§ 1236.3 Standards means any one or more of the prudential management and operations standards established by the Director pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 4513b(a), as modified from time to time pursuant to § 1236.3(b).

§ 1236.3 Prudential standards as guidelines.

(a) The Standards constitute the prudential management and operations standards required by 12 U.S.C. 4513b.

(b) The Standards have been adopted as guidelines, as authorized by 12 U.S.C. 4513b(a), and the Director may modify, revoke, or add to the Standards, or any one or more of them, at any time by order or notice.

(c) In the case of a direct conflict between a Standard and an FHFA regulation, when it is not possible to comply with both the Standard and the FHFA regulation, the regulation shall control.

(d) Failure to meet any Standard may constitute an unsafe and unsound practice for purposes of the enforcement provisions of 12 U.S.C. chapter 46, subchapter III.

§ 1236.4 Failure to meet a standard; corrective plans.

(a) Determination. FHFA may, based upon an examination, inspection or any other information, determine that a regulated entity has failed to meet one or more of the Standards.

(b) Submission of corrective plan. If FHFA determines that a regulated entity has failed to meet any Standard, FHFA may require the entity to submit a corrective plan, in which case FHFA shall, by written notice, inform the regulated entity of that determination and the requirement to submit a corrective plan.

(c) Corrective plans.—(1) Contents of plan. A corrective plan shall describe the actions the regulated entity will take to correct its failure to meet any one or more of the Standards, and the time within which each action will be taken.

(2) Filing deadline.—(i) In general. A regulated entity must file a written corrective plan with FHFA within thirty (30) calendar days of being notified by FHFA of its failure to meet a Standard and need to file a corrective plan, unless FHFA notifies the regulated entity in writing that the plan must be filed within a different time period.

(ii) Other plans. If a regulated entity must file a capital restoration plan submitted pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 4622, it may submit the corrective plan required under this section as part of the capital restoration plan, subject to the deadline in paragraph (c)(2)(i) of this section. If a regulated entity is currently operating under a cease-and-desist order entered into pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 4631 or 4632, or a formal or informal agreement, or must file a response to a report of examination or report of inspection, it may, with the permission of FHFA, submit the corrective plan required under this section as part of the regulated entity’s compliance with that order, agreement or response, subject to the deadline in paragraph (c)(2)(i) of this section, but the corrective plan would not become a part of the order, agreement, or response.

(d) Amendment of corrective plan. A regulated entity that is operating in accordance with an approved corrective plan may submit a written request to FHFA to amend the plan as necessary to reflect any changes in circumstance. Until such time that FHFA approves a proposed amendment, the regulated entity must continue to operate in accordance with the terms of the corrective plan as previously approved.

(e) Review of corrective plans and amendments. Within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving a corrective plan or proposed amendment to a plan, FHFA will notify the regulated entity in writing of its decision on the plan, will direct the regulated entity to submit additional information, or will notify the regulated entity in writing that FHFA has established a different deadline.

§ 1236.5 Failure to submit a corrective plan; noncompliance.

(a) Remedies. If a regulated entity fails to submit an acceptable corrective plan under § 1236.4(b), or fails in any material respect to implement or otherwise comply with an approved corrective plan, FHFA shall order the regulated entity to correct that deficiency, and may:
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(1) Prohibit the regulated entity from increasing its average total assets, as defined in 12 U.S.C. 4516(b)(4), for any calendar quarter over its average total assets for the preceding calendar quarter, or may otherwise restrict the rate at which the average total assets of the regulated entity may increase from one calendar quarter to another;

(2) Prohibit the regulated entity from paying dividends;

(3) Prohibit the regulated entity from redeeming or repurchasing capital stock;

(4) Require the regulated entity to maintain or increase its level of retained earnings;

(5) Require an Enterprise to increase its ratio of core capital to assets, or require a Bank to increase its ratio of total capital, as defined in 12 U.S.C. 1426(a)(5), to assets; or

(6) Require the regulated entity to take any other action that the Director determines will better carry out the purposes of the statute by bringing the regulated entity into conformance with the Standards.

(b) Extraordinary growth. If a regulated entity that has failed to submit an acceptable corrective plan or has failed in any material respect to implement or otherwise comply with an approved corrective plan, also has experienced extraordinary growth, FHFA shall impose at least one of the sanctions listed in paragraph (a) of this section, consistently with the requirements of 12 U.S.C. 4513b(b)(3).

(c) Orders.—(1) Notice. Except as provided in paragraph (c)(4) of this section, FHFA will notify a regulated entity in writing of its intent to issue an order requiring the regulated entity to correct its failure to submit or its failure in any material respect to implement or otherwise comply with an approved corrective plan. Any such notice will include:

(i) A statement that the regulated entity has failed to submit a corrective plan under §1236.4, or has not implemented or otherwise has not complied in any material respect with an approved plan;

(ii) A description of any sanctions that FHFA intends to impose and, in the case of the mandatory sanctions required by 12 U.S.C. 4513b(b)(3), a statement that FHFA believes that the regulated entity has experienced extraordinary growth; and

(iii) The proposed date when any sanctions would become effective or the proposed date for completion of any required actions.

(2) Response to notice. A regulated entity may file a written response to a notice of intent to issue an order, which must be delivered to FHFA within fourteen (14) calendar days of the date of the notice, unless FHFA determines that a different time period is appropriate in light of the safety and soundness of the regulated entity or other relevant circumstances. The response should include:

(i) An explanation why the regulated entity believes that the action proposed by FHFA is not an appropriate exercise of discretion;

(ii) Any recommended modification of the proposed order; and

(iii) Any other relevant information, mitigating circumstances, documentation or other evidence in support of the position of the regulated entity regarding the proposed order.

(3) Failure to file response. A regulated entity’s failure to file a written response within the specified time period will constitute a waiver of the opportunity to respond and will constitute consent to issuance of the order.

(4) Immediate issuance of final order. FHFA may issue an order requiring a regulated entity immediately to take actions to correct a Standards deficiency or to take or refrain from taking other actions pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section. Within fourteen (14) calendar days of the issuance of an order under this paragraph, or other time period specified by FHFA, a regulated entity may submit a written appeal of the order to FHFA. FHFA will respond in writing to a timely filed appeal within sixty (60) days after receiving the appeal. During this period, the order will remain in effect unless FHFA stays the effectiveness of the order.

(d) Request for modification or rescission of order. A regulated entity subject to an order under this part may submit a written request to FHFA for an amendment to the order to reflect a
change in circumstance. Unless otherwise ordered by FHFA, the order shall continue in place while such a request is pending before FHFA.

(e) Agency review and determination. FHFA will respond in writing within thirty (30) days after receiving a response or amendment request, unless FHFA notifies the regulated entity in writing that it will respond within a different time period. After considering a regulated entity’s response or amendment request, FHFA may:

(1) Issue the order as proposed or in modified form;
(2) Determine not to issue the order and instead issue a different order; or
(3) Seek additional information or clarification of the response from the regulated entity, or any other relevant source.

APPENDIX TO PART 1236—PRUDENTIAL MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS STANDARDS

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

The following provisions address the general responsibilities of the boards of directors and senior management of the regulated entities as they relate to the matters addressed by each of the Standards. The descriptions are not a comprehensive listing of the responsibilities of either the boards or senior management, each of whom have additional duties and responsibilities to those described in these Standards.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

1. With respect to the subject matter addressed by each Standard, the board of directors is responsible for adopting business strategies, policies, and procedures that are appropriate for the particular subject matter. The board should review all such strategies, policies, and procedures periodically, and should review and approve all major strategies and policies at least annually, and make any revisions that are necessary to ensure that they remain consistent with the entity’s overall business plan.

2. The board of directors is responsible for overseeing management of the regulated entity, which includes ensuring that management includes personnel who are appropriately trained and competent to oversee the operation of the regulated entity as it relates to the functions and requirements addressed by each Standard, and that management implements the policies and procedures set forth by the board.

3. The board of directors is responsible for remaining informed about the operations and condition of the regulated entity, including operating consistently with the Standards, and senior management’s implementation of the strategies, policies and procedures established by the board of directors.

4. The board of directors must remain sufficiently informed about the nature and level of the regulated entity’s overall risk exposures, including market, credit, and counterparty risk, so that it can understand the possible short- and long-term consequences to earnings, liquidity, and economic value. The board of directors should establish the regulated entity’s risk tolerances and should provide management with clear guidance regarding the level of acceptable risks; review the regulated entity’s entire market risk management framework, including policies and entity-wide risk limits at least annually; oversee the adequacy of the actions taken by senior management to identify, measure, manage, and control the regulated entity’s risk exposures; and ensure that management takes appropriate corrective measures whenever market risk limit violations or breaches occur.

Responsibilities of Senior Management

5. With respect to the subject matter addressed by each Standard, senior management is responsible for developing the policies, procedures and practices that are necessary to implement the business strategies and policies adopted by the board of directors. Senior management should ensure that such items are clearly written, sufficiently detailed, and are followed by all personnel. Senior management also should ensure that the regulated entity has personnel who are appropriately trained and competent to carry out their respective functions and that all delegated responsibilities are performed.

6. Senior management should ensure that the regulated entity has adequate resources, systems and controls available to execute effectively the entity’s business strategies, policies and procedures, including operating consistently with each of the Standards.

7. Senior management should provide the board of directors with periodic reports relating to the regulated entity’s condition and performance, including the subject matter addressed by each of the Standards, that are sufficiently detailed to allow the board of directors to remain fully informed about the business of the regulated entity.

8. Senior management should regularly review and discuss with the board of directors information regarding the regulated entity’s risk exposures that is sufficient in detail and timeliness to permit the board of directors to understand and assess the performance of