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a short sale of the same security, then the long position is unavailable to serve as the margin required in connection with the creditor's endorsement of a call option on such security.

(g) A situation was also described in which a customer has purported to establish simultaneous offsetting long and short positions by executing a ''cross'' or wash sale of the security on the same day. In this situation, no change in the beneficial ownership of stock has taken place. Since there is no actual ''*contra*'' party to either transaction, and no stock has been borrowed or delivered to accomplish the short sale, such fictitious positions would have no value for purposes of the Board's margin regulations. Indeed, the adoption of such a scheme in connection with an overall strategy involving the issuance, endorsement, or guarantee of put or call options or combinations thereof appears to be manipulative and may have been employed for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the regulations.

[38 FR 12098, May 9, 1973]

§§ 220.129–220.130 [Reserved]

§ 220.131 Application of the arranging section to broker-dealer activities under SEC Rule 144A.

(a) The Board has been asked whether the purchase by a broker-dealer of debt securities for resale in reliance on Rule 144A of the Securities and Exchange Commission (17 CFR 230.144A)[1] may be considered an arranging of credit permitted as an ''investment banking service'' under § 220.13(a) of Regulation T.

(b) SEC Rule 144A provides a safe harbor exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933 for resales of restricted securities to *qualified institutional buyers*, as defined in the rule. In general, a *qualified institutional buyer* is an institutional investor that in the aggregate owns and invests on a discretionary basis at least $100 million in securities of issuers that are not affiliated with the buyer. Registered broker-dealers need only own and invest on a discretionary basis at least $10 million of securities in order to purchase as principal under the rule. Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933 provides an exemption from the registration requirements for ''transactions by an issuer not involving any public offering.'' Securities acquired in a transaction under section 4(2) cannot be resold without registration under the Act or an exemption therefrom. Rule 144A provides a safe harbor exemption for resales of such securities. Accordingly, broker-dealers that previously acted only as agents in intermediating between issuers and purchasers of privately-placed securities, due to the lack of such a safe harbor, now may purchase privately-placed securities from issuers as principal and resell such securities to ''qualified institutional buyers'' under Rule 144A.

(c) The Board has consistently treated the purchase of a privately-placed debt security as an extension of credit subject to the margin regulations. If the issuer uses the proceeds to buy securities, the purchase of the privately-placed debt security by a creditor represents an extension of ''purpose credit'' to the issuer. Section 7(c) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 prohibits the extension of purpose credit by a creditor if the credit is unsecured, secured by collateral other than securities, or secured by any security (other than an exempted security) in contravention of Federal Reserve regulations. If a debt security sold pursuant to Rule 144A represents purpose credit and is not properly collateralized by securities, the statute and Regulation T can be viewed as preventing the broker-dealer from taking the security into inventory in spite of the fact that the broker-dealer intends to immediately resell the debt security.

(d) Under § 220.13 of Regulation T, a creditor may arrange credit it cannot itself extend if the arrangement is an ''investment banking service'' and the credit does not violate Regulations G and U. Investment banking services are defined to include, but not be limited to, ''underwritings, private placements, and advice and other services in connection with exchange offers, mergers, or acquisitions, except for

[1] Rule 144A, 17 CFR 230.144A, was originally published in the FEDERAL REGISTER at 55 FR 17933, April 30, 1990.