§ 1270.5

(5) Investments described in section 16(a) of the Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1436(a)); and

(6) Other securities that have been assigned a rating or assessment by an NRSRO that is equivalent to or higher than the rating or assessment assigned by that NRSRO to consolidated obligations outstanding.

Effective Date Note: At 78 FR 67009, Nov. 8, 2013, §1270.4 was amended by revising paragraph (b), effective May 7, 2014. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 1270.4 Issuance of consolidated obligations.

* * * * *

(b) Negative pledge requirement. Each Bank shall at all times maintain assets described in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(5) of this section free from any lien or pledge, in an amount at least equal to a pro rata share of the total amount of currently outstanding consolidated obligations and equal to such Bank’s participation in all such consolidated obligations outstanding, provided that any assets that are subject to a lien or pledge for the benefit of the holders of any issue of consolidated obligations shall be treated as if they were assets free from any lien or pledge for purposes of compliance with this paragraph (b). Eligible assets are:

(1) Cash;

(2) Obligations of or fully guaranteed by the United States;

(3) Secured advances;

(4) Mortgages as to which one or more Banks have any guaranty or insurance, or commitment therefor, by the United States or any agency thereof; and

(5) Investments described in section 16(a) of the Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1436(a)).

§ 1270.5 Leverage limit and credit rating requirements.

(a) Bank leverage—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the total assets of any Bank that is not subject to the capital requirements set forth in part 932 of this title may be up to 25 times the total paid-in capital stock, retained earnings, and reserves of that Bank, provided that non-mortgage assets, after deducting the amount of deposits and capital, do not exceed 11 percent of such total assets. For the purposes of this section, the amount of non-mortgage assets equals total assets after deduction of:

(i) Advances;

(ii) Acquired member assets, including all United States government-insured or guaranteed whole single-family or multi-family residential mortgage loans;

(iii) Standby letters of credit;

(iv) Intermediary derivative contracts;

(v) Debt or equity investments:

(A) That primarily benefit households having a targeted income level, a significant proportion of which must benefit households with incomes at or below 80 percent of area median income, or areas targeted for redevelopment by local, state, tribal or Federal government (including Federal Empowerment Zones and Enterprise and Champion Communities), by providing or supporting one or more of the following activities:

(1) Housing;

(2) Economic development;

(3) Community services;

(4) Permanent jobs; or

(5) Area revitalization or stabilization;

(B) In the case of mortgage- or asset-backed securities, the acquisition of which would expand liquidity for loans that are not otherwise adequately provided by the private sector and do not have a readily available or well established secondary market; and

(C) That involve one or more members or housing associates in a manner, financial or otherwise, and to a degree to be determined by the Bank:

(vi) Investments in SBICs, where one or more members or housing associates of the Bank also make a material investment in the same activity;

(vii) SBIC debentures, the short term tranche of SBIC securities, or other debentures that are guaranteed by the Small Business Administration under
(viii) Section 108 Interim Notes and Participation Certificates guaranteed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development under section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5308);
(ix) Investments and obligations issued or guaranteed under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.);
(x) Securities representing an interest in pools of mortgages (MBS) issued, guaranteed, or fully insured by the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae), the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac), or the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), or Collateralized Mortgage Obligations (CMOs), including Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduits (REMICs), backed by such securities;
(xi) Other MBS, CMOs, and REMICs rated in the highest rating category by an NRSRO;
(xii) Asset-backed securities collateralized by manufactured housing loans or home equity loans and rated in the highest rating category by an NRSRO; and
(xiii) Marketable direct obligations of state or local government units or agencies, rated in one of the two highest rating categories by an NRSRO, where the purchase of such obligations by a Bank provides to the issuer the customized terms, necessary liquidity, or favorable pricing required to generate needed funding for housing or community development.

(b) Credit ratings—(1) The Banks, collectively, shall obtain from an NRSRO and, at all times, maintain a current credit rating on the Banks’ consolidated obligations.
(2) Each Bank shall operate in such a manner and take any actions necessary, including without limitation reducing Bank leverage, to ensure that the Banks’ consolidated obligations receive and continue to receive the highest credit rating from any NRSRO by which the consolidated obligations have then been rated.

(c) Individual Bank credit rating. Each Bank shall operate in such a manner and take any actions necessary to ensure that the Bank has and maintains an individual issuer credit rating of at least the second highest credit rating from any NRSRO providing a rating, where such rating is a meaningful measure of the individual Bank’s financial strength and stability, and is updated at least annually by an NRSRO, or more frequently as required by FHFA, to reflect any material changes in the condition of the Bank.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 78 FR 67009, Nov. 8, 2013, §1270.5 was revised, effective May 7, 2013. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§1270.5 Bank operations.
The Banks, individually and collectively, shall operate in such manner and take any actions necessary, including without limitation reducing leverage, to ensure that consolidated obligations maintain a high level of acceptance by financial markets and are generally perceived by investors as presenting a low level of credit risk.

§1270.6 Transactions in consolidated obligations.
The general regulations of the Department of the Treasury now or hereafter in force governing transactions in United States securities, except 31 CFR part 357 regarding book-entry procedure, are hereby incorporated into this subpart C of this part, so far as applicable and as necessarily modified to relate to consolidated obligations, as the regulations of FHFA for similar transactions on consolidated obligations. The book-entry procedure for consolidated obligations is contained in subpart D of this part.

§1270.7 Lost, stolen, destroyed, mutilated or defaced consolidated obligations.
United States statutes and regulations of the Department of the Treasury now or hereafter in force governing relief on account of the loss, theft, destruction, mutilation or defacement of United States securities, so far as applicable and as necessarily modified to relate to consolidated obligations, are hereby adopted as the regulations of FHFA for the issuance of substitute