election of an institution approved for membership, including those automatically approved under § 933.4 (a) or (d) of this part, the institution may purchase its minimum stock requirement in installments, provided that not less than one-fourth of the total amount shall be purchased within 60 calendar days of the date of approval of membership, and that a further sum of not less than one-fourth of such total shall be purchased at the end of each succeeding period of four months from the date of approval of membership.

(c) *Commencement of membership.* An institution that has been approved for membership shall become a member at the time it purchases its minimum stock requirement or the first installment thereof pursuant to this section.

(d) *Failure to purchase minimum stock requirement.* If an institution that has submitted an application and been approved for membership fails to purchase its minimum stock requirement or its first installment within 60 calendar days of the date of its approval for membership, such approval shall be null and void and the institution, if it wants to be a member, shall be required to submit a new application for membership.

(e) *Reports.* The Bank shall make quarterly reports to the Board setting forth purchases by institutions approved for membership of their minimum stock requirement pursuant to this section.

[58 FR 43542, Aug. 17, 1993; 58 FR 47181, Sept. 7, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 61 FR 42542, 42549, Aug. 16, 1996; 63 FR 40024, July 27, 1998; 63 FR 65692, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 933.21 Issuance and form of stock.

(a) A Bank shall issue to each new member, as of the effective date of membership, stock in the member's

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name for the amount of stock purchased and paid for in full.

(b) If the member purchases stock in installments, the stock shall be issued in installments with the appropriate number of shares issued after each payment is made.

(c) Stock may be issued in certificated or uncertificated form at the discretion of the Bank.

(d) A Bank may convert all outstanding certificated stock to uncertificated form at its discretion.

§ 933.22 Adjustments in stock holdings.

(a) *Adjustment in general.* A Bank may from time to time increase or decrease the amount of stock any member is required to hold.

(b)(1) *Annual adjustment.* A Bank shall calculate annually, in the manner set forth in § 933.20(a) of this part, each member's required minimum holdings of stock in the Bank in which it is a member using calendar year-end financial data provided by the member to the Bank, pursuant to § 933.31(d) of this part, and shall notify each member of the adjustment. The notice shall clearly state that the Bank's calculation of each member's minimum stock holdings is to be used to determine the number of votes that the member may cast in that year's election of directors and shall identify the state within the district in which the member will vote. A member that does not agree with the Bank's calculation of the minimum stock requirement or with the identification of its voting state may request the Finance Board to review the Bank's determination. The Finance Board shall promptly determine the member's minimum required holdings and its proper voting state, which determination shall be final.

(2) *Redemption of excess shares.* If, after the annual adjustment required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section is made, the amount of stock that a member is required to hold is decreased, the Bank may, in its discretion and upon proper application of the member, retire such excess stock, and the Bank shall pay for each share upon surrender of the stock an amount equal to the par value thereof (except that if at any time the Board finds that the paid-in capital of a Bank is or is likely

to be impaired as a result of losses in or depreciation of the assets held, the Bank shall on the order of the Board withhold from the amount to be paid in retirement of the stock a *pro rata* share of the amount of such impairment as determined by the Board) or, at its election, the Bank may credit any part of such payment against the member's debt to the Bank.

(c) A member's stock holdings shall not be reduced under this section to an amount less than required by sections 6(b), 10(c) and 10(e) of the Act, 12 U.S.C. 1426(b), 1430(c), 1430(e).

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved where applicable by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

[58 FR 43542, Aug. 17, 1993, as amended at 58 FR 50837, Sept. 29, 1993; 58 FR 53023, Oct. 13, 1993; 58 FR 58231, Oct. 29, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 61 FR 42542, 42549, Aug. 16, 1996; 63 FR 65692, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 933.23 Purchase of excess stock.

A member may purchase stock in excess of the minimum amount required by § 933.20(a) of this part as long as such purchase is approved by the member's Bank and the laws under which the member operates permit such purchase.

[58 FR 43542, Aug. 17, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 61 FR 42542, 42549, Aug. 16, 1996]

Subpart E—Consolidations Involving Members

SOURCE: 58 FR 43542, Aug. 17, 1993, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 61 FR 42542, Aug. 16, 1996.

§ 933.24 Consolidations of members.

(a) *Consolidation of members in same district*—(1) Upon consolidation of two or more member institutions which are all members of the same Bank district into one institution operating under the charter of one of the consolidating institutions, the transfer of the Bank stock held by the disappearing institution(s) to the consolidated institution shall be deemed approved by the Board pursuant to section 6(f) of the Act, 12 U.S.C. 1426(f).

(2) The stock of the disappearing institution(s) held by a consolidated institution under this section may be redeemed, provided that the consolidated institution holds the minimum amount of stock calculated in the manner set forth in § 933.20(a) of this part based on the consolidated institution's total assets and the consolidated institution's stock holdings are not reduced to an amount less than required by sections 6(b), 10(c) and 10(e) of the Act, 12 U.S.C. 1426(b), 1430(c), 1430(e).

(b) *Consolidation of members in different districts*—(1) *Termination of membership*. Upon consolidation of two member institutions which are members of different Banks into one institution operating under the charter of one of the consolidating institutions, the disappearing institution's membership terminates upon cancellation of its charter, except that if more than 80 percent of the assets of the consolidated institution are derived from the assets of the disappearing institution, then the consolidated institution shall continue to be a member of the Bank of which the disappearing institution was a member prior to the consolidation and the membership of the other institution terminates upon consummation of the consolidation.

(2) *Treatment of outstanding advances and Bank stock*. The liquidation of any outstanding indebtedness owed to the disappearing institution's Bank and redemption of stock of such Bank shall be carried out in accordance with § 933.29 of this part.

(3) *Dividends on acquired Bank stock*. The consolidated institution is entitled to receive dividends on outstanding Bank stock acquired in the consolidation from the disappearing institution in accordance with section 6(g) of the Act, 12 U.S.C. 1426(g), and § 934.17 of this chapter.

[58 FR 43542, Aug. 17, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 61 FR 42542, 42549, Aug. 16, 1996; 63 FR 65692, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 933.25 Consolidations involving non-members.

(a) *Termination of membership*. If a member is consolidated into an institution that is not a member, its membership in the Bank terminates upon cancellation of its charter.

(b) *Notification of decision to seek membership*. When a consolidated institution resulting from a consolidation described in paragraph (a) of this section has its principal place of business in a state in the same Bank district as the disappearing institution, the consolidated institution shall have 60 calendar days after the cancellation of the charter of the disappearing institution to notify the disappearing institution's Bank that it intends to apply for membership in such Bank.

(c) *Application for membership*. If the consolidated institution has provided notification pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section, it must apply for membership pursuant to subpart B of this part within 60 calendar days of the notification.

(d) *Treatment of outstanding advances, Bank stock and minimum stock requirements*—(1) *Prior to membership approval*. The disappearing institution's Bank may permit the consolidated institution to continue to hold any outstanding Bank advances and stock, and the consolidated institution shall have the limited rights associated with such stock in accordance with paragraphs (e) and (f) of this section: (i) During the initial 60-day notification period; (ii) for 60 calendar days after receipt of notification that the consolidated institution intends to apply for membership; and (iii) during the processing of an application for membership.

(2) *Upon membership approval*. (i) If the application of the consolidated institution for membership is approved, the transfer of the Bank stock held by the disappearing institution to the consolidated institution shall be deemed approved by the Board pursuant to section 6(f) of the Act, 12 U.S.C. 1426(f).

(ii) If the application of the consolidated institution for membership is approved:

(A) The consolidated institution shall purchase any additional amount of stock required to meet the minimum stock requirement of § 933.20(a) of this part, based on the consolidated institution's total assets, within 60 calendar days of the date of approval of membership; or

(B) At the election of the consolidated institution, the amount of stock required to be purchased to meet the

requirement of § 933.20(a) of this part may be purchased in installments, provided that not less than one-fourth of such total additional amount shall be purchased within 60 calendar days of the date of approval of membership, and that a further sum of not less than one-fourth of such total additional amount shall be purchased at the end of each succeeding period of four months from the date of approval of membership.

(iii) A consolidated institution that has been approved for membership shall become a member at the time it purchases the additional amount of stock required to meet the minimum stock requirement of § 933.20(a) of this part or the first installment thereof.

(3) *Upon failure to apply for or be approved for membership.* If the consolidated institution does not apply for membership, or if its application for membership is denied, then the liquidation of any outstanding indebtedness owed to the disappearing institution's Bank and redemption of stock of such Bank shall be carried out in accordance with § 933.29 of this part, and the consolidated institution shall have the limited rights associated with such stock in accordance with paragraphs (e) and (f) of this section.

(e) *Dividends on acquired Bank stock.* The consolidated institution is entitled to receive dividends on outstanding Bank stock acquired in the consolidation from the disappearing institution in accordance with section 6(g) of the Act, 12 U.S.C. 1426(g), and § 934.17 of this chapter.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved where applicable by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

[58 FR 43542, Aug. 17, 1993, as amended at 58 FR 50837, Sept. 29, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 61 FR 42542, 42549, Aug. 16, 1996; 63 FR 65692, Nov. 30, 1998]

Subpart F—Withdrawal and Removal From Membership

SOURCE: 58 FR 43542, Aug. 17, 1993, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 61 FR 42542, Aug. 16, 1996.

§ 933.26 Procedure for withdrawal.

(a) *Notice of withdrawal.* Any member that is eligible under applicable law to withdraw from Bank membership may do so after providing the Board and its Bank at least six months written notice of the member's intention to withdraw from membership.

(b) *Cancellation of notice of withdrawal.* A member may cancel its notice of withdrawal by providing both the Board and its Bank written notice of cancellation any time before the effective date of the withdrawal.

(c) *Treatment of outstanding advances and Bank stock.* The liquidation of any outstanding indebtedness owed to the Bank in which membership has been terminated and redemption of stock of such Bank shall be carried out in accordance with § 933.29 of this part.

(d) *Dividends on Bank stock.* An institution that has withdrawn from Bank membership pursuant to this section is entitled to receive dividends on outstanding stock of the Bank in which membership has been terminated in accordance with section 6(g) of the Act, 12 U.S.C. 1426(g), and § 934.17 of this chapter.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved where applicable by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

[58 FR 43542, Aug. 17, 1993, as amended at 58 FR 50837, Sept. 29, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 61 FR 42542, 42549, Aug. 16, 1996; 63 FR 65692, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 933.27 Procedure for removal.

(a) *Bank request for removal.* If a Bank believes that any of the grounds for removal of a member from membership contained in paragraph (b) of this section exists, the Bank may submit a written request to the Board stating the grounds for removal and recommending removal of the member from membership.

(b) *Grounds.* The following are grounds for removing a member from membership in a Bank:

(1) Failure by the member to comply with any provision of the Act or any regulation of the Board adopted under the Act;

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(2) Insolvency of the member. A member is deemed insolvent if its assets are less than its liabilities;

(3) The member's management or home-financing policies are inconsistent with sound and economical home financing or with the purposes of the Act; or

(4) Any other condition exists with respect to the member that the Board believes would jeopardize the safety and soundness of the member's Bank.

(c) *Procedure.* (1) If the Board believes that any of the grounds for removal contained in paragraph (b) of this section exist, and it believes that the member should be removed from membership, it shall provide the member with at least 30 calendar days written notice of its intention to remove the member from membership.

(2) Such notice shall be served as determined by the Board and shall state the grounds for such removal action and the time and place of a hearing at which the member may be heard.

(3) A hearing on such removal action shall be conducted in accordance with procedures established by the Board.

(d) *Removal by Board.* If the Board determines, in its sole discretion and after complying with the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section, that any of the grounds for removal of a member contained in paragraph (b) of this section exists, it may remove the member from membership.

(e) *Treatment of outstanding advances and Bank stock.* The liquidation of any outstanding indebtedness owed to the Bank in which membership has been terminated and redemption of stock of such Bank shall be carried out in accordance with § 933.29 of this part.

(f) *Dividends on Bank stock.* An institution that has been removed from Bank membership pursuant to this section is entitled to receive dividends on outstanding stock of the Bank in which membership has been terminated in accordance with section 6(g) of the Act, 12 U.S.C. 1426(g), and § 934.17 of this chapter.

[58 FR 43542, Aug. 17, 1993; 58 FR 47181, Sept. 7, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 61 FR 42542, 42549, Aug. 16, 1996; 63 FR 65692, Nov. 30, 1998]

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§ 933.28 Automatic termination of membership for institutions placed in receivership.

(a) *Automatic termination.* As of the effective date of being placed in receivership, an institution's Bank membership automatically terminates.

(b) *Treatment of outstanding advances and Bank stock.* The liquidation of any outstanding indebtedness owed to the Bank in which membership has been terminated and redemption of stock of such Bank shall be carried out in accordance with § 933.29 of this part.

(c) *Dividends on Bank stock.* The receiver is entitled to receive dividends on outstanding Bank stock of the institution placed in receivership in accordance with section 6(g) of the Act, 12 U.S.C. 1426(g), and § 934.17 of this chapter.

[58 FR 43542, Aug. 17, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 61 FR 42542, 42549, Aug. 16, 1996; 63 FR 65692, Nov. 30, 1998]

Subpart G—Orderly Liquidation of Advances and Redemption of Stock

§ 933.29 Orderly liquidation of advances and redemption of stock.

(a)(1) If an institution ceases to be a member of a Bank pursuant to §§ 933.26, 933.27 or 933.28 of this part, the institution, or its receiver under § 933.28 of this part, may continue to hold the stock of the Bank of which such institution is no longer a member so long as the Bank requires that the stock be held as collateral for any outstanding indebtedness owed to the Bank. If an institution ceases to be a member of a Bank pursuant to §§ 933.24(b) or 933.25(d)(3) of this part, the consolidated institution may continue to hold the stock of the disappearing institution's Bank so long as such Bank requires that the stock be held as collateral for any outstanding indebtedness owed to the Bank.

(2) The indebtedness of the institution that has ceased to be a member of a Bank owed to such Bank shall be liquidated in an orderly manner as determined by the Bank in accordance with

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§ 935.19 of this chapter, and upon completion of such liquidation, such institution's remaining stock in the Bank shall be surrendered and canceled.

(b) If an institution that has ceased to be a member of a Bank has no outstanding indebtedness owed to the Bank, such institution's stock in the Bank shall be surrendered and canceled.

(c) An institution that has ceased to be a member shall receive for stock redeemed under paragraphs (a)(2) or (b) of this section a sum equal to the original amount paid for the stock redeemed, except that if at any time the Board finds that the paid-in capital of the Bank is or is likely to be impaired as a result of losses in or depreciation of the assets held by the Bank, the Bank shall on the order of the Board withhold from the amount to be paid in retirement of the stock a *pro rata* share of the amount of such impairment as determined by the Board.

[58 FR 43542, Aug. 17, 1993; 58 FR 53023, Oct. 13, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 61 FR 42542, 42549, Aug. 16, 1996]

Subpart H—Reacquisition of Membership

§ 933.30 Reacquisition of membership.

An institution which withdraws from membership pursuant to § 933.26 of this part may acquire membership in a Bank only after the expiration of a period of 10 years thereafter, except:

(a) Such institution may acquire membership in a Bank if such withdrawal is a consequence of a transfer of membership on a non-interrupted basis between Banks pursuant to § 933.18 of this part; or

(b) Such institution shall acquire membership in a Bank in connection with obtaining a charter as a federally chartered savings association (as defined in 12 U.S.C. 1813), or if otherwise required by law to become a member of a Bank, which institution is automatically approved for Bank membership pursuant to § 933.4(a) of this part.

[58 FR 43542, Aug. 17, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 61 FR 42542, 42549, Aug. 16, 1996]

Subpart I—Bank Access to Information

§ 933.31 Reports and examinations.

As a condition precedent to Bank membership, each member:

(a) Consents to such examinations as the Bank or the Board may require for purposes of the Act;

(b) Agrees that reports of examinations by local, state or federal agencies or institutions may be furnished by such authorities to the Bank or the Board upon request;

(c) Agrees to give the Bank or the appropriate Federal banking agency, upon request, such information as the Bank or the appropriate Federal banking agency may need to compile and publish cost of funds indices and to publish other reports or statistical summaries pertaining to the activities of Bank members;

(d) Agrees to provide the Bank with calendar year-end financial data each year, for purposes of making the calculation described in § 933.22(b)(1) of this part; and

(e) Agrees to provide the Bank with copies of reports of condition and operations required to be filed with the member's appropriate Federal banking agency, if applicable, within 20 calendar days of filing, as well as copies of any annual report of condition and operations required to be filed.

(The information collection requirements contained in this section have been approved where applicable by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3069-0004)

[58 FR 43542, Aug. 17, 1993; 58 FR 50837, Sept. 29, 1993; 58 FR 53023, Oct. 13, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 61 FR 42542, 42549, Aug. 16, 1996]

Subpart J—Membership Insignia

§ 933.32 Official membership insignia.

Members may display the approved insignia of membership on their documents, advertising and quarters, and likewise use the words "Member Federal Home Loan Bank System."

[58 FR 43542, Aug. 17, 1993. Redesignated at 61 FR 42542, Aug. 16, 1996]

PART 934—OPERATIONS OF THE BANKS

Sec.

- 934.1 Investments.
- 934.2 Loans guaranteed under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.
- 934.3 Transfer of funds between Banks.
- 934.4 Deposits in banks or trust companies.
- 934.5 Deposits from members.
- 934.6 Trustee powers.
- 934.7 Budget preparation.
- 934.8 Surety bonds.
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- 934.10 Safe-keeping accounts.
- 934.11 Securities held in trust or as collateral.
- 934.12 Accounting.
- 934.13 Gold and gold-related transactions.
- 934.14 Office of Thrift Supervision Assessments.
- 934.15 Bank requests for information.
- 934.16 Bank bylaws.
- 934.17 Bank dividends.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1422a, 1422b, 1431(g), 1432(a), and 1442.

SOURCE: 43 FR 46841, Oct. 11, 1978. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

§ 934.1 Investments.

(a) Banks may acquire or dispose of securities with prior approval of the Board or its designated representative or in conformity with:

(1) Authorizations of the Board or such representative or (2) stated Board policy. A Bank's board of directors may authorize Bank officer(s) to acquire or dispose of securities qualifying as liquidity for deposits under the investment policy of the Board as in the judgment of the officer(s) is necessary in the operation of the Bank. Any other acquisition or disposition must be authorized in advance by a majority of the board of directors, executive committee, or investment committee consisting of three or more persons a majority of whom are directors of the Bank. Single acquisitions or dispositions may be so authorized, or acquisitions and/or dispositions of securities of a stated amount maturing within specified dates as in the judgment of the officer(s) designated in the authorization are necessary in the operation of the Bank, may be so authorized, for periods of 90 days or less.

(b) Compliance with sections 11 and 16 of the act shall be determined based

on the principal amount of obligations of the United States.

(c) Secured advances to members maturing within five years are investments in compliance with section 11(g) of the Act.

(d) Cash reserves may be held temporarily, awaiting investment opportunity, without violating section 16 of the Act.

[43 FR 46841, Oct. 11, 1978, as amended at 49 FR 34198, Aug. 29, 1984. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989]

§ 934.2 Loans guaranteed under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

With prior approval of the Board, a Bank's board of directors may authorize it to acquire, hold, or dispose of any of the following loans, or interests therein, primarily to facilitate acquisition of participation interests in such loans by members authorized to make such investment:

(a) Housing project loans with any guaranty under section 221 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as in effect before December 30, 1969;

(b) Loans with any guaranty under section 224 of such Act, as in effect before December 30, 1969; or

(c) Loans with any guaranty under section 221 or 222 of such Act, as in effect after December 29, 1969.

Prior approval of the Board is not required to repurchase a participation interest previously sold to a member.

§ 934.3 Transfer of funds between Banks.

Interbank borrowing shall be through unsecured deposits bearing interest at rates negotiated between Banks. If agreement on terms cannot be reached, the Board may establish terms.

[43 FR 46841, Oct. 11, 1978. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989, and amended at 55 FR 2229, Jan. 23, 1990]

§ 934.4 Deposits in banks or trust companies.

For purposes of section 11(g) of the Act, the term "deposits in banks or trust companies" means:

- (a) A deposit in another Bank;
- (b) A demand account in a Federal Reserve Bank; and
- (c) A deposit in, or a sale of federal funds to:

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(1) An insured depository institution, as defined in section 2(12)(A) of the Act, that is designated by a Bank's board of directors;

(2) A trust company that is a member of the Federal Reserve System or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and is designated by a Bank's board of directors; or

(3) A U.S. branch or agency of a foreign bank, as defined in the International Banking Act of 1978, as amended (12 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*), that is subject to the supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and is designated by a Bank's board of directors.

[62 FR 26922, May 16, 1997]

§ 934.5 Deposits from members.

Banks may accept demand and time deposits from members, reserving the right to require notice of intention to withdraw any part of time deposits. Rates of interest paid on all deposits shall be set by the Bank's board of directors (or, between regular meetings thereof, by a committee of directors selected by the board) or by the Bank President, if so authorized by the board. Unless otherwise specified by the board, a Bank President may delegate to any officer or employee of the Bank any authority he possesses under this section.

[46 FR 49107, Oct. 6, 1981. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989, and further redesignated at 62 FR 26922, May 16, 1997]

§ 934.6 Trustee powers.

A Bank may act, and make reasonable charges for doing so, as trustee of any trust affecting the business of any member or any institution or group applying for membership or for insurance of accounts, or any group applying for a charter for a Federal Savings Association, if:

(a) Such trust is created or arises for the benefit of the institution or its savers, investors, or borrowers, or for promotion of sound and economical home financing; and

(b) In the case of applicants, the Bank ceases to act as trustee if the application is withdrawn or rejected.

[43 FR 46841, Oct. 11, 1978. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989, and amended at 55 FR 2229, Jan. 23, 1990. Redesignated at 62 FR 26922, May 16, 1997]

§ 934.7 Budget preparation.

(a) *Adoption of annual Bank budgets.* Each Bank's board of directors shall be responsible for the adoption of an annual operating expense budget and a capital expenditures budget for the Bank, and any subsequent amendments thereto, consistent with the requirements of the Act, this section, other regulations and policies of the Board, and with the Bank's responsibility to protect both its members and the public interest by keeping its costs to an efficient and effective minimum.

(b) A Bank's board of directors may not delegate the authority to approve the Bank's annual budgets, or any subsequent amendments thereto, to Bank officers or other Bank employees.

(c) A Bank's annual budgets shall be prepared based upon an interest rate scenario as determined by the Bank.

(d) A Bank may not exceed its total annual operating expense budget or its total annual capital expenditures budget without prior approval by the Bank's board of directors of an amendment to such budget.

[61 FR 55880, Oct. 30, 1996. Redesignated at 62 FR 26922, May 16, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 71278, Dec. 21, 1999]

§ 934.8 Surety bonds.

Each Bank shall maintain surety bonds covering all officers, employees, attorneys, or agents having control over, or access to, monies or securities owned by the Bank or in its possession.

[49 FR 34198, Aug. 29, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 6113, Feb. 7, 1989. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989, and further redesignated at 62 FR 26922, May 16, 1997]

§ 934.9 Insurance.

Each bank shall maintain insurance required by law, and may maintain any

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additional insurance its board of directors considers necessary for its protection.

[43 FR 46841, Oct. 11, 1978. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989, and further redesignated at 62 FR 26922, May 16, 1997]

§ 934.10 Safe-keeping accounts.

Securities owned by each Bank shall be held at any Federal Reserve Bank or, with prior Board approval, at any depository commercial bank that is a member of a Federal Reserve Bank.

[45 FR 31046, May 12, 1980. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989, and further redesignated at 62 FR 26922, May 16, 1997]

§ 934.11 Securities held in trust or as collateral.

Bonds and negotiable securities held by a Bank as collateral or in trust shall be placed in the custody of a Federal Reserve Bank or branch thereof, a financial institution which is a member of the Federal Reserve System or of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or under such other arrangement approved by the Board. However this section shall not apply to bonds and negotiable securities held in custody under the plan for holding security transactions of member institutions approved August 13, 1943.

[43 FR 46841, Oct. 11, 1978. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989, and further redesignated at 62 FR 26922, May 16, 1997]

§ 934.12 Accounting.

Each Bank's accounting system is subject to approval by the Board, and its accounting forms are subject to approval by the Board or its designee.

[43 FR 46841, Oct. 11, 1978. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989, and amended at 55 FR 2229, Jan. 23, 1990. Redesignated at 60 FR 65516, Dec. 20, 1995, and further redesignated at 62 FR 26922, May 16, 1997]

§ 934.13 Gold and gold-related transactions.

No Bank may engage in any capacity or manner in any transaction or activity involving gold (including gold coin) or gold related instruments or securities, except for purchase and sale of gold coins minted and issued by the United States Treasury pursuant to

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Pub. L. 99-185, 99 Stat. 1177 (1985), and activities reasonably incident thereto.

[51 FR 34951, Oct. 1, 1986. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989. Redesignated at 60 FR 65516, Dec. 20, 1995, and further redesignated at 62 FR 26922, May 16, 1997]

§ 934.14 Office of Thrift Supervision assessments.

At the request of, and in accordance with the instructions of, the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, the Federal home loan banks shall remit funds made available by their members to satisfy Office of Thrift Supervision assessments.

[54 FR 36760, Sept. 5, 1989. Redesignated at 60 FR 65516, Dec. 20, 1995, and further redesignated at 62 FR 26922, May 16, 1997]

§ 934.15 Bank requests for information.

This section governs the procedure by which a Federal Home Loan Bank will request and receive Confidential Information, as defined in paragraph (a)(4) of this section, pursuant to section 22 of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act.

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this section:

(1) *Board* means the Federal Housing Finance Board.

(2) *Bank* means a Federal Home Loan Bank, including its directors, officers, employees or agents.

(3) *Financial Regulatory Agency* means any of the following:

(i) The Department of the Treasury, including either the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency or the Office of Thrift Supervision;

(ii) The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;

(iii) The National Credit Union Administration; or

(iv) The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

(4) *Confidential Information* means any record, data, or report, including but not limited to examination reports, or any part thereof, that is non-public, privileged or otherwise not intended for public disclosure which is in the possession or control of a Financial Regulatory Agency and which contains information regarding members of a Bank or financial institutions with which a Bank has had or contemplates

having transactions under the Bank Act.

(5) *Third party* means any person or entity except a director, officer, employee or agent of either:

(i) A Bank in possession of any particular confidential information; or

(ii) The Financial Regulatory Agency that supplied the particular confidential information to such Bank.

(b) *Request for confidential information.* A bank shall make all requests for confidential information to a Financial Regulatory Agency, or to a regional office of such Agency if mutually agreeable, in accordance with the procedures contained in this section as well as any procedures of general applicability for requesting information promulgated by such Financial Regulatory Agency. This section and its procedures may be supplemented by a confidentiality agreement between a Bank and a Financial Regulatory Agency.

(c) *Form of Request.* A request by a Bank to a Financial Regulatory Agency for confidential information shall be made in writing or by such other means as may be agreed upon between the Bank and the Financial Regulatory Agency. The request shall reference section 22 of the Bank Act, as amended, and this regulation, and shall describe the confidential information requested and identify its intended use pursuant to the Bank Act. The request shall be signed or otherwise made by any duly authorized Bank officer or employee.

(d) *Storage of Confidential Information.* Each Bank will store all identified confidential information in secure storage areas or filing cabinets or other secured facilities generally used by such Bank and limit access thereto in the same manner as it maintains the confidentiality of its own members' privileged or non-public information. Each Bank shall have in place a written set of procedures and policies designed to insure the confidentiality of confidential information in its possession, and shall establish an internal review of its procedures for storing confidential information and maintaining its confidentiality, as a part of its internal audit process.

(e) *Access to Confidential Information.* A Bank will insure that access to the Confidential Information stored at its

facility is limited to those with a need to know such information and that employees with access maintain the confidentiality of the confidential information in accordance with the Bank's own procedures for maintaining the confidentiality of its members' privileged or non-public information.

(f) *Third party requests for Confidential Information*—(1) *In general.* In the event a Bank receives a request for confidential information in its possession from any third party, the Bank shall forward such requests to the Financial Regulatory Agency from which the confidential information was obtained.

(2) *By subpoena.* In the event a Bank receives a subpoena for confidential information issued by a Federal, state or local government department, agency, court or bureau, the Bank shall give timely written notice of such subpoena to the Financial Regulatory Agency from which the confidential information was obtained, unless such notice is prohibited by applicable law.

Except as limited herein, the Bank may disclose confidential information pursuant to the subpoena, after giving timely written notice, when:

(i) The Financial Regulatory Agency gives written approval to the disclosure; or

(ii) A binding order to produce the confidential information has become final with all rights of appeal either exhausted or lapsed.

(3) *Nondisclosure to third parties.* Except as provided in paragraph (f)(2) of this section, a Bank shall not disclose confidential information to any third party. A Bank shall refer all third party requests for such confidential information to the Financial Regulatory Agency that released the confidential information to the Bank.

(4) *Disclosure to Board.* (i) Neither this section nor any confidentiality agreement executed between a Bank and a Financial Regulatory Agency shall prevent a Bank from disclosing confidential information in its possession to the Board whenever disclosure is necessary to accomplish the Board's supervision of Bank membership applications or Bank director eligibility issues, or disclosing any confidential information in its possession if such disclosure is made pursuant to an audit

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conducted pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section or section 20 of the Bank Act.

(ii) The Board shall keep all confidential information received under paragraph (f)(4) of this section in strict confidence.

(g) *Computer data.* This section shall not preclude a bank from arranging with any Financial Regulatory Agency to transmit or allow access to confidential information with the consent of such agency by means of an electronic computer system. Any such arrangement shall insure the security of the computerized data stored in a bank's computer and restrict access to such data in order to preserve confidentiality in a manner agreed upon by the bank and the Financial Regulatory Agency.

[55 FR 50545, Dec. 7, 1990. Redesignated at 60 FR 65516, Dec. 20, 1995, and further redesignated at 62 FR 26922, May 16, 1997]

§ 934.16 Bank bylaws.

A Bank's board of directors shall have in effect at all times bylaws governing the manner in which the Bank administers its affairs, and such bylaws shall be consistent with applicable laws and regulations as administered by the Finance Board.

[64 FR 71278, Dec. 21, 1999]

§ 934.17 Bank dividends.

A Bank's board of directors may declare and pay a dividend only from previously retained earnings or current net earnings, and only if such payment will not result in a projected impairment of the par value of the capital stock of the Bank. Dividends on such capital stock shall be computed without preference.

[64 FR 71278, Dec. 21, 1999]

PART 935—ADVANCES

Subpart A—Advances to Members

Sec.

935.1 Definitions.

935.2 Bank credit mission.

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935.4 Authorization and application for advances; obligation to repay advances.

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935.10 Banks as secured creditors.

935.11 Pledged collateral; verification.

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935.15 Capital stock requirements; unilateral redemption of excess stock.

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Subpart B—Advances to Nonmembers

935.20 Advances to the Savings Association Insurance Fund.

935.21 Scope.

935.22 Nonmember mortgagee eligibility requirements.

935.23 Nonmember mortgagee application process.

935.24 Advances to nonmember mortgagees.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1422a(a)(3), 1422b(a)(1), 1426, 1429, 1430, 1430b and 1431.

SOURCE: 58 FR 29469, May 20, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Advances to Members

§ 935.1 Definitions.

As used in this part:

Act means the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1421 *et seq.*).

Actual thrift investment percentage or *ATIP* has the same meaning as used in section 10(m)(4) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(m)(4)), except that the ATIP will be calculated and applied for purposes of this part to all members of the Banks, whether or not they are savings associations.

Advance means a loan from a Bank that is:

(1) Provided pursuant to a written agreement;

(2) Supported by a note or other written evidence of the borrower's obligation; and

(3) Fully secured by collateral in accordance with the Act and this part.

Affordable Housing Program or *AHP* means the program described in section 10(j) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1430(j)) and part 960 of the Board's regulations.

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Appropriate Federal banking agency. The term *appropriate Federal banking agency* has the same meaning as used in 12 U.S.C. 1813(q) and for federally insured credit unions shall mean the National Credit Union Administration.

Bank means a Federal Home Loan Bank established under the authority of the Act.

Board means the Federal Housing Finance Board established under the authority of the Act, its governing Board of Directors, or an official duly authorized to act on its behalf.

Capital deficient member means a member that fails to meet its minimum regulatory capital requirements as defined or otherwise required by the member's appropriate federal banking agency, insurer or, in the case of members that are not federally insured depository institutions, state regulator.

Combination business or farm property means real property for which the total appraised value is attributable to the combination of residential, and business or farm uses.

Community Investment Cash Advance or *CICA* means any advance made through a program offered by a Bank under section 1430 of the Act and parts 960 and 970 of this chapter to provide advances for community lending and affordable housing, including advances made under: A Bank's Rural Development Advance (RDA) program, offered under section 1430(j)(10) of the Act; a Bank's Urban Development Advance (UDA) program, offered under section 1430(j)(10) of the Act; a Bank's Affordable Housing Program (AHP), offered under section 1430(j) of the Act; a Bank's Community Investment Program (CIP), offered under section 1430(i) of the Act; or any other program offered by a Bank that meets the requirements of part 970 of this chapter.

Depository institution means a bank or savings association, as defined in 12 U.S.C. 1813, or a credit union, as defined in 12 U.S.C. 1752.

Dwelling unit means, for purposes of this part, a single room or a unified combination of rooms designed for residential use by one household.

FDIC means the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

GAAP means Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

HUD means the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Improved residential real property means residential real property excluding real property to be improved, or in the process of being improved, by the construction of dwelling units.

Insurer means the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for "insured depository institutions" as defined in 12 U.S.C. 1813(c)(2) and the National Credit Union Administration for federally insured credit unions.

Long-term advance means, for the purposes of this part, an advance with an original term to maturity greater than five years.

Manufactured housing means a manufactured home as defined in section 603(6) of the Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5402(6)).

Member means an institution that has been admitted to membership in a Bank and, pursuant to requirements established by the Board, has purchased capital stock in the Bank.

Mortgage-backed security means:

(1) An equity security representing an ownership interest in:

(i) Fully disbursed, whole first mortgage loans on improved residential real property; or

(ii) Mortgage pass-through or participation securities which are themselves backed entirely by fully disbursed, whole first mortgage loans on improved residential real property; or

(2) An obligation, bond, or other debt security backed entirely by the assets described in paragraph (1)(i) or (ii) of this definition.

Multifamily property means, for purposes of this part:

(1)(i) Real property that is solely residential and which includes five or more dwelling units; or

(ii) Real property which includes five or more dwelling units with commercial units combined, provided the property is primarily residential.

(2) Multifamily property as defined in this section includes nursing homes, dormitories and homes for the elderly.

Non-Qualified Thrift Lender member means any member that does not meet the Qualified Thrift Lender test as defined in this part.

Nonresidential real property means, for purposes of this part, real property not used for residential purposes, including business or industrial property, hotels, motels, churches, hospitals, educational and charitable institutions, clubs, lodges, association buildings, golf courses, recreational facilities, farm property not containing a dwelling unit, or similar types of property, except as otherwise determined by the Board in its discretion.

OCC means the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

One-to-four family property means any of the following:

- (1) Real property containing:
 - (i) One-to-four dwelling units; or
 - (ii) More than four dwelling units if each unit is separated from the other units by dividing walls that extend from ground to roof, including row houses, townhouses or similar types of property;
- (2) Manufactured housing if:
 - (i) Applicable state law defines the purchase or holding of manufactured housing as the purchase or holding of real property; and
 - (ii) The loan to purchase the manufactured housing is secured by that manufactured housing;
- (3) Individual condominium dwelling units or interests in individual cooperative housing dwelling units that are part of a condominium or cooperative building without regard to the number of total dwelling units therein; or
- (4) Real property containing one-to-four dwelling units with commercial units combined, provided the property is primarily residential.

OTS means the Office of Thrift Supervision.

Qualified Thrift Lender or *QTL* means the term as defined in section 10(m)(1) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(m)(1)). A non-savings association member which meets the QTL test as applied by the Banks will be treated as a QTL for purposes of this part.

Qualified Thrift Lender test or *QTL test* means the asset test described in section 10(m) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(m)), except that the QTL test will be applied for purposes of this part to all members of the

Banks, whether or not they are savings associations.

Residential housing finance assets means any of the following:

- (1) Loans secured by residential real property;
- (2) Mortgage-backed securities;
- (3) Participations in loans secured by residential real property;
- (4) Loans or investments financed by advances made pursuant to a CICA program;
- (5) Loans secured by manufactured housing, regardless of whether such housing qualifies as residential real property; or
- (6) Any loans or investments which the Board, in its discretion, otherwise determines to be residential housing finance assets.

Residential real property means:

- (1) Any of the following:
 - (i) One-to-four family property;
 - (ii) Multifamily property;
 - (iii) Real property to be improved by the construction of dwelling units;
 - (iv) Real property in the process of being improved by the construction of dwelling units;
 - (v) Combination business or farm property where at least 50 percent of the total appraised value of the combined property is attributable to the residential portion of the property or, in the case of any community financial institution, combination business or farm property, on which is located a permanent structure actually used as a residence (other than for temporary or seasonal housing), where the residence constitutes an integral part of the property. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term *community financial institution* means an institution that has average total assets of \$500,000,000 or less, based on an average of total assets over the three preceding years. The Board shall adjust the limit annually based on the annual increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, as published by the Department of Labor.

(2) The term residential real property does not include nonresidential real property as defined in this section.

Savings association means a savings association as defined in section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1813(b)).

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State means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

State housing finance agency or *SHFA* means:

(1) A public agency, authority, or publicly sponsored corporation that serves as an instrumentality of any state or political subdivision of any state, and functions as a source of residential mortgage loan financing in that state; or

(2) A legally established agency, authority, corporation, or organization that serves as an instrumentality of any Indian tribe, band, group, nation, community, or Alaskan Native village recognized by the United States or any state, and functions as a source of residential mortgage loan financing for the Indian or Alaskan Native community.

State regulator means a state insurance commissioner or state regulatory entity with primary responsibility for supervising a member borrower that is not a federally insured depository institution.

Tangible capital means:

(1) Capital, calculated according to GAAP, less “intangible assets” except for purchased mortgage servicing rights to the extent such assets are included in a member’s core or Tier 1 capital, as reported in the member’s Thrift Financial Report for members whose primary federal regulator is the OTS, or as reported in the Report of Condition and Income for members whose primary federal regulator is the FDIC, the OCC, or the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

(2) Capital calculated according to GAAP, less intangible assets, as defined by a Bank for members which are not regulated by the OTS, the FDIC, the OCC, or the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; provided that a Bank shall include a member’s purchased mortgage servicing rights to the extent such assets are included for the purpose of meeting regulatory capital requirements.

[58 FR 29469, May 20, 1993, as amended at 58 FR 29477, May 20, 1993; 59 FR 2949, Jan. 20, 1994; 62 FR 8871, Feb. 27, 1997; 62 FR 12079, Mar. 14, 1997; 63 FR 35128, June 29, 1998; 63 FR 65545, Nov. 27, 1998; 64 FR 16621, Apr. 6, 1999]

§ 935.2 Bank credit mission.

(a) The primary credit mission of the Banks shall be to enhance the availability of residential mortgage credit.

(b) Each Bank shall fulfill its primary credit mission by:

(1) Providing a readily available, economical and affordable source of funds in the form of advances to its members; and

(2) Offering such advances products and programs that satisfy the credit needs of its members.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this section, each Bank shall place such limitations on the making of advances to its members as shall:

(1) Be specifically prescribed by statute, regulation or policy;

(2) Protect the financial integrity of the Bank and accommodate the practical constraints associated with the Bank’s ability to raise funds; or

(3) Be required by the Board.

§ 935.3 Bank advances policy.

(a) Each Bank’s board of directors shall adopt, and review at least semi-annually, a policy on advances to members consistent with the requirements of the Act, this part, and policy guidelines of the Board. Each Bank shall provide a copy of its advances policy, and any revisions thereto, to the Board.

(b) A Bank’s board of directors may designate officers authorized to extend or deny credit and take other action consistent with the Bank’s advances policy.

(c) A Bank may make exceptions to its advances policy only with the approval of its board of directors, a committee thereof, or officers specifically authorized by the board of directors to approve such exceptions, provided that any such exceptions shall comply with the Act, this part and policy guidelines of the Board.

(d) A Bank’s board of directors shall:

(1) Require the officers designated pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section to report promptly to it, or a designated committee of the board, all actions taken under this section; and

(2) Review such actions for compliance with this section.

§ 935.4 Authorization and application for advances; obligation to repay advances.

(a) *Application for advances.* A Bank may accept oral or written applications for advances from its members.

(b) *Obligation to repay advances.* (1) A Bank shall require any member to which an advance is made to enter into a primary and unconditional obligation to repay such advance and all other indebtedness to the Bank, together with interest and any unpaid costs and expenses in connection therewith, according to the terms under which such advance was made or other indebtedness incurred.

(2) Such obligations shall be evidenced by a written advances agreement that shall be reviewed by the Bank's legal counsel to ensure such agreement is in compliance with applicable law.

(c) *Secured advances.* (1) Each Bank shall make only fully secured advances to its members as set forth in the Act, the provisions of this part and policy guidelines established by the Board.

(2) The Bank shall execute a written security agreement with each borrowing member which establishes the Bank's security interest in collateral securing advances.

(3) Such written security agreement shall, at a minimum, describe the type of collateral securing the advances and give the Bank a perfectible security interest in the collateral.

(d) *Approval— By the Bank's board of directors.* Applications for advances, advances agreements and security agreements shall be in substantially such form as approved by the Bank's board of directors, or a committee thereof specifically authorized by the board of directors to approve such forms.

[58 FR 29469, May 20, 1993, as amended at 64 FR 71278, Dec. 21, 1999]

§ 935.5 Limitations on access to advances.

(a) *Credit underwriting.* A Bank, in its discretion, may:

(1) Limit or deny a member's application for an advance if, in the Bank's judgment, such member:

- (i) Is engaging or has engaged in any unsafe or unsound banking practices;
- (ii) Has inadequate capital;

- (iii) Is sustaining operating losses;
- (iv) Has financial or managerial deficiencies, as determined by the Bank, that bear upon the member's creditworthiness; or
- (v) Has any other deficiencies, as determined by the Bank; or

(2) Make advances and renewals only if the Bank determines that it may safely make such advance or renewal to the member, including advances and renewals made pursuant to this section.

(b) *New advances to members without positive tangible capital.* (1) A Bank shall not make a new advance to a member without positive tangible capital unless the member's appropriate federal banking agency or insurer requests in writing that the Bank make such advance. The Bank shall promptly provide the Finance Board with a copy of any such request.

(2) A Bank shall use the most recently available Thrift Financial Report, Report of Condition, and Income or other regulatory report of financial condition to determine whether a member has positive tangible capital.

(c) *Renewals of advances to members without positive tangible capital—(1) Renewal for 30-day terms.* A Bank may renew outstanding advances, for successive terms of up to 30 days each, to a member without positive tangible capital; provided, however, that a Bank shall honor any written request of the appropriate federal banking agency or insurer that the Bank not renew such advances.

(2) *Renewal for longer than 30-day terms.* A Bank may renew outstanding advances to a member without positive tangible capital for a term greater than 30 days at the written request of the appropriate federal banking agency or insurer.

(d) *Advances to capital deficient but solvent members.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this section, a Bank may make a new advance or renew an outstanding advance to a capital deficient member that has positive tangible capital.

(2)(i) A Bank shall not lend to a capital deficient member that has positive tangible capital if it receives written notice from the appropriate federal banking agency or insurer that the

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member's use of Bank advances has been prohibited. The Bank shall promptly provide the Finance Board with a copy of any such notice.

(ii) A Bank may resume lending to such a capital deficient member if the Bank receives a written statement from the appropriate federal banking agency or insurer which re-establishes the member's ability to use advances.

(e) *Reporting.* (1) Each Bank shall provide the Finance Board with a monthly report of the advances and commitments outstanding to each of its members.

(2) Such monthly report shall be in a format or on a form prescribed by the Finance Board.

(3) Each Bank shall, upon written request from a member's appropriate federal banking agency or insurer, provide to such entity information on advances and commitments outstanding to the member.

(f) *Members without federal regulators.* In the case of members that are not federally insured depository institutions, the references in paragraphs (b), (c), (d) and (e) of this section to "appropriate federal banking agency or insurer" shall mean the member's state regulator acting in a capacity similar to an appropriate federal banking agency or insurer.

(g) *Advance commitments.* (1) In the event that a member's access to advances from a Bank is restricted pursuant to this section, the Bank shall not fund outstanding commitments for advances not exercised prior to the imposition of the restriction. This requirement shall apply to all advance commitments made by a Bank after August 25, 1993.

(2) Each Bank shall include the stipulation contained in paragraph (g)(1) of this section as a clause in either:

(i) The written advances agreement required by § 935.4(b)(2) of this part; or

(ii) The written advances application required by § 935.4(a) of this part.

[58 FR 29469, May 20, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 2949, Jan. 20, 1994; 64 FR 71278, Dec. 21, 1999]

§ 935.6 Terms and conditions for advances.

(a) *Advance maturities.* Each Bank shall offer advances with maturities of

up to ten years, and may offer advances with longer maturities consistent with the safe and sound operation of the Bank.

(b) *Advance pricing—(1) General.* Each Bank shall price its advances to members taking into account the following factors:

(i) The marginal cost to the Bank of raising matching maturity funds in the marketplace; and

(ii) The administrative and operating costs associated with making such advances to members.

(2) *Differential pricing.* (i) Each Bank may, in pricing its advances, distinguish among members based upon its assessment of:

(A) The credit and other risks to the Bank of lending to any particular member; or

(B) Other reasonable criteria that may be applied equally to all members.

(ii) Each Bank shall include in the advances policy required by § 935.3(a) of this part, standards and criteria for such differential pricing and shall apply such standards and criteria consistently and without discrimination to all members applying for advances.

(3) *Affordable Housing Program advances.* The advance pricing policies and procedures contained in paragraph (b)(1) of this section shall not apply in the case of a Bank's AHP advances made pursuant to part 960 of this chapter.

(c) *Authorization for pricing advances.* (1) A Bank's board of directors, a committee thereof, or the Bank's president, if so authorized by the Bank's board of directors, shall set the rates of interest on advances consistent with paragraph (b) of this section.

(2) A Bank president authorized to set interest rates on advances pursuant to this paragraph (c) may delegate any part of such authority to any officer or employee of the Bank.

(d) *Putable advances—(1) Disclosure.* A Bank that offers a putable advance to a member shall disclose in writing to such member the type and nature of the risks associated with putable advance funding. The disclosure should include detail sufficient to describe such risks.

(2) *Replacement funding.* If a Bank terminates a putable advance prior to the

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stated maturity date of such advance, the Bank shall offer to provide replacement funding to the member.

(i) *Term to maturity.* At the option of the member, a Bank shall offer replacement funding:

(A) For the remaining term to maturity of the putable advance; or

(B) For a term to maturity agreed upon between the Bank and the member.

(ii) *Interest rate.* At the option of the member, a Bank shall price replacement funding:

(A) At the market rate of interest; or

(B) At a predetermined rate of interest agreed upon between the Bank and the member.

(iii) *Conversion.* For purposes of this part, replacement funding shall be considered the conversion of an outstanding advance, and shall not be considered the renewal of an existing advance or the extension of a new advance.

(3) *Definition.* For purposes of this paragraph (d), the term *putable advance* means an advance that a Bank may, at its discretion, terminate and require the member to repay prior to the stated maturity date of the advance.

[58 FR 29469, May 20, 1993, as amended at 61 FR 52687, Oct. 8, 1996]

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§ 935.8 Fees.

(a) *Fees in advances policy.* All fees charged by each Bank and any schedules or formulas pertaining to such fees shall be included in the Bank's advances policy required by § 935.3(a) of this part. Any such fee schedules or formulas shall be applied consistently and without discrimination to all members.

(b) *Prepayment fees.* (1) Each Bank shall establish and charge a prepayment fee pursuant to a specified formula which sufficiently compensates the Bank for providing a prepayment option on an advance, and which acts to make the Bank financially indifferent to the borrower's decision to repay the advance prior to its maturity date.

(2) Prepayment fees are not required for:

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(i) Advances with original terms to maturity or repricing periods of six months or less;

(ii) Advances funded by callable debt; or

(iii) Advances which are otherwise appropriately hedged so that the Bank is financially indifferent to their prepayment.

(3) The board of directors of each Bank, a designated committee thereof, or officers specifically authorized by the board of directors, may waive a prepayment fee only if such prepayment will not result in an economic loss to the Bank. Any such waiver must subsequently be ratified by the board of directors.

(4) A Bank, in determining whether or not to waive a prepayment fee, shall apply consistent standards to all of its members.

(c) *Commitment fees.* Each Bank may charge a fee for its commitment to fund an advance.

(d) *Other fees.* Each Bank is authorized to charge other fees as it deems necessary and appropriate.

§ 935.9 Collateral.

(a) *Eligible security for advances.* At the time of origination or renewal of an advance, each Bank shall obtain, and thereafter maintain, a security interest in collateral that meets the requirements of one or more of the following categories:

(1) *Mortgage loans and privately issued securities.* (i) Fully disbursed, whole first mortgage loans on improved residential real property not more than 90 days delinquent; or

(ii) Privately issued mortgage-backed securities, excluding the following:

(A) Securities that represent a share of only the interest payments or only the principal payments from the underlying mortgage loans;

(B) Securities that represent a subordinate interest in the cash flows from the underlying mortgage loans;

(C) Securities that represent an interest in any residual payments from the underlying pool of mortgage loans; or

(D) Such other high-risk securities as the Board in its discretion may determine.

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(2) *Agency securities.* Securities issued, insured or guaranteed by the United States Government, or any agency thereof, including without limitation:

(i) Mortgage-backed securities, as defined in § 935.1 of this part, issued or guaranteed by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Government National Mortgage Association, or any other agency of the United States Government;

(ii) Mortgages or other loans, regardless of delinquency status, to the extent that the mortgage or loan is insured or guaranteed by the United States or any agency thereof, or otherwise is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, and such insurance, guarantee or other backing is for the direct benefit of the holder of the mortgage or loan; and

(iii) Securities backed by, or representing an equity interest in, mortgages or other loans referred to in paragraph (a)(2)(ii) of this section.

(3) *Deposits.* Deposits in a Bank.

(4) *Other collateral.* (i) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(4)(iii) of this section, other real estate-related collateral acceptable to the Bank if:

(A) Such collateral has a readily ascertainable value; and

(B) The Bank can perfect a security interest in such collateral.

(ii) Eligible other real estate-related collateral may include, but is not limited to:

(A) Privately issued mortgage-backed securities not otherwise eligible under paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section;

(B) Second mortgage loans, including home equity loans;

(C) Commercial real estate loans; and

(D) Mortgage loan participations.

(iii) A Bank shall not permit the aggregate amount of outstanding advances to any one member, secured by such other real estate-related collateral, to exceed 30 percent of such member's capital, as calculated according to GAAP, at the time the advance is issued or renewed.

(5) *Securities representing equity interests in eligible advances collateral.* Any security the ownership of which represents an undivided equity interest in

underlying assets, all of which qualify either as:

(i) Eligible collateral under paragraphs (a)(1) or (2) of this section; or

(ii) Cash or cash equivalents.

(b) *Bank restrictions on eligible advances collateral.* A Bank at its discretion may further restrict the types of eligible collateral acceptable to the Bank as security for an advance, based upon the creditworthiness or operations of the borrower, the quality of the collateral, or other reasonable criteria.

(c) *Additional advances collateral.* The provisions of paragraph (a) of this section shall not affect the ability of any Bank to take such steps as it deems necessary to protect its secured position on outstanding advances, including requiring additional collateral, whether or not such additional collateral conforms to the requirements for eligible collateral in paragraph (a) of this section or section 10 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1430).

(d) *Bank stock as collateral.* (1) Pursuant to section 10(c) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1430(c)), a Bank shall have a lien upon, and shall hold, the stock of a member in the Bank as further collateral security for all indebtedness of the member to the Bank.

(2) The written security agreement used by the Bank shall provide that the borrowing member's Bank stock is assigned as additional security by the member to the Bank.

(3) The security interest of the Bank in such member's Bank stock shall be entitled to the priority provided for in section 10(f) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1430(f)).

(e) *Advances collateral security requiring formal approval.* No home mortgage loan otherwise eligible to be accepted as collateral for an advance by a Bank under this section shall be accepted as collateral for an advance if any director, officer, employee, attorney or agent of the Bank or of the borrowing member is personally liable thereon, unless the board of directors of the Bank has specifically approved such acceptance by formal resolution, and the Board has endorsed such resolution.

[58 FR 29469, May 20, 1993, as amended at 64 FR 16621, Apr. 6, 1999]

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§ 935.10 Banks as secured creditors.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, notwithstanding any other provision of law, any security interest granted to a Bank by a member, or by an affiliate of such member, shall be entitled to priority over the claims and rights of any party, including any receiver, conservator, trustee or similar party having rights of a lien creditor, to such collateral.

(b) A Bank's security interest as described in paragraph (a) of this section shall not be entitled to priority over the claims and rights of a party that:

(1) Would be entitled to priority under otherwise applicable law; and

(2) Is an actual bona fide purchaser for value of such collateral or is an actual secured party whose security interest in such collateral is perfected in accordance with applicable state law.

§ 935.11 Pledged collateral; verification.

(a) *Collateral safekeeping.* (1) A Bank may permit a member that is a depository institution to retain documents evidencing collateral pledged to the Bank, provided that the Bank and such member have executed a written security agreement pursuant to § 935.4(c) of this part whereby such collateral is retained solely for the Bank's benefit and subject to the Bank's control and direction.

(2) A Bank shall take any steps necessary to ensure that its security interest in all collateral pledged by non-depository institutions for an advance is as secure as its security interest in collateral pledged by depository institutions.

(3) A Bank may at any time perfect its security interest in collateral securing an advance to a member.

(b) *Collateral verification.* Each Bank shall establish written procedures and standards for verifying the existence of collateral securing the Bank's advances, and shall regularly verify the existence of the collateral securing its advances in accordance with such procedures and standards.

[58 FR 29469, May 20, 1993, as amended at 64 FR 16621, Apr. 6, 1999]

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§ 935.12 Collateral valuation; appraisals.

(a) Each Bank shall establish written procedures for determining the value of the collateral securing the Bank's advances, and shall determine the value of such collateral in accordance with such procedures.

(b) Each Bank shall apply the valuation procedures consistently and fairly to all borrowing members, and the valuation ascribed to any item of collateral by the Bank shall be conclusive as between the Bank and the member.

(c) A Bank may require a member to obtain an appraisal of any item of collateral, and to perform such other investigations of collateral as the Bank deems necessary and proper.

§ 935.13 Restrictions on advances to members that are not qualified thrift lenders.

(a) *Restrictions on advances to non-QTL members.* (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (a)(4) and (a)(5) of this section, a Bank may make or renew an advance to a non-QTL member only under the following conditions:

(i) The advance is for the purpose of purchasing or funding new or existing residential housing finance assets, as determined pursuant to paragraph (a)(2) of this section;

(ii) The member holds Bank stock at the time it receives the advance in an amount equal to at least five percent of the outstanding principal amount of the member's total advances, divided by such member's ATIP, calculated pursuant to paragraph (a)(3) of this section; and

(iii) Making the advance will not cause the aggregate amount of advances issued by the twelve Banks to non-QTL members to exceed 30 percent of the aggregate amount of the twelve Banks' total outstanding advances.

(2) Prior to approving an application for an advance by a non-QTL member, a Bank shall determine that the principal amount of all advances outstanding to the member at the time the advance is requested does not exceed the total book value of residential housing finance assets held by such member, which shall be determined

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using the most recent Report of Condition and Income or financial statement made available by the member.

(3)(i) A Bank shall calculate each non-savings association member's ATIP at least annually, between July 1 and October 31, based upon financial data as of June 30 of that calendar year. The Bank may, in its discretion, calculate a member's ATIP more frequently than annually.

(ii) In determining a non-savings association member's annual ATIP, a Bank shall use the financial information from the member's June 30 call report as the primary source of information. A Bank making ATIP determinations other than as part of the annual QTL determination (whether for existing members or new members) shall use the member's most recent call report, except that in determining the amount of a member's loan to small businesses a Bank may use the information for such loans on the member's most recent June 30 call report. If any information necessary for determining the member's ATIP is not separately identified on a member's call report, the Bank may rely on a written certification provided by the member that attests to the dollar amount and composition of those other assets that meet the definitions of "qualified thrift investments" or "portfolio assets" as of the date of the call report. Notwithstanding the preceding two sentences, a Bank may, at its option, accept from a non-savings association member preliminary information as to the dollar amount and composition of assets that meet the definitions of "qualified thrift investments" or "portfolio assets," provided that the Bank thereafter verifies against the most recent call report the accuracy of any items that are also available from the call report. In any case in which a Bank relies on a certification from a non-savings association member as to its level of "qualified thrift investments" or "portfolio assets," the certification must recite that the information is accurate as of the date specified, must be in writing and be signed and dated by the chief executive officer of the member. The chief executive officer may delegate authority to sign and date the certification to the chief

financial officer, chief operating officer, or controller of the member.

(iii) For purposes of this section, the term "call report" shall include:

(A) With respect to a commercial bank, the annual or quarterly "Report of Condition and Income" submitted to its appropriate Federal banking agency;

(B) With respect to a credit union, the quarterly or semi-annual call report submitted to the National Credit Union Administration; and

(C) With respect to an insurance company, its National Association of Insurance Commissioners annual regulatory filing.

(iv) For purposes of this section, the amount of a member's "loans to small businesses" shall include any commercial business loan (or series of loans to the same borrower) in the original amount of \$1 million or less, any farm loan (or series of loans to the same borrower) in the original amount of \$500,000 or less, and any loan to a "small business" as that term is defined by section 3(a) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 632(a), and implemented by the Small Business Administration at 13 CFR part 121, or any successor provisions.

(4) The requirements of paragraphs (a) (1), (2), and (3) of this section shall not apply to:

(i) A savings bank, as defined in section 3(g) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1813(g)); or

(ii) A Federal savings association in existence as such on August 9, 1989 that:

(A) Was a state chartered savings bank or cooperative bank before October 15, 1982; or

(B) Acquired its principal assets from an institution that was a state chartered savings bank or cooperative bank before October 15, 1982.

(5) The requirements of paragraph (a)(2) of this section shall not apply to applications from non-savings association members for CICA advances.

(b) *Priority for QTL members.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(3) of this section, if a Bank is unable to meet the aggregate advance demand of all of its members, the Bank shall give priority to applications for advances

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from its QTL members, subject to the following considerations:

- (i) The effect of making the advances on the financial integrity of the Bank;
- (ii) The member's creditworthiness;
- (iii) The availability of funding with maturities compatible with advances applications; and
- (iv) Any other factors that the Bank determines to be relevant.

(2) The institutions identified in paragraph (a)(4) of this section shall be treated as QTLs for purposes of this paragraph (b).

(3) The requirement of paragraph (b)(1) of this section shall not apply to a Bank's special, or otherwise limited, advance offerings.

(c) *Additional restrictions on advances to non-QTL savings associations.* (1) Either the Bank's written advances agreement required by § 935.4(b)(2) of this part or the written advances application authorized in § 935.4(a) of this part shall require that each savings association member, which pursuant to the QTL requirements of the OTS becomes ineligible for Bank advances, immediately provide its Bank with written notification of its ineligibility.

(2) Except as requested in writing by the OTS, or as authorized in § 935.18(c) of this part, a Bank shall not make an advance to a savings association member after receiving written notification from such member or from the OTS that such member is ineligible for advances pursuant to the QTL requirements of the OTS.

(d) *Repayment of advances by non-QTL savings association members.* (1) Each Bank, if informed by a savings association member or the OTS that the member has failed to regain its QTL status and is required to repay said member's advances prior to maturity, shall, in conjunction with the non-QTL savings association member, develop a schedule for the prompt and prudent repayment of any outstanding advances held by that member, consistent with the member's and the Bank's safe and sound operations.

(2) The schedule agreed to under paragraph (d)(1) of this section shall be provided promptly by the Bank to the Board and the OTS.

(e) *Advance commitments.* Either the Bank's written advances agreement re-

quired by § 935.4(b)(2) of this part or the written advances application authorized in § 935.4(a) of this part shall stipulate that the Bank shall not honor advance commitments previously made to members whose access to advances is subsequently restricted pursuant to paragraphs (a) or (c) of this section.

(The Office of Management and Budget approved the information collection requirements contained in this section and assigned control number 3069-0057 with an expiration date of April 30, 2000)

[58 FR 29469, May 20, 1993, as amended at 62 FR 52015, Oct. 6, 1997; 63 FR 65545, Nov. 27, 1998]

§ 935.14 Limitations on long-term advances.

(a) A Bank shall make long-term advances only for the purpose of enabling a member to purchase or fund new or existing residential housing finance assets.

(b)(1) Prior to approving an application for a long-term advance, a Bank shall determine that the principal amount of all long-term advances currently held by the member does not exceed the total book value of residential housing finance assets held by such member. The Bank shall determine the total book value of such residential housing finance assets, using the most recent Thrift Financial Report, Report of Condition and Income, or financial statement made available by the member.

(2) Applications for CICA advances are exempt from the requirements of paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

[58 FR 29469, May 20, 1993, as amended at 63 FR 65545, Nov. 27, 1998]

§ 935.15 Capital stock requirements; unilateral redemption of excess stock.

(a) *Capital stock requirement for advances.* (1) At no time shall the aggregate amount of outstanding advances made by a Bank to a member exceed 20 times the amount paid in by such member for capital stock in the Bank.

(2) A non-QTL member shall hold stock in the Bank at the time it receives an advance in an amount equal to at least the amount of stock required to be held pursuant to § 935.13(a)(1)(ii) of this part.

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(b) *Unilateral redemption of excess capital stock; fee in lieu prohibited.* (1) A Bank, after providing 15 calendar days advance written notice to a member, may require the redemption of that amount of the member's Bank capital stock that exceeds the capital stock requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of this section or, in the case of a non-QTL member, the capital stock requirements set forth in § 935.13(a)(1)(ii) of this part, provided the minimum amount required in sections 6(b)(1) and 10(e)(3) of the Act is maintained. The Bank shall have the discretion to determine the timing of such unilateral redemption. The Bank's implementation of its redemption policy shall be consistent with the requirement of section 7(j) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1427(j)) that the affairs of the Bank shall be administered fairly and impartially and without discrimination in favor of or against any member borrower.

(2) A Bank may not impose on or accept from a member a fee in lieu of redeeming the member's excess Bank capital stock.

[58 FR 29469, May 20, 1993, as amended at 64 FR 16791, Apr. 6, 1999]

§ 935.16 [Reserved]

§ 935.17 Intradistrict transfer of advances.

(a) *Advances held by members.* A Bank may allow one of its members to assume an advance extended by the Bank to another of its members, provided the assumption complies with the requirements of this part governing the issuance of new advances. A Bank may charge an appropriate fee for processing the transfer.

(b) *Advances held by nonmembers.* A Bank may allow one of its members to assume an advance held by a nonmember, provided the advance was originated by the Bank and provided the assumption complies with the requirements of this part governing the issuance of new advances. A Bank may charge an appropriate fee for processing the transfer.

[59 FR 2950, Jan. 20, 1994]

§ 935.18 Special advances to savings associations.

(a) *Eligible institutions.* (1) A Bank, upon receipt of a written request from the Director of the OTS, may make short-term advances to a savings association member.

(2) Such request must certify that the member:

(i) Is solvent but presents a supervisory concern to the OTS because of the member's financial condition; and

(ii) Has reasonable and demonstrable prospects of returning to a satisfactory financial condition.

(b) *Terms and conditions.* Advances made by a Bank to a member savings association under this section shall:

(1) Be subject to all applicable collateral requirements of the Bank, this part and section 10(a) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1430(a)); and

(2) Be at the interest rate applicable to advances of similar type and maturity that are made available to other members that do not pose such a supervisory concern.

§ 935.19 Liquidation of advances upon termination of membership.

If an institution's membership in a Bank is terminated, the Bank shall determine an orderly schedule for liquidating any indebtedness of such member to the Bank; this section shall not require a Bank to call any such indebtedness prior to maturity of the advance. The Bank shall deem any such liquidation a prepayment of the member's indebtedness, and the member shall be subject to any fees applicable to such prepayment.

Subpart B—Advances to Nonmembers

SOURCE: 62 FR 12079, Mar. 14, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 935.20 Advances to the Savings Association Insurance Fund.

(a) *Authority.* Upon receipt of a written request from the FDIC, a Bank may make advances to the FDIC for the use of the Savings Association Insurance Fund. The Bank shall provide a copy of such request to the Board.

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(b) *Requirements.* Advances to the FDIC for the use of the Savings Association Insurance Fund shall:

(1) Bear a rate of interest not less than the Bank's marginal cost of funds, taking into account the maturities involved and reasonable administrative costs;

(2) Have a maturity acceptable to the Bank;

(3) Be subject to any prepayment, commitment, or other appropriate fees of the Bank; and

(4) Be adequately secured by collateral acceptable to the Bank.

§ 935.21 Scope.

With the exception of § 935.13, and except as otherwise provided in § 935.20 and § 935.24, the requirements of subpart A of this part apply to this subpart.

§ 935.22 Nonmember mortgagee eligibility requirements.

(a) *Authority.* Subject to the provisions of the Act and this subpart, a Bank may make advances to an entity that is not a member of the Bank if the Bank has certified the entity as a nonmember mortgagee.

(b) *Eligibility requirements.* A Bank may certify as a nonmember mortgagee any applicant that meets the following requirements:

(1) The applicant is approved under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707, *et seq.*);

(2) The applicant is a chartered institution having succession;

(3) The applicant is subject to the inspection and supervision of some governmental agency;

(4) The principal activity of the applicant in the mortgage field consists of lending its own funds; and

(5) The financial condition of the applicant is such that advances may be safely made to it.

(c) *Satisfaction of eligibility requirements—(1) HUD approval requirement.* An applicant shall be deemed to meet the requirement in section 10b(a) of the Act and paragraph (b)(1) of this section that it be approved under title II of the National Housing Act if it submits a current HUD Yearly Verification Report or other documentation issued by HUD stating that the Federal Housing

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Administration of HUD has approved the applicant as a mortgagee.

(2) *Charter requirement.* An applicant shall be deemed to meet the requirement in section 10b(a) of the Act and paragraph (b)(2) of this section that it be a chartered institution having succession if it provides evidence satisfactory to the Bank, such as a copy of, or a citation to, the statutes and/or regulations under which the applicant was created, that:

(i) The applicant is a government agency; or

(ii) The applicant is chartered under state, federal, local, tribal, or Alaska Native village law as a corporation or other entity that has rights, characteristics, and powers under applicable law similar to those granted a corporation.

(3) *Inspection and supervision requirement.* An applicant shall be deemed to meet the inspection and supervision requirement in section 10b(a) of the Act and paragraph (b)(3) of this section if it provides evidence satisfactory to the Bank, such as a copy of, or a citation to, relevant statutes and/or regulations, that, pursuant to statute or regulation, the applicant is subject to the inspection and supervision of a federal, state, local, tribal, or Alaska native village governmental agency. An applicant shall be deemed to meet the inspection requirement if there is a statutory or regulatory requirement that the applicant be audited or examined periodically by a governmental agency or by an external auditor. An applicant shall be deemed to meet the supervision requirement if the governmental agency has statutory or regulatory authority to remove an applicant's officers or directors for cause or otherwise exercise enforcement or administrative control over actions of the applicant. For purposes of this paragraph (c)(3), the term "governmental agency" includes the governor, legislature, and any other component of a federal, state, local, tribal, or Alaska native village government with authority to act for or on behalf of that government.

(4) *Mortgage activity requirement.* An applicant shall be deemed to meet the mortgage activity requirement in section 10b(a) of the Act and paragraph

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(b)(4) of this section if it provides documentary evidence satisfactory to the Bank, such as a financial statement or other financial documents that include the applicant's mortgage loan assets and their funding liabilities, that it lends its own funds as its principal activity in the mortgage field. Lending funds includes, but is not limited to, the purchase of whole mortgage loans. In the case of a federal, state, local, tribal, or Alaska Native village government agency, appropriated funds shall be considered an applicant's own funds. An applicant shall be deemed to satisfy this requirement notwithstanding that the majority of its operations are unrelated to mortgage lending if its mortgage activity conforms to this requirement. An applicant that acts principally as a broker for others making mortgage loans, or whose principal activity is to make mortgage loans for the account of others, does not meet this requirement.

(5) *Financial condition requirement.* An applicant shall be deemed to meet the financial condition requirement in paragraph (b)(5) of this section if the Bank determines that advances may be safely made to the applicant. The applicant shall submit to the Bank copies of its most recent regulatory audit or examination report, or external audit report, and any other documentary evidence, such as financial or other information, that the Bank may require to make the determination.

(d) *State housing finance agencies.* In addition to meeting the requirements in paragraph (b) of this section, any applicant seeking access to advances as a SHFA pursuant to § 935.24(b)(2) shall provide evidence satisfactory to the Bank, such as a copy of, or a citation to, the statutes and/or regulations describing the applicant's structure and responsibilities, that the applicant is a state housing finance agency as defined in § 935.1.

(e) *Ineligibility.* Except as otherwise provided in this subpart, if an applicant does not satisfy the requirements of this subpart, the applicant is ineligible to be certified as a nonmember mortgagee.

(The Office of Management and Budget approved the information collection requirements contained in this section

and assigned control number 3069-0005 with an expiration date of November 30, 1999)

§ 935.23 Nonmember mortgagee application process.

(a) *Authority.* The Banks are authorized to approve or deny all applications for certification as a nonmember mortgagee, subject to the requirements of the Act and this subpart. A Bank may delegate the authority to approve applications for certification as a nonmember mortgagee only to a committee of the Bank's board of directors, the Bank president, or a senior officer who reports directly to the Bank president other than an officer with responsibility for business development.

(b) *Application requirements.* An applicant for certification as a nonmember mortgagee shall submit an application that satisfies the requirements of the Act and this subpart to the Bank of the district in which the applicant's principal place of business, as determined in accordance with part 933 of this chapter, is located.

(c) *Application process—(1) Action on applications.* A Bank shall approve or deny an application for certification as a nonmember mortgagee within 60 calendar days of the date the Bank deems the application to be complete. A Bank shall deem an application complete, and so notify the applicant in writing, when it has obtained all of the information required by this subpart and any other information it deems necessary to process the application. If a Bank determines during the review process that additional information is necessary to process the application, the Bank may deem the application incomplete and stop the 60-day time period by providing written notice to the applicant. When the Bank receives the additional information, it shall again deem the application complete, so notify the applicant in writing, and resume the 60-day time period where it stopped.

(2) *Decision on applications.* The Bank or a duly delegated committee of the Bank's board of directors, the Bank president, or a senior officer who reports directly to the Bank president other than an officer with responsibility for business development shall

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approve, or the board of directors of a Bank shall deny, each application for certification as a nonmember mortgagee by a written decision resolution stating the grounds for the decision. Within three business days of a Bank's decision on an application, the Bank shall provide the applicant and the Board with a copy of the Bank's decision resolution.

(3) *File.* The Bank shall maintain a certification file for each applicant for at least three years after the date the Bank decides whether to approve or deny certification or the date the Board resolves any appeal, whichever is later. At a minimum, the certification file shall include all documents submitted by the applicant or otherwise obtained or generated by the Bank concerning the applicant, all documents the Bank relied upon in making its determination regarding certification, including copies of statutes and regulations, and the decision resolution.

(4) *Appeals.* Within 90 calendar days of the date of a Bank's decision to deny an application for certification as a nonmember mortgagee, the applicant may submit a written appeal to the Board that includes the Bank's decision resolution and a statement of the basis for the appeal with sufficient facts, information, analysis, and explanation to support the applicant's position. Appeals shall be sent to the Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW., Washington DC 20006, with a copy to the Bank.

(i) *Record for appeal.* Upon receiving a copy of an appeal, the Bank whose action has been appealed shall provide to the Board a complete copy of the applicant's certification file maintained by the Bank under paragraph (c)(3) of this section. Until the Board resolves the appeal, the Bank shall promptly provide to the Board any relevant new materials it receives. The Board may request additional information or further supporting arguments from the applicant, the Bank, or any other party that the Board deems appropriate.

(ii) *Deciding appeals.* Within 90 calendar days of the date an applicant files an appeal with the Board, the Board shall consider the record for appeal described in paragraph (c)(4)(i) of this section and resolve the appeal

based on the requirements of the Act and this subpart.

(The Office of Management and Budget approved the information collection requirements contained in this section and assigned control number 3069–0005 with an expiration date of November 30, 1999)

§ 935.24 Advances to nonmember mortgagees.

(a) *Authority.* Subject to the provisions of the Act and this subpart, a Bank may make advances only to a nonmember mortgagee whose principal place of business, as determined in accordance with part 933 of this chapter, is located in the Bank's district.

(b) *Collateral requirements—(1) Advances to nonmember mortgagees.* A Bank may make an advance to any nonmember mortgagee upon the security of the following collateral:

(i) Mortgage loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration of HUD under title II of the National Housing Act; or

(ii) Securities representing a whole interest in the principal and interest payments due on a pool of mortgage loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration of HUD under title II of the National Housing Act. A Bank may only accept as collateral the securities described in this paragraph (b)(1)(ii) if the nonmember mortgagee provides evidence that such securities are backed solely by mortgages of the type described in paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section.

(2) *Certain advances to SHFAs.* (i) In addition to the collateral described in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, a Bank may make an advance to a nonmember mortgagee that has satisfied the requirements of § 935.22(d) for the purpose of facilitating residential or commercial mortgage lending that benefits individuals or families meeting the income requirements in section 142(d) or 143(f) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 142(d) or 143(f)) upon the security of the following collateral:

(A) The collateral described in § 935.9(a) (1) or (2).

(B) The collateral described in § 935.9(a)(3). Solely for the purpose of

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facilitating acceptance of such collateral, a Bank may establish a cash collateral account for a nonmember mortgagee that has satisfied the requirements of § 935.22(d).

(C) The real estate related collateral described in § 935.9(a)(4), provided that such collateral is comprised of mortgage loans on one-to-four family or multifamily residential property and the acceptance of such collateral will not increase the total amount of advances outstanding to the SHFA secured by such collateral beyond 30 percent of its GAAP capital, as computed by the Bank.

(ii) Prior to making an advance pursuant to this paragraph (b)(2), a Bank shall obtain a written certification from the nonmember mortgagee that it shall use the proceeds of the advance for the purposes described in paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section.

(c) *Terms and conditions*—(1) *General*. Subject to the provisions of this paragraph (c), a Bank, in its discretion, shall determine whether, and on what terms, it will make advances to a nonmember mortgagee.

(2) *Advance pricing*. (i) A Bank shall price advances to nonmember mortgagees in accordance with the requirements for pricing advances to members set forth in § 935.6(b). Wherever the term “member” appears in § 935.6(b), the term shall be construed also to mean “nonmember mortgagee.”

(ii) A Bank shall apply the pricing criteria identified in § 936.5(b)(2) equally to all of its member and nonmember mortgagee borrowers.

(3) *Limit on advances*. The principal amount of any advance made to a nonmember mortgagee may not exceed 90 percent of the unpaid principal of the mortgage loans or securities pledged as security for the advance. This limit does not apply to an advance made to a nonmember mortgagee under paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(d) *Transaction accounts*. Solely for the purpose of facilitating the making of advances to a nonmember mortgagee, a Bank may establish a transaction account for each nonmember mortgagee.

(e) *Loss of eligibility*—(1) *Notification of status changes*. A Bank shall require a nonmember mortgagee that applies for

an advance to agree in writing that it will promptly inform the Bank of any change in its status as a nonmember mortgagee.

(2) *Verification of eligibility*. A Bank may, from time to time, require a nonmember mortgagee to provide evidence that it continues to satisfy all of the eligibility requirements of the Act and this subpart.

(3) *Loss of eligibility*. A Bank shall not extend a new advance or renew an existing advance to a nonmember mortgagee that no longer meets the eligibility requirements of the Act and this subpart until the entity has provided evidence satisfactory to the Bank that it is in compliance with such requirements.

(The Office of Management and Budget approved the information collection requirements contained in this section and assigned control number 3069-0005 with an expiration date of November 30, 1999)

PART 936—COMMUNITY SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

Sec.

936.1 Definitions.

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AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1422a(a)(3)(B), 1422b(a)(1), 1429, and 1430.

SOURCE: 62 FR 28988, May 29, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 936.1 Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

(a) *Act* means the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1421, *et seq.*).

(b) *Advance* has the same meaning as in § 935.1 of this chapter.

(c) *Advisory Council* means the Advisory Council each Bank is required to establish pursuant to section 10(j)(11) of the Act and part 960 of this chapter.

(d) *Affordable Housing Program* or *AHP* means the program each Bank is required to establish pursuant to section

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10(j) of the Act and part 960 of this chapter.

(e) *Appropriate federal financial supervisory agency* means the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency for national banks; the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for state chartered banks that are members of the Federal Reserve System and bank holding companies; the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for state chartered banks and savings banks that are not members of the Federal Reserve System and the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and the Office of Thrift Supervision for savings associations the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and savings and loan holding companies.

(f) *Bank or Banks* means a Federal Home Loan Bank or the Federal Home Loan Banks.

(g) *CICA* or *Community Investment Cash Advance* has the same meaning as in § 935.1 of this chapter.

(h) *Community lending* has the same meaning as in § 970.3 of this chapter.

(i) *CRA* means the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, as amended (12 U.S.C. 2901, *et seq.*).

(j) *CRA evaluation* means the public disclosure portion of the CRA performance evaluation provided by a member's appropriate federal financial supervisory agency.

(k) *Finance Board* means the agency established as the Federal Housing Finance Board.

(l) *First-time homebuyer* means:

(1) An individual and his or her spouse, if any, who has had no present ownership interest in a principal residence during the three-year period prior to purchase of a principal residence.

(2) A displaced homemaker who, except for owning a residence with his or her spouse or residing in a residence owned by his or her spouse, meets the requirements of paragraph (1)(1) of this section. For purposes of this paragraph (1)(2), the term *displaced homemaker* means an adult who has not worked full-time, full-year in the labor force for a number of years and, during that period, worked primarily without remuneration to care for a home and

family, and currently is unemployed or underemployed and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment.

(3) A single parent who, except for owning a residence with his or her spouse or residing in a residence owned by his or her spouse, meets the requirements of paragraph (1)(1) of this section. For purposes of this paragraph (1)(3), the term *single parent* means an individual who is unmarried or legally separated from a spouse and has custody or joint custody of one or more minor children or is pregnant.

(m) *Long-term advance* means an advance with a term to maturity greater than one year.

(n) *Member* means an institution admitted to membership and owning capital stock in a Bank.

(o) *Restriction on access to long-term advances* means a member may not borrow long-term advances or renew any maturing advance for a term to maturity greater than one year.

[62 FR 28988, May 29, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 65545, Nov. 27, 1998]

§ 936.2 Community support requirement.

(a) *Selection for community support review.* The Finance Board shall select a member for community support review approximately once every two years.

(b) *Notice—(1) By the Finance Board.* The Finance Board concurrently shall:

(i) Notify each Bank of the members within its district that are required to submit community support statements during the calendar quarter; and

(ii) Publish a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER that includes the name and address of each member required to submit a community support statement during the calendar quarter, and the deadline for submission of the community support statement to the Finance Board. The deadline for submission of a community support statement shall be no earlier than 45 calendar days after the date of publication of the notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(2) *By the Banks.* Within 15 calendar days of the date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER of the notice required by paragraph (b)(1)(ii) of this section, a Bank shall provide written notice:

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(i) To each member within its district that is named in the FEDERAL REGISTER notice, that the member is required to submit a community support statement to the Finance Board by the deadline stated in the FEDERAL REGISTER notice; and

(ii) Its Advisory Council and non-profit housing developers, community groups, and other interested parties in its district of the name and address of each member within its district that is required to submit a community support statement during the calendar quarter.

(c) *Required documents.* Each member selected for community support review shall submit a completed Community Support Statement Form executed by an appropriate senior officer to the Finance Board and any other information the Finance Board may require to determine whether a member meets the community support standards.

(d) *Public comments.* In reviewing a member for compliance with the community support requirement, the Finance Board shall take into consideration any public comments it has received concerning the member.

(The Office of Management and Budget approved the information collection requirements contained in this section and assigned control number 3069-0003 with an expiration date of December 31, 1999.)

§ 936.3 Community support standards.

(a) *In general.* In reviewing a community support statement, the Finance Board shall take into account a member's performance under the CRA if the member is subject to the requirements of the CRA, and the member's record of lending to first-time homebuyers.

(b) *CRA standard—(1) Adequate performance.* A member that is subject to the requirements of the CRA shall be deemed to meet the CRA standard if the rating in the member's most recent CRA evaluation is "outstanding" or "satisfactory."

(2) *Probationary performance.* A member that is subject to the requirements of the CRA shall be subject to a probationary period if the rating in the member's most recent CRA evaluation is "needs to improve." The probationary period shall extend until the member's appropriate federal financial

supervisory agency completes its next CRA evaluation and issues a rating. The member will be eligible to receive long-term advances during the probationary period. If the member does not meet the CRA standard at the end of the probationary period, the Finance Board shall restrict the member's access to long-term advances in accordance with § 936.5.

(3) *Inadequate performance.* A member's access to long-term advances shall be restricted in accordance with § 936.5 if the rating in the member's most recent CRA evaluation is "substantial noncompliance."

(c) *First-time homebuyer standard—(1) Adequate performance.* In the absence of public comments or other information to the contrary, a member shall be presumed to meet the first-time homebuyer standard if the member is subject to the requirements of the CRA and the rating in the member's most recent CRA evaluation is "outstanding." In determining whether other members meet the first-time homebuyer standard, the Finance Board shall consider a member's description of its efforts to assist first-time or potential first-time homebuyers or its explanation of factors that affect its ability to assist first-time or potential first-time homebuyers. A member shall be deemed to meet the first-time homebuyer standard if the member otherwise demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Finance Board that it:

(i) Has an established record of lending to first-time homebuyers; or

(ii) Has a program whereby it actively seeks to lend or support lending to first-time homebuyers, including, but not limited to, the following:

(A) Providing special credit products with flexible underwriting standards for first-time homebuyers;

(B) Participating in federal, state, or local government, or nationwide homeownership lending programs that benefit, serve, or are targeted to, first-time homebuyers;

(C) Participating in loan consortia for first-time homebuyer loans or loans that serve predominantly low- or moderate-income borrowers; or

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(iii) Has a program whereby it actively seeks to assist or support organizations that assist potential first-time homebuyers to qualify for mortgage loans, including, but not limited to, the following:

(A) Providing, participating in, or supporting special counseling programs or other homeownership education activities that benefit, serve, or are targeted to, first-time homebuyers;

(B) Providing or participating in marketing plans and related outreach programs targeted to first-time homebuyers;

(C) Providing technical assistance of financial support to organizations that assist first-time homebuyers;

(D) Participating with or financially supporting community or nonprofit groups that assist first-time homebuyers;

(E) Holding investments or making loans that support first-time homebuyer programs;

(F) Holding mortgage-backed securities that may include a pool of loans to low- and moderate-income homebuyers;

(G) Participating or investing in service organizations that assist credit unions in providing mortgages; or

(H) Participating in Bank community lending programs; or

(iv) Has any combination of the elements described in paragraphs (c)(1)(i), (ii), or (iii) of this section.

(2) *Probationary performance.* If the evidence of first-time homebuyer performance is deemed to be unsatisfactory by the Finance Board, the member shall be subject to a one-year probationary period. The member will be eligible to receive long-term advances during the probationary period. If the member does not demonstrate compliance with the first-time homebuyer standard before the probationary period ends, the Finance Board shall restrict the member's access to long-term advances in accordance with § 936.5.

(3) *Inadequate performance.* A member's access to long-term advances shall be restricted in accordance with § 936.5 if the member provides no evidence of first-time homebuyer performance.

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(The Office of Management and Budget approved the information collection requirements contained in this section and assigned control number 3069-0003 with an expiration date of December 31, 1999.)

§ 936.4 Decision on community support statements.

(a) *Action on community support statements.* The Finance Board shall act on each community support statement in accordance with the requirements of § 936.3 within 75 calendar days of the date the Finance Board deems the community support statement to be complete. The Finance Board shall deem a community support statement complete when it has obtained all of the information required by this part and any other information it deems necessary to process the community support statement. If the Finance Board determines during the review process that additional information is necessary to process the community support statement, the Finance Board may deem the community support statement incomplete and stop the 75-day time period by providing written notice to the member. When the Finance Board receives the additional information, it shall again deem the community support statement complete and resume the 75-day time period where it stopped. The Finance Board shall have 10 calendar days in addition to the 75-day time period to act on a community support statement if the Finance Board receives the additional information on or after the seventieth day of the 75-day time period.

(b) *Decision on community support statements.* The Finance Board shall provide written notice to the member and the member's Bank of its determination regarding the community support statement submitted by the member. The notice shall identify the reasons for the Finance Board's determination.

§ 936.5 Restrictions on access to long-term advances.

(a) *Requirement.* The Finance Board shall restrict a member's access to long-term advances if the member:

(1) Failed to comply with the requirements of this part;

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(2) Submitted a community support statement that was not approved by the Finance Board;

(3) Did not receive a rating in a CRA evaluation of “outstanding” or “satisfactory” at the end of the probationary period described in § 936.3(b)(2); or

(4) Failed to provide evidence satisfactory to the Finance Board of its first-time homebuyer performance before the end of the probationary period described in § 936.3(c)(2).

(b) *Notice.* The Finance Board shall provide written notice to a member and the member’s Bank of its determination to restrict the member’s access to long-term advances, the member by certified mail, return receipt requested, and the member’s Bank by facsimile and by regular mail.

(c) *Effective date.* Restrictions on access to long-term advances shall take effect 30 days after the date the notices required under paragraph (b) of this section are mailed unless the member complies with the requirements of this part before the end of the 30-day period.

(d) *Removing restrictions.* (1) The Finance Board may remove restrictions on a member’s access to long-term advances imposed under this section:

(i) If the Finance Board determines that application of the restriction may adversely affect the safety and soundness of the member. A member may submit a written request to the Finance Board to remove a restriction on access to long-term advances under this paragraph (d)(1)(i). Such written request shall contain a clear and concise statement of the basis for the request, and a statement that application of the restriction may adversely affect the safety and soundness of the member from the member’s appropriate federal financial supervisory agency, or the National Credit Union Administration for a federally insured credit union member, or the member’s *appropriate state regulator* for a member that is not subject to regulation or supervision by a federal regulator. The Finance Board shall consider each written request within 30 calendar days of receipt. For purposes of this para-

graph (d)(1)(i), the term *appropriate state regulator* means any state officer, agency, supervisor, or other entity that has regulatory authority over, or is empowered to institute enforcement action against, a member.

(ii) If the Finance Board determines that the member subsequently has complied with the requirements of this part. A member may submit a written request to the Finance Board to remove a restriction on access to long-term advances under this paragraph (d)(1)(ii). Such written request shall state with specificity how the member has complied with the requirements of this part. The Finance Board shall consider each written request within 30 calendar days of receipt.

(2) The Finance Board shall place a member on probation in accordance with § 936.3(b)(2), if:

(i) The member’s access to long-term advances was restricted on the basis of the member’s inadequate performance under the CRA standard, as described in § 936.3(b)(3);

(ii) The rating in the member’s subsequent CRA evaluation is “needs to improve;” and

(iii) The member did not receive either a “substantial noncompliance” CRA rating or a “needs to improve” CRA rating immediately preceding the CRA rating on which the member’s inadequate performance under the CRA standard was based.

(3) The Finance Board shall provide written notice to the member and the member’s Bank of its determination under this paragraph (d), the member by certified mail, return receipt requested, and the member’s Bank by facsimile and by regular mail. The Finance Board’s determination shall take effect on the date the notices are mailed.

(e) *CICA.* A member that is subject to a restriction on access to long-term advances under this part shall not be eligible to participate in a CICA program offered under parts 960 and 970 of this

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chapter. The restriction in this paragraph (e) shall not apply to CICA applications or funding approved before the date the restriction is imposed.

(The Office of Management and Budget approved the information collection requirements contained in this section and assigned control number 3069–0003 with an expiration date of December 31, 1999.)

[62 FR 28988, May 29, 1997, as amended at 62 FR 46872, Sept. 5, 1997; 63 FR 65545, Nov. 27, 1998]

§ 936.6 Bank community support programs.

(a) *Requirement.* Consistent with the safe and sound operation of the Bank, each Bank shall establish and maintain a community support program. A Bank's community support program shall:

(1) Provide technical assistance to members;

(2) Promote and expand affordable housing finance;

(3) Identify opportunities for members to expand financial and credit services in underserved neighborhoods and communities; and

(4) Encourage members to increase their community lending and affordable housing finance activities by providing incentives such as awards or technical assistance to nonprofit housing developers or community groups with outstanding records of participation in community lending or affordable housing finance partnerships with members;

(5) Include an annual Community Lending Plan, approved by the Bank's board of directors and subject to modification, which shall require the Bank to:

(i) Conduct market research in the Bank's district;

(ii) Describe how the Bank will address identified credit needs and market opportunities in the Bank's district for community lending;

(iii) Consult with its Advisory Council and with members, nonmember borrowers, and public and private economic development organizations in the Bank's district in developing and implementing its Community Lending Plan; and

(iv) Establish quantitative community lending performance goals.

(b) *Notice.* A Bank shall provide annually to each of its members a written notice:

(1) Identifying CICA programs and other Bank activities that may provide opportunities for a member to meet the community support requirements and to engage in community lending; and

(2) Summarizing community lending and affordable housing activities undertaken by members, nonmember borrowers, nonprofit housing developers, community groups, or other entities in the Bank's district, that may provide opportunities for a member to meet the community support requirements and to engage in community lending.

[62 FR 28988, May 29, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 65545, Nov. 27, 1998]

§ 936.7 Reports.

Each Advisory Council annual report required to be submitted to the Finance Board pursuant to section 10(j)(11) of the Act shall include an analysis of the Bank's community lending and affordable housing activities.

[63 FR 65545, Nov. 27, 1998]

PART 937—FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE BANKS

Sec.

937.1 Definitions.

937.2 Requirement to provide financial and other information to the Finance Board.

937.3 Requirement for voluntary bank disclosure.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1422a, 1422b, 1426, 1431, and 1440.

SOURCE: 63 FR 39704, July 24, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

§ 937.1 Definitions.

As used in this part:

Bank means a Federal Home Loan Bank established under the authority of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1421 *et seq.*).

Finance Board means the agency established as the Federal Housing Finance Board.

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§ 937.2 Requirement to provide financial and other information to the Finance Board.

In order to facilitate the preparation by the Finance Board of combined Bank System annual and quarterly reports, each Bank shall provide to the Finance Board in such form and within such timeframes as the Finance Board shall specify, all financial and other information the Finance Board shall request for that purpose.

§ 937.3 Requirement for voluntary bank disclosure.

Any financial statements contained in an annual or quarterly financial report issued by an individual Bank must be consistent in both form and content with the financial statements presented in the combined Bank System annual or quarterly financial reports prepared and issued by the Finance Board.

PART 938—STANDBY LETTERS OF CREDIT

Sec.

938.1 Definitions.

938.2 Standby letters of credit on behalf of members.

938.3 Standby letters of credit on behalf of nonmember mortgagees.

938.4 Obligation to Bank under all standby letters of credit.

938.5 Additional provisions applying to all standby letters of credit.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1422b, 1429, 1430, 1430b, 1431.

SOURCE: 63 FR 65699, Nov. 30, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

§ 938.1 Definitions.

As used in this part:

Act means the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1421–49).

Applicant means a person or entity at whose request or for whose account a standby letter of credit is issued.

Bank means a Federal Home Loan Bank established under the authority of the Act.

Beneficiary means a person or entity who, under the terms of a standby letter of credit, is entitled to have its complying presentation honored.

Community Lending has the meaning set forth in § 970.4 of this chapter.

Confirm means to undertake, at the request or with the consent of the issuer, to honor a presentation under a standby letter of credit issued by a member or nonmember mortgagee.

Document means a draft or other demand, document of title, investment security, certificate, invoice, or other record, statement, or representation of fact, law, right, or opinion that is presented under the terms of a standby letter of credit.

Finance Board means the agency established by the Act as the Federal Housing Finance Board.

Issuer means a person or entity that issues a standby letter of credit.

Member means an institution that has been approved for membership in a Bank and has purchased capital stock in the Bank in accordance with §§ 933.20 and 933.24 of this chapter.

Nonmember mortgagee means an entity certified as a nonmember mortgagee pursuant to § 935.22(b) of this chapter.

Nonmember SHFA means a nonmember mortgagee that is a “state housing finance agency,” as that term is defined in § 935.1 of this chapter, and that has met the requirements of § 935.22(d) of this chapter.

Presentation means delivery of a document to an issuer, or an entity that has undertaken a confirmation at the request or with the consent of the issuer, for the giving of value under a standby letter of credit.

Residential housing finance means:

(1) The purchase or funding of “residential housing finance assets,” as that term is defined in § 935.1 of this chapter; or

(2) Other activities that support the development or construction of residential housing.

Small business means a “small business concern,” as that term is defined by section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)) and implemented by the Small Business Administration at 13 CFR part 121, or any successor provisions.

Standby letter of credit means a definite undertaking by an issuer on behalf of an applicant that represents an obligation to the beneficiary, pursuant to a complying presentation: to repay

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money borrowed by, advanced to, or for the account of the applicant; to make payment on account of any indebtedness undertaken by the applicant; or to make payment on account of any default by the applicant in the performance of an obligation. The term *standby letter of credit* does not include a commercial letter of credit, or any short-term self-liquidating instrument used to finance the movement of goods.

§ 938.2 Standby letters of credit on behalf of members.

(a) *Authority and purposes.* Each Bank is authorized to issue or confirm on behalf of members standby letters of credit that comply with the requirements of this part, for any of the following purposes:

(1) To assist members in facilitating residential housing finance;

(2) To assist members in facilitating community lending that is eligible for any of the Banks' CICA programs under part 970 of this chapter;

(3) To assist members with asset/liability management; or

(4) To provide members with liquidity or other funding.

(b) *Fully secured.* A Bank, at the time it issues or confirms a standby letter of credit on behalf of a member, shall obtain and maintain a security interest in collateral that is sufficient to secure fully the member's unconditional obligation described in § 938.4(a)(2) of this part, and that complies with the requirements set forth in paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) *Eligible collateral.* (1) Any standby letter of credit issued or confirmed on behalf of a member may be secured by collateral that is eligible to secure advances under § 935.9(a) of this chapter. Only standby letters of credit issued for the purposes described in paragraphs (a)(3) or (a)(4) of this section shall be counted in making the calculation required under § 935.9(a)(4)(iii).

(2) A standby letter of credit issued or confirmed on behalf of a member for a purpose described in paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section may, in addition to the collateral described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, be secured by:

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(i) Secured or federally-guaranteed loans to small businesses or securities representing interests in such loans; or

(ii) Obligations of state or local government units or agencies, rated as investment grade by a nationally-recognized rating agency.

§ 938.3 Standby letters of credit on behalf of nonmember mortgagees.

(a) *Nonmember mortgagees.* Each Bank is authorized to issue or confirm on behalf of nonmember mortgagees standby letters of credit that are fully secured by collateral described in §§ 935.24(b)(1)(i) or (ii) of this chapter, and that otherwise comply with the requirements of this part, for any of the following purposes:

(1) To assist nonmember mortgagees in facilitating residential housing finance;

(2) To assist nonmember mortgagees in facilitating community lending that is eligible for any of the Banks' CICA programs under part 970 of this chapter;

(3) To assist nonmember mortgagees with asset/liability management; or

(4) To provide nonmember mortgagees with liquidity or other funding.

(b) *Nonmember SHFAs.* Each Bank is authorized to issue or confirm on behalf of nonmember SHFAs standby letters of credit that are fully secured by collateral described in § 935.24(b)(2)(i)(A), (B) or (C) of this chapter, and that otherwise comply with the requirements of this part, for the purpose of facilitating residential or commercial mortgage lending that benefits individuals or families meeting the income requirements in section 142(d) or 143(f) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 142(d) or 143(f)).

§ 938.4 Obligation to Bank under all standby letters of credit.

(a) *Obligation to reimburse.* A Bank may issue or confirm a standby letter of credit only on behalf of a member or nonmember mortgagee that has:

(1) Established with the Bank a cash account pursuant to §§ 934.5, 935.24(b)(2)(i)(B) or 935.24(d) of this chapter; and

(2) Assumed an unconditional obligation to reimburse the Bank for value given by the Bank to the beneficiary

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under the terms of the standby letter of credit by depositing immediately available funds into the account described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section not later than the date of the Bank's payment of funds to the beneficiary.

(b) *Prompt action to recover funds.* If a member or nonmember mortgagee fails to fulfill the obligation described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the Bank shall take action promptly to recover the funds that such member or nonmember mortgagee is obligated to repay.

(c) *Obligation financed by advance.* Notwithstanding the obligations and duties of the Bank and its member or nonmember mortgagee under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, the Bank may, at its discretion, permit such member or nonmember mortgagee to finance repayment of the obligation described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section by receiving an advance that complies with sections 10 or 10b of the Act and part 935 of this chapter.

§ 938.5 Additional provisions applying to all standby letters of credit.

(a) *Written policy; other requirements.* Each standby letter of credit issued or confirmed by a Bank shall:

(1) Be issued or confirmed only in compliance with a written policy, developed and implemented by the Bank to govern its standby letter of credit programs, that:

(i) Is consistent with the provisions of the Act and this part;

(ii) Sets forth credit underwriting criteria, consistent with the provisions of § 935.5 of this chapter, to be applied in evaluating applications for standby letters of credit and renewals thereof;

(iii) Sets forth criteria regarding the pricing of standby letters of credit, including any special pricing provisions for letters of credit that facilitate the financing of projects that are eligible for any of the Banks' CICA programs under part 970 of this chapter; and

(iv) Provides that, for any draw made by a beneficiary under a standby letter of credit, the applicant will be charged a processing fee calculated in accordance with the requirements of § 943.6(b) of this chapter;

(2) Contain a specific expiration date, or be for a specific term; and

(3) Require approval in advance by the Bank of any transfer of the standby letter of credit from the original beneficiary to another person or entity;

(b) *Additional collateral provisions.* (1) A Bank may take such steps as it deems necessary to protect its secured position on standby letters of credit, including requiring additional collateral, whether or not such additional collateral conforms to the requirements of §§ 938.2 or 938.3 of this part.

(2) Collateral pledged by a member or nonmember mortgagee to secure a letter of credit issued or confirmed on its behalf by a Bank shall be subject to the provisions of §§ 935.9(b), 935.9(d), 935.9(e), 935.10, 935.11 and 935.12 of this chapter.

PARTS 939–940 [RESERVED]

PART 941—OPERATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF FINANCE

Sec.

941.1 Definitions.

941.2 General.

941.3 Federal Housing Finance Board oversight.

941.4 Office of Finance.

941.5 Functions of the Office of Finance.

941.6 Director of the Office of Finance.

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941.8 Powers of the Office of Finance Board of Directors.

941.9 Duties of the Office of Finance Board of Directors.

941.10 Meetings of the Office of Finance Board of Directors.

941.11 Budget, funding and expenses.

941.12 Savings clause.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1422b, 1431.

SOURCE: 57 FR 2834, Jan. 24, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

§ 941.1 Definitions.

In this part, the following terms mean:

Bank. A Federal Home Loan Bank.

Bank Act. The Federal Home Loan Bank Act.

Bank System. The Federal Home Loan Bank System, consisting of the twelve Federal Home Loan Banks and including the Office of Finance as a joint office of the Federal Home Loan Banks.

Chair. The Chairperson of the Office of Finance Board of Directors.

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Consolidated obligation. A Federal Home Loan Bank consolidated debenture, bond or note issued under authority of section 11 of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1431).

Director. The Director of the Office of Finance.

Finance Board. The Federal Housing Finance Board.

OF Board of Directors. The three member administrative body responsible for management of the Office of Finance.

§941.2 General.

This part reorganizes the Office of Finance, a joint office of the Bank System, establishes the OF Board of Directors as the body responsible for the management and operations of the Office of Finance, and defines their respective duties and responsibilities.

§941.3 Federal Housing Finance Board oversight.

(a) Section 12(a) of the Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1432(a)) provides that all activities of a Bank are subject to the approval of the Finance Board. The Finance Board retains the same oversight authority over the Office of Finance and the OF Board of Directors as it has over a Bank and its respective board of directors.

(b) Pursuant to section 20 of the Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1440), the Finance Board shall audit and examine the Office of Finance, the OF Board of Directors and the Office of Finance Operations Imprest Fund.

§941.4 Office of Finance.

(a) *Establishment.* An Office of Finance is hereby established which shall have the responsibilities, duties and functions described herein.

(b) *Status.* The Office of Finance is recognized as a joint office of the Bank System.

(c) *Mission.* The Office of Finance shall:

(1) Issue the consolidated obligations pursuant to section 11 of the Bank Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1431);

(2) Perform all other necessary and proper functions in relation to the consolidated obligations, as fiscal agent on behalf of the Banks; and

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(3) Undertake any other activities expressly approved by the Finance Board.

§941.5 Functions of the Office of Finance.

Subject to limitations set by the OF Board of Directors, the Office of Finance shall have the following duties and functions:

(a) Conduct all negotiations relating to the public or private offering and sale of consolidated obligations, and perform such other related functions as may be authorized by resolution of the Finance Board;

(b) Perform such functions for the Financing Corporation and/or the Resolution Funding Corporation, on behalf of the Banks, as may be requested by each such entity; and

(c) Make timely payments on behalf of the Banks of principal and interest due on all consolidated obligations issued pursuant hereto.

§941.6 Director of the Office of Finance.

(a) The Office of Finance shall be headed by a Director who shall be responsible for the overall daily management of the Office of Finance functions and organization, including:

(1) Implementation of the OF Board of Directors' plans and policies for the administration of the Office of Finance;

(2) Organization and development of the personnel structure of the Office of Finance;

(3) Employment and management of personnel;

(4) Preparation of the budget for presentation to the OF Board of Directors pursuant to §941.11; and

(5) Performance of any duty assigned by the OF Board of Directors, including providing it any records, reports or other data in the possession of the Office of Finance whenever requested to do so.

(b) The Director shall perform the duties described herein and the functions of the Office of Finance subject to the policies adopted by the OF Board of Directors.

(c) The Director shall be:

(1) The Fiscal Agent of the Federal Home Loan Banks;

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(2) A member of the Directorate of the Financing Corporation, pursuant to section 21(b)(1)(A) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1441(b)(1)(A)); and

(3) A member of the Directorate of the Resolution Funding Corporation, pursuant to section 21B(c)(1)(A) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1441b(c)(1)(A)).

[57 FR 2834, Jan. 24, 1992, as amended at 57 FR 11429, Apr. 3, 1992]

§941.7 Office of Finance Board of Directors.

(a) *Establishment.* The Office of Finance Board of Directors is hereby created.

(b) *Use of facilities or personnel.* The OF Board of Directors may utilize the facilities or personnel of the Office of Finance or any Bank in order to perform its functions.

(c) *Membership.* The OF Board of Directors shall consist of three part-time members appointed by the Finance Board as follows:

(1) *Bank System.* Two Bank Presidents; and

(2) *Private Citizen.* A citizen of the United States with a demonstrated expertise in financial markets. Such appointee may not be an officer, director or employee of a Bank or Bank System member, hold shares, or any other financial interest in, any member of a Bank, or be affiliated with any FHLBank consolidated obligation selling or dealer group member under contract with the Office of Finance.

(d) *Terms*—(1) *Length.* Except is provided in paragraphs (d)(3) and (4) of this section, the OF Board of Directors shall serve at the pleasure of the Finance Board or for terms, which shall be staggered, of three years beginning on April 1.

(2) *Vacancy.* The Finance Board shall fill any vacancy occurring on the OF Board of Directors. An appointment to fill a vacancy shall be only for the remainder of the term during which the vacancy occurred.

(3) *Holdover.* At the direction of the Finance Board, any member of the OF Board of Directors is authorized to continue to serve on the OF Board of Directors after the expiration of the

member's term until a successor has been appointed by the Finance Board.

(4) *Initial terms.* Notwithstanding paragraph (d)(1) herein, the terms of the members of the first OF Board of Directors convened pursuant to this part shall be as follows:

(i) One of the Bank President members shall serve from the date of appointment until March 31, 1993 or at the pleasure of the Finance Board and the other shall serve from the date of appointment until March 31, 1994 or at the pleasure of the Finance Board.

(ii) The Private Citizen member shall serve from the date of appointment until March 31, 1995 or at the pleasure of the Finance Board.

(e) *Chair.* (1) The Finance Board shall designate one member of the OF Board of Directors as the Chair, and another member as the Vice Chair.

(2) The Chair shall preside over the meetings of the OF Board of Directors. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall preside.

(3) The Chair shall be responsible for ensuring that the directives and resolutions of the OF Board of Directors are drafted and maintained and for keeping the minutes of all meetings.

(f) *Compensation*—(1) *Bank System members.* (i) The Bank President members shall not receive any additional compensation or reimbursement as a result of their service on the OF Board of Directors.

(ii) Each Bank is authorized to continue to pay its President a salary during attendance at the OF Board of Directors meetings and to pay in accordance with the travel and expense reimbursement policies in effect at such President's Bank such President's travel and *per diem* expenses for attendance at OF Board of Directors meetings.

(iii) Each Bank shall be entitled to be reimbursed by the Office of Finance for its expenditure of travel and *per diem* expenses associated with its Bank President's attendance at OF Board of Directors meetings as a member thereof.

(2) *Private Citizen member.* The Office of Finance shall pay compensation and expenses to the Private Citizen member of the OF board of directors in accordance with the requirements for payment of compensation and expenses

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to Bank directors set forth in §932.17 of this chapter, except that, for these purposes:

(i) The Office of Finance policy on director compensation must be approved by the board of directors of the Finance Board;

(ii) Section 932.17(a)(3) and (c)(1)(ii) of this chapter shall not apply; and

(iii) The terms “average compensation per director” and “ACPD,” as used in §932.17 of this chapter, shall be deemed to mean “maximum compensation of the Private Citizen member”.

[57 FR 2834, Jan. 24, 1992, as amended at 57 FR 11429, Apr. 3, 1992; 61 FR 43155, Aug. 21, 1996; 63 FR 65693, Nov. 30, 1998]

§941.8 Powers of the Office of Finance Board of Directors.

(a) *General.* The OF Board of Directors shall enjoy such incidental powers under section 12(a) of the Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1432(a)), as are necessary, convenient and proper to accomplish the efficient operation and management of the Office of Finance pursuant to this part.

(b) *Agent.* Subject to any limitations set by the Finance Board, the OF Board of Directors, in the performance of its duties, shall have the power to act:

(1) On behalf of the Finance Board in the issuing of consolidated obligations; and

(2) On behalf of the Banks in the paying of principal and interest due on the consolidated obligations.

(c) *Delegation.* The OF Board of Directors shall be empowered to delegate any of its powers to any employee of the Office of Finance in order to enable the Office of Finance to carry out its functions.

(d) *Indemnification.* (1) The OF Board of Directors is empowered to determine the terms and conditions under which its members, the Director, and other officers and employees of the Office of Finance will be indemnified by the Office of Finance, provided: that such terms and conditions will not be inconsistent with terms and conditions of indemnification of directors, officers and employees of the Bank System, generally.

(2) Such indemnification procedures, when duly adopted, may be supple-

mented by a contract of insurance, and all expenses incident to indemnification will be treated as an expense of the Office of Finance.

[57 FR 2834, Jan. 24, 1992, as amended at 57 FR 11429, Apr. 3, 1992]

§941.9 Duties of the Office of Finance Board of Directors.

(a) *General*—(1) *Bylaws.* The OF Board of Directors shall adopt bylaws governing its operations and issue such guidance or instructions as will promote the efficient operation of the Office of Finance.

(2) *Conduct of Business.* The OF Board of Directors shall conduct its business by majority vote of its members convened at a meeting in accordance with its bylaws.

(b) *Oversight.* The OF Board of Directors shall:

(1) Have overall responsibility for the performance of the duties and functions of the Office of Finance pursuant hereto and for its efficient and effective operation;

(2) Set policies for the Office of Finance;

(3) Approve a strategic business plan for the Office of Finance and monitor the progress of its operations under such plan;

(4) Subject to Finance Board approval, review, adopt and monitor the annual operating budget of the Office of Finance including any supplemental expenditure thereto;

(5) Develop and implement the pricing mechanism by which the Office of Finance will make private or public offerings of consolidated obligations, in consultation with the Finance Board or its designee;

(6) Subject to Finance Board approval, select and employ the Director under an annual contract of employment;

(7) Review and approve all contracts of the Office of Finance; and

(8) Assume any other responsibilities that may from time to time be delegated to it by the Finance Board.

§941.10 Meetings of the Office of Finance Board of Directors.

(a) *Meetings.* (1) The OF Board of Directors shall adopt procedures for holding meetings which shall be set forth in

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the bylaws and such meetings shall be held not less than once each quarter of each year.

(2) Due notice shall be given to the Finance Board by the Chair prior to each meeting.

(b) *Quorum.* A quorum for purposes of OF Board of Directors meetings shall be at least two members.

[57 FR 2834, Jan. 24, 1992, as amended at 57 FR 11429, Apr. 3, 1992]

§ 941.11 Budget, funding and expenses.

(a) *General.* The budget of the Office of Finance shall be calculated on a calendar year basis.

(b) *Initial review.* The OF Board of Directors shall be responsible for initially reviewing and approving the budget of the Office of Finance, which shall include the budget for the OF Board of Directors.

(c) *Agency review.* After its approval of the budget, pursuant to paragraph (b) herein, the OF Board of Directors annually shall submit the Office of Finance budget to the Finance Board for its review and approval. Upon approval by the Finance Board, the OF Board of Directors shall transmit a copy of the budget to each of the Bank Presidents.

(d) *Expenses.* Upon the approval of the budget by the Finance Board in accordance with paragraph (c) herein, the OF Board of Directors may authorize the Director to make payments pursuant to the budget as necessary.

(e) *Imprest fund—(1) Checking account.* The Office of Finance shall establish a checking account in a financial depository institution approved by the OF Board of Directors, to be called the “Office of Finance Operations Imprest Fund.” The Director shall maintain an amount therein approved by the OF Board of Directors.

(2) *Use.* The funds in such checking account shall be:

(i) Available for expenses of the Office of Finance and the OF Board of Directors, according to their approved budgets; and

(ii) Subject to withdrawal by check or draft signed by the Director or other person designated by the OF Board of Directors.

(f) *Funding—(1) General.* The Bank System is responsible for funding the

expenses of the Office of Finance and the OF Board of Directors.

(2) *Method.* (i) The Banks shall jointly fund the Office of Finance by periodically reimbursing the Office of Finance Operations Imprest Fund in order to maintain in such Fund the amount approved in paragraph (e)(1) herein.

(ii) Each Bank’s respective *pro rata* share of the reimbursement described in paragraph (f)(2)(i) herein shall be based on the ratio of the total paid-in value of its capital stock relative to the total paid-in value of all capital stock in the Bank System.

(iii) Notwithstanding the formula devised herein, the OF Board of Directors may devise an alternative formula for determining each Bank’s respective share of Office of Finance expenses. Upon approval by the Finance Board, such alternative formula shall supersede the formula devised herein.

(3) *Payment.* Each Bank from time to time shall promptly forward funds to the Office of Finance in an amount representing its share of the reimbursement described in paragraph (f)(2)(i) herein when directed to do so by the Director pursuant to procedures of the OF Board of Directors.

(4) *Receipt.* All Bank funds received by the Office of Finance pursuant to this section shall be promptly deposited into the checking account described in paragraph (e)(1) herein and disbursed according to this part.

(5) *Procedures.* The OF Board of Directors shall adopt procedures governing the payment or reimbursement of expenses of the Office of Finance and the OF Board of Directors.

§ 941.12 Savings clause.

(a) The Office of Finance Operations Imprest Fund is available to pay for all expenses of the Office of Finance existing prior to the adoption of this part.

(b) All actions taken by the Office of Finance as it existed prior to the adoption of this part continue to be valid as regards the Finance Board and the Bank System.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of this part, the Office of Finance or its Director may continue to exercise any powers delegated to it by the Finance Board or the former Federal Home

Loan Bank Board, which they exercise on the date of the adoption of this part, until the first meeting of the OF Board of Directors created pursuant hereto.

PART 942 [RESERVED]

PART 943—COLLECTION, SETTLEMENT, AND PROCESSING OF PAYMENT INSTRUMENTS

Sec.

943.1 Authority and scope.

943.2 Definitions.

943.3 General provisions.

943.4 Incidental powers.

943.5 Operations.

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943.7 Rights, powers, responsibilities, duties, and liabilities.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1430, 1431.

SOURCE: 45 FR 64164, Sept. 29, 1980, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989.

§ 943.1 Authority and scope.

(a) Pursuant to section 11(e)(2) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1431(e)(2)) (Bank Act), the Board has promulgated this part governing the collection, processing, and settlement, and services incidental thereto, of drafts, checks, and other negotiable and nonnegotiable items and instruments by Federal Home Loan Banks. Settlement, collection, and processing include the following activities as defined in this part: Account processing, data processing, data communication, issuance of forms, transportation of items, and storage services.

(b) Any activity authorized by section 11(e)(2) of the Bank Act shall be governed by the provisions of this part.

§ 943.2 Definitions.

(a) Unless otherwise defined in this part, the terms used in this part shall conform, in the following order, to: Regulations of the Board, the Uniform Commercial Code, regulations of the Federal Reserve System, and general banking usage.

(b) The term *account processing* includes charging, crediting, and settling of member or eligible institution accounts, excluding individual customer accounts.

(c) As used in this part, the term *assets* includes furniture and equipment, leasehold improvements, and capitalized start-up costs.

(d) The term *data processing* includes capture, storage, and assembling of, and computation of, data from payment instruments received from Federal Reserve offices, Federal Home Loan Banks, clearinghouse associations, depository institutions, and other direct sending entities.

(e) The term *data communication* means transmitting and receiving of data to or from Federal Home Loan Banks, Federal Reserve offices, clearinghouse associations, depository institutions or their service bureaus, and other direct sending entities, arrangement for delivery of information; and telephone inquiry service.

(f) The term *eligible institution* means any institution eligible to make application to become a member of a Federal Home Loan Bank under section 4 of the Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1424).

(g) The term *issuance of forms* means the designation and distribution of standardized forms for use in collection, processing, and settlement services.

(h) The term *presentment* means a demand for acceptance or payment made upon the maker, acceptor, drawee or other payor by or on behalf of the holder, and may involve the use of electronic transmission of an instrument or item or transmission of data from the instrument or item by electronic or mechanical means.

(i) The term *statement packaging* includes receiving statement information from members or eligible institutions or their service bureaus on respective customer cycle dates; printing statements; matching customer account statements; packaging the statements with appropriate items and informational materials, as authorized by individual members and eligible institutions, for distribution to their customers; sending the packages to the members or eligible institutions or mailing the packages directly to their customers.

(j) The term *storage services* includes filing, storage, and truncation of items.

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(k) The term *transportation of items* includes transporting items from Federal Reserve offices, other Federal Home Loan Banks clearinghouse associations, depository institutions, and other direct sending entities to a Federal Home Loan Bank; forwarding items to financial institutions after sorting and forwarding cash items or return items to Federal Reserve offices and other sending entities.

§ 943.3 General provisions.

The Federal Home Loan Banks are authorized (a) to engage in, be agents or intermediaries for, or otherwise participate or assist in, the processing, collection, and settlement of checks, drafts, or any other negotiable or non-negotiable items and instruments of payment drawn on eligible institutions or Bank members; and (b) to be drawees of checks, drafts, and other negotiable and nonnegotiable items and instruments issued by eligible institutions or Bank members.

§ 943.4 Incidental powers.

In connection with the collection, processing, and settlement of items and instruments drawn on or issued by eligible institutions or Bank members, a Federal Home Loan Bank may also perform the following services, as defined in § 943.2:

(a) Statement packaging; and

(b) Any other activity that the Board shall, from time to time, after notice and comment, find necessary for the exercise of the authority of this part.

[45 FR 64164, Sept. 29, 1980, as amended at 55 FR 2231, Jan. 23, 1990]

§ 943.5 Operations.

A Federal Home Loan Bank may utilize the services of a Federal Reserve Bank and may become a member or use the services of a clearinghouse, public or private financial institution, or agency in the exercise of any powers or functions under this part.

§ 943.6 Pricing of services.

(a) *General.* Federal Home Loan Banks shall charge for services author-

ized in this part in a manner consistent with the principles of section 11(A)(c) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 248a(c)), as interpreted by this part.

(b) *Payment instrument account services.* (1) In determining the fees for services provided under this part, a Federal Home Loan Bank must take into account all direct and indirect costs of providing the services.

(2) Prices must reflect the imputed rate of return that would have been earned and the taxes that would have been paid if the Bank were a private corporation, by using a cost of capital adjustment factor applied to those assets used in providing services authorized under this part.

(c) *Review and publication.* The Finance Board shall from time to time and at least annually review the cost of capital adjustment factor and review prices for services authorized in this part for compliance with the principles set forth in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section. All prices for Bank services authorized in this part will be published annually in the FEDERAL REGISTER, except those for fees charged to an applicant for draws made by a beneficiary under a standby letter of credit.

[12 U.S.C. 1431(e); Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1947, 12 FR 4981, 3 CFR, 1943-48 Comp., p. 1071]

[45 FR 64164, Sept. 29, 1980, as amended at 46 FR 38900, July 30, 1981. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989, and amended at 58 FR 59936, Nov. 12, 1993; 60 FR 57682, Nov. 17, 1995; 63 FR 65700, Nov. 30, 1998]

§ 943.7 Rights, powers, responsibilities, duties, and liabilities.

To the extent it is not inconsistent with other provisions of this part, the Uniform Commercial Code governs the rights, powers, responsibilities, duties, and liabilities of Federal Home Loan Banks in the exercise of their authority under this part. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “bank,” as used in the Uniform Commercial Code and clearinghouse rules, includes Federal Home Loan Banks and their members and eligible institutions.

PART 944 [RESERVED]

SUBCHAPTER C—FINANCING CORPORATION

PART 950—OPERATIONS

- Sec.
950.1 Definitions.
950.2 General authority.
950.3 Authority to establish investment policies and procedures.
950.4 Book-entry procedure for Financing Corporation obligations.
950.5 Bank and Office of Finance employees.
950.6 Budget and expenses.
950.7 Administrative expenses.
950.8 Non-administrative expenses; assessments.
950.9 Reports to the Finance Board.
950.10 Review of books and records.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1441(b)(8), (c), and (j).

SOURCE: 62 FR 50248, Sept. 25, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 950.1 Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

(a) *Act* means the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1421 *et seq.*).

(b) *Administrative expenses*:

(1) Include general office and operating expenses such as telephone and photocopy charges, printing, legal, and professional fees, postage, courier services, and office supplies; and

(2) Do not include any form of employee compensation, custodian fees, issuance costs, or any interest on (and any redemption premium with respect to) any Financing Corporation obligations.

(c) *Bank* or *Banks* means a Federal Home Loan Bank or the Federal Home Loan Banks.

(d) *BIF-assessable deposit* means a deposit that is subject to assessment for purposes of the Bank Insurance Fund under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1811 *et seq.*), including a deposit that is treated as a deposit insured by the Bank Insurance Fund under section 5(d)(3) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(e) *Custodian fees* means any fee incurred by the Financing Corporation in connection with the transfer of any security to, or maintenance of any security in, the segregated account established under section 21(g)(2) of the Act, and any other expense incurred by the Financing Corporation in connection

with the establishment or maintenance of such account.

(f) *Directorate* means the board established under section 21(b) of the Act to manage the Financing Corporation.

(g) *Exit fees* means the amounts paid under sections 5(d)(2)(E) and (F) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, and regulations promulgated thereunder (12 CFR part 312).

(h) *FDIC* means the agency established as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

(i) *Finance Board* means the agency established as the Federal Housing Finance Board.

(j) *Insured depository institution* has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(k) *Issuance costs* means issuance fees and commissions incurred by the Financing Corporation in connection with the issuance or servicing of Financing Corporation obligations, including legal and accounting expenses, trustee, fiscal, and paying agent charges, securities processing charges, joint collection agent charges, advertising expenses, and costs incurred in connection with preparing and printing offering materials to the extent the Financing Corporation incurs such costs in connection with issuing any obligations.

(l) *Non-administrative expenses* means custodian fees, issuance costs, and interest on Financing Corporation obligations.

(m) *Obligations* means debentures, bonds, and similar debt securities issued by the Financing Corporation under sections 21(c)(3) and (e) of the Act.

(n) *Office of Finance* means the joint office of the Banks established under part 941 of this chapter.

(o) *Receivership proceeds* means the liquidating dividends and payments made on claims received by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation Resolution Fund established under section 11A of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act from receiverships, that are not required by the Resolution Funding Corporation to provide funds for the Funding Corporation Principal

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Fund established under section 21B of the Act.

(p) *SAIF-assessable deposit* means a deposit that is subject to assessment for purposes of the Savings Association Insurance Fund under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, including a deposit that is treated as a deposit insured by the Savings Association Insurance Fund under section 5(d)(3) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

§ 950.2 General authority.

Subject to the limitations and interpretations in this part and such orders and directions as the Finance Board may prescribe, the Financing Corporation shall have authority to exercise all powers and authorities granted to it by the Act and by its charter and by-laws regardless of whether the powers and authorities are specifically implemented in regulation.

§ 950.3 Authority to establish investment policies and procedures.

The Directorate shall have authority to establish investment policies and procedures with respect to Financing Corporation funds provided that the investment policies and procedures are consistent with the requirements of section 21(g) of the Act. The Directorate shall promptly notify the Finance Board in writing of any changes to the investment policies and procedures.

§ 950.4 Book-entry procedure for Financing Corporation obligations.

(a) *Authority.* Any Federal Reserve Bank shall have authority to apply book-entry procedure to Financing Corporation obligations.

(b) *Procedure.* The book-entry procedure for Financing Corporation obligations shall be governed by the book-entry procedure established for Bank securities, codified at part 912 of this chapter. Wherever the terms “Federal Home Loan Bank(s),” “Federal Home Loan Bank security(ies),” or “Book-entry Federal Home Loan Bank security(ies)” appear in part 912, the terms shall be construed also to mean “Financing Corporation,” “Financing Corporation obligation(s),” or “Book-entry Financing Corporation obligation(s),” respectively, if appropriate to

accomplish the purposes of this section.

§ 950.5 Bank and Office of Finance employees.

Without further approval of the Finance Board, the Financing Corporation shall have authority to utilize the officers, employees, or agents of any Bank or the Office of Finance in such manner as may be necessary to carry out its functions.

§ 950.6 Budget and expenses.

(a) *Directorate approval.* The Financing Corporation shall submit annually to the Directorate for approval, a budget of proposed expenditures for the next calendar year that includes administrative and non-administrative expenses.

(b) *Finance Board approval.* The Directorate shall submit annually to the Finance Board for approval, the budget of the Financing Corporation’s proposed expenditures it approved pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) *Spending limitation.* The Financing Corporation shall not exceed the amount provided for in the annual budget approved by the Finance Board pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section, or as it may be amended by the Directorate within limits set by the Finance Board.

(d) *Amended budgets.* Whenever the Financing Corporation projects or anticipates that it will incur expenditures, other than interest on Financing Corporation obligations, that exceed the amount provided for in the annual budget approved by the Finance Board or the Directorate pursuant to paragraph (b) or (c) of this section, the Financing Corporation shall submit an amended annual budget to the Directorate for approval, and the Directorate shall submit such amended budget to the Finance Board for approval.

§ 950.7 Administrative expenses.

(a) *Payment by Banks.* The Banks shall pay all administrative expenses of the Financing Corporation approved pursuant to § 950.6.

(b) *Amount.* The Financing Corporation shall determine the amount of administrative expenses each Bank shall

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pay in the manner provided by section 21(b)(7)(B) of the Act. The Financing Corporation shall bill each Bank for such amount periodically.

(c) *Adjustments.* The Financing Corporation shall adjust the amount of administrative expenses the Banks are required to pay in any calendar year pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, by deducting any funds that remain from the amount paid by the Banks for administrative expenses in the prior calendar year.

§ 950.8 Non-administrative expenses; assessments.

(a) *Interest expenses.* The Financing Corporation shall determine anticipated interest expenses on its obligations at least semiannually.

(b) *Assessments on insured depository institutions—(1) Authority.* To provide sufficient funds to pay the non-administrative expenses of the Financing Corporation approved under § 950.6, the Financing Corporation shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors of the FDIC, assess against each insured depository institution an assessment in the same manner as assessments are made by the FDIC under section 7 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(2) *Assessment rate—(i) Determination.* The Financing Corporation at least semiannually shall establish an assessment rate formula, which may include rounding methodology, to determine the rate or rates of the assessment it will assess against insured depository institutions pursuant to section 21(f)(2) of the Act and paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(ii) *Limitation.* Until the earlier of December 31, 1999, or the date as of which the last savings association ceases to exist, the rate of the assessment imposed on an insured depository institution with respect to any BIF-assessable deposit shall be a rate equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the rate of the assessment imposed on an insured depository institution with respect to any SAIF-assessable deposit.

(iii) *Notice.* The Financing Corporation shall notify the FDIC and the collection agent, if any, of the formula established under paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section.

(3) *Collecting assessments—(i) Collection agent.* The Financing Corporation

shall have authority to collect assessments made under section 21(f)(2) of the Act and paragraph (b)(1) of this section through a collection agent of its choosing.

(ii) *Accounts.* Each Bank shall permit any insured depository institution whose principal place of business is in its district to establish and maintain at least one demand deposit account to facilitate collection of the assessments made under section 21(f)(2) of the Act and paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(c) *Receivership proceeds—(1) Authority.* To the extent the amounts collected under paragraph (b) of this section are insufficient to pay the non-administrative expenses of the Financing Corporation approved under § 950.6, the Financing Corporation shall have authority to require the FDIC to transfer receivership proceeds to the Financing Corporation in accordance with section 21(f)(3) of the Act.

(2) *Procedure.* The Directorate shall request in writing that the FDIC transfer the receivership proceeds to the Financing Corporation. Such request shall specify the estimated amount of funds required to pay the non-administrative expenses of the Financing Corporation approved under § 950.6.

(d) *Exit fees—(1) Authority.* To the extent the amounts provided under paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section are insufficient to pay the interest due on Financing Corporation obligations, the Financing Corporation shall have authority to request that the Secretary of the Treasury order the transfer of exit fees to the Financing Corporation in accordance with section 5(d)(2)(E) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act or as otherwise may be provided for by statute.

(2) *Procedure.* The Directorate shall request in writing that the Secretary of the Treasury order that exit fees be transferred to the Financing Corporation. Such request shall specify the estimated amount of funds required to pay the interest due on Financing Corporation obligations.

§ 950.9 Reports to the Finance Board.

The Financing Corporation shall file such reports as the Finance Board shall direct.

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§ 950.10 Review of books and records.

The Finance Board shall examine the Financing Corporation at least annu-

ally to determine whether the Financing Corporation is performing its functions in accordance with the requirements of section 21 of the Act and this part.

SUBCHAPTER D—RESOLUTION FUNDING CORPORATION

PART 955—AUTHORITY FOR BANK ASSISTANCE

Sec.

955.1 Bank employees.

955.2 Demand deposit accounts.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 2A, 2B, as added by sec. 702, 103 Stat. 413, 414 (12 U.S.C. 1422a, 1422b).

§955.1 Bank employees.

Upon the request of the Directorate of the Resolution Funding Corporation, established pursuant to section 21B(b) of the Act, officers, employees, or agents of the Federal home loan banks are authorized to act for and on behalf of the Resolution Funding Corporation

in such manner as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Resolution Funding Corporation as provided in section 21B(c)(6)(B) of the Act.

[54 FR 39729, Sept. 28, 1989]

§955.2 Demand deposit accounts.

Each bank shall allow any Savings Association Insurance Fund member (“SAIF member”) whose principal place of business is in its district to establish and maintain at least one demand deposit account for the purpose of facilitating the Resolution Funding Corporation’s assessments pursuant to section 21B(e)(7) of the Act.

[54 FR 39729, Sept. 28, 1989]

SUBCHAPTER E—AFFORDABLE HOUSING

PART 960—AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM

Sec.

- 960.1 Definitions.
- 960.2 Required annual AHP contributions.
- 960.3 Operation of Program and adoption of AHP implementation plan.
- 960.4 Advisory Councils.
- 960.5 Minimum eligibility standards for AHP projects.
- 960.6 Procedure for approval of applications for funding.
- 960.7 Modifications of applications prior to project completion.
- 960.8 Procedure for funding.
- 960.9 Modifications of applications after project completion.
- 960.10 Initial monitoring requirements.
- 960.11 Long-term monitoring requirements.
- 960.12 Remedial actions for noncompliance.
- 960.13 Agreements.
- 960.14 Temporary suspension of AHP contributions.
- 960.15 Affordable Housing Reserve Fund.
- 960.16 Application to existing AHP projects.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1430(j).

SOURCE: 62 FR 41828, Aug. 4, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 960.1 Definitions.

As used in this part:

Act means the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1421 *et seq.*).

Advance means a loan to a member from a Bank that is:

(1) Provided pursuant to a written agreement; (2) Supported by a note or other written evidence of the member's obligation; and

(3) Fully secured by collateral in accordance with the Act and part 935 of this chapter.

Affordable means that the rent charged for a unit which is to be reserved for occupancy by a household with an income at or below 80 percent of the median income for the area, does not exceed 30 percent of the income of a household of the maximum income and size expected, under the commitment made in the AHP application, to occupy the unit (assuming occupancy of 1.5 persons per bedroom or 1.0 person per unit without a separate bedroom).

AHP or Program means the Affordable Housing Program established pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1430(j) and this part.

Bank means a Federal Home Loan Bank established under the authority of the Act.

Board of Directors means the Board of Directors of the Finance Board.

CIP means a Bank's Community Investment Program established under section 10(i) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1430(i)).

Cost of funds means, for purposes of a subsidized advance, the estimated cost of issuing Bank System consolidated obligations with maturities comparable to that of the subsidized advance.

Direct subsidy means an AHP subsidy in the form of a direct cash payment, but does not include homeownership set-aside funds.

Family member means any individual related to a person by blood, marriage or adoption.

Finance Board means the agency established as the Federal Housing Finance Board.

Habitable means suitable for occupancy, taking into account local health, safety, and building codes.

Homeless household means a household made up of one or more individuals, other than individuals imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to state or federal law, who:

(1) Lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; or

(2) Have a primary nighttime residence that is:

(i) A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);

(ii) An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or

(iii) A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Homeownership set-aside funds means funds provided to a member by a Bank

pursuant to a Bank's homeownership set-aside program.

HUD means the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Low-or moderate-income household. (1) *Owner-occupied projects.* For purposes of an owner-occupied project, *low-or moderate-income household* means a household which, at the time it is qualified by the sponsor for participation in the project, has an income of 80 percent or less of the median income for the area.

(2) *Rental projects.* (i) *In general.* For purposes of a rental project, *low-or moderate-income household* means a household which, upon initial occupancy of a rental unit, has an income at or below 80 percent of the median income for the area.

(ii) *Housing with current occupants.* In the case of projects involving the purchase or rehabilitation of rental housing with current occupants, *low-or moderate-income household* means an occupying household with an income at or below 80 percent of the median income for the area at the time an application for AHP subsidy is submitted to the Bank.

(3) *Family-size adjustment.* The income limit for *low-or moderate-income households* may be adjusted for family size in accordance with the methodology of the applicable median income standard.

Low-or moderate-income neighborhood means any neighborhood in which 51 percent or more of the households have incomes at or below 80 percent of the median income for the area.

Median income for the area. (1) *Owner-occupied projects.* A Bank shall identify in its AHP implementation plan one or more of the following median income standards from which all owner-occupied projects may choose for purposes of the AHP:

(i) The median income for the area, as published annually by HUD;

(ii) The applicable median family income, as determined under 26 U.S.C. 143(f) (Mortgage Revenue Bonds) and published by a State agency or instrumentality;

(iii) The median income for the area, as published by the United States Department of Agriculture; or

(iv) The median income for any definable geographic area, as published by a

federal, state, or local government entity for purposes of that entity's housing programs, and approved by the Board of Directors, at the request of a Bank, for use under the AHP.

(2) *Rental projects.* A Bank shall identify in its AHP implementation plan one or more of the following median income standards from which all rental projects may choose for purposes of the AHP:

(i) The median income for the area, as published annually by HUD; or

(ii) The median income for any definable geographic area, as published by a federal, state, or local government entity for purposes of that entity's housing programs, and approved by the Board of Directors, at the request of a Bank, for use under the AHP.

(3) *Procedure for approval.* Prior to requesting approval by the Board of Directors of a median income standard, a Bank shall amend its AHP implementation plan to permit the use of such standard, conditioned on Board of Directors approval. Requests for approval of median income standards shall receive prompt consideration by the Board of Directors.

Member means an institution that has been approved for membership in a Bank and has purchased capital stock in the Bank in accordance with §§ 933.20 and 933.24 of this chapter.

Net earnings of a Bank means the net earnings of a Bank for a calendar year after deducting the Bank's pro rata share of the annual contribution to the Resolution Funding Corporation required under sections 21A or 21B of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1441a, 1441b), and before declaring any dividend under section 16 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1436).

Owner-occupied project means a project involving the purchase, construction, or rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing, including condominiums and cooperative housing, by or for very low-or low-or moderate-income households.

Owner-occupied unit means a unit in an owner-occupied project. Housing with two to four dwelling units consisting of one owner-occupied unit and one or more rental units shall be considered a single owner-occupied unit.

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Rental project means a project involving the purchase, construction, or rehabilitation of rental housing, including overnight shelters and transitional housing for homeless households and mutual housing, where at least 20 percent of the units in the project are occupied by and affordable for very low-income households.

Retention period means:

- (1) 5 years from closing for an AHP-assisted owner-occupied unit; and
- (2) 15 years from the date of project completion for a rental project.

Sponsor means a not-for-profit or for-profit organization or public entity that:

- (1) Has an ownership interest (including any partnership interest) in a rental project; or
- (2) Is integrally involved in an owner-occupied project, such as by exercising control over the planning, development, or management of the project, or by qualifying borrowers and providing or arranging financing for the owners of the units.

State means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Subsidized advance means an advance to a member at an interest rate reduced below the Bank's cost of funds, by use of a subsidy.

Subsidy means:

- (1) A direct subsidy, provided that if a direct subsidy is used to write down the interest rate on a loan extended by a member, sponsor, or other party to a project, the subsidy shall equal the net present value of the interest foregone from making the loan below the lender's market interest rate (calculated as of the date the AHP application is submitted to the Bank, and subject to adjustment under § 960.8(c)(3));

- (2) The net present value of the interest revenue foregone from making a subsidized advance at a rate below the Bank's cost of funds, determined as of the earlier of the date of disbursement of the subsidized advance or the date prior to disbursement on which the Bank first manages the funding to support the subsidized advance through its asset/liability management system, or otherwise; or
- (3) Homeownership set-aside funds.

Very low-income household. (1) *Owner-occupied projects.* For purposes of an owner-occupied project, *very low-income household* means a household which, at the time it is qualified by the sponsor for participation in the project, has an income at or below 50 percent of the median income for the area.

(2) *Rental projects.* (i) *In general.* For purposes of a rental project, very low-income household means a household which, upon initial occupancy of a rental unit, has an income at or below 50 percent of the median income for the area.

(ii) *Housing with current occupants.* In the case of projects involving the purchase or rehabilitation of rental housing with current occupants, *very low-income household* means an occupying household with an income at or below 50 percent of the median income for the area at the time an application for AHP subsidy is submitted to the Bank.

(3) *Family-size adjustment.* The income limit for *very low-income households* may be adjusted for family size in accordance with the methodology of the applicable median income standard.

Visitable means, in either owner-occupied or rental housing, at least one entrance is at-grade (no steps) and approached by an accessible route such as a sidewalk, and the entrance door and all interior passage doors are at least 2 feet, 10 inches wide, offering 32 inches of clear passage space.

[62 FR 41828, Aug. 4, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 27672, May 20, 1998; 64 FR 24027, May 5, 1999]

§ 960.2 Required annual AHP contributions.

Each Bank shall contribute annually to its Program the greater of:

- (a) 10 percent of the Bank's net earnings for the previous year; or
- (b) That Bank's pro rata share of an aggregate of \$100 million to be contributed in total by the Banks, such proration being made on the basis of the net earnings of the Banks for the previous year.

§ 960.3 Operation of Program and adoption of AHP implementation plan.

- (a) *Allocation of AHP contributions—*(1) *Homeownership set-aside programs.* Each

Bank, after consultation with its Advisory Council, may set aside annually, in the aggregate, up to the greater of \$1.5 million or 15 percent of its annual required AHP contribution to provide funds to members participating in the Bank's homeownership set-aside programs, pursuant to the requirements of this part. In cases where the amount of homeownership set-aside funds applied for by members in a given year exceeds the amount available for that year, a Bank may allocate up to the greater of \$1.5 million or 15 percent of its annual required AHP contribution for the subsequent year to the current year's homeownership set-aside programs. A Bank may establish one or more homeownership set-aside programs pursuant to written policies adopted by the Bank's board of directors. A Bank's board of directors shall not delegate to Bank officers or other Bank employees the responsibility for adopting such policies.

(2) *Competitive application program.* That portion of a Bank's required annual AHP contribution that is not set aside to fund homeownership set-aside programs shall be provided to members through a competitive application program, pursuant to the requirements of this part.

(b) *AHP implementation plan*—(1) *Adoption of plan.* Each Bank's board of directors shall adopt a written AHP implementation plan which shall set forth:

(i) The applicable median income standard or standards, adopted by the Bank consistent with the definition of *median income for the area* in §960.1;

(ii) The requirements for any homeownership set-aside programs adopted by the Bank pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of this section;

(iii) The Bank's project feasibility guidelines, adopted consistent with §960.5(b)(2);

(iv) The Bank's schedule for AHP funding periods;

(v) Any additional District eligibility requirement, adopted by the Bank pursuant to §960.5(b)(10);

(vi) The Bank's scoring guidelines, adopted by the Bank consistent with §960.6(b)(4);

(vii) The Bank's time limits on use of AHP subsidies and procedures for

verifying compliance upon disbursement of AHP subsidies pursuant to §960.8; and

(viii) The Bank's procedures for carrying out its monitoring obligations under §§960.10(c) and 960.11.

(2) *No delegation.* A Bank's board of directors shall not delegate to Bank officers or other Bank employees the responsibility for adopting the AHP implementation plan, or any subsequent amendments thereto.

(3) *Advisory Council review.* Prior to adoption of the Bank's AHP implementation plan, and any subsequent amendments thereto, the Bank shall provide its Advisory Council an opportunity to review the plan and any subsequent amendments, and the Advisory Council shall provide its recommendations to the Bank's board of directors.

(4) *Submission of plan amendments to the Finance Board.* A Bank shall submit any amendments of its AHP implementation plan to the Finance Board within 30 days after the date the Bank's board of directors approves such amendments.

(5) *Public Access.* A Bank's initial AHP implementation plan, and any subsequent amendments, shall be made available to members of the public, upon request.

(c) *Conflicts of interest*—(1) *Bank directors and employees.* Each Bank's board of directors shall adopt a written policy providing that if a Bank director or employee, or such person's family member, has a financial interest in, or is a director, officer, or employee of an organization involved in, a project that is the subject of a pending or approved AHP application, the Bank director or employee shall not participate in or attempt to influence decisions by the Bank regarding the evaluation, approval, funding, monitoring or any remedial process for such project.

(2) *Advisory Council members.* Each Bank's board of directors shall adopt a written policy providing that if an Advisory Council member, or such person's family member, has a financial interest in, or is a director, officer, or employee of an organization involved in, a project that is the subject of a pending or approved AHP application, the Advisory Council member shall not participate in or attempt to influence

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decisions by the Bank regarding the approval for such project.

(3) *No delegation.* A Bank's board of directors shall not delegate to Bank officers or other Bank employees the responsibility to adopt conflicts of interest policies.

(d) *Reporting.* Each Bank shall provide such reports and documentation concerning its Program as the Finance Board may request from time to time.

[62 FR 41828, Aug. 4, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 24027, May 5, 1999]

§ 960.4 Advisory Councils.

(a) *In general.* Each Bank's board of directors shall appoint an Advisory Council of from 7 to 15 persons who reside in the Bank's District and are drawn from community and not-for-profit organizations actively involved in providing or promoting low- and moderate-income housing in the District.

(b) *Nominations and appointments.* Each Bank shall solicit nominations for membership on the Advisory Council from community and not-for-profit organizations pursuant to a nomination process that is as broad and as participatory as possible, allowing sufficient time for responses. The Bank's board of directors shall appoint Advisory Council members giving consideration to the size of the Bank's District and the diversity of low- and moderate-income housing needs and activities within the District.

(c) *Diversity of membership.* In appointing the Advisory Council, a Bank's board of directors shall ensure that the membership includes persons drawn from a diverse range of organizations, provided that representatives of no one group shall constitute an undue proportion of the membership of the Advisory Council.

(d) *Terms of Advisory Council members.* Advisory Council members shall be appointed by the Bank's board of directors to serve for terms of three years, and such terms shall be staggered to provide continuity in experience and service to the Advisory Council. An Advisory Council member appointed to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office. No Advisory Council member may be appointed to serve for

more than three consecutive terms. Appointments for the unexpired term of a predecessor shall not count toward the three-term limit.

(e) *Election of officers.* Each Advisory Council may elect from among its members a chairperson, a vice chairperson, and any other officers the Advisory Council deems appropriate.

(f) *Duties.—(1) Meetings with the Banks.* Representatives of the board of directors of the Bank shall meet with the Advisory Council at least quarterly to obtain the Advisory Council's advice on ways in which the Bank can better carry out its housing finance and community investment mission, including, but not limited to, advice on the low- and moderate-income housing and community investment programs and needs in the Bank's District, and on the use of AHP subsidies, Bank advances, and other Bank credit products for these purposes.

(2) *Summary of AHP applications.* The Bank shall comply with requests from the Advisory Council for summary information regarding AHP applications from prior funding periods.

(3) *Annual report to the Finance Board.* Each Advisory Council shall submit to the Finance Board annually by March 1 its analysis of the low- and moderate-income housing and community development activity of the Bank by which it is appointed.

(g) *Expenses.* The Bank shall pay Advisory Council members travel expenses, including transportation and subsistence, for each day devoted to attending meetings with representatives of the board of directors of the Bank and meetings requested by the Finance Board.

[62 FR 41828, Aug. 4, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 27672, May 20, 1998]

§ 960.5 Minimum eligibility standards for AHP projects.

(a) *Homeownership set-aside programs.* A Bank's homeownership set-aside programs must meet the following requirements:

(1) Homeownership set-aside funds must be provided to members pursuant to allocation criteria established by the Bank;

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(2) Members must provide homeownership set-aside funds only to households that:

(i) Are low-or moderate-income households, as defined in § 960.1;

(ii) Complete a homebuyer or homeowner counseling program provided by, or based on one provided by, an organization recognized as experienced in homebuyer or homeowner counseling, respectively; and

(iii) Meet such other eligibility criteria that may be established by the Bank, such as a matching funds requirement or criteria that give priority for the purchase or rehabilitation of housing in particular areas or as part of a disaster relief effort;

(3) Members must provide homeownership set-aside funds to households as a grant, in an amount up to a maximum of \$10,000 per household, as established by the Bank, which limit shall apply to all households;

(4) Households must use homeownership set-aside funds to pay for downpayment, closing cost, counseling, or rehabilitation assistance in connection with the household's purchase or rehabilitation of an owner-occupied housing unit, including a condominium or cooperative housing unit, to be used as the household's primary residence;

(5) A housing unit purchased or rehabilitated using homeownership set-aside funds must be subject to a retention agreement described in § 960.13(d)(1);

(6) If a member is providing mortgage financing to a participating household, the member must provide financial or other incentives in connection with such mortgage financing, and the rate of interest, points, fees, and any other charges by the member must not exceed a reasonable market rate of interest, points, fees, and other charges for a loan of similar maturity, terms, and risk;

(7) Homeownership set-aside funds may be used to pay for counseling costs only where:

(i) Such costs are incurred in connection with counseling of homebuyers who actually purchase an AHP-assisted unit;

(ii) The cost of the counseling has not been covered by another funding source, including the member; and

(iii) The homeownership set-aside funds are used to pay only for the amount of such reasonable and customary costs that exceeds the highest amount the member has spent annually on homebuyer counseling costs within the preceding three years; and

(8) Homeownership set-aside funds must be drawn down and used by eligible households within the period of time specified by the Bank in its AHP implementation plan.

(b) *Competitive application program.* Projects receiving AHP subsidies pursuant to a Bank's competitive application program must meet the eligibility requirements of this paragraph (b).

(1) *Owner-occupied or rental housing.* A project must be either an owner-occupied project or a rental project, as defined, respectively, in § 960.1.

(2) *Project feasibility and need for subsidy—(i) Sources and uses of funds.* The project's estimated uses of funds must equal its estimated sources of funds, as reflected in the project's development budget. A project's sources of funds must include:

(A) Estimates of funds the project sponsor intends to obtain from other sources but which have not yet been committed to the project; and

(B) Estimates of the market value of in-kind donations and volunteer professional labor or services committed to the project, but not the value of sweat-equity.

(ii) *Project costs—(A) In general.* Project costs, as reflected in the project's development budget, must be reasonable and customary, in accordance with the Bank's project feasibility guidelines, in light of:

(1) Industry standards for the location of the project; and

(2) The long-term financial needs of the project.

(B) *Cost of property and services provided by a member.* The purchase price of property or services, as reflected in the project's development budget, sold to the project by a member providing AHP subsidy to the project, or, in the case of property, upon which such member holds a mortgage or lien, may not exceed the market value of such property or services as of the date the purchase price for the property or services was agreed upon. In the case of

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real estate owned property sold to a project by a member providing AHP subsidy to a project, or property sold to the project upon which the member holds a mortgage or lien, the market value of such property is deemed to be the “as-is” or “as-rehabilitated” value of the property, whichever is appropriate, as reflected in an independent appraisal of the property performed by a State certified or licensed appraiser, as defined in 12 CFR 564.2(j) and (k), within six months prior to the date the Bank disburses AHP subsidy to the project.

(iii) *Operational feasibility and need for subsidy.* The project must be operationally feasible, in accordance with the Bank’s project feasibility guidelines, based on relevant factors including, but not limited to, applicable financial ratios, geographic location of the project, needs of tenants, and other non-financial project characteristics. The requested AHP subsidy must be necessary for the financial feasibility of the project, as currently structured, and the rate of interest, points, fees, and any other charges for all loans financing the project must not exceed a market rate of interest, points, fees, and other charges for loans of similar maturity, terms, and risk.

(3) *Timing of subsidy use.* The AHP subsidy must be likely to be drawn down by the project or used by the project to procure other financing commitments within 12 months of the date of approval of the application for subsidy funding the project.

(4) *Prepayment, cancellation, and processing fees.* The project must not use AHP subsidies to pay for:

(i) Prepayment fees imposed by a Bank on a member for a subsidized advance that is prepaid, unless, subsequent to such prepayment, the project will continue to comply with the terms of the application for the subsidy, as approved by the Bank, and the requirements of this part for the duration of the original retention period, and any unused subsidy is returned to the Bank and made available for other AHP projects;

(ii) Cancellation fees and penalties imposed by a Bank on a member for a subsidized advance commitment that is canceled; or

(iii) Processing fees charged by members for providing direct subsidies to a project.

(5) *Counseling costs.* AHP subsidies may be used to pay for counseling costs only where:

(i) Such costs are incurred in connection with counseling of homebuyers who actually purchase an AHP-assisted unit; and

(ii) The cost of the counseling has not been covered by another funding source, including the member.

(6) *Refinancing.* If the project uses AHP subsidies to refinance an existing single-family or multifamily mortgage loan, the equity proceeds of the refinancing must be used only for the purchase, construction, or rehabilitation of housing units meeting the eligibility requirements of this paragraph (b).

(7) *Retention*—(i) *Owner-occupied projects.* The project’s AHP-assisted units are or are committed to be subject to a retention agreement described in § 960.13 (c)(4) or (d)(1).

(ii) *Rental projects.* AHP-assisted rental projects are or are committed to be subject to a retention agreement described in § 960.13 (c)(5) or (d)(2).

(8) *Project sponsor qualifications.* A project’s sponsor must be qualified and able to perform its responsibilities as committed to in the application for subsidy funding the project.

(9) *Fair housing.* The project, as proposed, must comply with applicable Federal and State laws on fair housing and housing accessibility, including, but not limited to, the Fair Housing Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Architectural Barriers Act of 1969, and must demonstrate how the project will be affirmatively marketed.

(10) *District eligibility requirements.* (i) A project receiving AHP subsidies may be required by a Bank to meet one or more of the following additional eligibility requirements adopted by a Bank’s board of directors, after consultation with its Advisory Council:

(A) A requirement that the amount of subsidy requested for the project does not exceed limits established by the Bank as to the maximum amount of AHP subsidy available per member each year; or per member, per project,

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or per project unit in a single funding period;

(B) A requirement that the project is located in the Bank's District; or

(C) A requirement that the member submitting the application has made use of a minimum amount of a credit product offered by the Bank, other than AHP or CIP credit products, within the previous 12 months, provided that such a minimum threshold for credit product usage established by a Bank shall not exceed 1.5 percent of a member's total assets, and all members shall have access to some amount of AHP subsidy, as determined by the Bank, regardless of whether they meet the Bank's minimum threshold for credit product usage.

(ii) Any limit on the amount of AHP subsidy available per member must result in equal amounts of AHP subsidy available to all members receiving subsidy pursuant to such limit.

[62 FR 41828, Aug. 4, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 27672, May 20, 1998; 64 FR 23015, Apr. 29, 1999; 64 FR 24027, May 5, 1999]

§ 960.6 Procedure for approval of applications for funding.

(a) *Homeownership set-aside programs.* A Bank shall accept applications for homeownership set-aside funds from members and may, in its discretion, accept applications from institutions with pending applications for membership in the Bank. The Bank shall approve applications in accordance with the Bank's criteria governing the allocation of funds.

(b) *Competitive application program—*
(1) *Funding periods; amounts available.* A Bank shall accept applications for funding under its competitive application program from members and may, in its discretion, accept applications from institutions with pending applications for membership in the Bank. A Bank may accept applications for funding during a specified number of funding periods each year, as determined by the Bank. The amount of subsidies offered in each funding period shall be comparable.

(2) *Submission of applications.* A Bank shall require applicants for AHP subsidies to submit information sufficient for the Bank to:

(i) Determine that the proposed AHP project meets the eligibility requirements of § 960.5(b); and

(ii) Evaluate the application pursuant to the scoring criteria in paragraph (b)(4) of this section.

(3) *Review of applications for project eligibility.* A Bank shall review applications to determine that the proposed AHP project meets the eligibility requirements of § 960.5(b).

(4) *Scoring of applications—*(i) *In general.* A Bank shall score only those applications meeting the eligibility requirements of § 960.5(b). A Bank shall not adopt additional scoring criteria or point allocations, except as specifically authorized under this paragraph (b)(4). A Bank shall adopt written guidelines implementing the scoring requirements of this paragraph (b)(4).

(ii) *Point allocations.* A Bank shall allocate 100 points among the nine scoring criteria identified in paragraph (b)(4)(iv) of this section. The scoring criterion for targeting identified in paragraph (b)(4)(iv)(C) of this section shall be allocated at least 20 points. The remaining scoring criteria shall be allocated at least five points each.

(iii) *Satisfaction of scoring criteria.* A Bank shall designate each scoring criterion as either a fixed-point or a variable-point criterion. Variable-point criteria are those where there are varying degrees to which an application can satisfy the criteria. The number of points that may be awarded to an application for meeting a variable-point criterion will vary, depending on the extent to which the application satisfies the criterion, compared to the other applications being scored. A Bank shall designate the targeting and subsidy-per-unit scoring criteria identified in paragraphs (b)(4)(iv) (C) and (H), respectively, of this section as variable-point criteria. The application(s) best achieving each variable-point criterion shall receive the maximum point score available for that criterion, with the remaining applications scored on a declining scale. Fixed-point criteria are those which cannot be satisfied in varying degrees

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and are either satisfied, or not. An application meeting a fixed-point criterion shall be awarded the total number of points allocated to that criterion.

(iv) *Scoring criteria.* An application for a proposed project may receive points based on satisfaction of the nine scoring criteria set forth in this paragraph (b)(4)(iv).

(A) *Use of donated government-owned or other properties.* The creation of housing using a significant proportion of units or land donated or conveyed for a nominal price by the Federal government or any agency or instrumentality thereof, or by any other party. For purposes of this paragraph, a nominal price is a small, negligible amount, most often one dollar, and may be accompanied by modest expenses related to the conveyance of the property for use by the project.

(B) *Sponsorship by a not-for-profit organization or government entity.* Project sponsorship by a not-for-profit organization, a state or political subdivision of a state, a state housing agency, a local housing authority, a Native American Tribe, an Alaskan Native Village, or the government entity for Native Hawaiian Home Lands.

(C) *Targeting.* The extent to which a project creates housing for very low- and low- or moderate-income households.

(1) *Rental projects.* An application for a rental project shall be awarded the maximum number of points available under this scoring criterion if 60 percent or more of the units in the project are reserved for occupancy by households with incomes at or below 50 percent of the median income for the area. Applications for projects with less than 60 percent of the units reserved for occupancy by households with incomes at or below 50 percent of the median income for the area shall be awarded points on a declining scale based on the percentage of units in a project that are reserved for households with incomes at or below 50 percent of the median income for the area, and on the percentage of the remaining units reserved for households with incomes at or below 80 percent of the median income for the area. In order to facilitate reliance on monitoring by a federal,

state, or local government entity providing funds or allocating federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to a proposed project, a Bank, in its discretion, may score each project according to the targeting commitments made by the project to such entity, and the Bank shall include such scoring practice in its AHP implementation plan.

(2) *Owner-occupied projects.* Applications for owner-occupied projects shall be awarded points based on a declining scale, with projects having the highest percentage of units targeted to households with the lowest percentage of median income for the area awarded the highest number of points.

(3) *Separate scoring.* For purposes of this scoring criterion, applications for owner-occupied projects and rental projects may be scored separately.

(D) *Housing for homeless households.* The creation of rental housing, excluding overnight shelters, reserving at least 20 percent of the units for homeless households, the creation of transitional housing for homeless households permitting a minimum of six months occupancy, or the creation of permanent owner-occupied housing reserving at least 20 percent of the units for homeless households.

(E) *Promotion of empowerment.* The provision of housing in combination with a program offering: employment; education; training; homebuyer, homeownership or tenant counseling; daycare services; resident involvement in decisionmaking affecting the creation or operation of the project; or other services that assist residents to move toward better economic opportunities, such as welfare to work initiatives.

(F) *First District priority.* The satisfaction of one of the following criteria, or one of a number of the following criteria, as recommended by the Bank's Advisory Council and adopted by the Bank's board of directors and set forth in the Bank's AHP implementation plan, as long as the total points available for meeting the criterion or criteria adopted under this category do not exceed the total points allocated to this category:

(1) *Special needs.* The creation of housing in which at least 20 percent of the units are reserved for occupancy by

households with special needs, such as the elderly, mentally or physically disabled persons, persons recovering from physical abuse or alcohol or drug abuse, or persons with AIDS; or the creation of housing that is “visitable” by persons with physical disabilities who are not occupants of such housing;

(2) *Community development.* The creation of housing meeting housing needs documented as part of a community revitalization or economic development strategy approved by a unit of a state or local government;

(3) *First-time homebuyers.* The financing of housing for first-time homebuyers;

(4) *Member financial participation.* Member financial participation (excluding the pass-through of AHP subsidy) in the project, such as providing market rate or concessionary financing, fee waivers, or donations;

(5) *Disaster areas.* The financing of housing located in federally declared disaster areas;

(6) *Rural.* The financing of housing located in rural areas;

(7) *Urban.* The financing of urban infill or urban rehabilitation housing;

(8) *Economic diversity.* The creation of housing that is part of a strategy to end isolation of very low-income households by providing economic diversity through mixed-income housing in low- or moderate-income neighborhoods, or providing very low- or low- or moderate-income households with housing opportunities in neighborhoods or cities where the median income equals or exceeds the median income for the larger surrounding area—such as the city, county, or Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area—in which the neighborhood or city is located;

(9) *Fair housing remedy.* The financing of housing as part of a remedy undertaken by a jurisdiction adjudicated by a federal, state, or local court to be in violation of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d *et seq.*), the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 *et seq.*), or any other federal, state, or local fair housing law, or as part of a settlement of such claims;

(10) *Community involvement.* Demonstrated support for the project by local government, other than as a project sponsor, in the form of property

tax deferment or abatement, zoning changes or variances, infrastructure improvements, fee waivers, or other similar forms of non-cash assistance, or demonstrated support for the project by community organizations or individuals, other than as project sponsors, through the commitment by such entities or individuals of donated goods and services, or volunteer labor;

(11) *Lender consortia.* The involvement of financing by a consortium of at least two financial institutions; or

(12) *In-District projects.* The creation of housing located in the Bank’s District.

(G) *Second District priority—defined housing need in the District.* The satisfaction of a housing need in the Bank’s District, as defined and recommended by the Bank’s Advisory Council and adopted by the Bank’s board of directors and set forth in the Bank’s AHP implementation plan. The Bank may, but is not required to, use one of the criteria listed in paragraph (b)(4)(iv)(F) of this section, provided it is different from the criterion or criteria adopted by the Bank under paragraph (b)(4)(iv)(F) of this section.

(H) *AHP subsidy per unit.* The extent to which a project proposes to use the least amount of AHP subsidy per AHP-targeted unit. In the case of an application for a project financed by a subsidized advance, the total amount of AHP subsidy used by the project shall be estimated based on the Bank’s cost of funds as of the date on which all applications are due for the funding period in which the application is submitted. For purposes of this scoring criterion, applications for owner-occupied projects and rental projects may be scored separately.

(I) *Community stability.* The promotion of community stability, such as by rehabilitating vacant or abandoned properties, being an integral part of a neighborhood stabilization plan approved by a unit of state or local government, and not displacing low- or moderate-income households, or if such displacement will occur, assuring that such households will be assisted to minimize the impact of such displacement.

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(5) *Approval of applications*—(i) *Approval by Bank's board.* The board of directors of each Bank shall approve applications in descending order starting with the highest scoring application until the total funding amount for the particular funding period, except for any amount insufficient to fund the next highest scoring application, has been allocated. The board of directors also shall approve at least the next four highest scoring applications as alternates and, within one year of approval, may fund such alternates if any previously committed AHP subsidies become available.

(ii) *No delegation.* A Bank's board of directors shall not delegate to Bank officers or other Bank employees the responsibility to approve or disapprove AHP applications.

[62 FR 41828, Aug. 4, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 27673, May 20, 1998; 64 FR 23015, Apr. 29, 1999; 64 FR 24028, May 5, 1999]

§ 960.7 Modifications of applications prior to project completion.

(a) *Modification procedure.* If, prior to final disbursement of funds to a project from all funding sources, there is or will be a change in the project that would change the score that the project application received in the funding period in which it was originally scored and approved, had the changed facts been operative at that time, a Bank, in its discretion, may approve in writing a modification to the terms of the approved application, provided that:

(1) The project, incorporating any such changes, would meet the eligibility requirements of § 960.5(b);

(2) The application, as reflective of such changes, continues to score high enough to have been approved in the funding period in which it was originally scored and approved by the Bank; and

(3) There is good cause for the modification.

(b) *Modifications involving a subsidy increase.* Modifications involving an increase in AHP subsidy shall be approved or disapproved by a Bank's board of directors. The authority to approve or disapprove such requests shall

not be delegated to Bank officers or other Bank employees.

[62 FR 41828, Aug. 4, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 27673, May 20, 1998]

§ 960.8 Procedure for funding.

(a) *Disbursement of subsidies to members.* (1) A Bank may disburse AHP subsidies only to institutions that are members of the Bank at the time they request a draw-down of subsidy.

(2) If an institution with an approved application for AHP subsidy fails to obtain or loses its membership in a Bank, the Bank may disburse subsidies to a member of such Bank to which the institution has transferred its obligations under the approved application, or the Bank may disburse subsidies through another Bank to a member of that Bank that has assumed the institution's obligations under the approved application.

(b) *Homeownership set-aside programs*—(1) *Time limit on use of subsidies.* If homeownership set-aside funds are not drawn down and used by eligible households within the period of time specified by the Bank in its AHP implementation plan, the Bank shall cancel the application for funds and make the funds available for other applicants for homeownership set-aside funds or for other AHP-eligible projects.

(2) *Member certification upon disbursement.* Prior to disbursement of homeownership set-aside funds by a Bank to a member, the Bank shall require the member to certify that:

(i) The funds received from the Bank will be provided to a household meeting the eligibility requirements of § 960.5(a)(2);

(ii) If the member is providing mortgage financing to the household, the member will provide financial or other incentives in connection with such mortgage financing, and the rate of interest, points, fees, and any other charges by the member will not exceed a reasonable market rate of interest, points, fees, and other charges for a loan of similar maturity, terms, and risk; and

(iii) Funds received from the Bank for homebuyer counseling costs will be provided according to the requirements of § 960.5(a)(7).

(c) *Competitive application program—*

(1) *Time limit on use of subsidies.* If AHP subsidies approved for a project under a Bank's competitive application program are not drawn down and used by the project within the period of time specified by the Bank in its AHP implementation plan, the Bank shall cancel its approval of the application for the subsidies and make the subsidies available for other AHP-eligible projects.

(2) *Compliance upon disbursement of subsidies.* A Bank shall verify prior to its initial disbursement of subsidies for an approved project, and prior to each disbursement thereafter, that the project meets the eligibility requirements of § 960.5(b) and all obligations committed to in the approved application.

(3) *Changes in approved AHP subsidy amount where a direct subsidy is used to write down prior to closing the principal amount or interest rate on a loan.—*(i) *Change in subsidy amount.* If a member is approved to receive a direct subsidy to write down prior to closing the principal amount or the interest rate on a loan to a project and the amount of subsidy required to maintain the debt service cost for the loan decreases from the amount of subsidy initially approved by the Bank due to a decrease in market interest rates between the time of approval and the time the lender commits to the interest rate to finance the project, the Bank shall reduce the subsidy amount accordingly. If market interest rates rise between the time of approval and the time the lender commits to the interest rate to finance the project, the Bank may, in its discretion, increase the subsidy amount accordingly.

(ii) *Reconciliation of AHP fund.* If a Bank reduces the amount of AHP subsidy approved for a project, the amount of such reduction shall be returned to the Bank's AHP fund. If a Bank increases the amount of AHP subsidy approved for a project, the amount of such increase shall be drawn first from any currently uncommitted or repaid AHP subsidies and then from the Bank's required AHP contribution for the next year.

§ 960.9 Modifications of applications after project completion.

Modification procedure. If, after final disbursement of funds to a project from all funding sources, there is or will be a change in the project that would change the score that the project application received in the funding period in which it was originally scored and approved, had the changed facts been operative at that time, a Bank, in its discretion, may approve in writing a modification to the terms of the approved application, other than an increase in the amount of subsidy approved for the project, provided that:

(a) The project is in financial distress, or is at substantial risk of falling into such distress;

(b) The project sponsor or owner has made best efforts to avoid noncompliance with the terms of the application for subsidy and the requirements of this part;

(c) The project, incorporating any material changes, would meet the eligibility requirements of § 960.5(b); and

(d) The application, as reflective of such changes, continues to score high enough to have been approved in the funding period in which it was originally scored and approved by the Bank.

[62 FR 41828, Aug. 4, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 23016, Apr. 29, 1999]

§ 960.10 Initial monitoring requirements.

(a) *Requirements for project sponsors and owners—*(1) *Owner-occupied projects.*

(i) During the period of construction or rehabilitation of an owner-occupied project, the project sponsor must report to the member semiannually on whether reasonable progress is being made towards completion of the project.

(ii) Where AHP subsidies are used to finance the purchase of owner-occupied units, the project sponsor must certify annually to the member and the Bank, until all approved AHP subsidies are provided to eligible households in the project, that those households receiving AHP subsidies during the year were eligible households, and such certifications shall be supported by household income verification documentation maintained by the project sponsor

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and available for review by the member or the Bank.

(2) *Rental projects.* (i) During the period of construction or rehabilitation of a rental project, the project owner must report to the member semiannually on whether reasonable progress is being made towards completion of the project.

(ii) Within the first year after project completion, the project owner must:

(A) Certify to the member and the Bank that the services and activities committed to in the AHP application have been provided in connection with the project;

(B) Provide a list of actual tenant rents and incomes to the member and the Bank and certify that:

(1) The tenant rents and incomes are accurate and in compliance with the rent and income targeting commitments made in the AHP application; and

(2) The project is habitable; and

(C) Maintain documentation regarding tenant rents and incomes and project habitability available for review by the member or the Bank, to support such certifications.

(b) *Requirements for members—*(1) *Owner-occupied projects.* (i) During the period of construction or rehabilitation of an owner-occupied project, the member must take the steps necessary to determine whether reasonable progress is being made towards completion of the project and must report to the Bank semiannually on the status of the project.

(ii) Within one year after disbursement to a project of all approved AHP subsidies, the member must review the project documentation and certify to the Bank that:

(A) The AHP subsidies have been used according to the commitments made in the AHP application; and

(B) The AHP-assisted units are subject to deed restrictions or other legally enforceable retention agreements or mechanisms meeting the requirements of § 960.13(c)(4) or (d)(1);

(2) *Rental projects.* (i) During the period of construction or rehabilitation of a rental project, the member must take the steps necessary to determine whether reasonable progress is being made towards completion of the

project and must report to the Bank semiannually on the status of the project.

(ii) Within the first year after project completion, the member must review the project documentation and certify to the Bank that:

(A) The project is habitable;

(B) The project meets its income targeting commitments; and

(C) The rents charged for income-targeted units do not exceed the maximum levels committed to in the AHP application.

(c) *Requirements for Banks—*(1) *Owner-occupied projects.* Each Bank must take the steps necessary to determine, based on a review of the documentation for a sample of projects and units within one year of receiving the certifications described in paragraph (b)(1)(ii) of this section that:

(i) The incomes of the households that own the AHP-assisted units did not exceed the levels committed to in the AHP application at the time the households were qualified by the sponsor to participate in the project;

(ii) The AHP subsidies were used for eligible purposes, the project's actual costs were reasonable and customary in accordance with the Bank's project feasibility guidelines, and the subsidies were necessary for the financial feasibility of the project, as currently structured; and

(iii) The AHP-assisted units are subject to deed restrictions or other legally enforceable retention agreements or mechanisms meeting the requirements of § 960.13(c)(4) or (d)(1).

(2) *Rental projects.* Each Bank must take the steps necessary to determine that:

(i) Within the first year after completion of a rental project, the services and activities committed to in the AHP application have been provided in connection with the project; and

(ii) The AHP subsidies were used for eligible purposes, the project's actual costs were reasonable and customary in accordance with the Bank's project feasibility guidelines, and the subsidies were necessary for the financial feasibility of the project, as currently structured.

(d) *Annual adjustment of targeting commitments.* For purposes of determining

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compliance with the targeting commitments in an AHP application, such commitments shall be considered to adjust annually according to the current applicable median income data. A rental unit may continue to count toward meeting the targeting commitment of an approved AHP application as long as the rent charged remains affordable, as defined in § 960.1, for the household occupying the unit.

§ 960.11 Long-term monitoring requirements.

(a) *Rental projects.* For purposes of monitoring a rental project, Banks, members, and project owners shall carry out their long-term monitoring obligations pursuant to one of the three methods set forth in this paragraph (a).

(1) *Reliance on monitoring by a federal, state or local government entity.* For those projects that receive funds from, or are allocated federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits by, a federal, state, or local government entity, a Bank may rely on the monitoring by such entity if:

(i) The income targeting requirements, the rent requirements, and the retention period monitored by such entity for purposes of its own program are the same as, or more restrictive than, those committed to in the AHP application;

(ii) The entity agrees to inform the Bank of instances where tenant rents or incomes are found to be in non-compliance with the requirements being monitored by the entity or where the project is not habitable; and

(iii) The entity has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate to the Bank its ability to carry out monitoring under its own program, and the Bank does not have information that such monitoring is not occurring or is inadequate.

(2) *Reliance on monitoring of AHP application commitments by a contractor.* For those projects that receive funds from, or are allocated federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits by, a federal, state, or local government entity that monitors for income targeting requirements, rent requirements, or retention periods under its own program that are less restrictive than those

committed to in the project's AHP application, a Bank, in its discretion, may rely on the monitoring by such entity if:

(i) The entity agrees to monitor the income targeting requirements, the rent requirements, and the retention period committed to in the AHP application;

(ii) The entity agrees to inform the Bank of instances where tenant rents or incomes are found to be in non-compliance with the requirements committed to in the AHP application or where the project is not habitable; and

(iii) The entity has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate to the Bank its ability to carry out such monitoring, and the Bank does not have information that such monitoring is not occurring or is inadequate.

(3) *Long-term monitoring by the Banks, members, and project owners.* In cases where a Bank does not rely on monitoring by a federal, state, or local government entity pursuant to paragraphs (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section, the Bank, members, and project owners shall monitor rental projects according to the requirements in this paragraph (a)(3).

(i) *Requirements for project owners.* In the second year after completion of a rental project and annually thereafter until the end of the project's retention period, the project owner must:

(A) Certify to the Bank that:

(1) The tenant rents and incomes are in compliance with the rent and income targeting commitments made in the AHP application; and

(2) The project is habitable; and

(B) Maintain documentation regarding tenant rents and incomes and project habitability available for review by the Bank, to support such certifications.

(ii) *Requirements for members.* For rental projects receiving \$500,000 or less in AHP subsidy from a member, during the period from the second year after project completion to the end of the project's retention period, the member must certify to the Bank at least once every three years, based on an exterior visual inspection, that the project appears to be suitable for occupancy.

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(iii) *Requirements for Banks*—(A) *Certifications received by the Bank*. Each Bank shall review certifications provided by project owners and members regarding tenant rents and incomes and project habitability.

(B) *Review of project documentation*. Each Bank shall review documentation maintained by the project owner regarding tenant rents and incomes and project habitability to verify compliance with the rent and income targeting commitments in the AHP application and project habitability, according to the following schedule:

(1) *\$50,001 to \$250,000*. For projects receiving \$50,001 to \$250,000 of AHP subsidies, the Bank must review project documentation for a sample of the project's units at least once every six years;

(2) *\$250,001 to \$500,000*. For projects receiving \$250,001 to \$500,000 of AHP subsidies, the Bank must review project documentation for a sample of the project's units at least once every four years; and

(3) *Over \$500,000*. For projects receiving over \$500,000 of AHP subsidies, the Bank must perform an on-site review of project documentation for a sample of the project's units at least once every two years.

(C) *Sampling plan*. A Bank may use a reasonable sampling plan to select the projects monitored each year and to review the project documentation supporting the certifications made by members and project owners.

(iv) *Monitoring by a contractor*. A Bank, in its discretion, may contract with a third party to carry out the Bank's monitoring obligations set forth in paragraph (a)(3)(iii) of this section.

(b) *Annual adjustment of targeting commitments*. For purposes of determining compliance with the targeting commitments in an AHP application, such commitments shall be considered to adjust annually according to the current applicable median income data. A rental unit may continue to count toward meeting the targeting commitment of an approved AHP application as long as the rent charged remains affordable, as defined in § 960.1, for the household occupying the unit.

§ 960.12 Remedial actions for non-compliance.

(a) *Repayment of subsidies by members*—(1) *Noncompliance by member*. A member shall repay to the Bank the amount of any subsidies (plus interest, if appropriate) that, as a result of the member's actions or omissions, is not used in compliance with the terms of the application for the subsidy, as approved by the Bank, and the requirements of this part, unless:

(i) The member cures the noncompliance within a reasonable period of time; or

(ii) The circumstances of noncompliance are eliminated through a modification of the terms of the application for the subsidy pursuant to §§ 960.7 or 960.9.

(2) *Noncompliance by project sponsors or owners*—(i) *Duty to recover subsidies*. A member shall recover from the sponsor of an owner-occupied project or the owner of a rental project and repay to the Bank the amount of any subsidies (plus interest, if appropriate) that, as a result of the sponsor's or owner's actions or omissions, is not used in compliance with the terms of the application for the subsidy, as approved by the Bank, and the requirements of this part, unless:

(A) The sponsor or owner cures the noncompliance within a reasonable period of time; or

(B) The circumstances of noncompliance are eliminated through a modification of the terms of the application for the subsidy pursuant to §§ 960.7 or 960.9.

(ii) *Limitation on duty to recover subsidies*. The member shall not be liable to the Bank for the return of amounts that cannot be recovered from the project sponsor or owner through reasonable collection efforts by the member.

(b) *Repayment of subsidies by project sponsors or owners*. A sponsor of an owner-occupied project and the owner of a rental project shall repay to the member the amount of any subsidies (plus interest, if appropriate) that, as a result of the sponsor's or owner's actions or omissions, is not used in compliance with the terms of the application for the subsidy, as approved by the

Bank, and the requirements of this part, unless:

(1) The sponsor or owner cures the noncompliance within a reasonable period of time; or

(2) The circumstances of noncompliance are eliminated through a modification of the terms of the application for the subsidy pursuant to §§ 960.7 or 960.9.

(c) *Requirements for Banks*—(1) *Duty to recover subsidies*. A Bank shall recover from a member:

(i) The amount of any subsidies (plus interest, if appropriate) that, as a result of the member's actions or omissions, is not used in compliance with the terms of the application for the subsidy, as approved by the Bank, and the requirements of this part; and

(ii) The amount of any subsidies recovered by a member from the sponsor of an owner-occupied project or the owner of a rental project pursuant to the requirements of paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(2) *Settlements*. A Bank may enter into an agreement or other arrangement with a member for the purpose of settling claims against the member for repayment of subsidies. If a Bank enters into a settlement that results in the return of a sum that is less than the full amount of any AHP subsidy that is not used in compliance with the terms of the application for the subsidy, as approved by the Bank, and the requirements of this part, the Bank may be required by the Finance Board to reimburse its AHP fund in the amount of any shortfall under paragraph (c)(3) of this section, unless:

(i) The Bank has sufficient documentation showing that the sum agreed to be repaid under the settlement is reasonably justified, based on the facts and circumstances of the noncompliance (including the degree of culpability of the noncomplying parties and the extent of the Bank's recovery efforts); or

(ii) The Bank obtains a determination from the Board of Directors that the sum agreed to be repaid under the settlement is reasonably justified, based on the facts and circumstances of the noncompliance (including the degree of culpability of the noncomplying

parties and the extent of the Bank's recovery efforts).

(3) *Reimbursement of AHP fund*. The Finance Board may order a Bank to reimburse its AHP fund in an appropriate amount upon determining that:

(i) As a result of the Bank's actions or omissions, AHP subsidy is not used in compliance with the terms of the application for the subsidy, as approved by the Bank, and the requirements of this part; or

(ii) The Bank has failed to recover AHP subsidy from a member pursuant to the requirements of paragraph (c)(1) of this section, and has not shown such failure is reasonably justified, considering factors such as the extent of the Bank's recovery efforts.

(d) *Parties to enforcement proceedings*. A Bank, in its AHP implementation plan, may provide for a member, project sponsor, or project owner to enter into a written agreement with a Bank under which such member, sponsor, or owner consents to be a party to any enforcement proceeding initiated by the Finance Board regarding the repayment of AHP subsidies received by such member, sponsor, or owner, or the suspension or debarment of such parties, provided that the member, sponsor, or owner has agreed to be bound by the Finance Board's final determination in the enforcement proceeding.

(e) *Use of repaid subsidies*. Amounts repaid to a Bank pursuant to this section, including any interest, shall be made available for other AHP-eligible projects.

(f) *Suspension and debarment*—(1) *At a Bank's initiative*. A Bank may suspend or debar a member, project sponsor, or owner from participation in the Program if such party shows a pattern of noncompliance, or engages in a single instance of flagrant noncompliance, with the terms of an application for AHP subsidy or the requirements of this part.

(2) *At the Finance Board's initiative*. The Finance Board may order a Bank to suspend or debar a member, project sponsor, or owner from participation in the Program if such party shows a pattern of noncompliance, or engages in a single instance of flagrant noncompliance, with the terms of an application

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for AHP subsidy or the requirements of this part.

(g) *Transfer of Program administration.* Without limitation on other remedies, the Finance Board, upon determining that a Bank has engaged in mismanagement of its Program, may designate another Bank to administer all or a portion of the first Bank's annual AHP contribution, for the benefit of the first Bank's members, under such terms and conditions as the Finance Board may prescribe.

(h) *Finance Board actions under this section.* Except as provided in paragraph (c)(2)(ii) of this section, actions taken by the Finance Board pursuant to this section shall be subject to the Finance Board's Procedures for Review of Disputed Supervisory Determinations.

[62 FR 41828, Aug. 4, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 27673, May 20, 1998]

§ 960.13 Agreements.

(a) *Agreements between Banks and members.* A Bank shall have in place with each member receiving a subsidized advance or direct subsidy an agreement or agreements containing the provisions set forth in this section.

(b) *General provisions—(1) Subsidy pass-through.* The member shall pass on the full amount of the AHP subsidy to the project, or household in the case of homeownership set-aside funds, for which the subsidy was approved.

(2) *Use of subsidy—(i) Use of subsidy by the member.* The member shall use the AHP subsidy in accordance with the terms of the member's application for the subsidy, as approved by the Bank, and the requirements of this part.

(ii) *Use of subsidy by the project sponsor or owner.* The member shall have in place an agreement with the sponsor of an owner-occupied project and each owner of a rental project in which the sponsor or owner agrees to use the AHP subsidy in accordance with the terms of the member's application for the subsidy, as approved by the Bank, and the requirements of this part.

(3) *Repayment of subsidies in case of noncompliance—(i) Noncompliance by the member.* The member shall repay subsidies to the Bank in accordance with the requirements of § 960.12(a)(1).

(ii) *Noncompliance by a project sponsor or owner—(A) Agreement.* The member shall have in place an agreement with the sponsor of an owner-occupied project and each owner of a rental project in which the sponsor or owner agrees to repay AHP subsidies in accordance with the requirements of § 960.12(b).

(B) *Recovery of subsidies.* The member shall recover from the project sponsor or owner and repay to the Bank any subsidy in accordance with the requirements of § 960.12(a)(2).

(4) *Project monitoring—(i) Monitoring by the member.* The member shall comply with the monitoring requirements of §§ 960.10(b) and 960.11(a)(3)(ii).

(ii) *Monitoring by the project sponsor.* The member shall have in place an agreement with the sponsor of an owner-occupied project in which the sponsor agrees to comply with the monitoring requirements of § 960.10(a)(1).

(iii) *Monitoring by the project owner.* The member shall have in place an agreement with the owner of a rental project in which the owner agrees to comply with the monitoring requirements of §§ 960.10(a)(2) and 960.11(a)(3)(i).

(5) *Transfer of AHP obligations to another member.* The member will make best efforts to transfer its obligations under the approved application for AHP subsidy to another member in the event of its loss of membership in the Bank prior to the Bank's final disbursement of AHP subsidies.

(c) *Special provisions where members obtain subsidized advances—(1) Repayment schedule.* The term of the subsidized advance shall be no longer than the term of the member's loan to the project funded by the advance, and at least once in every 12-month period, the member shall be scheduled to make a principal repayment to the Bank equal to the amount scheduled to be repaid to the member on its loan to the project in that period.

(2) *Prepayment fees.* Upon a prepayment of the subsidized advance, the Bank shall charge a prepayment fee only to the extent the Bank suffers an economic loss from the prepayment.

(3) *Treatment of loan prepayment by project.* If all or a portion of the loan or

loans financed by a subsidized advance are prepaid by the project to the member, the member may, at its option, either:

(i) Repay to the Bank that portion of the advance used to make the loan or loans to the project, and be subject to a fee imposed by the Bank sufficient to compensate the Bank for any economic loss the Bank experiences in reinvesting the repaid amount at a rate of return below the cost of funds originally used by the Bank to calculate the interest rate subsidy incorporated in the advance; or

(ii) Continue to maintain the advance outstanding, subject to the Bank resetting the interest rate on that portion of the advance used to make the loan or loans to the project to a rate equal to the cost of funds originally used by the Bank to calculate the interest rate subsidy incorporated in the advance.

(4) *Retention agreements for owner-occupied units*—(i) *Units with AHP-assisted permanent financing.* The member shall ensure that an owner-occupied unit with permanent financing obtained from the proceeds of a subsidized advance is subject to a deed restriction or other legally enforceable retention agreement or mechanism requiring that:

(A) The Bank or its designee is to be given notice of any sale or refinancing of the unit occurring prior to the end of the retention period;

(B) In the case of a refinancing prior to the end of the retention period, the full amount of the interest rate subsidy received by the owner, based on the pro rata portion of the interest rate subsidy imputed to the subsidized advance during the period the owner occupied the unit prior to refinancing, shall be repaid to the Bank from any net gain realized upon the refinancing, unless the unit continues to be subject to a deed restriction or other legally enforceable retention agreement or mechanism described in this paragraph (c)(4)(i); and

(C) The obligation to repay AHP subsidy to the Bank shall terminate after any foreclosure.

(ii) *Units constructed or rehabilitated with AHP-assisted financing.* The member shall ensure that an owner-occupied unit constructed or rehabilitated

with a loan from the proceeds of a subsidized advance but which does not have permanent financing from the proceeds of a subsidized advance, is subject to a deed restriction or other legally enforceable retention agreement or mechanism requiring that:

(A) The Bank or its designee is to be given notice of any sale or refinancing of the unit occurring prior to the end of the retention period;

(B) In the case of a sale prior to the end of the retention period, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the interest rate subsidy imputed to the subsidized advance that financed the construction or rehabilitation loan for the unit, reduced for every year the seller owned the unit, shall be repaid to the Bank from any net gain realized upon the sale of the unit after deduction for sales expenses, unless the purchaser is a low- or moderate-income household;

(C) In the case of a refinancing prior to the end of the retention period, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the interest rate subsidy imputed to the subsidized advance that financed the construction or rehabilitation loan for the unit, reduced for every year the owner occupied the unit, shall be repaid to the Bank from any net gain realized upon the refinancing, unless the unit continues to be subject to a deed restriction or other legally enforceable retention agreement or mechanism described in this paragraph (c)(4)(ii); and

(D) The obligation to repay AHP subsidy to the Bank shall terminate after any foreclosure.

(5) *Retention agreements for rental projects.* The member shall ensure that a rental project financed by a loan from the proceeds of a subsidized advance is subject to a deed restriction or other legally enforceable retention agreement or mechanism requiring that:

(i) The project's rental units, or applicable portion thereof, must remain occupied by and affordable for households with incomes at or below the levels committed to be served in the AHP application for the duration of the retention period;

(ii) The Bank or its designee is to be given notice of any sale or refinancing of the project occurring prior to the end of the retention period;

(iii) In the case of a sale or refinancing of the project prior to the end of the retention period, the full amount of the interest rate subsidy received by the owner, based on the pro rata portion of the interest rate subsidy imputed to the subsidized advance during the period the owner owned the project prior to the sale or refinancing, shall be repaid to the Bank, unless the project continues to be subject to a deed restriction or other legally enforceable retention agreement or mechanism incorporating the income-eligibility and affordability restrictions committed to in the AHP application for the duration of the retention period; and

(iv) The income-eligibility and affordability restrictions applicable to the project terminate after any foreclosure.

(6) *Transfer of AHP obligations to a nonmember.* If, after final disbursement of AHP subsidies to the member, the member undergoes an acquisition or a consolidation resulting in a successor organization that is not a member of the Bank, the nonmember successor organization assumes the member's obligations under its approved application for AHP subsidy upon prepayment or orderly liquidation by the nonmember of the subsidized advance.

(d) *Special provisions where members obtain direct subsidies—*(1) *Retention agreements for owner-occupied units.* The member shall ensure that an owner-occupied unit that is purchased, constructed, or rehabilitated with the proceeds of a direct subsidy is subject to a deed restriction or other legally enforceable retention agreement or mechanism requiring that:

(i) The Bank or its designee is to be given notice of any sale or refinancing of the unit occurring prior to the end of the retention period;

(ii) In the case of a sale prior to the end of the retention period, an amount equal to a pro rata share of the direct subsidy that financed the purchase, construction, or rehabilitation of the unit, reduced for every year the seller owned the unit, shall be repaid to the Bank from any net gain realized upon the sale of the unit after deduction for sales expenses, unless the purchaser is a low- or moderate-income household;

(iii) In the case of a refinancing prior to the end of the retention period, an amount equal to a pro rata share of the direct subsidy that financed the purchase, construction, or rehabilitation of the unit, reduced for every year the occupying household has owned the unit, shall be repaid to the Bank from any net gain realized upon the refinancing, unless the unit continues to be subject to a deed restriction or other legally enforceable retention agreement or mechanism described in this paragraph (d)(1); and

(iv) The obligation to repay AHP subsidy to the Bank shall terminate after any foreclosure.

(2) *Retention agreements for rental projects.* The member shall ensure that a rental project financed by the proceeds of a direct subsidy is subject to a deed restriction or other legally enforceable retention agreement or mechanism requiring that:

(i) The project's rental units, or applicable portion thereof, must remain occupied by and affordable for households with incomes at or below the levels committed to be served in the AHP application for the duration of the retention period;

(ii) The Bank or its designee is to be given notice of any sale or refinancing of the project occurring prior to the end of the retention period;

(iii) In the case of a sale or refinancing of the project prior to the end of the retention period, an amount equal to the full amount of the direct subsidy shall be repaid to the Bank, unless the project continues to be subject to a deed restriction or other legally enforceable retention agreement or mechanism incorporating the income-eligibility and affordability restrictions committed to in the AHP application for the duration of the retention period; and

(iv) The income-eligibility and affordability restrictions applicable to the project terminate after any foreclosure.

(3) *Lending of direct subsidies.* If a member or a project sponsor lends a direct subsidy to a project, any repayments of principal and payments of interest received by the member or the project sponsor must be paid forthwith to the Bank.

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(4) *Transfer of AHP obligations to a nonmember.* If, after final disbursement of AHP subsidies to the member, the member undergoes an acquisition or a consolidation resulting in a successor organization that is not a member of the Bank, the nonmember successor organization assumes the member's obligations under its approved application for AHP subsidy.

[62 FR 41828, Aug. 4, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 27673, May 20, 1998]

§ 960.14 Temporary suspension of AHP contributions.

(a) *Application for temporary suspension—(1) Notification to Finance Board.* If a Bank finds that the contributions required pursuant to § 960.2 are contributing to the financial instability of the Bank, the Bank shall notify the Finance Board promptly, and may apply in writing to the Finance Board for a temporary suspension of such contributions.

(2) *Contents.* A Bank's application for a temporary suspension of contributions shall include:

- (i) The period of time for which the Bank seeks a suspension;
- (ii) The grounds for a suspension;
- (iii) A plan for returning the Bank to a financially stable position; and
- (iv) The Bank's annual financial report for the preceding year, if available, and the Bank's most recent quarterly and monthly financial statements and any other financial data the Bank wishes the Finance Board to consider.

(b) *Board of Directors review of application for temporary suspension—(1) Determination of financial instability.* In determining the financial instability of a Bank, the Board of Directors shall consider such factors as:

- (i) Whether the Bank's earnings are severely depressed;
- (ii) Whether there has been a substantial decline in the Bank's membership capital; and
- (iii) Whether there has been a substantial reduction in the Bank's advances outstanding.

(2) *Limitations on grounds for suspension.* The Board of Directors shall disapprove an application for a temporary suspension if it determines that the

Bank's reduction in earnings is a result of:

- (i) A change in the terms of advances to members which is not justified by market conditions;
- (ii) Inordinate operating and administrative expenses; or
- (iii) Mismanagement.

(c) *Board of Directors decision.* The Board of Directors' decision shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by specific findings and reasons for its action. If the Board of Directors approves a Bank's application for a temporary suspension, the Board of Directors' written decision shall specify the period of time such suspension shall remain in effect.

(d) *Monitoring.* During the term of a temporary suspension approved by the Board of Directors, the affected Bank shall provide to the Board of Directors such financial reports as the Board of Directors shall require to monitor the financial condition of the Bank.

(e) *Termination of suspension.* If, prior to the conclusion of the temporary suspension period, the Board of Directors determines that the Bank has returned to a position of financial stability, the Board of Directors may, upon written notice to the Bank, terminate the temporary suspension.

(f) *Application for extension of temporary suspension period.* If a Bank's board of directors determines that the Bank has not returned to, or is not likely to return to, a position of financial stability at the conclusion of the temporary suspension period, the Bank may apply in writing for an extension of the temporary suspension period, stating the grounds for such extension.

§ 960.15 Affordable Housing Reserve Fund.

(a) *Reserve Fund—(1) Deposits.* If a Bank fails to use or commit the full amount it is required to contribute to the Program in any year pursuant to § 960.2, 90 percent of the unused or uncommitted amount shall be deposited by the Bank in an Affordable Housing Reserve Fund established and administered by the Finance Board. The remaining 10 percent of the unused and uncommitted amount retained by the

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Bank should be fully used or committed by the Bank during the following year, and any remaining portion must be deposited in the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund.

(2) *Use or commitment of funds.* Approval of applications for AHP subsidies sufficient to exhaust the amount a Bank is required to contribute pursuant to §960.2 shall constitute use or commitment of funds. Amounts remaining unused or uncommitted at year-end are deemed to be used or committed if, in combination with AHP subsidies that have been returned to the Bank or de-committed from canceled projects, they are insufficient to fund:

(i) The next highest scoring AHP application in the Bank's final funding period of the year for its competitive application program; or

(ii) Pending applications for funds under the Bank's homeownership set-aside programs.

Such insufficient amounts shall be carried over for use or commitment during the following year.

(b) *Annual statement.* By January 15 of each year, each Bank shall provide to the Finance Board a statement indicating the amount of unused and uncommitted funds from the prior year, if any, which will be deposited in the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund.

(c) *Annual notification.* By January 31 of each year, the Finance Board shall notify the Banks of the total amount of funds, if any, available in the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund.

§960.16 Application to existing AHP projects.

The requirements of section 10(j) of the Act and the provisions of this part, as amended, are incorporated into all agreements between Banks, members, sponsors, or owners receiving AHP subsidies. To the extent the requirements of this part are amended from time to time, such agreements are deemed to incorporate the amendments to conform to any new requirements of this part. No amendment to this part shall affect the legality of actions taken prior to the effective date of such amendment.

SUBCHAPTER F—COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

PART 970—COMMUNITY INVESTMENT CASH ADVANCE PROGRAMS

Sec.

970.1 Scope.

970.2 Purpose.

970.3 Definitions.

970.4 Community Lending Plan.

970.5 Community Investment Cash Advance Programs.

970.6 Reporting.

970.7 Documentation.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1422b(a)(1) and 1430.

SOURCE: 63 FR 65546, Nov. 27, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

§ 970.1 Scope.

Section 10(j)(10) of the Act authorizes the Banks to offer Community Investment Cash Advance (CICA) programs. (See 12 U.S.C. 1430(j)(10)). This part establishes requirements for all CICA programs offered by a Bank, except for a Bank's Affordable Housing Program (AHP), which is governed specifically by part 960 of this chapter.

§ 970.2 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to identify community lending projects that the Banks may support through the establishment of CICA programs under section 10(j)(10) of the Act. (12 U.S.C. 1430(j)(10)). Pursuant to this part, a Bank may offer Rural Development Advance (RDA) or Urban Development Advance (UDA) programs, or both, for community lending using the targeted beneficiaries or targeted income levels specified in § 970.3 of this part, without prior Finance Board approval. A Bank also may offer other CICA programs for community lending using targeted beneficiaries and targeted income levels other than those specified in § 970.3 of this part, established by the Bank with the prior approval of the Finance Board. In addition, a Bank shall offer CICA programs under section 10(i) of the Act (Community Investment Program (CIP), 12 U.S.C. 1430(i)), and section 10(j) of the Act (Affordable Housing Program (AHP), 12 U.S.C. 1430(j)).

§ 970.3 Definitions.

As used in this part:

Act means the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1421 *et seq.*).

Advance has the same meaning as in § 935.1 of this chapter.

AHP means the Affordable Housing Program, the CICA program required to be offered pursuant to section 10(j) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1430(j)) and part 960 of this chapter.

Bank means a Federal Home Loan Bank established under the authority of the Act.

Board of Directors means the Board of Directors of the Finance Board.

Champion Community means a community which developed a strategic plan and applied for designation by either the Secretary of HUD or the Secretary of the USDA as an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community, but was designated a Champion Community.

CICA or *Community Investment Cash Advance* has the same meaning as in § 935.1 of this chapter.

CICA program or *Community Investment Cash Advance program* means:

(1) A Bank's AHP;

(2) A Bank's CIP;

(3) REA Bank's RDA program or UDA program using any combination of the targeted beneficiaries and targeted income levels specified in § 970.3 of this part; and

(4) Any other program offered by a Bank using targeted beneficiaries and targeted income levels other than those specified in § 970.3 of this part, established by the Bank with the prior approval of the Finance Board.

CIP means the Community Investment Program, a CICA program required to be offered pursuant to section 10(i) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1430(i)).

Community lending means providing financing for economic development projects for targeted beneficiaries.

Economic development projects means:

(1) Commercial, industrial, manufacturing, social service, and public facility projects and activities; and

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(2) Public or private infrastructure projects, such as roads, utilities, and sewers.

Family means one or more persons living in the same dwelling unit.

Finance Board means the agency established as the Federal Housing Finance Board.

Housing projects means projects or activities that involve the purchase, construction or rehabilitation of, or predevelopment financing for:

(1) Individual owner-occupied housing units, each of which is purchased or owned by a family with an income at or below the targeted income level;

(2) Projects involving multiple units of owner-occupied housing in which at least 51% of the units are owned or are intended to be purchased by families with incomes at or below the targeted income level;

(3) Rental housing where at least 51% of the units in the project are occupied by, or the rents are affordable to, families with incomes at or below the targeted income level; or

(4) Manufactured housing parks where:

(i) At least 51% of the units in the project are occupied by, or the rents are affordable to, families with incomes at or below the targeted income level; or

(ii) The project is located in a neighborhood with a median income at or below the targeted income level.

HUD means the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Median income for the area. (1) *Owner-occupied housing projects and economic development projects.* For purposes of owner-occupied housing projects and economic development projects, median income for the area means one or more of the following, as determined by the Bank:

(i) The median income for the area, as published annually by HUD;

(ii) The applicable median family income, as determined under 26 U.S.C. 143(f) (Mortgage Revenue Bonds) and published by a State agency or instrumentality;

(iii) The median income for the area, as published by the USDA; or

(iv) The median income for any definable geographic area, as published by a

Federal, State, or local government entity for purposes of that entity's housing and economic development programs, and approved by the Board of Directors, at the request of a Bank, for use under the Bank's CICA programs.

(2) *Rental housing projects.* For purposes of rental housing projects, median income for the area means one or more of the following, as determined by the Bank:

(i) The median income for the area, as published annually by HUD; or

(ii) The median income for any definable geographic area, as published by a Federal, State, or local government entity for purposes of that entity's housing programs, and approved by the Board of Directors, at the request of a Bank, for use under the Bank's CICA programs.

Member means an institution that has been approved for membership in a Bank and has purchased capital stock in the Bank in accordance with §§933.20 and 933.25 of this chapter.

MSA means a Metropolitan Statistical Area as designated by the Office of Management and Budget.

Neighborhood means:

(1) A census tract or block numbering area;

(2) A unit of local government with a population of 25,000 or less;

(3) A rural county; or

(4) A geographic location designated in comprehensive plans, ordinances, or other local documents as a neighborhood, village, or similar geographic designation that is within the boundary of but does not encompass the entire area of a unit of general local government.

Nonmember borrower means an entity that has been approved as a nonmember mortgagee pursuant to Subpart B of part 935 of this chapter.

Provide financing means:

(1) Originating loans;

(2) Purchasing a participation interest, or providing financing to participate, in a loan consortium for CICA-eligible housing or economic development projects;

(3) Making loans to entities that, in turn, make loans for CICA-eligible housing or economic development projects;

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(4) Purchasing mortgage revenue bonds or mortgage-backed securities, where all of the loans financed by such bonds and all of the loans backing such securities, respectively, meet the eligibility requirements of the CICA program under which the member or non-member borrower receives an advance;

(5) Creating or maintaining a secondary market for loans, where all such loans are mortgage loans meeting the eligibility requirements of the CICA program under which the member or nonmember borrower receives an advance;

(6) Originating CICA-eligible loans within 3 months prior to receiving the CICA advance; and

(7) Purchasing low-income housing tax credits.

RDA or *Rural Development Advance* means an advance made pursuant to an RDA program.

RDA program or *Rural Development Advance program* means a program offered by a Bank for community lending in rural areas.

Rural area means:

(1) A unit of general local government with a population of 25,000 or less;

(2) An unincorporated area outside an MSA; or

(3) An unincorporated area within an MSA that qualifies for housing or economic development assistance from the USDA.

Small business means a “small business concern,” as that term is defined by section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)) and implemented by the Small Business Administration under 13 CFR part 121, or any successor provisions.

Targeted beneficiaries means beneficiaries determined by the geographical area in which a project is located (Geographically Defined Beneficiaries), by the individuals who benefit from a project as employees or service recipients (Individual Beneficiaries), or by the nature of the project itself (Activity Beneficiaries), as follows:

(1) Geographically Defined Beneficiaries:

(i) The project is located in a neighborhood with a median income at or below the targeted income level;

(ii) The project is located in a rural Champion Community, or a rural Empowerment Zone or rural Enterprise Community, as designated by the Secretary of the USDA;

(iii) The project is located in an urban Champion Community, or an urban Empowerment Zone or urban Enterprise Community, as designated by the Secretary of HUD;

(iv) The project is located in an Indian area, as defined by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 *et seq.*), Alaskan Native Village, or Native Hawaiian Home Land;

(v) The project is located in an area and involves a property eligible for a Brownfield Tax Credit;

(vi) The project is located in an area affected by a military base closing and is a “community in the vicinity of the installation” as defined by the Department of Defense at 32 CFR part 176;

(vii) The project is located in a designated community under the Community Adjustment and Investment Program as defined under 22 U.S.C. 290m-2;

(viii) The project is located in a Federally declared disaster area; or

(ix) The project is located in a state declared disaster area, or qualifies for assistance under another Federal or State targeted economic development program, approved by the Finance Board.

(2) Individual Beneficiaries:

(i) The annual salaries for at least 51% of the permanent full- and part-time jobs, computed on a full-time equivalent basis, created or retained by the project, other than construction jobs, are at or below the targeted income level; or

(ii) At least 51% of the families who otherwise benefit from (other than through employment), or are provided services by, the project have incomes at or below the targeted income level.

(3) Activity Beneficiaries: Projects that qualify as small businesses.

(4) Other Targeted Beneficiaries. A Bank may designate, with the prior approval of the Finance Board, other targeted beneficiaries for its community lending.

(5) Only targeted beneficiaries identified in paragraphs (1)(i) through (1)(iv),

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and (2)(i) and (2)(ii) of this definition are eligible for CIP advances.

Targeted income level means:

(1) For rural areas, incomes at or below 115 percent of the median income for the area, as adjusted for family size in accordance with the methodology of the applicable area median income standard or, at the option of the Bank, for a family of four;

(2) For urban areas, incomes at or below 100 percent of the median income for the area, as adjusted for family size in accordance with the methodology of the applicable area median income standard or, at the option of the Bank, for a family of four;

(3) For CICA advances provided under CIP:

(i) For economic development projects, incomes at or below 80 percent of the median income for the area; or

(ii) For housing projects, incomes at or below 115 percent of the median income for the area, both as adjusted for family size in accordance with the methodology of the applicable area median income standard or, at the option of the Bank, for a family of four; or

(4) For CICA advances provided under any other CICA program offered by a Bank, a targeted income level established by the Bank with the prior approval of the Finance Board.

UDA or Urban Development Advance means an advance made pursuant to a UDA program.

UDA program or Urban Development Advance program means a program offered by a Bank for community lending in urban areas.

Urban area means:

(1) A unit of general local government with a population of more than 25,000; or

(2) An unincorporated area within an MSA that does not qualify for housing or economic development assistance from the USDA.

USDA means the United States Department of Agriculture.

§970.4 Community Lending Plan

Each Bank shall develop and adopt an annual Community Lending Plan pursuant to §936.6 of this chapter.

§970.5 Community Investment Cash Advance Programs.

(a) *In general.* (1) Each Bank shall offer an AHP in accordance with part 960 of this chapter.

(2) Each Bank shall offer a CIP to provide financing for housing projects and for eligible community lending at the appropriate targeted income levels.

(3) Each Bank may offer RDA programs or UDA programs, or both, for community lending using the targeted beneficiaries or targeted income levels specified in §970.3 of this part, without prior Finance Board approval.

(4) Each Bank may offer CICA programs for community lending using targeted beneficiaries and targeted income levels other than those specified in §970.3 of this part, established by the Bank with the prior approval of the Finance Board.

(b) *Mixed-use projects.* (1) For projects funded under CICA programs other than CIP, involving a combination of housing projects and economic development projects, only the economic development components of the project must meet the appropriate targeted income level for the respective CICA program.

(2) For projects funded under CIP, both the housing and economic development components of the project must meet the appropriate targeted income levels.

(c) *Refinancing.* CICA advances other than AHP may be used to refinance economic development projects and housing projects, provided that any equity proceeds of the refinancing of rental housing and manufactured housing parks are used to rehabilitate the projects or to preserve affordability for current residents.

(d) *Pricing and Availability of CICA advances—*(1) *Advances to members.* For CICA programs other than AHP and CIP, a Bank shall price advances to members as provided in §935.6 of this chapter, and may price such advances at rates below the price of advances of similar amounts, maturities and terms made pursuant to section 10(a) of the Act. (12 U.S.C. 1430(a)).

(2) *Pricing of CIP advances.* The price of CICA advances made under CIP shall not exceed the Bank's cost of issuing consolidated obligations of comparable

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maturity, taking into account reasonable administrative costs.

(3) *Pricing of AHP advances.* A Bank shall price CICA advances made under AHP in accordance with parts 935 and 960 of this chapter.

(4) *Advances to nonmember borrowers.*

(i) A Bank may offer advances under CICA programs to nonmember borrowers at the Bank's option, except for AHP and CIP, which are available only to members.

(ii) A Bank shall price advances to nonmember borrowers as provided in §935.24 of this chapter, and may price such advances at rates below the price of advances of similar amounts, maturities and terms made pursuant to section 10b of the Act. (12 U.S.C. 1430b).

(5) *Pricing pass-through.* A Bank may require that borrowers receiving CICA advances pass through the benefit of any price reduction from regular advance pricing to their borrowers.

(6) *Discount Fund.* (i) A Bank may establish a fund which the Bank may use to reduce the price of CIP or other CICA advances below the advance prices provided for by this part.

(ii) Price reductions made through the Discount Fund shall be made in accordance with a fair distribution scheme.

§970.6 Reporting.

(a) By July 1, 1999, each Bank shall provide to the Finance Board an initial assessment of the credit needs and market opportunities in a Bank's district for community lending.

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(b) Effective in 2000, each Bank annually shall provide to the Finance Board, on or before January 31, a Community Lending Plan.

(c) Each Bank shall provide such other reports concerning its CICA programs as the Finance Board may request from time to time.

§970.7 Documentation.

(a) A Bank shall require the borrower to certify to the Bank that each project funded by a CICA advance (other than AHP) meets the respective targeting requirements of the CICA program. Such certification shall include a description of how the project meets the requirements, and where appropriate, a statistical summary or list of incomes of the borrowers, rents for the project, or salaries of jobs created or retained.

(b) For those CICA-funded projects that also receive funds from another targeted Federal economic development program that has income targeting requirements that are the same as, or more restrictive than, the targeting requirements of the applicable CICA program, the Bank shall permit the borrower to certify that compliance with the criteria of such Federal economic development program will meet the requirements of the respective CICA program.

(c) Such certifications shall satisfy the Bank's obligations to document compliance with the CICA lending provisions of this part.

CHAPTER XI—FEDERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS EXAMINATION COUNCIL

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PART 1101—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE, PROCEDURES, PUBLIC INFORMATION

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552; 12 U.S.C. 3307.

SOURCE: 45 FR 46794, July 11, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1101.1 Scope and purpose.

This part implements the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, with respect to the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (Council), and establishes related information disclosure procedures.

§ 1101.2 Authority and functions.

(a) The Council was established by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 (Act), 12 U.S.C. 3301–3308. It is composed of the Comptroller of the Currency; the Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; a Governor of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; the Chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board; and the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration Board.

(b) The statutory functions of the Council are set out at 12 U.S.C. 3305. In summary, the mission of the Council is to promote consistency and progress in federal examination and supervision of financial institutions and their affiliates. The Council is empowered to prescribe uniform principles, standards, and reporting forms and systems; make recommendations in the interest of uniformity; and conduct examiner schools open to personnel of the agencies represented on the Council and employees of state financial institutions supervisory agencies.

§ 1101.3 Organization and methods of operation.

(a) Statutory requirements relating to the Council's organization are stated in 12 U.S.C. 3303.

(b) *Council staff.* Administrative support and substantive coordination for Council activities are provided by a small staff detailed on a full-time basis from the five member agencies. The Executive Secretary and Deputy Executive Secretary of the Council supervise this staff.

(c) *Agency Liaison Group, Task Forces and Legal Advisory Group.* Most staff support in the substantive areas of the Council's duties is provided by inter-agency task forces and the Council's Legal Advisory Group (LAG). These task forces and the LAG are responsible for securing the services, as needed, of staff experts from the five agencies; supervising research and other investigative work for the Council; and preparing reports and recommendations for the Council. The Agency Liaison Group (ALG) is responsible for the overall coordination of the respective agencies' staff contributions to Council business. The ALG, the task forces, and the LAG are each composed of Council member agency staff serving the Council on a part-time basis.

(d) *State Liaison Committee.* Under 12 U.S.C. 3306, the Council has established a State Liaison Committee, composed of five representatives of state financial institutions supervisory agencies.

(e) *Council address.* Council offices are located at 1776 G Street, NW., Suite 701, Washington, DC 20006.

[45 FR 46794, July 11, 1980, as amended at 53 FR 7341, Mar. 8, 1988]

§ 1101.4 Disclosure of information, policies, and records.

(a) *Statements of policy published in the Federal Register or available for public inspection and copying; indices.* Under 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(1), the Council publishes general rules, policies and interpretations in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Under 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2), policies and interpretations adopted by the Council, including instructions to Council staff affecting members of the public, and an index to the same, are available for

public inspection and copying at the address set out in § 1101.3(e) of this part during regular business hours. The preceding materials may be withheld from disclosure under the principles stated in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(b) *Other records of the Council available for public inspection; procedures*—(1) *General rule and exemptions.* Under 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(3), all other records of the Council are available for public inspection and copying, except those exempted from disclosure as provided in this paragraph. Except as specifically authorized by the Council, the following records, and portions thereof, are not available to the public:

(i) A record, or portion thereof, which is specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and which is, in fact, properly classified pursuant to such Executive order.

(ii) A record, or portion thereof, relating solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency.

(iii) A record, or portion thereof, specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 U.S.C. 552b), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld.

(iv) A record, or portion thereof, containing trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential.

(v) An intraagency or interagency memorandum or letter that would not be routinely available by law to a private party in litigation, including, but not limited to, memoranda, reports, and other documents prepared by the personnel of the Council or its constituent agencies.

(vi) A personnel, medical, or similar record, including a financial record, or any portion thereof, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

(vii) Records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, including records relating to a proceeding by a financial institution's regulatory agency for the issuance of a cease-and-

desist order, or order of suspension or removal, or assessment of a civil money penalty and the granting, withholding, or revocation of any approval, permission, or authority, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings; (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication; (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a state, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of a record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source; (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual.

(viii) A record, or portion thereof, containing, relating to, or derived from an examination, operating, or condition report prepared by, or on behalf of, or for the use of any agency directly or indirectly responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions, relating to the affairs of any financial institution or affiliate thereof, financial institution holding company or subsidiary, broker, finance company, or any other person engaged, or proposing to engage, in the business of operating, managing or controlling financial institutions.

(ix) A record, or portion thereof, which contains or is related to geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

(2) *Waiver of exemption.* Notwithstanding the applicability of an exemption, the Council or the Council's designee may elect, under the circumstances of a particular request, to disclose all or a portion of any requested record where permitted by law. Such disclosure has no precedential significance whatsoever.

(3) *Procedure for records request*—(i) *Initial request.* Requests for records shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Secretary of the Council, at the address set out in § 1101.3(e) of this part. Mailed requests should be marked “Freedom of Information Request,” “FOIA Request,” or the like on the envelope. Requests must reasonably describe the records sought. The Executive Secretary will aid members of the public in formulating their requests. All requests should give the complete telephone number of the individual seeking the records, if possible.

(ii) *Council response to initial requests.* The Executive Secretary will respond by mail to all properly submitted initial requests within 10 working days of receipt. The time for response may be extended up to 10 additional working days, as provided in 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6)(B), or for other periods by agreement between the requesting party and the Executive Secretary.

(iii) *Appeals of responses to initial requests.* If a request is denied in whole or in part, the individual making the request may appeal in writing, within 35 days of the date of the denial, to the Chairman of the Council, at the address set out in § 1101.3(e) of this part. Mailed requests should be marked “Freedom of Information Appeal,” “FOIA Appeal,” or the like on the envelope. Appeals should refer to the date of the original request and the date of the Council's initial ruling. Appeals should include an explanation of the basis for the appeal.

(iv) *Council response to appeals.* The Chairman of the Council, or another member designated by the Chairman, will respond by mail to all properly submitted appeals within 20 working days of receipt. The time for response may be extended up to 10 additional working days, as provided in 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6)(B), or for other periods by agreement between the requesting

party and the Chairman or the Chairman's designee.

(4) *Procedure for access to records if request is granted.* When a request for access to records is granted, in whole or in part, a copy of the records to be disclosed will be promptly delivered to the requesting party or made available for inspection, whichever was requested. Inspection of records, or duplication and delivery of copies of records will be arranged so as not to interfere with their use by the Council and other users of the records.

(5) *Fees for document search, review, and duplication; waiver and reduction of fees*—(i) *Definitions*—(A) *Direct costs* means those expenditures which the Council actually incurs in searching for, duplicating, and reviewing documents to respond to a FOIA request.

(B) *Search* means all time spent looking for material that is responsive to a request, including page-by-page or line-by-line identification of material within documents. Searches may be done manually or by computer using existing programming.

(C) *Duplication* means the process of making a copy of a document necessary to respond to a FOIA request.

(D) *Review* means the process of examining documents located in response to a request that is for a commercial use (see § 1101.4(b)(5)(i)(E)) to determine whether any portion of any document located is permitted to be withheld and processing such documents for disclosure.

(E) *Commercial use request* means a request from or on behalf of one who seeks information for a use or purpose that furthers the commercial, trade, or profit interests of the requester or the person on whose behalf the request is made.

(F) *Educational institution* means a preschool, an elementary or secondary school, an institution of undergraduate higher education, an institution of graduate higher education, an institution of professional education, and an institution of vocational education, which operates a program or programs of scholarly research.

(G) *Noncommercial scientific institution* means an institution that is not operated on a “commercial” basis as that term is referenced in § 1101.4(b)(i)(E),

and which is operated solely for the purposes of conducting scientific research, the results of which are not intended to promote any particular product or industry.

(H) *Representative of the news media* means any person actively gathering news for an entity that is organized and operated to publish or broadcast news to the public. The term “news” means information that is about current events or that would be of current interest to the public.

(ii) *Fees to be charged.* The Council will charge fees that recoup the full allowable direct costs it incurs. The Council may contract with the private sector to locate, reproduce, and/or disseminate records. Provided, however, that the Council has ensured that the ultimate cost to the requester is no greater than it would be if the Council performed these tasks. Fees are subject to change as costs change. In no case will the Council contract out responsibilities which the FOIA provides that it alone may discharge, such as determining the applicability of an exemption, or determining whether to waive or reduce fees.

(A) *Manual searches and review.* The Council will charge fees at the following rates for manual searches for and review of records:

(1) If search/review is done by clerical staff, the hourly rate for GS–7, step 5, plus 16 percent of the rate to cover benefits;

(2) If search/review is done by professional staff, the hourly rate for GS–13, step 5, plus 16 percent of the rate to cover benefits.

(B) *Computer searches.* The Council will charge fees at the hourly rate for GS–13, step 5, plus 16 percent of the rate to cover benefits, plus the hourly cost of operating the computer for computer searches for records.

(C) *Duplication of records.* (1) The per-page fee for paper copy reproduction of a document is \$.25;

(2) The fee for documents generated by computer is the hourly rate for the computer operator (at GS 7, step 5, plus 16 percent for benefits if clerical staff, and GS 13, step 5, plus 16 percent for benefits if professional staff) plus the cost of materials (computer paper, tapes, labels, etc.).

(3) If any other method of duplication is used, the Council will charge the actual direct cost of duplicating the documents.

(D) If search, duplication and/or review is provided by personnel of member agencies of the Council, fees will reflect their actual hourly rates, plus 16 percent for benefits.

(E) *Fees to exceed \$25.* If the Council estimates that duplication and/or search fees are likely to exceed \$25, it will notify the requester of the estimated amount of fees, unless the requester has indicated in advance his/her willingness to pay fees as high as those anticipated. In the case of such notification by the Council, the requester will then have the opportunity to confer with Council personnel with the object of reformulating the request to meet his/her needs at a lower cost.

(F) *Other services.* Complying with requests for special services is entirely at the discretion of the Council. The Council will recover the full costs of providing such services to the extent it elects to provide them.

(G) *Restriction on assessing fees.* The Council will not charge fees to any requester, including commercial use requesters, if the cost of collecting a fee would be equal to or greater than the fee itself.

(H) *Waiving or reducing fees.* The Council shall waive or reduce fees under this section whenever disclosure of information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

(I) The Council will make a determination of whether the public interest requirement above is met based on the following factors:

(i) The subject of the request: Whether the subject of the requested records concerns the operations or activities of the government;

(ii) The informative value of the information to be disclosed: Whether the disclosure is likely to contribute to an understanding of government operations or activities;

(iii) The contribution to an understanding of the subject by the general public likely to result from disclosure:

Whether disclosure of the requested information will contribute to public understanding;

(iv) The significance of the contribution to the public understanding: Whether the disclosure is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations or activities.

(2) If the public interest requirement is met, the Council will make a determination on the commercial interest requirement based upon the following factors:

(i) The existence and magnitude of a commercial interest: Whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure; and if so

(ii) The primary interest in disclosure: Whether the magnitude of the identified commercial interest of the requester is sufficiently large in comparison with the public interest in disclosure; that disclosure is primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

(3) If the required public interest exists and the requester's commercial interest is not primary in comparison to it, the Council will waive or reduce fees.

(iii) *Categories of requesters.* (A) Commercial use requesters. The Council will assess fees for commercial use requesters which recover the full direct costs of searching for, reviewing for release, the duplicating the records sought. Commercial use requesters are not entitled to two hours of free search time nor 100 free pages of reproduction of documents.

(B) Requesters who are representatives of the news media, educational and noncommercial scientific institution requesters. The Council shall provide documents to requesters in these categories for the cost of reproduction alone, excluding fees for the first 100 pages.

(C) All other requesters. The Council shall charge requesters who do not fit into any of the categories above fees which recover the full reasonable direct cost of searching for and reproducing records that are responsive to the request, except that the first 100 pages of reproduction and the first two hours

of search time shall be furnished without a fee.

(D) All requesters must specifically describe records sought.

(iv) *Interest on unpaid fees.* The Council may begin assessing interest charges on an unpaid bill starting on the 31st day following the day on which the bill was sent. Interest will be at the rate prescribed in section 3717 of title 31 U.S.C. and will accrue from the date of the billing.

(v) *Fees for unsuccessful search and review.* The Council may assess fees for time spent searching and reviewing, even if it fails to locate the records or if records located are determined to be exempt from disclosure.

(vi) *Aggregating requests.* A requester(s) may not file multiple requests each seeking portions of a document or documents, solely in order to avoid payment of fees. If this is done, the Council may aggregate any such requests and charge accordingly. In no case will the Council aggregate multiple requests on unrelated subjects from the same requester.

(vii) *Advance payment of fees.* The Council will not require a requester to make an assurance of payment or an advance payment unless:

(A) The Council estimates or determines that allowable charges that a requester may be required to pay are likely to exceed \$250. The Council will notify the requester of the likely cost and obtain satisfactory assurance of full payment where the requester has a history of prompt payment of FOIA fees, or require an advance payment of an amount up to the full estimated charges in the case of requesters with no history of payment; or

(B) A requester has previously failed to pay a fee charged in a timely fashion. The Council may require the requester to pay the full amount owed plus any applicable interest as provided in § 1101.4(b)(5)(iv) or demonstrate that he/she has, in fact, paid the fee, and to make an advance payment of the full amount of the estimated fee before the Council begins to process a new request or a pending request from that requester.

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(C) When the Council acts under § 1101.4(b)(5)(vii) (A) or (B), the administrative time limits prescribed in subsection (a)(6) of the FOIA (i.e., 10 working days from receipt of initial requests and 20 working days from receipt of appeals from initial denial, plus permissible extensions of these time limits) will begin only after the Council has received the fee payments described.

(6) *Records of another agency.* If a requested record is the property of another federal agency or department, and that agency or department, either in writing or by regulation, expressly retains ownership of such record, upon receipt of a request for the record the Council will promptly inform the requester of this ownership and immediately shall forward the request to the proprietary agency or department either for processing in accordance with the latter's regulations or for guidance with respect to disposition.

[45 FR 46794, July 11, 1980, as amended at 53 FR 7341, Mar. 8, 1988]

§ 1101.5 Testimony and production of documents in response to subpoena, order, etc.

No person shall testify, in court or otherwise, as a result of activities on behalf of the Council without prior written authorization from the Council. This section shall not restrict the authority of a Council member to testify before Congress on matters within his or her official responsibilities as a Council member. No person shall furnish documents reflecting information of the Council in compliance with a subpoena, order, or otherwise, without prior written authorization from the Council. The Council may authorize testimony or production of documents after the litigant (or the litigant's attorney) submits an affidavit to the Council setting forth the interest of the litigant and the testimony or documents desired. Authorization to testify or produce documents is limited to authority expressly granted by the Council. When the Council has not authorized testimony or production of documents, the individual to whom the subpoena or order has been directed will appear in court and respectfully state that he or she is unable to comply fur-

ther with the subpoena or order by reason of this section.

PART 1102—APPRAISER REGULATION

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Subpart A—Temporary Waiver Requests

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 3348(b).

SOURCE: 57 FR 10982, Apr. 1, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1102.1 Authority, purpose and scope.

(a) *Authority.* This subpart is issued under section 1119(b) of Title XI of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (“FIRREA”) (12 U.S.C. § 3348(b)).

(b) *Purpose and scope.* This subpart prescribes rules of practice and procedure governing temporary waiver proceedings under Section 1119(b) of Title XI of FIRREA (12 U.S.C. 3348(b)). These procedures apply whenever a State appraiser regulatory agency requests the Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (“ASC”) for a waiver of any requirement relating to certification or licensing of a person to perform appraisals under Title XI of FIRREA. They also apply whenever the ASC, based on sufficient, credible information or requests received from other persons or entities, initiates a temporary waiver proceeding.

§ 1102.2 Requirements for requests.

A request will not be deemed received by the ASC unless it fully and accurately sets out:

(a) If the requester is a State Appraiser Regulatory Agency, a written, duly authorized determination by the State Appraiser Regulatory Agency that there is a scarcity of State licensed or State certified appraisers leading to significant delays in obtaining appraisals in federally related transactions. The scarcity can relate to the entire State or to particular geographical or political subdivisions. In the absence of such a written determination, a State Appraiser Regulatory Agency must ask the ASC for such a determination;

(b) The requirement or requirements of State law from which relief is being sought;

(c) A description of all significant problems currently being encountered in efforts to comply with Title XI;

(d) The nature of the scarcity of certified or licensed appraisers (including supporting documentation);

(e) The extent of the delays anticipated or experienced in obtaining the services of certified or licensed appraisers (including supporting documentation);

(f) The reasons why the requester believes that the requirement or requirements are causing the scarcity of certified or licensed appraisers and the service delays; and

(g) A specific plan for expeditiously alleviating the scarcity and the service delays.

§ 1102.3 Other requests and information submissions.

The federal financial institutions regulatory agencies and the Resolution Trust Corporation, their respective regulated financial institutions, and other persons or institutions with a demonstrable interest in appraiser regulation, may ask the ASC for a determination under § 1102.2(a) of this subpart, and may ask that the ASC exercise its discretionary authority to initiate a temporary waiver proceeding. Such regulated financial institutions and other persons or institutions do not need to comply with § 1102.2(g) of this subpart, but are strongly encouraged to include meaningful suggestions and recommendations for remedying the situation. A copy of the request or

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informational submission shall be forwarded promptly to the State Appraiser Regulatory Agency. The ASC shall consider these submissions and requests in exercising its authority to initiate a temporary waiver procedure. When the ASC initiates a temporary waiver proceeding, these documents shall correspond to a received request under § 1102.4 of this subpart.

§ 1102.4 Notice and comment.

The ASC shall publish promptly in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice respecting:

- (a) The received request; or
- (b) The ASC order initiating a temporary waiver proceeding. The notice or initiation order shall contain a concise general statement of the nature and basis for the action and shall give interested persons 30 calendar days from its publication in which to submit written data, views and arguments.

§ 1102.5 Subcommittee determination.

Within 45 calendar days of the date of the publication of the notice or initiation order in the FEDERAL REGISTER, the ASC, by order, shall either grant or deny a waiver in whole, in part, and upon specified terms and conditions, including provisions for waiver termination. Such order shall respond to comments received from interested members of the public and shall provide the reasons for the ASC's finding. The order shall be published promptly in the FEDERAL REGISTER, which, in the case of an approval order, shall be after Federal Financial Institution Examination Council concurrence. Upon the ASC's determination that an emergency exists, the ASC may issue an interim approval order simultaneously with its action under § 1120.4 of this subpart. Any ASC approval order shall be effective only upon Federal Financial Institution Examination Council concurrence.

§ 1102.6 Waiver extension.

The ASC may initiate an extension of temporary waiver relief and shall follow §§ 1102.4, 1102.5 and 1102.7 of this subpart. A State Appraiser Regulatory Agency also may request an extension of temporary waiver relief by forwarding an additional written request

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to the ASC. A request for an extension from State Appraiser Regulatory Agency shall be subject to all the requirements of this subpart.

§ 1102.7 Waiver termination.

The ASC at any time may terminate a waiver order on the finding that:

- (a) The significant delays in obtaining the services of certified or licensed appraisers no longer exist; or
- (b) The terms and conditions of the waiver order are not being satisfied. The ASC shall publish a finding of waiver termination promptly in the FEDERAL REGISTER, giving interested persons no less than 30 calendar days from publication in which to submit written data, views and arguments. In the absence of further ASC action to the contrary, the finding of waiver termination automatically shall become final 21 calendar days after the close of the comment period.

Subpart B—Rules of Practice for Proceedings

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 3332, 3335, 3347, and 3348(c).

SOURCE: 57 FR 31650, July 17, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1102.20 Authority, purpose, and scope.

(a) *Authority.* This subpart is issued under sections 1103, 1106, 1118 and 1119(c) of Title XI of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (FIRREA) (12 U.S.C. 3332, 3335, 3347, and 3348(c)).

(b) *Purpose and scope.* This subpart prescribes rules of practice and procedure governing non-recognition proceedings under section 1118 of Title XI (12 U.S.C. 3347); and other proceedings necessary to carry out the purposes of Title XI under section 1119(c) of Title XI (12 U.S.C. 3348(c)).

[57 FR 31650, July 17, 1992, as amended at 57 FR 35004, Aug. 7, 1992]

§ 1102.21 Definitions.

As used in this subpart:

(a) *Subcommittee* or ASC means the Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination

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Council, as established under section 1011 of Title XI (12 U.S.C. 3310).

(b) *Party* means the ASC or a person, agency or other entity named as a party, including, when appropriate, persons appearing in the proceeding under § 1102.22 of this subpart.

(c) *Respondent* means any party other than the ASC.

(d) *Secretary* means the Secretary of the ASC under its Rules of Operation.

§ 1102.22 Appearance and practice before the Subcommittee.

(a) *By attorneys and notice of appearance.* Any person who is a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of any State or of the District of Columbia, or of any possession, territory, or commonwealth of the United States, may represent parties before the ASC upon filing with the Secretary a written notice of appearance stating that he or she is currently qualified as provided in this paragraph and is authorized to represent the particular party on whose behalf he or she acts.

(b) *By non-attorneys.* An individual may appear on his or her own behalf. A member of a partnership may represent the partnership, and an officer, director or employee of any government unit, agency, institution, corporation or authority may represent that unit, agency, institution, corporation or authority. The partner, officer, director or employee must file with the Secretary a written statement that he or she has been duly authorized by the partnership, government unit, agency, institution, corporation or authority to act on its behalf. The ASC may require the representative to attach to the statement appropriate supporting documentation, such as a corporate resolution.

(c) *Conduct during proceedings.* All participants in a proceeding shall conduct themselves with dignity and in an orderly and ethical manner. The attorney or other representative of a party shall make every effort to restrain a client from improper conduct in connection with a proceeding. Improper language or conduct, refusal to comply with directions, use of dilatory tactics, or refusal to adhere to reasonable standards of orderly and ethical conduct constitute grounds for immediate

exclusion from the proceeding at the direction of the ASC.

§ 1102.23 Formal requirements as to papers filed.

(a) *Form.* All papers filed under this subpart must be double-spaced and printed or typewritten on 8½" x 11" paper. All copies shall be clear and legible.

(b) *Caption.* All papers filed must include at the head thereof, or on a title page, the name of the ASC and of the filing party, the title and/or docket number of the proceeding and the subject of the particular paper.

(c) *Party names, signatures, certificates of service.* All papers filed must set forth the name, address and telephone number of the attorney or party making the filing, must be signed by the attorney or party, and must be accompanied by a certification setting forth when and how service has been made on all other parties.

(d) *Copies.* Unless otherwise specifically provided in the notice of proceeding or by the ASC during the proceeding, an original and one copy of all documents and papers shall be furnished to the Secretary.

§ 1102.24 Filing requirements.

(a) *Filing.* All papers filed with the ASC in any proceeding shall be filed with the Secretary, Appraisal Subcommittee, 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., suite 200, Washington, DC 20037.

(b) *Manner of filing.* Unless otherwise specified by the ASC, filing may be accomplished by:

(1) Personal service;

(2) Delivering the papers to a reliable commercial courier service, overnight delivery service, or to the U.S. Post Office for Express Mail delivery; and

(3) Mailing the papers by first class, registered, or certified mail.

§ 1102.25 Service.

(a) *Methods; appearing party.* A serving party, who has made an appearance under § 1102.22 of this subpart, shall use one or more of the following methods of service:

(1) Personal service;

(2) Delivering the papers to a reliable commercial courier service, overnight

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delivery service, or to the U.S. Post Office for Express Mail delivery; and

(3) Mailing the papers by first class, registered, or certified mail.

(b) *Methods; non-appearing party.* If a party has not appeared in the proceeding in accordance with §1102.22 of this subpart, the ASC or any other party shall make service by any of the following methods:

(1) By personal service;

(2) By delivery to a person of suitable age and discretion at the party's last known address;

(3) By registered or certified mail addressed to the party's last known address; or

(4) By any other manner reasonably calculated to give actual notice.

(c) *By the Subcommittee.* All papers required to be served by the ASC shall be served by the Secretary unless some other person shall be designated for such purpose by the ASC.

(d) *By the respondent.* All papers filed in a proceeding under this subpart shall be served by a respondent on the Secretary and each party's attorney, or, if any party is not so represented, then upon such party. Such service may be made by any of the appropriate methods specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

§ 1102.26 When papers are deemed filed or served.

(a) *Effectiveness.* Filing and service are deemed effective:

(1) For personal service or same-day commercial courier delivery, upon actual delivery; and

(2) For overnight commercial delivery service, U.S. Express Mail delivery, or first class, registered, or certified mail, upon deposit in, or delivery to, an appropriate point of collection.

(b) *Modification.* The effective times for filing and service in paragraph (a) of this section may be modified by the ASC in the case of filing or by agreement of the parties in the case of service.

§ 1102.27 Computing time.

(a) *General rule.* In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by this subpart, the date of the act, event or default from which the designated period of time begins to run is not in-

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cluded. The last day so computed is included, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday. Intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays shall not be included in the computation.

(b) *For service and filing responsive papers.* Whenever a time limit is measured by a prescribed period from the service of any notice or paper, the applicable time periods are calculated as follows:

(1) If service is made by first class, registered or certified mail, add three days to the prescribed period; and

(2) If service is made by express mail or overnight delivery service, add one day to the prescribed period.

§ 1102.28 Documents and exhibits in proceedings public.

Unless and until otherwise ordered by the ASC or unless otherwise provided by statute or by ASC regulation, all documents, papers and exhibits filed in connection with any proceeding, other than those that may be withheld from disclosure under applicable law, shall be placed by the Secretary in the proceeding's public file and will be available for public inspection and copying at the address set out in §1102.24 of this subpart.

§ 1102.29 Conduct of proceedings.

(a) *In general.* Unless otherwise provided in the notice of proceedings, all proceedings under this subpart shall be conducted as hereinafter provided.

(b) *Written submissions.* All aspects of the proceeding shall be conducted by written submissions only, with the exception of oral presentations allowed under §1102.36 of this subpart.

(c) *Disqualification.* A Subcommittee member who deems himself or herself disqualified may at any time withdraw. Upon receipt of a timely and sufficient affidavit of personal bias or disqualification of such member, the ASC will rule on the matter as a part of the record and decision in the case.

(d) *User of ASC staff.* Appropriate members of the ASC's staff who are not engaged in the performance of investigative or prosecuting functions in the

proceeding may advise and assist the ASC in the consideration of the case and in the preparation of appropriate documents for its disposition.

(e) *Authority of Subcommittee Chairperson.* The Chairperson of the ASC, in consultation with other members of the ASC whenever appropriate, shall have complete charge of the proceeding and shall have the duty to conduct it in a fair and impartial manner and to take all necessary action to avoid delay in the disposition of proceedings in accordance with this subpart.

(f) *Conferences.* (1) The ASC may on its own initiative or at the request of any party, direct all parties or counsel to meet with one or more duly authorized ASC members or staff at a specified time and place, or to submit to the ASC or its designee, suggestions in writing for the purpose of considering any or all of the following:

(i) Scheduling of matters, including a timetable for the information-gathering phase of the proceeding;

(ii) Simplification and clarification of the issues;

(iii) Stipulations and admissions of fact and of the content and authenticity of documents;

(iv) Matters of which official notice will be taken; and

(v) Such other matters as may aid in the orderly disposition of the proceeding, including disclosure of the names of persons submitting affidavits or other documents and exhibits which may be introduced into the public file of the proceeding.

(2) Such conferences will not be recorded, but the Secretary shall place in the proceeding's public file a memorandum summarizing the results of the conference and shall provide a copy of the memorandum to each party. The memorandum shall control the subsequent course of the proceedings, unless the ASC for good cause shown by one or more parties to the conference, modifies those results and instructs the Secretary to place an amendatory memorandum to that effect in the public file.

(g) *Changes or extensions of time and changes of place of proceeding.* The ASC, in connection with initiating a specific proceedings under § 1102.32 of this subpart, may instruct the Secretary to

publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER time limits different from those specified in this subpart, and may, on its own initiative or for good cause shown, issue an exemption changing the place of the proceeding or extending any time limit prescribed by this subpart, including the date for ending the information-gathering phase of the proceeding.

(h) *Call for further briefs, memoranda, statements; reopening of matters.* The ASC may call for the production of further information upon any issue, the submission of briefs, memoranda and statements (together with written responses), and, upon appropriate notice, may reopen any aspect of the proceeding at any time prior to a decision on the matter.

[57 FR 31650, July 17, 1992, as amended at 57 FR 35004, Aug. 7, 1992]

§ 1102.30 Rules of evidence.

(a) *In general.* (1) Except as is otherwise set forth in this section, relevant, material and reliable evidence that is not unduly repetitive is admissible to the fullest extent authorized by the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 551 *et seq.*) and other applicable law.

(2) Evidence that would be admissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence is admissible in a proceeding conducted under this subpart.

(3) Evidence that would be inadmissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence may be deemed or ruled admissible in a proceeding conducted under this subpart if such evidence is relevant, material, reliable and not unduly repetitive.

(b) *Stipulations.* Any party may stipulate in writing as to any relevant matters of fact, law, or the authenticity of any relevant documents. The Secretary shall place such stipulations in the public file, and they shall be binding on the parties.

(c) *Official notice.* Every matter officially noticed by the ASC shall appear in the public file, unless the ASC determines that the matter must be withheld from public disclosure under applicable Federal law.

§ 1102.31 Burden of proof.

The ultimate burden of proof shall be on the respondent. The burden of going

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forward with a *prima facie* case shall be on the ASC.

§ 1102.32 Notice of Intention to Commence a Proceeding.

The ASC shall instruct the Secretary or other designated officer acting for the ASC to publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a Notice of Intention To Commence A Proceeding (Notice of Intention). The Notice of Intention shall be served upon the party or parties to the proceeding and shall commence at the time of service. The Notice of Intention shall state the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the proceeding is to be held; shall contain, or incorporate by appropriate reference, a specific statement of the matters of fact or law constituting the grounds for the proceeding; and shall state a date no sooner than 25 days after service of the Notice of Intention is made for termination of the information-gathering phase of the proceeding. The Notice of Intention also must contain a bold-faced warning respecting the effect of a failure to file a Rebuttal or Notice Not To Contest under § 1102.33(d) of this subpart. The ASC may amend a Notice of Intention in any manner and to the extent consistent with provisions of applicable law.

§ 1102.33 Rebuttal or Notice Not To Contest.

(a) *When required.* A party to the proceeding may file either a Rebuttal or a Notice Not to Contest the statements contained in the Notice of Intention or any amendment thereto with the Secretary within 15 days after being served with the Notice of Intention or an amendment to such Notice. The Secretary shall place the Rebuttal or the Notice Not To Contest in the public file.

(b) *Requirements of Rebuttal; effect of failure to deny.* A Rebuttal filed under this section shall specifically admit, deny or state that the party does not have sufficient information to admit or deny each statement in the Notice of Intention. A statement of lack of information shall have the effect of a denial. Any statement not denied shall be deemed to be admitted. When a party intends to deny only a part or a qualification of a statement, the party shall

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admit so much of it as is true and shall deny only the remainder.

(c) *Notice Not To Contest.* A party filing a Notice Not To Contest the statement of fact set forth in the Notice of Intention shall constitute a waiver of the party's opportunity to rebut the facts alleged, and together with the Notice of Intention and any referenced documents, will provide a record basis on which the ASC shall decide the matter. The filing of a Notice Not To Contest shall not constitute a waiver of the right of such party to a judicial review of the ASC's decision, findings and conclusions.

(d) *Effect of failure to file Rebuttal or Notice Not To Contest.* Failure of a party to file a response required by this section within the time provided shall constitute a waiver of the party's opportunity to rebut and to contest the statements in the Notice of Intention and shall constitute authorization for the ASC to find the facts to be as presented in the Notice of Intention and to file with the Secretary a decision containing such findings and appropriate conclusions. The ASC, for good cause shown, will permit the filing of a Rebuttal after the prescribed time.

§ 1102.34 Briefs, memoranda and statements.

(a) *By the parties.* Until the end of the information-gathering phase of the proceeding, any party may file with the Secretary a written brief, memorandum or other statement providing factual data and policy and legal arguments regarding the matters set out in the Notice of Intention. The filing party shall simultaneously serve other parties to the proceeding with a copy of the document. No later than ten days after such service, any party may file with the Secretary a written response to the document and must simultaneously serve a copy thereof on the other parties to the proceeding. The Secretary will receive documents and responses and will place them in the public file.

(b) *By interested persons, in non-recognition proceedings.* Until the end of the information-gathering phase of a proceeding under section 1118 of FIRREA (12 U.S.C. 3347), any person with a demonstrable, direct interest in

the outcome of the proceeding may file with the Secretary a written brief, memorandum or other statement providing factual data and policy and legal arguments regarding the matters set out in the Notice of Intention. The ASC's Chairperson or his or her designee may not accept any such written brief, memorandum or other statement if the submitting person cannot demonstrate a direct interest in the outcome of the proceeding. Upon acceptance of the written brief, memorandum or other statement, the Secretary shall make copies of the document and forward one copy thereof to each party to the proceeding. No later than ten days after such service, any party may file with the Secretary a written response to the document and must simultaneously serve one copy thereof on the other parties to the proceeding. The Secretary will place a copy of such briefs, memoranda, statements and responses in the public file.

§ 1102.35 Opportunity for informal settlement.

Any party may at any time submit to the Secretary, for consideration by the Subcommittee, written offers or proposals for settlement of a proceeding, without prejudice to the rights of the parties. No offer or proposal shall be included in the proceeding's public file over the objection of any party to such proceeding. This paragraph shall not preclude settlement of any proceeding by the filing of a Notice Not To Contest as provided in § 1102.33(c) or by the submission of the case to the ASC on a stipulation of facts.

§ 1102.36 Oral presentations.

(a) *In general.* A party does not have a right to an oral presentation. Under this section, a party's request to make an oral presentation may be denied if such a denial is appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. An oral presentation shall be considered as an opportunity to offer, emphasize and clarify the facts, policies and laws concerning the proceeding.

(b) *Method and time of request.* Between the commencement of the proceeding and ten days before the end of the information-gathering phase, any party to the proceeding may file with

the Secretary a letter requesting that the Secretary schedule an opportunity for the party to give an oral presentation to the ASC. That letter shall include the reasons why an oral presentation is necessary.

(c) *ASC processing.* The Secretary must promptly forward the letter request to the Chairman of the ASC. The Chairman, after informally contacting other ASC members and the ASC's senior staff for their views, will instruct the Secretary to forward a letter to the party either: Scheduling a date and time for the oral presentation and specifying the allowable duration of the presentation; or declining the request and providing the reasons therefor. The party's letter request and the ASC's response will be included in the proceeding's public file.

(d) *Procedure on presentation day.* On the appropriate date and time, the party or his or her attorney (if any) will make the oral presentation before the ASC. Any ASC member may ask the party or the attorney, as the case may be, pertinent questions relating to the content of the oral presentation. Oral presentations will not be recorded or otherwise transcribed. The Secretary must enter promptly into the proceeding's public file a memorandum summarizing the subjects discussed during the oral presentation.

§ 1102.37 Decision of the Subcommittee and judicial review.

At a reasonable time after the end of the information-gathering phase of the proceeding, but not exceeding 35 days, the ASC shall issue a final decision, containing specified terms and conditions as it deems appropriate, in the matter and shall cause the decision to be published promptly in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The final decision shall be effective on issuance. The Secretary shall serve the decision upon the parties promptly, shall place it in the proceeding's public file and shall furnish it to such other persons as the ASC may direct. Pursuant to the provisions of chapter 7 of title 5 of the U.S. Code and section 1118(c)(3) of title XI of FIRREA (12 U.S.C. 3348(c)(3)), a final decision of the ASC is a prerequisite to seeking judicial review.

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§ 1102.38 Compliance activities.

(a) Where, from complaints received from members of the public, communications from Federal or State agencies, examination of information by the ASC, or otherwise, it appears that a person has violated, is violating or is about to violate title XI of FIRREA or the rules or regulations thereunder, the ASC staff may commence an informal, preliminary inquiry into the matter. If, upon such inquiry, it appears that one or more allegations relate to possible violations of regulations administered by another agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government, then the matter shall be referred to that agency or instrumentality for appropriate action. The ASC, pursuant to its responsibilities under section 1103(a)(2) of title XI (12 U.S.C. 3332(a)(2)) and section 1119(c) of title XI (12 U.S.C. 3348)), shall monitor the matter. If, upon inquiry, it appears that one or more allegations are within the ASC's jurisdiction, then the ASC, in its discretion, may determine to commence a formal investigation respecting the matter and shall instruct the Secretary to create a public file for the formal investigation. The Secretary shall place in that file a memorandum naming the person or persons subject to the investigation and the statutory basis for the investigation.

(b) Unless otherwise instructed by the ASC or required by law, the Secretary shall ensure that all other papers, documents and materials gathered or submitted in connection with the investigation are non-public and for ASC use only.

(c) Persons who become involved in preliminary inquiries or formal investigations may, on their own initiative, submit a written statement to the Secretary setting forth their interests, positions or views regarding the subject matter of the investigation. Upon request, the staff, in its discretion, may advise such persons of the general nature of the investigation, including the indicated violations as they pertain to them and the amount of time that may be available for preparing and submitting such a statement prior to the presentation of a staff recommendation to the ASC. Upon the commencement of a formal investigation or a proceeding

under this subpart, the Secretary shall place any such statement in the appropriate public file.

(d) In instances where the staff has concluded its inquiry of a particular matter and has determined that it will not recommend the commencement of a formal investigation or a proceeding under this subpart against a person, the staff shall advise the person that its inquiry has been terminated. Such advice, if given, must in no way be construed as indicating that the person has been exonerated or that no action may ultimately result from the staff's inquiry into the particular matter.

§ 1102.39 Duty to cooperate.

In the course of the investigations and proceedings, the ASC (and its staff, with appropriate authorization) must provide parties or persons ample opportunity to work out problems by consent, by settlement, or in some other manner.

Subpart C—Rules Pertaining to the Privacy of Individuals and Systems of Records Maintained by the Appraisal Subcommittee

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 552a.

SOURCE: 57 FR 36357, Aug. 13, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1102.100 Authority, purpose and scope.

(a) This subpart is issued under the Privacy Act of 1974, Public Law 93–579, 88 Stat. 1896; 12 U.S.C. 552a, as amended.

(b) The Privacy Act of 1974 is based, in part, on the finding by Congress that “in order to protect the privacy of individuals identified in information systems maintained by Federal agencies, it is necessary and proper for the Congress to regulate the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of information by such agencies.” To achieve this objective, the Act generally provides that Federal agencies must advise an individual upon request whether records maintained by the agency in a system of records pertain to the individual and must grant the individual access to such records. The

Act further provides that individuals may request amendments to records pertaining to them that are maintained by the agency, and that the agency shall either grant the requested amendments or set forth fully its reasons for refusing to do so.

(c) The Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (ASC), pursuant to subsection (f) of the Privacy Act, adopts the following rules and procedures to implement the provisions of the Act summarized above and other provisions of the Act. These rules and procedures are applicable to all requests for information and access or amendment to records pertaining to an individual that are contained in any system of records that is maintained by the ASC.

§ 1102.101 Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply for purposes of this subpart:

(a) The terms *individual*, *maintain*, *record*, *system of records*, and *routine use* are defined for purposes of these rules as they are defined in 5 U.S.C. 552a(a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), (a)(5) and (a)(7).

(b) ASC or *Subcommittee* means the Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council.

(c) *Privacy Act Officer* means the ASC's Associate Director for Administration or such other ASC staff officer, other than the Executive Director, duly designated by the ASC's Executive Director.

§ 1102.102 Times, places and requirements for requests pertaining to individual records in a record system and for the identification of individuals making requests for access to records pertaining to them.

(a) *Place to make request.* Any request by an individual to be advised whether any system of records maintained by the ASC and named by the individual contains a record pertaining to him or her, or any request by an individual for access to a record pertaining to him or her that is contained in a system of records maintained by the ASC, shall be submitted in person at the ASC between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, which is located at 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., suite

200, Washington, DC. 20037, or by mail addressed to: Privacy Act Officer, ASC, 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., suite 200, Washington, DC. 20037. All requests will be required to be put in writing and signed by the individual making the request. In the case of requests for access that are made by mail, the envelope should be clearly marked "Privacy Act Request."

(1) *Information to be included in requests.* Each request by an individual concerning whether the ASC maintains in a system of records a record that pertains to the individual, or for access to any record pertaining to the individual that is maintained by the ASC in a system of records, shall include such information as will assist the ASC in identifying those records as to which the individual is seeking information or access. Where practicable, the individual should identify the system of records that is the subject of his or her request by reference to the ASC's notices of systems of records, which are published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, as required by section (e)(4) of the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(4). Where a system of records is compiled on the basis of a specific identification scheme, the individual should include in his or her request the identification number or other identifier assigned to the individual. In the event the individual does not know that number or identifier, the individual shall provide other information, including his or her full name, address, date of birth and subject matter of the record, to aid in processing his or her request. If additional information is required before a request can be processed, the individual shall be so advised.

(2) *Verification of identity.* When the fact of the existence of a record is not required to be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, as amended, or when a record as to which access has been requested is not required to be disclosed under that Act, the individual seeking the information or requesting access to the record shall be required to verify his or her identity before access will be granted or information given. For this purpose, individuals shall appear at the ASC located at 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., suite 200, Washington, DC., between 9

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a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The ASC's Office is not open on Saturdays, Sundays or Federal holidays.

(3) *Methods for verifying identity—appearance in person.* For the purpose of verifying identity, an individual seeking information regarding pertinent records or access to those records shall furnish documentation that may reasonably be relied on to establish the individual's identity. Such documentation might include a valid birth certificate, driver's license, employee or military identification card, and medicare card.

(4) *Method for verifying identity—by mail.* Where an individual cannot appear at the ASC's Office for the purpose of verifying identity, the individual shall submit, along with the request for information or access, a signed and notarized statement attesting to his or her identity. Where access is being sought, the sworn statement shall include a representation that the records being sought pertain to the individual and a stipulation that the individual is aware that knowingly and willfully requesting or obtaining records pertaining to an individual from the ASC under false pretenses is a criminal offense.

(5) *Additional procedures for verifying identity.* When it appears appropriate to the Privacy Act Officer, other arrangements may be made for the verification of identity as are reasonable under the circumstances and appear to be effective to prevent unauthorized disclosure of, or access to, individual records.

(b) *Acknowledgement of requests for information pertaining to individual records in a record system or for access to individual records.* (1) Except where an immediate acknowledgement is given for requests made in person, the receipt of a request for information pertaining to individual records in a record system will be acknowledged within 10 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Federal holidays. Requests will be processed as promptly as possible and a response to such requests will be given within 30 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays) unless, within the 30 day period and for cause shown, the individual making the re-

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quest is notified in writing that a longer period is necessary.

§ 1102.103 Disclosure of requested records.

(a) *Initial review.* Requests by individuals for access to records pertaining to them will be referred to the ASC's Privacy Act Officer, who initially will determine whether access will be granted.

(b) *Grant of request for access.* (1) If it is determined that a request for access to records pertaining to an individual will be granted, the individual will be advised by mail that access will be given at the ASC or a copy of the requested record will be provided by mail if the individual shall so indicate. Where the individual requests that copies of the record be mailed to or her or requests copies of a record upon reviewing it at the ASC, the individual shall pay the cost of making requested copies, as set forth in § 1102.109 of this subpart.

(2) In granting access to an individual to a record pertaining to him or her, the ASC staff shall take steps to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information pertaining to other individuals.

(c) *Denial of request for access.* If it is determined that access will not be granted, the individual making the request will be notified of that fact and given the reasons why access is being denied. The individual also will be advised of his or her right to seek review by the Executive Director of the initial decision to deny access, in accordance with the procedures set forth in § 1102.107 of this subpart.

(d) *Time for acting on requests for access.* Access to a record pertaining to an individual normally will be granted or denied within 30 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays) after the receipt of the request for access, unless the individual making the request is notified in writing within the 30 day period that, for good cause shown, a longer time is required. In such cases, the individual making the request shall be informed in writing of the difficulties encountered and an indication shall be given as to when it is anticipated that access may be granted or denied.

(e) *Authorization to allow designated person to review and discuss records pertaining to another individual.* An individual, who is granted access to records pertaining to him or her and who appears at the ASC Office to review the records, may be accompanied by another person of his or her choosing. Where the records as to which access has been granted are not required to be disclosed under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, as amended, the individual requesting the records, before being granted access, shall execute a written statement, signed by him or her, specifically authorizing the latter individual to review and discuss the records. If such authorization has not been given as described, the person who has accompanied the individual making the request will be excluded from any review or discussion of the records.

(f) *Exclusion for certain records.* Nothing contained in these rules shall allow an individual access to any information compiled in reasonable anticipation of an administrative judicial or civil action or proceeding.

§ 1102.104 Special procedure: Medical records.

(a) *Statement of physician or mental health professional.* When an individual requests access to records pertaining to the individual that include medical and/or psychological information, the ASC, if it deems it necessary under the particular circumstances, may require the individual to submit with the request a signed statement by the individual's physician or a mental health professional indicating that, in his or her opinion, disclosure of the requested records or information directly to the individual will not have an adverse effect on the individual.

(b) *Designation of physician or mental health professional to receive records.* If the ASC believes, in good faith, that disclosure of medical and/or psychological information, directly to an individual could have an adverse effect on that individual, the individual may be asked to designate in writing a physician or mental health professional to whom the individual would like the records to be disclosed, and disclosure that otherwise would be made to the

individual will instead be made to the designated physician or mental health professional.

§ 1102.105 Requests for amendment of records.

(a) *Place to make requests.* A request by an individual to amend records pertaining to him or her may be made in person during normal business hours at the ASC located at 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Suite 200, Washington, DC, or by mail addressed to the Privacy Act Officer, ASC, 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., suite 200, Washington, DC 20037.

(1) *Information to be included in requests.* Each request to amend an ASC record shall reasonably describe the record sought to be amended. Such description should include, for example, relevant names, dates and subject matter to permit the record to be located among the records maintained by the ASC. An individual who has requested that a record pertaining to the individual be amended will be advised promptly if the record cannot be located on the basis of the description given and that further identifying information is necessary before the request can be processed. An initial evaluation of a request presented in person will be made immediately to ensure that the request is complete and to indicate what, if any, additional information will be required. Verification of the individual's identity as set forth in § 1102.102(a) (2), (3), (4) and (5) may also be required.

(2) *Basis for amendment.* An individual requesting an amendment to a record pertaining to the individual shall specify the substance of the amendment and set forth facts and provide such materials that would support his or her contention that the record as maintained by the ASC is not accurate, timely or complete, or that the record is not necessary and relevant to accomplish a statutory purpose of the ASC as authorized by law or by Executive Order of the President.

(b) *Acknowledgement of requests for amendment.* Receipt of a request to amend a record pertaining to an individual normally will be acknowledged

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in writing within 10 days after such request has been received, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Federal holidays. When a request to amend is made in person, the individual making the request will be given a written acknowledgement when the request is presented. The acknowledgement will describe the request received and indicate when it is anticipated that action will be taken on the request. No acknowledgement will be sent when the request for amendment will be reviewed, and an initial decision made, within the 10 day period after such request has been received.

§ 1102.106 Review of requests for amendment.

(a) *Initial review.* As in the case of requests for access, requests by individuals for amendment to records pertaining to them will be referred to the ASC's Privacy Act Officer for an initial determination.

(b) *Standards to be applied in reviewing requests.* In reviewing requests to amend records, the Privacy Act Officer will be guided by the criteria set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552(e) (1) and (5), *i.e.*, that records maintained by the ASC shall contain only such information as is necessary and relevant to accomplish a statutory purpose of the ASC as required by statute or Executive Order of the President and that such information also be accurate, timely, relevant and complete. These criteria will be applied whether the request is to add material to a record or to delete information from a record.

(c) *Time for acting on requests.* Initial review of a request by an individual to amend a record shall be completed as promptly as is reasonably possible and normally within 30 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays) from the date the request was received, unless unusual circumstances preclude completion of review within that time. If the anticipated completion date indicated in the acknowledgement cannot be met, the individual requesting the amendment will be advised in writing of the delay and the reasons therefor, and also advised when action is expected to be completed.

(d) *Grant of requests to amend records.* If a request to amend a record is granted in whole or in part, the Privacy Act Officer will:

(1) Advise the individual making the request in writing of the extent to which it has been granted;

(2) Amend the record accordingly; and

(3) Where an accounting of disclosures of the record has been kept pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(c), advise all previous recipients of the record of the fact that the record has been amended and the substance of the amendment.

(e) *Denial of requests to amend records.* If an individual's request to amend a record pertaining to him is denied in whole or in part, the Privacy Act Officer will:

(1) Promptly advise the individual making the request in writing of the extent to which the request has been denied;

(2) State the reasons for the denial of the request;

(3) Describe the procedures established by the ASC to obtain further review within the ASC of the request to amend, including the name and address of the person to whom the appeal is to be addressed; and

(4) Inform the individual that the Privacy Act Officer will provide information and assistance to the individual in perfecting an appeal of the initial decision.

§ 1102.107 Appeal of initial adverse agency determination regarding access or amendment.

(a) *Administrative review.* Any person who has been notified pursuant to § 1102.103(c) that a request for access to records pertaining to him or her has been denied in whole or in part, or pursuant to § 1102.106(e) of this subpart that a request for amendment has been denied in whole or in part, or who has received no response to a request for access or to amend within 30 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Federal holidays) after the request was received by the ASC's staff (or within such extended period as may be permitted in accordance with §§ 1102.103(d) and 1102.106(c) of this subpart), may appeal the adverse determination or failure to respond by applying for an order

of the Executive Director determining and directing that access to the record be granted or that the record be amended in accordance with his or her request.

(1) The application shall be in writing and shall describe the record in issue and set forth the proposed amendment and the reasons therefor.

(2) The application shall be delivered to the ASC, 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., suite 200, Washington, DC, or by mail addressed to the Privacy Act Officer, ASC, 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., suite 200, Washington, DC 20037.

(3) The applicant may state such facts and cite such legal or other authorities in support of the application.

(4) The Executive Director will make a determination with respect to any appeal within 30 days after the receipt of such appeal (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays), unless for good cause shown, the Executive Director shall extend that period. If such an extension is made, the individual who is appealing shall be advised in writing of the extension, the reasons therefor, and the anticipated date when the appeal will be decided.

(5) In considering an appeal from a denial of a request to amend a record, the Executive Director shall apply the same standards as set forth in § 1102.106(b).

(6) If the Executive Director concludes that access should be granted, the Executive Director shall issue an order granting access and instructing the Privacy Act Officer to comply with § 1102.103(b).

(7) If the Executive Director concludes that the request to amend the record should be granted in whole or in part, the Executive Director shall issue an order granting the requested amendment in whole or in part and instructing the Privacy Act Officer to comply with the requirements of § 1102.106(d) of this subpart, to the extent applicable.

(8) If the Executive Director affirms the initial decision denying access, the Executive Director shall issue an order denying access and advising the individual seeking access of:

- (i) The order;
- (ii) The reasons for denying access; and

(iii) The individual's right to obtain judicial review of the decision pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(g)(1)(B).

(9) If the Executive Director determines that the decision of the Privacy Act Officer denying a request to amend a record should be upheld, the Executive Director shall issue an order denying the request and the individual shall be advised of:

(i) The order refusing to amend the record and the reasons therefor;

(ii) The individual's right to file a concise statement setting forth his or her disagreement with the Executive Director's decision not to amend the record;

(iii) The procedures for filing such a statement of disagreement with the Executive Director;

(iv) The fact that any such statement of disagreement will be made available to anyone to whom the record is disclosed, together with, if the Executive Director deems it appropriate, a brief statement setting forth the Executive Director's reasons for refusing to amend;

(v) The fact that prior recipients of the record in issue will be provided with the statement of disagreement and the Executive Director's statement, if any, to the extent that an accounting of such disclosures has been maintained pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(c); and

(vi) The individual's right to seek judicial review of the Executive Director's refusal to amend, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(g)(1)(A).

(b) *Statement of disagreement.* As noted in paragraph (a)(9)(ii) of this section, an individual may file with the Executive Director a statement setting forth his or her disagreement with the Executive Director's denial of his or her request to amend a record.

(1) Such statement of disagreement shall be delivered to the ASC, 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20037, within 30 days after receipt by the individual of the Executive Director's order denying the amendment, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Federal holidays. For good cause shown, this period can be extended for a reasonable time.

(2) Such statement of disagreement shall concisely state the basis for the

individual's disagreement. Unduly lengthy or irrelevant materials will be returned to the individual by the Executive Director for appropriate revisions before they become a permanent part of the individual's record.

(3) The record about which a statement of disagreement has been filed will clearly note which part of the record is disputed and the Executive Director will provide copies of the statement of disagreement and, if the Executive Director deems it appropriate, provide a concise statement of his or her reasons for refusing to amend the record, to persons or other agencies to whom the record has been or will be disclosed.

§ 1102.108 General provisions.

(a) *Extensions of time.* Pursuant to §§ 1102.103(b), 1102.104(d), 1102.109(c) and 1102.109(a)(4) of this subpart, the time within which a request for information, access or amendment by an individual with respect to records maintained by the ASC that pertain to him or her normally would be processed may be extended for good cause shown or because of unusual circumstances. As used in these rules, *good cause* and *unusual circumstances* shall include, but only to the extent reasonably necessary to the proper processing of a particular request:

(1) The need to search for and collect the requested records from establishments that are separate from the ASC. Some records of the ASC may be stored in Federal Records Centers in accordance with law—including many of the documents that have been on file with the ASC for more than 2 years—and cannot be made available promptly. Any person who has requested for personal examination a record stored at the Federal Records Center will be notified when the record will be made available.

(2) The need to search for, collect, and appropriately examine a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records which may be demanded in a single request. While every reasonable effort will be made to comply fully with each request as promptly as possible on a first-come, first-served basis, work done to search for, collect and appropriately examine records in re-

sponse to a request for a large number of records will be contingent upon the availability of processing personnel in accordance with an equitable allocation of time to all members of the public who have requested or wish to request records.

(3) The need for consultation, which shall be conducted with all practicable speed, with another agency having a substantial interest in the determination of the request, or among two or more components within the ASC having substantial subject-matter interest herein.

(b) *Effective date of action.* Whenever it is provided in this subpart that an acknowledgement or response to a request will be given by specific times, deposit in the mails of such acknowledgement or response by that time, addressed to the person making the request, will be deemed full compliance.

(c) *Records in use by a member of the ASC or its staff.* Although every effort will be made to make a record in use by a member of the ASC or its staff available when requested, it may occasionally be necessary to delay making such a record available when doing so at the time the request is made would seriously interfere with the work of the ASC or its staff.

(d) *Missing or lost records.* Any person who has requested a record or a copy of a record pertaining to him or her will be notified if the record sought cannot be found. If the person so requests, he or she will be notified if the record subsequently is found.

(e) *Oral requests; misdirected written requests—*(1) *Telephone and other oral requests.* Before responding to any request by an individual for information concerning whether records maintained by the ASC in a system of records pertain to the individual or to any request for access to records by an individual, such request must be in writing and signed by the individual making the request. The Executive Director will not entertain any appeal from an alleged denial of failure to comply with an oral request. Any person who has made an oral request for information or access to records who believes that the request has been improperly denied should resubmit the request in appropriate written form to obtain proper

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consideration and, if need be, administrative review.

(2) *Misdirected written requests.* The ASC cannot assure that a timely or satisfactory response will be given to written requests for information, access or amendment by an individual with respect to records pertaining to him or her that are directed to the ASC other than in a manner prescribed in §§ 1102.103(a), 1102.106(a), 1102.108(a)(2), and 1102.110 of this subpart. Any staff member who receives a written request for information, access or amendment should promptly forward the request to the Privacy Act Officer. Misdirected requests for records will be considered to have been received by the ASC only when they have been actually received by the Privacy Act Officer in cases under § 1102.108(a)(2). The Executive Director will not entertain any appeal from an alleged denial or failure to comply with a misdirected request, unless it is clearly shown that the request was in fact received by the Privacy Act Officer.

§ 1102.109 Fees.

(a) There will be no charge assessed to the individual for the ASC's expense involved in searching for or reviewing the record. Copies of the ASC's records will be provided by a commercial copier at rates established by a contract between the copier and the ASC or by the ASC at the rates in § 1101.4(b)(5)(ii) of 12 CFR part 1101.

(b) *Waiver or reduction of fees.* Whenever the Executive Director of the ASC determines that good cause exists to grant a request for reduction or waiver of fees for copying documents, he or she may reduce or waive any such fees.

§ 1102.110 Penalties.

Title 18 U.S.C. 1001 makes it a criminal offense, subject to a maximum fine of \$10,000, or imprisonment for not more than 5 years or both, to knowingly and willingly make or cause to be made any false or fraudulent statements or representations in any matter within the jurisdiction of any agency of the United States. 5 U.S.C. 552a(i) makes it a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for any person knowingly and willfully to request or obtain any record concerning

an individual from the ASC under false pretenses. 5 U.S.C. 552a(i) (1) and (2) provide criminal penalties for certain violations of the Privacy Act by officers and employees of the ASC.

Subpart D—Description of Office, Procedures, Public Information

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552, 553(e); and Executive Order 12600, 52 FR 23781 (3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 235).

SOURCE: 57 FR 60724, Dec. 22, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1102.300 Purpose and scope.

This part sets forth the basic policies of the Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council ("ASC") regarding information it maintains and the procedures for obtaining access to such information. This part does not apply to the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council. Section 1102.301 sets forth definitions applicable to this part 1102, subpart D. Section 1102.302 describes the ASC's statutory authority and functions. Section 1102.303 describes the ASC's organization and methods of operation. Section 1102.304 describes the types of information and documents typically published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Section 1102.305 explains how to access public records maintained on the ASC's World Wide Web site and at the ASC's office and describes the categories of records generally found there. Section 1102.306 implements the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") (5 U.S.C. 552). Section 1102.307 authorizes the discretionary disclosure of exempt records under certain limited circumstances. Section 1102.308 provides anyone with the right to petition the ASC to issue, amend, and repeal rules of general application. Section 1102.309 sets out the ASC's confidential treatment procedures. Section 1102.310 outlines procedures for serving a subpoena or other legal process to obtain information maintained by the ASC.

[64 FR 72496, Dec. 28, 1999]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72496, Dec. 28, 1999, § 1102.300 was revised, effective Jan. 12, 2000. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

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§ 1102.300 Authority, scope and purpose.

This subpart implements the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. 552, with respect to the Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council and establishes related information disclosure procedures and fees.

§ 1102.301 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart:

(a) ASC means the Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council.

(b) *Commercial use request* means a request from, or on behalf of, a requester who seeks records for a use or purpose that furthers the commercial, trade, or profit interests of the requester or the person on whose behalf the request is made. In determining whether a request falls within this category, the ASC will determine the use to which a requester will put the records requested and seek additional information as it deems necessary.

(c) *Direct costs* means those expenditures the ASC actually incurs in searching for, duplicating, and, in the case of commercial requesters, reviewing records in response to a request for records.

(d) *Disclose or disclosure* mean to give access to a record, whether by producing the written record or by oral discussion of its contents. Where the ASC member or employee authorized to release ASC documents makes a determination that furnishing copies of the documents is necessary, these words include the furnishing of copies of documents or records.

(e) *Duplication* means the process of making a copy of a record necessary to respond to a request for records or for inspection of original records that contain exempt material or that cannot otherwise be directly inspected. Such copies can take the form of paper copy, microfilm, audiovisual records, or machine readable records (*e.g.*, magnetic tape or computer disk).

(f) *Educational institution* means a preschool, a public or private elementary or secondary school, an institution of undergraduate or graduate higher education, an institution of professional education, and an institution of vocational education, which operates a program or programs of scholarly research.

(g) *Field review* includes, but is not limited to, formal and informal investigations of potential irregularities occurring at State appraiser regulatory agencies involving suspected violations of Federal or State civil or criminal laws, as well as such other investigations as may be conducted pursuant to law.

(h) *Non-commercial scientific institution* means an institution that is not operated on a commercial basis as that term is defined in paragraph (b) of this section, and which is operated solely for the purpose of conducting scientific research, the results of which are not intended to promote any particular product or industry.

(i) *Record* includes records, files, documents, reports correspondence, books, and accounts, or any portion thereof, in any form the ASC regularly maintains them.

(j) *Representative of the news media* means any person primarily engaged in gathering news for, or a free-lance journalist who can demonstrate a reasonable expectation of having his or her work product published or broadcast by, an entity that is organized and operated to publish or broadcast news to the public. The term news means information that is about current events or that would be of current interest to the general public.

(k) *Review* means the process of examining documents located in a response to a request that is for a commercial use to determine whether any portion of any document located is permitted to be withheld. It also includes processing any documents for disclosure, *e.g.*, doing all that is necessary to excise them and otherwise prepare them for release. Review does not include time spent resolving general legal or policy issues regarding the application of exemptions.

(l) *Search* includes all time spent looking for material that is responsive to a request, including page-by-page or line-by-line identification of material within records. Searches may be done manually and/or by computer using existing programming.

(m) *State appraiser regulatory agency* includes, but is not limited to, any board, commission, individual or other entity that is authorized by State law

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to license, certify, and supervise the activities or persons authorized to perform appraisals in connections with federally related transactions and real estate related financial transactions that require the services of a State licensed or certified appraiser.

[64 FR 72496, Dec. 28, 1999]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72496, Dec. 28, 1999, § 1102.301 was revised, effective Jan. 12, 2000. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

§ 1102.301 Definitions.

(a) ASC means the Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council.

(b) FFIEC means the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council.

§ 1102.302 ASC authority and functions.

(a) *Authority.* The ASC was established on August 9, 1989, pursuant to title XI of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, as amended (“FIRREA”), 12 U.S.C. 3331 and 3310 through 3351. Title XI is intended “to provide that Federal financial and public policy interests in real estate related transactions will be protected by requiring that real estate appraisals utilized in connection with federally related transactions are performed in writing, in accordance with uniform standards, by individuals whose competency has been demonstrated and whose professional conduct will be subject to effective supervision.” 12 U.S.C. 3331.

(b) *Functions.* The ASC’s statutory functions are generally set out in 12 U.S.C. 3332. In summary, the ASC must:

(1) Monitor the requirements established by the States for the certification and licensing of individuals who are qualified to perform appraisals in connection with federally related transactions, including a code of professional responsibility;

(2) Monitor the requirements of the Federal financial institutions regulatory agency and Resolution Trust Corporation with respect to appraisal standards for federally related transactions and determinations as to which federally related transactions require the services of a State certified ap-

praiser and which require the services of a State licensed appraiser;

(3) Monitor and review the practices, procedures, activities and organizational structure of the Appraisal Foundation; and

(4) Maintain a national registry of State certified and licensed appraisers eligible to perform appraisals in federally related transactions.

§ 1102.303 Organization and methods of operation.

(a) *Statutory and other guidelines.* Statutory requirements relating to the ASC’s organization are stated in 12 U.S.C. 3310, 3333 and 3334. The ASC has adopted and published Rules of Operation guiding its administration, meetings and procedures. These Rules of Operation were published at 56 FR 28561 (June 21, 1991) and 56 FR 33451 (July 22, 1991).

(b) *ASC members and staff.* The ASC is composed of six members, each being designated by the head of their respective agencies: the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, National Credit Union Administration, Office of Thrift Supervision, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Administrative support and substantive program, policy, and legal guidance for ASC activities are provided by a small, full-time, professional staff supervised by an Executive Director.

(c) *FFIEC.* Title XI placed the ASC within FFIEC as a separate, appropriated agency of the United States Government with specific statutory responsibilities under Federal law.

(d) *ASD Address* ASC offices are located at 2000 K Street, NW., Suite 310; Washington, DC 20006.

[57 FR 60724, Dec. 22, 1992, as amended at 64 FR 72497, Dec. 28, 1999]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72497, Dec. 28, 1999, § 1102.303 was amended by revising paragraphs (b) and (d), effective Jan. 12, 2000. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

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(b) *ASC members and staff.* The ASC is composed of six members, each being designated by the head of their respective agencies: the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, National Credit Union Administration, Office of Thrift Supervision, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Administrative support and substantive program, policy and legal guidance for ASC activities are provided by a small, full-time, professional staff supervised by the Executive Director, Associate Director for Administration, Associate Director for Policy and Programs and the General Counsel.

* * * * *

(d) *ASC Address.* ASC offices are located at 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., suite 200, Washington, DC 20037.

§ 1102.304 Federal Register publication.

The ASC publishes the following information in the FEDERAL REGISTER for the guidance of the public:

(a) Description of its organization and the established places at which, the officers from whom, and the methods whereby, the public may secure information, make submittals or re-nests, or obtain decisions;

(b) Statements of the general course and method by which its functions are channeled and determined, including the nature and requirements of all formal and informal procedures available;

(c) Rules of procedure, descriptions of forms available or the places at which forms may be obtained, and instructions as to the scope and contents of all papers, reports or examinations;

(d) Substantive rules of general applicability adopted as authorized by law, and statements of general policy or interpretations of general applicability formulated and adopted by the ASC;

(e) Every amendment, revision or repeal of the foregoing; and

(f) General notices of proposed rule-making.

[64 FR 72497, Dec. 28, 1999]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72497, Dec. 28, 1999, § 1102.304 was revised, effective Jan. 12, 2000. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

§ 1102.304 General requirements, exemptions, procedures and other matters.

(a) *In general.* The ASC, as part of the FFIEC, has determined that the FFIEC's regulations at 12 CFR 1101.4 and 1101.5 pertaining to the implementation of FOIA will guide the ASC's implementation of, and compliance with, FOIA. Therefore, the ASC is incorporating by reference into this subpart the FFIEC's regulations at 12 CFR 1101.4 and 1101.5, subject to the following conforming changes.

(b) *Exceptions.* Because the ASC is an appropriated U.S. Government agency with specific statutory responsibilities, the FFIEC's regulations at 12 CFR 1101.4 and 1101.5, as incorporated by reference into this subpart, are amended as follows:

(1) All references to the term "Council" in 12 CFR 1101.4 and 1101.5 shall be deleted, and the term "ASC" shall be inserted;

(2) All references to the term "Executive Secretary" in 12 CFR 1101.4 and 1101.5 shall be deleted, and the term "Executive Director" shall be inserted;

(3) All references to "§ 1101.3(e)" in 12 CFR 1101.4 (a) and (b)(3) (i) and (iii) shall be deleted, and new references to "§ 1102.303(d)" shall be inserted; and

(4) The reference to "\$.25" in 12 CFR 1101.4(b)(5)(ii)(C)(1) shall be deleted and "\$.15" shall be inserted.

§ 1102.305 Publicly available records.

(a) *Records available on the ASCs World Wide Web site*—(1) Discretionary release of documents. The ASC encourages the public to explore the wealth of resources available on the ASC's Internet World Wide Web site, located at: <http://www.asc.gov>. The ASC has elected to publish a broad range to materials on its Web site.

(2) *Documents required to be made available via computer telecommunications.* (i) The following types of documents created on or after November 1, 1996, and required to be made available through computer telecommunications, may be found on the ASC's Internet World Wide Web site located at: <http://www.asc.gov>:

(A) Final opinions, including concurring and dissenting opinions, as well as final orders, made in the adjudication of cases;

(B) Statements of policy and interpretations adopted by the ASC that are not published in the FEDERAL REGISTER;

(C) Administrative staff manuals and instructions to staff that affect a member of the public;

(D) Copies of all records (regardless of form or format), such as correspondence relating to field reviews or other regulatory subjects, released to any person under § 1102.306 that, because of the nature of their subject matter, the ASC has determined are likely to be the subject of subsequent requests;

(E) A general index of the records referred to in paragraph (a)(2)(i)(D) of this section.

(ii) To the extent permitted by law, the ASC may delete identifying details when it makes available or publishes any records. If reduction is necessary, the ASC will, to the extent technically feasible, indicate the amount of material deleted at the place in the record where such deletion is made unless that indication in and of itself will jeopardize the purpose for the redaction.

(b) *Types of written communications.* The following types of written communications shall be subject to paragraph (a) of this section:

(1) The ASC's annual report to Congress;

(2) All final opinions and orders made in the adjudication of cases;

(3) All statements of general policy not published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(4) Requests for the ASC or its staff to provide interpretive advice with respect to the meaning or application of any statute administered by the ASC or any rule or regulation adopted thereunder and any ASC responses thereto;

(5) Requests for a statement that, on the basis of the facts presented in such a request, the ASC would not take any enforcement action pertaining to the facts as represented and any ASC responses thereto; and

(6) Correspondence between the ASC and a State appraiser regulatory agency arising out of the ASC's field review of the State appraiser's appraiser regulatory program.

(c) *Applicable fees.* (1) If applicable, fees for furnishing records under this section are as set forth in § 1102.306(e).

(2) Information on the ASC's World Wide Web site is available to the public without charge. If, however, information available on the ASC's World Wide Web site is provided pursuant to a

Freedom of Information Act request processed under § 1102.306 then fees apply and will be assessed pursuant to § 1102.306(e).

[59 FR 1902, Jan. 13, 1994, as amended at 64 FR 72497, Dec. 28, 1999]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72497, Dec. 28, 1999, § 1102.305 was amended by revising the section heading and paragraphs (a) and (c), effective Jan. 12, 2000. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

§ 1102.305 Availability of interpretive, no-action and other written communications.

(a) *In general.* Subject to the provisions of § 1102.304 and subpart C of this part, certain types of ASC written communications shall be made publicly available upon request.

* * * * *

(c) *Embargo period.* Unless the ASC determines otherwise, the written communications in paragraph (b) of this section shall be made publicly available no sooner than ten business days after a written response has been sent or given to the affected person or persons.

§ 1102.306 Procedures for requesting records.

(a) *Making a request for records.* (1) The request shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Director:

(i) By facsimile clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Request" to (202) 872-7501;

(ii) By letter to the Executive Director marked "Freedom of Information Act Request"; 2000 K Street, NW., Suite 301; Washington, DC 20006; or

(iii) By sending Internet e-mail to the Executive Director marked "Freedom of Information Act Request" at his or her e-mail address listed on the ASC's World Wide Web site.

(2) The request shall contain the following information:

(i) The name and address of the requester, an electronic mail address, if available, and the telephone number at which the requester may be reached during normal business hours;

(ii) Whether the requester is an educational institution, non-commercial scientific institution, or news media representative;

(iii) A statement agreeing to pay the applicable fees, or a statement identifying a maximum fee that is acceptable

to the requester, or a request for a waiver or reduction of fees that satisfies paragraph (e)(1)(x) of this section; and

(ii) The preferred form and format of any responsive information requested, if other than paper copies.

(3) A request for identifiable records shall reasonably describe the records in a way that enables the ASC's staff to identify and produce the records with reasonable effort and without unduly burdening or significantly interfering with any ASC operations.

(b) *Defective requests.* The ASC need not accept or process a request that does not reasonably describe the records requested or that does not otherwise comply with the requirements of this subpart. The ASC may return a defective request, specifying the deficiency. The requester may submit a corrected request, which will be treated as a new request.

(c) *Processing requests.* (1) *Receipt of requests.* Upon receipt of any request that satisfies paragraph (a) of this section, the Executive Director shall assign the request to the appropriate processing track pursuant to this section. The date of receipt for any request, including one that is addressed incorrectly or that is referred by another agency, is the date the Executive Director actually receives the request.

(2) *Expedited processing.* (i) Where a person requesting expedited access to records has demonstrated a compelling need for the records, or where the ASC has determined to expedite the response, the ASC shall process the request as soon as practicable. To show a compelling need for expedited processing, the requester shall provide a statement demonstrating that:

(A) The failure to obtain the records on an expedited basis could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; or

(B) The requester can establish that it is primarily engaged in information dissemination as its main professional occupation or activity, and there is urgency to inform the public of the government activity involved in the request; and

(C) The requester's statement must be certified to be true and correct to

the best of the person's knowledge and belief and explain in detail the basis for requesting expedited processing.

(ii) The formality of the certification required to obtain expedited treatment may be waived by the Executive Director as a matter of administrative discretion.

(3) A requester seeking expedited processing will be notified whether expedited processing has been granted within ten (10) working days of the receipt of the request. If the request for expedited processing is denied, the requester may file an appeal pursuant to the procedures set forth in paragraph (g) of this section, and the ASC shall respond to the appeal within ten (10) working days after receipt of the appeal.

(4) *Priority of responses.* Consistent with sound administrative process, the ASC processes requests in the order they are received. However, in the ASC's discretion, or upon a court order in a matter to which the ASC is a party, a particular request may be processed out of turn.

(5) *Notification.* (i) The time for response to requests will be twenty (20) working days except:

(A) In the case of expedited treatment under paragraph (c)(2) of this section;

(B) Where the running of such time is suspended for the calculation of a cost estimate for the requester if the ASC determines that the processing of the request may exceed the requester's maximum fee provision or if the charges are likely to exceed \$250 as provided for in paragraph (e)(1)(iv) of this section;

(C) Where the running of such time is suspended for the payment of fees pursuant to the paragraph (c)(5)(i)(B) and (e)(1) of this section; or

(D) In unusual circumstances, as defined in 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6)(B) and further described in paragraph (c)(5)(iii) of this section.

(ii) In unusual circumstances as referred to in paragraph (c)(5)(i)(D) of this section, the time limit may be extended for a period of:

(A) Ten (10) working days as provided by written notice to the requester, setting forth the reasons for the extension

and the date on which a determination is expected to be dispatched; or

(B) Such alternative time period as agreed to by the requester or as reasonably determined by the ASC when the ASC notifies the requester that the request cannot be processed in the specified time limit.

(iii) Unusual circumstances may arise when:

(A) The records are in facilities that are not located at the ASC's Washington office;

(B) The records requested are voluminous or are not in close proximity to one another; or

(C) There is a need to consult with another agency or among two or more components of the ASC having a substantial interest in the determination.

(6) *Response to request.* In response to a request that satisfies the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section, a search shall be conducted of records maintained by the ASC in existence on the date of receipt of the request, and a review made of any responsive information located. To the extent permitted by law, the ASC may redact identifying details when it makes available or publishes any records. If redaction is appropriate, the ASC will, to the extent technically feasible, indicate the amount of material deleted at the place in the record where such deletion is made unless that indication in and of itself will jeopardize the purpose for the redaction. The ASC shall notify the requester of:

(i) The ASC's determination of the request;

(ii) The reasons for the determination;

(iii) If the response is a denial of an initial request or if any information is withheld, the ASC will advise the requester in writing:

(A) If the denial is in part or in whole;

(B) The name and title of each person responsible for the denial (when other than the person signing the notification);

(C) The exemptions relied on for the denial; and

(D) The right of the requester to appeal the denial to the Chairman of the ASC within 30 business days following

receipt of the notification, as specified in paragraph (h) of this section.

(d) *Providing responsive records.* (1) Copies of requested records shall be sent to the requester by regular U.S. mail to the address indicated in the request, unless the requester elects to take delivery of the documents at the ASC or makes other acceptable arrangements, or the ASC deems it appropriate to send the documents by another means.

(2) The ASC shall provide a copy of the record in any form or format requested if the record is readily reproducible by the ASC in that form or format, but the ASC need not provide more than one copy of any record to a requester.

(3) By arrangement with the requester, the ASC may elect to send the responsive records electronically if a substantial portion of the request is in electronic format. If the information requested is made pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a, it will not be sent by electronic means unless reasonable security measures can be provided.

(e) *Fees*—(1) *General rules.* (i) Persons requesting records of the ASC shall be charged for the direct costs of search, duplication, and review as set forth in paragraphs (e)(2) and (e)(3) of this section, unless such costs are less than the ASC's cost of processing the requester's remittance.

(ii) Requesters will be charged for search and review costs even if responsive records are not located or, if located, are determined to be exempt from disclosure.

(iii) Multiple requests seeking similar or related records from the same requester or group of requesters will be aggregated for the purposes of this section.

(iv) If the ASC determines that the estimated costs of search, duplication, or review of requested records will exceed the dollar amount specified in the request, or if no dollar amount is specified, the ASC will advise the requester of the estimated costs. The requester must agree in writing to pay the costs of search, duplication, and review prior to the ASC initiating any records search.

(v) If the ASC estimates that its search, duplication, and review costs will exceed \$250, the requester must pay an amount equal to 20 percent of the estimated costs prior to the ASC initiating any records search.

(vi) The ASC ordinarily will collect all applicable fees under the final invoice before releasing copies of requested records to the requester.

(vii) The ASC may require any requester who has previously failed to pay charges under this section within 30 calendar days of mailing of the invoice to pay in advance the total estimated costs of search, duplication, and review. The ASC also may require a requester who has any charges outstanding in excess of 30 calendar days following mailing of the invoice to pay the full amount due, or demonstrate that the fee has been paid in full, prior to the ASC initiating any additional records search.

(viii) The ASC may begin assessing interest charges on unpaid bills on the 31st day following the day on which the invoice was sent. Interest will be at the rate prescribed in § 3717 of title 31 of the United States Code and will accrue from the date of the invoice.

(ix) The time limit for the ASC to respond to a request will not begin to run until the ASC has received the requester's written agreement under paragraph (e)(1)(iv) of this section, and advance payment under paragraph (e)(1)(v) or (vii) of this section, or payment of outstanding charges under paragraph (e)(1)(vii) or (viii) of this section.

(x) As part of the initial request, a requester may ask that the ASC waive or reduce fees if disclosure of the records is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. Determinations as to a waiver or reduction of fees will be made by the Executive Director (or designee), and the requester will be notified in writing of his or her determination. A determination not to grant a request for a waiver or reduction of fees under this paragraph may be appealed to the ASC's Chairman pursuant to the procedure

set forth in paragraph (g) of this section.

(2) *Chargeable fees by category of requester.* (i) Commercial use requesters shall be charged search, duplication, and review costs.

(ii) Educational institutions, non-commercial scientific institutions, and news media representatives shall be charged duplication costs, except for the first 100 pages.

(iii) Requesters not described in paragraph (e)(2)(i) or (ii) of this section shall be charged the full reasonable direct cost of search and duplication, except for the first two hours of search time and first 100 pages of duplication.

(3) *Fee schedule.* The dollar amount of fees which the ASC may charge to records requesters will be established by the Executive Director. The ASC may charge fees that recoup the full allowable direct costs it incurs. Fees are subject to change as costs change. The fee schedule will be published periodically on the ASC's Internet World Wide Web site (<http://www.asc.gov>) and will be effective on the date of publication. Copies of the fee schedule may be obtained by request at no charge by contacting the Executive Director by letter, Internet email or facsimile.

(i) *Manual searches for records.* The ASC will charge for manual searches for records at the basic rate of pay of the employee making the search plus 16 percent to cover employee benefit costs.

(ii) *Computer searches for records.* The fee for searches of computerized records is the actual direct cost of the search, including computer time, computer runs, and the operator's time apportioned to the search multiplied by the operator's basic rate of pay plus 16 percent to cover employee benefit costs.

(iii) *Duplication of records.* (A) The per-page fee for paper copy reproduction of documents is \$.25.

(B) For other methods of reproduction or duplication, the ASC will charge the actual direct costs of reproducing or duplicating the documents, including each involved employee's basic rate of pay plus 16 percent to cover employee benefit costs.

(iv) *Review of records.* The ASC will charge commercial use requesters for

the review of records at the time of processing the initial request to determine whether they are exempt from mandatory disclosure at the basic rate of pay of the employee making the search plus 16 percent to cover employee benefit costs. The ASC will not charge at the administrative appeal level for review of an exemption already applied. When records or portions of records are withheld in full under an exemption which is subsequently determined not to apply, the ASC may charge for a subsequent review to determine the applicability of other exemptions not previously considered.

(v) *Other services.* Complying with requests for special services, other than a readily produced electronic form or format, is at the ASC's discretion. The ASC may recover the full costs of providing such services to the requester.

(4) *Use of contractors.* The ASC may contact with independent contractors to locate, reproduce, and/or disseminate records; provided, however, that the ASC has determined that the ultimate cost to the requester will be no greater than it would be if the ASC performed these tasks itself. In no case will the ASC contract out responsibilities which FOIA provides that the ASC alone may discharge, such as determining the applicability of an exemption or whether to waive or reduce fees.

(f) *Exempt information.* A request for records may be denied if the requested record contains information that falls into one or more of the following categories.¹ If the requested record contains both exempt and nonexempt information, the nonexempt portions, which may reasonably be segregated from the exempt portions, will be released to the requester. If redaction is necessary, the ASC will, to the extent technically feasible, indicate the

amount of material deleted at the place in the record where such deletion is made unless that indication in and of itself will jeopardize the purpose for the redaction. The categories of exempt records are as follows:

(1) Records that are specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive Order;

(2) Records related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the ASC;

(3) Records specifically exempted from disclosure by statute, provided that such statute:

(i) Requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue; or

(ii) Establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;

(4) Trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential;

(5) Interagency or intra-agency memoranda or letters that would not be available by law to a private party in litigation with the ASC;

(6) Personnel, medical, and similar files (including financial files) the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(7) Records compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records:

(i) Could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings;

(ii) Would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;

(ii) Could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(iv) Could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished records on a confidential basis;

¹Classification of a record as exempt from disclosure under the provisions of this paragraph (f) shall not be construed as authority to withhold the record if it is otherwise subject to disclosure under the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) or other Federal statute, any applicable regulation of ASC or any other Federal agency having jurisdiction thereof, or any directive or order of any court of competent jurisdiction.

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(v) Would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; or

(vi) Could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;

(8) Records that are contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of the ASC or any agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or

(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

(g) *Appeals.* (1) Appeals should be addressed to the Executive Director; ASC; 2000 K Street, NW., Suite 310; Washington, DC 20006.

(2) A person whose initial request for records under this section, or whose request for a waiver of fees under paragraph (e)(1)(x) of this section, has been denied, either in part or in whole, has the right to appeal the denial to the ASC's Chairman (or designee) within 30 business days after receipt of notification of the denial. Appeals of denials of initial requests or for a waiver of fees must be in writing and include any additional information relevant to consideration of the appeal.

(3) Except in the case of an appeal for expedited treatment under paragraph (c)(3) of this section, the ASC will notify the appellant in writing within 20 business days after receipt of the appeal and will state:

(i) Whether it is granted or denied in whole or in part;

(ii) The name and title of each person responsible for the denial (if other than the person signing the notification);

(iii) The exemptions relied upon for the denial in the case of initial requests for records; and

(iv) The right to judicial review of the denial under the FOIA.

(4) If a requester is appealing for denial of expedited treatment, the ASC will notify the appellant within ten business days after receipt of the appeal of the ASC's disposition.

(5) Complete payment of any outstanding fee invoice will be required before an appeal is processed.

(h) *Records of another agency.* If a requested record is the property of another Federal agency or department, and that agency or department, either in writing or by regulation, expressly retains ownership of such record, upon receipt of a request for the record the ASC will promptly inform the requester of this ownership and immediately shall forward the request to the proprietary agency or department either for processing in accordance with the latter's regulations or for guidance with respect to disposition.

[64 FR 72497, Dec. 28, 1999]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72497, Dec. 28, 1999, §1102.306 was redesignated as §1102.309 and new §1102.306 was added, effective Jan. 12, 2000.

§ 1102.307 Disclosure of exempt records.

(a) *Disclosure prohibited.* Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section or by 12 CFR part 1102, subpart C, no person shall disclose or permit the disclosure of any exempt records, or information contained therein, to any persons other than those officers, directors, employees, or agents of the ASC or a State appraiser regulatory agency who has a need for such records in the performance of their official duties. In any instance in which any person has possession, custody or control of ASC exempt records or information contained therein, all copies of such records shall remain the property of the ASC and under no circumstances shall any person, entity or agency disclose or make public in any manner the exempt records or information without written authorization from the Executive Director, after consultation with the ASC General Counsel.

(b) *Disclosure authorized.* Exempt records or information of the ASC may be disclosed only in accordance with the conditions and requirements set forth in this paragraph (b). Requests for discretionary disclosure of exempt records of information pursuant to this paragraph (b) may be submitted directly to the Executive Director. Such administrative request must clearly

state that it seeks discretionary disclosure of exempt records, clearly identify the records sought, provide sufficient information for the ASC to evaluate whether there is good cause for disclosure, and meet all other conditions set forth in paragraph (b)(1) through (3) of this section. Authority to disclose or authorize disclosure of exempt records of the ASC is delegated to the Executive Director, after consultation with the ASC General Counsel.

(1) *Disclosure by Executive Director.* (i) The Executive Director, or designee, may disclose or authorize the disclosure of any exempt record in response to a valid judicial subpoena, court order, or other legal process, and authorize any current or former member, officer, employee, agent of the ASC, or third party, to appear and testify regarding an exempt record or any information obtained in the performance of such person's official duties, at any administrative or judicial hearing or proceeding where such person has been served with a valid subpoena, court order, or other legal process requiring him or her to testify. The Executive Director shall consider the relevancy of such exempt records or testimony to the litigation, and the interests of justice, in determining whether to disclose such records or testimony. Third parties seeking disclosure of exempt records or testimony in litigation to which the ASC is not a party shall submit a request for discretionary disclosure directly to the Executive Director. Such requests shall specify the information sought with reasonable particularity and shall be accompanied by a statement with supporting documentation showing in detail the relevance of such exempt information to the litigation, justifying good cause for disclosure, and a commitment to be bound by a protective order. Failure to exhaust such administration request prior to service of a subpoena or other legal process may, in the Executive Director's discretion, serve as a basis for objection to such subpoena or legal process.

(ii) The Executive Director, or designee, may in his or her discretion and for good cause, disclose or authorize disclosure of any exempt record or testimony by a current or former member,

officer, employee, agent of the ASC, or third party, sought in connection with any civil or criminal hearing, proceeding or investigation without the service of a judicial subpoena, or other legal process requiring such disclosure or testimony. If he or she determines that the records or testimony are relevant to the hearing, proceeding or investigation and that disclosure is in the best interests of justice and not otherwise prohibited by Federal statute. Where the Executive Director or designee authorizes a current or former member, officer, director, employee or agent of the ASC to testify or disclose exempt records pursuant to this paragraph (b)(1), he or she may, in his or her discretion, limit the authorization to so much of the record or testimony as is relevant to the issues at such hearing, proceeding or investigation, and he or she shall give authorization only upon fulfillment of such conditions as he or she deems necessary and practicable to protect the confidential nature of such records or testimony.

(2) *Authorization for disclosure by the Chairman of the ASC.* Except where expressly prohibited by law, the Chairman of the ASC may, in his or her discretion, authorize the disclosure of any ASC records. Except where disclosure is required by law, the Chairman may direct any current or former member, officer, director, employee or agent of the ASC to refuse to disclose any record or to give testimony if the Chairman determines, in his or her discretion, that refusal to permit such disclosure is in the public interest.

(3) *Limitations on disclosure.* All steps practicable shall be taken to protect the confidentiality of exempt records and information. Any disclosure permitted by paragraph (b) of this section is discretionary and nothing in paragraph (b) of this section shall be construed as requiring the disclosure of information. Further, nothing in paragraph (b) of this section shall be construed as restricting, in any manner, the authority of the ASC, the Chairman of the ASC, the Executive Director, the ASC General Counsel, or their designees, in their discretion and in light of the facts and circumstances attendant in any given case, to require conditions upon, and to limit, the

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form, manner, and extent of any disclosure permitted by this section. Whenever practicable, disclosure of exempt records shall be made pursuant to a protective order and redacted to exclude all irrelevant or non-responsive exempt information.

[64 FR 72500, Dec. 28, 1999]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72497, 72500, Dec. 28, 1999, § 1102.307 was redesignated as § 1102.308 and new § 1102.307 was added, effective Jan. 12, 2000.

§ 1102.308 Right to petition for issuance, amendment and repeal of rules of general application.

Any person desiring the issuance, amendment or repeal of a rule of general application may file a petition for those purposes with the Executive Director of the ASC. The petition shall include a statement setting forth the text or substance of any proposed rule or amendment desired or shall specify the rule for which repeal is desired. The petitioner also shall state the nature of his or her interest and the reasons for seeking ASC action. The Executive Director shall acknowledge receipt of the petition within ten business days of receipt. As soon as reasonably practicable, the ASC shall consider the petition and related staff recommendations and shall take such action as it deems appropriate. The Executive Director shall notify the petitioner in writing of the ASC action within ten business days of the action.

[59 FR 1902, Jan. 13, 1994. Redesignated at 64 FR 72497, Dec. 28, 1999]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72497, Dec. 28, 1999, § 1102.308 was redesignated from § 1102.307, effective Jan. 12, 2000.

§ 1102.309 Confidential treatment procedures.

(a) *In general.* Any submitter of written information to the ASC who desires that some or all of his or her submission be afforded confidential treatment under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) (*i.e.*, trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential) shall file a request for confidential treatment with the Executive Director of the ASC at the time the written information is submitted to the ASC or within ten

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business days thereafter. Nothing in this section limits the authority of the ASC and its staff to make determinations regarding access to documents under this subpart.

(b) *Form of request.* A request for confidential treatment shall be submitted in a separate letter or memorandum conspicuously entitled, “Request for Confidential Treatment.” Each request shall state in reasonable detail the facts and arguments supporting the request and its legal justification. If the submitter had been required by the ASC to provide the particular information, conclusory statements that the information would be useful to competitors or would impair sales or similar statements generally will not be considered sufficient to justify confidential treatment. When the submitter had voluntarily provided the particular information to the ASC, the submitter must specifically identify the documents or information which are of a kind the submitter would not customarily make available to the public.

(c) *Designation and separation of confidential material.* Submitters shall clearly designate all information considered confidential and shall clearly separate such information from other non-confidential information, whenever possible.

(d) *ASC action on request.* A request for confidential treatment of information will be considered only in connection with a request for access to the information under FOIA as implemented by this subpart. Upon the receipt of a request for access, the Executive Director or his or her designee (“ASC Officer”) as soon as possible shall provide the submitter with a written notice describing the request and shall provide the submitter with a reasonable opportunity, no longer than ten business days, to submit written objections to disclosure of the information. Notice may be given orally, and such notice shall be promptly confirmed in writing. The ASC Officer may provide a submitter with a notice if the submitter did not request confidential treatment of the requested information. If the ASC required the submitter to provide the requested information, the ASC Officer would need substantial reason to

believe that disclosure of the requested information would result in substantial competitive harm to the submitter. If the submitter provided the information voluntarily to the ASC, the ASC officer would need to believe that the information is of a kind the submitter would not customarily make available to the public. The ASC Officer similarly shall notify the person seeking disclosure of the information under FOIA of the existence of a request for confidential treatment. These notice requirements need not be followed if the ASC Officer determines under this subpart that the information should not be disclosed; the information has been published or has been officially made available to the public; disclosure of the information is required by law (other than FOIA); or the submitter's request for confidential treatment appears obviously frivolous, in such instance the submitter shall be given written notice of the determination to disclose the information at least five business days prior to release. The ASC Officer shall carefully consider the issues involved, and if disclosure of the requested information is warranted, a written notice, containing a brief description of why the submitter's objections were not sustained, must be forwarded to the submitter within ten business days. The time for response may be extended up to ten additional business days, as provided in 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6)(B), or for other periods by agreement between the requester and the ASC Officer. This notice shall be provided to the submitter at least five business days prior to release of the requested information.

(e) *Notice of lawsuit.* The ASC Officer shall notify a submitter of any filing of any suit against the ASC pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552 to compel disclosure of documents or information covered by the submitter's request for confidential treatment within ten business days of service of the suit. The ASC Officer also shall notify the requester of the documents or information of any suit filed by the submitter against the ASC to enjoin their disclosure within ten business days of service of the suit.

[59 FR 1902, Jan. 13, 1994. Redesignated at 64 FR 72497, Dec. 28, 1999]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72497, Dec. 28, 1999, § 1102.309 was redesignated from § 1102.306, effective Jan. 12, 2000.

§ 1102.310 Service of process.

(a) *Service.* Any subpoena or other legal process to obtain information maintained by the ASC shall be duly issued by a court having jurisdiction over the ASC, and served upon the Chairman ASC; 2000 K Street, NW., Suite 310; Washington, DC 20006. Where the ASC is named as a party, service of process shall be made pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure upon the Chairman at the above address. The Chairman shall immediately forward any subpoena, court order or legal process to the General Counsel. If consistent with the terms of the subpoena, court order or legal process, the ASC may require the payment of fees, in accordance with the fee schedule referred to in § 1102.306(e) prior to the release of any records requested pursuant to any subpoena or other legal process.

(b) *Notification by person served.* If any current or former member, officer, employee or agent of the ASC, or any other person who has custody of records belonging to the ASC, is served with a subpoena, court order, or other process requiring that person's attendance as a witness concerning any matter related to official duties, or the production of any exempt record of the ASC, such person shall promptly advise the Executive Director of such service, the testimony and records described in the subpoena, and all relevant facts that may assist the Executive Director, in consultation with the ASC General Counsel, in determining whether the individual in question should be authorized to testify or the records should be produced. Such person also should inform the court or tribunal that issued the process and the attorney for the party upon whose application the process was issued, if known, of the substance of this section.

(c) *Appearance by person served.* Absent the written authorization of the Executive Director or designee to disclose the requested information, any current or former member, officer, employee, or agent of the ASC, and any other person having custody of records of the ASC, who is required to respond

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to a subpoena or other legal process, shall attend at the time and place therein specified and respectfully decline to produce any such record or

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give any testimony with respect thereto, basing such refusal on this section.

[64 FR 72501, Dec. 28, 1999]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72501, Dec. 28, 1999, § 1102.310 was added, effective Jan. 12, 2000.

CHAPTER XIV—FARM CREDIT SYSTEM INSURANCE CORPORATION

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PART 1400—ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS

Subpart A—Organization and Functions

Sec.

1400.1 Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

1400.2 Board of Directors of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

1400.3 Organization of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

Subpart B [Reserved]

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 2277a-5; 12 U.S.C. 2277a-7.

SOURCE: 55 FR 36610, Sept. 6, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Organization and Functions

§ 1400.1 Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation (Corporation) was created by sections 5.52 and 5.58 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (Act) to carry out the responsibilities set out in part E of title V of the Act, including insuring the timely payment of principal and interest on notes, bonds, debentures, and other obligations issued under subsection (c) or (d) of section 4.2 of the Farm Credit Act on behalf of one or more Farm Credit System banks.

§ 1400.2 Board of Directors of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

The Board of Directors of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation is entrusted with the responsibility to manage the Corporation. The Board of Directors consists of the members of the Farm Credit Administration Board. The Chairman of the Corporation is elected by the members of the Board.

§ 1400.3 Organization of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

Officers of the Corporation shall be appointed by the Board of Directors of the Corporation. Current information on the organization of the Corporation may be obtained from the Corporation, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102-0826.

Subpart B [Reserved]

PART 1401—EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 7301; 12 U.S.C. 2277a-7.

§ 1401.1 Cross-references to employee ethical conduct standards and financial disclosure regulations.

Board members, officers, and other employees of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation are subject to the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch at 5 CFR part 2635, the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation regulation at 5 CFR part 4001, which supplements the Executive Branch-wide Standards, and the executive branch-wide financial disclosure regulations at 5 CFR part 2634.

[60 FR 30778, June 12, 1995]

PART 1402—RELEASING INFORMATION

Subpart A [Reserved]

Subpart B—Availability of Records of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation

Sec.

1402.10 Official records of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

1402.11 Current index.

1402.12 Identification of records requested.

1402.13 Request for records.

1402.14 Response to requests for records.

1402.15 Business information.

Subpart C—Fees for Provision of Information

1402.20 Definitions.

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1402.22 Fees to be charged.

1402.23 Waiver or reduction of fees.

1402.24 Advance payments—notice.

1402.25 Interest.

1402.26 Charges for unsuccessful searches or reviews.

1402.27 Aggregating requests.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 5.58, 5.59 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2277a-7, 2277a-8); 5 U.S.C. 552; 52 FR 10012; E.O. 12600, 52 FR 23781, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 235.

SOURCE: 59 FR 24638, May 12, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A [Reserved]

Subpart B—Availability of Records of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation

§ 1402.10 Official records of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

(a) The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation shall, upon any request for records which reasonably describes them and is made in accordance with the provisions of this subpart, make the records available as promptly as practicable to any person, except exempt records, which include the following:

- (1) Records specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order;
- (2) Records related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, including matters which are for the guidance of agency personnel;
- (3) Records which are specifically exempted from disclosure by statute;
- (4) Trade secret, commercial, proprietary, or financial information obtained from any person or organization and privileged or confidential;
- (5) Inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a private party in litigation with the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation or in litigation in which the United States, as a real party in interest on behalf of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, is a party;
- (6) Personnel and similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (7) Records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information:
 - (i) Could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings;
 - (ii) Would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;

(iii) Could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(iv) Could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of a record or information compiled by criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source;

(v) Would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; or

(vi) Could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual; and

(8) Records of or related to examination, operation, reports of condition and performance, or reports of or related to Farm Credit System institutions and that are prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

(b) Any reasonably segregable portion of a record shall be provided to any person requesting such record after deletion of the portions which are exempt under this section.

(c) This section does not authorize withholding of information or limit the availability of records to the public, except as specifically stated in this section. This section is not authority to withhold information from Congress.

§ 1402.11 Current index.

The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation will make available for public inspection and copying a current index to provide identifying information as to any matter required by 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2)(C) to be made available or published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Because of the anticipated infrequency of requests for material required to be indexed, it is determined that the publication of the index in the FEDERAL

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REGISTER is unnecessary and impracticable. However, the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation will provide a copy of such index to a member of the public upon request therefor at a cost not in excess of the direct cost of duplication.

§ 1402.12 Identification of records requested.

A member of the public who requests records from the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation shall provide a reasonable description of the records sought including, where possible, specific information as to dates, titles, and subject matter, so that such records may be located without undue search or inquiry. If a record is not identified by a reasonable description, the request therefor may be denied.

§ 1402.13 Request for records.

Requests for records shall be in writing and addressed to the attention of the Freedom of Information Officer, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, McLean, Virginia 22102. A request improperly addressed will be deemed not to have been received for purposes of the 20-day time period set forth in § 1402.14(a) of this part until it is received, or would have been received, by the Freedom of Information Officer, with the exercise of due diligence by Corporation personnel. Records requested in conformance with this subpart and which are not exempt records may be received in person or by mail as specified in the request. Records to be received in person will be available for inspection or copying during business hours on a regular business day in the office of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia, 22102.

[62 FR 49593, Sept. 23, 1997]

§ 1402.14 Response to requests for records.

(a) Within 20 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays), or any extensions thereof as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, of the receipt of a request by the Freedom of Information Officer, the Freedom of Information Officer shall determine whether to comply with or deny

such a request and transmit a written notice thereof to the requester.

(b) Within 30 days of the receipt of a notice denying, in whole or in part, a request for records, the requester may appeal the denial. The appeal shall be in writing addressed to the Chief Financial Officer, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, and both the letter and envelope shall be clearly marked "FOIA Appeal." An appeal improperly addressed shall be deemed not to have been received for purposes of the 20-day time period set forth in paragraph (c) of this section until it is received, or would have been received with the exercise of due diligence by Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation personnel.

(c) Within 20 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays), or any extension thereof as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, of the receipt of an appeal, the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation shall act upon the appeal and place a notice of the determination thereof in writing in the mail addressed to the requester. If the determination on the appeal upholds in whole or in part the denial of the request for records, or, if a determination on the appeal has not been mailed at the end of the 20-day period or the last extension thereof, the requester is deemed to have exhausted that person's administrative remedies, giving rise to a right of review in a district court of the United States as specified in 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(4). When a determination cannot be mailed within the applicable time limit, the appeal will nevertheless be processed. In such case, upon the expiration of the time limit, the requester will be informed of the reason for the delay, of the date on which a determination may be expected to be mailed, and of that person's right to seek judicial review. The requester may be asked to forego judicial review until determination of the appeal.

(d) In "unusual circumstances," the 20-day time limit prescribed in paragraphs (a) and (c) of this section, or both, may be extended by the Freedom of Information Officer or, in the case of an appeal, by the General Counsel, provided that the total of all extensions

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does not exceed 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays). Extensions shall be made by written notice to the requester setting forth the reason for the extension and the date on which a determination is expected to be dispatched. As used in this paragraph, “*unusual circumstances*” means, but only to the extent reasonably necessary to the proper processing of the request:

(1) The need to search for and collect the requested records from facilities or other establishments that are separate from the office processing the request;

(2) The need to search for, collect, and appropriately examine a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records which are demanded in a single request; or

(3) The need for consultation, which shall be conducted with all practicable speed, with another agency having a substantial interest in the determination of the request or among two or more components of the agency having a substantial subject matter interest therein.

(e) A requester may obtain, upon request, expedited processing of a request for records when the requester demonstrates a “*compelling need*” for the information. The Freedom of Information Officer will notify the requester within 10 calendar days after receipt of such a request whether the Corporation granted expedited processing. If expedited processing was granted, the request will be processed as soon as practicable.

(1) For the purposes of this paragraph, “*compelling need*” means:

(i) That a failure to obtain requested records on an expedited basis could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; or

(ii) With respect to a request made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information, urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity.

(2) A requester shall demonstrate a compelling need by a statement certified by the requester to be true and correct to the best of such person’s knowledge and belief.

(3) The procedures of this paragraph (e) for expedited processing apply to

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both requests for information and to administrative appeals.

[59 FR 24638, May 12, 1994, as amended at 62 FR 49593, Sept. 23, 1997]

§ 1402.15 Business information.

(a) Business information provided to the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation by a business submitter shall not be disclosed pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act request except in accordance with this section. The requirements of this section shall not apply if:

(1) The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation determines that the information should not be disclosed;

(2) The information lawfully has been published or otherwise made available to the public; or

(3) Disclosure of the information is required by law (other than 5 U.S.C. 552).

(b) For the purpose of this section, the following definitions shall apply.

(1) *Business information* means trade secrets or other commercial or financial information.

(2) *Business submitter* means any person or entity which provides business information to the government.

(3) *Requester* means the person or entity making the Freedom of Information Act request.

(c)(1) The Freedom of Information Officer shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide a business submitter with prompt written notice of a request encompassing its business information whenever required under paragraph (d) of this section. Such notice shall either describe the exact nature of the business information requested or provide copies of the records or portions thereof containing the business information.

(2) Whenever the Freedom of Information Officer provides a business submitter with the notice set forth in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, the Freedom of Information Officer shall notify the requester that the request includes information that may arguably be exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) and that the person or entity who submitted the information to the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation has been given the opportunity to comment on the proposed disclosure of information.

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(d)(1) The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation shall provide a business submitter with notice of a request whenever:

(i) The business submitter has in good faith designated the information as commercially or financially sensitive information; or

(ii) The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation has reason to believe that the disclosure of the information may result in commercial or financial injury to the business submitter.

(2) Notice of a request for business information falling within paragraph (d)(1)(i) of this section shall be required for a period of not more than 10 years after the date of submission unless the business submitter requests and provides acceptable justification for a specific notice period of greater duration.

(3) Whenever possible, the business submitter's claim of confidentiality should be supported by a statement or certification by an officer or authorized representative of the business submitter that the information in question is in fact a trade secret or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential.

(e) Through the notice described in paragraph (c) of this section, the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation shall, to the extent permitted by law, afford a business submitter a reasonable period within which it can provide the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation with a detailed statement of any objection to disclosure. Such statement shall specify all grounds for withholding any of the information under any exemption of the Freedom of Information Act and, in the case of the exemption provided by 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4), shall demonstrate why the information is contended to be a trade secret or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential. Information provided by a business submitter pursuant to this paragraph may itself be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

(f)(1) The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation shall consider carefully a business submitter's objections and specific grounds for nondisclosure prior to determining whether to disclose business information. Whenever the Farm Credit System Insurance Cor-

poration decides to disclose business information over the objection of a business submitter, the Freedom of Information Officer shall forward to the business submitter a written notice which shall include:

(i) A statement of the reasons for which the business submitter's disclosure objections were not sustained;

(ii) A description of the business information to be disclosed; and

(iii) A specified disclosure date.

(2) The notice of intent to disclose required by this paragraph shall be sent, to the extent permitted by law, within a reasonable number of days prior to the specified date upon which disclosure is intended.

(3) The Freedom of Information Officer shall send a copy of such disclosure notice to the requester at the same time the notice is sent to the business submitter.

(g) Whenever a requester brings suit seeking to compel disclosure of business information covered by paragraph (d) of this section, the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation shall promptly notify the business submitter of such action.

Subpart C—Fees for Provision of Information

§ 1402.20 Definitions.

For the purpose of this subpart, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Commercial use request* means a request for information that is from or on behalf of an individual or entity seeking information for a use or purpose that furthers the commercial, trade, or profit interests of the requester or on whose behalf the request is being made. To determine whether a request is properly classified as a commercial use request, the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation shall determine the purpose for which the documents requested will be used. If the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation has reasonable cause to doubt the purpose specified in the request, for which a requester will use the records sought, or where the purpose is not clear from the request itself, the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation

shall seek additional clarification before assigning the request to a specified category.

(b) *Direct costs* means those expenditures the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation actually incurs in searching for and reproducing documents to respond to a request for information. In the case of a commercial use request, the term also means those expenditures the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation actually incurs in reviewing documents to respond to the request. The direct cost shall include the salary of the employee performing work (the basic rate of pay for the employee plus 16 percent of that rate to cover benefits) and the cost of operating reproduction equipment. Not included in direct costs are overhead expenses such as costs of space, and heating or lighting the facility in which the records are stored.

(c) *Educational institution* means a preschool, a public or private elementary or secondary school, an institution of undergraduate higher education, an institution of graduate higher education, an institution of professional education, and an institution of vocational education that operates a program or programs of scholarly research.

(d) *Noncommercial scientific institution* refers to an institution that is not operated on a commercial, trade, or profit basis and that is operated solely for the purpose of conducting scientific research, the results of which are not intended to promote any particular product or industry.

(e) *Representative of the news media* means any person actively gathering news for an entity that is organized and operated to publish or broadcast news to the public. The term *news* means information that is about current events or that would be of current interest to the public. Examples of news media entities include television or radio stations broadcasting to the public at large, and publishers of periodicals (but only in those instances when the periodicals can qualify as disseminators of "news") who make their products available for purchase or subscription by the general public. These examples are not intended to be all-inclusive. As traditional methods of news

delivery evolve (e.g., electronic dissemination of newspapers through telecommunication services), such alternative media would be included in this category. "Freelance" journalists may be regarded as working for a news organization if they can demonstrate a solid basis for expecting publication through that organization even though they are not actually employed by the organization. A publication contract would be the clearest proof that a journalist is working for a news organization, but the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation may look to a requester's past publication record to determine whether a journalist is working for a news organization.

(f) *Reproduce* and *reproduction* mean the process of making a copy of a document necessary to respond to a request for information. Such copies take the form of paper copy, microfilm, audio-visual materials, or machine readable documentation (e.g., magnetic tape or disk), among others. The copy provided shall be in a form that is reasonably usable by requesters.

(g) *Review* means the process of examining documents located in response to a request for information to determine whether any portion of any document located is permitted to be withheld. It also includes processing any documents for disclosure (e.g., doing all that is necessary to prepare the documents for release). The term *review* does not include the time spent resolving general legal or policy issues regarding the application of exemptions. The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation shall only charge fees for reviewing documents in response to a commercial use request.

(h) *Search* includes all time spent looking for material that is responsive to a request for information, including page-by-page or line-by-line identification of material within documents. Searching for material shall be done in the most efficient and least expensive manner so as to minimize the costs of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation and the requester. For example, a line-by-line search for responsive material should not be performed when merely reproducing an entire document would be the less expensive and the

faster method of complying with a request for information. Searches may be done manually or by computer using existing programming. A “search” for material that is responsive to a request should be distinguished from a “review” of material to determine whether the material is exempt from disclosure.

§ 1402.21 Categories of requesters—fees.

There are four categories of requesters: Commercial use requesters; educational and noncommercial scientific institutions; representatives of the news media; and all other requesters.

(a) The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation shall charge fees for records requested by or on behalf of educational institutions and noncommercial scientific institutions in an amount which equals the cost of reproducing the documents responsive to the request, excluding the costs of reproducing the first 100 pages. For a request to be included in this category, requesters must show that the request being made is authorized by and under the auspices of a qualifying institution and that the records are not sought for a commercial use but are sought in furtherance of scholarly research (if the request is from an educational institution) or scientific research (if the request is from a noncommercial scientific institution).

(b) The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation shall charge fees for records requested by representatives of the news media in an amount which equals the cost of reproducing the documents responsive to the request, excluding the costs of reproducing the first 100 pages. For a request to be included in this category, the requester must qualify as a representative of the news media and the request must not be made for a commercial use. A request for records supporting the news dissemination function of the requester shall not be considered to be a request that is for a commercial use.

(c) The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation shall charge fees for records requested by persons or entities making a commercial use request in an amount that equals the full direct costs for searching for, reviewing

for release, and reproducing the records sought. Commercial use requesters are not entitled to 2 hours of free search time nor 100 free pages of reproduction of documents. In accordance with § 1402.26, commercial use requesters may be charged the costs of searching for and reviewing records even if there is ultimately no disclosure of records.

(d) The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation shall charge fees for records requested by persons or entities that are not classified in any of the categories listed in paragraphs (a), (b), or (c) of this section in an amount that equals the full reasonable direct cost of searching for and reproducing records that are responsive to the request, excluding the first 2 hours of search time and the cost of reproducing the first 100 pages of records. In accordance with § 1402.26, requesters in this category may be charged the cost of searching for records even if there is ultimately no disclosure of records, excluding the first 2 hours of search time.

(e) For purposes of the exceptions contained in this section on assessment of fees, the word *pages* refers to paper copies of “8½ × 11” or “11 × 14.” Thus, requesters are not entitled to 100 microfiche or 100 computer disks, for example. A microfiche containing the equivalent of 100 pages or a computer disk containing the equivalent of 100 pages of computer printout meets the terms of the exception.

(f) For purposes of paragraph (d) of this section, the term *search time* has as its basis, manual search. To apply this term to searches made by computer, the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation will determine the hourly cost of operating the central processing unit and the operator’s hourly salary plus 16 percent of that rate. When the cost of search (including the operator time and the cost of operating the computer to process a request) equals the equivalent dollar amount of 2 hours of the salary of the person performing the search, i.e., the operator, the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation will begin assessing charges for computer search.

§ 1402.22 Fees to be charged.

(a) Generally, the fees charged for requests for records shall cover the full

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allowable direct costs of searching for, reproducing, and reviewing documents that are responsive to a request for information.

(b) Manual searches for records will be charged at the salary rate(s) (i.e., basic pay plus 16 percent of that rate) of the employee(s) making the search.

(c) Computer searches for records will be charged at the actual direct cost of providing the service. This will include the cost of operating the central processing unit for that portion of operating time that is directly attributable to searching for records and the operator/programmer salary apportionable to the search. A charge shall also be made for any substantial amounts of special supplies or materials used to contain, present, or make available the output of computers, based upon the prevailing levels of costs to the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation for the type and amount of such supplies of materials that are used. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to entitle any person or entity, as a right, to any services in connection with computerized records, other than services to which such person or entity may be entitled under the provisions of this subpart.

(d) Only requesters who are seeking documents for commercial use may be charged for time spent reviewing records to determine whether they are exempt from mandatory disclosure. Charges may be assessed only for the initial review; i.e., the review undertaken the first time the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation analyzes the applicability of a specific exemption to a particular record or portion of a record. Records or portions of records withheld in full under an exemption that is subsequently determined not to apply may be reviewed again to determine the applicability of other exemptions not previously considered. The costs for such a subsequent review is assessable.

(e) Records will be reproduced at a rate of \$.15 per page. For copies prepared by computer, such as tapes or printouts, the requester shall be charged the actual cost, including operator time, of production of the tape or printout. For other methods of re-

production, the actual direct costs of producing the document(s) shall be charged.

(f) The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation will recover the full costs of providing services such as those enumerated below when it elects to provide them:

(1) Certifying that records are true copies; or

(2) Sending records by special methods such as express mail.

(g) Remittances shall be in the form either of a personal check or bank draft drawn on a bank in the United States, or a postal money order. Remittances shall be made payable to the order of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

(h) A receipt for fees paid will be given upon request.

§ 1402.23 Waiver or reduction of fees.

(a) The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation may grant a waiver or reduction of fees if the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation determines that the disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the Government, and the disclosure of the information is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

(b) The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation will not charge fees to any requester, including commercial use requesters, if the cost of collecting a fee would be equal to or greater than the fee itself. The elements to be considered in determining the "cost of collecting a fee" are the administrative costs of receiving and recording a requester's remittance and processing the fee.

§ 1402.24 Advance payments—notice.

(a) Where it is anticipated that the fees chargeable will amount to more than \$25 and the requester has not indicated in advance a willingness to pay fees as high as are anticipated, the requester shall be promptly notified of the amount of the anticipated fee or such portion thereof that can be readily estimated.

(b) If the anticipated fees exceed \$250 and if the requester has a history of

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promptly paying fees charged in connection with information requests, the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation may obtain satisfactory assurances that the requester will fully pay the fees anticipated.

(c) If the anticipated fees exceed \$250 and if the requester has no history of paying fees charged in connection with information requests, the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation may require an advance payment of fees in an amount up to the full amount anticipated.

(d) If the requester has previously failed to pay a fee charged within 30 days of the date of a billing for fees charged in connection with information requests, the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation may require the requester to pay the fees owed, plus interest, or demonstrate that the full amount owed has been paid, and require the requester to make an advance payment of the full amount of the fees anticipated before processing a new request or a pending request from that requester.

(e) The notice of the amount of an anticipated fee or a request for an advance deposit shall include an offer to the requester to confer with identified Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation personnel to attempt to reformulate the request in a manner which will meet the needs of the requester at a lower cost.

§ 1402.25 Interest.

The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation may begin charging interest on unpaid fees, starting on the 31st day following the day on which the bill for such fees was sent. Interest will not accrue if payment of the fees has been received by the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, even if said payment has not been processed. Interest will accrue at the rate prescribed in section 3717 of title 31, United States Code, and will accrue from the day on which the bill for such fees was sent.

§ 1402.26 Charges for unsuccessful searches or reviews.

The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation may assess charges for time spent searching for records on behalf of requesters in the categories pro-

vided for in § 1402.21 (c) and (d), even if there are no records that are responsive to the request or there is ultimately no disclosure of records. The Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation may assess charges for time spent reviewing records for requesters in the category provided for in § 1402.21(c) even if the records located are determined to be exempt from disclosure.

§ 1402.27 Aggregating requests.

A requester may not file multiple requests at the same time, each seeking portions of a document or documents, solely in order to avoid payment of fees. When the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation reasonably believes that a requester, or a group of requesters acting in concert, is attempting to break a request down into a series of requests for the purpose of evading the assessment of fees, the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation may aggregate any such requests and charge accordingly. One element to be considered in determining whether a belief would be reasonable is the time period over which the requests have occurred.

PART 1403—PRIVACY ACT REGULATIONS

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: Secs. 5.58, 5.59 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2277a-7, 2277a-8); 5 U.S.C. app. 3, 5 U.S.C. 552a.

SOURCE: 59 FR 53084, Oct. 21, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

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§ 1403.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) This part is published by the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93–579, 5 U.S.C. 552a) which requires each Federal agency to promulgate rules to establish procedures for notification and disclosure to an individual of agency records pertaining to that person, and for review of such records.

(b) The records covered by this part include:

(1) Personnel and employment records maintained by the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation not covered by §§ 293.101 through 293.108 of the regulations of the Office of Personnel Management (5 CFR 293.101 through 293.108); and

(2) Other records contained in record systems maintained by the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

(c) This part does not apply to any records maintained by the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation in its capacity as a receiver or conservator.

§ 1403.2 Definitions.

For the purposes of this part:

(a) *Agency* means the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation. It does not include the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation when it is acting as a receiver or a conservator;

(b) *Individual* means a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence;

(c) *Maintain* includes maintain, collect, use, or disseminate;

(d) *Record* means any item, collection, or grouping of information about an individual that is maintained by an agency including, but not limited to, that person's education, financial transactions, medical history, and criminal or employment history, and that contains that person's name, or the identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual, such as a finger or voice print or photograph;

(e) *Routine use* means, with respect to the disclosure of a record, the use of such record for a purpose that is compatible with the purpose for which it was collected;

(f) *Statistical record* means a record in a system of records maintained for sta-

tistical research or reporting purposes only and not used in whole or in part in making any determination about an identifiable individual, except as provided by 13 U.S.C. 8;

(g) *System of records* means a group of any records under the control of any agency from which information is retrieved by the name of an individual or by some identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual.

§ 1403.3 Procedures for requests pertaining to individual records in a record system.

(a) Any present or former employee of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation seeking access to that person's official civil service records maintained by the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation shall submit a request in such manner as is prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management.

(b) Individuals shall submit their requests in writing to the Privacy Act Officer, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, McLean, Virginia 22102–0826, when seeking to obtain the following information from the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation:

(1) Notification of whether the agency maintains a record pertaining to that person in a system of records;

(2) Notification of whether the agency has disclosed a record for which an accounting of disclosure is required to be maintained and made available to that person;

(3) A copy of a record pertaining to that person or the accounting of its disclosure; or

(4) The review of a record pertaining to that person or the accounting of its disclosure.

The request shall state the full name and address of the individual, and identify the system or systems of records believed to contain the information or record sought.

§ 1403.4 Times, places, and requirements for identification of individuals making requests.

The individual making written requests for information or records ordinarily will not be required to verify that person's identity. The signature

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upon such requests shall be deemed to be a certification by the requester that he or she is the individual to whom the record pertains, or the parent of a minor, or the duly appointed legal guardian of the individual to whom the record pertains. The Privacy Act Officer, however, may require such additional verification of identity in any instance in which the Privacy Act Officer deems it advisable.

§ 1403.5 Disclosure of requested information to individuals.

(a) The Privacy Act Officer shall, within a reasonable period of time after the date of receipt of a request for information of records:

(1) Determine whether or not such request shall be granted;

(2) Notify the requester of the determination, and, if the request is denied, of the reasons therefor; and

(3) Notify the requester that fees for reproducing copies of records may be charged as provided in § 1403.10.

(b) If access to a record is denied because the information therein has been compiled by the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation in reasonable anticipation of a civil or criminal action proceeding, the Privacy Act Officer shall notify the requester of that person's right to judicial appeal under 5 U.S.C. 552a(g).

(c)(1) If access to a record is granted, the requester shall notify the Privacy Act Officer whether the requested record is to be copied and mailed to the requester or whether the record is to be made available for personal inspection.

(2) A requester who is an individual may be accompanied by an individual selected by the requester when the record is disclosed, in which case the requester may be required to furnish a written statement authorizing the discussion of the record in the presence of the accompanying person.

(d) If the record is to be made available for personal inspection, the requester shall arrange with the Privacy Act Officer a mutually agreeable time in the offices of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation for inspection of the record.

§ 1403.6 Special procedures for medical records.

Medical records in the custody of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation which are not subject to Office of Personnel Management regulations shall be disclosed either to the individual to whom they pertain or that person's authorized or legal representative or to a licensed physician named by the individual.

§ 1403.7 Request for amendment to record.

(a) If, after disclosure of the requested information, an individual believes that the record is not accurate, relevant, timely, or complete, that person may request in writing that the record be amended. Such a request shall be submitted to the Privacy Act Officer and shall identify the system of records and the record or information therein, a brief description of the material requested to be changed, the requested change or changes, and the reason for such change or changes.

(b) The Privacy Act Officer shall acknowledge receipt of the request within 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) and, if a determination has not been made, advise the individual when that person may expect to be advised of action taken on the request. The acknowledgment may contain a request for additional information needed to make a determination.

§ 1403.8 Agency review of request for amendment of record.

Upon receipt of a request for amendment of a record, the Privacy Act Officer shall:

(a) Correct any portion of a record which the individual making the request believes is not accurate, relevant, timely, or complete and thereafter inform the individual in writing of such correction, or

(b) Inform the individual in writing of the refusal to amend the record and of the reasons therefor, and advise that the individual may appeal such determination as provided in § 1403.9.

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§ 1403.9 Appeal of an initial adverse determination of a request to amend a record.

(a) Not more than 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after receipt by an individual of an adverse determination on the individual's request to amend a record or otherwise, the individual may appeal to the Chief Operating Officer, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, McLean, Virginia 22102-0826.

(b) The appeal shall be by letter, mailed or delivered to the Chief Operating Officer, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, McLean, Virginia 22102-0826. The letter shall identify the records involved in the same manner they were identified to the Privacy Act Officer, shall specify the dates of the request and adverse determination, and shall indicate the expressed basis for that determination. Also, the letter shall state briefly and succinctly the reasons why the adverse determination should be reversed.

(c) The review shall be completed and a final determination made by the Chief Operating Officer not later than 30 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) from receipt of the request for such review, unless the Chief Operating Officer extends such 30-day period for good cause. If the 30-day period is extended, the individual shall be notified of the reasons therefor.

(d) If the Chief Operating Officer refuses to amend the record in accordance with the request, the individual shall be notified of the right to file a concise statement setting forth that person's disagreement with the final determination and that person's right under 5 U.S.C. 552a(g)(1)(A) to a judicial review of the final determination.

(e) If the refusal to amend a record as requested is confirmed, there shall be included in the disputed portion of the record a copy of the concise statement filed by the individual together with a concise statement of the reasons for not amending the record as requested. Such statements will be included when disclosure of the disputed record is made to persons and agencies as authorized under 5 U.S.C. 552a.

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§ 1403.10 Fees for providing copies of records.

Fees for providing copies of records shall be charged in accordance with §§ 1402.22 and 1402.24 of this chapter.

§ 1403.11 Criminal penalties.

Section 552a(i)(3) of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(3)) makes it a misdemeanor, subject to a maximum fine of \$5,000, to knowingly and willfully request or obtain any record concerning any individual from an agency under false pretenses. Sections 552a(i) (1) and (2) of the Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(i) (1), (2)) provide penalties for violation by agency employees of the Act or regulations established thereunder.

§ 1403.12 Exemptions.

Specific. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(5), the investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes in the following system of records is exempt from subsections (c)(3), (d), (e)(1), (e)(4) (G), (H), and (I), and (f) of 5 U.S.C. 552a and from the provisions of this part:

Personnel Security Files—FCSIC.

PART 1408—COLLECTION OF CLAIMS OWED THE UNITED STATES

Subpart A—Administrative Collection of Claims

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AUTHORITY: Sec. 5.58 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2277a-7); 31 U.S.C. 3701-3719; 5 U.S.C. 5514; 4 CFR parts 101-105; 5 CFR part 550.

SOURCE: 59 FR 24899, May 13, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Administrative Collection of Claims

§ 1408.1 Authority.

The regulations of this part are issued under the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, as amended by the Debt Collection Act of 1982, 31 U.S.C. 3701-3719 and 5 U.S.C. 5514, and in conformity with the joint regulations issued under that Act by the General Accounting Office and the Department of Justice (joint regulations) prescribing standards for administrative collection, compromise, suspension, and termination of agency collection actions, and referral to the General Accounting Office and to the Department of Justice for litigation of civil claims for money or property owed to the United States (4 CFR parts 101-105).

§ 1408.2 Applicability.

This part applies to all claims of indebtedness due and owing to the United States and collectible under procedures authorized by the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, as amended by the Debt Collection Act of 1982. The joint regulations and this part do not apply to conduct in violation of antitrust laws, tax claims, claims between Federal agencies, or to any claim which

appears to involve fraud, presentation of a false claim, or misrepresentation on the part of the debtor or any other party having an interest in the claim, unless the Justice Department authorizes the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, pursuant to 4 CFR 101.3, to handle the claim in accordance with the provisions of 4 CFR parts 101 through 105. Additionally, this part does not apply to Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation's premiums regulations under part 1410 of this chapter.

§ 1408.3 Definitions.

In this part (except where the term is defined elsewhere in this part), the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Administrative offset* or *offset*, as defined in 31 U.S.C. 3701(a)(1), means withholding money payable by the United States Government to, or held by the Government for, a person to satisfy a debt the person owes the Government.

(b) *Agency* means a department, agency, or instrumentality in the executive or legislative branch of the Government.

(c) *Claim* or *debt* means money or property owed by a person or entity to an agency of the Federal Government. A "claim" or "debt" includes amounts due the Government from loans insured by or guaranteed by the United States and all other amounts due from fees, leases, rents, royalties, services, sales of real or personal property, overpayment, penalties, damages, interest, and fines.

(d) *Claim certification* means a creditor agency's written request to a paying agency to effect an administrative offset.

(e) *Corporation* means the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

(f) *Creditor agency* means an agency to which a claim or debt is owed.

(g) *Debtor* means the person or entity owing money to the Federal Government.

(h) *Hearing official* means an individual who is responsible for reviewing a claim under § 1408.10.

(i) *Paying agency* means an agency of the Federal Government owing money to a debtor against which an administrative or salary offset can be effected.

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(j) *Salary offset* means an administrative offset to collect a debt under 5 U.S.C. 5514 by deductions at one or more officially established pay intervals from the current pay account of a debtor.

§ 1408.4 Delegation of authority.

The Corporation official(s) designated by the Chairman of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation are authorized to perform all duties which the Chairman is authorized to perform under these regulations, the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, as amended, and the joint regulations issued under that Act.

§ 1408.5 Responsibility for collection.

(a) The collection of claims shall be aggressively pursued in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, as amended, the joint regulations issued under that Act, and these regulations. Debts owed to the United States, together with charges for interest, penalties, and administrative costs, should be collected in one lump sum unless otherwise provided by law. If a debtor requests installment payments, the debtor, as requested by the Corporation, shall provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the debtor is unable to pay the debt in one lump sum. When appropriate, the Corporation shall arrange an installment payment schedule. Claims which cannot be collected directly or by administrative offset shall be either written off as administratively uncollectible or referred to the General Counsel for further consideration.

(b) The Chairman, or designee of the Chairman, may compromise claims for money or property arising out of the activities of the Corporation, where the claim (exclusive of charges for interest, penalties, and administrative costs) does not exceed \$100,000. When the claim exceeds \$100,000 (exclusive of charges for interest, penalties, and administrative costs), the authority to accept a compromise rests solely with the Department of Justice. The standards governing the compromise of claims are set forth in 4 CFR part 103.

(c) The Chairman, or designee of the Chairman, may suspend or terminate

the collection of claims which do not exceed \$100,000 (exclusive of charges for interest, penalties, and administrative costs) after deducting the amount of any partial payments or collections. If, after deducting the amount of any partial payments or collections, a claim exceeds \$100,000 (exclusive of charges for interest, penalties, and administrative costs), the authority to suspend or terminate rests solely with the Department of Justice. The standards governing the suspension or termination of claim collections are set forth in 4 CFR part 104.

(d) The Corporation shall refer claims to the Department of Justice for litigation or to the General Accounting Office (GAO) for claims arising from audit exceptions taken by the GAO to payments made by the Corporation in accordance with 4 CFR part 105.

§ 1408.6 Demand for payment.

(a) A total of three progressively stronger written demands at not more than 30-day intervals should normally be made upon a debtor, unless a response or other information indicates that additional written demands would either be unnecessary or futile. When necessary to protect the Government's interest, written demands may be preceded by other appropriate actions under Federal law, including immediate referral for litigation and/or administrative offset.

(b) The initial demand for payment shall be in writing and shall inform the debtor of the following:

(1) The amount of the debt, the date it was incurred, and the facts upon which the determination of indebtedness was made;

(2) The payment due date, which shall be 30 calendar days from the date of mailing or hand delivery of the initial demand for payment;

(3) The right of the debtor to inspect and copy the records of the agency related to the claim or to receive copies if personal inspection is impractical. The debtor shall be informed that the debtor may be assessed for the cost of copying the documents in accordance with § 1408.7;

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(4) The right of the debtor to obtain a review of the Corporation's determination of indebtedness;

(5) The right of the debtor to offer to enter into a written agreement with the agency to repay the amount of the claim. The debtor shall be informed that the acceptance of such an agreement is discretionary with the agency;

(6) That charges for interest, penalties, and administrative costs will be assessed against the debtor, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3717, if payment is not received by the payment due date;

(7) That if the debtor has not entered into an agreement with the Corporation to pay the debt, has not requested the Corporation to review the debt, or has not paid the debt by the payment due date, the Corporation intends to collect the debt by all legally available means, which may include initiating legal action against the debtor, referring the debt to a collection agency for collection, collecting the debt by offset, or asking other Federal agencies for assistance in collecting the debt by offset;

(8) The name and address of the Corporation official to whom the debtor shall send all correspondence relating to the debt; and

(9) Other information, as may be appropriate.

(c) If, prior to, during, or after completion of the demand cycle, the Corporation determines to collect the debt by either administrative or salary offset, the Corporation shall follow, as applicable, the requirements for a Notice of Intent to Collect by Administrative Offset or a Notice of Intent to Collect by Salary Offset set forth in § 1408.22.

(d) If no response to the initial demand for payment is received by the payment due date, the Corporation shall take further action under this part, under the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, as amended, under the joint regulations (4 CFR parts 101–105), or under any other applicable State or Federal law. These actions may include reports to credit bureaus, referrals to collection agencies, termination of contracts, debarment, and salary or administrative offset.

§ 1408.7 Right to inspect and copy records.

The debtor may inspect and copy the Corporation records related to the claim. The debtor shall give the Corporation reasonable advanced notice that he/she intends to inspect and copy the records involved. The debtor shall pay copying costs unless they are waived by the Corporation. Copying costs shall be assessed pursuant to § 1402.22 of this chapter.

§ 1408.8 Right to offer to repay claim.

(a) The debtor may offer to enter into a written agreement with the Corporation to repay the amount of the claim. The acceptance of such an offer and the decision to enter into such a written agreement is at the discretion of the Corporation.

(b) If the debtor requests a repayment arrangement because payment of the amount due would create a financial hardship, the Corporation shall analyze the debtor's financial condition. The Corporation may enter into a written agreement with the debtor permitting the debtor to repay the debt in installments if the Corporation determines, in its sole discretion, that payment of the amount due would create an undue financial hardship for the debtor. The written agreement shall set forth the amount and frequency of installment payments and shall, in accordance with § 1408.12, provide for the imposition of charges for interest, penalties, and administrative costs unless waived by the Corporation.

(c) The written agreement may require the debtor to execute a confession-judgment note when the total amount of the deferred installments will exceed \$750. The Corporation shall provide the debtor with a written explanation of the consequences of signing a confession-judgment note. The debtor shall sign a statement acknowledging receipt of the written explanation. The statement shall recite that the written explanation was read and understood before execution of the note and that the debtor signed the note knowingly and voluntarily. Documentation of these procedures will be maintained in the Corporation's file on the debtor.

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§ 1408.9 Right to agency review.

(a) If the debtor disputes the claim, the debtor may request a review of the Corporation's determination of the existence of the debt or of the amount of the debt. If only part of the claim is disputed, the undisputed portion should be paid by the payment due date.

(b) To obtain a review, the debtor shall submit a written request for review to the Corporation official named in the initial demand letter, within 15 calendar days after receipt of the letter. The debtor's request for review shall state the basis on which the claim is disputed.

(c) The Corporation shall promptly notify the debtor, in writing, that the Corporation has received the request for review. The Corporation shall conduct its review of the claim in accordance with § 1408.10.

(d) Upon completion of its review of the claim, the Corporation shall notify the debtor whether the Corporation's determination of the existence or amount of the debt has been sustained, amended, or canceled. The notification shall include a copy of the written decision issued by the hearing official pursuant to § 1408.10(e). If the Corporation's determination is sustained, this notification shall contain a provision which states that the Corporation intends to collect the debt by all legally available means, which may include initiating legal action against the debtor, referring the debt to a collection agency for collection, collecting the debt by offset, or asking other Federal agencies for assistance in collecting the debt by offset.

§ 1408.10 Review procedures.

(a) Unless an oral hearing is required by § 1408.23(d), the Corporation's review shall be a review of the written record of the claim.

(b) If an oral hearing is required under § 1408.23(d) the Corporation shall provide the debtor with a reasonable opportunity for such a hearing. The oral hearing, however, shall not be an adversarial adjudication and need not take the form of a formal evidentiary hearing. All significant matters discussed at the hearing, however, will be carefully documented.

(c) Any review required by this part, whether a review of the written record or an oral hearing, shall be conducted by a hearing official. In the case of a salary offset, the hearing official shall not be under the supervision or control of the Chairman of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation.

(d) The Corporation may be represented by legal counsel. The debtor may represent himself or herself or may be represented by an individual of the debtor's choice and at the debtor's expense.

(e) The hearing official shall issue a final written decision based on documentary evidence and, if applicable, information developed at an oral hearing. The written decision shall be issued as soon as practicable after the review but not later than 60 days after the date on which the request for review was received by the Corporation, unless the debtor requests a delay in the proceedings. A delay in the proceedings shall be granted if the hearing official determines, in his or her sole discretion, that there is good cause to grant the delay. If a delay is granted, the 60-day decision period shall be extended by the number of days by which the review was postponed.

(f) Upon issuance of the written opinion, the Corporation shall promptly notify the debtor of the hearing official's decision. Said notification shall include a copy of the written decision issued by the hearing official pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section.

§ 1408.11 Special review.

(a) An employee subject to salary offset, under subpart C of this part, or a voluntary repayment agreement, may, at any time, request a special review by the Corporation of the amount of the salary offset or voluntary repayment, based on materially changed circumstances such as, but not limited to, catastrophic illness, divorce, death, or disability.

(b) To determine whether an offset would prevent the employee from meeting essential subsistence expenses (costs incurred for food, housing, clothing, transportation, and medical care), the employee shall submit a detailed statement and supporting documents

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for the employee, his or her spouse, and dependents indicating:

- (1) Income from all sources;
- (2) Assets;
- (3) Liabilities;
- (4) Number of dependents;
- (5) Expenses for food, housing, clothing, and transportation;
- (6) Medical expenses; and
- (7) Exceptional expenses, if any.

(c) If the employee requests a special review under this section, the employee shall file an alternative proposed offset or payment schedule and a statement, with supporting documents, showing why the current salary offset or payments result in an extreme financial hardship to the employee.

(d) The Corporation shall evaluate the statement and supporting documents, and determine whether the original offset or repayment schedule imposes an undue financial hardship on the employee. The Corporation shall notify the employee in writing of such determination, including, if appropriate, a revised offset or payment schedule.

§ 1408.12 Charges for interest, administrative costs, and penalties.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the Corporation shall:

- (1) Assess interest on unpaid claims;
- (2) Assess administrative costs incurred in processing and handling overdue claims; and
- (3) Assess penalty charges not to exceed 6 percent a year on any part of a debt more than 90 days past due.

The imposition of charges for interest, administrative costs, and penalties shall be made in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3717.

(b)(1) Interest shall accrue from the date of mailing or hand delivery of the initial demand for payment or the Notice of Intent to Collect by either Administrative or Salary Offset if the amount of the claim is not paid within 30 days from the date of mailing or hand delivery of the initial demand or notice.

(2) The 30-day period may be extended on a case-by-case basis if the Corporation reasonably determines that such action is appropriate. Interest shall only accrue on the principal

of the claim and the interest rate shall remain fixed for the duration of the indebtedness, except, as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, in cases where a debtor has defaulted on a repayment agreement and seeks to enter into a new agreement, or if the Corporation reasonably determines that a higher rate is necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

(c) If a debtor defaults on a repayment agreement and seeks to enter into a new agreement, the Corporation may assess a new interest rate on the unpaid claim. In addition, charges for interest, administrative costs, and penalties which accrued but were not collected under the original repayment agreement shall be added to the principal of the claim to be paid under the new repayment agreement. Interest shall accrue on the entire principal balance of the claim, as adjusted to reflect any increase resulting from the addition of these charges.

(d) The Corporation may waive charges for interest, administrative costs, and/or penalties if it determines that:

- (1) The debtor is unable to pay any significant sum toward the claim within a reasonable period of time;
- (2) Collection of charges for interest, administrative costs, and/or penalties would jeopardize collection of the principal of the claim;
- (3) Collection of charges for interest, administrative costs, or penalties would be against equity and good conscience; or
- (4) It is otherwise in the best interest of the United States, including the situation where an installment payment agreement or offset is in effect.

§ 1408.13 Contracting for collection services.

The Chairman, or designee of the Chairman, may contract for collection services in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3718 and 4 CFR 102.6 to recover debts.

§ 1408.14 Reporting of credit information.

The Chairman, or designee of the Chairman, may disclose to a consumer reporting agency information that an individual is responsible for a debt owed to the United States. Information

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will be disclosed to reporting agencies in accordance with the terms and conditions of agreements entered into between the Corporation and the reporting agencies. The terms and conditions of such agreements shall specify that all of the rights and protection afforded to the debtor under 31 U.S.C. 3711(f) have been fulfilled. The Corporation shall notify each consumer reporting agency, to which a claim was disclosed, when the debt has been satisfied.

§ 1408.15 Credit report.

In order to aid the Corporation in making appropriate determinations regarding the collection and compromise of claims; the collection of charges for interest, administrative costs, and penalties; the use of administrative offset; the use of other collection methods; and the likelihood of collecting the claim, the Corporation may institute, consistent with the provisions of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681, et seq.), a credit investigation of the debtor immediately following a determination that the claim exists.

Subpart B—Administrative Offset

§ 1408.20 Applicability.

(a) The provisions of this subpart shall apply to the collection of debts by administrative [or salary] offset under 31 U.S.C. 3716, 5 U.S.C. 5514, or other statutory or common law.

(b) Offset shall not be used to collect a debt more than 10 years after the Government's right to collect the debt first accrued, unless facts material to the Government's right to collect the debt were not known and could not reasonably have been known by the official or officials of the Government who were charged with the responsibility of discovering and collecting such debt.

(c) Offset shall not be used with respect to:

(1) Debts owed by other agencies of the United States or by any State or local government;

(2) Debts arising under or payments made under the Social Security Act, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or tariff laws of the United States; or

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(3) Any case in which collection by offset of the type of debt involved is explicitly provided for or prohibited by another statute.

(d) Unless otherwise provided by contract or law, debts or payments which are not subject to offset under 31 U.S.C. 3716 or 5 U.S.C. 5514 may be collected by offset if such collection is authorized under common law or other applicable statutory authority.

§ 1408.21 Collection by offset.

(a) Collection of a debt by administrative [or salary] offset shall be accomplished in accordance with the provisions of these regulations, 4 CFR 102.3, and 5 CFR part 550, subpart K. It is not necessary for the debt to be reduced to judgment or to be undisputed for offset to be used.

(b) The Chairman, or designee of the Chairman, may determine that it is feasible to collect a debt to the United States by offset against funds payable to the debtor.

(c) The feasibility of collecting a debt by offset will be determined on a case-by-case basis. This determination shall be made by considering all relevant factors, including the following: (1) The degree to which the offset can be accomplished in accordance with law. This determination should take into consideration relevant statutory, regulatory, and contractual requirements;

(2) The degree to which the Corporation is certain that its determination of the existence and amount of the debt is correct;

(3) The practicality of collecting the debt by offset. The cost, in time and money, of collecting the debt by offset and the amount of money which can reasonably be expected to be recovered through offset will be relevant to this determination; and

(4) Whether the use of offset will substantially interfere with or defeat the purpose of a program authorizing payments against which the offset is contemplated. For example, under a grant program in which payments are made in advance of the grantee's performance, the imposition of offset against such a payment may be inappropriate.

(d) The collection of a debt by offset may not be feasible when there are circumstances which would indicate that

the likelihood of collection by offset is less than probable.

(e) The offset will be effected 31 days after the debtor receives a Notice of Intent to Collect by Administrative Offset (or Notice of Intent to Collect by Salary Offset if the offset is a salary offset), or upon the expiration of a stay of offset, unless the Corporation determines under §1408.24 that immediate action is necessary.

(f) If the debtor owes more than one debt, amounts recovered through offset may be applied to them in any order. Applicable statutes of limitation would be considered before applying the amounts recovered to any debts owed.

§ 1408.22 Notice requirements before offset.

(a) Except as provided in §1408.24, the Corporation will provide the debtor with 30 calendar days' written notice that unpaid debt amounts shall be collected by administrative [or salary] offset (Notice of Intent to Collect by Administrative [or Salary] Offset) before the Corporation imposes offset against any money that is to be paid to the debtor.

(b) The Notice of Intent to Collect by Administrative [or Salary] Offset shall be delivered to the debtor by hand or by mail and shall provide the following information:

(1) The amount of the debt, the date it was incurred, and the facts upon which the determination of indebtedness was made;

(2) In the case of an administrative offset, the payment due date, which shall be 30 calendar days from the date of mailing or hand delivery of the Notice;

(3) In the case of a salary offset:

(i) The Corporation's intention to collect the debt by means of deduction from the employee's current disposable pay account until the debt and all accumulated interest is paid in full; and

(ii) The amount, frequency, proposed beginning date, and duration of the intended deductions;

(4) The right of the debtor to inspect and copy the records of the Corporation related to the claim or to receive copies if personal inspection is impractical. The debtor shall be informed that he/she shall be assessed for the cost of

copying the documents in accordance with §1408.7 of this part;

(5) The right of the debtor to obtain a review of, and to request a hearing, on the Corporation's determination of indebtedness, the propriety of collecting the debt by offset, and, in the case of salary offset, the propriety of the proposed repayment schedule (i.e., the percentage of disposable pay to be deducted each pay period). The debtor shall be informed that to obtain a review, the debtor shall deliver a written request for a review to the Corporation official named in the Notice, within 15 calendar days after the debtor's receipt of the Notice. In the case of a salary offset, the debtor shall also be informed that the review shall be conducted by an official arranged for by the Corporation who shall be a hearing official not under the control of the Chairman of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, or an administrative law judge;

(6) That the filing of a petition for hearing within 15 calendar days after receipt of the Notice will stay the commencement of collection proceedings;

(7) That a final decision on the hearing (if one is requested) will be issued at the earliest practical date, but not later than 60 days after the filing of the written request for review unless the employee requests, and the hearing official grants, a delay in the proceedings;

(8) The right of the debtor to offer to enter into a written agreement with the Corporation to repay the amount of the claim. The debtor shall be informed that the acceptance of such an agreement is discretionary with the Corporation;

(9) That charges for interest, penalties, and administrative costs shall be assessed against the debtor, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3717, if payment is not received by the payment due date. The debtor shall be informed that such assessments must be made unless excused in accordance with the Federal Claims Collection Standards (4 CFR parts 103 and 104);

(10) The amount of accrued interest and the amount of any other penalties or administrative costs which may have been added to the principal debt;

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(11) That if the debtor has not entered into an agreement with the Corporation to pay the debt, has not requested the Corporation to review the debt, or has not paid the debt prior to the date on which the offset is to be imposed, the Corporation intends to collect the debt by administrative [or salary] offset or by requesting other Federal agencies for assistance in collecting the debt by offset. The debtor shall be informed that the offset shall be imposed against any funds that might become available to the debtor, until the principal debt and all accumulated interest and other charges are paid in full;

(12) The date on which the offset will be imposed, which shall be 31 calendar days from the date of mailing or hand delivery of the Notice. The debtor shall be informed that the Corporation reserves the right to impose an offset prior to this date if the Corporation determines that immediate action is necessary;

(13) That any knowingly false or frivolous statements, representations, or evidence may subject the debtor to:

(i) Penalties under the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. 3729 through 3731, or any other applicable statutory authority;

(ii) Criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. 286, 287, 1001, and 1002, or any other applicable statutory authority; and, with regard to employees,

(iii) Disciplinary procedures appropriate under 5 U.S.C. chapter 75; 5 CFR part 752, or any other applicable statute or regulation;

(14) The name and address of the Corporation official to whom the debtor shall send all correspondence relating to the debt or the offset;

(15) Any other rights and remedies available to the debtor under statutes or regulations governing the program for which the collection is being made;

(16) That unless there are applicable contractual or statutory provisions to the contrary, amounts paid on or deducted for the debt, which are later waived or found not owed to the United States, will be promptly refunded to the employee; and

(17) Other information, as may be appropriate.

(c) When the procedural requirements of this section have been provided to

the debtor in connection with the same debt or under some other statutory or regulatory authority, the Corporation is not required to duplicate those requirements before effecting offset.

§ 1408.23 Right to review of claim.

(a) If the debtor disputes the claim, the debtor may request a review of the Corporation's determination of the existence of the debt, the amount of the debt, the propriety of collecting the debt by offset, and in the case of salary offset, the propriety of the proposed repayment schedule. If only part of the claim is disputed, the undisputed portion should be paid by the payment due date.

(b) To obtain a review, the debtor shall submit a written request for review to the Corporation official named in the Notice of Intent to Collect by Administrative [or Salary] Offset within 15 calendar days after receipt of the notice. The debtor's written request for review shall state the basis on which the claim is disputed and shall specify whether the debtor requests an oral hearing or a review of the written record of the claim. If an oral hearing is requested, the debtor shall explain in the request why the matter cannot be resolved by a review of the documentary evidence alone.

(c) The Corporation shall promptly notify the debtor, in writing, that the Corporation has received the request for review. The Corporation shall conduct its review of the claim in accordance with § 1408.10.

(d) The Corporation's review of the claim, under this section, shall include providing the debtor with a reasonable opportunity for an oral hearing if:

(1) An applicable statute authorizes or requires the Corporation to consider waiver of the indebtedness, the debtor requests waiver of the indebtedness, and the waiver determination turns on an issue of credibility or veracity; or

(2) The debtor requests reconsideration of the debt and the Corporation determines that the question of the indebtedness cannot be resolved by reviewing the documentary evidence; for example, when the validity of the debt turns on an issue of credibility or veracity.

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(e) A debtor waives the right to a hearing and will have his or her debt offset in accordance with the proposed offset schedule if the debtor:

(1) Fails to file a written request for review within the timeframe set forth in paragraph (b) of this section, unless the Corporation determines that the delay was the result of circumstances beyond his or her control; or

(2) Fails to appear at an oral hearing of which he or she was notified unless the hearing official determines that the failure to appear was due to circumstances beyond the employee's control.

(f) Upon completion of its review of the claim, the Corporation shall notify the debtor whether the Corporation's determination of the existence or amount of the debt has been sustained, amended, or canceled. The notification shall include a copy of the written decision issued by the hearing official, pursuant to §1408.10(e). If the Corporation's determination is sustained, this notification shall contain a provision which states that the Corporation intends to collect the debt by offset or by requesting other Federal agencies for assistance in collecting the debt.

(g) When the procedural requirements of this section have been provided to the debtor in connection with the same debt or under some other statutory or regulatory authority, the Corporation is not required to duplicate those requirements before effecting offset.

§1408.24 Waiver of procedural requirements.

(a) The Corporation may impose offset against a payment to be made to a debtor prior to the completion of the procedures required by this part, if:

(1) Failure to impose the offset would substantially prejudice the Government's ability to collect the debt; and

(2) The timing of the payment against which the offset will be imposed does not reasonably permit the completion of those procedures.

(b) The procedures required by this part shall be complied with promptly after the offset is imposed. Amounts recovered by offset, which are later found not to be owed to the Govern-

ment, shall be promptly refunded to the debtor.

§1408.25 Coordinating offset with other Federal agencies.

(a)(1) Any creditor agency which requests the Corporation to impose an offset against amounts owed to the debtor shall submit to the Corporation a claim certification which meets the requirements of this paragraph. The Corporation shall submit the same certification to any agency that the Corporation requests to effect an offset.

(2) The claim certification shall be in writing. It shall certify the debtor owes the debt and that all of the applicable requirements of 31 U.S.C. 3716 and 4 CFR part 102 have been met. If the intended offset is to be a salary offset, a claim certification shall instead certify that the debtor owes the debt and that the applicable requirements of 5 U.S.C. 5514 and 5 CFR part 550, subpart K, have been met.

(3) A certification that the debtor owes the debt shall state the amount of the debt, the factual basis supporting the determination of indebtedness, and the date on which payment of the debt was due. A certification that the requirements of 31 U.S.C. 3716 and 4 CFR part 102 have been met shall include a statement that the debtor has been sent a Notice of Intent to Collect by Administrative Offset at least 31 calendar days prior to the date of the intended offset or a statement that pursuant to 4 CFR 102.3(b)(5) said Notice was not required to be sent. A certification that the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 5514 and 5 CFR part 550, subpart K, have been met shall include a statement that the debtor has been sent a Notice of Intent to Collect by Salary Offset at least 31 calendar days prior to the date of the intended offset or a statement that pursuant to 4 CFR 102.3(b)(5) said Notice was not required to be sent.

(b)(1) The Corporation shall not effect an offset requested by another Federal agency without first obtaining the claim certification required by paragraph (a) of this section. If the Corporation receives an incomplete claim certification, the Corporation shall return the claim certification with notice that a claim certification

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which complies with the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section must be submitted to the Corporation before the Corporation will consider effecting an offset.

(2) The Corporation may rely on the information contained in the claim certification provided by a requesting creditor agency. The Corporation is not authorized to review a creditor agency's determination of indebtedness.

(c) Only the creditor agency may agree to enter into an agreement with the debtor for the repayment of the claim. Only the creditor agency may agree to compromise, suspend, or terminate collection of the claim.

(d) The Corporation may decline, for good cause, a request by another agency to effect an offset. Good cause includes that the offset might disrupt, directly or indirectly, essential Corporation operations. The refusal and the reasons shall be sent in writing to the creditor agency.

§ 1408.26 Stay of offset.

(a)(1) When a creditor agency receives a debtor's request for inspection of agency records, the offset is stayed for 10 calendar days beyond the date set for the record inspection.

(2) When a creditor agency receives a debtor's offer to enter into a repayment agreement, the offset is stayed until the debtor is notified as to whether the proposed agreement is acceptable.

(3) When a review is conducted, the offset is stayed until the creditor agency issues a final written decision.

(b) When offset is stayed, the amount of the debt and the amount of any accrued interest or other charges will be withheld from payments to the debtor. The withheld amounts shall not be applied against the debt until the stay expires. If withheld funds are later determined not to be subject to offset, they will be promptly refunded to the debtor.

(c) If the Corporation is the creditor agency and the offset is stayed, the Corporation will immediately notify an offsetting agency to withhold the payment pending termination of the stay.

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§ 1408.27 Offset against amounts payable from Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund.

The Corporation may request that monies payable to a debtor from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund be administratively offset to collect debts owed to the Corporation by the debtor. The Corporation must certify that the debtor owes the debt, the amount of the debt, and that the Corporation has complied with the requirements set forth in this part, 4 CFR 102.3, and the Office of Personnel Management regulations. The request shall be submitted to the official designated in the Office of Personnel Management regulations to receive the request.

Subpart C—Offset Against Salary

§ 1408.35 Purpose.

The purpose of this subpart is to implement section 5 of the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97–365 (5 U.S.C. 5514)), which authorizes the collection of debts owed by Federal employees to the Federal Government by means of salary offsets. These regulations provide procedures for the collection of a debt owed to the Government by the imposition of a salary offset against amounts payable to a Federal employee as salary. These regulations are consistent with the regulations on salary offset published by the Office of Personnel Management, codified in 5 CFR part 550, subpart K. Since salary offset is a type of administrative offset, the requirements of subpart B also apply to salary offsets.

§ 1408.36 Applicability of regulations.

(a) These regulations apply to the following cases:

(1) Where the Corporation is owed a debt by an individual currently employed by another agency;

(2) Where the Corporation is owed a debt by an individual who is currently employed by the Corporation; or

(3) Where the Corporation currently employs an individual who owes a debt to another Federal agency. Upon receipt of proper certification from the creditor agency, the Corporation will offset the debtor-employee's salary in accordance with these regulations.

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(b) These regulations do not apply to the following: (1) Debts or claims arising under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (26 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*); the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*); the tariff laws of the United States; or to any case where collection of a debt by salary offset is explicitly provided for or prohibited by another statute (e.g., travel advances in 5 U.S.C. 5705 and employee training expenses in 5 U.S.C. 4108).

(2) Any adjustment to pay arising from an employee's election of coverage or a change in coverage under a Federal benefits program requiring periodic deductions from pay if the amount to be recovered was accumulated over four pay periods or less.

(3) A claim which has been outstanding for more than 10 years after the creditor agency's right to collect the debt first accrued, unless facts material to the Government's right to collect were not known and could not reasonably have been known by the official or officials charged with the responsibility for discovery and collection of such debts.

§ 1408.37 Definitions.

In this subpart, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Agency* means:

(1) An executive agency as defined by 5 U.S.C. 105, including the United States Postal Service and the United States Postal Rate Commission;

(2) A military department as defined in 5 U.S.C. 102;

(3) An agency or court of the judicial branch, including a court as defined in 28 U.S.C. 610, the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Judicial Panel on Multi-district Litigation;

(4) An agency of the legislative branch, including the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives; or

(5) Other independent establishments that are entities of the Federal Government.

(b) *Disposable pay* means, for an officially established pay interval, that part of current basic pay, special pay, incentive pay, retired pay, retainer pay, or, in the case of an employee not entitled to basic pay, other authorized

pay remaining after the deduction of any amount required by law to be withheld. The Corporation shall allow the deductions described in 5 CFR 581.105 (b) through (f).

(c) *Employee* means a current employee of the Corporation or other agency, including a current member of the Armed Forces or Reserve of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(d) *Waiver* means the cancellation, remission, forgiveness, or nonrecovery of a debt allegedly owed by an employee to the Corporation or another agency as permitted or required by 5 U.S.C. 5584 or 8346(b), 10 U.S.C. 2774, 32 U.S.C. 716, or any other law.

§ 1408.38 Waiver requests and claims to the General Accounting Office.

(a) The regulations contained in this subpart do not preclude an employee from requesting a waiver of an overpayment under 5 U.S.C. 5584 or 8346(b), 10 U.S.C. 2774, 32 U.S.C. 716, or in any way questioning the amount or validity of a debt by submitting a subsequent claim to the General Accounting Office in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the General Accounting Office.

(b) These regulations also do not preclude an employee from requesting a waiver pursuant to other statutory provisions pertaining to the particular debts being collected.

§ 1408.39 Procedures for salary offset.

(a) The Chairman, or designee of the Chairman, shall determine the amount of an employee's disposable pay and the amount to be deducted from the employee's disposable pay at regular pay intervals.

(b) Deductions shall begin within three official pay periods following the date of mailing or delivery of the Notice of Intent to Collect by Salary Offset.

(c)(1) If the amount of the debt is equal to or is less than 15 percent of the employee's disposable pay, such debt should be collected in one lump-sum deduction.

(2) If the amount of the debt is not collected in one lump-sum deduction, the debt shall be collected in installment deductions over a period of time not greater than the anticipated period

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of employment. The size and frequency of installment deductions will bear a reasonable relation to the size of the debt and the employee's ability to pay. However, the amount deducted from any pay period will not exceed 15 percent of the employee's disposable pay for that period, unless the employee has agreed in writing to the deduction of a greater amount.

(3) A deduction exceeding the 15-percent disposable pay limitation may be made from any final salary payment pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3716 in order to liquidate the debt, whether the employee is being separated voluntarily or involuntarily.

(4) Whenever an employee subject to salary offset is separated from the Corporation and the balance of the debt cannot be liquidated by offset of the final salary check pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3716, the Corporation may offset any later payments of any kind against the balance of the debt.

(d) In instances where two or more creditor agencies are seeking salary offsets against current employees of the Corporation or where two or more debts are owed to a single creditor agency, the Corporation, at its discretion, may determine whether one or more debts should be offset simultaneously within the 15-percent limitation. Debts owed to the Corporation should generally take precedence over debts owed to other agencies.

§ 1408.40 Refunds.

(a) In instances where the Corporation is the creditor agency, it shall promptly refund any amounts deducted under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 5514 when:

(1) The debt is waived or otherwise found not to be owed to the United States (unless expressly prohibited by statute or regulations); or

(2) An administrative or judicial order directs the Corporation to make a refund.

(b) Unless required or permitted by law or contract, refunds under this section shall not bear interest.

§ 1408.41 Requesting current paying agency to offset salary.

(a) To request a paying agency to impose a salary offset against amounts

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owed to the debtor, the Corporation shall provide the paying agency with a claim certification which meets the requirements set forth in § 1408.25(a) of this part. The Corporation shall also provide the paying agency with a repayment schedule determined under the provisions of § 1408.39 or in accordance with a repayment agreement entered into with the debtor.

(b) If the employee separates from the paying agency before the debt is paid in full, the paying agency shall certify the total amount collected on the debt. A copy of this certification shall be sent to the employee and a copy shall be sent to the Corporation. If the paying agency is aware that the employee is entitled to payments from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, or other similar payments, it must provide written notification to the agency responsible for making such payments that the debtor owes a debt (including the amount) and that the provisions of this section have been fully complied with. However, the Corporation must submit a properly certified claim to the agency responsible for making such payments before the collection can be made.

(c) When an employee transfers to another paying agency, the Corporation is not required to repeat the due process procedures set forth in 5 U.S.C. 5514 and this part to resume the collection. The Corporation shall, however, review the debt upon receiving the former paying agency's notice of the employee's transfer to make sure the collection is resumed by the new paying agency.

(d) If a special review is conducted pursuant to § 1408.11 and results in a revised offset or repayment schedule, the Corporation shall provide a new claim certification to the paying agency.

§ 1408.42 Responsibility of the Corporation as the paying agency.

(a) When the Corporation receives a claim certification from a creditor agency, deductions should be scheduled to begin at the next officially established pay interval. The Corporation shall send the debtor written notice which provides:

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(1) That the Corporation has received a valid claim certification from the creditor agency;

(2) The date on which salary offset will begin;

(3) The amount of the debt; and

(4) The amount of such deductions.

(b) If, after the creditor agency has submitted the claim certification to the Corporation, the employee transfers to a different agency before the debt is collected in full, the Corporation must certify the total amount collected on the debt. The Corporation shall send a copy of this certification to the creditor agency and a copy to the employee. If the Corporation is aware that the employee is entitled to payments from the Civil Service Retirement Fund and Disability Fund, or other similar payments, it shall provide written notification to the agency responsible for making such payments that the debtor owes a debt (including the amount).

§ 1408.43 Nonwaiver of rights by payments.

An employee's involuntary payment of all or any portion of a debt being collected under this subpart shall not be construed as a waiver of any rights the employee may have under 5 U.S.C. 5514 or any other provisions of a written contract or law unless there are statutory or contractual provisions to the contrary.

PART 1410—PREMIUMS

Sec.

1410.1 Purpose and scope.

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1410.6 Certified statements.

1410.7 Documentation.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 2277a-5; 12 U.S.C. 2277a-7.

SOURCE: 56 FR 3201, Jan. 29, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1410.1 Purpose and scope.

This part sets forth the rules for:

(a) The calculation of premiums;

(b) The time for payment of the premium required by sections 5.55 and 5.56

of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended;

(c) Interest charges on delinquent payments;

(d) The form and content of certified statements; and,

(e) Documentation supporting certified statements.

§ 1410.2 Definitions.

(a) *Act* means the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended.

(b) *Average principal outstanding* means:

(1) For calendar year 1989, the average annual principal outstanding using balances as of monthend for each of the 13 months beginning with December 1988 and ending with December 1989;

(2) For calendar year 1990 and thereafter, the average annual principal outstanding on a daily basis using balances as of the close of each day. In computing the average annual principal outstanding in this manner, the closing balance of the most recent past business day shall be the closing balance for days when an institution is closed.

(c) *Direct lending association* means any production credit association or any other association making direct loans under authority provided under section 7.6 of the Act, including, without limitation, agricultural credit associations and Federal land credit associations.

(d) *Government-guaranteed loans* means loans or credits, or portions of loans or credits, that are guaranteed:

(1) By the full faith and credit of the United States Government or any State government; or,

(2) By an agency or other entity of the United States Government whose obligations are explicitly guaranteed by the United States Government; or,

(3) By an agency or other entity of a State government whose obligations are explicitly guaranteed by such State government.

(e) *Insured bank* means any Farm Credit bank whose participation in notes, bonds, debentures, and other obligations issued under subsection (c) or (d) of section 4.2 of the Act is insured

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under part E of title V of the Act, including, without limitation, the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Jackson and banks that are in or are placed in receivership or conservatorship to the extent that those banks' participation in such obligations is insured.

(f) *Loan* means any extension of credit or lease resulting from direct negotiations between a lender and a borrowing entity that is recorded as an asset of an insured bank, a direct lending association, or an other financing institution. The term "loan" includes loans, contracts of sale, notes receivable, and other similar obligations and lease financings. The term "loan" includes loans originated through direct negotiations between the insured bank, direct lending association, or other financing institution and a borrowing entity and loans or interests in loans purchased from another lender. Loans purchased subject to recourse shall be considered loans of the seller to the extent of the recourse.

(g)(1) *Nonaccrual loan* means any loan where—

(i) Any amount of outstanding principal and all past and future interest accruals, considered over the full term of the asset, are determined to be uncollectible for any reason; or,

(ii) It has been classified "loss" as a result of a periodic credit evaluation and has not been charged off; or,

(iii) The loan is severely past due and is not adequately secured, in process of collection, and fully collectible with respect to all principal and interest.

(2) For the purposes of determining whether a loan is considered as accrual or nonaccrual under this part, all loans on which a borrowing entity, or a component of a borrowing entity, is primarily obligated to the institution shall be considered as one loan unless a review of all pertinent facts supports a reasonable determination that a particular loan constitutes an independent credit risk and such determination is adequately documented in the loan file.

(h) *Other financing institution* means any bank, company, institution, corporation, union, or association de-

scribed in section 1.7(b)(1)(B) of the Act.

[56 FR 3201, Jan. 29, 1991; 56 FR 10302, Mar. 11, 1991]

§ 1410.3 Calculation and reporting of premiums due.

(a) *Premium base.* For purposes of computing the annual premium, each insured bank shall:

(1) Report its premium base for each category of loan described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section based on the total of the average annual principal balances of:

(i)(A) Loans of each direct lending association that were able to be made because the direct lending association is receiving, or has received, funds provided through the insured bank;

(B) Loans of each other financing institution that were able to be made because the other financing institution is receiving, or has received, funds provided through the insured bank; and,

(C) The bank's loans, other than loans made to direct lending associations and other financing institutions.

(ii) For purposes of this section, loans of an other financing institution were able to be made because of funds provided through the insured bank only if they are loans which resulted from funding provided through the insured bank and which are pledged to or discounted by the insured bank.

(2) Segregate the loans of each entity described in paragraph (a) of this section into:

(i) Loans in accrual status, excluding the guaranteed portions of State and Federal government-guaranteed loans;

(ii) The guaranteed portions of State government-guaranteed loans that are in accrual status;

(iii) The guaranteed portions of Federal government-guaranteed loans that are in accrual status; and,

(iv) Nonaccrual loans.

(b) *Calculating the 1989 premium payment.* The 1989 premium payment shall be equal to the sum of:

(1) The total annual average principal outstanding for calendar year 1989 on the loans in accrual status as described in paragraph (a)(2)(i) of this section of each entity described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section multiplied by 0.0015;

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(2) The total annual average principal outstanding for calendar year 1989 on loans in accrual status as described in paragraph (a)(2)(ii) of this section of each entity described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section multiplied by 0.0003; and,

(3) The total annual average principal outstanding for calendar year 1989 on loans in accrual status as described in paragraph (a)(2)(iii) of this section of each entity described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section multiplied by 0.00015.

(c) *Calculating the premium payment for 1990 and subsequent years.* Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the annual premium payment for 1990 and for each subsequent year shall be equal to the sum of:

(1) The total annual average principal outstanding for each calendar year on the loans in accrual status as described in paragraph (a)(2)(i) of this section of each entity described in paragraph (a) of this section multiplied by 0.0015;

(2) The total annual average principal outstanding for each calendar year on the loans in accrual status as described in paragraph (a)(2)(ii) of this section of each entity described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section multiplied by 0.0003;

(3) The total annual average principal outstanding for each calendar year on the loans in accrual status as described in paragraph (a)(2)(iii) of this section of each entity as described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section multiplied by 0.00015; and,

(4) The total annual average principal outstanding for each calendar year on the nonaccrual loans as described in paragraph (a)(2)(iv) of this section of each entity described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section multiplied by 0.0025.

(d) *Secure base amount.* Upon reaching the secure base amount determined by the Corporation in accordance with section 5.55 of the Act, the annual premium to be paid by each insured bank, computed in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section, shall be reduced by a percentage determined by the Corporation so that the aggregate of the premiums payable by all of the Farm Credit banks for the following

calendar year is sufficient to ensure that the Insurance Fund balance is maintained at not less than the secure base amount. The Corporation shall announce any such percentage no later than December 31 of the year prior to the January in which such premiums are to be paid.

[56 FR 3201, Jan. 29, 1991; 56 FR 13211, Mar. 29, 1991]

§ 1410.4 Payment of premiums.

(a) *Calendar years 1989 and 1990.* Each insured bank shall pay to the Corporation the amount of the premium due to the Corporation computed in accordance with §1410.3 of this part, and shown on its certified statement, at the time its certified statement is filed. The certified statement for calendar years 1989 and 1990 must be filed with the Corporation and the premium must be received by the Corporation on or before March 29, 1991.

(b) *Calendar year 1991 and subsequent years.* Each insured bank shall pay to the Corporation the amount of the premium due to the Corporation computed in accordance with §1410.3 of this part, and shown on its certified statement, at the time the statement is filed. Certified statements shall be considered to have been filed and payments made in a timely manner if they are received on or before January 31 following the end of the calendar year on which the certified statement is based.

(c) *Premiums as obligations of insured banks.* Premiums required to be paid by §1410.3 are obligations of the insured banks, and are to be paid at the times required by this section, regardless of whether the insured bank has assessed and collected any assessments under section 1.12 of the Act.

[56 FR 3201, Jan. 29, 1991; 56 FR 10302, Mar. 11, 1991]

§ 1410.5 Delinquent premium payments and premium overpayments.

(a) *Delinquent payments.* Each insured bank shall pay to the Corporation interest on delinquent premium payments. All premiums will be considered delinquent if they are received after the time for payment specified in

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§ 1410.4 of this part, including late payments caused by bank errors in the certified statement. The interest rate will be the United States Treasury Department's current value of funds rate, which is issued under the Treasury Fiscal Requirements Manual (TFRM rate) and published quarterly in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The interest rate will be determined as follows:

(1) *Current year.* (i) For delinquent days occurring on or prior to March 31, the rate will be the TFRM rate that is published in the preceding December.

(ii) For delinquent days occurring from April 1 to June 30, the rate will be the TFRM rate that is published in March for the second quarter of the year.

(iii) For delinquent days occurring from July 1 to September 30, the rate will be the TFRM rate that is published in June for the third quarter.

(iv) For delinquent days occurring from October 1 to December 31, the rate will be the TFRM rate that is published in September for the fourth quarter.

(2) *Prior years.* The interest will be calculated quarterly and compounded annually at the rates applicable for each quarter as issued under the TFRM. For the initial year, the rate will be applied to the gross amount of the delinquent payment. For each additional year or portion thereof the rate will be applied to the net amount of the delinquent payment after it has been reduced by any premium credit under paragraph (c) of this section.

(b) *Other rights and remedies.* Payment of the interest specified in paragraph (a) of this section does not affect any other rights and remedies available to the Corporation.

(c) *Overpayments.* To the extent that any payment by a bank exceeds the required amount:

(1) The excess shall be credited against future premium payments by the bank which overpaid; or,

(2)(i) Upon written request to the Corporation by the bank which overpaid, the excess shall be refunded to the bank within 30 days of receipt of the written request; and

(ii) If the Corporation fails to make a refund within such 30-day period, and the Corporation determines that a re-

fund is in order, the Corporation shall pay to the bank interest on the amount of the overpayment, from the end of such 30-day period through the date the refund is issued.

§ 1410.6 Certified statements.

(a) *Forms.* The certified statements required to be filed by insured banks under the provisions of section 5.56 of the Act shall be filed with the Corporation. The certified statement forms will be furnished to all insured banks by, or may be obtained from, the Corporation. The following forms are available from the Corporation:

(1) *Form FCSIC 90-001: First Certified Statement.* The form shows the premium base for calendar years 1989 and 1990. The premium payment period is from January 1 of each year to December 31 of each year. The form must show the computation of the premium base and the bank's calculation of the premium due the Corporation.

(2) *Form FCSIC 90-002: Certified Statement.* This form must be used for calendar year 1991 and subsequent years. The form shows the premium base for the annual premium payment period. The premium payment period is from January 1 of each year to December 31 of each year. The form must show the computation of the premium base and the bank's calculation of the amount of the premium due the Corporation.

(b) *Amendments to certified statements.* In the event of an amendment or correction of a previously submitted certified statement, the amending insured bank shall resubmit to the Corporation the appropriate certified statement along with a letter of explanation regarding the amendment or correction.

[56 FR 3201, Jan. 29, 1991, as amended at 56 FR 57233, Nov. 8, 1991]

§ 1410.7 Documentation.

Each insured bank shall:

(a) Prepare and maintain accurate and complete records as necessary to prepare certified statements, including, but not limited to, records relating to the loans of each direct lending association and other financing institution that are able to make such loans because they are receiving, or have received, funding from the insured bank.

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(b) Prepare and maintain on its premises books and records in such a manner as to facilitate reconciliation with certified statements prepared from them.

(c) Maintain in its books and records documentation supporting its certified statement for a period no less than 5 years following the date of each certified statement, unless the bank shall have requested in writing, and the Corporation shall have granted to the bank, written permission to dispose of such documentation prior to the expiration of 5 years.

(d) Make all records and any supporting documentation available, without limitation, to Corporation officials upon request.

**PART 1411—RULES OF PRACTICE
AND PROCEDURE**

AUTHORITY: Secs. 5.58(10), 5.65(c) and (d) of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2277a–7(10), 2277a–14(c) and (d)).

**Subpart A—Rules and Procedures
for Assessment and Collection
of Civil Money Penalties**

§ 1411.1 Inflation adjustment of civil money penalties for failure to file a certified statement, pay any premium required or obtain approval before employment of persons convicted of criminal offenses.

A civil money penalty imposed pursuant to section 5.65(c) or (d) of the Act for a violation occurring on or after October 23, 1996 shall not exceed \$110 per day for each day the violation continues.

[61 FR 55079, Oct. 24, 1996]

CHAPTER XV—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

SUBCHAPTER A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

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SUBCHAPTER A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

PARTS 1502–1503 [RESERVED]

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SUBCHAPTER B—RESOLUTION FUNDING CORPORATION

PART 1510—RESOLUTION FUNDING CORPORATION OPERATIONS

Sec.

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- 1510.2 General authority.
- 1510.3 Authorization of establishment of investment policies and procedures.
- 1510.4 Authority to issue obligations.
- 1510.5 Federal Reserve banks to be depositories and fiscal agents.
- 1510.6 Budget and expenses.
- 1510.7 Billing of administrative expenses.
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- 1510.12 Request for funds for interest payments.
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- 1510.14 Reports to Congress.
- 1510.15 Review of books and records.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1441b.

SOURCE: 54 FR 41950, Oct. 13, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1510.1 Definitions.

General. Unless another definition is provided in this subchapter, the following definitions will apply to terms used in this subchapter.

Act means the Federal Home Loan Bank Act as amended (12 U.S.C. 1421 *et seq.*).

Administrative expenses means costs incurred as necessary to carry out the functions of the Funding Corporation, including custodian fees; but does not include any interest on, or redemption premium with respect to, any obligation of the Funding Corporation or any issuance costs.

Bank or banks means a Federal home loan bank or all the Federal home loan banks.

Board means the Oversight Board established in section 21A(a)(1) of the Act.

Custodian fees means any fee incurred by the Funding Corporation in connection with the transfer of any security to, or the maintenance of any security in, the Funding Corporation Principal Fund and any other expense incurred in connection with the establishment or maintenance of the Funding Corporation Principal Fund.

Deficient bank means a bank whose allocation under section 21B(e)(5) of the Act exceeds the amount applicable to such bank under section 21B(e)(3) of the Act as provided in section 21B(e)(6) of the Act.

Directorate means the Directorate of the Funding Corporation.

Excess amount means the amount by which a bank's required contribution pursuant to section 21B(e)(5) of the Act exceeds the maximum amount limitation applicable to such Bank pursuant to section 21B(e)(3) of the Act as provided in section 21B(e)(6) of the Act.

FDIC means the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation established pursuant to section 1 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 1811, *et seq.*

Financing Corporation means the Financing Corporation established pursuant to section 21(a) of the Act.

FSLIC Resolution Fund means the FSLIC Resolution Fund established pursuant to section 11A(a)(1) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended 12 U.S.C. 1811, *et seq.*

Funding Corporation means the Resolution Funding Corporation established pursuant to section 21B(b) of the Act.

Funding Corporation Principal Fund means the separate account established under section 21B(g)(2) of the Act.

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Issuance costs means issuance fees and commissions incurred by the Funding Corporation in connection with the issuance or servicing of any obligation of the Funding Corporation, and includes legal and accounting expenses, trustee and fiscal and paying agent charges, costs incurred in connection with preparing and printing offering materials, and advertising expenses, to the extent that any such cost or expense is incurred by the Funding Corporation in connection with the issuance of any obligation.

Net earnings means net earnings without reduction for chargeoffs or expenses incurred by a bank for the purchase of capital stock of the Financing Corporation or payments relating to the Funding Corporation required by the Board under sections 21B (e) and (f) of the Act.

Remaining bank means a bank that is not allocated an amount under section 21B(e)(5) of the Act that exceeds its maximum amount limitation applicable to such bank under section 21B(e)(3) of the Act as provided in section 21B(e)(6) of the Act.

RTC means the Resolution Trust Corporation established pursuant to section 21A(b)(1)(A) of the Act.

§ 1510.2 General authority.

The Funding Corporation may exercise all authority granted to it by the Act and by its bylaws, whether or not specifically implemented by Board regulations, subject to the limitations and interpretations contained in this part and such regulations, orders and directions as the Board may prescribe.

§ 1510.3 Authorization of establishment of investment policies and procedures.

The Directorate may establish from time to time, with the approval of the Board, investment policies and procedures from time to time with respect to assets of the Funding Corporation which are not required to be invested in the capital certificates issued by the RTC and are not needed for current interest payments. These investment policies and procedures shall be consistent with the provisions of section 21B(g) of the Act.

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§ 1510.4 Authority to issue obligations.

(a) Upon direction by the Board, the Directorate is authorized to cause the Funding Corporation to create and issue in one or more issues, one or more series of Funding Corporation bonds, notes, debentures or similar obligations in an aggregate principal amount up to the maximum permissible from time to time under section 21B(f)(1) of the Act and having such other terms and conditions as may be specified by the Directorate at the time or times of their issuance. Before any issue is offered for sale, the approval of the Department of Treasury shall be obtained pursuant to section 21B(h)(3) of the Act and 31 U.S.C. 9108.

(b) The net proceeds of each obligation issued by the Funding Corporation shall be used in accordance with the provisions of section 21B(f)(4) of the Act.

§ 1510.5 Federal Reserve bank to be depositaries and fiscal agents.

The Federal Reserve banks are to act as depositaries for or fiscal agents or custodians of the Funding Corporation. Subject to approval by the Oversight Board, the Directorate may also authorize establishment of demand deposit accounts at one or more financial institutions.

§ 1510.6 Budget and expenses.

(a) The Funding Corporation shall annually submit to the Directorate by November 15, a budget of its proposed expenditures, including administrative expenses for the following year.

(b) By December 1 of each year the Directorate shall submit an approved budget to the Board for final approval.

(c) After such budget has been approved by the Board, the Directorate shall transmit a copy of the budget to each bank president.

(d) In the event that the Funding Corporation projects or anticipates incurring expenses which exceed its approved budget, then an amended budget shall be submitted for approval by the Board in the same manner as the original budget.

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§ 1510.7 Billing of administrative expenses.

(a) All administrative expenses of the Funding Corporation shall be paid by the banks.

(b) The amount each bank shall pay shall be determined in the manner provided in section 21B(c)(7)(B) of the Act.

(c) On a periodic basis but not less than semiannually, the Directorate shall determine, based upon a method approved by the Board and in accordance with section 21B(c)(7)(B) of the Act, each bank's pro rata share of the Funding Corporation's administrative expenses, as approved by the Board pursuant to § 1510.6 of this part, and the Directorate shall bill each bank accordingly.

(d) Each bank shall remit its pro rata share of the administrative expenses within ten (10) business days after receipt of the bill as provided by paragraph (c) of this section.

(e) The aggregate amount of administrative expenses for which the banks may be billed for any period, under a budget approved pursuant to § 1510.6 of this part, shall be adjusted as necessary to reflect any differences between such aggregate expenses projected for the period and those actually incurred in prior periods during the calendar year or to reflect any changes in the estimate of such aggregate expenses expected to be incurred in the coming period; however, in no event shall the aggregate of all bills issued to the banks exceed the budget, or the amended budget approved pursuant to § 1510.6 of this part.

§ 1510.8 Issuance expenses.

After receipt of the proceeds (less any discount, plus any premium) of any obligation issued by the Funding Corporation and prior to the purchase of capital certificates issued by the RTC, pursuant to section 21A of the Act, or refunding any previously issued obligation, pursuant to section 21B(f)(1) of the Act, the Funding Corporation shall deduct its issuance costs as budgeted in the budget approved by the Board.

§ 1510.9 Capitalization of Funding Corporation.

(a) *Funding projections.* (1) Not later than December 15 and June 15 of each year, the Directorate shall project how it will raise funds for the Funding Corporation (including the amount of funds needed from the banks) and pay interest on outstanding obligations of the Funding Corporation during the following year, specifically including the projected dollar amount to be raised and the projected settlement date(s). Not later than March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15 of each year, the Directorate shall update its projections for the remainder of the year and confirm the dollar amount raised and the settlement dates and amount of interest paid in the preceding period.

(2) Not later than December 15 of each year, each bank shall submit to the Directorate a statement prepared by an officer at such bank containing such bank's earning projections for the following year. Not later than March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15 of each year, such officer shall provide to the Directorate an updated report containing the previous quarter's earnings and updating the projections for the remainder of the year.

(3) Not later than each December 20 and June 20, the Directorate shall submit the funding projections to the Board for review. Not later than March 20, June 20, September 20 and December 20 of each year, the Directorate shall submit the updated projections to the Board for review.

(4) Not later than December 31 and June 30, the Directorate shall notify each bank of the amount of projected funds needed by the Directorate from the banks, the aggregate amount available from all the banks and each bank's projected pro rata share calculated in accordance with the provisions of section 21B of the Act. In no event shall the amount projected to be requested from the banks in any given calendar year exceed the three hundred million dollar (\$300,000,000) maximum amount limitation set forth in sections 21B(e)(3)(B) and (C) of the Act, plus applicable amounts in section 21B(e)(3)(A) of the Act.

(5) Once the funding projections are approved by the Board, not later than December 31 and June 30 of each year, the Directorate shall provide the banks with projections of how it will raise funds for the Funding Corporation (including the amount of funds needed from the banks) and pay interest on outstanding obligations of the Funding Corporation during the following year, specifically including the projected dollar amount to be raised and the projected settlement date(s). Once the updated projections are approved by the Board, not later than March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 of each year, the Directorate shall provide the banks with a report updating its projections for the remainder of the year and confirming the dollar amount raised and the settlement dates and amount of interest paid in the preceding quarter.

(6) The projections required by this subsection shall not apply to amounts required to capitalize the Funding Corporation prior to October 31, 1989.

(b) *Capital assessments of Federal home loan banks*—(1) *General.* (i) Upon direction by the Board, the Directorate shall require each bank to invest in nonvoting capital stock of the Funding Corporation so that the Funding Corporation may defease its obligations proposed to be issued pursuant to section 21B of the Act.

(ii) The banks collectively are directed to purchase, when and as instructed by the Directorate, in one or more issues, Funding Corporation nonvoting capital stock at a purchase price of \$1.00 per share. Such stock shall be subject to such terms and conditions as are prescribed in the bylaws of the Funding Corporation, as the same may be amended from time to time. The amount of stock which each bank shall be required to purchase within each issue shall be:

(A) As to the amount of Funding Corporation stock purchased pursuant to section 21B(e)(3) of the Act and Financing Corporation stock purchased pursuant to section 21(d)(3) of the Act, in the aggregate, up to the initial one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) in accordance with the ratios prescribed in section 21B(e)(4) of the Act.

(B) As to the amount of Funding Corporation stock purchased pursuant to section 21B(e)(3) of the Act and Financing Corporation stock purchased pursuant to section 21(d)(3) of the Act, in the aggregate, in excess of one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000), in accordance with the ratios prescribed in section 21B(e)(5) of the Act.

(iii) (A) If the amount any bank is required to invest in capital stock of the Funding Corporation exceeds its maximum investment limitation as determined pursuant to section 21B(e)(3) of the Act, the Directorate is authorized to require each remaining bank to invest in such additional capital stock of the Funding Corporation as provided for in section 21B(e)(6) of the Act.

(B) The amount of Funding Corporation stock required to be purchased by the banks shall be determined by deducting, pursuant to sections 21B(e)(3)(A) and (B) of the Act, the amount of Financing Corporation capital stock that the banks are required to purchase pursuant to section 21 of the Act. If the amount of Financing Corporation capital stock that the banks are required to purchase exceeds the annual three hundred million dollar (\$300,000,000) limitation on purchases of Funding Corporation capital stock prescribed by sections 21B(e)(3)(B) and (C) of the Act, then the amount of Financing Corporation capital stock purchased in excess of such limitations shall be credited in the following year or years, as the case may be.

(iv) The shares shall have a par value of \$1.00 per share and may be transferable at not less than par value only among the banks.

(v) Shares of Funding Corporation stock shall be issued in certificate or in book entry form. The Directorate shall establish procedures for appointing a registrar and a transfer agent.

(2) *Request for funds to capitalize the Funding Corporation.* (i) Approximately forty-five (45) days in advance of the date that funds are needed by the RTC, the Board shall advise the Directorate in writing of the amount of funds required and the due date.

(ii) The Directorate shall determine, according to a method approved by the Board, and in accordance with sections

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21B(e)(4) and (5) of the Act, each bank's pro rata share of the amount needed to defease the obligations issued by the Funding Corporation in accordance with the provisions of section 21B of the Act. The Directorate shall notify each bank, in writing, at least 15 days in advance of the amount and due date of its pro rata share.

(iii) Each bank shall wire immediately available and finally collected funds to the Funding Corporation on the due date.

(iv) The time for the notice requirements shall not apply to requests for funds to capitalize the Funding Corporation made prior to October 31, 1989.

(c) *Industry assessments.* (1) The Funding Corporation is authorized to collect, with the approval of the Board of Directors of the FDIC, the assessments of SAIF members, pursuant to section 21B(e)(7)(A) of the Act, through a joint collection agent.

(2) The Funding Corporation, based upon projections of the amount needed for the Funding Corporation Principal Fund and projections of the amounts available from the banks and from SAIF members' assessments, shall determine the amount of available bank funds pursuant to sections 21B(e) (3), (4), (5), and (6) of the Act and shall also determine the percentage of assessments on SAIF members needed, if any, to fund the Funding Corporation Principal Fund. In making the determination of the percentage of assessments needed from SAIF members, the Funding Corporation shall deduct the amount assessed, if any, by the Financing Corporation, pursuant to section 21B(e)(7)(A)(iii) of the Act and the limitations prescribed in section 21B(e)(7)(A) of the Act.

(3) Based upon the determination made under paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the Funding Corporation shall notify the FDIC, the Financing Corporation and the joint collection agent of the percentage of assessments from SAIF members it needs.

(d) *Receivership proceeds.* To the extent the amounts available pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section are insufficient to fund the Funding Corporation Principal Fund, upon written request from the Directorate, the FDIC shall transfer funds to the Fund-

ing Corporation representing proceeds from liquidating dividends and payments made on claims received by the FSLIC Resolution Fund from receiverships. Such written request shall state the amount of funds needed and the date by which the funds are needed.

§ 1510.10 Funding Corporation Principal Fund Reserve Account.

(a) Upon becoming a deficient bank, a bank shall set aside in a reserve account the amounts required by section 21B(e)(6)(D) of the Act.

(b) The balance in the reserve account, which shall not exceed the amount of the total deficiency of the deficient bank, shall be available for the sole purpose of purchasing capital stock from the remaining banks that was purchased on behalf of the deficient bank.

(c) Each quarter, each deficient bank shall, prior to any payment of dividends, set aside in the reserve account from net earnings and any reimbursements received from other deficient banks an amount that shall be used to make the purchases of stock required under section 21B(e)(6)(C) of the Act. Pursuant to section 21A(e)(6)(D)(ii) of the Act, the Board shall not require that such amount exceed an amount equal to twenty percent (20%) of the net earnings of the deficient bank. Such limitation, however, shall not prohibit a deficient bank from reserving additional amounts, from reimbursements received from other deficient banks or from other sources, for the purpose of purchasing stock purchased on its behalf by remaining banks.

(d) Interest shall begin to accrue two (2) years after the investments under section 21B(e)(6)(A) of the Act are made on behalf of a deficient bank. Interest shall accrue on the deficient amount at a rate equal to the annual average cost of funds of all banks in the most recent year. Interest payments shall be made annually or quarterly in the manner described in paragraph (e) of this section. Such interest payments are not subject to the limitations on reserve accounts set forth in paragraph (c) of this section.

(e) Annually, not later than each January 31, all amounts set aside in

the reserve account shall be remitted to the remaining banks in the amounts determined by the Directorate, in accordance with a method approved by the Board and in accordance with section 21B of the Act, and shall be remitted in the order that each investment was made on behalf of a deficient bank. Notwithstanding the first sentence of this paragraph (e), however, amounts set aside in the reserve account may be remitted quarterly, not later than the close of the month following each quarter, provided that the total amounts remitted with respect to any year shall be equal to what would have been remitted if a single annual payment were made as set forth in the first sentence of this paragraph (e).

(f) When appropriate, the Directorate shall direct a remaining bank to transfer the necessary shares of Funding Corporation stock to a deficient bank upon receipt of funds disbursed from the deficient bank's reserve account.

[54 FR 41950, Oct. 13, 1989, as amended at 56 FR 57483, Nov. 12, 1991]

§ 1510.11 Interest payments and interest reserve account.

(a) The Directorate shall make a written request for funds to pay interest on obligations of the Funding Corporation from the following sources and in the following order:

(1) Earnings of the Funding Corporation not invested in the Funding Corporation Principal Fund.

(2) Proceeds from:

(i) The liquidating dividends and payments made on claims received by the RTC from receiverships to the extent such proceeds are determined by the Board to be in excess of funds presently necessary for resolution costs; and

(ii) Warrants and participations acquired by the RTC.

(3) To the extent funds from paragraphs (a)(1) and (2) of this section are not sufficient to cover the amount of interest payments due on obligations of the Funding Corporation, the banks shall pay the Funding Corporation each calendar year the aggregate amount as set forth in section 21B(f)(2)(C) of the Act.

(i) Each bank's individual share of such amount shall be as prescribed in sections 21B(f)(2)(C) (i) and (ii) of the

Act. In instances where any bank(s) is (are) unable to fund interest payments in the amounts prescribed by section 21B(f)(2)(C)(ii) of the Act, out of retained earnings, the banks which have no such deficiency shall fund the amount of the aggregate deficiencies in accordance with the calculation set forth in sections 21B(f)(2)(C)(ii) (I) and (II) of the Act. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, a bank's contributions for such interest payments on behalf of other bank(s) shall not be made to the extent it causes such bank to have deficit retained earnings.

(ii) Any bank on whose behalf interest payments were made under paragraph (a)(3)(i) of this section shall quarterly, prior to the payment of dividends, and after making the payments required by § 1510.10, excluding any interest payments made pursuant to § 1510.10(d), set aside in a reserve account separate from the reserve account required for reimbursements of capital contributions to the Funding Corporation, twenty percent (20%) of net earnings, or the amount of the deficiency if such deficiency is less than twenty percent (20%) of net earnings, which funds will be used to reimburse the banks that made payments on behalf of the bank(s) which was unable to fund its interest payments. Until such time as the deficiency amount has been repaid, the bank on whose behalf interest payments were made shall continue to set aside twenty percent (20%) of net earnings on a quarterly basis. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the amounts set aside in the reserve account pursuant to this paragraph (a)(3)(ii) and § 1510.10 of this part and pursuant to section 21(d) of the Act, in the aggregate, are not required to exceed twenty percent (20%) of net earnings.

(iii) Annually, not later than each January 31, all amounts set aside in the reserve account shall be remitted to the banks that made interest payments on behalf of another bank(s) in amounts determined by the Directorate. Banks which have made interest expense payments on behalf of other banks shall receive reimbursement in the order of the interest expense contributions made by such banks. In determining the amount due to each bank for interest payments

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made on behalf of another bank, the Directorate shall multiply the available funds in the reserve account by the percentage arrived at by dividing, for each separate deficiency—

(A) The cumulative amount of interest expenses paid by a bank on behalf of such bank; by

(B) The cumulative amount of interest expenses paid by all the banks on behalf of such bank for that deficiency.

(4) Any net proceeds from the sale of assets received from the RTC by the FSLIC Resolution Fund.

(b) To the extent that the funds from the sources identified in paragraph (a) of this section are insufficient, the Department of Treasury shall pay to the Funding Corporation such additional amounts as may be necessary to pay such interest, upon receipt of a certification from the Directorate, in a form satisfactory to the Department of the Treasury. The certification at a minimum shall state the total amounts paid by the Funding Corporation from the sources listed in paragraph (a) of this section and the amounts necessary to make up the deficiency. Any amount paid by the Department of Treasury shall become a liability of the Funding Corporation to be repaid to the Department of Treasury upon the dissolution of the Funding Corporation, to the extent of its remaining assets.

§ 1510.12 Request for funds for interest payments.

(a) Prior to the date that funds are needed by the Funding Corporation for interest payments pursuant to section 21B(f)(2) of the Act, the Directorate shall determine each bank's pro rata share in accordance with the provisions of section 21B(f)(2) of the Act and a methodology approved by the Board. The Directorate shall notify each bank in writing at least three business days in advance of such date of the amount and due date of payment of its pro rata share.

(b) Each bank shall wire immediately available and finally collected funds to the Funding Corporation on the due date.

[54 FR 41950, Oct. 13, 1989, as amended at 56 FR 57483, Nov. 12, 1991]

§ 1510.13 Reports to Board.

Within ten (10) business days of the close of each calendar quarter commencing with the quarter ended September 30, 1989, the Directorate shall submit to the Board a report for the previous calendar quarter stating:

(a) The number of shares of the capital stock of the Funding Corporation which the banks were required to purchase and the dates of the purchases;

(b) The types and amounts of securities purchased pursuant to section 21B(g) of the Act;

(c) The amount of any obligations issued during the quarter pursuant to section 21B(f)(1) of the Act and the basic terms and conditions of such obligations; the amount of any obligations proposed to be issued during the current quarter and any anticipated significant differences in the basic terms and conditions of those obligations from previously issued obligations; and the aggregate amount of obligations issued as of the end of the last quarter and the maximum amount of obligations which the Funding Corporation was permitted to issue as of that date pursuant to section 21B(f)(1) of the Act;

(d) The amount of capital certificates purchased from the RTC during the last quarter and the aggregate amount purchased during all previous quarters and the percentage of all proceeds from obligations which the Funding Corporation had invested in the RTC as of the end of the last quarter;

(e) The aggregate amount assessed against the banks, the aggregate amount assessed against the SAIF members, and the aggregate amounts collected from the other specified sources;

(f) Any significant changes in the Funding Corporation's investment policies or any other developments that the Directorate deems significant which occurred during the last quarter or are expected to occur during the current quarter;

(g) The amount of funds distributed to remaining banks from the reserve accounts established pursuant to §§ 1510.10 and 1510.11 of this part; and

(h) Such other information as the Board may require.

§ 1510.14 Reports to Congress.

The Directorate and the Board shall prepare such reports as are necessary to enable the Board to comply with the reporting requirements set forth in section 21B(i) of the Act for submission of the reports to Congress and the President.

§ 1510.15 Review of books and records.

An office designated by the Board shall review the books and records of the Funding Corporation at least annually to determine whether the Funding Corporation is performing its functions in accordance with the provisions of section 21B of the Act and this part.

**PART 1511—BOOK-ENTRY
PROCEDURE**

Sec.

1511.0 Applicability.

1511.1 Definition of terms.

1511.2 Law governing rights and obligations of the Funding Corporation and Federal Reserve Banks; rights of any Person against the Funding Corporation and the Federal Reserve Banks.

1511.3 Law governing other interests.

1511.4 Creation of Participant's Security Entitlement; security interests.

1511.5 Obligations of Funding Corporation; no adverse claims.

1511.6 Authority of Federal Reserve Banks.

1511.7 Liability of the Funding Corporation and Federal Reserve Banks.

1511.8 Notice of attachment.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1441b.

SOURCE: 61 FR 66875, Dec. 19, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1511.0 Applicability.

The regulations in this part apply to Book-entry Funding Corporation Securities.

§ 1511.1 Definitions of terms.

In this part, unless the context indicates otherwise:

Act means the Federal Home Loan Bank Act as amended (12 U.S.C. 1421 *et seq.*).

Adverse Claim means a claim that a claimant has a property interest in a Book-entry Funding Corporation Security and that it is a violation of the rights of the claimant for another Person to hold, transfer, or deal with the

Book-entry Funding Corporation Security.

Book-entry Funding Corporation Security means a Funding Corporation Security in book-entry form that is issued or maintained in the Book-entry System. Solely for the purposes of this Part, it also means the separate interest and principal components of a Book-entry Funding Corporation Security if such security has been divided into such components as authorized by the Securities Documentation and the components are maintained separately on the books of one or more Federal Reserve Banks.

Book-entry System means the automated book-entry system operated by the Federal Reserve Banks acting as the fiscal agent for the Funding Corporation, on which Book-entry Funding Corporation Securities are issued, recorded, transferred and maintained in book-entry form.

Entitlement Holder means a Person to whose account an interest in a Book-entry Funding Corporation Security is credited on the records of a Securities Intermediary.

Federal Reserve Bank or Reserve Bank means a Federal Reserve Bank or Branch.

Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circular means the publication issued by each Federal Reserve Bank that sets forth the terms and conditions under which the Reserve Bank maintains book-entry Securities accounts (including Book-entry Funding Corporation Securities) and transfers book-entry Securities (including Book-entry Funding Corporation Securities).

Funding Corporation means the Resolution Funding Corporation established pursuant to section 21B(b) of the Act.

Funding Corporation Security or Security means a Funding Corporation bond, note, debenture and similar obligations issued under section 21B of the Act.

Funds Account means a reserve and/or clearing account at a Federal Reserve Bank to which debits or credits are posted for transfers against payment, book-entry securities transaction fees, or principal and interest payments.

Participant means a Person that maintains a Participant's Securities Account with a Federal Reserve Bank.

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Participant's Securities Account means an account in the name of a Participant at a Federal Reserve Bank to which Book-entry Funding Corporation Securities held for a Participant are or may be credited.

Person means and includes an individual, corporation, company, governmental entity, association, firm, partnership, trust, estate, representative, and any other similar organization, but does not mean or include the United States, the Funding Corporation, or a Federal Reserve Bank.

Revised Article 8 means Uniform Commercial Code, Revised Article 8, Investment Securities (with Conforming and Miscellaneous Amendments to Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, and 10) 1994 Official Text. Revised Article 8 of the Uniform Commercial Code is incorporated by reference in this Part pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR Part 51. Article 8 was adopted by the American Law Institute and the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State laws and approved by the American Bar Association on February 14, 1995. Copies of this publication are available from the Executive Office of the American Law Institute, 4025 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, and the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, 676 North St. Clair Street, Suite 1700, Chicago, IL 60611. Copies are also available for public inspection at the Department of the Treasury Library, Room 5030, main Treasury Building, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington DC 20220, and in the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol St., NW., Suite 700, Washington DC.

Securities Documentation means the applicable offering circular, supplement, or other documents establishing the terms of a Book-entry Funding Corporation Security.

Securities Intermediary means:

(1) A Person that is registered as a "clearing agency" under the Federal securities laws; a Federal Reserve Bank; any other Person that provides clearance or settlement services with respect to a Book-entry Funding Corporation Security that would require it to register as a clearing agency under the Federal securities laws but for an exclusion or exemption from the reg-

istration requirement, if its activities as a clearing corporation, including promulgation of rules, are subject to regulation by a Federal or State governmental authority; or

(2) A Person (other than an individual, unless such individual is registered as a broker or dealer under the federal securities laws) including a bank or broker, that in the ordinary course of its business maintains securities accounts for others and is acting in that capacity.

Security Entitlement means the rights and property interest of an Entitlement Holder with respect to a Book-entry Funding Corporation Security.

State means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States.

Transfer message means an instruction of a Participant to a Federal Reserve Bank to effect a transfer of a Book-entry Funding Corporation Security, as set forth in Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circulars.

§ 1511.2 Law governing rights and obligations of the Funding Corporation and Federal Reserve Banks; rights of any Person against the Funding Corporation and the Federal Reserve Banks.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the following are governed solely by the regulations contained in this part 1511, the Securities Documentation and Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circulars:

(1) The rights and obligations of the Funding Corporation and the Federal Reserve Banks with respect to:

(i) A Book-entry Funding Corporation Security or Security Entitlement; and

(ii) The operation of the Book-entry System as it applies to Funding Corporation Securities; and

(2) The rights of any Person, including a Participant, against the Funding Corporation and the Federal Reserve Banks with respect to:

(i) A Book-entry Funding Corporation Security or Security Entitlement; and

(ii) The operation of the Book-entry System as it applies to Funding Corporation Securities.

(b) A security interest in a Security Entitlement that is in favor of a Federal Reserve Bank from a Participant and that is not recorded on the books of a Federal Reserve Bank pursuant to § 1511.4(c)(1), is governed by the law (not including the conflict-of-law rules) of the jurisdiction where the head office of the Federal Reserve Bank maintaining the Participant's Securities Account is located. A security interest in a Security Entitlement that is in favor of a Federal Reserve Bank from a Person that is not a Participant, and that is not recorded on the books of a Federal Reserve Bank pursuant to § 1511.4(c)(1), is governed by the law determined in the manner specified in § 1511.3.

(c) If the jurisdiction specified in the first sentence of paragraph (b) of this section is a State that has not adopted Revised Article 8 (incorporated by reference, see § 1511.1), then the law specified in paragraph (b) shall be the law of that State as though Revised Article 8 had been adopted by that State.

§ 1511.3 Law governing other interests.

(a) To the extent not inconsistent with the regulations in this part, the law (not including the conflict-of-law rules) of a Securities Intermediary's jurisdiction governs:

(1) The acquisition of a Security Entitlement from the Securities Intermediary;

(2) The rights and duties of the Securities Intermediary and Entitlement Holder arising out of a Security Entitlement;

(3) Whether the Securities Intermediary owes any duties to an adverse claimant to a Security Entitlement;

(4) Whether an Adverse Claim can be asserted against a Person who acquires a Security Entitlement from the Securities Intermediary or a Person who purchases a Security Entitlement or interest therein from an Entitlement Holder; and

(5) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) of this section, the perfection, effect of perfection or non-perfection and priority of a security interest in a Security Entitlement.

(b) The following rules determine a "Securities Intermediary's jurisdiction" for purposes of this section:

(1) If an agreement between the Securities Intermediary and its Entitlement Holder specifies that it is governed by the law of a particular jurisdiction, that jurisdiction is the Securities Intermediary's jurisdiction.

(2) If an agreement between the Securities Intermediary and its Entitlement Holder does not specify the governing law as provided in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, but expressly specifies that the securities account is maintained at an office in a particular jurisdiction, that jurisdiction is the Securities Intermediary's jurisdiction.

(3) If an agreement between the Securities Intermediary and its Entitlement Holder does not specify a jurisdiction as provided in paragraph (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section, the Securities Intermediary's jurisdiction is the jurisdiction in which is located the office identified in an account statement as the office serving the Entitlement Holder's account.

(4) If an agreement between the Securities Intermediary and its Entitlement Holder does not specify a jurisdiction as provided in paragraph (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section and an account statement does not identify an office serving the Entitlement Holder's account as provided in paragraph (b)(3) of this section, the Securities Intermediary's jurisdiction is the jurisdiction in which is located the chief executive office of the Securities Intermediary.

(c) Notwithstanding the general rule in paragraph (a)(5) of this section, the law (but not the conflict-of-law rules) of the jurisdiction in which the Person creating a security interest is located governs whether and how the security interest may be perfected automatically or by filing a financing statement.

(d) If the jurisdiction specified in paragraph (b) of this section is a State that has not adopted Revised Article 8 (incorporated by reference, see § 1511.1), then the law for the matters specified in paragraph (a) of this section shall be the law of that State as though Revised Article 8 had been adopted by that State. For purposes of the application of the matters specified in paragraph (a) of this section, the Federal

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Reserve Bank maintaining the Securities Account is a clearing corporation, and the Participant's interest in a Book-entry Funding Corporation Security is a Security Entitlement.

§ 1511.4 Creation of Participant's Security Entitlement; security interests.

(a) A Participant's Security Entitlement is created when a Federal Reserve Bank indicates by book-entry that a Book-entry Funding Corporation Security has been credited to a Participant's Securities Account.

(b) A security interest in a Security Entitlement of a Participant in favor of the United States to secure deposits of public money, including without limitation deposits to the Treasury tax and loan accounts, or other security interest in favor of the United States that is required by Federal statute, regulation, or agreement, and that is marked on the books of a Federal Reserve Bank is thereby effected and perfected, and has priority over any other interest in the securities. Where a security interest in favor of the United States in a Security Entitlement of a Participant is marked on the books of a Federal Reserve Bank, such Reserve Bank may rely, and is protected in relying, exclusively on the order of an authorized representative of the United States directing the transfer of the security. For purposes of this paragraph, an "authorized representative of the United States" is the official designated in the applicable regulations or agreement to which a Federal Reserve Bank is a party, governing the security interest.

(c)(1) The Funding Corporation and the Federal Reserve Banks have no obligation to agree to act on behalf of any Person or to recognize the interest of any transferee of a security interest or other limited interest in favor of any Person except to the extent of any specific requirement of Federal law or regulation or to the extent set forth in any specific agreement with the Federal Reserve Bank on whose books the interest of the Participant is recorded. To the extent required by such law or regulation or set forth in an agreement with a Federal Reserve Bank, or the Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circular, a security interest in a Security

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Entitlement that is in favor of a Federal Reserve Bank, the Funding Corporation, or a Person may be created and perfected by a Federal Reserve Bank marking its books to record the security interest. Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, a security interest in a Security Entitlement marked on the books of a Federal Reserve Bank shall have priority over any other interest in the securities.

(2) In addition to the method provided in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, a security interest in a Security Entitlement, including a security interest in favor of a Federal Reserve Bank, may be perfected by any method by which a security interest may be perfected under applicable law as described in § 1511.2(b) or § 1511.3. The perfection, effect of perfection or non-perfection and priority of a security interest are governed by such applicable law. A security interest in favor of a Federal Reserve Bank shall be treated as a security interest in favor of a clearing corporation in all respects under such law, including with respect to the effect of perfection and priority of such security interest. A Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circular shall be treated as a rule adopted by a clearing corporation for such purposes.

§ 1511.5 Obligations of Funding Corporation; no adverse claims.

(a) Except in the case of a security interest in favor of the United States or a Federal Reserve Bank or otherwise as provided in § 1511.4(c)(1), for the purposes of this part 1511, the Funding Corporation and the Federal Reserve Banks shall treat the Participant to whose Securities Account an interest in a Book-entry Funding Corporation Security has been credited as the Person exclusively entitled to issue a Transfer Message, to receive interest and other payments with respect thereof and otherwise to exercise all the rights and powers with respect to such Security, notwithstanding any information or notice to the contrary. Neither the Federal Reserve Banks nor the Funding Corporation is liable to a Person asserting or having an Adverse Claim to a Security Entitlement or to

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a Book-entry Funding Corporation Security in a Participant's Securities Account, including any such claim arising as a result of the transfer or disposition of a Book-entry Funding Corporation Security by a Federal Reserve Bank pursuant to a Transfer Message that the Federal Reserve Bank reasonably believes to be genuine.

(b) The obligation of the Funding Corporation to make payments of interest and principal with respect to Book-entry Funding Corporation Securities is discharged at the time payment in the appropriate amount is made as follows:

(1) Interest on Book-entry Funding Corporation Securities is either credited by a Federal Reserve Bank to a Funds Account maintained at such Bank or otherwise paid as directed by the Participant.

(2) Book-entry Funding Corporation Securities are redeemed in accordance with their terms by a Federal Reserve Bank withdrawing the securities from the Participant's Securities Account in which they are maintained and by either crediting the amount of the redemption proceeds, including both principal and interest where applicable, to a Funds Account at such Bank or otherwise paying such principal and interest, as directed by the Participant. The principal of such Securities shall be paid using the proceeds of the noninterest bearing instruments maintained by the Funding Corporation for such purpose.

§ 1511.6 Authority of Federal Reserve Banks.

(a) Each Federal Reserve Bank is hereby authorized as fiscal agent of the Funding Corporation to perform functions with respect to the issuance of Book-entry Funding Corporation Securities offered and sold by the Funding Corporation, in accordance with the Securities Documentation, and Federal Reserve Bank Operating Circulars; to service and maintain Book-entry Funding Corporation Securities in accounts

established for such purposes; to make payments of principal and interest with respect to such Book-entry Funding Corporation Securities as directed by the Funding Corporation; to effect transfer of Book-entry Funding Corporation Securities between Participants' Securities Accounts as directed by the Participants; and to perform such other duties as fiscal agent as may be requested by the Funding Corporation.

(b) Each Federal Reserve Bank may issue Operating Circulars not inconsistent with this Part, governing the details of its handling of Book-entry Funding Corporation Securities, Security Entitlements, and the operation of the Book-Entry System under this Part.

§ 1511.7 Liability of the Funding Corporation and Federal Reserve Banks.

The Funding Corporation and the Federal Reserve Banks may rely on the information provided in a Transfer Message, or other documentation, and are not required to verify the information. The Funding Corporation and the Federal Reserve Banks shall not be liable for any action taken in accordance with the information set out in a Transfer Message, other documentation, or evidence submitted in support thereof.

§ 1511.8 Notice of attachment.

The interest of a debtor in a Security Entitlement may be reached by a creditor only by legal process upon the Securities Intermediary with whom the debtor's securities account is maintained, except where a Security Entitlement is maintained in the name of a secured party, in which case the debtor's interest may be reached by legal process upon the secured party. The regulations in this part do not purport to establish whether a Federal Reserve Bank is required to honor an order or other notice of attachment in any particular case or class of cases.

CHAPTER XVII—OFFICE OF FEDERAL HOUSING ENTERPRISE OVERSIGHT, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

SUBCHAPTER A—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

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SUBCHAPTER A—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

PART 1700—ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS

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1700.1 Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

1700.2 Organization of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

1700.3 Official seal.

1700.4 Official logo.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552; 12 U.S.C. 4513, 4526.

SOURCE: 59 FR 62304, Dec. 5, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1700.1 Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

(a) *Scope and authority.* The Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (referred to as OFHEO) is an independent office within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. OFHEO was created by the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (Act), Title XIII of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-550, October 28, 1992; 106 Stat. 3943; 12 U.S.C. 4501, *et seq.*). OFHEO is responsible for the examination and financial regulation of the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) (collectively, the Enterprises). OFHEO is charged with ensuring that the Enterprises are adequately capitalized and operating in a safe and sound manner. OFHEO's costs and expenses are funded by annual assessments paid by the Enterprises. OFHEO is headed by a Director, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate for a five-year term.

(b) *Location.* OFHEO is located at 1700 G Street NW., 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20552. OFHEO's hours of business are 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (eastern standard time), Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

§ 1700.2 Organization of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

(a) *Director.* The Director has exclusive authority under the Act with respect to the management of OFHEO,

and is responsible for directing the development, implementation, and review of all OFHEO programs and functions. The Director appoints such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the functions of OFHEO. The Director may delegate to OFHEO officers and employees any of the functions, powers, and duties of the Director, as the Director considers appropriate. The Director may establish and fix the responsibilities of the offices within OFHEO as the Director deems necessary for the efficient functioning of OFHEO.

(b) *Deputy Director.* The Deputy Director of OFHEO is appointed by the Director in accordance with the Act. In the event of the absence, sickness, death or resignation of the Director, the Deputy Director serves as acting Director until the Director's return or the appointment of a successor. The Deputy Director performs such functions, powers and duties as the Director determines are necessary with respect to OFHEO's management and the development and implementation of OFHEO's programs and functions.

(c) *Offices and functions.* (1) *Office of Examination and Oversight.* The Office of Examination and Oversight plans and conducts examinations of the Enterprises, as required by the Act, prepares and issues reports of examination summarizing examination findings, and recommends corrective action as appropriate. This office is also responsible for developing appropriate off-site monitoring procedures.

(2) *Office of Research, Analysis and Capital Standards.* The Office of Research, Analysis and Capital Standards conducts research and ongoing financial and economic analyses on issues related to the activities of the Enterprises. This office is responsible for determining the ongoing capital classifications and establishing a risk-based capital test for the Enterprises as required by the Act, to ensure the adequacy of capital levels for the Enterprises.

(3) *Office of Finance and Administration.* The Office of Finance and Administration provides support services in

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the financial and administrative management of OFHEO. This office is responsible for establishing and implementing policies and procedures in the following areas: human resources management, contracting and procurement, office automation, general office management, records management and security, travel and transportation, budget systems, accounting and related transactions systems, internal control systems, financial reporting systems, and other related services.

(4) *Office of General Counsel.* The Office of General Counsel advises the Director and OFHEO staff on all legal matters concerning the functions, activities, and operations of OFHEO and of the Enterprises under the Act. This office is responsible for interpreting the Act and other applicable law, including financial institutions regulatory issues, securities and corporate law principles, and administrative and general legal matters. This office also coordinates the preparation of legislation and agency regulations.

(5) *Office of Congressional and Public Affairs.* The Office of Congressional and Public Affairs is responsible for ensuring appropriate coordination and communication by OFHEO with the Congress, for monitoring relevant legislative developments and for analyzing and developing legislative proposals. This office is also responsible for directing and coordinating communication with the news media and the pub-

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lic. The Director for Public Affairs serves as spokesperson for OFHEO.

(6) *Office of the Chief Economist.* The Office of the Chief Economist is responsible for directing, planning and conducting research and economic and policy analyses to assess and project the short- and long-term impact of issues and trends in the housing and mortgage finance industries on OFHEO's financial regulatory and supervisory responsibilities.

(d) *Additional information.* Current information on the organization of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight may be obtained from the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, 1700 G Street NW., 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20552.

§ 1700.3 Official seal.

This section describes and displays the official seal of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

(a) *Description.* A disc consisting of two concentric circles enclosing the words “Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight” and the inaugural year, 1993. In the center of the disc is a stylized image of a structure consisting of a solid trapezoidal base topped by a solid triangular shape. Placed between the base and the top is the acronym for the organization, “OFHEO.” Encircling this stylized building shape are twelve five-pointed stars.

(b) *Display.*

**§ 1700.4 Official logo.**

This section describes and displays the logo adopted by the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight as the official symbol representing OFHEO. It is displayed on correspondence and selected documents.

(a) *Description.* A stylized image of a structure consisting of a solid trapezoid-shaped base that becomes increasingly wider at the bottom. At the top is a triangular shape which represents the roof of the structure. Placed between the triangle and the trapezoid are the letters "OFHEO." These letters spell out the acronym of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight and act as a visual link between the top and bottom of the structure.

(b) *Display.*

**PART 1710—RELEASING
INFORMATION****Subpart A—General Definitions**

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1710.1 Scope.

1710.2 General definitions.

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Subpart B—Documents and Information Generally

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- 1710.31 General purposes.
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Subpart F—Rules and Procedures for Service Upon OFHEO

- 1710.51 Service of process.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301, 552; 12 U.S.C. 4513, 4522, 4526, 4639; E.O. 12600, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 235.

SOURCE: 63 FR 71005, Dec. 23, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

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Subpart A—General Definitions

§ 1710.1 Scope.

Definitions in § 1710.2 relate to the meaning of terms used throughout part 1710.

§ 1710.2 General definitions.

For the purpose of this part:

(a) *Appeals Officer* means the person designated by the Director to process appeals of denials of requests for OFHEO records under the FOIA.

(b) *Director* means the Director of OFHEO or his or her designee.

(c) *Document* means any record or paper, including but not limited to a report, credit review, audit, examination, letter, telegram, memorandum, study, calendar and diary entry, log, graph, pamphlet, note, chart, tabulation, analysis, statistical or information accumulation, any record of meetings and conversations, film impression, magnetic tape, or any electronic media, disk, film, or mechanical reproduction that is generated, obtained, or adopted by OFHEO in connection with the conduct of its official business.

(d) *Employee* means any officer, former officer, employee, or former employee of OFHEO; any conservator appointed by OFHEO; or any agent or independent contractor acting on behalf of OFHEO, even though the appointment or contract has terminated.

(e) *FOIA* means the Freedom of Information Act.

(f) *FOIA Officer* means the person designated to process requests for OFHEO records under the FOIA.

(g) *Official* means concerning the authorized business of OFHEO.

(h) *OFHEO* means the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

(i) *Person* means any individual, or any agency, corporation, partnership, trust, association, joint venture, pool, syndicate, sole proprietorship, unincorporated organization, or any other form of entity not specifically listed herein, but does not include OFHEO or any employee.

(j) *Record* means any document which is created or obtained by OFHEO and which is under OFHEO control at the time of an FOIA request.

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(k) *Requester* means any person seeking access to OFHEO records under the FOIA.

Subpart B—Documents and Information Generally

§ 1710.6 General rule.

Except as authorized by this part or as otherwise necessary in performing official duties, no employee shall in any manner disclose or permit disclosure of any document or information in the possession of OFHEO that is confidential or otherwise of a nonpublic nature, including that regarding OFHEO or the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) (collectively, the Enterprises).

§ 1710.7 Applicability.

(a) *General.* The FOIA and the regulations in this part apply to all OFHEO documents and information. However, if another law sets specific procedure for disclosure, OFHEO will process a request in accordance with the procedures that apply to those specific documents. If a request is received for disclosure of a document to the public which is not required to be released under those provisions, OFHEO will consider the request under the FOIA and the regulations in this part.

(b) *The relationship between the FOIA and the Privacy Act of 1974.* The Privacy Act of 1974 (Privacy Act), 5 U.S.C. 552a, applies to records that are about individuals, but only if the records are in a system of records as defined in the Privacy Act. Requests from individuals for records about themselves which are contained in an OFHEO system of records will be processed under the provisions of the Privacy Act as well as the FOIA. OFHEO will not deny access by a first party to a record under the FOIA or the Privacy Act unless the record is not available to that individual under both the Privacy Act and the FOIA.

(c) *Records available through routine distribution procedures.* When the record requested includes material published and offered for sale, e.g., by the Superintendent of Documents or the Government Printing Office, or which is avail-

able to the public through an established distribution system (such as that of the National Technical Information Service of the Department of Commerce), OFHEO will first refer the requester to those sources. Nevertheless, if the requester is not satisfied with the alternative sources, OFHEO will process the request under the FOIA.

§ 1710.8 OFHEO examination reports.

(a) *General.* Reports of examinations prepared by OFHEO may be disclosed only in accordance with this part or with the prior written consent of the Director. No person, agency, or authority, or director, officer, employee, or agent thereof, shall disclose any such report or information contained therein in any manner except as authorized in accordance with this subpart. The report of examination is the property of OFHEO and any unauthorized use or disclosure of such report may be subject to the penalties provided in 18 U.S.C. 641.

(b) *Enterprises.* The Director makes available to each Enterprise a copy of OFHEO's report of examination of such Enterprise. The report of examination is the property of OFHEO and is provided to the Enterprise for its confidential use only. Under no circumstance shall the Enterprise or any director, officer, employee, or agent thereof, make public or disclose in any manner the report of examination or any portion of the contents thereof to any person or organization not officially connected with the Enterprise as director, officer, employee, attorney, auditor, or independent auditor. Any other disclosure or use of this report except as expressly permitted by the Director may be subject to the penalties of 18 U.S.C. 641.

(c) *Government agencies.* The Director may make available reports of examination for the confidential use of Federal agencies responsible for investigating or enforcing applicable Federal laws.

§ 1710.9 Orders and agreements available to the public.

(a) *General.* OFHEO shall make the following documents available to the public:

(1) Any written agreement or other written statement for which a violation may be redressed by the Director or any modification to or termination thereof, unless the Director, in the Director's discretion, determines that public disclosure would be contrary to the public interest.

(2) Any order that is issued with respect to any administrative enforcement proceeding initiated by the Director under 12 U.S.C. 4631 through 4641 that has become final in accordance with 12 U.S.C. 4633 and 12 U.S.C. 4634.

(3) Any modification to or termination of any final order made public pursuant to this section.

(b) *Delay of public disclosure under exceptional circumstances.* If the Director makes a determination in writing that the public disclosure of any final order pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section would seriously threaten the financial health or security of the Enterprise, the Director may delay the public disclosure of such order for a reasonable time.

(c) *Documents filed under seal in public enforcement hearings.* The Director may file any document or part thereof under seal in any hearing commenced by the Director if the Director determines in writing that disclosure thereof would be contrary to the public interest.

(d) *Retention of documents.* The Director shall keep and maintain a record, for not less than 6 years, of all documents described in paragraph (a) of this section and all enforcement agreements and other supervisory actions and supporting documents issued with respect to or in connection with any enforcement proceedings initiated by the Director under 12 U.S.C. 4631 through 4641.

(e) *Disclosure to Congress.* This section may not be construed to authorize the withholding of any information from, or to prohibit the disclosure of any information to, the Congress or any committee or subcommittee thereof.

Subpart C—Availability of Records of OFHEO

§ 1710.11 Official records of OFHEO.

(a) OFHEO shall, upon a written request for records which reasonably de-

scribes the information or records and is made in accordance with the provisions of this subpart, make the records available as promptly as practicable to any person for inspection and/or copying, except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section.

(b) *Records available.* OFHEO records which are required by 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2) to be made available for public inspection and copying are maintained at OFHEO's offices located at 1700 G Street, NW., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20552. The records include—

(1) Any final opinions, as well as orders made in adjudication of cases as set forth in § 1710.9 of subpart B of this part;

(2) Any statements of policy and interpretation that have been adopted by OFHEO and are not published in the FEDERAL REGISTER;

(3) Any administrative staff manuals and instructions to staff that affect a member of the public, and which are not exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. 552(b); and

(4) Any current indexes providing identifying information for the public as to any matter which OFHEO has issued, OFHEO has adopted or promulgated, and is required by 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2) to be made available or published.

(c) *Copying.* The cost of copying information available in the offices of OFHEO shall be imposed on a requester in accordance with the provisions of subpart D of this part.

(d) *Records not available.* Except as otherwise provided in this part, or as may be specifically authorized by the Director, the following information and records, or portions thereof, are not available to the public:

(1) Any record, or portion thereof, which is—

(i) Specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, and

(ii) Is in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order.

(2) Any record, or portion thereof, related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of OFHEO.

(3) Any record, or portion thereof, which is specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5

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U.S.C. 552(b)), provided that such statute—

(i) Requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or

(ii) Establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld.

(4) Any matter that is a trade secret or that constitutes commercial or financial information obtained from a person and that is privileged or confidential.

(5) Any matter contained in inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters which would not be available by law to a private party in litigation with OFHEO.

(6) Any information contained in personnel and medical files and similar files (including financial files) the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

(7) Any records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information—

(i) Could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings;

(ii) Would deprive a person of a right to fair trial or an impartial adjudication;

(iii) Could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(iv) Could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution or an Enterprise regulated and examined by OFHEO which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of a record of information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source;

(v) Would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such

disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; or

(vi) Could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual.

(8) Any matter that is contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports that are prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of OFHEO.

(9) Any geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

(e) Even if an exemption described in paragraph (d) of this section may be reasonably applicable to a requested record, or portion thereof, OFHEO may elect under the circumstances of any particular request not to apply the exemption to such requested record, or portion thereof. The fact that the exemption is not applied by OFHEO to any requested record, or portion thereof, has no precedential significance as to the application or nonapplication of the exemption to any other requested record, or portion thereof, no matter when the request is received.

(f) Any reasonably segregable portion of a record shall be provided to any person properly requesting such record after deletion of the portions which are exempt under this subpart.

(g) To the extent necessary to prevent an invasion of personal privacy, the Director may delete identifying details from a record described in paragraph (b) of this section. In each case of such deletion, the justification will be clearly explained in writing.

(h) This section does not authorize withholding of information or limit the availability of records to the public, except as specifically stated in this section. This section is not authority to withhold information from Congress.

§ 1710.12 Index identifying information for the public.

(a) OFHEO will maintain and make available for public inspection and copying a current index of materials available at the office of OFHEO which are required to be indexed under 5 U.S.C 552(a)(2).

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(b) Because of the lack of requests to date for material required to be indexed, the Director has determined that it is unnecessary and impracticable to publish quarterly, or more frequently, and distribute (by sale or otherwise) copies of each index and supplements thereto, as provided in 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2). However, OFHEO will provide a copy of such indexes to a member of the public upon request, at a cost not to exceed the direct cost of duplication and mailing, if sending records by other than ordinary mail.

§ 1710.13 Requests for records.

(a) *Addressing requests.* Requests for records in the possession of OFHEO shall be made in writing. The envelope and the request both should be clearly marked "FOIA Request" and addressed to: FOIA Officer, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, 1700 G Street NW., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20552. A request improperly addressed will be deemed not to have been received for purposes of the 20-day time period set forth in paragraph (a) of § 1710.17 of this subpart until it is received, or would have been received with the exercise of due diligence, by the FOIA Officer. Records requested in conformance with this subpart and which are not exempt records may be obtained in person or by mail as specified in the request. Records to be obtained in person will be available for inspection or copying during business hours on a regular business day in the office of OFHEO.

(b) *Description of records.* Each request must reasonably describe the desired records in sufficient detail to enable OFHEO personnel to locate the records with a reasonable amount of effort. A request for a specific category of records will be regarded as fulfilling this requirement if it enables responsive records to be identified by a technique or process that is not unreasonably burdensome or disruptive of OFHEO operations.

(1) Whenever possible, a request should include specific information about each record sought, such as the date, title or name, author, recipient, and subject matter of the record.

(2) If the FOIA Officer determines that a request does not reasonably de-

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scribe the records sought, he or she will either advise the requester what additional information is needed to locate the record or otherwise state why the request is insufficient. The FOIA Officer will also extend to the requester an opportunity to confer with OFHEO personnel with the objective of reformulating the request in a manner which will meet the requirements of this section.

§ 1710.14 Responses to requests.

(a) *Response to initial request.* The FOIA Officer of OFHEO is authorized to grant or deny any request for a record and to determine appropriate fees.

(b) *Referral to another agency.* When a requester seeks records that originated in another Federal Government agency, OFHEO will refer the request to the other agency for response. If OFHEO refers the request to another agency, it will notify the requester of the referral. A request for any records classified by some other agency will be referred to that agency for response.

(c) *Creating records.* If a person seeks information from OFHEO in a format that does not currently exist, OFHEO will make reasonable efforts to provide the information in the format requested. OFHEO will not create a new record of information to satisfy a request.

(d) *No responsive record.* If no records are responsive to the request, the FOIA Officer will so notify the requester in writing.

§ 1710.15 Form and content of responses.

(a) *Form of notice granting a request.* After the FOIA Officer has granted a request in whole or in part, the requester will be notified in writing. The notice shall describe the manner in which the record will be disclosed, whether by providing a copy of the record with the response or at a later date, or by making a copy of the record available to the requester for inspection at a reasonable time and place. The procedure for such an inspection may not unreasonably disrupt the operation of OFHEO. The response letter will also inform the requester of any

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fees to be charged in accordance with the provisions of subpart D of this part.

(b) *Form of notice denying a request.* When the FOIA Officer denies a request in whole or in part, he or she will so notify the requester in writing. The response will be signed by the FOIA Officer and will include—

(1) The name and title or position of the person making the denial;

(2) A brief statement of the reason or reasons for the denial, including the FOIA exemption or exemptions which the FOIA Officer has relied upon in denying the request; and

(3) A statement that the denial may be appealed under § 1710.16 of this subpart and a description of the requirements of that section.

§ 1710.16 Appeals of denials.

(a) *Right of appeal.* If a request has been denied in whole or in part, the requester may appeal the denial to: FOIA Appeals Officer, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, 1700 G Street, NW., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20552.

(b) *Letter of appeal.* The appeal must be in writing and must be sent within 30 days of receipt of the denial letter. An appeal should include a copy of the initial request, a copy of the letter denying the request in whole or in part, and a statement of the circumstances, reasons, or arguments advanced in support of disclosure of the requested record. Both the envelope and the letter of appeal must be clearly marked “FOIA Appeal.” An appeal improperly addressed shall be deemed not to have been received for purposes of the 20-day time period set forth in paragraph (b) of § 1710.17 until it is received, or would have been received with the exercise of due diligence, by the Appeals Officer.

(c) *Action on appeal.* The disposition of an appeal will be in writing and will constitute the final action of OFHEO on a request. A decision affirming in whole or in part the denial of a request will include a brief statement of the reason or reasons for affirmance, including each FOIA exemption relied on. If the denial of a request is reversed in whole or in part on appeal, the request will be processed promptly in accordance with the decision on appeal.

(d) *Judicial review.* If the denial of the request for records is upheld in whole or in part, or, if a determination on the appeal has not been mailed at the end of the 20-day period or the last extension thereof, the requester is deemed to have exhausted his or her administrative remedies, giving rise to a right of judicial review under 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(4).

§ 1710.17 Time limits.

(a) *Initial request.* Following receipt of a request for records, the FOIA Officer will determine whether to comply with the request and will notify the requester in writing of his or her determination within 20 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after receipt of the request.

(b) *Appeal.* A written determination on an appeal submitted in accordance with § 1710.16 of this subpart will be issued within 20 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after receipt of the appeal. When a determination cannot be mailed within the applicable time limit, the appeal will nevertheless be processed. In such case, upon the expiration of the time limit, the requester will be informed of the reason for the delay, of the date on which a determination may be expected to be mailed, and of that person's right to seek judicial review. The requester may be asked to forego judicial review until determination of the appeal.

(c) *Extension of time limits.* The time limits specified in either paragraph (a) or (b) of this section may be extended in unusual circumstances up to a total of 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after written notice to the requester setting forth the reasons for the extension and the date on which a determination is expected to be made. As used in this paragraph, *unusual circumstances* means that there is a need to—

(1) Search for and collect the requested records from facilities that are separate from the office processing the request;

(2) Search for, collect, and appropriately examine a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records which are demanded in a single request; or

(3) Consult with another agency having a substantial interest in the determination of the request, or consult with various offices within OFHEO that have a substantial interest in the records requested.

§ 1710.18 Special procedures for business information.

(a) *In general.* Business information provided to OFHEO by a business submitter shall not be disclosed pursuant to an FOIA request except in accordance with this section.

(b) *Definitions.* For the purpose of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) *Business information* means trade secrets or other commercial or financial information, provided to OFHEO by a submitter, which arguably is protected from disclosure under Exemption 4 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4), because disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause substantial competitive harm.

(2) *Business submitter* means any person or entity which provides business information, directly or indirectly, to OFHEO and who has a proprietary interest in the information.

(c) *Designation of business information.* Submitters of business information should use good-faith efforts to designate, by appropriate markings, either at the time of submission or at a reasonable time thereafter, those portions of their submissions which they deem to be protected under Exemption 4 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4). Any such designation will expire 10 years after the records were submitted to the Government, unless the submitter requests, and provides reasonable justification for, a designation period of longer duration.

(d) *Predisclosure notification.* (1) Except as is provided for in paragraph (i) of this section, the FOIA Officer shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide a submitter with prompt written notice of an FOIA request or administrative appeal encompassing its business information whenever required under paragraph (e) of this section. Such notice shall either describe the exact nature of the business information requested or provide copies of the records

or portions thereof containing the business information.

(2) Whenever the FOIA Officer provides a business submitter with the notice set forth in paragraph (e)(1) of this section, the FOIA Officer shall notify the requester that the request includes information that may arguably be exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) and that the person or entity who submitted the information to OFHEO has been given the opportunity to comment on the proposed disclosure of information.

(e) *When notice is required.* OFHEO shall provide a business submitter with notice of a request whenever—

(1) The business submitter has in good faith designated the information as business information deemed protected from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4); or

(2) OFHEO has reason to believe that the request seeks business information the disclosure of which may result in substantial commercial or financial injury to the business submitter.

(f) *Opportunity to object to disclosure.* Through the notice described in paragraph (d) of this section, OFHEO shall, to the extent permitted by law, afford a business submitter at least 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) within which it can provide OFHEO with a detailed written statement of any objection to disclosure. Such statement shall demonstrate why the information is contended to be a trade secret or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential and why disclosure would cause competitive harm. Whenever possible, the business submitter's claim of confidentiality should be supported by a statement or certification by an officer or authorized representative of the business submitter. Information provided by a submitter pursuant to this paragraph may itself be subject to disclosure under the FOIA.

(g) *Notice of intent to disclose.* (1) The FOIA Officer shall consider carefully a business submitter's objections and specific grounds for nondisclosure prior to determining whether to disclose business information. Whenever the FOIA Officer decides to disclose business information over the objection of

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a business submitter, the FOIA Officer shall forward to the business submitter a written notice at least 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) before the date of disclosure containing—

(i) A statement of the reasons for which the business submitter's disclosure objections were not sustained,

(ii) A description of the business information to be disclosed, and

(iii) A specified disclosure date.

(2) Such notice of intent to disclose likewise shall be forwarded to the requester at least 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) prior to the specified disclosure date.

(h) *Notice of FOIA lawsuit.* Whenever a requester brings suit seeking to compel disclosure of business information, the FOIA Officer shall promptly notify the business submitter of such action.

(i) *Exceptions to predisclosure notification.* The requirements of this section shall not apply if—

(1) The FOIA Officer determines that the information should not be disclosed;

(2) The information lawfully has been published or has been officially made available to the public;

(3) Disclosure of the information is required by law (other than 5 U.S.C. 552); or

(4) The designation made by the submitter in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section appears obviously frivolous; except that, in such a case, the FOIA Officer will provide the submitter with written notice of any final decision to disclose business information within a reasonable number of days prior to a specified disclosure date.

Subpart D—Fees for Provision of Information

§ 1710.21 Definitions.

For the purpose of this subpart, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Commercial use request* means a request for information that is from, or on behalf of, a requester seeking information for a use or purpose that furthers the commercial, trade, or profit interests of the requester or the person on whose behalf the request is being made. To determine whether a request

is properly classified as a commercial use request, OFHEO shall determine the purpose for which the requested records shall be used. If OFHEO has reasonable cause to doubt the purpose specified in the request for which a requester will use the records sought, or where the purpose is not clear from the request itself, OFHEO shall seek additional clarification before assigning the request to a specified category.

(b) *Direct costs* means the expenditures actually incurred by OFHEO in searching for and reproducing records to respond to a request for information. In the case of a commercial use request, the term also means those expenditures OFHEO actually incurs in reviewing records to respond to the request. The direct cost shall include the salary of the employee performing work (the basic rate of pay for the employee plus 16 percent of that rate to cover benefits) and the cost of operating duplication equipment. Not included in direct costs are overhead expenses such as costs of space, and heating or lighting the facility in which the records are stored.

(c) *Educational institution* means a preschool, a public or private elementary or secondary school, an institution of undergraduate higher education, an institution of graduate higher education, an institution of professional education, and an institution of vocational education, which operates a program or programs of scholarly research.

(d) *Noncommercial scientific institution* refers to an institution that is not operated on a commercial, trade, or profit basis and which is operated solely for the purpose of conducting scientific research, the results of which are not intended to promote any particular product or industry.

(e) *Representative of the news media* means any person actively gathering news for an entity that is organized and operated to publish or broadcast news to the public. The term “news” means information that is about current events or that would be of current interest to the public. Examples of news media entities include television or radio stations broadcasting to the public at large and publishers of periodicals (but only in those instances in

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which the periodicals can qualify as disseminators of “news”) who make their products available for purchase or subscription by the general public. These examples are not intended to be all-inclusive. As traditional methods of news delivery evolve, *e.g.*, electronic dissemination of newspapers through telecommunication services, such alternative media, would be included in this category. “Freelance” journalists may be regarded as working for a news organization if they can demonstrate a solid basis for expecting publication through that organization even though they are not actually employed by the organization. A publication contract would be the clearest proof that a journalist is working for a news organization, but OFHEO may look to the requester’s past publication record to determine whether a journalist is working for a news organization.

(f) *Reproduce and reproduction* means the process of making a copy of a record necessary to respond to a request for information. Such copies take the form of paper copy, microfilm, audio-visual materials, or machine readable documentation, *e.g.*, magnetic tape or disk. The copy provided shall be in a form that is reasonably usable by requesters.

(g) *Review* means the process of examining records located in response to a request for information to determine whether any portion of any record located is permitted to be withheld. It also includes processing any records for disclosure, *e.g.*, doing all that is necessary to prepare the records for release. The term “review” does not include the time spent resolving general legal or policy issues regarding the application of exemptions. OFHEO shall only charge fees for reviewing records in response to a commercial use request.

(h) The term *search* includes all time spent looking for material that is responsive to a request for information, including page-by-page or line-by-line identification of material within records. The term “search” includes the extraction of information from a computer using existing programming. Searching for materials shall be done in the most efficient and least expensive manner so as to minimize the

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costs of OFHEO and the requester. For example, a line-by-line search for responsive material should not be performed when merely reproducing an entire document would be less expensive and the faster method of complying with the request for information. A “search” for material that is responsive to a request should be distinguished from a “review” of material to determine whether the material is exempt from disclosure.

§ 1710.22 Fees to be charged—general.

(a) *Policy.* Generally, the fees charged for requests for records pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552 shall cover the full allowable direct costs of searching for, reproducing, and reviewing records that are responsive to a request for information. Fees shall be assessed according to the schedule contained in paragraph (b) of this section and the category of requesters described in § 1710.23 of this subpart for services rendered by OFHEO staff in responding to, and processing requests for, records under this part. Fees assessed will be paid by check or money order payable to the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

(b) *Types of charges.* The types of charges that may be assessed in connection with the production of records in response to an FOIA request are as follows:

(1) *Searches.* (i) *Manual searches for records.* Whenever feasible, OFHEO will charge at the salary rate(s), *i.e.*, basic pay plus 16 percent, of the employee(s) making the search. Charges for search time will be billed by 15-minute segments.

(ii) *Computer searches for records.* Requesters will be charged at the actual direct costs of conducting a search using existing programming. These direct costs will include the cost of operating the central processing unit for that portion of operating time that is directly attributable to searching for records and the operator/programmer salary, *i.e.*, basic pay plus 16 percent, apportionable to the search. A charge shall also be made for any substantial amounts of special supplies or materials used to contain, present, or make available the output of computers, based upon the prevailing levels of

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costs to OFHEO for the type and amount of such supplies of materials that are used. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to entitle any person or entity, as of right, to any services in connection with computerized records, other than services to which such person or entity may be entitled under the provisions of this subpart. OFHEO will not alter or develop programming to conduct a search.

(iii) *Unproductive searches.* OFHEO will charge search fees even if no records are found which are responsive to the request or if the records found are exempt from disclosure.

(2) *Duplication.* Records will be reproduced at a rate of \$.15 per page. For copies prepared by computer, such as tapes or printouts, the requester shall be charged the actual cost, including operator time, of production of the tape or printout. For other methods of reproduction, the actual direct costs of reproducing the record(s) shall be charged.

(3) *Review.* Only requesters who are seeking records for commercial use may be charged for time spent reviewing records to determine whether they are exempt from mandatory disclosure. Charges may be assessed only for initial review, *i.e.*, the review undertaken the first time OFHEO analyzes the applicability of a specific exemption to a particular record or portion of a record. Records or portions of records withheld in full under an exemption that is subsequently determined not to apply may be reviewed again to determine the applicability of other exemptions not previously considered. The costs for such a subsequent review are properly assessable.

(4) *Other services and materials.* Where OFHEO elects, as a matter of administrative discretion, to comply with a request for a special service or materials, such as certifying that records are true copies or sending records by special methods, the actual direct costs of providing the service or materials will be charged.

§ 1710.23 Fees to be charged—categories of requesters.

(a) *Fees for various requester categories.* Paragraphs (b) through (e) of this section state, for each category of re-

quester, the types of fees generally charged by OFHEO. However, for each of these categories, the fees may be limited, waived or reduced in accordance with the provisions set forth in paragraph (c) of § 1710.24. If OFHEO has reasonable cause to doubt the purpose specified in the request for which a requester will use the records sought, or where the purpose is not clear from the request itself, OFHEO will seek clarification before assigning the request a specific category.

(b) *Commercial use requester.* OFHEO shall charge fees for records requested by persons or entities making a commercial use request in an amount that equals the full direct costs for searching for, reviewing for release, and reproducing the records sought. Commercial use requesters are not entitled to 2 hours of free search time nor 100 free pages of reproduction of records. In accordance with § 1710.22, commercial use requesters may be charged the costs of searching for and reviewing records even if there is ultimately no disclosure of records.

(c) *Educational and noncommercial scientific institutions.* OFHEO shall charge fees for records requested by, or on behalf of, educational institutions and noncommercial scientific institutions in an amount which equals the cost of reproducing the records responsive to the request, excluding the cost of reproducing the first 100 pages. No search fee shall be charged with respect to requests by educational and noncommercial scientific institutions. For a request to be included in this category, requesters must show that the request being made is authorized by and under the auspices of a qualifying institution, and that the records are not sought for commercial use but are sought in furtherance of scholarly research (if the request is from an educational institution) or scientific research (if the request is from a noncommercial scientific institution).

(d) *News media.* OFHEO shall charge fees for records requested by representatives of the news media in an amount which equals the cost of reproducing the records responsive to the request, excluding the costs of reproducing the first 100 pages. No search fee shall be charged with respect to requests by

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representatives of the news media. For a request to be included in this category, the requester must qualify as a representative of the news media and the request must not be made for a commercial use. A request for records supporting the news dissemination function of the requester shall not be considered to be a request that is for commercial use.

(e) *All other requesters.* OFHEO shall charge fees for records requested by persons or entities that are not classified in any of the categories listed in paragraphs (b), (c), or (d) of this section in an amount that equals the full reasonable direct cost of searching for and reproducing records that are responsive to the request, excluding the first 2 hours of search time and the cost of reproducing the first 100 pages of records. In accordance with § 1710.22, requesters in this category may be charged the cost of searching for records even if there is ultimately no disclosure of records, excluding the first 2 hours of search time.

(f) For purposes of the exceptions contained in this section on assessment of fees, the word “pages” refers to paper copies of $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ or 11×14 . Thus, requesters are not entitled to 100 microfiche or 100 computer disks, for example. A microfiche containing the equivalent of 100 pages or a computer disk containing the equivalent of 100 pages of computer printout meets the terms of the exception.

(g) For purposes of paragraph (e) of this section, the term “search time” has as its basis, manual search. To apply this term to searches made by computer, OFHEO will determine the hourly cost of operating the central processing unit and the operator’s hourly salary plus 16 percent. When the cost of the search (including the operator time and the cost of operating the computer to process a request) equals the equivalent dollar amount of 2 hours of the salary plus 16 percent of the person performing the search, *i.e.*, the operator, OFHEO will begin assessing charges for the computer.

§ 1710.24 Limitations on charging fees.

(a) *In general.* Except for requesters seeking records for a commercial use as described in paragraph (b) of

§ 1710.23, OFHEO will provide, without charge, the first 100 pages of duplication and the first 2 hours of search time, or their cost equivalent.

(b) *No fee charged.* OFHEO will not charge fees to any requester, including commercial use requesters, if the cost of collecting a fee would be equal to or greater than the fee itself. The elements to be considered in determining the “cost of collecting a fee” are the administrative costs of receiving and recording a requester’s remittance and of processing the fee.

(c) *Waiver or reduction of fees.* OFHEO may grant a waiver or reduction of fees if OFHEO determines that the disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the Federal Government, and the disclosure of the information is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. Requests for a waiver or reduction of fees will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

(1) The following factors will be considered by OFHEO in determining whether a waiver or reduction of fees is in the public interest:

(i) *The subject of the request: Whether the subject of the requested records concerns “the operations or activities of the Government.”* The subject matter of the requested records, in the context of the request, must specifically concern identifiable operations or activities of the Federal Government with a connection that is direct and clear, not remote or attenuated. Furthermore, the records must be sought for their informative value with respect to those Government operations or activities; a request for access to records for their intrinsic informational content alone will not satisfy this threshold consideration.

(ii) *The informative value of the information to be disclosed: Whether the disclosure is “likely to contribute” to an understanding of Government operations or activities.* The disclosable portions of the requested records must be meaningfully informative on specific Government operations or activities in order to hold potential for contributing to increased public understanding of those operations and activities. The

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disclosure of information that is already in the public domain, in either a duplicative or substantially identical form, would not be likely to contribute to such understanding, as nothing new would be added to the public record.

(iii) *The contribution to an understanding of the subject by the general public: Whether disclosure of the requested information will contribute to the “public understanding.”* The disclosure must contribute to the understanding of the public at large, as opposed to the individual understanding of the requester or a narrow segment of interested persons. A requester’s identity and qualifications, *e.g.*, expertise in the subject area and ability and intention to convey information to the general public, will be considered.

(iv) *The significance of the contribution in public understanding: Whether the disclosure is likely to “significantly enhance” the public understanding of Government operations or activities.* The public’s understanding of the subject matter in question, as compared to the level of public understanding existing prior to the disclosure, must be likely to be enhanced by the disclosure to a significant extent. The FOIA Officer shall not make a separate value judgment as to whether information, even though it in fact would contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the Government, is “important” enough to be made public.

(2) In order to determine whether the second fee waiver requirement is met, *i.e.*, that disclosure of the requested information is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester, OFHEO shall consider the following two factors in sequence:

(i) *The existence and magnitude of a commercial interest: Whether the requester, or any person on whose behalf the requester may be acting, has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure.* In assessing the magnitude of identified commercial interests, consideration will be given to the effect that the information disclosed would have on those commercial interests, as well as to the extent to which FOIA disclosures serve those interests overall. Requesters shall be given a reasonable opportunity

in the administrative process to provide information bearing upon this consideration.

(ii) *The primary interest in disclosure: Whether the magnitude of the identified commercial interest of the requester is sufficiently large in comparison with the public interest in disclosure, that disclosure is “primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.”* A fee waiver or reduction is warranted only where, once the “public interest” standard set out in paragraph (c)(1) of this section is satisfied, that public interest can fairly be regarded as greater in magnitude than that of the requester’s commercial interest in disclosure. OFHEO will ordinarily presume that, where a news media requester has satisfied the public interest standard, the public interest will be serviced primarily by disclosure to that requester. Disclosure to requesters who compile and market Federal Government information for direct economic return will not be presumed to primarily serve the “public interest.”

(3) Where only a portion of the requested record satisfies the requirements for a waiver or reduction of fees under this paragraph, a waiver or reduction shall be granted only as to that portion.

(4) A request for a waiver or reduction of fees must accompany the request for disclosure of records and should include—

(i) A clear statement of the requester’s interest in the records;

(ii) The proposed use of the records and whether the requester will derive income or other benefit from such use;

(iii) A statement of how the public will benefit from release of the requested records; and

(iv) If specialized use of the documents is contemplated, a statement of the requester’s qualifications that are relevant to the specialized use.

(5) A requester may appeal the denial of a request for a waiver or reduction of fees in accordance with the provisions of § 1710.16.

§ 1710.25 Miscellaneous fee provisions.

(a) *Notice of anticipated fees in excess of \$25.00.* Where OFHEO determines or estimates that the fees chargeable will amount to more than \$25.00, OFHEO

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shall promptly notify the requester of the actual or estimated amount of fees or such portion thereof that can be readily estimated, unless the requester has indicated his or her willingness to pay fees as high as those anticipated. Where a requester has been notified that the actual or estimated fees may exceed \$25.00, the request will be deemed not to have been received until the requester has agreed to pay the anticipated total fee. A notice to the requester pursuant to this paragraph will include the opportunity to confer with OFHEO personnel in order to reformulate the request to meet the requester's needs at a lower cost.

(b) *Aggregating requests.* A requester may not file multiple requests at the same time, each seeking portions of a record or records, solely in order to avoid the payment of fees. When OFHEO reasonably believes that a requester, or a group of requesters acting in concert, is attempting to break a request into a series of requests for the purpose of evading the assessment of fees, OFHEO may aggregate such requests and charge accordingly. One element to be considered in determining whether a belief would be reasonable is the time period over which the requests have occurred. OFHEO will presume that multiple requests of this type made within a 30-day period have been made in order to evade fees. Where requests are separated by a longer period, OFHEO shall aggregate them only where there exists a solid basis for determining that such aggregation is warranted, *e.g.*, where the requests involve clearly related matters. Multiple requests regarding unrelated matters will not be aggregated.

(c) *Advance payment of fees.* (1) OFHEO does not require an advance payment before work is commenced or continued, unless—

(i) OFHEO estimates or determines that the fees are likely to exceed \$250.00. If it appears that the fees will exceed \$250.00, OFHEO will notify the requester of the likely cost and obtain satisfactory assurance of full payment where the requester has a history of prompt payment of FOIA fees. In the case of requesters with no history of payment, OFHEO may require an advance payment of fees in an amount up

to the full estimated charge that will be incurred; or

(ii) The requester has previously failed to pay a fee in a timely fashion, *i.e.*, within 30 days of the date of a billing. In such cases, OFHEO may require the requester to pay the full amount owed plus any applicable interest, as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, or demonstrate that the fee owed has been paid, prior to processing any further record request. Under these circumstances, OFHEO may require the requester to make an advance payment of the full amount of the fees anticipated before processing a new request or finishing processing of a pending request from that requester.

(2) A request for an advance deposit shall include an offer to the requester to confer with identified OFHEO personnel to attempt to reformulate the request in a manner which will meet the needs of the requester at a lower cost.

(3) When OFHEO requests an advance payment of fees, the administrative time limits described in 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6) begin only after OFHEO has received the advance payment.

(d) *Interest.* OFHEO may assess interest charges on an unpaid bill starting on the 31st day following the day on which the bill was sent. Once a fee payment has been received by OFHEO, even if not processed, the accrual of interest shall be stayed. Interest charges shall be assessed at the rate prescribed in 31 U.S.C. 3717 and shall accrue from the date of the billing.

Subpart E—Testimony and Production of Documents in Legal Proceedings in Which OFHEO Is Not a Named Party

§ 1710.31 General purposes.

The purposes of this subpart are to maintain the confidentiality of official documents and information of OFHEO, conserve the time of employees for their official duties, maintain the impartial position of OFHEO in litigation in which OFHEO is not a named party, and enable the Director to determine when to authorize testimony and to produce documents in legal proceedings in which OFHEO is not a named party. This subpart sets forth

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the procedures to be followed with respect to testimony concerning official matters and production of official documents of OFHEO in legal proceedings in which OFHEO is not a named party. This subpart in no way affects the rights and procedures governing public access to official documents pursuant to the FOIA or the Privacy Act.

§ 1710.32 Definitions.

For the purpose of this subpart:

(a) *Court* means any entity conducting a legal proceeding.

(b) *Demand* means any order, subpoena, or other legal process for testimony or documents.

(c) *Legal proceeding* means any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding, including a discovery proceeding therein, before a court of law, administrative board or commission, hearing officer, or other body in which OFHEO is not a named party or in which OFHEO has not instituted the administrative investigation or administrative hearing.

(d) *OFHEO Counsel* means the General Counsel or his or her designee, a Department of Justice attorney, or counsel authorized by OFHEO to act on behalf of OFHEO or an employee.

§ 1710.33 General policy.

It is the policy of OFHEO that in any legal proceeding in which OFHEO is not a named party, no employee shall, in response to a demand, produce any documents contained in the files of OFHEO, or disclose any information relating to, or based upon, documents contained in the files of OFHEO, or disclose or produce any documents acquired as part of the performance of that employee's official duties or because of that employee's official status. Under appropriate circumstances, the Director may grant exceptions in writing to this policy when the Director determines that the testimony of employees or disclosure of official documents would be in the best interest of OFHEO or in the public interest. Prior to any authorized testimony or release of official documents, the requesting party shall obtain a protective order from the court before which the action is pending to preserve the confidentiality of the testimony or documents

subsequently produced. The protective order shall be in a form satisfactory to OFHEO.

§ 1710.34 Request for testimony or production of documents.

(a) No employee shall give testimony concerning official matters or produce any official documents in any legal proceeding to which OFHEO is not a named party without the prior written authorization of the Director.

(b) If testimony by an employee concerning official matters or the production of official documents is desired, the requesting party, or his or her attorney, shall submit a letter to the Director setting forth the title of the case, the forum, the requesting party's interest in the case, a summary of the issues in the litigation, the reasons for the request, and a showing that the desired testimony, documents, or information are not reasonably available from any other source. If an appearance or testimony is requested, the letter shall also set forth the intended use of the testimony, a general summary of the scope of the testimony requested, and a showing that no document could be provided and used in lieu of the testimony or other appearance requested.

(c) The General Counsel is authorized to consult with the requesting party or his or her attorney to refine and limit the request so that compliance is less burdensome, or obtain information necessary to make the determination described in §1710.33 of this subpart. Failure of the requesting party, or his or her attorney, to cooperate in good faith with the General Counsel to enable the Director to make an informed determination under this subpart may serve as the basis for a determination not to comply with the request.

§ 1710.35 Scope of permissible testimony.

(a) The scope of permissible testimony by an employee is limited to that set forth in the written authorization granted that employee by the Director.

(b) Employees are not authorized to give opinion testimony, except as authorized by the Director. OFHEO, as the regulatory agency charged with the responsibility of examining, supervising, and regulating the financial

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safety and soundness and capital adequacy of the Enterprises under the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992, 12 U.S.C. 4501 *et seq.*, relies on the ability of its employees to gather full and complete information in order to carry out its statutory responsibilities. The use of employees to give opinion testimony would hamper OFHEO's ability to carry out its statutory responsibilities and would cause a serious administrative burden on OFHEO's staff.

§ 1710.36 Manner in which testimony is given.

(a) Authorized testimony of employees ordinarily will be made available only through depositions or written interrogatories.

(b) Where, in response to a request, the Director determines that circumstances warrant authorizing testimony by an employee, the requesting party shall cause a subpoena to be served on the employee in accordance with applicable Federal or State rules of procedure, with a copy of the subpoena sent by registered or certified mail to the General Counsel.

(c) Normally, authorized depositions will be taken at OFHEO's office, at a time arranged with the employee that is reasonably fixed to avoid substantial interference with the performance of the employee's duties.

(d) Upon completion of the deposition of an employee, a copy of the transcript of the testimony shall be furnished, at the expense of the party requesting the deposition, to the General Counsel for OFHEO's files.

§ 1710.37 Manner in which documents will be produced.

(a) An employee's authorization to produce official documents is limited to the authority granted that employee by the Director.

(b) Certified or authenticated copies of official OFHEO documents authorized by the Director to be released under this subpart will be provided upon request.

§ 1710.38 Fees.

Unless waived or reduced, the following fees shall be charged for docu-

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ments produced by OFHEO in connection with requests subject to this subpart:

(a) *Searches for documents.* OFHEO will charge at the salary rates(s), *i.e.*, basic pay plus 16 percent, of the employee(s) making the search. Charges for search time will be billed by 15 minute segments.

(b) *Copying of documents.* The standard copying charge for documents in paper copy is \$.15 per page. When responsive information is provided in a format other than paper copy, such as in the form of computer tapes and disks, OFHEO will assess the direct costs of the tape, disk, or whatever medium is used to produce the information, as well as any related reproduction costs. Normally, only one copy will be provided. Additional copies will be provided only upon a showing of demonstrated need.

(c) *Certification or authentication of documents.* OFHEO will charge \$3.00 for each certification or authentication of documents.

(d) *Computer searches.* Services of personnel in the nature of a computer search shall be charged at rates prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section. A charge shall be made for the computer time involved, based upon the prevailing level of costs to OFHEO and upon the particular types of computer and associated equipment and the amount of time that such equipment is utilized. A charge shall also be made for any substantial amount of special supplies or documents used to contain, present, or make available the output of computers, based upon prevailing levels of costs to OFHEO and upon the type and amount of such supplies or documents that are used.

(e) *Other costs.* When other services and documents not specifically identified in this section are requested and provided, their actual cost to OFHEO shall be charged.

(f) *Payments of fees.* A bill will be forwarded to the requesting party upon completion of the production. Payment shall be made by check or money order payable to the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

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§ 1710.39 Responses to demands served on employees.

(a) *Advice by employee served.* Any employee who is served with a demand in a legal proceeding requiring his or her personal attendance as a witness or requiring the production of documents or information in any proceeding, shall immediately notify the General Counsel of such service, of the testimony and documents described in the demand, and of all relevant facts which may be of assistance to the General Counsel in determining whether the individual in question should be authorized to testify or the documents requested should be made available.

(b) When authorization to testify or to produce documents has not been granted by the Director, OFHEO Counsel shall provide the party issuing the demand or the court with a copy of the regulations contained in this subpart and shall inform the party issuing the demand or the court that the employee upon whom the demand has been made is prohibited from testifying or producing documents without the prior approval of the Director.

(c) *Appearance by employee served.* Unless OFHEO has authorized disclosure of the information requested, any employee who has OFHEO information that may not be disclosed and who is required to respond to a subpoena or other legal process, shall attend at the time and place required and respectfully decline to disclose or to give any testimony with respect to the information, basing such refusal upon the provisions of this subpart. If the court nevertheless orders the disclosure of the information or the giving of testimony irrespective of instructions from the Director not to produce the documents or disclose the information sought, the employee upon whom the demand has been made shall continue to decline respectfully to disclose the information and shall report promptly the facts to OFHEO for such action as OFHEO may deem appropriate.

(d) A determination under this subpart to comply or not to comply with any demand shall not constitute an assertion or waiver of privilege, lack of relevance, technical deficiencies, or any other ground for noncompliance. OFHEO reserves the right to oppose

any demand on any legal ground independent of its determination under this subpart.

§ 1710.40 Responses to demands served on nonemployees.

(a) OFHEO reports of examinations, or any documents related thereto, are the property of OFHEO and are not to be disclosed to any person without the Director's prior written consent.

(b) If any person who has possession of an OFHEO report of examination, or any documents related thereto, is served with a demand in a legal proceeding directing that person to produce such OFHEO documents or to testify with respect thereto, such person shall immediately notify the General Counsel of such service, of the testimony and described documents in the demand, and of all relevant facts. Such person shall also object to the production of such documents or information contained therein on the basis that the documents are the property of OFHEO and cannot be released without OFHEO's consent and that their production must be sought from OFHEO following the procedures set forth in § 1710.33, paragraphs (b) and (c) of § 1710.34, and paragraph (b) of § 1710.37 of this subpart.

Subpart F—Rules and Procedures for Service Upon OFHEO

§ 1710.51 Service of process.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by OFHEO regulations, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, or order of a court with jurisdiction over OFHEO, any legal process upon OFHEO, including a legal process served on OFHEO demanding access to its records under the FOIA, shall be duly issued and served upon the General Counsel and any OFHEO personnel named in the caption of the documents.

(b) Service of process upon the General Counsel may be effected by personally delivering a copy of the documents to the General Counsel or by sending a copy of the documents to the General Counsel by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, to the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, 1700 G Street, NW., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20552.

PART 1720—IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974

Sec.

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- 1720.2 Definitions.
- 1720.3 Requests for access to individual records.
- 1720.4 Decision to grant or deny requests for access to individual records.
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- 1720.6 Requirements for verification of identity.
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- 1720.9 Appeals of the initial decision to deny access to or amendment of individual records.
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- 1720.12 Accounting of disclosures.
- 1720.13 Requests for accounting of disclosures.
- 1720.14 Fees.
- 1720.15 Preservation of records.
- 1720.16 Rights of parents and legal guardians.
- 1720.17 Penalties.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552a, 12 U.S.C. 4513(b).

SOURCE: 63 FR 8844, Feb. 23, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1720.1 Scope.

(a) This part 1720 sets forth the procedures by which an individual may request access to records about him/her that are maintained by the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO) in a designated system of records, amendment of such records, or an accounting of disclosures of such records. This part 1720 implements the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (Privacy Act) (5 U.S.C. 552a).

(b) A request from an individual for a record about that individual that is not contained in an OFHEO designated system of records will be considered to be a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552) request and will be processed under the FOIA.

§ 1720.2 Definitions.

For the purposes of this part 1720—

Amendment means any correction of, addition to, or deletion from a record.

Designated system of records means a system of records that OFHEO has listed and summarized in the FEDERAL REGISTER pursuant to the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 552a(e).

Individual means a natural person who is either a citizen of the United States of America or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

Maintain includes collect, use, disseminate, or control.

Privacy Act Appeals Officer means the OFHEO employee who has been delegated the authority to determine Privacy Act appeals.

Privacy Act Officer means the OFHEO employee who has been delegated the authority to determine Privacy Act requests.

Record means any item, collection, or grouping of information about an individual that is maintained by OFHEO and that contains his/her name, or the identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual.

Routine use, with respect to disclosure of a record, means the use of such record for a purpose that is compatible with the purpose for which it was created.

Statistical Record means a record in a system of records maintained only for statistical research or reporting purposes and not used, in whole or in part, in making any determination about an identifiable individual, except as provided by 13 U.S.C. 8.

System of records means a group of records under the control of OFHEO from which information is retrieved by the name of the individual or some identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual.

§ 1720.3 Requests for access to individual records.

(a) Any individual may request records about him/her that are maintained by OFHEO.

(b) The procedures for submitting requests are as follows:

(1) If the records are contained in a governmentwide system of records of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the request must be submitted as prescribed by the regulations of OPM (5 CFR part 297).

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(2) If the records are contained in a record in a system of records of another Federal agency, the request must be submitted as prescribed in the FEDERAL REGISTER Privacy Act notice for the specific governmentwide system.

(3) If the records are contained in a system of records of OFHEO, the request must be submitted in writing to the Privacy Act Officer, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, 1700 G Street, NW., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20552. The written request should describe the records sought and identify the designated systems of records in which such records may be contained. (A copy of the designated systems of records published by OFHEO in the FEDERAL REGISTER is available upon request from the Privacy Act Officer.) No individual shall be required to state a reason or otherwise justify a request for access to records about him/her.

§ 1720.4 Decision to grant or deny requests for access to individual records.

(a) *Basis for the decision.* The Privacy Act Officer shall grant access to records upon receipt of a request submitted under § 1720.3(b)(3), unless the records—

(1) Were compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action or proceeding; or

(2) Require special procedures for medical records provided for in § 1720.5.

(b) *Notification procedures.* (1) Within 20 business days of receipt of a request submitted under § 1720.3(b)(3), the Privacy Act Officer shall send a written acknowledgment of receipt to the requesting individual.

(2) As soon as reasonably possible, normally within 20 business days following receipt of the request, the Privacy Act Officer shall send a written notification that informs the individual whether the requested records exist and, if the requested records exist, whether access is granted or denied, in whole or in part.

(c) *Access procedures.* If access is granted, in whole or in part, the Privacy Act Officer shall provide the individual with a reasonable period of time to inspect the records at OFHEO during normal business hours or shall mail

a copy of the requested records to the individual.

(d) *Denial procedures.* If access is denied, in whole or in part, the Privacy Act Officer shall inform the individual of the reasons for the denial and of the right to appeal the denial, as set forth in § 1720.9.

§ 1720.5 Special procedures for medical records.

The Privacy Act Officer shall grant access to medical records to the requesting individual to whom the medical records pertain. However, if, in the judgment of OFHEO, such direct access may have an adverse effect on that individual, the Privacy Act Officer shall transmit the medical records to a licensed medical doctor named by the individual.

§ 1720.6 Requirements for verification of identity.

(a) *Written requests submitted in person.* Any individual who submits in person a written request under this part, may be required to present two forms of identification, such as an employment identification card, driver's license, passport, or other document typically used for identification purposes. One of the two forms of identification must contain the individual's photograph and signature.

(b) *Other written requests.* Any individual who submits, other than in person, a written request under this part may be required to provide either one or both of the following:

(1) Minimal identifying information, such as full name, date and place of birth, or other personal information.

(2) At the election of the individual, either a certification of a duly commissioned notary public of any State or territory or the District of Columbia attesting to the requesting individual's identity or an unsworn declaration subscribed to as true under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America.

§ 1720.7 Requests for amendment of individual records.

(a) *Procedures for requesting amendment of a record.* Any individual may request amendment of any record about him/her that the individual believes is

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not accurate, relevant, timely, or complete. To request amendment, the individual must submit a written request to the Privacy Act Officer, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, 1700 G Street, NW., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20552. The request should include—

(1) The reason for requesting the amendment;

(2) A description of the record, or portion thereof, including the name of the appropriate designated system of records, sufficient to enable the Privacy Act Officer to identify the particular record or portion thereof; and

(3) If available, a copy of the record, or portion thereof, on which the specific portion requested to be amended is notated.

(b) *Requirement for identifying information.* The Privacy Act Officer may require the individual making the request for amendment to provide the identifying information specified in § 1720.6.

§ 1720.8 Decision to grant or deny requests for amendment of individual records.

(a) *Notification procedures.* Within 10 business days following receipt of a request for amendment of records, the Privacy Act Officer shall send a written acknowledgment of receipt to the requesting individual. As soon as reasonably possible, normally within 30 business days from the receipt of the request for amendment, the Privacy Act Officer shall send a written notification to the individual that informs him/her of the decision to grant or deny, in whole or in part, the request for amendment.

(b) *Amendment procedures.* If the request is granted, in whole or in part, the requested amendment shall be made to the subject record. A copy of the amended record shall be provided to all prior recipients of the subject record in accordance with § 1720.12(b).

(c) *Denial procedures.* If the request is denied, in whole or in part, the Privacy Act Officer shall include in the written notification the reasons for the denial and an explanation of the right to appeal the denial, as set forth in § 1720.9.

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§ 1720.9 Appeals of the initial decision to deny access to or amendment of individual records.

Any individual may appeal the initial denial, in whole or in part, of a request for access to or amendment of his/her record. To appeal, the individual must submit a written appeal, within 30 business days following receipt of written notification of denial, to the Privacy Act Appeals Officer, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, 1700 G Street, NW., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20552. Both the envelope and the appeal request should be marked “Privacy Act Appeal.” The appeal should include—

(a) The information specified for requests for access in § 1720.3(b)(3) or for requests for amendment in § 1720.7, as appropriate;

(b) A copy of the initial denial notice; and

(c) Any other relevant information for consideration by the Privacy Act Appeals Officer.

§ 1720.10 Decision to grant or deny appeals.

(a) *Notification of decision.* Within 30 business days following receipt of the appeal, the Privacy Act Appeals Officer shall send a written notification of the decision to grant or deny to the individual making the appeal. The Privacy Act Appeals Officer may extend the 30-day notification period for good cause. If the time period is extended, the Privacy Act Appeals Officer shall inform in writing the individual making the appeal of the reason for the extension and the expected date of the final decision.

(b) *Appeal granted.* If the appeal for access is granted, in whole or in part, the Privacy Act Appeals Officer shall provide the individual with reasonable time to inspect the requested records at OFHEO during normal business hours or mail a copy of the requested records to the individual. If the appeal for amendment is granted, in whole or in part, the requested amendment shall be made. A copy of the amended record shall be provided to all prior recipients of the subject record in accordance with § 1720.12(b).

(c) *Appeal denied.* If the Privacy Act Appeals Officer denies, in whole or in

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part, the appeal for access or amendment, he/she shall include in the written notification of the reasons for the denial an explanation of the right to seek judicial review of the final decision, and, with respect to an appeal for amendment, the right to submit a statement of disagreement under paragraph (d) of this section.

(d) *Statements of disagreement and explanation.* (1) Upon receipt of a decision to deny, in whole or in part, the appeal for amendment of records, the individual may file a statement with the Privacy Act Appeals Officer that sets forth his/her reasons for disagreeing with the decision. The Privacy Act Appeals Officer shall attach the statement of disagreement to the record that is the subject of the request for amendment. In response to the statement of disagreement, the Privacy Act Appeals Officer has the discretion to prepare a statement that explains why the requested amendment was not made. If prepared, the statement of explanation shall be attached to the subject record and a copy of the statement provided to the individual who filed the statement of disagreement.

(2) The Privacy Act Appeals Officer shall provide a copy of any statement of disagreement, and may provide any statement of explanation, to prior recipients of the subject record in accordance with § 1720.12(b).

(e) *Right to judicial review.* If OFHEO does not comply with the notification procedures under paragraph (a) of this § 1720.10 with respect to an appeal for amendment of records, the appealing individual may bring a civil action against OFHEO in the appropriate district court of the United States, as provided for under 5 U.S.C. 552a(g)(1)(A) and 552a(g)(5) before receiving the written notification of the decision.

§ 1720.11 Disclosure of individual records to other persons or agencies.

(a) OFHEO may disclose a record to a person or agency other than the individual about whom the record pertains only under one or more of the following circumstances:

(1) If requested and authorized in writing by the individual.

(2) With the prior written consent of the individual.

(3) If such disclosure is required under the Freedom of Information Act.

(4) For a routine use, as defined in § 1720.2, with respect to a designated system of records as described by OFHEO in its notice of systems of records published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(5) Pursuant to the order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(6) To the following persons or agencies—

(i) Officers and employees of OFHEO who have a need for the record in the performance of their duties;

(ii) The Bureau of the Census for purposes of planning or carrying out a census or survey or related activity pursuant to the provisions of title 13 of the United States Code;

(iii) A recipient who has provided OFHEO with advance, adequate written assurance that the record will be used solely as a statistical research or reporting record, and the record is to be transferred in a form that is not individually identifiable;

(iv) The National Archives and Records Administration as a record which has sufficient historical or other value to warrant its continued preservation by the U.S. Government, or for evaluation by the Archivist of the United States to determine whether the record has such value;

(v) An agency or an instrumentality of any governmental jurisdiction within or under the control of the United States for a civil or criminal law enforcement activity if the activity is authorized by law, and if the head of the agency or instrumentality has made a written request to OFHEO specifying the particular portion of the record desired and the law enforcement activity for which the record is sought;

(vi) A person pursuant to a showing of compelling circumstances affecting the health or safety of an individual if, concurrently with such disclosure, notification is transmitted to the last known address of the individual to whom the record pertains;

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(vii) Either House of Congress, or, to the extent of matter within its jurisdiction, any committee or subcommittee thereof, any joint committee of Congress, or subcommittee of any such joint committee;

(viii) The Comptroller General, or any of his/her authorized representatives, in the course of the performance of the duties of the General Accounting Office; or

(ix) A consumer reporting agency in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3711(e).

(b) Before a record is disclosed to other persons or agencies under paragraph (a) (1) or (2) of this section, the identifying information specified in § 1720.6 may be required.

§ 1720.12 Accounting of disclosures.

(a) OFHEO shall keep an accurate accounting of the date, nature, and purpose of each disclosure of a record, and the name and address of each person or agency to whom a disclosure was made under § 1720.11, except for disclosures made under § 1720.11(a)(3) or (a)(6)(i). OFHEO shall retain such accounting for at least 5 years or the life of the record, whichever is longer, after the disclosure for which the accounting was made.

(b) When a record has been amended, in whole or in part, or when a statement of disagreement has been filed, a copy of the amended record and any statement of disagreement must be provided, and any statement of explanation may be provided, to all prior and subsequent recipients of the affected record whose identities can be determined pursuant to the disclosure accountings required under paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 1720.13 Requests for accounting of disclosures.

(a) Any individual may request an accounting of disclosures of records about him/her for which an accounting is required to be maintained under § 1720.12(a) by submitting a written request to the Privacy Act Officer, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, 1700 G Street, NW., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20552. Before processing the request, the Privacy Act Officer may require that the individual

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provide the identifying information specified under § 1720.6.

(b) The Privacy Act Officer shall make available the accounting of disclosures required to be maintained under § 1720.12, except for an accounting made under § 1720.11(a)(6)(v).

§ 1720.14 Fees.

OFHEO shall not charge any fees for providing a copy of any records, pursuant to a request for access under this part.

§ 1720.15 Preservation of records.

OFHEO shall preserve all correspondence relating to the written requests it receives and all records processed pursuant to such requests under this part, in accordance with the records retention provisions of General Records Schedule 14, Informational Services Records. OFHEO shall not destroy records that are subject to a pending request for access, amendment, appeal, or lawsuit pursuant to the Privacy Act.

§ 1720.16 Rights of parents and legal guardians.

For purposes of this part, a parent of any minor or the legal guardian of any individual who has been declared to be incompetent due to physical or mental incapacity or age by a court of competent jurisdiction may act on behalf of the individual.

§ 1720.17 Penalties.

The Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(3)) makes it a misdemeanor, subject to a maximum fine of \$5,000, to knowingly and willfully request or obtain any record concerning an individual from OFHEO under false pretenses.

PART 1730—DEBT COLLECTION

Subpart A—General

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1730.3 Collection of debts and referrals to the Department of the Treasury.

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Subpart B—Salary Offset

1730.20 Authority and scope.

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- 1730.21 Notice requirements before salary offset where OFHEO is the creditor agency.
- 1730.22 Review of OFHEO records related to the debt.
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Subpart C—Administrative Offset

- 1730.40 Authority and scope.
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Subpart D—Tax Refund Offset

- 1730.50 Authority and scope.
- 1730.51 Definitions.
- 1730.52 Procedures.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 5514; 26 U.S.C. 6402(d); 31 U.S.C. 3701–3720A.

SOURCE: 64 FR 34969, June 30, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General

§ 1730.1 Authority and scope.

(a) *Authority.* The Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO) issues this part 1730 under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 5514 and 31 U.S.C. 3701–3720A, and in conformity with the FCCS at 4 CFR chapter II; the regulations on salary offset issued by

the Office of Personnel Management at 5 CFR part 550, subpart K; and the regulations on tax refund offset issued by the Internal Revenue Service at 26 CFR 301.6402–6.

(b) *Scope.* (1) This part 1730 applies to debts that are owed to the Federal Government by Federal employees, other persons, organizations, or entities that are indebted to OFHEO, and by Federal employees of OFHEO who are indebted to other agencies, except for those debts listed in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(2) Subparts B and C of this part 1730 do not apply to:

(i) Debts or claims arising under the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*) or the tariff laws of the United States;

(ii) Any case to which the Contract Disputes Act (41 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) applies;

(iii) Any case where collection of a debt is explicitly provided for or provided by another statute, *e.g.* travel advances under 5 U.S.C. 5705 and employee training expenses under 5 U.S.C. 4108, or, as provided for by title 11 of the United States Code, when the claims involve bankruptcy;

(iv) Any debt based in whole or in part on conduct in violation of the antitrust laws or involving fraud, the presentation of a false claim, or misrepresentation on the part of the debtor or any party having an interest in the claim, unless the Department of Justice authorizes OFHEO to handle the collection;

(v) Claims between agencies; or

(vi) A claim that has been outstanding for more than 10 years after the creditor agency's right to collect the debt first accrued, unless facts material to the Federal Government's right to collect were not known and could not reasonably have been known by the officials charged with the responsibility for discovery and collection of such debts.

(3) Nothing in this part 1730 precludes the compromise, suspension, or termination of collection actions, where appropriate under the FCCS, or the use of alternative dispute resolution methods if they are not inconsistent with applicable law and regulations.

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(4) Nothing in this part 1730 precludes an employee from requesting waiver of an erroneous payment under 5 U.S.C. 5584, 10 U.S.C. 2774, or 32 U.S.C. 716, or from questioning the amount or validity of a debt, in the manner set forth in this part 1730.

§ 1730.2 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to the terms used in this part 1730, unless the term is defined elsewhere in this part 1730.

(a) *Administrative offset* means an action, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3716, in which the Federal Government withholds funds payable to, or held by the Federal Government for a person, organization, or other entity in order to collect a debt from that person, organization, or other entity. Such funds include funds payable by the Federal Government on behalf of a State Government.

(b) *Agency* means a department, agency, court, court administrative office, or instrumentality in the executive, judicial, or legislative branch of the Federal Government, including government corporations.

(c) *Claim* or *debt* (used interchangeably in this part 1730) means any amount of funds or property that has been determined by an agency official to be due the Federal Government by a person, organization, or entity, except another agency. It also means any amount of money, funds, or property owed by a person to a State, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. A claim or debt includes:

(1) Funds owed on account of loans made, insured, or guaranteed by the Federal Government, including any deficiency or any difference between the price obtained by the Federal Government in the sale of a property and the amount owed to the Federal Government on a mortgage on the property;

(2) Expenditures of non-appropriated funds;

(3) Overpayments, including payments disallowed by audits performed by the Inspector General of the agency administering the program;

(4) Any amount the Federal Government is authorized by statute to collect for the benefit of any person;

(5) The unpaid share of any non-Federal partner in a program involving a Federal payment, and a matching or cost-sharing payment by the non-Federal partner;

(6) Any fines or penalties assessed by an agency; and

(7) Other amounts of money or property owed to the Federal Government.

(d) *Certification* means a written statement received by a paying agency from a creditor agency that request the paying agency to offset the salary of an employee and specifies that required procedural protections have been afforded the employee.

(e) *Compromise* means the settlement or forgiveness of a debt.

(f) *Creditor agency* means the agency to which the debt is owed, including a debt collection center when acting in behalf of a creditor agency in matters pertaining to the collection of a debt.

(g) *Debt*. See *Claim* or *debt* in paragraph (c) of this section.

(h) *Debt collection center* means the Department of the Treasury or any other agency or division designated by the Secretary of the Treasury with authority to collect debts on behalf of creditor agencies in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3711(g).

(i) *Debtor* means the person, organization, or entity owing money to the Federal Government.

(j) *Disposable pay* means that part of current basic pay, special pay, incentive pay, retired pay, or retainer pay (or in the case of an employee not entitled to basic pay, other authorized pay) remaining after the deduction of any amount required by law to be withheld (other than deductions to execute garnishment orders in accordance with 5 CFR parts 581 and 582). Among the legally required deductions that OFHEO must apply first to determine disposable pay are levies pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code (title 26, United States Code) and deductions described in 5 CFR 581.105 (b) through (f), as follows:

(1) Federal employment taxes;

(2) Amounts withheld for the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home;

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(3) Amounts deducted for Medicare;

(4) Fines and forfeiture ordered by a court-martial or by a commanding officer;

(5) Federal, State, or local income taxes to the extent authorized or required by law, but no greater than would be the case if the employee claimed all dependents to which her or she is entitled and such additional amounts for which the employee presents evidence of a tax obligation supporting the additional withholding;

(6) Health insurance premiums;

(7) Normal retirement contributions, including employee contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan; and

(8) Normal life insurance premiums, e.g., Serviceman's Group Life Insurance and "Basic Life" Federal Employee's Group Life Insurance premiums, not including amounts deducted for supplementary coverage.

(k) *Employee* means a current employee of OFHEO or other agency, including a current member of the Armed Forces or a Reserve of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(l) *FCCS* means the Federal Claims Collection Standards at 4 CFR chapter II.

(m) *Hearing official* means an individual who is responsible for conducting any hearing with respect to the existence or amount of a debt claimed and for rendering a decision on the basis of such hearing. A hearing official may not be under the supervision or control of the Director of OFHEO when OFHEO is the creditor agency but may be an administrative law judge.

(n) *Notice of Intent* means a written notice of a creditor agency to a debtor that states that the debtor owes a debt to the creditor agency and apprises the debtor of the applicable procedural rights.

(o) *Notice of salary offset* means a written notice from the paying agency to an employee after a certification has been issued by a creditor agency that informs the employee that salary offset will begin at the next officially established pay interval.

(p) *Paying agency* means an agency of the Federal Government that employs the individual who owes a debt to an agency of the Federal Government.

(q) *Salary offset* means an administrative offset to collect a debt under 5 U.S.C. 5514 by deductions at one or more officially established pay intervals from the current pay account of an employee without his or her consent.

(r) *Waiver* means the cancellation, remission, forgiveness, or non-recovery of a debt allegedly owed by an employee to OFHEO or another agency as permitted or required by 5 U.S.C. 5584 or 8346(b), 10 U.S.C. 2774, 32 U.S.C. 716, or any other law.

§ 1730.3 Collection of debts and referrals to the Department of the Treasury.

(a) *Collection activity*. The collection of debts directly and by offset shall be pursued in accordance with this part 1730. This part 1730 incorporates all applicable debt collection provisions of the FCCS and supplements the FCCS by the prescription of procedures necessary and appropriate for the operations of OFHEO.

(b) *Referral of delinquent debts*. (1) OFHEO shall transfer to the Secretary of the Department of the Treasury any past due, legally enforceable nontax debt that has been delinquent for a period of 180 days or more so that the Secretary may take appropriate action to collect the debt or terminate collection action in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3716, 5 U.S.C. 5514, the FCCS, 5 CFR 550.1108, and 31 CFR part 285.

(2) OFHEO may transfer any past due, legally enforceable nontax debt that has been delinquent for less than a period of 180 days to a debt collection center for collection in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3716, 5 U.S.C. 5514, 5 CFR 550.1108, 31 CFR part 285, and the FCCS.

§§ 1730.4–1730.19 [Reserved]

Subpart B—Salary Offset

§ 1730.20 Authority and scope.

(a) *Authority*. OFHEO may collect debts owed by employees to the Federal Government by means of salary offset under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 5514, 5 CFR part 550, subpart K, and this subpart B.

(b) *Scope*. (1) The procedures set forth in this subpart B apply to situations

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where OFHEO is attempting to collect a debt by salary offset that is owed to it by an individual employed by OFHEO or by another agency; or where OFHEO employs an individual who owes a debt to another agency.

(2) The procedures set forth in this subpart B do not apply to:

(i) Any routine intra-agency adjustment of pay that is attributable to clerical or administrative error or delay in processing pay documents that have occurred within the four pay periods preceding the adjustment, or any adjustment to collect a debt amounting to \$50 or less. However, at the time of any such adjustment, or as soon thereafter as possible, OFHEO or its designated payroll agent shall provide the employee with a written notice of the nature and the amount of the adjustment and a point of contact for contesting such adjustment.

(ii) Any negative adjustment to pay that arises from an employee's election of coverage or a change in coverage under a Federal benefits program that requires periodic deductions from pay, if the amount to be recovered was accumulated over four pay periods or less. However, at the time the such adjustment is made, OFHEO or its payroll agent shall provide in the employee's earnings statement a clear and concise statement that informs the employee of the previous overpayment.

§ 1730.21 Notice requirements before salary offset where OFHEO is the creditor agency.

(a) *Notice of Intent.* Deductions from an employee's salary may not be made unless OFHEO provides the employee with a Notice of Intent a minimum of 30 calendar days before the salary offset is initiated.

(b) *Contents of Notice of Intent.* The Notice of Intent shall advise the employee of the following:

(1) OFHEO has reviewed the records relating to the claim and has determined that the employee owes the debt;

(2) OFHEO intends to collect the debt by deductions from the employee's current disposable pay account;

(3) The amount of the debt and the facts giving rise to the debt;

(4) The frequency and amount of the intended deduction (stated as a fixed dollar amount or as a percentage of pay not to exceed 15 percent of disposable pay), and the intention to continue the deductions until the debt and all accumulated interest are paid in full or otherwise resolved;

(5) The name, address, and telephone number of the person to whom the employee may propose a written alternative schedule for voluntary repayment, in lieu of salary offset. The employee shall include a justification for the alternative schedule in his or her proposal. If the terms of the alternative schedule are agreed upon by the employee and OFHEO, the alternative written schedule shall be signed by both the employee and OFHEO;

(6) An explanation of OFHEO's policy concerning interest, penalties, and administrative costs, including a statement that such assessments must be made unless excused in accordance with the FCCS;

(7) The employee's right to inspect and copy all records of OFHEO pertaining to his or her debt that are not exempt from disclosure or to receive copies of such records if he or she is unable personally to inspect the records as the result of geographical or other constraints;

(8) The name, address, and telephone number of the OFHEO employee to whom requests for access to records relating to the debt must be sent;

(9) The employee's right to a hearing conducted by an impartial hearing official with respect to the existence and amount of the debt claimed or the repayment schedule *i.e.*, the percentage of disposable pay to be deducted each pay period, so long as a request is filed by the employee as prescribed in § 1730.23; the name and address of the office to which the request for a hearing should be sent; and the name, address, and telephone number of a person whom the employee may contact concerning procedures for requesting a hearing;

(10) The filing of a request for a hearing on or before the 15th calendar day following receipt of the Notice of Intent will stay the commencement of collection proceedings and a final decision on whether a hearing will be held

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(if a hearing is requested) will be issued at the earliest practical date;

(11) OFHEO shall initiate certification procedures to implement a salary offset unless the employee files a request for a hearing on or before the 15th calendar day following receipt of the Notice of Intent;

(12) Any knowingly false or frivolous statement, representations, or evidence may subject the employee to:

(i) Disciplinary procedures appropriate under 5 U.S.C. chapter LXXV, 5 CFR part 752, or any other applicable statutes or regulations;

(ii) Penalties under the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. 3729–3731, or under any other applicable statutory authority; or

(iii) Criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. 286, 287, 1001, and 1002, or under any other applicable statutory authority;

(13) Any other rights and remedies available to the employee under statutes or regulations governing the program for which the collection is being made;

(14) Unless there are applicable contractual or statutory provisions to the contrary, amounts paid on or deducted from debts that are later waived or found not to be owed to the Federal Government shall be promptly refunded to the employee; and

(15) Proceedings with respect to the debt are governed by 5 U.S.C. 5514.

§ 1730.22 Review of OFHEO records related to the debt.

(a) *Request for review.* An employee who desires to inspect or copy OFHEO records related to a debt owed by the employee to OFHEO must send a letter to the individual designated in the Notice of Intent requesting access to the relevant records. The letter must be received in the office of that individual within 15 calendar days after the employee's receipt of the Notice of Intent.

(b) *Review location and time.* In response to a timely request submitted by the employee, the employee shall be notified of the location and time when the employee may inspect and copy records related to his or her debt that are not exempt from disclosure. If the employee is unable personally to inspect such records as the result of geo-

graphical or other constraints, OFHEO shall arrange to send copies of such records to the employee.

§ 1730.23 Opportunity for a hearing where OFHEO is the creditor agency.

(a) *Request for a hearing.* (1) *Time-period for submission.* An employee who requests a hearing on the existence or amount of the debt held by OFHEO or on the salary-offset schedule proposed by OFHEO, must send such request to OFHEO. The request for a hearing must be received by OFHEO on or before the 15th calendar day following receipt by the employee of the Notice of Intent.

(2) *Failure to submit timely.* If the employee files a request for a hearing after the expiration of the 15th calendar day, OFHEO may accept the request if the employee can show that the delay was the result of circumstances beyond his or her control or that he or she failed to receive actual notice of the filing deadline.

(3) *Contents of request.* The request for a hearing must be signed by the employee and must fully identify and explain with reasonable specificity all the facts, evidence, and witnesses, if any, that the employee believes support his or her position. The employee must also specify whether he or she requests an oral hearing. If an oral hearing is requested, the employee should explain why a hearing by examination of the documents without an oral hearing would not resolve the matter.

(4) *Failure to request a hearing.* The failure of an employee to request a hearing will be considered an admission by the employee that the debt exists in the amount specified in the Notice of Intent that was provided to the employee under § 1730.21(b).

(b) *Obtaining the services of a hearing official.* (1) *Debtor is not OFHEO employee.* When the debtor is not an OFHEO employee and OFHEO cannot provide a prompt and appropriate hearing before an administrative law judge or other hearing official, OFHEO may request a hearing official from an agent of the paying agency, as designated in 5 CFR part 581, appendix A, or as otherwise designated by the paying agency.

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(2) *Debtor is OFHEO employee.* When the debtor is an OFHEO employee, OFHEO may contact any agent of another agency, as designated in 5 CFR part 581, appendix A, or as otherwise designated by the agency, to request a hearing official.

(c) *Procedure.* (1) *Notice of hearing.* After the employee requests a hearing, the hearing official shall notify the employee of the form of the hearing to be provided. If the hearing will be oral, the notice shall set forth the date, time, and location of the hearing, which must occur no more than 30 calendar days after the request is received, unless the employee requests that the hearing be delayed. If the hearing will be conducted by an examination of documents, the employee shall be notified within 30 calendar days that he or she should submit evidence and arguments in writing to the hearing official.

(2) *Oral hearing.* (i) An employee who requests an oral hearing shall be provided an oral hearing if the hearing official determines that the matter cannot be resolved by an examination of the documents alone, as for example, when an issue of credibility or veracity is involved. The oral hearing need not be an adversarial adjudication and rules of evidence need not apply. Witnesses who testify in an oral hearing shall do so under oath or affirmation.

(ii) Oral hearings may take the form of, but are not limited to:

(A) Informal conferences with the hearing official in which the employee and agency representative are given full opportunity to present evidence, witnesses, and argument;

(B) Informal meetings in which the hearing examiner interviews the employee; or

(C) Formal written submissions followed by an opportunity for oral presentation.

(3) *Hearing by examination of documents.* If the hearing official determines that an oral hearing is not necessary, he or she shall make the determination based upon an examination of the documents.

(d) *Record.* The hearing official shall maintain a summary record of any hearing conducted under this section.

(e) *Decision.* (1) The hearing official shall issue a written opinion stating his or her decision, based upon all evidence and information developed during the hearing, as soon as practicable after the hearing, but not later than 60 calendar days after the date on which the request was received by OFHEO, unless the hearing was delayed at the request of the employee, in which case the 60-day decision period shall be extended by the number of days by which the hearing was postponed.

(2) The decision of the hearing official shall be final and is considered to be an official certification regarding the existence and the amount of the debt for purposes of executing salary offset under 5 U.S.C. 5514. If the hearing official determines that a debt may not be collected by salary offset, but OFHEO finds that the debt is still valid, OFHEO may seek collection of the debt through other means in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

(f) *Content of decision.* The written decision shall include:

(1) A summary of the facts concerning the origin, nature, and amount of the debt;

(2) The hearing official's findings, analysis, and conclusions; and

(3) The terms of any repayment schedules, if applicable.

(g) *Failure to appear.* If, in the absence of good cause shown, such as illness, the employee or the representative of OFHEO fails to appear, the hearing official shall proceed with the hearing as scheduled, and make his or decision based upon the oral testimony presented and the documentation submitted by both parties. At the request of both parties, the hearing official may schedule a new hearing date. Both parties shall be given reasonable notice of the time and place of the new hearing.

§ 1730.24 Certification where OFHEO is the creditor agency.

(a) *Issuance.* OFHEO shall issue a certification in all cases where the hearing official determines that a debt exists or the employee admits the existence and amount of the debt, as for example, by failing to request a hearing.

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(b) *Contents.* The certification must be in writing and state:

- (1) That the employee owes the debt;
- (2) The amount and basis of the debt;
- (3) The date of the Federal Government's right to collect the debt first accrued;
- (4) The date the employee was notified of the debt, the action(s) taken pursuant to OFHEO's regulations, and the dates such actions were taken;
- (5) If the collection is to be made by lump-sum payment, the amount and date such payment will be collected;
- (6) If the collection is to be made in installments, the amount or percentage of disposable pay to be collected in each installment and, if OFHEO wishes, the desired commencing date of the first installments, if a date other than the next officially established pay period; and
- (7) A statement that OFHEO's regulation on salary offset has been approved by the Office of Personnel Management pursuant to 5 CFR part 550, subpart K.

§ 1730.25 Voluntary repayment agreements as alternative to salary offset where OFHEO is the creditor agency.

(a) *Proposed repayment schedule.* In response to a Notice of Intent, an employee may propose to repay the debt voluntarily in lieu of salary offset by submitting a written proposed repayment schedule to OFHEO. Any proposal under this section must be received by OFHEO within 15 calendar days after receipt of the Notice of Intent.

(b) *Notification of decision.* In response to a timely proposal by the employee, OFHEO shall notify the employee whether the employee's proposed repayment schedule is acceptable. OFHEO has the discretion to accept, reject, or propose to the employee a modification of the proposed repayment schedule.

(1) If OFHEO decides that the proposed repayment schedule is unacceptable, the employee shall have 15 calendar days from the date he or she received notice of the decision in which to file a request for a hearing.

(2) If OFHEO decides that the proposed repayment schedule is acceptable or the employee agrees to a modification proposed by OFHEO, an agreement

shall be put in writing and signed by both the employee and OFHEO.

§ 1730.26 Special review where OFHEO is the creditor agency.

(a) *Request for review.* (1) An employee subject to salary offset or a voluntary repayment agreement may, at any time, request a special review by OFHEO of the amount of the salary offset or voluntary repayment, based on materially changed circumstances, including, but not limited to, catastrophic illness, divorce, death, or disability.

(2) The request for special review must include an alternative proposed offset or payment schedule and a detailed statement, with supporting documents, that shows why the current salary offset or payments result in extreme financial hardship to the employee and his or her spouse and dependents. The detailed statement must indicate:

- (i) Income from all sources;
- (ii) Assets;
- (iii) Liabilities;
- (iv) Number of dependents;
- (v) Expenses for food, housing, clothing, and transportation;
- (vi) Medical expenses; and
- (vii) Exceptional expenses, if any.

(b) *Evaluation of request.* OFHEO shall evaluate the statement and supporting documents and determine whether the original offset or repayment schedule imposes extreme financial hardship on the employee. OFHEO shall notify the employee in writing within 30 calendar days of such determination, including, if appropriate, a revised offset or payment schedule. If the special review results in a revised offset or repayment schedule, OFHEO shall provide a new certification to the paying agency.

§ 1730.27 Notice of salary offset where OFHEO is the paying agency.

(a) *Notice.* Upon issuance of a proper certification by OFHEO (for debts owed to OFHEO) or upon receipt of a proper certification from another creditor agency, OFHEO shall send the employee a written notice of salary offset.

(b) *Content of notice.* Such written notice of salary offset shall advise the employee of the:

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(1) Certification that has been issued by OFHEO or received from another creditor agency;

(2) Amount of the debt and of the deductions to be made; and

(3) Date and pay period when the salary offset will begin.

(c) If OFHEO is not the creditor agency, OFHEO shall provide a copy of the notice of salary offset to the creditor agency and advise the creditor agency of the dollar amount to be offset and the pay period when the offset will begin.

§ 1730.28 Procedures for salary offset where OFHEO is the paying agency.

(a) *Generally.* OFHEO shall coordinate salary deductions under this section and shall determine the amount of an employee's disposable pay and the amount of the salary offset subject to the requirements in this section. Deductions shall begin the pay period following the issuance of the certification by OFHEO or the receipt by OFHEO of the certification from another agency, or as soon thereafter as possible.

(b) *Types of collection.* (1) *Lump-sum payment.* If the amount of the debt is equal to or less than 15 percent of the employee's disposable pay, such debt ordinarily will be collected in one lump-sum payment.

(2) *Installment deductions.* Installment deductions will be made over a period not greater than the anticipated period of employment. The size and frequency of installment deductions will bear a reasonable relation to the size of the debt and the employee's ability to pay. However, the amount deducted for any pay period will not exceed 15 percent of the disposable pay from which the deduction is made unless the employee has agreed in writing to the deduction of a greater amount. The installment payment should normally be sufficient in size and frequency to liquidate the debt in no more than three years. Installment payments of less than \$50 should be accepted only in the most unusual circumstances.

(3) *Lump-sum deductions from final check.* In order to liquidate a debt, a lump-sum deduction exceeding 15 percent of disposable pay may be made pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3716 from any final salary payment due a former em-

ployee, whether the former employee was separated voluntarily or involuntarily.

(4) *Lump-sum deductions from other sources.* Whenever an employee subject to salary offset is separated from OFHEO, and the balance of the debt cannot be liquidated by offset of the final salary check, OFHEO may offset any later payments of any kind to the former employee to collect the balance of the debt pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3716.

(c) *Multiple debts.* (1) Where two or more creditor agencies are seeking salary offset, or where two or more debts are owed to a single creditor agency, OFHEO may, at his or her discretion, determine whether one or more debts should be offset simultaneously within the 15 percent limitation.

(2) In the event that a debt owed OFHEO is certified while an employee is subject to salary offset to repay another agency, OFHEO may, at its discretion, determine whether the debt to OFHEO should be repaid before the debt to the other agency is repaid, repaid simultaneously with the other debt, or repaid after the debt to the other agency.

(3) A levy pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall take precedence over other deductions under this section, as provided in 5 U.S.C. 5514(d).

§ 1730.29 Coordinating salary offset with other agencies.

(a) *Responsibility of OFHEO as the creditor agency.* (1) OFHEO shall be responsible for:

(i) Arranging for a hearing upon proper request by a Federal employee;

(ii) Preparing the Notice of Intent consistent with the requirements of § 1730.21;

(iii) Obtaining hearing officials from other agencies pursuant to § 1730.23(b); and

(iv) Ensuring that each certification of debt is sent to a paying agency pursuant to § 1730.24(b).

(2) Upon completion of the procedures set forth in §§ 1730.24–1730.26, OFHEO shall submit to the employee's paying agency, if applicable, a certified debt claim and an installment agreement or other instruction on the payment schedule.

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(i) If the employee is in the process of separating from the Federal Government, OFHEO shall submit its debt claim to the employee's paying agency for collection by lump-sum deduction from the employee's final check. The paying agency shall certify the total amount of its collection and furnish a copy of the certification to OFHEO and to the employee.

(ii) If the employee is already separated and all payments due from his or her former paying agency have been paid, OFHEO may, unless otherwise prohibited, request that money due and payable to the employee from the Federal Government be administratively offset to collect the debt.

(iii) When an employee transfers to another paying agency, OFHEO shall not repeat the procedures described in § 1730.24 and 1730.26. Upon receiving notice of the employee's transfer, OFHEO shall review the debt to ensure that collection is resumed by the new paying agency.

(b) *Responsibility of OFHEO as the paying agency.* (1) *Complete claim.* When OFHEO receives a certified claim from a creditor agency, the employee shall be given written notice of the certification, the date salary offset will begin, and the amount of the periodic deductions. Deductions shall be scheduled to begin at the next officially established pay interval or as otherwise provided for in the certification.

(2) *Incomplete claim.* When OFHEO receives an incomplete certification of debt from a creditor agency, OFHEO shall return the claim with notice that procedures under 5 U.S.C. 5514 and 5 CFR 550.1104 must be followed, and that a properly certified claim must be received before OFHEO will take action to collect the debt from the employee's current pay account.

(3) *Review.* OFHEO is not authorized to review the merits of the creditor agency's determination with respect to the amount or validity of the debt certified by the creditor agency.

(4) *Employees who transfer from one paying agency to another agency.* If, after the creditor agency has submitted the debt claim to OFHEO, the employee transfers to another agency before the debt is collected in full, OFHEO must certify the total amount

collected on the debt. One copy of the certification shall be furnished to the employee and one copy shall be sent to the creditor agency along with notice of the employee's transfer. If OFHEO is aware that the employee is entitled to payments from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund or other similar payments, it must provide written notification to the agency responsible for making such payments that the debtor owes a debt (including the amount) and that the requirements set forth herein and in 5 CFR part 550, subpart k, have been met.

§ 1730.30 Interest, penalties, and administrative costs.

Where OFHEO is the creditor agency, OFHEO shall assess interest, penalties, and administrative costs pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3717 and the FCCS.

§ 1730.31 Refunds.

(a) Where OFHEO is the creditor agency, OFHEO shall promptly refund any amount deducted under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 5514 when:

(1) OFHEO receives notice that the debt has been compromised or otherwise found not to be owing to the Federal Government; or

(2) An administrative or judicial order directs OFHEO to make a refund.

(b) Unless required by law or contract, refunds under this section shall not bear interest.

§ 1730.32 Request from a creditor agency for the services of a hearing official.

(a) OFHEO may provide qualified personnel to serve as hearing officials upon request of a creditor agency when—

(1) The debtor is employed by OFHEO and the creditor agency cannot provide a prompt and appropriate hearing before a hearing official furnished pursuant to another lawful arrangement; or

(2) The debtor is employed by the creditor agency and that agency cannot arrange for a hearing official.

(b) Services provided by OFHEO to creditor agencies under this section shall be provided on a fully reimbursable basis pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1535.

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§ 1730.33 Non-waiver of rights by payments.

A debtor's payment, whether voluntary or involuntary, of all or any portion of a debt being collected pursuant to this subpart B shall not be construed as a waiver of any rights that the debtor may have under any statute, regulation, or contract, except as otherwise provided by law or contract.

§§ 1730.34–1730.39 [Reserved]

Subpart C—Administrative Offset

§ 1730.40 Authority and scope.

OFHEO may collect a debt owed to the Federal Government from a person, organization, or other entity by administrative offset, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3716, where:

- (a) The debt is certain in amount;
- (b) Administrative offset is feasible, desirable, and not otherwise prohibited;
- (c) The applicable statute of limitations has not expired; and
- (d) Administrative offset is in the best interest of the Federal Government.

§ 1730.41 Administrative offset prior to completion of procedures.

Prior to the completion of the procedures described in §1730.42, OFHEO may effect administrative offset if failure to offset would substantially prejudice its ability to collect the debt, and if the time before the payment is to be made does not reasonably permit completion of the procedures described in §1730.42. Such prior administrative offset shall be followed promptly by the completion of the procedures described in §1730.42.

§ 1730.42 Procedures.

Unless the procedures described in §1730.41 are used, prior to collecting any debt by administrative offset or referring such claim to another agency for collection through administrative offset, OFHEO shall provide the debtor with the following:

- (a) Written notification of the nature and amount of the debt, the intention of OFHEO to collect the debt through administrative offset, and a statement

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of the rights of the debtor under this section;

- (b) An opportunity to inspect and copy the records of OFHEO related to the debt that are not exempt from disclosure;

(c) An opportunity for review within OFHEO of the determination of indebtedness. Any request for review by the debtor shall be in writing and shall be submitted to OFHEO within 30 calendar days of the date of the notice of the offset. OFHEO may waive the time limits for requesting review for good cause shown by the debtor. OFHEO shall provide the debtor with a reasonable opportunity for an oral hearing when:

- (1) An applicable statute authorizes or requires OFHEO to consider waiver of the indebtedness involved, the debtor requests waiver of the indebtedness, and the waiver determination turns on an issue of credibility or veracity; or

(2) The debtor requests reconsideration of the debt and OFHEO determines that the question of the indebtedness cannot be resolved by review of the documentary evidence, as for example, when the validity of the debt turns on an issue of credibility or veracity. Unless otherwise required by law, an oral hearing under this subpart C is not required to be a formal evidentiary hearing, although OFHEO shall document all significant matters discussed at the hearing. In those cases where an oral hearing is not required by this subpart C, OFHEO shall make its determination on the request for waiver or reconsideration based upon a review of the written record; and

- (d) An opportunity to enter into a written agreement for the repayment of the amount of the claim at the discretion of OFHEO.

§ 1730.43 Interest.

OFHEO shall assess interest, penalties, and administrative costs on debts owed to the Federal Government, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3717 and the FCCS. OFHEO may also assess interest and related charges on debts that are not subject to 31 U.S.C. 3717 and the FCCS to the extent authorized under the common law or other applicable statutory authority.

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§ 1730.44 Refunds.

OFHEO shall refund promptly those amounts recovered by administrative offset but later found not to be owed to the Federal Government.

§ 1730.45 Requests for administrative offset to other Federal agencies.

(a) OFHEO may request that a debt owed to OFHEO be collected by administrative offset against funds due and payable to a debtor by another agency.

(b) In requesting administrative offset, OFHEO, as creditor, shall certify in writing to the agency holding funds of the debtor:

(1) That the debtor owes the debt;

(2) The amount and basis of the debt; and

(3) That OFHEO has complied with the requirements of its own administrative offset regulations and the applicable provisions of the FCCS with respect to providing the debtor with due process.

§ 1730.46 Requests for administrative offset from other Federal agencies.

(a) Any agency may request that funds due and payable to a debtor by OFHEO be administratively offset in order to collect a debt owed to such agency by the debtor.

(b) OFHEO shall initiate the requested administrative offset only upon:

(1) Receipt of written certification from the creditor agency that:

(i) The debtor owes the debt, including the amount and basis of the debt;

(ii) The agency has prescribed regulations for the exercise of administrative offset; and

(iii) The agency has complied with its own administrative offset regulations and with the applicable provisions of the FCCS, including providing any required hearing or review.

(2) A determination by OFHEO that collection by administrative offset against funds payable by OFHEO would be in the best interest of the Federal Government as determined by the facts and circumstances of the particular case and that such administrative offset would not otherwise be contrary to law.

§ 1730.47 Administrative offset against amounts payable from Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund.

(a) *Request for administrative offset.* Unless otherwise prohibited by law, OFHEO may request that monies that are due and payable to a debtor from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (Fund) be offset administratively in reasonable amounts in order to collect in one full payment or in a minimal number of payments debt owed to OFHEO by the debtor. Such requests shall be made to the appropriate officials of the Office of Personnel Management in accordance with such regulations as may be prescribed by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

(b) *Contents of certification.* When making a request for administrative offset under paragraph (a) of this section, OFHEO shall include a written certification that:

(1) The debtor owes OFHEO a debt, including the amount of the debt;

(2) OFHEO has complied with the applicable statutes, regulations, and procedures of the Office of Personnel Management; and

(3) OFHEO has complied with the requirements of the FCCS, including any required hearing or review.

(c) If OFHEO decides to request administrative offset under paragraph (a) of this section, it shall make the request as soon as practicable after completion of the applicable procedures. This will satisfy any requirement that administrative offset be initiated prior to the expiration of the applicable statute of limitations. At such time as the debtor makes a claim for payments from the Fund, if at least one year has elapsed since the administrative offset request was originally made, the debtor shall be permitted to offer a satisfactory repayment plan in lieu of administrative offset if he or she establishes that changed financial circumstances would render the administrative offset unjust.

(d) If OFHEO collects part or all of the debt by other means before deductions are made or completed pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, OFHEO shall act promptly to modify

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or terminate its request for administrative offset under paragraph (a) of this section.

§§ 1730.48–1730.49 [Reserved]

Subpart D—Tax Refund Offset

§ 1730.50 Authority and scope.

The provisions of 26 U.S.C. 6402(d) and 31 U.S.C. 3720A authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to offset a delinquent debt owed the Federal Government from the tax refund due a taxpayer when other collection efforts have failed to recover the amount due.

§ 1730.51 Definitions.

(a)(1) *Debt* means money owed by an individual, organization, or entity from sources which include loans insured or guaranteed by the Federal Government and all other amounts due the Federal Government from fees, leases, services, overpayments, civil and criminal penalties, damages, interest, fines, administrative costs, and all other similar sources.

(2) A debt becomes eligible for tax refund offset procedures if:

(i) It cannot currently be collected pursuant to the salary offset procedures of 5 U.S.C. 5514(a)(1);

(ii) The debt is ineligible for administrative offset under 31 U.S.C. 3716(a) by reason of 31 U.S.C. 3716(c)(2), or it cannot be collected currently by administrative offset under 31 U.S.C. 3716(a); and

(iii) The requirements of this section are otherwise satisfied.

(3) All judgment debts are past due for purposes of this subpart D. Judgment debts remain past due until paid in full.

(b) *Dispute* means a written statement supported by documentation or other evidence that all or part of an alleged debt is not past due or legally enforceable, that the amount is not the amount currently owed, that the outstanding debt has been satisfied, or in the case of a debt reduced to judgment, that the judgement has been satisfied or stayed.

(c) *Notice* means the information sent to the debtor pursuant to § 1730.53. The date of the notice is that date shown

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on the notice letter as its date of issuance.

§ 1730.52 Procedures.

(a) *Referral to the Department of the Treasury.* (1) OFHEO may refer any past due, legally enforceable nonjudgment debt of an individual, organization, or entity to the Department of the Treasury for tax refund offset if OFHEO's or the referring agency's rights of action accrued more than three months but less than 10 years before the offset is made.

(2) Debts reduced to judgment may be referred at any time.

(3) Debts in amounts lower than \$25 are not subject to referral.

(4) In the event that more than one debt is owed, the tax refund offset procedures shall be applied in the order in which the debts became past due.

(5) OFHEO shall notify the Department of the Treasury of any change in the amount due promptly after receipt of payment or notice of other reductions.

(b) *Notice.* OFHEO shall provide the debtor with written notice of its intent to offset before initiating the offset. Notice shall be mailed to the debtor at the current address of the debtor, as determined from information obtained from the Internal Revenue Service pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 6103(m)(2), (4), (5) or maintained by OFHEO. The notice sent to the debtor shall state the amount of the debt and inform the debtor that:

(1) The debt is past due;

(2) OFHEO intends to refer the debt to the Department of the Treasury for offset from tax refunds that may be due to the taxpayer;

(3) OFHEO intends to provide information concerning the delinquent debt exceeding \$100 to a consumer reporting bureau unless such debt has already been disclosed; and

(4) Before the debt is reported to a consumer reporting agency, if applicable, and referred to the Department of the Treasury for offset from tax refunds, the debtor has 65 calendar days from the date of notice to request a review under paragraph (d).

(c) *Report to consumer reporting agency.* If the debtor neither pays the amount due nor presents evidence that

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the amount is not past due or is satisfied or stayed, OFHEO will report the debt to a consumer reporting agency at the end of the notice period, if applicable, and refer the debt to the Department of the Treasury for offset from the taxpayer's Federal tax refund. OFHEO shall certify to the Department of the Treasury that reasonable efforts have been made by OFHEO to obtain payment of such debt.

(d) *Request for review.* A debtor may request a review by OFHEO if he or she believes that all or part of the debt is not past due or is not legally enforceable, or in the case of a judgment debt, that the debt has been stayed or the amount satisfied, as follows:

(1) The debtor must send a written request for review to OFHEO at the address provided in the notice.

(2) The request must state the amount disputed and reasons why the debtor believes that the debt is not past due, is not legally enforceable, has been satisfied, or if a judgment debt, has been satisfied or stayed.

(3) The request must include any documents that the debtor wishes to be considered or state that additional information will be submitted within the time permitted.

(4) If the debtor wishes to inspect records establishing the nature and amount of the debt, the debtor must make a written request to OFHEO for an opportunity for such an inspection. The office holding the relevant records not exempt from disclosure shall make them available for inspection during normal business hours within one week from the date of receipt of the request.

(5) The request for review and any additional information submitted pursuant to the request must be received by OFHEO at the address stated in the notice within 65 calendar days of the date of issuance of the notice.

(6) In reaching its decision, OFHEO shall review the dispute and shall consider its records and any documentation and arguments submitted by the debtor. OFHEO shall send a written notice of its decision to the debtor. There is no administrative appeal of this decision.

(7) If the evidence presented by the debtor is considered by a non-OFHEO agent or other entities or persons act-

ing on behalf of OFHEO, the debtor shall be accorded at least 30 calendar days from the date the agent or other entity or person determines that all or part of the debt is past due and legally enforceable to request review by OFHEO of any unresolved dispute.

(8) Any debt that previously has been reviewed pursuant to this section or any other section of this part, or that has been reduced to a judgment, may not be disputed except on the grounds of payments made or events occurring subsequent to the previous review or judgment.

PART 1750—CAPITAL

Subpart A—Minimum Capital

Sec.

1750.1 General.

1750.2 Definitions.

1750.3 Procedure and timing.

1750.4 Minimum capital requirement computation.

1750.5 Notice of capital classification.

APPENDIX A TO SUBPART A OF PART 1750—
MINIMUM CAPITAL COMPONENTS FOR INTEREST RATE AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATE CONTRACTS

Subpart B [Reserved]

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 4513, 4514, 4612, 4614, 4618.

SOURCE: 61 FR 35620, July 8, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Minimum Capital

§ 1750.1 General.

The regulation contained in this subpart A sets forth the methodology for computing the minimum capital requirement for each Enterprise. The board of directors of each Enterprise is responsible for ensuring that the Enterprise maintains capital at a level that is sufficient to ensure the continued financial viability of the Enterprise and that equals or exceeds the minimum capital requirement contained in this subpart A.

§ 1750.2 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart A, the following definitions shall apply:

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Affiliate means any entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, an Enterprise, except as otherwise provided by the Director.

Commitment means any contractual, legally binding agreement that obligates an Enterprise to purchase or to securitize mortgages.

Core Capital—(1) Means the sum of (as determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles)—

- (i) The par or stated value of outstanding common stock;
- (ii) The par or stated value of outstanding perpetual, noncumulative preferred stock;
- (iii) Paid-in capital; and
- (iv) Retained earnings; and

(2) Does not include debt instruments or any amounts the Enterprise could be required to pay at the option of an investor to retire capital instruments.

Director means the Director of OFHEO.

Enterprise means the Federal National Mortgage Association and any affiliate thereof or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation and any affiliate thereof.

Foreign exchange rate contracts—

(1) Means cross-currency interest rate swaps, forward foreign exchange contracts, currency options purchased (including currency options purchased over-the-counter), and any other instrument that gives rise to similar credit risks; and

(2) Does not mean foreign exchange rate contracts with an original maturity of 14 calendar days or less and foreign exchange rate contracts traded on exchanges that require daily payment of variation margins.

Interest rate contracts—

(1) Means single currency interest rate swaps, basis swaps, forward rate agreements, interest rate options purchased (including caps, collars, and floors purchased), over-the-counter options purchased, and any other instrument that gives rise to similar credit risks (including when-issued securities and forward deposits accepted); and

(2) Does not mean such instruments traded on exchanges that require daily payment of variation margins.

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Mortgage-backed security means a security, investment, or substantially equivalent instrument that represents an interest in a pool of loans secured by mortgages or deeds of trust where the principal or interest payments to the investor in the security or substantially equivalent instrument are guaranteed or effectively guaranteed by an Enterprise.

Multifamily credit enhancement means any guarantee, pledge, purchase arrangement, or other obligation or commitment provided or entered into by an Enterprise with respect to multifamily mortgages to provide credit enhancement, liquidity, interest rate support, and other guarantees and enhancements for revenue bonds issued by a state or local governmental unit (including a housing finance agency) or other bond issuer.

1992 Act means the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992, found at Title XIII of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, Pub. L. 102–550, 12 U.S.C. 4501 *et seq.*

Notional amount means the face value of the underlying financial instrument(s) on which an interest rate or foreign exchange rate contract is based.

Off-balance sheet obligation means a binding agreement, contract, or similar arrangement that requires or may require future payment(s) in money or kind by another party to an Enterprise, or that effectively guarantees all or part of such payment(s) to third parties (including commitments), where such agreement or contract is a source of credit risk that is not included on its balance sheet.

OFHEO means the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

Other off-balance sheet obligations means all off-balance sheet obligations of an Enterprise that are not mortgage-backed securities or substantially equivalent instruments and that are not resecutitized mortgage-backed securities, such as real estate mortgage investment conduits or similar resecutitized instruments.

Perpetual, noncumulative preferred stock means preferred stock that—

- (1) Does not have a maturity date;

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(2) Provides the issuer the ability and the legal right to eliminate dividends and does not permit the accruing or payment of impaired dividends;

(3) Cannot be redeemed at the option of the holder; and

(4) Has no other provisions that will require future redemption of the issue, in whole or in part, or that will reset the dividend periodically based, in whole or in part, on the Enterprise's current credit standing, such as auction rate, money market, or remarketable preferred stock, or that may cause the dividend to increase to a level that could create an incentive for the issuer to redeem the instrument, such as exploding rate stock.

Qualifying collateral means cash on deposit; securities issued or guaranteed by the central governments of the OECD-based group of countries,¹ United States Government agencies, or United States Government-sponsored agencies; and securities issued by multilateral lending institutions or regional development banks.

§ 1750.3 Procedure and timing.

(a) Each Enterprise shall file with the Director a minimum capital report

¹The OECD-based group of countries comprises full members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) regardless of entry date, as well as countries that have concluded special lending arrangements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) associated with the IMF's General Arrangements to Borrow, but excludes any country that has rescheduled its external sovereign debt within the previous 5 years. A rescheduling of external sovereign debt generally would include any renegotiation of terms arising from a country's mobility or unwillingness to meet its external debt service obligations, but generally not include any renegotiation to allow the borrower to take advantage of a decline in interest rate or other change in market conditions. As of November 1995, the OECD countries included the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States; and Saudi Arabia has concluded special lending arrangements with the IMF associated with the IMF's General Arrangements to Borrow.

each quarter or at such other times as the Director requires, in his or her sole discretion. The report shall contain the information that responds to all of the items required by OFHEO in written instructions to the Enterprise, including, but not limited to:

(1) Estimate of the minimum capital requirement;

(2) Estimate of core capital coverage or shortfall relative to the estimated minimum capital requirement;

(3) Such other information as may be required by the Director.

(b) The quarterly minimum capital report shall be submitted not later than April 30, July 30, October 30, and January 30 of each year.

(c) Each minimum capital report shall be submitted in writing and in such other format as may be required by the Director.

(d) In the event an Enterprise makes an adjustment to its financial statements for a quarter or a date for which the information was requested, which would cause an adjustment to a minimum capital report, the Enterprise shall file with the Director an amended minimum capital report not later than 3 business days after the date of such adjustment.

(e) Each minimum capital report or any amended minimum capital report shall contain a declaration by an officer authorized by the board of directors of the Enterprise to make such a declaration, including, but not limited to a president, vice president, or treasurer, that the report is true and correct to the best of such officer's knowledge and belief.

§ 1750.4 Minimum capital requirement computation.

(a) The minimum capital requirement for each Enterprise shall be computed by adding the following amounts:

(1) 2.50 percent times the aggregate on-balance sheet assets of the Enterprise;

(2) 0.45 percent times the unpaid principal balance of mortgage-backed securities and substantially equivalent instruments that were issued or guaranteed by the Enterprise;

(3) 0.45 percent of 50 percent of the average dollar amount of commitments

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outstanding each quarter over the preceding four quarters;

(4) 0.45 percent of the outstanding principal amount of bonds with multifamily credit enhancements;

(5) 0.45 percent of the dollar amount of sold portfolio remittances pending;

(6)(i) 3.00 percent of the credit equivalent amount of interest rate contracts and foreign exchange rate contracts, except to the extent of the current market value of posted qualifying collateral, computed in accordance with appendix A to this subpart;

(ii) 1.50 percent of the market value of qualifying collateral posted to secure interest rate and foreign exchange rate contracts, not to exceed the credit equivalent amount of such contracts, computed in accordance with appendix A to this subpart; and

(7) 0.45 percent of the outstanding amount, credit equivalent amount, or other measure determined appropriate by the Director, of other off-balance sheet obligations (excluding commitments, multifamily credit enhancements, sold portfolio remittances pending, and interest rate contracts and foreign exchange rate contracts), except as adjusted by the Director to reflect differences in the credit risk of such obligations in relation to mortgage-backed securities.

(b) Any asset or financial obligation that is properly classifiable in more than one of the categories enumerated in paragraphs (a) (1) through (7) of this section shall be classified in the category that yields the highest minimum capital requirement.

(c) As used in this section, the term “preceding four quarters” means the last day of the quarter just ended (or the date for which the minimum capital report is filed, if different), and the three preceding quarter-ends.

§ 1750.5 Notice of capital classification.

(a) Pursuant to section 1364 of the 1992 Act (12 U.S.C. 4614), OFHEO is required to determine the capital classification of each Enterprise on a not less than quarterly basis.

(b) The determination of the capital classification shall be made following a notice to, and opportunity to respond by, the Enterprise.

(1) Not later than 60 calendar days after the date for which the minimum capital report is filed, OFHEO will provide each Enterprise with a notice of proposed capital classification in accordance with section 1368 of the 1992 Act (12 U.S.C. 4618). The notice shall contain the following information—

(i) The proposed capital classification;

(ii) The proposed minimum capital requirement; and

(iii) The summary computation of the proposed minimum capital requirement.

(2) Each Enterprise shall have a period of 30 calendar days following receipt of a notice of proposed capital classification to submit a response regarding the proposed capital classification. The response period may be extended for up to 30 additional calendar days at the sole discretion of the Director. The Director may shorten the response period with the consent of the Enterprise, or without such consent if the Director determines that the condition of the Enterprise requires a shorter period.

(3) The Director shall take into consideration any response to the notice of proposed capital classification received from the Enterprise and shall issue a notice of final capital classification for each Enterprise not later than 30 calendar days following the end of the response period in accordance with section 1368 of the 1992 Act (12 U.S.C. 4618).

APPENDIX A TO SUBPART A OF PART 1750—MINIMUM CAPITAL COMPONENTS FOR INTEREST RATE AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATE CONTRACTS

1. The minimum capital components for interest rate and foreign exchange rate contracts are computed on the basis of the credit equivalent amounts of such contracts. Credit equivalent amounts are computed for each of the following off-balance sheet interest rate and foreign exchange rate contracts:

a. Interest Rate Contracts

- i. Single currency interest rate swaps.
- ii. Basis swaps.
- iii. Forward rate agreements.
- iv. Interest rate options purchased (including caps, collars, and floors purchased).
- v. Any other instrument that gives rise to similar credit risks (including when-issued securities and forward deposits accepted).

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b. Foreign Exchange Rate Contracts

- i. Cross-currency interest rate swaps.
- ii. Forward foreign exchange rate contracts.
- iii. Currency options purchased.
- iv. Any other instrument that gives rise to similar credit risks.

2. Foreign exchange rate contracts with an original maturity of 14 calendar days or less and foreign exchange rate contracts traded on exchanges that require daily payment of variation margins are excluded from the minimum capital requirement computation. Over-the-counter options purchased, however, are included and treated in the same way as the other interest rate and foreign exchange rate contracts.

3. Calculation of Credit Equivalent Amounts

a. The minimum capital components for interest rate and foreign exchange rate contracts are computed on the basis of the credit equivalent amounts of such contracts. The credit equivalent amount of an off-balance sheet interest rate and foreign exchange rate contract that is not subject to a qualifying bilateral netting contract in accordance with this appendix A is equal to the sum of the current exposure (sometimes referred to as the replacement cost) of the contract and an estimate of the potential future credit exposure over the remaining life of the contract.

b. The current exposure is determined by the mark-to-market value of the contract. If the mark-to-market value is positive, then the current exposure is the mark-to-market value. If the mark-to-market value is zero or negative, then the current exposure is zero. Mark-to-market values are measured in United States dollars, regardless of the currency or currencies specified in the contract, and should reflect changes in the relevant rates, as well as counterparty credit quality.

c. The potential future credit exposure of a contract, including a contract with a negative mark-to-market value, is estimated by multiplying the notional principal amount of the contract by a credit conversion factor. The effective rather than the apparent or stated notional amount must be used in this calculation. The credit conversion factors are:

Remaining maturity	Interest rate contracts (percent)	Foreign exchange rate contracts (percent)
1 year or less	0.0	1.0
Over 1 year	0.5	5.0

d. Because foreign exchange rate contracts involve an exchange of principal upon maturity, and foreign exchange rates are generally more volatile than interest rates, higher conversion factors have been estab-

lished for foreign exchange rate contracts than for interest rate contracts.

e. No potential future credit exposure is calculated for single currency interest rate swaps in which payments are made based upon two floating rate indexes, so-called floating/floating or basis swaps. The credit exposure on these contracts is evaluated solely on the basis of their mark-to-market values.

4. Avoidance of Double Counting

In certain cases, credit exposures arising from the interest rate and foreign exchange instruments covered by this appendix A may already be reflected, in part, on the balance sheet. To avoid double counting such exposures in the assessment of capital adequacy, counterparty credit exposures arising from the types of instruments covered by this appendix A may need to be excluded from balance sheet assets in calculating the minimum capital requirement.

5. Collateral

a. The sufficiency of collateral for off-balance sheet items is determined by the market value of the collateral in relation to the credit equivalent amount. Collateral held against a netting contract is not recognized for minimum capital standard purposes unless it is legally available to support the single legal obligation created by the netting contract. Excess collateral held against one contract or a group of contracts for which a recognized netting agreement exists may not be considered.

b. The only forms of collateral that are formally recognized by the minimum capital standard framework are cash on deposit; securities issued or guaranteed by the central governments of the OECD-based group of countries, United States Government agencies, or United States Government-sponsored agencies; and securities issued by multilateral lending institutions or regional development banks.

6. Netting

a. For purposes of this appendix A, netting refers to the offsetting of positive and negative mark-to-market values in the determination of a current exposure to be used in the calculation of a credit equivalent amount. Any legally enforceable form of bilateral netting (that is, netting with a single counterparty) of interest rate and foreign exchange rate contracts is recognized for purposes of calculating the credit equivalent amount provided that the following criteria are met:

i. Netting must be accomplished under a written netting contract that creates a single legal obligation, covering all included individual contracts, with the effect that the Enterprise would have a claim to receive, or

obligation to pay, only the net amount of the sum of the positive and negative mark-to-market values on included individual contracts in the event that a counterparty, or a counterparty to whom the contract has been validly assigned, fails to perform due to default, insolvency, liquidation, or similar circumstances.

ii. The Enterprise must obtain a written and reasoned legal opinion(s) representing that in the event of a legal challenge—including one resulting from default, insolvency, liquidation, or similar circumstances—the relevant court and administrative authorities would find the Enterprise's exposure to be such a net amount under—

A. The law of the jurisdiction in which the counterparty is chartered or the equivalent location in the case of noncorporate entities, and if a branch of the counterparty is involved, then also under the law of the jurisdiction in which the branch is located;

B. The law that governs the individual contracts covered by the netting contract; and

C. The law that governs the netting contract.

iii. The Enterprise must establish and maintain procedures to ensure that the legal characteristics of netting contracts are kept under review in the event of possible changes in relevant law.

iv. The Enterprise must maintain in its files documentation adequate to support the netting of rate contracts, including a copy of the bilateral netting contract and necessary legal opinions.

b. A contract containing a walkaway clause is not eligible for netting for purposes of calculating the credit equivalent amount.¹

c. By netting individual contracts for the purpose of calculating its credit equivalent amount, the Enterprise represents that it has met the requirements of this appendix A and all the appropriate documents are in the Enterprise's files and available for inspection by OFHEO. OFHEO may determine that an Enterprise's files are inadequate or that a netting contract, or any of its underlying individual contracts, may not be legally enforceable under any one of the bodies of law described in this appendix A. If such a determination is made, the netting contract may be disqualified from recognition for minimum capital standard purposes or underlying individual contracts may be treated as

though they are not subject to the netting contract.

d. The credit equivalent amount of interest rate and foreign exchange rate contracts that are subject to a qualifying bilateral netting contract is calculated by adding the current exposure of the netting contract and the sum of the estimates of the potential future credit exposures on all individual contracts subject to the netting contract, estimated in accordance with paragraph 3 of this appendix A. Offsetting contracts in the same currency maturing on the same date will have lower potential future exposure as well as lower current exposure. Therefore, for purposes of calculating potential future credit exposure to a netting counterparty for foreign exchange rate contracts and other similar contracts in which notional principal is equivalent to cash flows, total notional principal is defined as the net receipts falling due on each value date in each currency.

e. The current exposure of the netting contract is determined by summing all positive and negative mark-to-market values of the individual contracts included in the netting contract. If the net sum of the mark-to-market values is positive, then the current exposure of the netting contract is equal to that sum. If the net sum of the mark-to-market values is zero or negative, then the current exposure of the netting contract is zero. OFHEO may determine that a netting contract qualifies for minimum capital standard netting treatment even though certain individual contracts may not qualify. In such instances, the nonqualifying contracts should be treated as individual contracts that are not subject to the netting contract.

f. In the event a netting contract covers contracts that are normally excluded from the minimum capital requirement computation—for example, foreign exchange rate contracts with an original maturity of 14 calendar days or less, or instruments traded on exchanges that require daily payment of variation margin—an Enterprise may elect consistently either to include or exclude all mark-to-market values of such contracts when determining net current exposure.

Subpart B [Reserved]

PART 1780—RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

Subpart A—General Rules

Sec.

1780.1 Scope.

1780.2 Rules of construction.

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¹ A walkaway clause is a provision in a netting contract that permits a non-defaulting counterparty to make lower payments than it would make otherwise under the contract, or no payment at all, to a defaulter or to the estate of a defaulter, even if the defaulter or the estate of the defaulter is a net creditor under the contract.

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AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 4513, 4631–4641.

Subpart E also issued under 28 U.S.C. 2461 *note*.

SOURCE: 62 FR 68154, Dec. 31, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Rules

SOURCE: 64 FR 72510, Dec. 28, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72510, Dec. 28, 1999, subpart A, consisting of §§1780.1 through 1780.16 was added, effective Jan. 27, 2000.

§ 1780.1 Scope.

This subpart prescribes rules of practice and procedure applicable to the following adjudicatory proceedings:

(a) Cease and desist proceedings under sections 1371 and 1373, title XIII of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, Pub. L. No. 102–550, known as the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (1992 Act) (12 U.S.C. 4631, 4633).

(b) Civil money penalty assessment proceedings against the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (collectively, the Enterprises), or any executive officer or director of any Enterprise under sections 1373 and 1376 of the 1992 Act (12 U.S.C. 4633, 4636).

(c) Civil money penalty assessment proceedings under section 102 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4012a.

(d) All other adjudications required by statute to be determined on the record after opportunity for hearing, except to the extent otherwise provided in the regulations specifically governing such an adjudication.

§ 1780.2 Rules of construction.

For purposes of this part—

(a) Any term in the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular, if such use would be appropriate;

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(b) Any use of a masculine, feminine, or neuter gender encompasses all three, if such use would be appropriate; and

(c) Unless the context requires otherwise, a party's representative of record, if any, may, on behalf of that party, take any action required to be taken by the party.

§ 1780.3 Definitions.

For purposes of this part, unless explicitly stated to the contrary—

(a) *Adjudicatory proceeding* means a proceeding conducted pursuant to these rules and leading to the formulation of a final order other than a regulation;

(b) *Decisional employee* means any member of the Director's or the presiding officer's staff who has not engaged in an investigative or prosecutorial role in a proceeding and who may assist the Director or the presiding officer, respectively, in preparing orders, recommended decisions, decisions and other documents under this subpart.

(c) *Director* means the Director of OFHEO.

(d) *Enterprise* means the Federal National Mortgage Association and any affiliate thereof and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation and any affiliate thereof.

(e) *OFHEO* means the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(f) *Party* means OFHEO and any person named as a party in any notice.

(g) *Person* means an individual, sole proprietor, partnership, corporation, unincorporated association, trust, joint venture, pool, syndicate, agency, or other entity or organization.

(h) *Presiding officer* means an administrative law judge or any other person appointed by the Director under applicable law to conduct a hearing.

(i) *Representative of record* means an individual who is authorized to represent a person or is representing himself and who has filed a notice of appearance in accordance with § 1780.72.

(j) *Respondent* means any party other than OFHEO.

(k) *Violation* includes any action (alone or with another or others) for or toward causing, bringing about, par-

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ticipating in, counseling, or aiding or abetting a violation.

(l) The 1992 Act is title XIII of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, Pub. L. No. 102–550, known as the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (1992 Act) (12 U.S.C. 4501–4641).

§ 1780.4 Authority of the Director.

The Director may, at any time during the pendency of a proceeding, perform, direct the performance of, or waive performance of any act that could be done or ordered by the presiding officer.

§ 1780.5 Authority of the presiding officer.

(a) *General rule.* All proceedings governed by this subpart shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. chapter 5. The presiding officer shall have complete charge of the hearing, conduct a fair and impartial hearing, avoid unnecessary delay and assure that a record of the proceeding is made.

(b) *Powers.* The presiding officer shall have all powers necessary to conduct the proceeding in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section and 5 U.S.C. 556(c). The presiding officer is authorized to—

(1) Set and change the date, time and place of the hearing upon reasonable notice to the parties;

(2) Continue or recess the hearing in whole or in part for a reasonable period of time;

(3) Hold conferences to identify or simplify the issues, or to consider other matters that may aid in the expeditious disposition of the proceeding;

(4) Administer oaths and affirmations;

(5) Issue subpoenas, subpoenas *duces tecum*, and protective orders, as authorized by this part, and to revoke, quash, or modify such subpoenas;

(6) Take and preserve testimony under oath;

(7) Rule on motions and other procedural matters appropriate in an adjudicatory proceeding, except that only the Director shall have the power to grant any motion to dismiss the proceeding or make a final determination of the merits of the proceeding;

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(8) Regulate the scope and timing of discovery;

(9) Regulate the course of the hearing and the conduct of representatives and parties;

(10) Examine witnesses;

(11) Receive, exclude, limit, or otherwise rule on evidence;

(12) Upon motion of a party, take official notice of facts;

(13) Recuse himself upon motion made by a party or on his own motion;

(14) Prepare and present to the Director a recommended decision as provided in this part;

(15) To establish time, place and manner limitations on the attendance of the public and the media for any public hearing; and

(16) Do all other things necessary and appropriate to discharge the duties of a presiding officer.

§ 1780.6 Public hearings.

(a) *General rule.* All hearings shall be open to the public, unless the Director, in his discretion, determines that holding an open hearing would be contrary to the public interest. The Director may make such determination *sua sponte* at any time by written notice to all parties.

(b) *Motion for closed hearing.* Within 20 days of service of the notice of charges, any party may file with the presiding officer a motion for a private hearing and any party may file a pleading in reply to the motion. The presiding officer shall forward the motion and any reply, together with a recommended decision on the motion, to the Director, who shall make a final determination. Such motions and replies are governed by § 1780.25.

(c) *Filing documents under seal.* OFHEO's counsel of record, in his discretion, may file any document or part of a document under seal if such counsel makes a written determination that disclosure of the document would be contrary to the public interest. The presiding officer shall take all appropriate steps to preserve the confidentiality of such documents or parts thereof, including closing portions of the hearing to the public.

§ 1780.7 Good faith certification.

(a) *General requirement.* Every filing or submission of record following the issuance of a notice by the Director shall be signed by at least one representative of record in his individual name and shall state that representative's address and telephone number and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all other representatives of record for the person making the filing or submission.

(b) *Effect of signature.* (1) By signing a document, the representative of record or party certifies that—

(i) The representative of record or party has read the filing or submission of record;

(ii) To the best of his knowledge, information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the filing or submission of record is well-grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith, nonfrivolous argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law; and

(iii) The filing or submission of record is not made for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation.

(2) If a filing or submission of record is not signed, the presiding officer shall strike the filing or submission of record, unless it is signed promptly after the omission is called to the attention of the pleader or movant.

(c) *Effect of making oral motion or argument.* The act of making any oral motion or oral argument by any representative or party shall constitute a certification that to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief, formed after reasonable inquiry, his statements are well-grounded in fact and are warranted by existing law or a good faith, nonfrivolous argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law and are not made for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation.

§ 1780.8 Ex parte communications.

(a) *Definition.* (1) Ex parte communication means any material oral or written communication relevant to the merits of an adjudicatory proceeding

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that was neither on the record nor on reasonable prior notice to all parties that takes place between—

(i) An interested person outside OFHEO (including the person's representative); and

(ii) The presiding officer handling that proceeding, the Director, a decisional employee assigned to that proceeding, or any other person who is or may reasonably be expected to be involved in the decisional process.

(2) A communication that does not concern the merits of an adjudicatory proceeding, such as a request for status of the proceeding, does not constitute an ex parte communication.

(b) *Prohibition of ex parte communications.* From the time the notice commencing the proceeding is issued by the Director until the date that the Director issues his final decision pursuant to § 1780.55, no person referred to in paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section shall knowingly make or cause to be made an ex parte communication. The Director, presiding officer, or a decisional employee shall not knowingly make or cause to be made an ex parte communication.

(c) *Procedure upon occurrence of ex parte communication.* If an ex parte communication is received by any person identified in paragraph (a) of this section, that person shall cause all such written communications (or, if the communication is oral, a memorandum stating the substance of the communication) to be placed on the record of the proceeding and served on all parties. All parties to the proceeding shall have an opportunity, within ten days of receipt of service of the ex parte communication, to file responses thereto and to recommend any sanctions, in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section, that they believe to be appropriate under the circumstances.

(d) *Sanctions.* Any party or representative for a party who makes an ex parte communication, or who encourages or solicits another to make any such communication, may be subject to any appropriate sanction or sanctions imposed by the Director or the presiding officer, including, but not limited to, exclusion from the proceedings and an adverse ruling on the

issue that is the subject of the prohibited communication.

(e) *Consultations by presiding officer.* Except to the extent required for the disposition of ex parte matters as authorized by law, the presiding officer may not consult a person or party on any matter relevant to the merits of the adjudication, unless on notice and opportunity for all parties to participate.

(f) *Separation of functions.* An employee or agent engaged in the performance of investigative or prosecuting functions for OFHEO in a case may not, in that or a factually related case, participate or advise in the decision, recommended decision, or Director review under § 1780.55 of the recommended decision, except as witness or counsel in public proceedings.

§ 1780.9 Filing of papers.

(a) *Filing.* Any papers required to be filed shall be addressed to the presiding officer and filed with OFHEO, 1700 G Street, NW., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20552.

(b) *Manner of filing.* Unless otherwise specified by the Director or the presiding officer, filing shall be accomplished by:

(1) Personal service;

(2) Delivery to the U.S. Postal Service or to a reliable commercial delivery service for same day or overnight delivery;

(3) Mailing by first class, registered, or certified mail; or

(4) Transmission by electronic media, only if expressly authorized by and upon any conditions specified by the Director or the presiding officer. All papers filed by electronic media shall also concurrently be filed in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) *Formal requirements as to papers filed.* (1) *Form.* All papers must set forth the name, address and telephone number of the representative or party making the filing and must be accompanied by a certification setting forth when and how service has been made on all other parties. All papers filed must be double-spaced and printed or typewritten on 8½ x 11-inch paper and must be clear and legible.

(2) *Signature.* All papers must be dated and signed as provided in § 1780.7.

(3) *Caption.* All papers filed must include at the head thereof, or on a title page, the name of OFHEO and of the filing party, the title and docket number of the proceeding and the subject of the particular paper.

(4) *Number of copies.* Unless otherwise specified by the Director or the presiding officer, an original and one copy of all documents and papers shall be filed, except that only one copy of transcripts of testimony and exhibits shall be filed.

§ 1780.10 Service of papers.

(a) *By the parties.* Except as otherwise provided, a party filing papers or serving a subpoena shall serve a copy upon the representative of record for each party to the proceeding so represented and upon any party not so represented.

(b) *Method of service.* Except as provided in paragraphs (c)(2) and (d) of this section, a serving party shall use one or more of the following methods of service:

(1) Personal service;

(2) Delivery to the U.S. Postal Service or to a reliable commercial delivery service for same day or overnight delivery;

(3) Mailing by first class, registered, or certified mail; or

(4) Transmission by electronic media, only if the parties mutually agree. Any papers served by electronic media shall also concurrently be served in accordance with the requirements of § 1780.9(c).

(c) *By the Director or the presiding officer.* (1) All papers required to be served by the Director or the presiding officer upon a party who has appeared in the proceeding in accordance with § 1780.72 shall be served by any means specified in paragraph (b) of this section.

(2) If a notice of appearance has not been filed in the proceeding for a party in accordance with § 1780.72, the Director or the presiding officer shall make service upon the party by any of the following methods:

(i) By personal service;

(ii) If the person to be served is an individual, by delivery to a person of suitable age and discretion at the physical location where the individual resides or works;

(iii) If the person to be served is a corporation or other association, by delivery to an officer, managing or general agent, or to any other agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service and, if the agent is one authorized by statute to receive service and the statute so requires, by also mailing a copy to the party;

(iv) By registered or certified mail addressed to the person's last known address; or

(v) By any other method reasonably calculated to give actual notice.

(d) *Subpoenas.* Service of a subpoena may be made:

(1) By personal service;

(2) If the person to be served is an individual, by delivery to a person of suitable age and discretion at the physical location where the individual resides or works;

(3) If the person to be served is a corporation or other association, by delivery to an officer, managing or general agent, or to any other agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service and, if the agent is one authorized by statute to receive service and the statute so requires, by also mailing a copy to the party; or

(4) By registered or certified mail addressed to the person's last known address; or

(5) By any other method reasonably calculated to give actual notice.

(e) *Area of service.* Service in any State, commonwealth, possession, territory of the United States or the District of Columbia on any person doing business in any State, commonwealth, possession, territory of the United States or the District of Columbia, or on any person as otherwise permitted by law, is effective without regard to the place where the hearing is held.

(f) *Proof of service.* Proof of service of papers filed by a party shall be filed before action is taken thereon. The proof of service, which shall serve as *prima facie* evidence of the fact and date of service, shall show the date and manner of service and may be by written acknowledgment of service, by declaration of the person making service, or by certificate of a representative of record. However, failure to file proof of service contemporaneously with the papers shall not affect the validity of

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actual service. The presiding officer may allow the proof to be amended or supplied, unless to do so would result in material prejudice to a party.

§ 1780.11 Computing time.

(a) *General rule.* In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by this subpart, the date of the act or event that commences the designated period of time is not included. The last day so computed is included unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday. When the last day is a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday, the period shall run until the end of the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday. Intermediate Saturdays, Sundays and Federal holidays are included in the computation of time. However, when the time period within which an act is to be performed is 10 days or less, not including any additional time allowed for in paragraph (c) of this section, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays and Federal holidays are not included.

(b) *When papers are deemed to be filed or served.* (1) Filing and service are deemed to be effective—

(i) In the case of personal service or same day reliable commercial delivery service, upon actual service;

(ii) In the case of U.S. Postal Service or reliable commercial overnight delivery service, or first class, registered, or certified mail, upon deposit in or delivery to an appropriate point of collection; or

(iii) In the case of transmission by electronic media, as specified by the authority receiving the filing in the case of filing, and as agreed among the parties in the case of service.

(2) The effective filing and service dates specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section may be modified by the Director or the presiding officer in the case of filing or by agreement of the parties in the case of service.

(c) *Calculation of time for service and filing of responsive papers.* Whenever a time limit is measured by a prescribed period from the service of any notice or paper, the applicable time limits shall be calculated as follows:

(1) If service was made by first class, registered, or certified mail, or by delivery to the U.S. Postal Service for

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longer than overnight delivery service, add three calendar days to the prescribed period for the responsive filing.

(2) If service was made by U.S. Postal Service or reliable commercial overnight delivery service, add 1 calendar day to the prescribed period for the responsive filing.

(3) If service was made by electronic media transmission, add one calendar day to the prescribed period for the responsive filing, unless otherwise determined by the Director or the presiding officer in the case of filing, or by agreement among the parties in the case of service.

§ 1780.12 Change of time limits.

Except as otherwise provided by law, the presiding officer may, for good cause shown, extend the time limits prescribed above or prescribed by any notice or order issued in the proceedings. After the referral of the case to the Director pursuant to § 1780.53, the Director may grant extensions of the time limits for good cause shown. Extensions may be granted on the motion of a party after notice and opportunity to respond is afforded all non-moving parties, or on the Director's or the presiding officer's own motion.

§ 1780.13 Witness fees and expenses.

Witnesses (other than parties) subpoenaed for testimony or depositions shall be paid the same fees for attendance and mileage as are paid in the United States district courts in proceedings in which the United States is a party, provided that, in the case of a discovery subpoena addressed to a party, no witness fees or mileage shall be paid. Fees for witnesses shall be tendered in advance by the party requesting the subpoena, except that fees and mileage need not be tendered in advance where OFHEO is the party requesting the subpoena. OFHEO shall not be required to pay any fees to or expenses of any witness not subpoenaed by OFHEO.

§ 1780.14 Opportunity for informal settlement.

Any respondent may, at any time in the proceeding, unilaterally submit to OFHEO's counsel of record written offers or proposals for settlement of a

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proceeding without prejudice to the rights of any of the parties. No such offer or proposal shall be made to any OFHEO representative other than OFHEO's counsel of record. Submission of a written settlement offer does not provide a basis for adjourning or otherwise delaying all or any portion of a proceeding under this part. No settlement offer or proposal, or any subsequent negotiation or resolution, is admissible as evidence in any proceeding.

§ 1780.15 OFHEO's right to conduct examination.

Nothing contained in this part limits in any manner the right of OFHEO to conduct any examination, inspection, or visitation of any Enterprise or affiliate, or the right of OFHEO to conduct or continue any form of investigation authorized by law.

§ 1780.16 Collateral attacks on adjudicatory proceeding.

If an interlocutory appeal or collateral attack is brought in any court concerning all or any part of an adjudicatory proceeding, the challenged adjudicatory proceeding shall continue without regard to the pendency of that court proceeding. No default or other failure to act as directed in the adjudicatory proceeding within the times prescribed in this subpart shall be excused based on the pendency before any court of any interlocutory appeal or collateral attack.

Subpart B—Prehearing Proceedings

SOURCE: 64 FR 72513, Dec. 28, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72513, Dec. 28, 1999, subpart B, consisting of §§ 1780.20 through 1780.35 was added, effective Jan. 27, 2000.

§ 1780.20 Commencement of proceeding and contents of notice of charges.

Proceedings under this subpart are commenced by the issuance of a notice of charges by the Director, which must be served upon the respondent. Such notice shall state all of the following:

(a) The legal authority for the proceeding and for OFHEO's jurisdiction over the proceeding;

(b) A statement of the matters of fact or law showing that OFHEO is entitled to relief;

(c) A proposed order or prayer for an order granting the requested relief;

(d) The time, place and nature of the hearing;

(e) The time within which to file an answer;

(f) The time within which to request a hearing; and

(g) The address for filing the answer and/or request for a hearing.

§ 1780.21 Answer.

(a) *When.* Unless otherwise specified by the Director in the notice, respondent shall file an answer within 20 days of service of the notice.

(b) *Content of answer.* An answer must respond specifically to each paragraph or allegation of fact contained in the notice and must admit, deny, or state that the party lacks sufficient information to admit or deny each allegation of fact. A statement of lack of information has the effect of a denial. Denials must fairly meet the substance of each allegation of fact denied; general denials are not permitted. When a respondent denies part of an allegation, that part must be denied and the remainder specifically admitted. Any allegation of fact in the notice that is not denied in the answer is deemed admitted for purposes of the proceeding. A respondent is not required to respond to the portion of a notice that constitutes the prayer for relief or proposed order. The answer must set forth affirmative defenses, if any, asserted by the respondent.

(c) *Default.* Failure of a respondent to file an answer required by this section within the time provided constitutes a waiver of such respondent's right to appear and contest the allegations in the notice. If no timely answer is filed, OFHEO's counsel of record may file a motion for entry of an order of default. Upon a finding that no good cause has been shown for the failure to file a timely answer, the presiding officer shall file with the Director a recommended decision containing the findings and the relief sought in the

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notice. Any final order issued by the Director based upon a respondent's failure to answer is deemed to be an order issued upon consent.

§ 1780.22 Amended pleadings.

(a) *Amendments.* The notice or answer may be amended or supplemented at any stage of the proceeding. The respondent must answer an amended notice within the time remaining for the respondent's answer to the original notice, or within ten days after service of the amended notice, whichever period is longer, unless the Director or presiding officer orders otherwise for good cause shown.

(b) *Amendments to conform to the evidence.* When issues not raised in the notice or answer are tried at the hearing by express or implied consent of the parties, they will be treated in all respects as if they had been raised in the notice or answer, and no formal amendments are required. If evidence is objected to at the hearing on the ground that it is not within the issues raised by the notice or answer, the presiding officer may admit the evidence when admission is likely to assist in adjudicating the merits of the action. The presiding officer will do so freely when the determination of the merits of the action is served thereby and the objecting party fails to satisfy the presiding officer that the admission of such evidence would unfairly prejudice that party's action or defense upon the merits. The presiding officer may grant a continuance to enable the objecting party to meet such evidence.

§ 1780.23 Failure to appear.

Failure of a respondent to appear in person at the hearing or by a duly authorized representative constitutes a waiver of respondent's right to a hearing and is deemed an admission of the facts as alleged and consent to the relief sought in the notice. Without further proceedings or notice to the respondent, the presiding officer shall file with the Director a recommended decision containing the findings and the relief sought in the notice.

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§ 1780.24 Consolidation and severance of actions.

(a) *Consolidation.* On the motion of any party, or on the presiding officer's own motion, the presiding officer may consolidate, for some or all purposes, any two or more proceedings, if each such proceeding involves or arises out of the same transaction, occurrence or series of transactions or occurrences, or involves at least one common respondent or a material common question of law or fact, unless such consolidation would cause unreasonable delay or injustice. In the event of consolidation under this section, appropriate adjustment to the prehearing schedule must be made to avoid unnecessary expense, inconvenience, or delay.

(b) *Severance.* The presiding officer may, upon the motion of any party, sever the proceeding for separate resolution of the matter as to any respondent only if the presiding officer finds that undue prejudice or injustice to the moving party would result from not severing the proceeding and such undue prejudice or injustice would outweigh the interests of judicial economy and expedition in the complete and final resolution of the proceeding.

§ 1780.25 Motions.

(a) *In writing.* (1) Except as otherwise provided herein, an application or request for an order or ruling must be made by written motion.

(2) All written motions must state with particularity the relief sought and must be accompanied by a proposed order.

(3) No oral argument may be held on written motions except as otherwise directed by the presiding officer. Written memoranda, briefs, affidavits, or other relevant material or documents may be filed in support of or in opposition to a motion.

(b) *Oral motions.* A motion may be made orally on the record unless the presiding officer directs that such motion be reduced to writing.

(c) *Filing of motions.* Motions must be filed with the presiding officer, except that following the filing of a recommended decision, motions must be filed with the Director.

(d) *Responses.* (1) Except as otherwise provided herein, any party may file a written response to a motion within ten days after service of any written motion, or within such other period of time as may be established by the presiding officer or the Director. The presiding officer shall not rule on any oral or written motion before each party has had an opportunity to file a response.

(2) The failure of a party to oppose a written motion or an oral motion made on the record is deemed a consent by that party to the entry of an order substantially in the form of the order accompanying the motion.

(e) *Dilatory motions.* Frivolous, dilatory, or repetitive motions are prohibited. The filing of such motions may form the basis for sanctions.

(f) *Dispositive motions.* Dispositive motions are governed by §§1780.31 and 1780.32.

§ 1780.26 Discovery.

(a) *Limits on discovery.* Subject to the limitations set out in paragraphs (b), (d), and (e) of this section, a party to a proceeding under this subpart may obtain document discovery by serving a written request to produce documents. For purposes of a request to produce documents, the term “documents” may be defined to include drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, recordings, data stored in electronic form, and other data compilations from which information can be obtained or translated, if necessary, by the parties through detection devices into reasonably usable form, as well as written material of all kinds.

(b) *Relevance.* A party may obtain document discovery regarding any matter not privileged that has material relevance to the merits of the pending action. Any request to produce documents that calls for irrelevant material, that is unreasonable, oppressive, excessive in scope, unduly burdensome, or repetitive of previous requests, or that seeks to obtain privileged documents will be denied or modified. A request is unreasonable, oppressive, excessive in scope, or unduly burdensome if, among other things, it fails to include justifiable limitations on the time period covered and the geographic

locations to be searched, the time provided to respond in the request is inadequate, or the request calls for copies of documents to be delivered to the requesting party and fails to include the requestor’s written agreement to pay in advance for the copying, in accordance with § 1780.27.

(c) *Forms of discovery.* Discovery shall be limited to requests for production of documents for inspection and copying. No other form of discovery shall be allowed. Discovery by use of interrogatories is not permitted. This paragraph shall not be interpreted to require the creation of a document.

(d) *Privileged matter.* Privileged documents are not discoverable. Privileges include the attorney-client privilege, work-product privilege, any government’s or government agency’s deliberative process privilege and any other privileges provided by the Constitution, any applicable act of Congress, or the principles of common law.

(e) *Time limits.* All discovery, including all responses to discovery requests, shall be completed at least 20 days prior to the date scheduled for the commencement of the hearing. No exception to this time limit shall be permitted, unless the presiding officer finds on the record that good cause exists for waiving the requirements of this paragraph.

§ 1780.27 Request for document discovery from parties.

(a) *General rule.* Any party may serve on any other party a request to produce for inspection any discoverable documents that are in the possession, custody, or control of the party upon whom the request is served. Copies of the request shall be served on all other parties. The request must identify the documents to be produced either by individual item or by category and must describe each item and category with reasonable particularity. Documents must be produced as they are kept in the usual course of business or they shall be labeled and organized to correspond with the categories in the request.

(b) *Production or copying.* The request must specify a reasonable time, place

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and manner for production and performing any related acts. In lieu of inspecting the documents, the requesting party may specify that all or some of the responsive documents be copied and the copies delivered to the requesting party. If copying of fewer than 250 pages is requested, the party to whom the request is addressed shall bear the cost of copying and shipping charges. If a party requests more than 250 pages of copying, the requesting party shall pay for copying and shipping charges. Copying charges are at the current rate per page imposed by OFHEO at §1710.22(b)(2) of this chapter for requests for documents filed under the Freedom of Information Act, 12 U.S.C. 552. The party to whom the request is addressed may require payment in advance before producing the documents.

(c) *Obligation to update responses.* A party who has responded to a discovery request is not required to supplement the response, unless:

(1) The responding party learns that in some material respect the information disclosed is incomplete or incorrect, and

(2) The additional or corrective information has not otherwise been made known to the other parties during the discovery process or in writing.

(d) *Motions to strike or limit discovery requests.* (1) Any party that objects to a discovery request may, within ten days of being served with such request, file a motion in accordance with the provisions of §1780.25 to strike or otherwise limit the request. If an objection is made to only a portion of an item or category in a request, the objection shall specify that portion. Any objections not made in accordance with this paragraph and §1780.25 are waived.

(2) The party who served the request that is the subject of a motion to strike or limit may file a written response within five days of service of the motion. No other party may file a response.

(e) *Privilege.* At the time other documents are produced, all documents withheld on the grounds of privilege must be reasonably identified, together with a statement of the basis for the assertion of privilege. When similar documents that are protected by deliberative process, attorney work-prod-

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uct, or attorney-client privilege are voluminous, these documents may be identified by category instead of by individual document. The presiding officer has discretion to determine when the identification by category is insufficient.

(f) *Motions to compel production.* (1) If a party withholds any documents as privileged or fails to comply fully with a discovery request, the requesting party may, within ten days of the assertion of privilege or of the time the failure to comply becomes known to the requesting party, file a motion in accordance with the provisions of §1780.25 for the issuance of a subpoena compelling production.

(2) The party who asserted the privilege or failed to comply with the request may, within five days of service of a motion for the issuance of a subpoena compelling production, file a written response to the motion. No other party may file a response.

(g) *Ruling on motions.* After the time for filing responses to motions pursuant to this section has expired, the presiding officer shall rule promptly on all such motions. If the presiding officer determines that a discovery request or any of its terms calls for irrelevant material, is unreasonable, oppressive, excessive in scope, unduly burdensome, or repetitive of previous requests, or seeks to obtain privileged documents, he may deny or modify the request and may issue appropriate protective orders, upon such conditions as justice may require. The pendency of a motion to strike or limit discovery or to compel production shall not be a basis for staying or continuing the proceeding, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer. Notwithstanding any other provision in this part, the presiding officer may not release, or order a party to produce, documents withheld on grounds of privilege if the party has stated to the presiding officer its intention to file a timely motion for interlocutory review of the presiding officer's order to produce the documents, until the motion for interlocutory review has been decided.

(h) *Enforcing discovery subpoenas.* If the presiding officer issues a subpoena compelling production of documents by a party, the subpoenaing party may, in

the event of noncompliance and to the extent authorized by applicable law, apply to any appropriate United States district court for an order requiring compliance with the subpoena. A party's right to seek court enforcement of a subpoena shall not in any manner limit the sanctions that may be imposed by the presiding officer against a party who fails to produce or induces another to fail to produce subpoenaed documents.

§ 1780.28 Document subpoenas to non-parties.

(a) *General rules.* (1) Any party may apply to the presiding officer for the issuance of a document discovery subpoena addressed to any person who is not a party to the proceeding. The application must contain a proposed document subpoena and a brief statement showing the general relevance and reasonableness of the scope of documents sought. The subpoenaing party shall specify a reasonable time, place, and manner for production in response to the subpoena.

(2) A party shall only apply for a document subpoena under this section within the time period during which such party could serve a discovery request under § 1780.27. The party obtaining the document subpoena is responsible for serving it on the subpoenaed person and for serving copies on all parties. Document subpoenas may be served in any State, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or as otherwise provided by law.

(3) The presiding officer shall issue promptly any document subpoena applied for under this section; except that, if the presiding officer determines that the application does not set forth a valid basis for the issuance of the subpoena, or that any of its terms are unreasonable, oppressive, excessive in scope, or unduly burdensome, he may refuse to issue the subpoena or may issue it in a modified form upon such conditions as may be determined by the presiding officer.

(b) *Motion to quash or modify.* (1) Any person to whom a document subpoena is directed may file a motion to quash or modify such subpoena, accompanied by a statement of the basis for quash-

ing or modifying the subpoena. The movant shall serve the motion on all parties and any party may respond to such motion within ten days of service of the motion.

(2) Any motion to quash or modify a document subpoena must be filed on the same basis, including the assertion of privilege, upon which a party could object to a discovery request under § 1780.27 and during the same time limits during which such an objection could be filed.

(c) *Enforcing document subpoenas.* If a subpoenaed person fails to comply with any subpoena issued pursuant to this section or any order of the presiding officer that directs compliance with all or any portion of a document subpoena, the subpoenaing party or any other aggrieved party may, to the extent authorized by applicable law, apply to an appropriate United States district court for an order requiring compliance with the subpoena. A party's right to seek court enforcement of a document subpoena shall in no way limit the sanctions that may be imposed by the presiding officer on a party who induces a failure to comply with subpoenas issued under this section.

§ 1780.29 Deposition of witness unavailable for hearing.

(a) *General rules.* (1) If a witness will not be available for the hearing, a party desiring to preserve that witness' testimony for the record may apply in accordance with the procedures set forth in paragraph (a)(2) of this section to the presiding officer for the issuance of a subpoena, including a subpoena *duces tecum*, requiring the attendance of the witness at a deposition. The presiding officer may issue a deposition subpoena under this section upon a showing that—

(i) The witness will be unable to attend or may be prevented from attending the hearing because of age, sickness, or infirmity, or will be otherwise unavailable;

(ii) The witness' unavailability was not produced or caused by the subpoenaing party;

(iii) The testimony is reasonably expected to be material; and

(iv) Taking the deposition will not result in any undue burden to any

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other party and will not cause undue delay of the proceeding.

(2) The application must contain a proposed deposition subpoena and a brief statement of the reasons for the issuance of the subpoena. The subpoena must name the witness whose deposition is to be taken and specify the time and place for taking the deposition. A deposition subpoena may require the witness to be deposed anywhere within the United States and its possessions and territories in which that witness resides or has a regular place of employment or such other convenient place as the presiding officer shall fix.

(3) Subpoenas must be issued promptly upon request, unless the presiding officer determines that the request fails to set forth a valid basis under this section for its issuance. Before making a determination that there is no valid basis for issuing the subpoena, the presiding officer shall require a written response from the party requesting the subpoena or require attendance at a conference to determine whether there is a valid basis upon which to issue the requested subpoena.

(4) The party obtaining a deposition subpoena is responsible for serving it on the witness and for serving copies on all parties. Unless the presiding officer orders otherwise, no deposition under this section shall be taken on fewer than 10 days' notice to the witness and all parties. Deposition subpoenas may be served anywhere within the United States or its possessions or territories on any person doing business anywhere within the United States or its possessions or territories, or as otherwise permitted by law.

(b) *Objections to deposition subpoenas.*

(1) The witness and any party who has not had an opportunity to oppose a deposition subpoena issued under this section may file a motion under § 1780.25 with the presiding officer to quash or modify the subpoena prior to the time for compliance specified in the subpoena, but not more than 10 days after service of the subpoena.

(2) A statement of the basis for the motion to quash or modify a subpoena issued under this section must accompany the motion. The motion must be served on all parties.

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(c) *Procedure upon deposition.* (1) Each witness testifying pursuant to a deposition subpoena must be duly sworn and each party shall have the right to examine the witness. Objections to questions or documents must be in short form, stating the grounds for the objection. Failure to object to questions or documents is not deemed a waiver except where the ground for objection might have been avoided if the objection had been presented timely. All questions, answers and objections must be recorded.

(2) Any party may move before the presiding officer for an order compelling the witness to answer any questions the witness has refused to answer or submit any evidence that, during the deposition, the witness has refused to submit.

(3) The deposition must be subscribed by the witness, unless the parties and the witness, by stipulation, have waived the signing, or the witness is ill, cannot be found, or has refused to sign. If the deposition is not subscribed by the witness, the court reporter taking the deposition shall certify that the transcript is a true and complete transcript of the deposition.

(d) *Enforcing subpoenas.* If a subpoenaed person fails to comply with any subpoena issued pursuant to this section or with any order of the presiding officer made upon motion under paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the subpoenaing party or other aggrieved party may, to the extent authorized by applicable law, apply to an appropriate United States district court for an order requiring compliance with the portions of the subpoena that the presiding officer has ordered enforced. A party's right to seek court enforcement of a deposition subpoena in no way limits the sanctions that may be imposed by the presiding officer on a party who fails to comply with or induces a failure to comply with a subpoena issued under this section.

§ 1780.30 Interlocutory review.

(a) *General rule.* The Director may review a ruling of the presiding officer prior to the certification of the record to the Director only in accordance with the procedures set forth in this section.

(b) *Scope of review.* The Director may exercise interlocutory review of a ruling of the presiding officer if the Director finds that—

(1) The ruling involves a controlling question of law or policy as to which substantial grounds exist for a difference of opinion;

(2) Immediate review of the ruling may materially advance the ultimate termination of the proceeding;

(3) Subsequent modification of the ruling at the conclusion of the proceeding would be an inadequate remedy; or

(4) Subsequent modification of the ruling would cause unusual delay or expense.

(c) *Procedure.* Any motion for interlocutory review shall be filed by a party with the presiding officer within ten days of his ruling. Upon the expiration of the time for filing all responses, the presiding officer shall refer the matter to the Director for final disposition. In referring the matter to the Director, the presiding officer may indicate agreement or disagreement with the asserted grounds for interlocutory review of the ruling in question.

(d) *Suspension of proceeding.* Neither a request for interlocutory review nor any disposition of such a request by the Director under this section suspends or stays the proceeding unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer or the Director.

§ 1780.31 Summary disposition.

(a) *In general.* The presiding officer shall recommend that the Director issue a final order granting a motion for summary disposition if the undisputed pleaded facts, admissions, affidavits, stipulations, documentary evidence, matters as to which official notice may be taken and any other evidentiary materials properly submitted in connection with a motion for summary disposition show that—

(1) There is no genuine issue as to any material fact; and

(2) The movant is entitled to a decision in its favor as a matter of law.

(b) *Filing of motions and responses.* (1) Any party who believes there is no genuine issue of material fact to be determined and that such party is entitled to a decision as a matter of law may

move at any time for summary disposition in its favor of all or any part of the proceeding. Any party, within 20 days after service of such motion or within such time period as allowed by the presiding officer, may file a response to such motion.

(2) A motion for summary disposition must be accompanied by a statement of material facts as to which the movant contends there is no genuine issue. Such motion must be supported by documentary evidence, which may take the form of admissions in pleadings, stipulations, written interrogatory responses, depositions, investigatory depositions, transcripts, affidavits and any other evidentiary materials that the movant contends support its position. The motion must also be accompanied by a brief containing the points and authorities in support of the contention of the movant. Any party opposing a motion for summary disposition must file a statement setting forth those material facts as to which such party contends a genuine dispute exists. Such opposition must be supported by evidence of the same type as that submitted with the motion for summary disposition and a brief containing the points and authorities in support of the contention that summary disposition would be inappropriate.

(c) *Hearing on motion.* At the request of any party or on his own motion, the presiding officer may hear oral argument on the motion for summary disposition.

(d) *Decision on motion.* Following receipt of a motion for summary disposition and all responses thereto, the presiding officer shall determine whether the movant is entitled to summary disposition. If the presiding officer determines that summary disposition is warranted, the presiding officer shall submit a recommended decision to that effect to the Director, under § 1780.53. If the presiding officer finds that the moving party is not entitled to summary disposition, the presiding officer shall make a ruling denying the motion.

§ 1780.32 Partial summary disposition.

If the presiding officer determines that a party is entitled to summary

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disposition as to certain claims only, he shall defer submitting a recommended decision to the Director as to those claims. A hearing on the remaining issues must be ordered. Those claims for which the presiding officer has determined that summary disposition is warranted will be addressed in the recommended decision filed at the conclusion of the hearing.

§ 1780.33 Scheduling and prehearing conferences.

(a) *Scheduling conference.* Within 30 days of service of the notice or order commencing a proceeding or such other time as the parties may agree, the presiding officer shall direct representatives for all parties to meet with him in person at a specified time and place prior to the hearing or to confer by telephone for the purpose of scheduling the course and conduct of the proceeding. This meeting or telephone conference is called a “scheduling conference.” The identification of potential witnesses, the time for and manner of discovery and the exchange of any prehearing materials including witness lists, statements of issues, stipulations, exhibits and any other materials may also be determined at the scheduling conference.

(b) *Prehearing conferences.* The presiding officer may, in addition to the scheduling conference, on his own motion or at the request of any party, direct representatives for the parties to meet with him (in person or by telephone) at a prehearing conference to address any or all of the following:

- (1) Simplification and clarification of the issues;
- (2) Stipulations, admissions of fact and the contents, authenticity and admissibility into evidence of documents;
- (3) Matters of which official notice may be taken;
- (4) Limitation of the number of witnesses;
- (5) Summary disposition of any or all issues;
- (6) Resolution of discovery issues or disputes;
- (7) Amendments to pleadings; and
- (8) Such other matters as may aid in the orderly disposition of the proceeding.

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(c) *Transcript.* The presiding officer, in his discretion, may require that a scheduling or prehearing conference be recorded by a court reporter. A transcript of the conference and any materials filed, including orders, becomes part of the record of the proceeding. A party may obtain a copy of the transcript at such party’s expense.

(d) *Scheduling or prehearing orders.* Within a reasonable time following the conclusion of the scheduling conference or any prehearing conference, the presiding officer shall serve on each party an order setting forth any agreements reached and any procedural determinations made.

§ 1780.34 Prehearing submissions.

(a) Within the time set by the presiding officer, but in no case later than 10 days before the start of the hearing, each party shall serve on every other party the serving party’s—

- (1) Prehearing statement;
- (2) Final list of witnesses to be called to testify at the hearing, including name and address of each witness and a short summary of the expected testimony of each witness;
- (3) List of the exhibits to be introduced at the hearing along with a copy of each exhibit; and
- (4) Stipulations of fact, if any.

(b) *Effect of failure to comply.* No witness may testify and no exhibits may be introduced at the hearing if such witness or exhibit is not listed in the prehearing submissions pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, except for good cause shown.

§ 1780.35 Hearing subpoenas.

(a) *Issuance.* (1) Upon application of a party showing general relevance and reasonableness of scope of the testimony or other evidence sought, the presiding officer may issue a subpoena or a subpoena *duces tecum* requiring the attendance of a witness at the hearing or the production of documentary or physical evidence at such hearing. The application for a hearing subpoena must also contain a proposed subpoena specifying the attendance of a witness or the production of evidence from any

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State, commonwealth, possession, territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia, or as otherwise provided by law at any designated place where the hearing is being conducted. The party making the application shall serve a copy of the application and the proposed subpoena on every other party.

(2) A party may apply for a hearing subpoena at any time before the commencement of or during a hearing. During a hearing, a party may make an application for a subpoena orally on the record before the presiding officer.

(3) The presiding officer shall promptly issue any hearing subpoena applied for under this section; except that, if the presiding officer determines that the application does not set forth a valid basis for the issuance of the subpoena, or that any of its terms are unreasonable, oppressive, excessive in scope, or unduly burdensome, he may refuse to issue the subpoena or may issue the subpoena in a modified form upon any conditions consistent with this subpart. Upon issuance by the presiding officer, the party making the application shall serve the subpoena on the person named in the subpoena and on each party.

(b) *Motion to quash or modify.* (1) Any person to whom a hearing subpoena is directed or any party may file a motion to quash or modify such subpoena, accompanied by a statement of the basis for quashing or modifying the subpoena. The movant must serve the motion on each party and on the person named in the subpoena. Any party may respond to the motion within ten days of service of the motion.

(2) Any motion to quash or modify a hearing subpoena must be filed prior to the time specified in the subpoena for compliance, but no more than 10 days after the date of service of the subpoena upon the movant.

(c) *Enforcing subpoenas.* If a subpoenaed person fails to comply with any subpoena issued pursuant to this section or any order of the presiding officer that directs compliance with all or any portion of a hearing subpoena, the subpoenaing party or any other aggrieved party may seek enforcement of

the subpoena pursuant to § 1780.28(c). A party's right to seek court enforcement of a hearing subpoena shall in no way limit the sanctions that may be imposed by the presiding officer on a party who induces a failure to comply with subpoenas issued under this section.

Subpart C—Hearing and Posthearing Proceedings

SOURCE: 64 FR 72518, Dec. 28, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72518, Dec. 28, 1999, subpart C, consisting of §§ 1780.50 through 1780.57 was added, effective Jan. 27, 2000.

§ 1780.50 Conduct of hearings.

(a) *General rules.* (1) Hearings shall be conducted in accordance with 5 U.S.C. chapter 5 and other applicable law and so as to provide a fair and expeditious presentation of the relevant disputed issues. Except as limited by this subpart, each party has the right to present its case or defense by oral and documentary evidence and to conduct such cross examination as may be required for full disclosure of the facts.

(2) *Order of hearing.* OFHEO's counsel of record shall present its case-in-chief first, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer or unless otherwise expressly specified by law or regulation. OFHEO's counsel of record shall be the first party to present an opening statement and a closing statement and may make a rebuttal statement after the respondent's closing statement. If there are multiple respondents, respondents may agree among themselves as to their order or presentation of their cases, but if they do not agree, the presiding officer shall fix the order.

(3) *Examination of witnesses.* Only one representative for each party may conduct an examination of a witness, except that in the case of extensive direct examination, the presiding officer may permit more than one representative for the party presenting the witness to conduct the examination. A party may

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have one representative conduct the direct examination and another representative conduct re-direct examination of a witness, or may have one representative conduct the cross examination of a witness and another representative conduct the re-cross examination of a witness.

(4) *Stipulations.* Unless the presiding officer directs otherwise, all documents that the parties have stipulated as admissible shall be admitted into evidence upon commencement of the hearing.

(b) *Transcript.* The hearing shall be recorded and transcribed. The transcript shall be made available to any party upon payment of the cost thereof. The presiding officer shall have authority to order the record corrected, either upon motion to correct, upon stipulation of the parties, or following notice to the parties upon the presiding officer's own motion.

§ 1780.51 Evidence.

(a) *Admissibility.* (1) Except as is otherwise set forth in this section, relevant, material and reliable evidence that is not unduly repetitive is admissible to the fullest extent authorized by the Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable law.

(2) Evidence that would be admissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence is admissible in a proceeding conducted pursuant to this subpart.

(3) Evidence that would be inadmissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence may not be deemed or ruled to be inadmissible in a proceeding conducted pursuant to this subpart if such evidence is relevant, material, reliable and not unduly repetitive.

(b) *Official notice.* (1) Official notice may be taken of any material fact that may be judicially noticed by a United States district court and any material information in the official public records of any Federal or State government agency.

(2) All matters officially noticed by the presiding officer or the Director shall appear on the record.

(3) If official notice is requested of any material fact, the parties, upon timely request, shall be afforded an opportunity to object.

(c) *Documents.* (1) A duplicate copy of a document is admissible to the same extent as the original, unless a genuine issue is raised as to whether the copy is in some material respect not a true and legible copy of the original.

(2) Subject to the requirements of paragraph (a)(1) of this section, any document, including a report of examination, oversight activity, inspection, or visitation, prepared by OFHEO or by another Federal or State financial institutions regulatory agency is admissible either with or without a sponsoring witness.

(3) Witnesses may use existing or newly created charts, exhibits, calendars, calculations, outlines, or other graphic material to summarize, illustrate, or simplify the presentation of testimony. Such materials may, subject to the presiding officer's discretion, be used with or without being admitted into evidence.

(d) *Objections.* (1) Objections to the admissibility of evidence must be timely made and rulings on all objections must appear in the record.

(2) When an objection to a question or line of questioning is sustained, the examining representative of record may make a specific proffer on the record of what he expected to prove by the expected testimony of the witness. The proffer may be by representation of the representative or by direct interrogation of the witness.

(3) The presiding officer shall retain rejected exhibits, adequately marked for identification, for the record and transmit such exhibits to the Director.

(4) Failure to object to admission of evidence or to any ruling constitutes a waiver of the objection.

(e) *Stipulations.* The parties may stipulate as to any relevant matters of fact or the authentication of any relevant documents. Such stipulations must be received in evidence at a hearing and are binding on the parties with respect to the matters therein stipulated.

(f) *Depositions of unavailable witnesses.* (1) If a witness is unavailable to testify at a hearing and that witness has testified in a deposition in accordance with § 1780.29, a party may offer as evidence all or any part of the transcript of the deposition, including deposition exhibits, if any.

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(2) Such deposition transcript is admissible to the same extent that testimony would have been admissible had that person testified at the hearing, provided that if a witness refused to answer proper questions during the depositions, the presiding officer may, on that basis, limit the admissibility of the deposition in any manner that justice requires.

(3) Only those portions of a deposition received in evidence at the hearing constitute a part of the record.

§ 1780.52 Post hearing filings.

(a) *Proposed findings and conclusions and supporting briefs.* (1) Using the same method of service for each party, the presiding officer shall serve notice upon each party that the certified transcript, together with all hearing exhibits and exhibits introduced but not admitted into evidence at the hearing, has been filed. Any party may file with the presiding officer proposed findings of fact, proposed conclusions of law and a proposed order within 30 days after the parties have received notice that the transcript has been filed with the presiding officer, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer.

(2) Proposed findings and conclusions must be supported by citation to any relevant authorities and by page references to any relevant portions of the record. A posthearing brief may be filed in support of proposed findings and conclusions, either as part of the same document or in a separate document.

(3) Any party is deemed to have waived any issue not raised in proposed findings or conclusions timely filed by that party.

(b) *Reply briefs.* Reply briefs may be filed within 15 days after the date on which the parties' proposed findings and conclusions and proposed order are due. Reply briefs must be limited strictly to responding to new matters, issues, or arguments raised in another party's papers. A party who has not filed proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law or a posthearing brief may not file a reply brief.

(c) *Simultaneous filing required.* The presiding officer shall not order the filing by any party of any brief or reply brief supporting proposed findings and

conclusions in advance of the other party's filing of its brief.

§ 1780.53 Recommended decision and filing of record.

(a) *Filing of recommended decision and record.* Within 45 days after expiration of the time allowed for filing reply briefs under §1780.52(b), the presiding officer shall file with and certify to the Director, for decision, the record of the proceeding. The record must include the presiding officer's recommended decision, recommended findings of fact and conclusions of law, and proposed order; all prehearing and hearing transcripts, exhibits and rulings; and the motions, briefs, memoranda and other supporting papers filed in connection with the hearing. The presiding officer shall serve upon each party the recommended decision, recommended findings and conclusions, and proposed order.

(b) *Filing of index.* At the same time the presiding officer files with and certifies to the Director, for final determination, the record of the proceeding, the presiding officer shall furnish to the Director a certified index of the entire record of the proceeding. The certified index shall include, at a minimum, an entry for each paper, document or motion filed with the presiding officer in the proceeding, the date of the filing, and the identity of the filer. The certified index shall also include an exhibit index containing, at a minimum, an entry consisting of exhibit number and title or description for: Each exhibit introduced and admitted into evidence at the hearing; each exhibit introduced but not admitted into evidence at the hearing; each exhibit introduced and admitted into evidence after the completion of the hearing; and each exhibit introduced but not admitted into evidence after the completion of the hearing.

§ 1780.54 Exceptions to recommended decision.

(a) *Filing exceptions.* Within 30 days after service of the recommended decision, recommended findings and conclusions, and proposed order under §1780.53, a party may file with the Director written exceptions to the presiding officer's recommended decision,

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recommended findings and conclusions, or proposed order; to the admission or exclusion of evidence; or to the failure of the presiding officer to make a ruling proposed by a party. A supporting brief may be filed at the time the exceptions are filed, either as part of the same document or in a separate document.

(b) *Effect of failure to file or raise exceptions.* (1) Failure of a party to file exceptions to those matters specified in paragraph (a) of this section within the time prescribed is deemed a waiver of objection thereto.

(2) No exception need be considered by the Director if the party taking exception had an opportunity to raise the same objection, issue, or argument before the presiding officer and failed to do so.

(c) *Contents.* (1) All exceptions and briefs in support of such exceptions must be confined to the particular matters in or omissions from the presiding officer's recommendations to which that party takes exception.

(2) All exceptions and briefs in support of exceptions must set forth page or paragraph references to the specific parts of the presiding officer's recommendations to which exception is taken, the page or paragraph references to those portions of the record relied upon to support each exception and the legal authority relied upon to support each exception. Exceptions and briefs in support shall not exceed a total of 30 pages, except by leave of the Director on motion.

(3) One reply brief may be submitted by each party within ten days of service of exceptions and briefs in support of exceptions. Reply briefs shall not exceed 15 pages, except by leave of the Director on motion.

§ 1780.55 Review by Director.

(a) *Notice of submission to the Director.* When the Director determines that the record in the proceeding is complete, the Director shall serve notice upon the parties that the proceeding has been submitted to the Director for final decision.

(b) *Oral argument before the Director.* Upon the initiative of the Director or on the written request of any party filed with the Director within the time

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for filing exceptions under § 1780.54, the Director may order and hear oral argument on the recommended findings, conclusions, decision and order of the presiding officer. A written request by a party must show good cause for oral argument and state reasons why arguments cannot be presented adequately in writing. A denial of a request for oral argument may be set forth in the Director's final decision. Oral argument before the Director must be transcribed.

(c) *Director's final decision.* (1) Decisional employees may advise and assist the Director in the consideration and disposition of the case. The final decision of the Director will be based upon review of the entire record of the proceeding, except that the Director may limit the issues to be reviewed to those findings and conclusions to which opposing arguments or exceptions have been filed by the parties.

(2) The Director shall render a final decision and issue an appropriate order within 90 days after notification of the parties that the case has been submitted for final decision, unless the Director orders that the action or any aspect thereof be remanded to the presiding officer for further proceedings. Copies of the final decision and order of the Director shall be served upon each party to the proceeding and upon other persons required by statute.

§ 1780.56 Exhaustion of administrative remedies.

To exhaust administrative remedies as to any issue on which a party disagrees with the presiding officer's recommendations, a party must file exceptions with the Director under § 1780.54. A party must exhaust administrative remedies as a precondition to seeking judicial review of any decision issued under this subpart.

§ 1780.57 Stays pending judicial review.

The commencement of proceedings for judicial review of a final decision and order of the Director may not, unless specifically ordered by the Director or a reviewing court, operate as a stay of any order issued by the Director. The Director may, in his discretion and on such terms as he finds just, stay

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the effectiveness of all or any part of an order of the Director pending a final decision on a petition for review of that order.

Subpart D—Rules of Practice Before the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight

SOURCE: 64 FR 72520, Dec. 28, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72520, Dec. 28, 1999, subpart D, consisting of §§ 1780.70 through 1780.75 was added, effective Jan. 27, 2000.

§ 1780.70 Scope.

This subpart contains rules governing practice by parties or their representatives before OFHEO. This subpart addresses the imposition of sanctions by the presiding officer or the Director against parties or their representatives in an adjudicatory proceeding under this part. This subpart also covers other disciplinary sanctions—censure, suspension or disbarment—against individuals who appear before OFHEO in a representational capacity either in an adjudicatory proceeding under this part or in any other matters connected with presentations to OFHEO relating to a client's or other principal's rights, privileges, or liabilities. This representation includes, but is not limited to, the practice of attorneys and accountants. Employees of OFHEO are not subject to disciplinary proceedings under this subpart.

§ 1780.71 Definitions.

Practice before OFHEO for the purposes of this subpart, includes, but is not limited to, transacting any business with OFHEO as counsel, representative or agent for any other person, unless the Director orders otherwise. Practice before OFHEO also includes the preparation of any statement, opinion, or other paper by a counsel, representative or agent that is filed with OFHEO in any certification, notification, application, report, or other document, with the consent of such counsel, representative or agent. Practice before OFHEO does not include work prepared for an Enterprise

solely at the request of the Enterprise for use in the ordinary course of its business.

§ 1780.72 Appearance and practice in adjudicatory proceedings.

(a) *Appearance before OFHEO or a presiding officer.* (1) *By attorneys.* A party may be represented by an attorney who is a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of any State, commonwealth, possession, territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia and who is not currently suspended or disbarred from practice before OFHEO.

(2) *By nonattorneys.* An individual may appear on his own behalf. A member of a partnership may represent the partnership and a duly authorized officer, director, employee, or other agent of any corporation or other entity not specifically listed herein may represent such corporation or other entity; provided that such officer, director, employee, or other agent is not currently suspended or disbarred from practice before OFHEO. A duly authorized officer or employee of any Government unit, agency, or authority may represent that unit, agency, or authority.

(b) *Notice of appearance.* Any person appearing in a representative capacity on behalf of a party, including OFHEO, shall execute and file a notice of appearance with the presiding officer at or before the time such person submits papers or otherwise appears on behalf of a party in the adjudicatory proceeding. Such notice of appearance shall include a written declaration that the individual is currently qualified as provided in paragraphs (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section and is authorized to represent the particular party. By filing a notice of appearance on behalf of a party in an adjudicatory proceeding, the representative thereby agrees and represents that he is authorized to accept service on behalf of the represented party and that, in the event of withdrawal from representation, he or she will, if required by the presiding officer, continue to accept service until a new representative has filed a notice of appearance or until the represented

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party indicates that he or she will proceed on a pro se basis. Unless the representative filing the notice is an attorney, the notice of appearance shall also be executed by the person represented or, if the person is not an individual, by the chief executive officer, or duly authorized officer of that person.

§ 1780.73 Conflicts of interest.

(a) *Conflict of interest in representation.* No representative shall represent another person in an adjudicatory proceeding if it reasonably appears that such representation may be limited materially by that representative's responsibilities to a third person or by that representative's own interests. The presiding officer may take corrective measures at any stage of a proceeding to cure a conflict of interest in representation, including the issuance of an order limiting the scope of representation or disqualifying an individual from appearing in a representative capacity for the duration of the proceeding.

(b) *Certification and waiver.* If any person appearing as counsel or other representative represents two or more parties to an adjudicatory proceeding or also represents a nonparty on a matter relevant to an issue in the proceeding, that representative must certify in writing at the time of filing the notice of appearance required by § 1780.72—

(1) That the representative has personally and fully discussed the possibility of conflicts of interest with each such party and nonparty;

(2) That each such party and nonparty waives any right it might otherwise have had to assert any known conflicts of interest or to assert any non-material conflicts of interest during the course of the proceeding.

§ 1780.74 Sanctions.

(a) *General rule.* Appropriate sanctions may be imposed during the course of any proceeding when any party or representative of record has acted or failed to act in a manner required by applicable statute, regulation, or order, and that act or failure to act—

(1) Constitutes contemptuous conduct. Contemptuous conduct includes

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dilatory, obstructionist, egregious, contumacious, unethical, or other improper conduct at any phase of any adjudicatory proceeding;

(2) Has caused some other party material and substantive injury, including, but not limited to, incurring expenses including attorney's fees or experiencing prejudicial delay;

(3) Is a clear and unexcused violation of an applicable statute, regulation, or order; or

(4) Has delayed the proceeding unduly.

(b) *Sanctions.* Sanctions that may be imposed include, but are not limited to, any one or more of the following:

(1) Issuing an order against a party;

(2) Rejecting or striking any testimony or documentary evidence offered, or other papers filed, by the party;

(3) Precluding the party from contesting specific issues or findings;

(4) Precluding the party from offering certain evidence or from challenging or contesting certain evidence offered by another party;

(5) Precluding the party from making a late filing or conditioning a late filing on any terms that are just;

(6) Assessing reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, incurred by any other party as a result of the improper action or failure to act.

(c) *Procedure for imposition of sanctions.* (1) The presiding officer, on the motion of any party, or on his own motion, and after such notice and responses as may be directed by the presiding officer, may impose any sanction authorized by this section. The presiding officer shall submit to the Director for final ruling any sanction that would result in a final order that terminates the case on the merits or is otherwise dispositive of the case.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, no sanction authorized by this section, other than refusing to accept late papers, shall be imposed without prior notice to all parties and an opportunity for any representative or party against whom sanctions would be imposed to be heard. The presiding officer shall determine and direct the appropriate notice and form for such opportunity to be heard. The opportunity to be heard

may be limited to an opportunity to respond verbally immediately after the act or inaction in question is noted by the presiding officer.

(3) For purposes of interlocutory review, motions for the imposition of sanctions by any party and the imposition of sanctions shall be treated the same as motions for any other ruling by the presiding officer.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be read to preclude the presiding officer or the Director from taking any other action or imposing any other restriction or sanction authorized by any applicable statute or regulation.

(d) *Sanctions for contemptuous conduct.* If, during the course of any proceeding, a presiding officer finds any representative or any individual representing himself to have engaged in contemptuous conduct, the presiding officer may summarily suspend that individual from participating in that or any related proceeding or impose any other appropriate sanction.

§ 1780.75 Censure, suspension, disbarment and reinstatement.

(a) *Discretionary censure, suspension and disbarment.* (1) The Director may censure any individual who practices or attempts to practice before OFHEO or suspend or revoke the privilege to appear or practice before OFHEO of such individual if, after notice of and opportunity for hearing in the matter, that individual is found by the Director—

(i) Not to possess the requisite qualifications or competence to represent others;

(ii) To be seriously lacking in character or integrity or to have engaged in material unethical or improper professional conduct;

(iii) To have caused unfair and material injury or prejudice to another party, such as prejudicial delay or unnecessary expenses including attorney's fees;

(iv) To have engaged in, or aided and abetted, a material and knowing violation of the 1992 Act, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Act, the Federal National Mortgage Association Charter Act or the rules or regulations issued under those statutes or any

other law or regulation governing Enterprise operations;

(v) To have engaged in contemptuous conduct before OFHEO;

(vi) With intent to defraud in any manner, to have willfully and knowingly deceived, misled, or threatened any client or prospective client; or

(vii) Within the last 10 years, to have been convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude, dishonesty or breach of trust, if the conviction has not been reversed on appeal. A conviction within the meaning of this paragraph shall be deemed to have occurred when the convicting court enters its judgment or order, regardless of whether an appeal is pending or could be taken and includes a judgment or an order on a plea of *nolo contendere* or on consent, regardless of whether a violation is admitted in the consent.

(2) Suspension or revocation on the grounds set forth in paragraphs (a)(1)(ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of this section shall only be ordered upon a further finding that the individual's conduct or character was sufficiently egregious as to justify suspension or revocation. Suspension or disbarment under this paragraph shall continue until the applicant has been reinstated by the Director for good cause shown or until, in the case of a suspension, the suspension period has expired.

(3) If the final order against the respondent is for censure, the individual may be permitted to practice before OFHEO, but such individual's future representations may be subject to conditions designed to promote high standards of conduct. If a written letter of censure is issued, a copy will be maintained in OFHEO's files.

(b) *Mandatory suspension and disbarment.* (1) Any counsel who has been and remains suspended or disbarred by a court of the United States or of any State, commonwealth, possession, territory of the United States or the District of Columbia; any accountant or other licensed expert whose license to practice has been revoked in any State, commonwealth, possession, territory of the United States or the District of Columbia; any person who has been and remains suspended or barred from practice before the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Office of

the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Office of Thrift Supervision, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, the Federal Housing Finance Board, the Farm Credit Administration, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the Commodity Futures Trading Commission is also suspended automatically from appearing or practicing before OFHEO. A disbarment or suspension within the meaning of this paragraph shall be deemed to have occurred when the disbarring or suspending agency or tribunal enters its judgment or order, regardless of whether an appeal is pending or could be taken and regardless of whether a violation is admitted in the consent.

(2) A suspension or disbarment from practice before OFHEO under paragraph (b)(1) of this section shall continue until the person suspended or disbarred is reinstated under paragraph (d)(2) of this section.

(c) *Notices to be filed.* (1) Any individual appearing or practicing before OFHEO who is the subject of an order, judgment, decree, or finding of the types set forth in paragraph (b)(1) of this section shall file promptly with the Director a copy thereof, together with any related opinion or statement of the agency or tribunal involved.

(2) Any individual appearing or practicing before OFHEO who is or within the last 10 years has been convicted of a felony or of a misdemeanor that resulted in a sentence of prison term or in a fine or restitution order totaling more than \$5,000 shall file a notice promptly with the Director. The notice shall include a copy of the order imposing the sentence or fine, together with any related opinion or statement of the court involved.

(d) *Reinstatement.* (1) Unless otherwise ordered by the Director, an application for reinstatement for good cause may be made in writing by a person suspended or disbarred under paragraph (a)(1) of this section at any time more than three years after the effective date of the suspension or disbarment and, thereafter, at any time more than one year after the person's most recent application for reinstatement. An ap-

plicant for reinstatement under this paragraph (d)(1) may, in the Director's sole discretion, be afforded a hearing.

(2) An application for reinstatement for good cause by any person suspended or disbarred under paragraph (b)(1) of this section may be filed at any time, but not less than 1 year after the applicant's most recent application. An applicant for reinstatement for good cause under this paragraph (d)(2) may, in the Director's sole discretion, be afforded a hearing. However, if all the grounds for suspension or disbarment under paragraph (b)(1) of this section have been removed by a reversal of the order of suspension or disbarment or by termination of the underlying suspension or disbarment, any person suspended or disbarred under paragraph (b)(1) of this section may apply immediately for reinstatement and shall be reinstated by OFHEO upon written application notifying OFHEO that the grounds have been removed.

(e) *Conferences.* (1) *General.* Counsel for OFHEO may confer with a proposed respondent concerning allegations of misconduct or other grounds for censure, disbarment or suspension, regardless of whether a proceeding for censure, disbarment or suspension has been commenced. If a conference results in a stipulation in connection with a proceeding in which the individual is the respondent, the stipulation may be entered in the record at the request of either party to the proceeding.

(2) *Resignation or voluntary suspension.* In order to avoid the institution of or a decision in a disbarment or suspension proceeding, a person who practices before OFHEO may consent to censure, suspension or disbarment from practice. At the discretion of the Director, the individual may be censured, suspended or disbarred in accordance with the consent offered.

(f) *Hearings under this section.* Hearings conducted under this section shall be conducted in substantially the same manner as other hearings under this part, provided that in proceedings to terminate an existing OFHEO suspension or disbarment order, the person seeking the termination of the order shall bear the burden of going forward with an application and with proof and

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that the Director may, in the Director's sole discretion, direct that any proceeding to terminate an existing suspension or disbarment by OFHEO be limited to written submissions. All hearings held under this section shall be closed to the public unless the Director, on the Director's own motion or upon the request of a party, otherwise directs.

Subpart E—Civil Money Penalty Inflation Adjustments

§ 1780.80 Inflation adjustments.

The maximum amount of each civil money penalty within OFHEO's jurisdiction is adjusted in accordance with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (28 U.S.C. 2461 *note*) as follows:

U.S. Code citation	Description	Previous maximum penalty	New adjusted maximum penalty
12 U.S.C. 4636(b)(1)	First Tier	\$5,000	\$5,500
12 U.S.C. 4636(b)(2)	Second Tier (Executive Officer or Director)	10,000	11,000
12 U.S.C. 4636(b)(2)	Second Tier (Enterprise)	25,000	27,500
12 U.S.C. 4636(b)(3)	Third Tier (Executive Officer or Director)	100,000	110,000
12 U.S.C. 4636(b)(3)	Third Tier (Enterprise)	1,000,000	1,100,000

[62 FR 68154, Dec. 31, 1997. Redesignated at 64 FR 72510, Dec. 28, 1999]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72510, Dec. 28, 1999, § 1780.80 was redesignated from § 1780.70, effective Jan. 27, 2000.

§ 1780.81 Applicability.

The inflation adjustments in § 1780.70 apply to civil money penalties assessed

in accordance with the provisions of 12 U.S.C. 4636 for violations occurring after October 23, 1996.

[62 FR 68154, Dec. 31, 1997. Redesignated at 64 FR 72510, Dec. 28, 1999]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 64 FR 72510, Dec. 28, 1999, § 1780.81 was redesignated from § 1780.71, effective Jan. 27, 2000.

CHAPTER XVIII—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FUND, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

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PART 1805—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS PROGRAM

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AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 4703, 4703 note, 4717; and 31 U.S.C. 321.

SOURCE: 64 FR 59082, Nov. 1, 1999.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 1805.100 Purpose.

The purpose of the Community Development Financial Institutions Program is to facilitate the creation of a national network of financial institutions that is dedicated to community development.

§ 1805.101 Summary.

Under the Community Development Financial Institutions Program, the Fund will provide financial and technical assistance to Applicants selected by the Fund in order to enhance their ability to make loans and investments and provide services. An Awardee must serve an Investment Area(s), Targeted Population(s), or both. The Fund will select Awardees to receive financial and technical assistance through a competitive application process. Each Awardee will enter into an Assistance Agreement which will require it to achieve performance goals negotiated between the Fund and the Awardee and abide by other terms and conditions pertinent to any assistance received under this part.

§ 1805.102 Relationship to other Fund programs.

(a) *Bank Enterprise Award Program.* (1) No Community Development Financial Institution may receive a Bank Enterprise Award under the Bank Enterprise Award Program (part 1806 of this chapter) if it has:

(i) An application pending for assistance under the Community Development Financial Institutions Program;

(ii) Directly received assistance in the form of a disbursement under the Community Development Financial Institutions Program within the preceding 12-month period; or

(iii) Ever directly received assistance under the Community Development Financial Institutions Program for the same activities for which it is seeking a Bank Enterprise Award.

(2) An equity investment (as defined in part 1806 of this chapter) in, or a loan to, a Community Development Financial Institution, or deposits in an Insured Community Development Financial Institution, made by a Bank Enterprise Award Program Awardee may be used to meet the matching funds requirements described in subpart E of this part. Receipt of such equity investment, loan, or deposit does not disqualify a Community Development Financial Institution from receiving assistance under this part.

(b) *Liquidity enhancement program.* No entity that receives assistance through the liquidity enhancement program authorized under section 113 (12 U.S.C. 4712) of the Act may receive assistance under the Community Development Financial Institutions Program.

§ 1805.103 Awardee not instrumentality.

No Awardee (or its Community Partner) shall be deemed to be an agency, department, or instrumentality of the United States.

§ 1805.104 Definitions.

For the purpose of this part:

(a) *Act* means the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994, as amended (12 U.S.C. 4701 *et seq.*);

(b) *Affiliate* means any company or entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another company;

(c) *Applicant* means any entity submitting an application for assistance under this part;

(d) *Appropriate Federal Banking Agency* has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(q)), and also includes the National Credit Union Administration with respect to Insured Credit Unions;

(e) *Assistance Agreement* means a formal agreement between the Fund and an Awardee which specifies the terms and conditions of assistance under this part;

(f) *Awardee* means an Applicant selected by the Fund to receive assistance pursuant to this part;

(g) *Community Development Financial Institution* (or *CDFI*) means an entity

currently meeting the eligibility requirements described in § 1805.200;

(h) *Community Development Financial Institution Intermediary* (or *CDFI Intermediary*) means an entity that meets the CDFI Program eligibility requirements described in § 1805.200 and whose primary business activity is the provision of Financial Products to CDFIs and/or emerging CDFIs;

(i) *Community Development Financial Institutions Program* (or *CDFI Program*) means the program authorized by sections 105–108 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 4704–4707) and implemented under this part;

(j) *Community Facility* means a facility where health care, child care, educational, cultural, or social services are provided;

(k) *Community-Governed* means an entity in which the residents of an Investment Area(s) or members of a Targeted Population(s) represent greater than 50 percent of the governing body;

(l) *Community-Owned* means an entity in which the residents of an Investment Area(s) or members of a Targeted Population(s) have an ownership interest of greater than 50 percent;

(m) *Community Partner* means a person (other than an individual) that provides loans, Equity Investments, or Development Services and enters into a Community Partnership with an Applicant. A Community Partner may include a Depository Institution Holding Company, an Insured Depository Institution, an Insured Credit Union, a not-for-profit or for-profit organization, a State or local government entity, a quasi-government entity, or an investment company authorized pursuant to the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*);

(n) *Community Partnership* means an agreement between an Applicant and a Community Partner to collaboratively provide loans, Equity Investments, or Development Services to an Investment Area(s) or a Targeted Population(s);

(o) *Comprehensive Business Plan* means a document covering not less than the next five years which meets the requirements described under § 1805.601(d);

(p) *Depository Institution Holding Company* means a bank holding company or a savings and loan holding company as

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defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(w)(1));

(q) *Development Services* means activities that promote community development and are integral to the Applicant's provision of Financial Products. Such services shall prepare or assist current or potential borrowers or investees to utilize the Financial Products of the Applicant. Such services include, for example: financial or credit counseling to individuals for the purpose of facilitating home ownership, promoting self-employment, or enhancing consumer financial management skills; or technical assistance to borrowers or investees for the purpose of enhancing business planning, marketing, management, and financial management skills;

(r) *Equity Investment* means an investment made by an Applicant which, in the judgment of the Fund, directly supports or enhances activities that serve an Investment Area(s) or a Targeted Population(s). Such investments must be made through an arms-length transaction with a third party that does not have a relationship with the Applicant as an Affiliate. Equity Investments comprise a stock purchase, a purchase of a partnership interest, a purchase of a limited liability company membership interest, a loan made on such terms that it has sufficient characteristics of equity (and is considered as such by the Fund), or any other investment deemed to be an Equity Investment by the Fund;

(s) *Financial Products* means loans, Equity Investments and, in the case of CDFI Intermediaries, grants to CDFIs and/or emerging CDFIs and deposits in insured credit union CDFIs and/or emerging insured credit union CDFIs;

(t) *Financial Services* means checking, savings accounts, check-cashing, money orders, certified checks, automated teller machines, deposit-taking, and safe deposit box services;

(u) *Fund* means the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund established under section 104(a) (12 U.S.C. 4703(a)) of the Act;

(v) *Indian Reservation* means any geographic area that meets the requirements of section 4(10) of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C.

1903(10)), and shall include land held by incorporated Native groups, regional corporations, and village corporations, as defined in and pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602), public domain Indian allotments, and former Indian reservations in the State of Oklahoma;

(w) *Indian Tribe* means any Indian Tribe, band, pueblo, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation, as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians;

(x) *Insider* means any director, officer, employee, principal shareholder (owning, individually or in combination with family members, five percent or more of any class of stock), or agent (or any family member or business partner of any of the above) of any Applicant, Affiliate or Community Partner;

(y) *Insured CDFI* means a CDFI that is an Insured Depository Institution or an Insured Credit Union;

(z) *Insured Credit Union* means any credit union, the member accounts of which are insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund;

(aa) *Insured Depository Institution* means any bank or thrift, the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;

(bb) *Investment Area* means a geographic area meeting the requirements of § 1805.201(b)(3);

(cc) *Low-Income* means an income, adjusted for family size, of not more than:

(1) For Metropolitan Areas, 80 percent of the area median family income; and (2) For non-Metropolitan Areas, the greater of:

(i) 80 percent of the area median family income; or

(ii) 80 percent of the statewide non-Metropolitan Area median family income;

(2) [Reserved]

(dd) *Metropolitan Area* means an area designated as such by the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to 44

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U.S.C. 3504(e) and 31 U.S.C. 1104(d) and Executive Order 10253 (3 CFR, 1949–1953 Comp., p. 758), as amended;

(ee) *Non-Regulated CDFI* means any entity meeting the eligibility requirements described in § 1805.200 which is not a Depository Institution Holding Company, Insured Depository Institution, or Insured Credit Union;

(ff) *State* means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia or any territory of the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands;

(gg) *Subsidiary* means any company which is owned or controlled directly or indirectly by another company and includes any service corporation owned in whole or part by an Insured Depository Institution or any Subsidiary of such a service corporation, except as provided in § 1805.200(b)(4);

(hh) *Targeted Population* means individuals or an identifiable group meeting the requirements of § 1805.201(b)(3); and

(ii) *Target Market* means an Investment Area(s) and/or a Targeted Population(s).

§ 1805.105 Waiver authority.

The Fund may waive any requirement of this part that is not required by law upon a determination of good cause. Each such waiver shall be in writing and supported by a statement of the facts and the grounds forming the basis of the waiver. For a waiver in an individual case, the Fund must determine that application of the requirement to be waived would adversely affect the achievement of the purposes of the Act. For waivers of general applicability, the Fund will publish notification of granted waivers in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

§ 1805.106 OMB control number.

The collection of information requirements in this part have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and assigned OMB control number 1505–0154.

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Subpart B—Eligibility

§ 1805.200 Applicant eligibility.

(a) *General requirements.* (1) An entity that meets the requirements described in § 1805.201(b) and paragraph (b) of this section will be considered a CDFI and, subject to paragraph (a)(3) of this section, will be eligible to apply for assistance under this part.

(2) An entity that proposes to become a CDFI is eligible to apply for assistance under this part if the Fund determines that such entity's application materials provide a realistic course of action to ensure that it will meet the requirements described in § 1805.201(b) and paragraph (b) of this section within 24 months from September 30 of the calendar year in which the applicable application deadline falls or such other period as may be set forth in an applicable NOFA. The Fund will not, however, disburse any financial assistance to such an entity before it meets the requirements described in this section.

(3) The Fund shall require an entity to meet any additional eligibility requirements that the Fund deems appropriate.

(4) The Fund, in its sole discretion, shall determine whether an Applicant fulfills the requirements set forth in this section and § 1805.201(b).

(b) *Provisions applicable to Depository Institution Holding Companies and Insured Depository Institutions.* (1) A Depository Institution Holding Company may qualify as a CDFI only if it and its Affiliates collectively satisfy the requirements described in this section.

(2) No Affiliate of a Depository Institution Holding Company may qualify as a CDFI unless the holding company and all of its Affiliates collectively meet the requirements described in this section.

(3) No Subsidiary of an Insured Depository Institution may qualify as a CDFI if the Insured Depository Institution and its Subsidiaries do not collectively meet the requirements described in this section.

(4) For the purposes of paragraphs (b)(1), (2) and (3) of this section, an Applicant will be considered to be a Subsidiary of any Insured Depository Institution or Depository Institution Holding Company that controls 25 percent

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or more of any class of the Applicant's voting shares, or otherwise controls, in any manner, the election of a majority of directors of the Applicant.

§ 1805.201 Certification as a Community Development Financial Institution.

(a) *General.* An entity may apply to the Fund for certification that it meets the CDFI eligibility requirements regardless of whether it is seeking financial or technical assistance from the Fund. Entities seeking such certification shall provide the information set forth in paragraph (b) of this section. Certification by the Fund will verify that the entity meets the CDFI eligibility requirements. However, such certification shall not constitute an opinion by the Fund as to the financial viability of the CDFI or that the CDFI will be selected to receive an award from the Fund. The Fund, in its sole discretion, shall have the right to decertify a certified entity after a determination that the eligibility requirements of paragraph (b) of this section, § 1805.200(b), or § 1805.200(a)(3) (if applicable) are no longer met.

(b) *Eligibility verification.* An Applicant shall provide information necessary to establish that it is, or will be, a CDFI. An Applicant shall demonstrate whether it meets the eligibility requirements described in this paragraph (b) and § 1805.200 by providing the information requested in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(7) of this section. The Fund, in its sole discretion, shall determine whether an Applicant has satisfied the requirements of this paragraph (b) and § 1805.200.

(1) *Primary mission.* A CDFI shall have a primary mission of promoting community development. In determining whether an Applicant has such a primary mission, the Fund will consider whether the activities of the Applicant and its Affiliates, when viewed collectively (as a whole), are purposefully directed toward improving the social and/or economic conditions of underserved people (which may include Low-Income persons and persons who lack adequate access to capital and/or Financial Services) and/or residents of distressed communities (which may include Investment Areas).

(2) *Financing entity.* (i) A CDFI shall be an entity whose predominant business activity is the provision, in arms-length transactions, of Financial Products, Development Services, and/or other similar financing. An Applicant may demonstrate that it is such an entity if it is a(n):

(A) Depository Institution Holding Company;

(B) Insured Depository Institution or Insured Credit Union; or

(C) Organization that is deemed by the Fund to have such a predominant business activity as a result of analysis of its financial statements, organizing documents, and any other information required to be submitted as part of its application. In conducting such analysis, the Fund may take into consideration an Applicant's total assets and its use of personnel.

(ii) An Applicant described under:

(A) Paragraph (b)(2)(i)(A) of this section shall submit a copy of its organizing documents that indicate that it is a Depository Institution Holding Company;

(B) Paragraph (b)(2)(i)(B) of this section shall submit a copy of its current certificate of insurance issued by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Administration; and

(C) Paragraph (b)(2)(i)(C) of this section shall submit a copy of its most recent year-end financial statements (and any notes or other supplemental information to its financial statements) documenting its assets dedicated to Financial Products, Development Services and/or other similar financing, and an explanation of how such assets support these activities. An Applicant also shall provide qualitative and quantitative information on the percentage of Applicant staff time dedicated to the provision of Financial Products, Development Services, and/or other similar financing.

(3) *Target Market.* (i) *General.* An Applicant shall provide a description of one or more Investment Areas and/or Targeted Populations that it serves, and shall demonstrate that its total activities are principally directed to

serving the Investment Areas, Targeted Populations, or both. An Investment Area shall meet specific geographic and other criteria described in paragraph (b)(3)(ii) of this section, and a Targeted Population shall meet the criteria described in paragraph (b)(3)(iii) of this section.

(ii) *Investment Area.* (A) *General.* A geographic area will be considered eligible for designation as an Investment Area if it:

(1) Is entirely located within the geographic boundaries of the United States (which shall encompass any State of the United States, the District of Columbia or any territory of the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands); and either

(2) Meets at least one of the objective criteria of economic distress as set forth in paragraph (b)(3)(ii)(D) of this section and has significant unmet needs for loans or Equity Investments as described in paragraph (b)(3)(ii)(E) of this section; or

(3) Encompasses or is located in an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community designated under §1391 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 1391).

(B) *Geographic units.* Subject to the remainder of this paragraph (b)(3)(ii)(B), an Investment Area shall consist of a geographic unit(s) that is a county (or equivalent area), minor civil division that is a unit of local government, incorporated place, census tract, block numbering area, block group, or American Indian or Alaska Native area (as such units are defined or reported by the U.S. Bureau of the Census). However, geographic units in Metropolitan Areas that are used to comprise an Investment Area shall be limited to census tracts, block groups and American Indian or Alaskan Native areas. An Applicant may designate one or more Investment Areas as part of a single application.

(C) *Designation.* An Applicant may designate an Investment Area by selecting:

(1) A geographic unit(s) which individually meets one of the criteria in

paragraph (b)(3)(ii)(D) of this section; or

(2) A group of contiguous geographic units which together meet one of the criteria in paragraph (b)(3)(ii)(D) of this section, provided that the combined population residing within individual geographic units not meeting any such criteria does not exceed 15 percent of the total population of the entire Investment Area.

(D) *Distress criteria.* An Investment Area (or the units that comprise an area) must meet at least one of the following objective criteria of economic distress (as reported in the most recently completed decennial census published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census):

(1) The percentage of the population living in poverty is at least 20 percent;

(2) In the case of an Investment Area located:

(i) Within a Metropolitan Area, the median family income shall be at or below 80 percent of the Metropolitan Area median family income or the national Metropolitan Area median family income, whichever is greater; or

(ii) Outside of a Metropolitan Area, the median family income shall be at or below 80 percent of the statewide non-Metropolitan Area median family income or the national non-Metropolitan Area median family income, whichever is greater;

(3) The unemployment rate is at least 1.5 times the national average;

(4) The percentage of occupied distressed housing (as indicated by lack of complete plumbing and occupancy of more than one person per room) is at least 20 percent; or

(5) In areas located outside of a Metropolitan Area:

(i) The county population loss in the period between the most recent decennial census and the previous decennial census is at least 10 percent; or

(ii) The county net migration loss (outmigration minus immigration) over the five year period preceding the most recent decennial census is at least 5 percent.

(E) *Unmet needs.* An Investment Area will be deemed to have significant unmet needs for loans or Equity Investments if studies or other analyses provided by the Applicant adequately

demonstrate a pattern of unmet needs for loans or Equity Investments within such area(s).

(F) *Serving Investment Areas.* An Applicant may serve an Investment Area directly or through borrowers or investees that serve the Investment Area or provide significant benefits to its residents. To demonstrate that it is serving an Investment Area, an Applicant shall submit:

(1) A completed Investment Area Designation worksheet referenced in the application packet;

(2) A map of the designated area(s); and

(3) Studies or other analyses as described in paragraph (b)(3)(ii)(E) of this section.

(iii) *Targeted Population—(A) General.* Targeted Population shall mean individuals, or an identifiable group of individuals, who are Low-Income persons or lack adequate access to loans or Equity Investments in the Applicant's service area. The members of a Targeted Population shall reside within the boundaries of the United States (which shall encompass any State of the United States, the District of Columbia or any territory of the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands).

(B) *Serving A Targeted Population.* An Applicant may serve the members of a Targeted Population directly or indirectly or through borrowers or investees that directly serve or provide significant benefits to such members. To demonstrate that it is serving a Targeted Population, an Applicant shall submit:

(1) In the case of a Low-Income Targeted Population, a description of the service area from which the Low-Income Targeted Population is drawn (which could be, for example, a local, regional or national service area); or

(2) In the case of a Targeted Population defined other than on the basis of Low-Income—

(i) A description of the service area from which the Targeted Population is drawn;

(ii) Studies, analyses or other information demonstrating that the identifiable group of individuals, either on a national basis or on a localized basis in the Applicant's service area, lacks adequate access to loans or Equity Investments; and

(iii) Studies, analyses or other information demonstrating that the Applicant's clients, who comprise the identifiable group of individuals, lack adequate access to loans or Equity Investments.

(4) *Development Services.* A CDFI directly, through an Affiliate, or through a contract with another provider, shall provide Development Services in conjunction with its Financial Products. An Applicant shall submit a description of the Development Services to be offered, the expected provider of such services, and information on the persons expected to use such services.

(5) *Accountability.* A CDFI must maintain accountability to residents of its Investment Area(s) or Targeted Population(s) through representation on its governing board or otherwise. An Applicant shall describe how it has and will maintain accountability to the residents of the Investment Area(s) or Targeted Population(s) it serves.

(6) *Non-government.* A CDFI shall not be an agency or instrumentality of the United States, or any State or political subdivision thereof. An entity that is created by, or that receives substantial assistance from, one or more government entities may be a CDFI provided it is not controlled by such entities and maintains independent decision-making power over its activities. An Applicant shall submit copies of its articles of incorporation (or comparable organizing documents), charter, bylaws, or other legal documentation or opinions sufficient to verify that it is not a government entity.

(7) *Ownership.* An Applicant shall submit information indicating the portion of shares of all classes of voting stock that are held by each Insured Depository Institution or Depository Institution Holding Company investor (if any).

Subpart C—Use of Funds/Eligible Activities

§ 1805.300 Purposes of financial assistance.

The Fund may provide financial assistance through investment instruments described under subpart D of this part. Such financial assistance is intended to strengthen the capital position and enhance the ability of an Awardee to provide Financial Products and Financial Services.

§ 1805.301 Eligible activities.

Financial assistance provided under this part may be used by an Awardee to serve Investment Area(s) or Targeted Population(s) by developing or supporting:

- (a) Commercial facilities that promote revitalization, community stability or job creation or retention;
- (b) Businesses that:
 - (1) Provide jobs for Low-Income persons;
 - (2) Are owned by Low-Income persons; or
 - (3) Enhance the availability of products and services to Low-Income persons;
- (c) Community Facilities;
- (d) The provision of Financial Services;
- (e) Housing that is principally affordable to Low-Income persons, except that assistance used to facilitate home ownership shall only be used for services and lending products that serve Low-Income persons and that:
 - (1) Are not provided by other lenders in the area; or
 - (2) Complement the services and lending products provided by other lenders that serve the Investment Area(s) or Targeted Population(s);
- (f) The provision of Consumer Loans (a loan to one or more individuals for household, family, or other personal expenditures); or
- (g) Other businesses or activities as requested by the Applicant and deemed appropriate by the Fund.

§ 1805.302 Restrictions on use of assistance.

- (a) An Awardee shall use assistance provided by the Fund and its corresponding matching funds only for the

eligible activities approved by the Fund and described in the Assistance Agreement.

- (b) An Awardee may not distribute assistance to an Affiliate without the Fund's consent.

- (c) Assistance provided upon approval of an application involving a Community Partnership shall only be distributed to the Awardee and shall not be used to fund any activities carried out by a Community Partner or an Affiliate of a Community Partner.

§ 1805.303 Technical assistance.

- (a) *General.* The Fund may provide technical assistance to build the capacity of a CDFI or an entity that proposes to become a CDFI. Such technical assistance may include training for management and other personnel; development of programs, products and services; improving financial management and internal operations; enhancing a CDFI's community impact; or other activities deemed appropriate by the Fund. The Fund, in its sole discretion, may provide technical assistance in amounts, or under terms and conditions that are different from those requested by an Applicant. The Fund may not provide any technical assistance to an Applicant for the purpose of assisting in the preparation of an application. The Fund may provide technical assistance to a CDFI directly, through grants, or by contracting with organizations that possess the appropriate expertise.

- (b) The Fund may provide technical assistance regardless of whether the recipient also receives financial assistance under this part. Technical assistance provided pursuant to this part is subject to the assistance limits described in § 1805.402.

- (c) An Applicant seeking technical assistance must meet the eligibility requirements described in § 1805.200 and submit an application as described in § 1805.601.

- (d) Applicants for technical assistance pursuant to this part will be evaluated pursuant to the competitive review criteria in subpart G of this part, except as otherwise may be provided in the applicable NOFA. In addition, the requirements for matching funds are

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not applicable to technical assistance requests.

Subpart D—Investment Instruments

§ 1805.400 Investment instruments—general.

The Fund's primary objective in awarding financial assistance is to enhance the stability, performance and capacity of an Awardee. The Fund will provide financial assistance to an Awardee through one or more of the investment instruments described in § 1805.401, and under such terms and conditions as described in this subpart D. The Fund, in its sole discretion, may provide financial assistance in amounts, through investment instruments, or under rates, terms and conditions that are different from those requested by an Applicant.

§ 1805.401 Forms of investment instruments.

(a) *Equity.* The Fund may make nonvoting equity investments in an Awardee, including, without limitation, the purchase of nonvoting stock. Such stock shall be transferable and, in the discretion of the Fund, may provide for convertibility to voting stock upon transfer. The Fund shall not own more than 50 percent of the equity of an Awardee and shall not control its operations.

(b) *Capital grants.* The Fund may award grants.

(c) *Loans.* The Fund may make loans, if permitted by applicable law.

(d) *Deposits and credit union shares.* The Fund may make deposits (which shall include credit union shares) in Insured CDFIs. Deposits in an Insured CDFI shall not be subject to any requirement for collateral or security.

§ 1805.402 Assistance limits.

(a) *General.* Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the Fund may not provide, pursuant to this part, more than \$5 million, in the aggregate, in financial and technical assistance to an Awardee and its Affiliates during any three-year period.

(b) *Additional amounts.* If an Awardee proposes to establish a new Affiliate to serve an Investment Area(s) or Tar-

geted Population(s) outside of any State, and outside of any Metropolitan Area, currently served by the Awardee or its Affiliates, the Awardee may receive additional assistance pursuant to this part up to a maximum of \$3.75 million during the same three-year period. Such additional assistance:

(1) Shall be used only to finance activities in the new or expanded Investment Area(s) or Targeted Population(s); and

(2) Must be distributed to a new Affiliate that meets the eligibility requirements described in § 1805.200 and is selected for assistance pursuant to subpart G of this part.

(c) An Awardee may receive the assistance described in paragraph (b) of this section only if no other application to serve substantially the same Investment Area(s) or Targeted Population(s) that meets the requirements of § 1805.701(a) was submitted to the Fund prior to the receipt of the application of said Awardee and within the current funding round.

§ 1805.403 Authority to sell.

The Fund may, at any time, sell its equity investments and loans, provided the Fund shall retain the authority to enforce the provisions of the Assistance Agreement until the performance goals specified therein have been met.

Subpart E—Matching Funds Requirements

§ 1805.500 Matching funds—general.

All financial assistance awarded under this part shall be matched with funds from sources other than the Federal government. Except as provided in § 1805.502, such matching funds shall be provided on the basis of not less than one dollar for each dollar provided by the Fund. Funds that have been used to satisfy a legal requirement for obtaining funds under either the CDFI Program or another Federal grant or award program may not be used to satisfy the matching requirements described in this section. Community Development Block Grant Program and other funds provided pursuant to the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), shall be considered Federal

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government funds and shall not be used to meet the matching requirements. Matching funds shall be used as provided in the Assistance Agreement. Funds that are used prior to the execution of the Assistance Agreement may nevertheless qualify as matching funds provided the Fund determines in its reasonable discretion that such use promoted the purpose of the Comprehensive Business Plan that the Fund is supporting through its assistance.

§ 1805.501 Comparability of form and value.

(a) Matching funds shall be at least comparable in form (e.g., equity investments, deposits, credit union shares, loans and grants) and value to financial assistance provided by the Fund (except as provided in §1805.502). The Fund shall have the discretion to determine whether matching funds pledged are comparable in form and value to the financial assistance requested.

(b) In the case of an Awardee that raises matching funds from more than one source, through different investment instruments, or under varying terms and conditions, the Fund may provide financial assistance in a manner that represents the combined characteristics of such instruments.

(c) An Awardee may meet all or part of its matching requirements by committing available earnings retained from its operations.

§ 1805.502 Severe constraints waiver.

(a) In the case of an Applicant with severe constraints on available sources of matching funds, the Fund, in its sole discretion, may permit such Applicant to comply with the matching requirements by:

(1) Reducing such requirements by up to 50 percent; or

(2) Permitting an Applicant to provide matching funds in a form to be determined at the discretion of the Fund, if such an Applicant:

(i) Has total assets of less than \$100,000;

(ii) Serves an area that is not a Metropolitan Area; and

(iii) Is not requesting more than \$25,000 in assistance.

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(b) Not more than 25 percent of the total funds available for obligation under this part in any fiscal year may be matched as described in paragraph (a) of this section. Additionally, not more than 25 percent of the total funds disbursed under this part in any fiscal year may be matched as described in paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) An Applicant may request a “severe constraints waiver” as part of its application for assistance. An Applicant shall provide a narrative justification for its request, indicating:

(1) The cause and extent of the constraints on raising matching funds;

(2) Efforts to date, results, and projections for raising matching funds;

(3) A description of the matching funds expected to be raised; and

(4) Any additional information requested by the Fund.

(d) The Fund will grant a “severe constraints waiver” only in exceptional circumstances when it has been demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Fund, that an Investment Area(s) or Targeted Population(s) would not be adequately served without the waiver.

§ 1805.503 Time frame for raising match.

Applicants shall satisfy matching funds requirements within the period set forth in the applicable NOFA.

§ 1805.504 Retained earnings.

(a) An Applicant that proposes to meet all or a portion of its matching funds requirements as set forth in this part by committing available earnings retained from its operations pursuant to §1805.501(c) shall be subject to the restrictions described in this section.

(b)(1) In the case of a for-profit Applicant, retained earnings that may be used for matching funds purposes shall consist of:

(i) The increase in retained earnings (excluding the after-tax value to an Applicant of any grants and other donated assets) that has occurred over the Applicant’s most recent fiscal year (e.g., retained earnings at the end of fiscal year 1999 less retained earnings at the end of fiscal year 1998); or

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(ii) The annual average of such increases that have occurred over the Applicant's three most recent fiscal years.

(2) Such retained earnings may be used to match a request for an equity investment. The terms and conditions of financial assistance will be determined by the Fund.

(c)(1) In the case of a non-profit Applicant (other than a Credit Union), retained earnings that may be used for matching funds purposes shall consist of:

(i) The increase in an Applicant's net assets (excluding the amount of any grants and value of other donated assets) that has occurred over the Applicant's most recent fiscal year; or

(ii) The annual average of such increases that has occurred over the Applicant's three most recent fiscal years.

(2) Such retained earnings may be used to match a request for a capital grant. The terms and conditions of financial assistance will be determined by the Fund.

(d)(1) In the case of an insured credit union Applicant, retained earnings that may be used for matching funds purposes shall consist of:

(i) The increase in retained earnings that has occurred over the Applicant's most recent fiscal year;

(ii) The annual average of such increases that has occurred over the Applicant's three most recent fiscal years; or

(iii) The entire retained earnings that has been accumulated since the inception of the Applicant provided that the conditions described in paragraph (d)(4) of this section are satisfied.

(2) For the purpose of paragraph (d)(4) of this section, retained earnings shall be comprised of "Regular Reserves", "Other Reserves" (excluding reserves specifically dedicated for losses), and "Undivided Earnings" as such terms are used in the National Credit Union Administration's accounting manual.

(3) Such retained earnings may be used to match a request for a capital grant. The terms and conditions of financial assistance will be determined by the Fund.

(4) If the option described in paragraph (d)(1)(iii) of this section is used:

(i) The Assistance Agreement shall require that:

(A) An Awardee increase its member and/or non-member shares by an amount that is at least equal to four times the amount of retained earnings that is committed as matching funds; and

(B) Such increase be achieved within 24 months from September 30 of the calendar year in which the applicable application deadline falls;

(ii) The Applicant's Comprehensive Business Plan shall discuss its strategy for raising the required shares and the activities associated with such increased shares;

(iii) The level from which the increases in shares described in paragraph (d)(4)(i) of this section will be measured will be as of September 30 of the calendar year in which the applicable application deadline falls; and

(iv) Financial assistance shall be disbursed by the Fund only as the amount of increased shares described in paragraph (d)(4)(i)(A) of this section is achieved.

(5) The Fund will allow an Applicant to utilize the option described in paragraph (d)(1)(iii) of this section for matching funds only if it determines, in its sole discretion, that the Applicant will have a high probability of success in increasing its shares to the specified amounts.

(e) Retained earnings accumulated after the end of the Applicant's most recent fiscal year ending prior to the appropriate application deadline may not be used as matching funds.

Subpart F—Applications for Assistance

§ 1805.600 Notice of Funds Availability.

Each Applicant shall submit an application for financial or technical assistance under this part in accordance with the regulations in this subpart and the applicable NOFA published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The NOFA will advise potential Applicants on how to obtain an application packet and will establish deadlines and other requirements. The NOFA may specify any limitations, special rules, procedures, and

restrictions for a particular funding round. After receipt of an application, the Fund may request clarifying or technical information on the materials submitted as part of such application.

§ 1805.601 Application contents.

An Applicant shall provide information necessary to establish that it is, or will be, a CDFI. Unless otherwise specified in an applicable NOFA, each application must contain the information specified in the application packet including the items specified in this section.

(a) *Award request.* An Applicant shall indicate:

(1) The dollar amount, form, rates, terms and conditions of financial assistance requested; and

(2) Any technical assistance needs for which it is requesting assistance.

(b) *Previous Awardees.* In the case of an Applicant that has previously received assistance under this part, the Applicant shall demonstrate that it:

(1) Has substantially met its performance goals and other requirements described in its previous Assistance Agreement(s); and

(2) Will expand its operations into a new Investment Area(s), serve a new Targeted Population(s), offer more products or services, or increase the volume of its activities.

(c) *Time of operation.* At the time of submission of an application, an Applicant that has been in operation for:

(1) Three years or more shall submit information on its activities (as described in §1805.201(b)(1) and (2) and paragraphs (d)(2) and (d)(9)(v) of this section) and financial statements (as described in paragraph (d)(4) of this section) for the three most recent fiscal years;

(2) For more than one year, but less than three years, shall submit information on its activities (as described in §1805.201(b)(1) and (2) and paragraphs (d)(2) and (d)(9)(vi) of this section) and financial statements (as described in paragraph (d)(4) of this section) for each full fiscal year since its inception; or

(3) For less than one year, shall submit information on its activities and financial statements as described in paragraph (d) of this section.

(d) *Comprehensive Business Plan.* An Applicant shall submit a five-year Comprehensive Business Plan that addresses the items described in this paragraph (d). The Comprehensive Business Plan shall demonstrate that the Applicant shall have the capacity to operate as a CDFI upon receiving financial assistance from the Fund pursuant to this part.

(1) *Executive summary.* The executive summary shall include a description of the institution, products and services, markets served or to be served, accomplishments to date and key points of the Applicant's five year strategy, and other pertinent information.

(2) *Community development track record.* The Applicant shall describe its community development impact over the past three years, or for its period of operation if less than three years. In addition, an Applicant with a prior history of serving Investment Area(s) or Targeted Population(s) shall describe its activities, operations and community benefits created for residents of the Investment Area(s) or Targeted Population(s) for such periods as described in paragraph (c) of this section.

(3) *Operational capacity and risk mitigation strategies.* An Applicant shall submit information on its policies and procedures for underwriting and approving loans and investments, monitoring its portfolio and internal controls and operations. An Applicant shall also submit a copy of its conflict of interest policies that are consistent with the requirements of §1805.806.

(4) *Financial track record and strength.* An Applicant shall submit historic financial statements for such periods as specified in paragraph (c) of this section. An Applicant shall submit:

(i) Audited financial statements;

(ii) Financial statements that have been reviewed by a certified public accountant; or

(iii) Financial statements that have been reviewed by the Applicant's Appropriate Federal Banking Agency. Such statements should include balance sheets or statements of financial position, income and expense statements or statements of activities, and cash flow statements. The Applicant

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shall also provide information necessary to assess trends in financial and operating performance.

(5) *Capacity, skills and experience of the management team.* An Applicant shall provide information on the background and capacity of its management team, including key personnel and governing board members. The Applicant shall also provide information on any training or technical assistance needed to enhance the capacity of the organization to successfully carry out its Comprehensive Business Plan.

(6) *Market analysis.* An Applicant shall provide an analysis of its Target Market, including a description of the Target Market, and the extent of economic distress, an analysis of the needs of the Target Market for Financial Products, Financial Services and Development Services, and an analysis of the extent of demand within such Target Market for the Applicant's products and services. The Applicant also shall provide an assessment of any factors or trends that may affect the Applicant's ability to deliver its products and services within its Target Market.

(7) *Program design and implementation plan.* An Applicant shall:

(i) Describe the products and services it proposes to provide and analyze the competitiveness of such products and services in the Target Market;

(ii) Describe its strategy for delivering its products and services to its Target Market;

(iii) Describe how its proposed activities are consistent with existing economic, community and housing development plans adopted for an Investment Area(s) or Targeted Population(s);

(iv) Describe its plan to coordinate use of assistance from the Fund with existing government assistance programs and private sector resources;

(v) Describe how it will coordinate with community organizations, financial institutions, and Community Partners (if applicable) which will provide Equity Investments, loans, secondary markets, or other services in the Target Market; and

(vi) Discuss the extent of community support (if any) within the Target Market for its activities.

(8) *Financial projections and resources.* An Applicant shall provide:

(i) *Financial projections.* (A) Projections for each of the next five years which include pro forma balance sheets or statements of financial position, income and expense statements or statements of activities, and a description of any assumptions that underlie its projections; and

(B) Information to demonstrate that it has a plan for achieving or maintaining sustainability within the five-year period;

(ii) *Matching funds.* (A) A detailed description of its plans for raising matching funds, including funds previously obtained or legally committed to match the amount of financial assistance requested from the Fund; and

(B) An indication of the extent to which such matching funds will be derived from private, nongovernment sources. Such description shall include the name of the source, total amount of such match, the date the matching funds were obtained or legally committed, if applicable, the extent to which, and for what purpose, such matching funds have been used to date, and terms and restrictions on use for each matching source, including any restriction that might reasonably be construed as a limitation on the ability of the Applicant to use the funds for matching purposes; and

(iii) *Severe constraints waiver.* If the Applicant is requesting a "severe constraints waiver" of any matching requirements, it shall submit the information requested in § 1805.502.

(9) *Projected community impact.* An Applicant shall provide:

(i) Estimates of the volume of new activity to be achieved within its Target Market assuming that assistance is provided by the Fund;

(ii) A description of the anticipated incremental increases in activity to be achieved with assistance provided by the Fund and matching funds within the Target Market;

(iii) An estimate of the benefits expected to be created within its Target Market over the next five years;

(iv) The extent to which the Applicant will concentrate its activities within its Target Market;

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(v) A description of how the Applicant will measure the benefits created as a result of its activities within its Target Market; and

(vi) In the case of an Applicant with a prior history of serving a Target Market, an explanation of how the Applicant will expand its operations into a new Investment Area(s), serve a new Targeted Population(s), offer more products or services, or increase the volume of its activities.

(10) *Risks and assumptions.* An Applicant shall identify and discuss critical risks (including strategies to mitigate risk) and assumptions contained in its Comprehensive Business Plan, and any significant impediments to the Plan's implementation.

(11) *Schedule.* An Applicant shall provide a schedule indicating the timing of major events necessary to realize the objectives of its Comprehensive Business Plan.

(12) *Community Partnership.* In the case of an Applicant submitting an application with a Community Partner, the Applicant shall:

(i) Describe how the Applicant and the Community Partner will participate in carrying out the Community Partnership and how the partnership will enhance activities serving the Investment Area(s) or Targeted Population(s);

(ii) Demonstrate that the Community Partnership activities are consistent with the Comprehensive Business Plan;

(iii) Provide information necessary to evaluate such an application as described under § 1805.701(b)(6);

(iv) Include a copy of any written agreement between the Applicant and the Community Partner related to the Community Partnership; and

(v) Provide information to demonstrate that the Applicant meets the eligibility requirements described in § 1805.200 and satisfies the selection criteria described in subpart G of this part. (A Community Partner shall not be required to meet the eligibility requirements described in § 1805.200.)

(13) *Effective use of Fund resources.* An Applicant shall describe the extent of need for the Fund's assistance, as demonstrated by the extent of economic distress in the Applicant's Target Mar-

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ket and the extent to which the Applicant needs the Fund's assistance to carry out its Comprehensive Business Plan.

(e) *Community ownership and governance.* An Applicant shall provide information to demonstrate the extent to which the Applicant is, or will be, Community-Owned or Community-Governed.

(f) *Environmental information.* The Applicant shall provide sufficient information regarding the potential environmental impact of its proposed activities in order for the Fund to complete its environmental review requirements pursuant to part 1815 of this chapter.

(g) *Applicant certification.* The Applicant and Community Partner (if applicable) shall certify that:

(1) It possesses the legal authority to apply for assistance from the Fund;

(2) The application has been duly authorized by its governing body and duly executed;

(3) It will not use any Fund resources for lobbying activities as set forth in § 1805.807; and

(4) It will comply with all relevant provisions of this chapter and all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, ordinances, regulations, policies, guidelines, and requirements.

Subpart G—Evaluation and Selection of Applications

§ 1805.700 Evaluation and selection—general.

Applicants will be evaluated and selected, at the sole discretion of the Fund, to receive assistance based on a review process, that could include an interview(s) and/or site visit(s), that is intended to:

(a) Ensure that Applicants are evaluated on a competitive basis in a fair and consistent manner;

(b) Take into consideration the unique characteristics of Applicants that vary by institution type, total asset size, stage of organizational development, markets served, products and services provided, and location;

(c) Ensure that each Awardee can successfully meet the goals of its Comprehensive Business Plan and achieve community development impact; and

(d) Ensure that Awardees represent a geographically diverse group of Applicants serving Metropolitan Areas, non-Metropolitan Areas, and Indian Reservations from different regions of the United States.

§ 1805.701 Evaluation of applications.

(a) *Eligibility and completeness.* An Applicant will not be eligible to receive assistance pursuant to this part if it fails to meet the eligibility requirements described in § 1805.200 or if it has not submitted complete application materials. For the purposes of this paragraph (a), the Fund reserves the right to request additional information from the Applicant, if the Fund deems it appropriate.

(b) *Substantive review.* In evaluating and selecting applications to receive assistance, the Fund will evaluate the Applicant's likelihood of success in meeting the goals of the Comprehensive Business Plan and achieving community development impact, by considering factors such as:

(1) Community development track record (e.g., in the case of an Applicant with a prior history of serving a Target Market, the extent of success in serving such Target Market);

(2) Operational capacity and risk mitigation strategies;

(3) Financial track record and strength;

(4) Capacity, skills and experience of the management team;

(5) Solid understanding of its market context, including its analysis of current and prospective customers, the extent of economic distress within the designated Investment Area(s) or the extent of need within the designated Targeted Population(s), as those factors are measured by objective criteria, the extent of need for Equity Investments, loans, Development Services, and Financial Services within the designated Target Market, and the extent of demand within the Target Market for the Applicant's products and services;

(6) Quality program design and implementation plan, including an assessment of its products and services, marketing and outreach efforts, delivery strategy, and coordination with other institutions and/or a Community Part-

ner, or participation in a secondary market for purposes of increasing the Applicant's resources. In the case of an applicant submitting an application with a Community Partner, the Fund will evaluate the extent to which the Community Partner will participate in carrying out the activities of the Community Partnership; the extent to which the Community Partner will enhance the likelihood of success of the Comprehensive Business Plan; and the extent to which service to the designated Target Market will be better performed by a Community Partnership than by the Applicant alone;

(7) Projections for financial performance, capitalization and raising needed external resources, including the amount of firm commitments and matching funds in hand to meet or exceed the matching funds requirements and, if applicable, the likely success of the plan for raising the balance of the matching funds in a timely manner, the extent to which the matching funds are, or will be, derived from private sources, and whether an Applicant is, or will become, an Insured CDFI;

(8) Projections for community development impact, including the extent to which an Applicant will concentrate its activities on serving its Target Market(s), the extent of support from the designated Target Market, the extent to which an Applicant is, or will be, Community-Owned or Community-Governed, and the extent to which the activities proposed in the Comprehensive Business Plan will expand economic opportunities or promote community development within the designated Target Market;

(9) The extent of need for the Fund's assistance, as demonstrated by the extent of economic distress in the Applicant's Target Market and the extent to which the Applicant needs the Fund's assistance to carry out its Comprehensive Business Plan. In the case of an Applicant that has previously received assistance under the CDFI Program, the Fund also will consider the Applicant's level of success in meeting its performance goals, financial soundness covenants (if applicable), and other requirements contained in the previously negotiated and executed Assistance Agreement(s) with the Fund, and

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whether the Applicant will, with additional assistance from the Fund, expand its operations into a new Target Market, offer more products or services, and/or increase the volume of its activities;

(10) The Fund may consider any other factors, as it deems appropriate, in reviewing an application.

(c) *Consultation with Appropriate Federal Banking Agencies.* The Fund will consult with, and consider the views of, the Appropriate Federal Banking Agency prior to providing assistance to:

(1) An Insured CDFI;

(2) A CDFI that is examined by or subject to the reporting requirements of an Appropriate Federal Banking Agency; or

(3) A CDFI that has as its Community Partner an institution that is examined by, or subject to, the reporting requirements of an Appropriate Federal Banking Agency.

(d) *Awardee selection.* The Fund will select Awardees based on the criteria described in paragraph (b) of this section and any other criteria set forth in this part or the applicable NOFA.

Subpart H—Terms and Conditions of Assistance

§ 1805.800 Safety and soundness.

(a) *Regulated institutions.* Nothing in this part, or in an Assistance Agreement, shall affect any authority of an Appropriate Federal Banking Agency to supervise and regulate any institution or company.

(b) *Non-Regulated CDFIs.* The Fund will, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that Awardees that are Non-Regulated CDFIs are financially and managerially sound and maintain appropriate internal controls.

§ 1805.801 Assistance Agreement; sanctions.

(a) Prior to providing any assistance, the Fund and an Awardee shall execute an Assistance Agreement that requires an Awardee to comply with performance goals and abide by other terms and conditions of assistance. Such performance goals may be modified at any time by mutual consent of the Fund and an Awardee or as provided in paragraph (c) of this section. If a Commu-

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nity Partner is part of an application that is selected for assistance, such partner must be a party to the Assistance Agreement if deemed appropriate by the Fund.

(b) An Awardee shall comply with performance goals that have been negotiated with the Fund and which are based upon the Comprehensive Business Plan submitted as part of the Awardees' application. Performance goals for Insured CDFIs shall be determined in consultation with the Appropriate Federal Banking Agency. Such goals shall be incorporated in, and enforced under, the Awardee's Assistance Agreement.

(c) The Assistance Agreement shall provide that, in the event of fraud, mismanagement, noncompliance with the Fund's regulations or noncompliance with the terms and conditions of the Assistance Agreement on the part of the Awardee (or the Community Partner, if applicable), the Fund, in its discretion, may:

(1) Require changes in the performance goals set forth in the Assistance Agreement;

(2) Require changes in the Awardee's Comprehensive Business Plan;

(3) Revoke approval of the Awardee's application;

(4) Reduce or terminate the Awardee's assistance;

(5) Require repayment of any assistance that has been distributed to the Awardee;

(6) Bar the Awardee (and the Community Partner, if applicable) from reapplying for any assistance from the Fund; or

(7) Take any other action as permitted by the terms of the Assistance Agreement.

(d) In the case of an Insured Depository Institution, the Assistance Agreement shall provide that the provisions of the Act, this part, and the Assistance Agreement shall be enforceable under section 8 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1818) by the Appropriate Federal Banking Agency and that any violation of such provisions shall be treated as a violation of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act. Nothing in this paragraph (d) precludes the Fund from directly enforcing the

Assistance Agreement as provided for under the terms of the Act.

(e) The Fund shall notify the Appropriate Federal Banking Agency before imposing any sanctions on an Insured CDFI or other institution that is examined by or subject to the reporting requirements of that agency. The Fund shall not impose a sanction described in paragraph (c) of this section if the Appropriate Federal Banking Agency, in writing, not later than 30 calendar days after receiving notice from the Fund:

(1) Objects to the proposed sanction;

(2) Determines that the sanction would:

(i) Have a material adverse effect on the safety and soundness of the institution; or

(ii) Impede or interfere with an enforcement action against that institution by that agency;

(3) Proposes a comparable alternative action; and

(4) Specifically explains:

(i) The basis for the determination under paragraph (e)(2) of this section and, if appropriate, provides documentation to support the determination; and

(ii) How the alternative action suggested pursuant to paragraph (e)(3) of this section would be as effective as the sanction proposed by the Fund in securing compliance and deterring future noncompliance.

(f) In reviewing the performance of an Awardee in which its Investment Area(s) includes an Indian Reservation or Targeted Population(s) includes an Indian Tribe, the Fund shall consult with, and seek input from, the appropriate tribal government.

(g) Prior to imposing any sanctions pursuant to this section or an Assistance Agreement, the Fund shall, to the maximum extent practicable, provide the Awardee (or the Community Partner, if applicable) with written notice of the proposed sanction and an opportunity to comment. Nothing in this section, however, shall provide an Awardee or Community Partner with the right to any formal or informal hearing or comparable proceeding not otherwise required by law.

§ 1805.802 Disbursement of funds.

Assistance provided pursuant to this part may be provided in a lump sum or over a period of time, as determined appropriate by the Fund. The Fund shall not provide any assistance (other than technical assistance) under this part until an Awardee has satisfied any conditions set forth in its Assistance Agreement and has secured firm commitments for the matching funds required for such assistance. At a minimum, a firm commitment must consist of a binding written agreement between an Awardee and the source of the matching funds that is conditioned only upon the availability of the Fund's assistance and such other conditions as the Fund, in its sole discretion, may deem appropriate. Such agreement must provide for disbursement of the matching funds to an Awardee prior to, or simultaneously with, receipt by an Awardee of the Federal funds.

§ 1805.803 Data collection and reporting.

(a) *Data—General.* An Awardee (and a Community Partner, if appropriate) shall maintain such records as may be prescribed by the Fund which are necessary to:

(1) Disclose the manner in which Fund assistance is used;

(2) Demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this part and an Assistance Agreement; and

(3) Evaluate the impact of the CDFI Program.

(b) *Customer profiles.* An Awardee (and a Community Partner, if appropriate) shall compile such data on the gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, or other information on individuals that utilize its products and services as the Fund shall prescribe in an Assistance Agreement. Such data will be used to determine whether residents of Investment Area(s) or members of Targeted Population(s) are adequately served and to evaluate the impact of the CDFI Program.

(c) *Access to records.* An Awardee (and a Community Partner, if appropriate) must submit such financial and activity reports, records, statements, and documents at such times, in such

forms, and accompanied by such reporting data, as required by the Fund or the U.S. Department of Treasury to ensure compliance with the requirements of this part and to evaluate the impact of the CDFI Program. The United States Government, including the U.S. Department of Treasury, the Comptroller General, and their duly authorized representatives, shall have full and free access to the Awardee's offices and facilities and all books, documents, records, and financial statements relating to use of Federal funds and may copy such documents as they deem appropriate. The Fund, if it deems appropriate, may prescribe access to record requirements for entities that are borrowers of, or that receive investments from, an Awardee.

(d) *Retention of records.* An Awardee shall comply with all record retention requirements as set forth in OMB Circular A–110 (as applicable).

(e) *Review.* (1) At least annually, the Fund will review the progress of an Awardee (and a Community Partner, if appropriate) in implementing its Comprehensive Business Plan and satisfying the terms and conditions of its Assistance Agreement.

(2) An Awardee shall submit within 60 days after the end of each semi-annual period, or within some other period as may be agreed to in the Assistance Agreement, internal financial statements covering the semi-annual reporting period (i.e., two periods per year) and information on its compliance with its financial soundness covenants.

(3) An Awardee shall submit a report within 60 days after the end of its fiscal year, or by such alternative deadline as may be agreed to in the Assistance Agreement containing, unless otherwise determined by mutual agreement between the Awardee and the Fund, the following:

(i) A narrative description of an Awardee's activities in support of its Comprehensive Business Plan;

(ii) Qualitative and quantitative information on an Awardee's compliance with its performance goals and (if appropriate) an analysis of factors contributing to any failure to meet such goals;

(iii) Information describing the manner in which Fund assistance and any corresponding matching funds were used. The Fund will use such information to verify that assistance was used in a manner consistent with the Assistance Agreement; and certification that an Awardee continues to meet the eligibility requirements described in § 1805.200.

(4) An Awardee shall submit within 120 days after the end of its fiscal year, or within some other period as may be agreed to in the Assistance Agreement, fiscal year end statements of financial condition audited by an independent certified public accountant. The audit shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted Government Auditing Standards set forth in the General Accounting Office's Government Auditing Standards (1994 Revision) issued by the Comptroller General and OMB Circular A–133 (Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations), as applicable.

(5) An Awardee shall submit a report within 120 days after the end of its fiscal year, or by such alternative deadline as may be agreed to in the Assistance Agreement containing, unless otherwise determined by mutual agreement between the Awardee and the Fund, the following information:

(i) The Awardee's customer profile;

(ii) Awardee activities including Financial Products and Development Services;

(iii) Awardee portfolio quality;

(iv) The Awardee's financial condition; and

(v) The Awardee's community development impact.

(6) The Fund shall make reports described in paragraphs (e)(2) and (e)(3) of this section available for public inspection after deleting any materials necessary to protect privacy or proprietary interests.

(f) *Exchange of information with Appropriate Federal Banking Agencies.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (f)(4) of this section, prior to directly requesting information from or imposing reporting or record keeping requirements on an Insured CDFI or other institution that is examined by or subject to the reporting requirements of

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an Appropriate Federal Banking Agency, the Fund shall consult with the Appropriate Federal Banking Agency to determine if the information requested is available from or may be obtained by such agency in the form, format, and detail required by the Fund.

(2) If the information, reports, or records requested by the Fund pursuant to paragraph (f)(1) of this section are not provided by the Appropriate Federal Banking Agency within 15 calendar days after the date on which the material is requested, the Fund may request the information from or impose the record keeping or reporting requirements directly on such institutions with notice to the Appropriate Federal Banking Agency.

(3) The Fund shall use any information provided by the Appropriate Federal Banking Agency under this section to the extent practicable to eliminate duplicative requests for information and reports from, and record keeping by, an Insured CDFI or other institution that is examined by or subject to the reporting requirements of an Appropriate Federal Banking Agency.

(4) Notwithstanding paragraphs (f) (1) and (2) of this section, the Fund may require an Insured CDFI or other institution that is examined by or subject to the reporting requirements of an Appropriate Federal Banking Agency to provide information with respect to the institutions implementation of its Comprehensive Business Plan or compliance with the terms of its Assistance Agreement, after providing notice to the Appropriate Federal Banking Agency.

(5) Nothing in this part shall be construed to permit the Fund to require an Insured CDFI or other institution that is examined by or subject to the reporting requirements of an Appropriate Federal Banking Agency to obtain, maintain, or furnish an examination report of any Appropriate Federal Banking Agency or records contained in or related to such report.

(6) The Fund and the Appropriate Federal Banking Agency shall promptly notify each other of material concerns about an Awardee that is an Insured CDFI or that is examined by or subject to the reporting requirements of an Appropriate Federal Banking

Agency, and share appropriate information relating to such concerns.

(7) Neither the Fund nor the Appropriate Federal Banking Agency shall disclose confidential information obtained pursuant to this section from any party without the written consent of that party.

(8) The Fund, the Appropriate Federal Banking Agency, and any other party providing information under this paragraph (f) shall not be deemed to have waived any privilege applicable to the any information or data, or any portion thereof, by providing such information or data to the other party or by permitting such data or information, or any copies or portions thereof, to be used by the other party.

(g) *Availability of referenced publications.* The publications referenced in this section are available as follows:

(1) OMB Circulars may be obtained from the Office of Administration, Publications Office, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 2200, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or on the Internet (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/grants/index.html>); and

(2) General Accounting Office materials may be obtained from GAO Distribution, 700 4th Street, NW., Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20548.

§ 1805.804 Information.

The Fund and each Appropriate Federal Banking Agency shall cooperate and respond to requests from each other and from other Appropriate Federal Banking Agencies in a manner that ensures the safety and soundness of the Insured CDFIs or other institution that is examined by or subject to the reporting requirements of an Appropriate Federal Banking Agency.

§ 1805.805 Compliance with government requirements.

In carrying out its responsibilities pursuant to an Assistance Agreement, the Awardee shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances, OMB Circulars, and Executive Orders.

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§ 1805.806 Conflict of interest requirements.

(a) *Provision of credit to Insiders.* (1) An Awardee that is a Non-Regulated CDFI may not use any monies provided to it by the Fund to make any credit (including loans and Equity Investments) available to an Insider unless it meets the following restrictions:

(i) The credit must be provided pursuant to standard underwriting procedures, terms and conditions;

(ii) The Insider receiving the credit, and any family member or business partner thereof, shall not participate in any way in the decision making regarding such credit;

(iii) The Board of Directors or other governing body of the Awardee shall approve the extension of the credit; and

(iv) The credit must be provided in accordance with a policy regarding credit to Insiders that has been approved in advance by the Fund.

(2) An Awardee that is an Insured CDFI or a Depository Institution Holding Company shall comply with the restrictions on Insider activities and any comparable restrictions established by its Appropriate Federal Banking Agency.

(b) *Awardee standards of conduct.* An Awardee that is a Non-Regulated CDFI shall maintain a code or standards of conduct acceptable to the Fund that shall govern the performance of its Insiders engaged in the awarding and administration of any credit (including loans and Equity Investments) and contracts using monies from the Fund. No Insider of an Awardee shall solicit or accept gratuities, favors or anything of monetary value from any actual or potential borrowers, owners or contractors for such credit or contracts. Such policies shall provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violation of the standards by the Awardee's Insiders.

§ 1805.807 Lobbying restrictions.

No assistance made available under this part may be expended by an Awardee to pay any person to influence or attempt to influence any agency, elected official, officer or employee of a State or local government in connection with the making, award, extension,

continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any State or local government contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement as such terms are defined in 31 U.S.C. 1352.

§ 1805.808 Criminal provisions.

The criminal provisions of 18 U.S.C. 657 regarding embezzlement or misappropriation of funds are applicable to all Awardees and Insiders.

§ 1805.809 Fund deemed not to control.

The Fund shall not be deemed to control an Awardee by reason of any assistance provided under the Act for the purpose of any applicable law.

§ 1805.810 Limitation on liability.

The liability of the Fund and the United States Government arising out of any assistance to a CDFI in accordance with this part shall be limited to the amount of the investment in the CDFI. The Fund shall be exempt from any assessments and other liabilities that may be imposed on controlling or principal shareholders by any Federal law or the law of any State. Nothing in this section shall affect the application of any Federal tax law.

§ 1805.811 Fraud, waste and abuse.

Any person who becomes aware of the existence or apparent existence of fraud, waste or abuse of assistance provided under this part should report such incidences to the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

PART 1806—BANK ENTERPRISE AWARD PROGRAM

Subpart A—General Provisions

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AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1834a, 4703, 4703 note, 4713, 4717; 31 U.S.C. 321.

SOURCE: 62 FR 64442, Dec. 5, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 1806.100 Purpose.

The purpose of the Bank Enterprise Award Program is to encourage insured depository institutions to make Equity Investments and carry out CDFI Support Activities and Development and Service Activities to revitalize distressed urban and rural communities.

§ 1806.101 Summary.

(a) Under the Bank Enterprise Awards Program, the Fund makes awards to selected Applicants that:

- (1) Invest in or otherwise support Community Development Financial Institutions;
- (2) Increase lending and investment activities within Distressed Communities; or
- (3) Increase the provision of certain services and assistance.

(b) Distressed Communities must meet minimum poverty and unemployment criteria. Applicants are selected to participate in the program through a competitive application process. Awards are based on increases in Qualified Activities that are carried out by the Applicant during an Assessment Period. Bank Enterprise Awards are distributed after successful completion of projected Qualified Activities. All awards shall be made subject to the availability of funding.

§ 1806.102 Relationship to the Community Development Financial Institutions Program.

(a) *Prohibition against double funding.* No CDFI may receive a Bank Enterprise Award if it has:

(1) An application pending for assistance under the Community Development Financial Institutions Program (part 1805 of this chapter);

(2) Received assistance from the Community Development Financial Institutions Program within the preceding 12-month period; or

(3) Ever received assistance under the Community Development Financial Institutions Program for the same activities for which it is seeking a Bank Enterprise Award.

(b) *Matching funds.* Equity Investments and CDFI Support Activities (except technical assistance) provided to a CDFI under this part can be used by the CDFI to meet the matching funds requirements of the Community Development Financial Institutions Program.

§ 1806.103 Definitions.

For the purpose of this part:

(a) *Act* means the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994, as amended (12 U.S.C. 4701 *et seq.*);

(b) *Agricultural Loan* means an origination of a loan secured by farm land (including farm residential and other improvements), a loan to finance agricultural production, or a loan to a farmer (other than a Single Family Loan or Consumer Loan);

(c) *Applicant* means any insured depository institution (as defined in section 3(c)(2) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813)) that is applying for a Bank Enterprise Award;

(d) *Appropriate Federal Banking Agency* has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);

(e) *Assessment Period* means an annual or semi-annual period specified in the applicable Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) in which an Applicant will carry out Qualified Activities;

(f) *Award Agreement* means a formal agreement between the Fund and an Awardee pursuant to § 1806.300;

(g) *Awardee* means an Applicant selected by the Fund to receive a Bank Enterprise Award;

(h) *Bank Enterprise Award* means an award made to an Applicant pursuant to this part;

(i) *Bank Enterprise Award Program* means the program authorized by section 114 of the Act and implemented under this part;

(j) *Baseline Period* means an annual or semi-annual period specified in the applicable NOFA in which an Applicant has previously carried out Qualified Activities;

(k) *Business Loan* means an origination of a loan used for commercial or industrial activities (other than an Agricultural Loan, Commercial Real Estate Loan, Multi-Family Loan or Single Family Loan);

(l) *Commercial Real Estate Loan* means an origination of a loan (other than a Multi-Family Loan or a Single Family Loan) used for commercial purposes to finance construction and land development or an origination of a loan that is secured by real estate and used to finance the acquisition or rehabilitation of a building used for commercial purposes;

(m) *Community Development Financial Institution* (or CDFI) means an entity whose certification as a CDFI under § 1805.201 of this chapter is in effect as of the end of the applicable Assessment Period (the Assessment Period in which the Qualified Activity takes place) and that meets the requirements of § 1805.200(b) through (h) of this chapter at the time of the Qualified Activity, subject to the rest of this paragraph (m). If an Applicant is proposing to make an Equity Investment or engage in CDFI Support Activities with an uncertified CDFI, the uncertified CDFI may apply for certification by submitting the information described in § 1805.701(b) of this chapter. In order for the Applicant to be eligible to receive an award for its activity, the required information with respect to the uncertified CDFI shall be submitted to the Fund as specified in the applicable NOFA published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, and certification must be completed by the end of the applicable Assessment Period as specified in the applicable NOFA. Notwithstanding any-

thing in this paragraph (m) to the contrary, an Applicant may receive an award pursuant to this part for assistance provided to an uncertified CDFI that, at the time of the Qualified Activity, does not meet the requirements of § 1805.200(b) through (h) of this chapter if:

(1) The Applicant requires the uncertified CDFI to refrain from using the assistance provided until the entity is certified;

(2) The uncertified CDFI is certified by the end of the applicable Assessment Period; and

(3) The Applicant retains the option of recapturing said assistance in the event that the uncertified CDFI is not certified by the end of the applicable Assessment Period;

(n) *CDFI Related Activities* means Equity Investments and CDFI Support Activities;

(o) *CDFI Support Activity* means assistance provided by an Applicant or its Subsidiary to a CDFI that is integrally involved in a Distressed Community in the form of the origination of a loan, technical assistance, or deposits if such deposits are:

(1) Uninsured and committed for a term of at least three years; or

(2) Insured, committed for a term of at least three years, and provided at an interest rate that is materially (in the determination of the Fund) below market rates;

(p) *Community Services* means the following forms of assistance provided by officers, employees or agents (contractual or otherwise) of the Applicant:

(1) Provision of technical assistance to Residents in managing their personal finances through consumer education programs;

(2) Provision of technical assistance and consulting services to newly formed small businesses located in the Distressed Community;

(3) Provision of technical assistance to, or servicing the loans of, Low- or Moderate-Income homeowners and homeowners located in the Distressed Community; and

(4) Other services provided for Low- and Moderate-Income persons in a Distressed Community or enterprises integrally involved in a Distressed Community deemed appropriate by the Fund;

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(q) *Consumer Loan* means an origination of a loan to one or more individuals for household, family, or other personal expenditures;

(r) *Distressed Community* means a geographic community which meets the minimum area eligibility requirements specified in § 1806.200;

(s) *Development and Service Activities* means activities described in § 1806.201(b)(4) that are carried out by the Applicant or its Subsidiary;

(t) *Equity Investment* means financial assistance provided by an Applicant or its Subsidiary to a CDFI in the form of a grant, a stock purchase, a purchase of a partnership interest, a purchase of a limited liability company membership interest, a loan made on such terms that it has characteristics of equity (and is considered as such by the Fund and is consistent with requirements of the Applicant's Appropriate Federal Banking Agency), or any other investment deemed to be an Equity Investment by the Fund;

(u) *Financial Services* means check-cashing, providing money orders and certified checks, automated teller machines, safe deposit boxes, and other comparable services as may be specified by the Fund that are provided to Low- and Moderate-Income persons in the Distressed Community or enterprises integrally involved with the Distressed Community;

(v) *Fund* means the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund established under section 104(a) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 4703(a));

(w) *Geographic Units* means counties (or equivalent areas), incorporated places, minor civil divisions that are units of local government, census tracts, block numbering areas, block groups, and American Indian or Alaska Native areas (as each is defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census) or other areas deemed appropriate by the Fund;

(x) *Indian Reservation* means a geographic area that meets the requirements of section 4(10) of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1903(10)), and shall include land held by incorporated Native groups, regional corporations, and village corporations, as defined in and pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), public domain In-

dian allotments, and former Indian Reservations in the State of Oklahoma;

(y) *Low- and Moderate-Income* means income that does not exceed 80 percent of the median income of the area involved, as determined by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development with adjustments for smaller and larger families pursuant to section 102(a)(20) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(20));

(z) *Metropolitan Area* means an area designated as such (as of the date of the application) by the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3504(d)(3), 31 U.S.C. 1104(d), and Executive Order 10253 (3 CFR, 1949-1953 Comp., p. 758), as amended;

(aa) *Multi-Family Loan* means an origination of a loan secured by a five- or more family residential property;

(bb) *Project Investment* means providing financial assistance in the form of a purchase of stock, limited partnership interest, other ownership instrument, or a grant to an entity that is integrally involved with a Distressed Community and formed for the sole purpose of engaging in a project or activity, approved by the Fund, related to commercial real estate, single family housing, multi-family housing, business or agriculture (as defined in this part);

(cc) *Qualified Activities* means CDFI Related Activities and Development and Service Activities;

(dd) *Resident* means an individual domiciled in a Distressed Community;

(ee) *Single Family Loan* means an origination of a loan secured by a one-to-four family residential property;

(ff) *Subsidiary* has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, except that a CDFI shall not be considered a subsidiary of any insured depository institution or any depository institution holding company that controls less than 25 percent of any class of the voting shares of such corporation and does not otherwise control, in any manner, the election of a majority of directors of the corporation; and

(gg) *Unit of General Local Government* means any city, county town, township, parish, village or other general purpose political subdivision of a State

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or Commonwealth of the United States, or general purpose subdivision thereof, and the District of Columbia.

§ 1806.104 Waiver authority.

The Fund may waive any requirement of this part that is not required by law, upon a determination of good cause. Each such waiver will be in writing and supported by a statement of the facts and grounds forming the basis of the waiver. For a waiver in any individual case, the Fund must determine that application of the requirement to be waived would adversely affect the achievement of the purposes of the Act. For waivers of general applicability, the Fund will publish notification of granted waivers in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

§ 1806.105 OMB control number.

The collection of information requirements in this part have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and assigned OMB control number 1505-0153.

Subpart B—Awards

§ 1806.200 Community eligibility and designation.

(a) *General.* If an Applicant proposes to carry out CDFI Support Activities or Development and Service Activities, the Applicant shall designate one or more Distressed Communities in which it proposes to carry out those activities. If an Applicant proposes to carry out CDFI Support Activities, the Applicant shall provide evidence that the CDFI it is proposing to support is integrally involved with such a Distressed Community. In the case of an Applicant proposing to make an Equity Investment, the Fund reserves the right to request information on Distressed Communities served by such a CDFI should such information be deemed necessary by the Fund to complete the selection process described in § 1806.204. In the case of an Applicant that proposes to carry out both CDFI Support Activities and Development and Service Activities it may designate different Distressed Communities for these two categories of activity.

(b) *Minimum area eligibility requirements.* A Distressed Community must

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meet the minimum area eligibility requirements contained in this paragraph (b).

(1) *Geographic requirements.* A Distressed Community must be a geographic area:

(i) That is located within the boundaries of a Unit of General Local Government;

(ii) The boundaries of which are contiguous; and

(iii) (A) The population of which must be at least 4,000 if any portion of the area is located within a Metropolitan Area with a population of 50,000 or greater;

(B) The population must be at least 1,000 if no portion of the area is located within such a Metropolitan Area; or

(C) The area is located entirely within an Indian Reservation.

(2) *Distress requirements.* A Distressed Community must be a geographic area where:

(i) At least 30 percent of the Residents have incomes which are less than the national poverty level, as published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in the 1990 decennial census; and

(ii) The unemployment rate is at least 1.5 times greater than the national average, as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' most recent data including estimates of unemployment developed using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Census Share calculation method. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data and information necessary for Census Share calculations may be obtained from the Fund.

(c) *Area designation.* An Applicant shall designate an area as a Distressed Community by:

(1) Selecting Geographic Units which individually meet the minimum area eligibility requirements; or

(2) Selecting two or more Geographic Units which, in the aggregate, meet the minimum area eligibility requirements set forth in paragraph (b) of this section provided that no Geographic Unit selected by the Applicant within the area has a poverty rate of less than 20 percent.

(d) *Designation and notification process.* Upon request, the Fund will provide a prospective Applicant with data

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and other information to help it identify areas eligible to be a Distressed Community. A prospective Applicant is encouraged to contact the Fund prior to filing an application to determine if an area meets the minimum area eligibility requirements.

§ 1806.201 Qualified Activities.

(a) *CDFI Related Activities.* An Applicant may receive a Bank Enterprise Award for making an Equity Investment or carrying out CDFI Support Activities during an Assessment Period.

(b) *Development and Service Activities.* (1) *General.* An Applicant may receive a Bank Enterprise Award for carrying out Development and Service Activities during an Assessment Period.

(2) *Area served.* The Development and Service Activities listed in paragraphs (b)(4)(i) through (x) of this section must serve a Distressed Community. An activity is considered to serve a Distressed Community if it is:

(i) Undertaken in the Distressed Community; or

(ii) Provided to Low- and Moderate-Income Residents or enterprises integrally involved in the Distressed Community.

(3) *Priority factors.* Each Development and Service Activity is assigned a priority factor. A priority factor represents the Fund's assessment of the degree of difficulty, the extent of innovation, and the extent of benefits accruing to the Distressed Community for each type of activity.

(4) *Development and Service Activities.* Development and Service Activities are listed in this paragraph with their corresponding priority factors:

(i) Deposit liabilities in the form of savings or other demand or time accounts accepted from Residents at offices located within the Distressed Community (priority factor = 1.0);

(ii) Financial Services (priority factor = 1.2);

(iii) Community Services (priority factor = 1.4);

(iv) Consumer Loans (priority factor = 1.2);

(v) Single Family Loans and related Project Investments (priority factor = 1.4);

(vi) Multi-Family Loans and related Project Investments (priority factor = 1.6);

(vii) Commercial Real Estate Loans and related Project Investments (priority factor = 1.6);

(viii) Business Loans, Agricultural Loans, and related Project Investments of \$100,000 or less (priority factor = 1.9);

(ix) Business Loans, Agricultural Loans, and related Project Investments of more than \$100,000 through \$250,000 (priority factor = 1.8); and

(x) Business Loans and related Project Investments of more than \$250,000 through \$1,000,000 and Agricultural Loans and related Project Investments of more than \$250,000 through \$500,000 (priority factor = 1.7).

(c) *Limitation.* Financial assistance provided by an Applicant for which the Applicant receives benefits through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit authorized pursuant to Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (26 U.S.C. 42), shall not constitute an Equity Investment, Project Investment, or other Qualified Activity, as defined in this part, for the purposes of calculating or receiving an award.

§ 1806.202 Measuring activities.

(a) *General.* Qualified Activities shall be measured by comparing the Qualified Activities carried out during the Baseline Period with the Qualified Activities projected to be carried out during the Assessment Period. Increases in the values of Qualified Activities between the Baseline Period and Assessment Period will be used in determining award amounts. If an Applicant is seeking assistance only for CDFI Related Activities, it should only report its activities for CDFI Related Activities categories. If an Applicant is seeking assistance only for Development and Service Activities, it should only report its activities for Development and Service Activities categories. If an Applicant is seeking assistance for both CDFI Related Activities and Development and Service Activities, it should report its activities for both types of categories. If an Applicant is unable to report its activities in the aforementioned manner, the Applicant

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shall provide an explanation satisfactory to the Fund as to why it cannot report required information and simultaneously submit to the Fund a certification that during the Assessment Period the Applicant did not reduce its total activity in any unreported categories. The form and content of any certification shall be determined by the Fund. The dates of the Baseline Period and Assessment Period will be published in a NOFA for each funding round.

(b) *Exception.* An Applicant may select not to report its deposit liabilities as described in § 1806.201(b)(4)(i). In such a case, an Applicant's deposit liabilities will not be considered in calculating the service score pursuant to § 1806.203(c).

(c) *Value.* The Fund will assess the value of:

(1) Equity Investments, loans, grants and deposits described in § 1806.103 at the original amount of such investments, loans, grants or deposits. Where a loan matures, is fully paid and is then renewed, the Fund will assess the value of the principal amount of the renewed loan. Where a deposit, such as a certificate of deposit, matures and is then rolled over, the Fund will assess the value of the full amount of the rolled over deposit. However, where an existing loan is refinanced, the Fund will only assess the value of any increase in the principal amount of the refinanced loan;

(2) Deposit liabilities at the face dollar amount of monies deposited as measured by comparing the net change in the amount of applicable funds (as described in § 1806.201(b)(4)(i)) on deposit at the Applicant institution during the period described in this paragraph (c)(2). An Applicant shall measure the net changes in deposit liabilities during:

(i) The Baseline Period, by comparing the amount of applicable funds on deposit at the close of business the day before the beginning of the Baseline Period and at the close of business on the last day of the Baseline Period; and

(ii) The Assessment Period, by comparing the amount of applicable funds on deposit at the close of business the day before the beginning of the Assess-

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ment Period and at the close of business on the last day of the Assessment Period;

(3) Financial Services, Community Services, and CDFI Support Activities consisting of technical assistance based on the administrative costs of providing such services; and

(4) Project Investments at the original amount of the purchase of stock, limited partnership interest, other ownership interest, or grant.

(d) *Closed transactions.* A transaction shall be considered to have been carried out during the Baseline Period or the Assessment Period if:

(1) The documentation evidencing the transaction:

(i) Is executed on a date within the applicable Baseline Period or Assessment Period, respectively, as specified in the applicable NOFA; and

(ii) Constitutes a legally binding agreement between the Applicant and a borrower or investee which specifies the final terms and conditions of the transaction, except that any contingencies included in the final agreement must be typical of such transaction and acceptable (both in the judgment of the Fund); and

(2) An initial disbursement of loan or investment proceeds has occurred in a manner that is consistent with customary business practices and is reasonable given the nature of the transaction, (both as determined by the Fund).

(e) *Reporting.* An Applicant shall report Qualified Activities on the basis of transactions that were:

(1) Completed during the Baseline Period; and

(2) Are expected to be completed during the Assessment Period and disbursed by the Applicant to a borrower or investee within the period described in § 1806.205(a).

§ 1806.203 Estimated award amounts.

Award amounts will be determined at the sole discretion of the Fund and estimated as described in this section.

(a) *Equity Investments.* The estimated award amount for an Equity Investment will be equal to 15 percent (or

such lower percentage as may be requested by the Applicant) of the anticipated increase in the value of such investment between the Baseline Period and Assessment Period.

(b) *CDFI Support Activities.* If an Applicant is not a CDFI, the estimated award amount for CDFI Support Activities will be equal to 11 percent of the anticipated increase in the dollar amount of such support between the Baseline Period and Assessment Period. If Applicant is a CDFI, the estimated award amount for CDFI Support Activities will be equal to 33 percent of the anticipated increase in the dollar amount of such support between the Baseline Period and Assessment Period.

(c) *Development and Service Activities.* The estimated award amount for Development and Service Activities will be calculated as follows:

(1) *Step 1.* For each type of Development and Service Activity, subtract the value in the Baseline Period from the estimated value for the Assessment Period to yield a remainder;

(2) *Step 2.* Multiply the remainder for each Development and Service Activity by the assigned priority factor to yield a weighted value for each activity;

(3) *Step 3.* Add the weighted values for deposit liabilities, Financial Services and Community Services to yield a service score;

(4) *Step 4.* Add the weighted values for all other categories of Development and Service Activities to yield a development score. If the development score is negative, an Applicant will be ineligible to receive a Bank Enterprise Award. If the development score is positive, go to Step 5;

(5) *Step 5.* If the service score is greater than the development score, reduce the service score to equal the same amount as the development score to yield an adjusted service score;

(6) *Step 6.* Add the service score (or adjusted service score if applicable) and the development score to yield a total score; and

(7) *Step 7.* If the Applicant is:

(i) A CDFI, multiply the total score by 15 percent to yield an estimated award amount; or

(ii) Not a CDFI, multiply the total score by 5 percent to yield an estimated award amount.

§ 1806.204 Selection process.

(a) *Availability of funds.* All awards are subject to the availability of funds. If the amount of funds available during a funding round is sufficient for all estimated award amounts, an Applicant that meets all of the program requirements specified in this part shall receive an award that is calculated in the manner specified in § 1806.205. If the amount of funds available during a funding round is insufficient for all estimated award amounts, Awardees will be selected based on the process described in this section.

(b) *Priority of categories—(1) General.* The Fund will rank an Applicant's estimated award amount for Qualified Activities according to the priority categories described in this paragraph (b). All Applicants in the first priority category will be selected as Awardees before Applicants in the second priority category. Selections within each priority category will be based on the relative rankings within each such category, subject to the availability of funds.

(2) *First priority.* (i) If the amount of funds available during a funding round is insufficient for all estimated award amounts, first priority will be given to Applicants that propose to engage in CDFI Related Activities in the following order:

(A) Equity Investments in CDFIs serving Distressed Communities;

(B) Equity Investments in CDFIs not serving Distressed Communities; and

(C) CDFI Support Activities.

(ii) *Ranking Equity Investments.* Estimated awards for Equity Investments may be ranked within each applicable priority subcategory based on the extent to which an Applicant proposes to reduce the percentage used to calculate its award amount (e.g., an Applicant that chooses to reduce its award to 13 percent will be ranked higher than an Applicant that reduces its award to 14 percent). The Applicant, however, may not reduce its award percentage below 12 percent. For Applicants that propose the same percentage, estimated awards

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will be ranked by the ratio of the proposed Equity Investment to the asset size of the Applicant (as reported in the Applicant's most recent Report of Condition or Thrift Financial Report) at the time of submission of an application.

(iii) *Ranking CDFI Support Activities.* Estimated awards for CDFI Support Activities may be ranked based on the ratio of the proposed CDFI Support Activity to the asset size of the Applicant (as reported in the Applicant's most recent Report of Condition or Thrift Financial Report) at the time of submission of an application.

(3) *Second priority.* (i) If the amount of funds available during a funding round is sufficient for all CDFI Related Activities but insufficient for all estimated award amounts, second priority will go to Applicants that propose to engage in Development and Service Activities.

(ii) *Ranking Development and Service Activities.* Estimated awards for Development and Service Activities may be ranked by the ratio of the total score to the asset size of the Applicant (as reported in the Applicant's most recent Report of Condition or Thrift Financial Report) at the time of the submission of an application. If the ratios of two Applicants are the same, the estimated awards will be ranked based on the degree of the poverty of each Applicant's Distressed Community.

(4) *Combined awards.* If an Applicant receives an award for more than one priority category described in this section, the award amounts will be combined into a single Bank Enterprise Award.

§ 1806.205 Actual award amounts.

(a) *General.* The Fund will assess an Applicant's success in achieving the Qualified Activities projected in its application. The extent of such success will be measured based on the activities that were actually carried out during the Assessment Period and expected to be disbursed to an investee, borrower, or other recipient within three years of the end of the applicable Assessment Period. The Fund reserves the right to extend this period on a case-by-case basis where it has a high degree of confidence that disbursement

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will occur and the activity will promote the purposes of the Act. Subject to § 1806.204 and any recapture sanction for failure to perform pursuant to this part, the actual award amount that an Awardee will receive will be equal to the estimated award previously calculated and (if necessary) adjusted pursuant to this section.

(b) *Achievement.* If an Applicant carries out all or a portion of its projected Qualified Activities and satisfies all program requirements described in this part, its award amount will be calculated on a pro-rata basis to reflect the increase in activities actually carried out except that if:

(1) The amount of funds available is insufficient for all estimated award amounts; and

(2) An Applicant carries out less than 75 percent of its projected Qualified Activities, the Fund in its sole discretion, may limit the amount or deny an award.

(c) *Unobligated or deobligated funds.* The Fund, in its sole discretion, may use any deobligated funds or funds not obligated during a funding round:

(1) Using the calculation and selection process contained in this part:

(i) To increase an award amount of an Awardee for achievement in excess of the projected Qualified Activities; or

(ii) To select Applicants not previously selected;

(2) To make additional monies available for a subsequent funding round; or

(3) As otherwise authorized by the Act.

(d) *Limitation.* The Fund, in its sole discretion, may deny or limit the amount of an award for any reason, including if an Applicant submits an application based on unrealistic Assessment Period projections.

§ 1806.206 Applications for Bank Enterprise Awards.

(a) *Notice of Funds Availability.* An Applicant shall submit an application for a Bank Enterprise Award in accordance with this section and the applicable NOFA published by the Fund in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The NOFA will advise potential Applicants with respect to obtaining an application packet and will establish submission deadlines. The NOFA also will establish any other

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requirements or restrictions applicable for the funding round including any restrictions on award amounts. After receipt of an application, the Fund may request clarifying or technical information on materials submitted as part of such application.

(b) *Application contents.* Each application must contain the information required in the application packet, which includes:

(1) A copy of the Applicant's certificate of insurance issued by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and a copy of the Applicant's incorporation, charter, organizing, formation, or otherwise establishing documents to be used to establish eligibility for an award;

(2) A completed Bank Enterprise Award Rating and Calculations worksheet. (If an Applicant intends to complete a merger with another institution during the Assessment Period, it shall submit a separate Baseline Period worksheet for each subject institution and one Assessment Period worksheet that represents the projected activities of the merged institutions. If such a merger is unexpectedly delayed beyond the Assessment Period, the Fund reserves the right to withhold distribution of an award until the merger has been completed.);

(3) A narrative summary of each Qualified Activity expected to be performed in the Assessment Period;

(4) The asset size of the Applicant, as reported in its most recent Report of Condition or Thrift Financial Report, to its Appropriate Federal Banking Agency;

(5) Information necessary for the Fund to complete its environmental review requirements pursuant to part 1815 of this chapter;

(6) Certifications that the Applicant will comply with all relevant provisions of this chapter and all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, ordinances, regulations, policies, guidelines, and requirements;

(7) A copy of the Applicant's most recent annual report;

(8) In the case of an Applicant proposing to engage in Development and Service Activities, a completed Distressed Community Designation work-

sheet and a map and narrative description of the Distressed Community;

(9) In the case of an Applicant proposing to engage in CDFI Related Activities:

(i) *Equity Investment.* An Applicant shall submit a list of potential CDFIs to which assistance may be provided, and a description of the amount, terms and conditions of any Equity Investment that may be provided.

(ii) *CDFI Support Activities.* An Applicant shall submit:

(A) A list of potential CDFIs to which assistance may be provided and a description of the amount, terms and conditions of the assistance that may be provided; and

(B) Information that indicates that each CDFI to which an Applicant proposes to provide CDFI Support Activities is integrally involved within a Distressed Community, a completed Distressed Community Designation worksheet, and a map and narrative description of the Distressed Community.

Subpart C—Terms and Conditions of Assistance

§ 1806.300 Award Agreement; sanctions.

(a) *General.* After the Fund selects an Awardee, the Fund and the Awardee will enter into an Award Agreement. The Award Agreement shall provide that an Awardee shall:

(1) Carry out its Qualified Activities in accordance with applicable law, the approved application, and all other applicable requirements;

(2) Comply with such other terms and conditions (including record keeping and reporting requirements) that the Fund may establish; and

(3) Not receive any monies until the Fund has determined that the Awardee has fulfilled all applicable requirements.

(b) *Sanctions.* In the event of any fraud, misrepresentation, or non-compliance with the terms of the Award Agreement by the Awardee, the Fund may terminate, reduce, or recapture the award and pursue any other available legal remedies.

(c) *Notice.* Prior to imposing any sanctions pursuant to this section or an Award Agreement, the Fund will, to

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the maximum extent practicable, provide the Awardee with written notice of the proposed sanction and an opportunity to comment. Nothing in this section, however, will provide an Awardee with the right to any formal or informal hearing or comparable proceeding not otherwise required by law.

§ 1806.301 Records, reports and audits of Awardees.

At the end of an Assessment Period, each Applicant shall submit to the Fund:

(a) *Worksheet.* A Bank Enterprise Award worksheet that reports the Qualified Activities actually carried out during the Assessment Period;

(b) *Certification.* A certification that the information provided to the Fund is true and accurately reflects the Qualified Activities carried out during an Assessment Period; and

(c) *Documentation.* The Applicant shall make available the following:

(1) With respect to Equity Investments and CDFI Support Activities, the Applicant shall submit documentation that meets the conditions described in § 1806.202(d);

(2) With respect to Development and Services Activities where the original amount of the value of the activity is \$250,000 or greater, the Applicant shall submit documentation that meets the conditions described in § 1806.202(d);

(3) With respect to Development and Services Activities where the original amount of the value of the activity is less than \$250,000, the Applicant shall submit a schedule that describes the original amount, census tract served, and the dates of execution, initial disbursement, and final disbursement of the instrument; and

(4) Any other information reasonably requested by the Fund in order to document or otherwise assess the validity of information provided by the Applicant to the Fund.

§ 1806.302 Compliance with government requirements.

In carrying out its responsibilities pursuant to an Award Agreement, the Awardee shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulations and ordinances, OMB Circulars, and Executive Orders.

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§ 1806.303 Fraud, waste and abuse.

Any person who becomes aware of the existence or apparent existence of fraud, waste, or abuse of assistance provided under this part should report such incidences to the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

§ 1806.304 Books of account, records and government access.

An Awardee shall submit such financial and activity reports, records, statements, and documents at such times, in such forms, and accompanied by such supporting data, as required by the Fund and the U.S. Department of the Treasury to ensure compliance with the requirements of this part. The United States Government, including the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the Comptroller General, and its duly authorized representatives, shall have full and free access to the Awardee's offices and facilities, and all books, documents, records, and financial statements relevant to the award of the Federal funds and may copy such documents as they deem appropriate.

§ 1806.305 Retention of records.

An Awardee shall comply with all record retention requirements as set forth in OMB Circular A-110 (as applicable). This circular may be obtained from Office of Administration, Publications Office, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 2200, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

PART 1815—ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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1815.111 Actions that require an environmental assessment.

1815.112 Preparation of an environmental assessment.

1815.113 Public involvement.

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1815.115 OMB control number.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 4703, 4717; 42 U.S.C. 4332; Chapter X, Pub L. 104-19, 109 Stat. 237 (12 U.S.C. 4703 note).

SOURCE: 60 FR 54130, Oct. 19, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1815.100 Policy.

The Community Development Financial Institution Fund's policy is to ensure that environmental factors and concerns are given appropriate consideration in decisions and actions by the Fund and to reduce any possible adverse effects of Fund decisions and actions upon the quality of the human environment.

§ 1815.101 Purpose.

This part supplements Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and describe how the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund intends to consider environmental factors and concerns in the Fund's decisionmaking process. This part applies only to the Fund and not to any other bureau, office or organization within the Department of the Treasury.

§ 1815.102 Definitions.

(a) For the purpose of this part:

(1) *Act* means the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act (12 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.);

(2) *Application* means a request for assistance from the Fund submitted pursuant to parts 1805 or 1806 of this chapter;

(3) *CEQ regulations* means the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President, appearing at 40 CFR parts 1500-1508 and to which this part is a supplement;

(4) *Comprehensive Business Plan* means a document submitted as part of an Ap-

plication pursuant to part 1805 of this chapter which describes an organization's proposed process for offering products or services to a particular market, including organizational requirements needed to serve that market effectively;

(5) *Consumer Loans* means loans to one or more individuals for household, family or other personal expenditures;

(6) *Decisionmaker* means the Director of the Fund, unless an appropriate delegation of authority has been made;

(7) *EIS* means an environmental impact statement as defined in 40 CFR 1508.11 of the CEQ regulations;

(8) *Fund* means the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, established under section 104(a) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 4703(a));

(9) *NEPA* means the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4335; and

(10) *Project* means all closely related actions relating to a specific site.

(b) Other terms used in this part are defined in 40 CFR part 1508 of the CEQ regulations.

§ 1815.103 Designation of responsible Fund official.

The Director of the Fund is the designated Fund official responsible for implementation and operation of the Fund's policies and procedures on environmental quality and control.

§ 1815.104 Specific responsibilities of the designated Fund official.

The designated Fund official shall:

(a) Coordinate the formulation and revision of Fund policies and procedures on matters pertaining to environmental quality and control;

(b) Establish and maintain working relationships with relevant government agencies (including Federal, state and local) concerned with environmental matters;

(c) Develop procedures within the Fund's planning and decisionmaking processes to ensure that environmental factors are properly considered in all proposals and decisions in accordance with this part;

(d) Develop, monitor, and review the Fund's implementation of standards, procedures, and working relationships

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for protection and enhancement of environmental quality and compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

(e) Monitor processes to ensure that the Fund's procedures regarding consideration of environmental quality are achieving their intended purposes;

(f) Advise the officers and employees of the Fund of technical and management requirements of environmental analysis, of appropriate expertise available, and, with the assistance of the Department of the Treasury's Office of the General Counsel, of relevant legal developments;

(g) Monitor the consideration and documentation of the environmental aspects of Fund planning and decision-making processes by appropriate officers and employees of the Fund;

(h) Ensure that all environmental assessments and, where required, all EISs are prepared in accordance with the appropriate regulations adopted by the Council on Environmental Quality and the Fund;

(i) Ensure that, as required, a legislative EIS is submitted with all proposed legislation;

(j) Consolidate and transmit to appropriate parties the Fund's comments on EISs and other environmental reports prepared by other agencies;

(k) Acquire information and prepare appropriate reports on environmental matters required of the Fund; and

(l) Coordinate the Fund's efforts to make available to other parties information and advice on the Fund's policies for protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment.

§ 1815.105 Major decision points.

(a) The possible environmental effects of an Application, including any Comprehensive Business Plan, must be considered along with technical, economic, and other factors throughout the decisionmaking process. For most Fund actions there are two distinct stages in the decisionmaking process:

(1) Preliminary approval stage, at which point applications are selected for funding; and

(2) Final approval and funding stage.

(b) Environmental review shall be integrated into the decisionmaking process of the Fund as follows:

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(1) During the preliminary approval stage, the designated Fund official shall determine whether the Application proposes actions which are categorically excluded, or normally require an environmental assessment or an EIS;

(2) If the designated Fund official determines that the Application proposes actions which normally require an environmental assessment or an EIS, the applicant shall be informed that the final approval and funding, in addition to any other conditions, is contingent upon:

(i) The applicant supplying to the Fund all information necessary for the Fund to perform or have performed any environmental review required by this part;

(ii) The applicant not using any Fund financial assistance to perform any of such proposed actions in the Application that affect the physical environment until Fund approval is received; and

(iii) The outcome of the environmental review required by this part;

(3) The Fund will perform or have performed the environmental reviews required by this part;

(4) A preliminary approval of an Application may be withdrawn or further conditions may be imposed based upon the outcome of an environmental review required by this part; and

(5) If the designated Fund official determines that the Application proposes actions that require an environmental assessment or an EIS, the environmental assessment and/or EIS must be completed and circulated prior to the use of Federal funds for any activity that triggers the need for an environmental assessment and/or EIS.

§ 1815.106 Supplemental environmental review.

(a) The designated Fund official shall determine whether the proposed actions in the Application are sufficiently definite to perform a meaningful environmental review during the preliminary approval stage.

(b) If the designated Fund official determines that the Application is sufficiently definite to perform a meaningful environmental review during the

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preliminary approval stage, no conditions for supplemental environmental review shall be imposed.

(c) If the designated Fund official determines that the Application, or any part of the Application, is not sufficiently definite to complete a meaningful environmental review during the preliminary approval stage, the Fund shall require a supplemental environmental review prior to the taking of any action directly using Fund financial assistance that is not categorically excluded from environmental review or for which an environmental assessment or EIS has not been approved by the Fund. The applicant shall notify the designated Fund official when proposing any action requiring a supplemental environmental review and shall supply to the Fund all information necessary for the Fund to perform the supplemental environmental review. The Fund shall perform or have performed such a supplemental environmental review. The applicant shall not use any Fund financial assistance to perform any of the proposed actions requiring a supplemental environmental review that affect the physical environment until Fund approval for such action is received.

§ 1815.107 Determination of review requirement.

In deciding whether to prepare an EIS, the designated Fund official shall determine whether the proposal is one that normally:

- (a) Requires an EIS;
- (b) Requires an environmental assessment, but not necessarily an EIS; or
- (c) Does not require either an EIS or an environmental assessment (categorical exclusion).

§ 1815.108 Actions that normally require an EIS.

(a) If necessary, the Fund shall perform or have performed an environmental assessment to determine if an Application, or any portion of an Application, requires an EIS. However, it may be readily apparent that a proposed action in an Application will have a significant impact on the environment; in such cases, an environmental assessment is not required and

the Fund shall immediately begin to prepare, or have prepared, an EIS.

(b) An EIS normally is required where an Application proposes to directly use financial assistance from the Fund for any Project that would:

(1) Remove, demolish, convert, or substantially rehabilitate 2,500 or more existing housing units, or would result in the construction or installation of 2,500 or more new housing units, or which would provide sites for 2,500 or more new housing units; or

(2) Remove, demolish, convert, or substantially rehabilitate 1,500,000 square feet or more of commercial space, or would result in the construction or installation of 1,500,000 square feet or more of new commercial space, or which would provide sites for 1,500,000 square feet or more of new commercial space.

§ 1815.109 Preparation of an EIS.

(a) If the Fund determines that an EIS should be prepared, it shall publish a notice of intent in the FEDERAL REGISTER in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22 of the CEQ regulations. After publishing the notice of intent, the Fund shall begin to prepare or have prepared the EIS. Procedures for preparing the EIS are set forth in 40 CFR part 1502 of the CEQ regulations.

(b) The Fund may supplement a draft or final EIS at any time. The Fund shall prepare or have prepared a supplement to either the draft or final EIS when:

(1) Substantial changes are proposed to an action contained in the draft or final EIS that are relevant to environmental concerns or there are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts; or

(2) Actions are proposed which relate or are similar to other action(s) taken or proposed and that together have a cumulatively significant impact on the environment.

§ 1815.110 Categorical exclusion.

The CEQ regulations provide for the categorical exclusion of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have

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a significant effect on the human environment (40 CFR 1508.4). Therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an EIS is required for such actions. An action which falls into one of the categories below may still require the preparation of an EIS or environmental assessment if the designated Fund official determines it meets the criteria stated in §1815.109 or involves extraordinary circumstances that may have a significant environmental effect. The Fund has determined the following categorical exclusions:

(a) Actions directly related to the administration or operation of the Fund (e.g. personnel actions, including, but not limited to, staff recruitment and training; purchase of goods and services for the Fund, including, but not limited to, furnishings, equipment, supplies and services; space acquisition; property management; and security);

(b) Actions directly related to and implementing proposals for which an environmental assessment or an EIS have been prepared;

(c) Actions directly related to the granting or receipt of Bank Enterprise Act awards pursuant to part 1806 of this chapter;

(d) Actions directly related to training and/or technical assistance;

(e) Projects for the acquisition, disposition, rehabilitation and/or modernization of 500 existing housing units or less when all the following conditions are met:

(1) Unit density is not increased more than 20 percent;

(2) The Project does not involve changes in land use from nonresidential to residential;

(3) The estimated cost of rehabilitation is less than 75 percent of the total estimated cost of replacement after rehabilitation; and

(4) The Project does not involve the demolition of one or more buildings containing the primary use served by the project that, together, have more than 20 percent of the square footage of the Project;

(f) Projects for the construction of 200 housing units or less when all the following conditions are met:

(1) The Project does not involve changes in existing land use from nonresidential to residential; and

(2) The Project does not involve the demolition of one or more buildings containing the primary use served by the project that, together, have more than 20 percent of the square footage of the Project;

(g) Projects for the acquisition, disposition, rehabilitation and/or modernization of 200,000 square feet or less of existing commercial space when all the following conditions are met:

(1) The Project does not involve changes in existing land use from residential to nonresidential;

(2) The estimated cost of rehabilitation is less than 75 percent of the total estimated cost of replacement after rehabilitation; and

(3) The Project does not involve the demolition of more than 10,000 square feet of commercial space containing the primary use served by the Project;

(h) Projects for the construction of 100,000 square feet or less of commercial space when all the following conditions are met:

(1) The Project does not involve changes in existing land use from residential to nonresidential; and

(2) The Project does not involve the demolition of more than 10,000 square feet of commercial space containing the primary use served by the Project;

(i) Projects for the acquisition of an existing structure, provided that the property to be acquired is in place and will be retained in the same use;

(j) Projects involving Fund financial assistance of \$1,000,000 or less;

(k) Actions directly related to the provision of residential tenant-based rental assistance, Consumer Loans, health care, child care, educational, cultural and/or social services;

(l) Actions involving Fund financial assistance that is used to increase the permanent capital and/or liquidity of an applicant;

(m) Actions where no use of Federal funds is involved in the activity or Project; and

(n) Actions directly related to the provision of working capital, the acquisition of machinery and equipment or the purchase of inventory, raw materials or supplies.

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund

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§ 1815.111 Actions that require an environmental assessment.

If a Project or action is not one that normally requires an EIS and does not qualify for categorical exclusion, the Fund shall prepare, or have prepared, an environmental assessment.

§ 1815.112 Preparation of an environmental assessment.

(a) The Fund shall begin the preparation of an environmental assessment as early as possible after the designated Fund official has determined that it is required. The Fund may prepare an environmental assessment at any time to assist planning and decisionmaking.

(b) An environmental assessment is a concise public document used to determine whether to prepare an EIS. An environmental assessment aids in complying with the NEPA when no EIS is necessary, and it facilitates the preparation of an EIS, if one is necessary. The environmental assessment shall contain brief discussions of the following topics:

- (1) Purpose and need for the proposed action;
- (2) Description of the proposed action;
- (3) Alternatives considered, including the no action alternative;
- (4) Environmental effects of the proposed action and alternative actions; and
- (5) Listing of agencies, organizations or persons consulted.

(c) The most important or significant environmental consequences and effects on the areas listed below should be addressed in the environmental assessment. Only those areas which are specifically relevant to the particular proposal should be addressed. Those areas should be addressed in as much detail as is necessary to allow an analysis of the alternatives and the proposal. The areas to be considered are the following:

- (1) Natural/ecological features (such as floodplain, wetlands, coastal zones, wildlife refuges, and endangered species);
- (2) Air quality;
- (3) Sound levels;
- (4) Water supply, wastewater treatment and water runoff;

- (5) Energy requirements and conservation;
- (6) Solid waste;
- (7) Transportation;
- (8) Community facilities and services;
- (9) Social and economic;
- (10) Historic and aesthetic; and
- (11) Other relevant factors.

(d) If the Fund completes an environmental assessment and determines that an EIS is not required, then the Fund shall prepare a finding of no significant impact. The finding of no significant impact shall be made available to the public by the Fund as specified in 40 CFR 1506.6 of the CEQ regulations.

§ 1815.113 Public involvement.

All information collected by the Fund pursuant to this part shall be available to the public consistent with the CEQ regulations. Interested persons may obtain information concerning any pending EIS or any other element of the environmental review process of the Fund by contacting the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., room 5116, Washington, DC 20220, or such other contact entity designated by the Fund.

§ 1815.114 Fund decisionmaking procedures.

To ensure that at major decision-making points all relevant environmental concerns are considered by the Decisionmaker, the following procedures are established:

(a) An environmental document, i.e., the EIS, environmental assessment, finding of no significant impact, or notice of intent, in addition to being prepared at the earliest point in the decisionmaking process, shall accompany the relevant proposal or action through the Fund's decisionmaking process to ensure adequate consideration of environmental factors;

(b) The Decisionmaker shall consider in its decisionmaking process only those alternatives discussed in the relevant environmental documents. Also, where an EIS has been prepared, the decisionmaker shall consider all comments received during any comment process and all alternatives described

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in the EIS. A written record of the consideration of alternatives during the decisionmaking process shall be maintained; and

(c) Any environmental document prepared for a proposal or action shall be made part of the record of any formal rulemaking by the Fund.

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§ 1815.115 OMB control number.

The collection of information requirements in this part have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and assigned OMB control number 1505–0153 (expires September 30, 1998).

FINDING AIDS

A list of CFR titles, subtitles, chapters, subchapters and parts and an alphabetical list of agencies publishing in the CFR are included in the CFR Index and Finding Aids volume to the Code of Federal Regulations which is published separately and revised annually.

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Material Approved for Incorporation by Reference

(Revised as of January 1, 2000)

The Director of the Federal Register has approved under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR Part 51 the incorporation by reference of the following publications. This list contains only those incorporations by reference effective as of the revision date of this volume. Incorporations by reference found within a regulation are effective upon the effective date of that regulation. For more information on incorporation by reference, see the preliminary pages of this volume.

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Redesignation Table

Title 12 of the Code of Federal Regulations was amended at 54 FR 36758, Sept. 5, 1989, by redesignating certain regulations from 12 CFR chapter V to 12 CFR chapter IX, as set forth in the following redesignation table which shows the relationship of the former CFR part, subpart and section numbers under 12 CFR chapter V and new part, subpart and section numbers in 12 CFR chapter IX.

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1102.306 Redesignated as 1102.309; new 1102.306 added; eff. 1-12-00	72497

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1102.307 Redesignated as 1102.308; eff. 1-12-00	72497
Added; eff. 1-12-00	72500
1102.308 Redesignated from 1102.307; eff. 1-12-00	72497
1102.309 Redesignated from 1102.306; eff. 1-12-00	72497
1102.310 Added; eff. 1-12-00	72501
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1730 Added; interim	34969
Regulation at 64 FR 34969 confirmed	50246
1780 Part heading revised	72509
Authority citation revised	72510
1780.1—1780.16 (Subpart A) Added; eff. 1-27-00	72510
1780.20—1780.35 (Subpart B) Added; eff. 1-27-00	72513
1780.50—1780.57 (Subpart C) Added; eff. 1-27-00	72518
1780.70—1780.75 (Subpart D) Added; eff. 1-27-00	72520
1780.70 Redesignated as 1780.80; eff. 1-27-00	72510
1780.71 Redesignated as 1780.81; eff. 1-27-00	72510
1780.80 Redesignated from 1780.70; eff. 1-27-00	72510
1780.81 Redesignated from 1780.71; eff. 1-27-00	72510
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