cardholders can access specific information about their individual accounts, instead of complying with §226.58(e)(1), may make agreements available upon request by providing the cardholder with the ability to request a copy of the agreement by calling a readily available telephone line, the number for which is displayed on the issuer’s Web site and clearly identified as to purpose or included on each periodic statement sent to the cardholder and clearly identified as to purpose. The issuer must send to the cardholder a copy of the cardholder’s agreement in electronic or paper form no later than 30 days after the issuer receives the cardholder’s request.

(3) Form and content of agreements. (i) Except as provided in §226.58(e), agreements posted on the card issuer’s Web site pursuant to §226.58(e)(1)(i) or made available upon the cardholder’s request pursuant to §226.58(e)(1)(ii) or (e)(2) must conform to the form and content requirements for agreements submitted to the Board specified in §226.58(c)(8).

(ii) If the card issuer posts an agreement on its Web site or otherwise provides an agreement to a cardholder electronically under §226.58(e), the agreement may be posted or provided in any electronic format that is readily usable by the general public and must be placed in a location that is prominent and readily accessible to the cardholder.

(iii) Agreements posted or otherwise provided pursuant to §226.58(e) may contain personally identifiable information relating to the cardholder, such as name, address, telephone number, or account number, provided that the issuer takes appropriate measures to make the agreement accessible only to the cardholder or other authorized persons.

(iv) Agreements posted or otherwise provided pursuant to §226.58(e) must set forth the specific provisions and pricing information applicable to the particular cardholder. Provisions and pricing information must be complete and accurate as of a date no more than 60 days prior to: (1) the date on which the agreement is posted on the card issuer’s Web site under §226.58(e)(1)(i); or (2) the date the cardholder’s request is received under §226.58(e)(1)(i) or (e)(2).

(v) Agreements provided upon cardholder request pursuant to §226.58(e)(1)(ii) or (e)(2) may be provided by the issuer in either electronic or paper form, regardless of the form of the cardholder’s request.

(f) E-Sign Act requirements. Card issuers may provide credit card agreements in electronic form under §226.58(d) and (e) without regard to the consumer notice and consent requirements of section 101(c) of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (E-Sign Act) (15 U.S.C. 7001 et seq.).


§226.59 Reevaluation of rate increases.

(a) General rule—(1) Evaluation of increased rate. If a card issuer increases an annual percentage rate that applies to a credit card account under an open-end (not home-secured) consumer credit plan, based on the credit risk of the consumer, market conditions, or other factors, or increased such a rate on or after January 1, 2009, and 45 days’ advance notice of the rate increase is required pursuant to §226.9(c)(2) or (g), the card issuer must:

(i) Evaluate the factors described in paragraph (d) of this section; and

(ii) Based on its review of such factors, reduce the annual percentage rate applicable to the consumer’s account, as appropriate.

(2) Rate reductions—(1) Timing. If a card issuer is required to reduce the rate applicable to an account pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of this section, the card issuer must reduce the rate not later than 45 days after completion of the evaluation described in paragraph (a)(1).

(ii) Applicability of rate reduction. Any reduction in an annual percentage rate required pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of this section shall apply to:

(A) Any outstanding balances to which the increased rate described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section has been applied; and

(B) New transactions that occur after the effective date of the rate reduction
that would otherwise have been subject to the increased rate.

(b) Policies and procedures. A card issuer must have reasonable written policies and procedures in place to conduct the review described in paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) Timing. A card issuer that is subject to paragraph (a) of this section must conduct the review described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section not less frequently than once every six months after the rate increase.

(d) Factors—(1) In general. Except as provided in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, a card issuer must review either:
   (i) The factors on which the increase in an annual percentage rate was originally based; or
   (ii) The factors that the card issuer currently considers when determining the annual percentage rates applicable to similar new credit card accounts under an open-end (not home-secured) consumer credit plan.

(2) Rate increases imposed between January 1, 2009 and February 21, 2010. For rate increases imposed between January 1, 2009 and February 21, 2010, an issuer must consider the factors described in paragraph (d)(1)(ii) when conducting the first two reviews required under paragraph (a) of this section, unless the rate increase subject to paragraph (a) of this section was based solely upon factors specific to the consumer, such as a decline in the consumer’s credit risk, the consumer’s delinquency or default, or a violation of the terms of the account.

(e) Rate increases subject to §226.55(b)(4). If an issuer increases a rate applicable to a consumer’s account pursuant to §226.55(b)(4) based on the card issuer not receiving the consumer’s required minimum periodic payment within 60 days after the due date, the issuer is not required to perform the review described in paragraph (a) of this section prior to the sixth payment due date after the effective date of the increase. However, if the annual percentage rate applicable to the consumer’s account is not reduced pursuant to §226.55(b)(4)(ii), the card issuer must perform the review described in paragraph (a) of this section. The first such review must occur no later than six months after the sixth payment due following the effective date of the rate increase.

(f) Termination of obligation to review factors. The obligation to review factors described in paragraph (a) and (d) of this section ceases to apply:
   (1) If the issuer reduces the annual percentage rate applicable to a credit card account under an open-end (not home-secured) consumer credit plan to the rate applicable immediately prior to the increase, or, if the rate applicable immediately prior to the increase was a variable rate, to a variable rate determined by the same formula (index and margin) that was used to calculate the rate applicable immediately prior to the increase; or
   (2) If the issuer reduces the annual percentage rate to a rate that is lower than the rate described in paragraph (f)(1) of this section.

(g) Acquired accounts—(1) General. Except as provided in paragraph (g)(2) of this section, this section applies to credit card accounts that have been acquired by the card issuer from another card issuer. A card issuer that complies with this section by reviewing the factors described in paragraph (d)(1)(i) must review the factors considered by the card issuer from which it acquired the accounts in connection with the rate increase.

(2) Review of acquired portfolio. If, not later than six months after the acquisition of such accounts, a card issuer reviews all of the credit card accounts it acquires in accordance with the factors that it currently considers in determining the rates applicable to its similar new credit card accounts:
   (i) Except as provided in paragraph (g)(2)(iii), the card issuer is required to conduct reviews described in paragraph (a) of this section only for rate increases that are imposed as a result of its review under this paragraph. See §§226.9 and 226.55 for additional requirements regarding rate increases on acquired accounts.
   (ii) Except as provided in paragraph (g)(2)(iii) of this section, the card issuer is not required to conduct reviews in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section for any rate increases made prior to the card issuer’s acquisition of such accounts.
(iii) If as a result of the card issuer’s review, an account is subject to, or continues to be subject to, an increased rate as a penalty, or due to the consumer’s delinquency or default, the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section apply.

(h) Exceptions—(1) Servicemembers Civil Relief Act exception. The requirements of this section do not apply to increases in an annual percentage rate that was previously decreased pursuant to 50 U.S.C. app. 527, provided that such a rate increase is made in accordance with §226.55(b)(6).

(2) Charged off accounts. The requirements of this section do not apply to accounts that the card issuer has charged off in accordance with loan-loss provisions.

(75 FR 37572, June 26, 2010)

APPENDIX B TO PART 226—STATE EXEMPTIONS

APPLICATION

Any State may apply to the Board for a determination that a class of transactions subject to State law is exempt from the requirements of the Act and this regulation. An application shall be in writing and addressed to the Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551, and shall be signed by the appropriate State official. The application shall be made pursuant to the procedures herein and the Board’s Rules of Procedure (12 CFR Part 262).

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

An application shall be accompanied by:

(1) The text of the State statute or regulation that is the subject of the application, and any other statute, regulation, or judicial or administrative opinion that implements, interprets, or applies it,

(2) A comparison of the State law with the corresponding provisions of the Federal law,

(3) The text of the State statute or regulation that provides for civil and criminal liability and administrative enforcement of the State law,

(4) A statement of the provisions for enforcement, including an identification of the State office that administers the relevant law, information on the funding and the number and qualifications of personnel engaged in enforcement, and a description of the enforcement procedures to be followed, including information on examination procedures, practices, and policies. If an exemption application extends to federally chartered institutions, the applicant must furnish evidence that arrangements have been made with the appropriate Federal agencies to ensure adequate enforcement of State law in regard to such creditors.

(5) A statement of reasons to support the applicant’s claim that an exemption should be granted.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice of an application will be published, with an opportunity for public comment, in the Federal Register, unless the Board finds that notice and opportunity for comment would be impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest and publishes its reasons for such decision. Subject to the Board’s Rules Regarding Availability of Information (12 CFR Part 261), all applications made, including any documents and other material submitted in support of the applications, will be made available for public inspection and copying. A copy of the application also will be made available at the Federal Reserve Bank of each district in which the applicant is situated.

FAVORABLE DETERMINATION

If the Board determines on the basis of the information before it that an exemption should be granted, notice of the exemption will be published in the Federal Register, and a copy furnished to the applicant and to each Federal official responsible for administrative enforcement.

The appropriate State official shall inform the Board within 30 days of any change in its relevant law or regulations. The official shall file with the Board such periodic reports as the Board may require.

The Board will inform the appropriate State official of any subsequent amendments to the Federal law, regulation, interpretations, or enforcement policies that might require an amendment to State law, regulation, interpretations, or enforcement procedures.

ADVERSE DETERMINATION

If the Board makes an initial determination that an exemption should not be granted, the Board will afford the applicant a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate further that an exemption is proper. If the Board ultimately finds that an exemption should not be granted, notice of an adverse determination will be published in the Federal Register and a copy furnished to the applicant.

REVOCATION OF EXEMPTION

The Board reserves the right to revoke an exemption if at any time it determines that the standards required for an exemption are not met.
Before taking such action, the Board will notify the appropriate State official of its intent, and will afford the official such opportunity as it deems appropriate in the circumstances to demonstrate that revocation is improper. If the Board ultimately finds that revocation is proper, notice of the Board's intention to revoke such exemption will be published in the Federal Register with a reasonable period of time for interested persons to comment.

Notice of revocation of an exemption will be published in the Federal Register. A copy of such notice will be furnished to the appropriate State official and to the Federal officials responsible for enforcement. Upon revocation of an exemption, creditors in that State shall then be subject to the requirements of the Federal law.

Appendix C to Part 226—Issuance of Staff Interpretations

Officials in the Board’s Division of Consumer and Community Affairs are authorized to issue official staff interpretations of this regulation. These interpretations provide the protection afforded under section 130(f) of the Act. Except in unusual circumstances, such interpretations will not be issued separately but will be incorporated in an official commentary to the regulation which will be amended periodically.

Requests for Issuance of Official Staff Interpretations

A request for an official staff interpretation shall be in writing and addressed to the Director, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551. The request shall contain a complete statement of all relevant facts concerning the issue, including copies of all pertinent documents.

Scope of Interpretations

No staff interpretations will be issued approving creditors’ forms, statements, or calculation tools or methods. This restriction does not apply to forms, statements, tools, or methods whose use is required or sanctioned by a government agency.

Appendix D to Part 226—Multiple Advance Construction Loans

Section 226.17(c)(6) permits creditors to treat multiple advance loans to finance construction of a dwelling that may be permanently financed by the same creditor either as a single transaction or as more than one transaction. If the actual schedule of advances is not known, the following methods may be used to estimate the interest portion of the finance charge and the annual percentage rate and to make disclosures. If the creditor chooses to disclose the construction phase separately, whether interest is payable periodically or at the end of construction, part I may be used. If the creditor chooses to disclose the construction and the permanent financing as one transaction, part II may be used.

Part I—Construction Period Disclosed Separately

A. If interest is payable only on the amount actually advanced for the time it is outstanding:

1. Estimated interest—Assume that one-half of the commitment amount is outstanding at the contract interest rate for the entire construction period.

2. Estimated annual percentage rate—Assume a single payment loan that matures at the end of the construction period. The finance charge is the sum of the estimated interest and any prepaid finance charge. The amount financed for computation purposes is determined by subtracting any prepaid finance charge from one-half of the commitment amount.

3. Repayment schedule—Interest payments shall be disclosed in making the repayment schedule disclosure under §226.18(g).

B. If interest is payable on the entire commitment amount without regard to the dates or amounts of actual disbursement:

1. Estimated interest—Assume that the entire commitment amount is outstanding at the contract interest rate for the entire construction period.

2. Estimated annual percentage rate—Assume a single payment loan that matures at the end of the construction period. The finance charge is the sum of the estimated interest and any prepaid finance charge. The amount financed for computation purposes is determined by subtracting any prepaid finance charge from one-half of the commitment amount.

3. Repayment schedule—Interest payments shall be disclosed in making the repayment schedule disclosure under §226.18(g).
4. **Amount financed** - The amount financed for disclosure purposes is the entire commitment amount less any prepaid finance charge.

**Example:**

Assume a $50,000 loan commitment at 10.5% interest with a 5-month construction period and a prepaid finance charge of 2 points.

(A) **Estimated Interest:**

\[ 25,000 \times 0.105 \times 12 \times 5 = \$1,093.75 \]

**Estimated APR:**

\[ \frac{(1,093.75 + 1,000) \times 100 + 5 \times 12}{(25,000 - 1,000)} = 20.94\% \]

**Disclosures:**

- **Amount financed** $49,000.00
- **Prepaid finance charge** $1,000.00
- **FINANCE CHARGE (Estimate)** $2,093.75
- **ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE (Estimate)** 20.94%

**Repayment:** One payment of principal of $50,000 on 12-12-80. Interest on the amount of credit outstanding will be paid monthly.

**Total of payments (Estimate)** $51,093.75

(B) **Estimated Interest:**

\[ 50,000 \times 0.105 \times 12 \times 5 = \$2,187.50 \]

**Estimated APR:**

\[ \frac{(2,187.50 + 1,000) \times 100 + 5 \times 12}{(25,000 - 1,000)} = 31.88\% \]

**Disclosures:**

- **Amount financed** $49,000.00
- **Prepaid finance charge** $1,000.00
- **FINANCE CHARGE (Estimate)** $3,187.50
- **ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE (Estimate)** 31.88%

**Repayment:** 4 monthly payments of $437.50, beginning on 8-12-80, and a final payment of $50,437.50 on 12-12-80.

**Total of payments (Estimate)** $52,187.50

**Part II - Construction and permanent financing disclosed as one transaction.**

A. The creditor shall estimate the interest payable during the construction period to be included in the total finance charge as follows:

1. If interest is payable only on the amount actually advanced for the time it is outstanding, assume that one-half of the commitment amount is outstanding at the contract interest rate for the entire construction period.

2. If interest is payable on the entire commitment amount without regard to the dates or amounts of actual disbursement, assume that the entire commitment amount is outstanding at the contract rate for the entire construction period.
B. The creditor shall compute the estimated annual percentage rate as follows:

1. Estimated interest payable during the construction period shall be treated for computation purposes as a prepaid finance charge (although it shall not be treated as a prepaid finance charge for disclosure purposes).

2. The number of payments shall not include any payments of interest only that are made during the construction period.

3. The first payment period shall consist of one-half of the construction period plus the period between the end of the construction period and the first amortization payment.

C. The creditor shall disclose the repayment schedule as follows:

1. For loans under paragraph A.1. of Part II, without reflecting the number or amounts of payments of interest only that are made during the construction period. The fact that interest payments must be made and the timing of such payments shall be disclosed.

2. For loans under paragraph A.2. of Part II, including any payments of interest only that are made during the construction period.

D. The creditor shall disclose the amount financed as the entire commitment amount less any prepaid finance charge.

Example:
Assume a $50,000 loan commitment at 10.5% interest with a 5-month construction period and a prepaid finance charge of 2 points, followed by 30-year permanent financing at the same rate with monthly amortization payments of $457.37.

**Computation of Estimated APR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interest on Amount Advanced</th>
<th>Interest on Entire Commitment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated construction interest:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 \times .105 \times 12 \times 5 = $1,093.75</td>
<td>$50,000 \times .105 \times 12 \times 5 = $2,187.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated total finance charge:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>360 \times $457.37 = $164,653.20</td>
<td>$164,653.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal \quad - 50,000.00</td>
<td>- 50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Permanent Fin. \quad 114,653.20</td>
<td>114,653.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Interest \quad + 1,093.75</td>
<td>+ 2,187.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Points \quad + 1,000.00</td>
<td>+ 1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>$116,746.95</td>
<td>$117,840.70</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX E—RULES FOR CARD ISSUERS
THAT BILL ON A TRANSACTION-BY-
TRANSACTION BASIS

The following provisions of Subpart B apply if credit cards are issued and the card
issuer and the seller are the same or related persons; no finance charge is imposed; con-
sumers are billed in full for each use of the card on a transaction-by-transaction basis,
by means of an invoice or other statement reflecting each use of the card; and no cumu-
lative account is maintained which reflects the transactions by each consumer during a
period of time, such as a month. The term “related person” refers to, for example, a
franchised or licensed seller of a creditor’s product or service or a seller who assigns or
sells sales accounts to a creditor or arranges for credit under a plan that allows the con-
sumer to use the credit only in transactions with that seller. A seller is not related to the
creditor merely because the seller and the creditor have an agreement authorizing the
seller to honor the creditor’s credit card.

1. Section 226.6(a)(5) or §226.6(b)(5)(iii).
2. Section 226.6(a)(2) or §226.6(b)(3)(ii)(B), as applicable. The disclosure required by
§226.6(a)(2) or §226.6(b)(3)(ii)(B) shall be limited to those charges that are or may be im-
posed as a result of the deferral of payment by use of the card, such as late payment or
delinquency charges. A tabular format is not required.
3. Section 226.6(a)(4) or §226.6(b)(5)(ii).
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4. Section 226.7(a)(2) or § 226.7(b)(2), as applicable; § 226.7(a)(9) or § 226.7(b)(9), as applicable. Creditors may comply by placing the required disclosures on the invoice or statement sent to the consumer for each transaction.

5. Section 226.9(a). Creditors may comply by mailing or delivering the statement required by § 226.5(a)(5) or § 226.6(b)(5)(ii) (see appendix G–3 and G–3(A) to this part) to each consumer receiving a transaction invoice during the one-month period chosen by the card issuer or by sending either the statement prescribed by § 226.6(a)(5) or § 226.6(b)(5)(i), or an alternative billing error rights statement substantially similar to that in appendix G–4 and G–4(A) to this part, with each invoice sent to a consumer.

6. Section 226.9(c). A tabular format is not required.

7. Section 226.10.

8. Section 226.11(a). This section applies when a card issuer receives a payment or other credit that exceeds by more than $1 the amount due, as shown on the transaction invoice. The requirement to credit amounts to an account may be complied with by other reasonable means, such as by a credit memorandum. Since no periodic statement is provided, a notice of the credit balance shall be sent to the consumer within a reasonable period of time following its occurrence unless a refund of the credit balance is mailed or delivered to the consumer within seven business days of its receipt by the card issuer.

9. Section 226.12 including § 226.12(c) and (d), as applicable. Section 226.12(e) is inapplicable.

10. Section 226.13, as applicable. All references to “periodic statement” shall be read to indicate the invoice or other statement for the relevant transaction. All actions with regard to correcting and adjusting a consumer’s account may be taken by issuing a refund or a new invoice, or by other appropriate means consistent with the purposes of the section.

11. Section 226.15, as applicable. [75 FR 7824, Feb. 22, 2010]

APPENDIX F—OPTIONAL ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE COMPUTATIONS FOR CREDITORS OFFERING OPEN-END PLANS SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 226.5b

In determining the denominator of the fraction under § 226.14(c)(3), no amount will be used more than once when adding the sum of the balances subject to specific transaction charges. (Where a portion of the finance charge is determined by application of one or more daily periodic rates, the phrase “sum of the balances” shall also mean the “average of daily balances.”) In every case, the full amount of transactions subject to specific transaction charges shall be included in the denominator. Other balances or parts of balances shall be included according to the manner of determining the balance subject to a periodic rate, as illustrated in the following examples of accounts on monthly billing cycles:

1. Previous balance—none.

A specific transaction of $100 occurs on the first day of the billing cycle. The average daily balance is $100. A specific transaction charge of 3 percent is applicable to the specific transaction. The periodic rate is 1 1/2 percent applicable to the average daily balance. The numerator is the amount of the finance charge, which is $1.50. The denominator is the amount of the transaction (which is $100), plus the amount by which the balance subject to the periodic rate exceeds the amount of the specific transactions (such excess in this case is $0), totaling $100.

The annual percentage rate is the quotient (which is 4 1/2 percent) multiplied by 12 (the number of months in a year), i.e., 54 percent.

2. Previous balance—$100.

A specific transaction of $100 occurs at the previous balance. This specific transaction charge of 3 percent is applicable to the specific transaction. The periodic rate is 1 1/2 percent applicable to the average daily balance. The numerator is the amount of the finance charge which is $1.50. The denominator is the amount of the transaction (which is $100), plus the amount by which the balance subject to the periodic rate exceeds the amount of the specific transaction (such excess in this case is $50), totaling $150. As explained in example 1, the annual percentage rate is 3 1/2 percent × 12 = 42 percent.

3. If, in example 2, the periodic rate applies only to the previous balance, the numerator is $4.50 and the denominator is $200 (the sum of the amount of the transaction, $100, plus the balance subject only to the periodic rate, the $100 previous balance). As explained in example 1, the annual percentage rate is 2 1/2 percent × 12 = 27 percent.

4. If, in example 2, the periodic rate applies only to an adjusted balance (previous balance less payments and credits) and the consumer made a payment of $50 at the midpoint of the billing cycle, the numerator is $3.75 and the denominator is $150 (the amount of the transaction, $100, plus the balance subject to the periodic rate, the $50 adjusted balance). As explained in example 1, the annual percentage rate is 2 1/2 percent × 12 = 30 percent.

5. Previous balance—$100.

A specific transaction (check) of $100 occurs at the midpoint of the billing cycle. The average daily balance is $150. The specific transaction charge is $.25 per check. The
periodic rate is 1 1/2% percent applied to the average daily balance. The numerator is the amount of the finance charge, which is $2.50 and includes the $.25 check charge and the $2.25 resulting from the application of the periodic rate. The denominator is the full amount of the specific transaction (which is $100) plus the amount by which the average daily balance exceeds the amount of the specific transaction (which in this case is $50), totaling $150. As explained in example 1, the annual percentage rate would be 1 1/2% percent x 12 = 20 percent.

6. Previous balance—none.

A specific transaction of $100 occurs at the midpoint of the billing cycle. The average daily balance is $50. The specific transaction charge is 3% of the transaction amount or $3.00. The periodic rate is 1 1/2% per month applied to the average daily balance. The numerator is the amount of the finance charge, which is $3.75, including the $3.00 transaction charge and $.75 resulting from application of the periodic rate. The denominator is the full amount of the specific transaction ($100) plus the amount by which the balance subject to the periodic rate exceeds the amount of the transaction ($0). Where the specific transaction amount exceeds the balance subject to the periodic rate, the resulting number is considered to be zero rather than a negative number ($50 – $100 = – $50). The denominator, in this case, is $100. As explained in example 1, the annual percentage rate is 3 3/4% percent x 12 = 45 percent.

[75 FR 7824, Feb. 22, 2010]