§ 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 the net member business loan balances are 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.

(c) Loans to credit unions and credit union service organizations. This part does not apply to loans made by federal credit unions to credit unions and credit union service organizations. This part does not apply to loans made by a federally insured, state-chartered credit union to credit unions and credit union service organizations if the credit union’s supervisory authority determines that state law grants authority to lend to these entities other than the general authority to grant loans to members.

(d) Purchase of member loans and member loan participations. Any interest a credit union obtains in a loan that was made by another lender to the credit union’s member is a member business loan, for purposes of this rule and the risk weighting standards of part 702 of this chapter to the same extent as if made directly by the credit union to its member.

(e) Purchases of nonmember loans and nonmember loan participations. Any interest a credit union obtains in a nonmember loan, pursuant to §701.22 or part 742 of this chapter or other authority, is treated the same as a member business loan for purposes of this rule and the risk weighting standards under part 702 of this chapter, except that the effect of such interest on a credit union’s aggregate member business loan limit will be as set forth in §723.16(b) of this part.


§ 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 officer (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 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?

Except as provided in §723.4 or unless your 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 the net member business loan balances for all construction and development loans must not exceed 15% of net worth. In determining the aggregate balances for purposes of this limitation, a credit union may exclude any loan made to finance the construction of a single-family residence if a prospective homeowner has contracted to purchase the property and may also exclude a loan to finance the construction of one single-family residence per member-borrower or group of associated member-borrowers, irrespective of the existence of a contractual commitment from a prospective homeowner to purchase the property.

(b) The borrower must have a minimum of 25% equity interest in the project being financed, the value of which is determined by the market value of the project at the time the loan is made, except that this requirement will not apply in the case of a loan made to finance the construction of a single-family residence if a prospective homeowner has contracted to purchase the property and in the case of one loan to a member-borrower or group of associated member-borrowers to finance the construction of a single-family residence, irrespective of the existence of a contractual commitment from a prospective homeowner to purchase the property. Instead, the collateral requirements of § 723.7 will apply; 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.


§ 723.5 How do you implement a member business loan program?

(a) Generally. The board of directors must adopt specific business loan policies and review them at least annually. The board must also use the services of an individual with at least two years direct experience with the type of lending the credit union will be engaging in. The experience must provide the credit union sufficient expertise given the complexity and risk exposure of the loans in which the credit union intends to engage. Credit unions do not have to hire staff to meet the requirements of this section but 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