APPENDIX D TO PART 225—CAPITAL ADEQUACY GUIDELINES FOR BANK HOLDING COMPANIES: TIER 1 LEVERAGE MEASURE

I. OVERVIEW

a. The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System has adopted a minimum ratio of tier 1 capital to total assets to assist in the assessment of the capital adequacy of bank holding companies (banking organizations). The principal objectives of this measure is to place a constraint on the maximum degree to which a banking organization can leverage its equity capital base. It is intended to be used as a supplement to the risk-based capital measure.

b. The tier 1 leverage guidelines apply on a consolidated basis to any bank holding company with consolidated assets of $500 million or more. The tier 1 leverage guidelines also apply on a consolidated basis to any bank holding company with consolidated assets of less than $500 million if the holding company (i) is engaged in significant nonbanking activities either directly or through a nonbank subsidiary; (ii) conducts significant off-balance sheet activities (including securitization and asset management or administration) either directly or through a nonbank subsidiary; or (iii) has a material amount of debt or equity securities outstanding (other than trust preferred securities) that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Federal Reserve may apply the tier 1 leverage guidelines at its discretion to any bank holding company, regardless of asset size, if such action is warranted for supervisory purposes.

c. The tier 1 leverage guidelines are to be used in the inspection and supervisory process as well as in the analysis of applications acted upon by the Federal Reserve. The Board will review the guidelines from time to time and will consider the need for possible adjustments in light of any significant changes in the economy, financial markets, and banking practices.

II. THE TIER 1 LEVERAGE RATIO

a. The Board has established a minimum ratio of Tier 1 capital to total assets of 3.0 percent for strong bank holding companies (rated composite “1” under the BOP/ECC/BSM rating system of bank holding companies), and for bank holding companies that have implemented the Board's risk-based capital measure for market risk as set forth in appendixes A and E of this part. For all other bank holding companies, the minimum ratio of Tier 1 capital to total assets is 4.0 percent.

Banking organizations with supervisory, financial, operational, or managerial weaknesses, as well as organizations that are anticipating or experiencing significant growth, are expected to maintain capital ratios well above the minimum levels. Moreover, higher capital ratios may be required for any bank holding company if warranted by its particular circumstances or risk profile. In all cases, bank holding companies should hold capital commensurate with the level and nature of the risks, including the volume and severity of problem loans, to which they are exposed.

b. A banking organization’s tier 1 leverage ratio is calculated by dividing its tier 1 capital (the numerator of the ratio) by its average total consolidated assets (the denominator of the ratio). The ratio will also be calculated using period-end assets whenever necessary, on a case-by-case basis. For the purpose of this leverage ratio, the definition of tier 1 capital as set forth in the risk-based capital guidelines contained in appendix A of this part will be used. As a general matter, average total consolidated assets are defined as the quarterly average total assets (defined net of the allowance for loan and lease losses) reported on the organization’s Consolidated Financial Statements (FR Y–9C Report), less goodwill; amounts of mortgage servicing assets, nonmortgage servicing assets, and purchased credit card relationships that, in the aggregate, are in excess of 25 percent of Tier 1 capital; amounts of nonmortgage servicing assets and purchased credit card relationships that, in the aggregate, are in excess of 25 percent of Tier 1 capital; amounts of credit-enhancing interest-only strips that are in excess of 25 percent of Tier 1 capital; all other identifiable intangible assets; any investments in subsidiaries or associated companies that the Federal Reserve determines should be deducted from Tier 1 capital; deferred tax assets that are dependent upon future taxable income, net of their valuation allowance, in excess of the

1 Supervisory ratios that related capital to total assets for state member banks are outlined in appendix B of this part.

2 [Reserved]
Section 1. Purpose, Applicability, Scope, and Effective Date

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this appendix is to ensure that bank holding companies (organizations) with significant exposure to market risk maintain adequate capital to support that exposure. 

(b) Applicability. (1) This appendix applies to any bank holding company whose trading activity on a worldwide consolidated basis equals: (i) 10 percent or more of total assets; or (ii) $1 billion or more.

(2) The Federal Reserve may additionally apply this appendix to any bank holding company if the Federal Reserve deems it necessary or appropriate for safe and sound banking practices.

(c) Scope. The capital requirements of this appendix support market risk associated with an organization’s covered positions.

(d) Effective date. This appendix is effective as of January 1, 1997. Compliance is not mandatory until January 1, 1998. Subject to supervisory approval, a bank holding company may opt to comply with this appendix as early as January 1, 1997.

Section 2. Definitions

For purposes of this appendix, the following definitions apply:

(a) Covered positions means all positions in an organization’s trading account, and all foreign exchange and commodity positions, as of January 1, 1997. Compliance is not mandatory until January 1, 1998. Subject to supervisory approval, a bank holding company may opt to comply with this appendix as early as January 1, 1997.

(b) Trading activity means the gross sum of trading assets and liabilities as reported in the bank holding company’s most recent quarterly Y–9C Report.

(c) Total assets means quarter-end total assets as reported in the bank holding company’s most recent Y–9C Report.

(d) A bank holding company that voluntarily complies with the final rule prior to January 1, 1998, must comply with all of its provisions.

(e) Subject to supervisory review, a bank may exclude structural positions in foreign currencies from its covered positions.

Deductions from Tier 1 capital and other adjustments are discussed more fully in section II.B. of appendix A of this part.

This appendix supersedes the Group of Ten Central Bank Governors. The framework is described in a Basle Committee paper entitled “Amendment to the Capital Accord to Incorporate Market Risks.” January 1996. Also see modifications issued in September 1997.