

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 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 per-

cent 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 not to 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

- Sec.
- 625.1 Purpose.
- 625.2 Proceedings covered.
- 625.3 Eligibility of applicants.
- 625.4 Standards for awards.
- 625.5 Allowable fees and expenses.
- 625.6 Rulemaking on maximum rates for attorney fees.