company's compliance with state and local laws, and a review of the company's background and history. Therefore, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 823 and 28 CFR 0.100 and 0.104, the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, hereby orders that the application submitted by the above firm for registration as a bulk manufacturer of the basic classes of controlled substances listed above is granted.

Dated: January 25, 2001.

**Laura M. Nagel,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration.*

[FR Doc. 01–3750 Filed 2–13–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410–09–M

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Drug Enforcement Administration

### Importer of Controlled Substances; Notice of Registration

By Notice dated October 31, 2000, and published in the **Federal Register** on November 14, 2000, (65 FR 68158), Stepan Company, Natural Products Department, 100 W. Hunter Avenue, Maywood, New Jersey 07605, made application by renewal to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to be registered as an importer of coca leaves (9040), a basic class of controlled substance listed in Schedule II.

The firm plans to import the coca leaves to manufacture bulk controlled substance.

No comments or objections have been received. DEA has considered the factors in Title 21, United States Code, Section 823(a) and determined that the registration of Stepan Company, Natural Products Department to import coca leaves is consistent with the public interest and with United States obligations under international treaties, conventions, or protocols in effect on May 1, 1971, at this time. DEA has investigated Stepan Company, Natural Products Department on a regular basis to ensure that the company's continued registration is consistent with the public interest. This investigation included inspection and testing of the company's physical security systems, audits of the company's records, verification of the company's compliance with state and local laws, and a review of the company's background and history. Therefore, pursuant to section 1008(a) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act and in accordance with Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, section 1301.34, the above firm is granted registration as an importer of the basic class of controlled substance listed above.

Dated: January 25, 2001.

**Laura M. Nagel,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration.*

[FR Doc. 01–3751 Filed 2–13–01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

### Extension of Information Collection; Comment Request; Prohibited Transaction Exemption 91–55

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA 95) 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A). This helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed.

Currently, the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration is soliciting comments concerning the information collection request (ICR) incorporated in Prohibited Transaction Exemption 91–55, Transactions Between Individual Retirement Accounts and Authorized Purchasers of American Eagle Coins. A copy of the ICR may be obtained by contacting the office listed in the Addresses section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office shown in the Addresses section below on or before April 16, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Gerald B. Lindrew, Office of Policy and Research, U.S. Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210. Telephone: (202) 219–4782 (this is not a toll-free number); FAX: (202) 219–4745. These are not toll-free numbers.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### I. Background

Prohibited Transaction Exemption 91–55 permits purchases and sales by certain ''individual retirement accounts,'' as defined in Internal Revenue Code section 408 (IRAs) of American Eagle bullion coins (''Coins'') in principal transactions from or to broker-dealers in Coins that are ''authorized purchasers'' of Coins in bulk quantities from the United States Mint and which are also ''disqualified persons,'' within the meaning of Code section 4975(e)(2), with respect to IRAs. The exemption also describes the circumstances under which an interest-free extension of credit in connection with such sales and purchases is permitted. In the absence of an exemption, such purchases and sales and extensions of credit would be impermissible under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

The information collection request for this exemption includes three requirements. First, certain information related to covered transactions in Coins must be disclosed by the authorized purchaser to persons who direct the transaction for the IRA. Currently, it is standard industry practice that most of this information is provided to persons directing investments in an IRA when transactions in Coins occur. The exemption also requires that the disqualified person maintain for a period of at least six years such records as are necessary to allow accredited persons, as defined in the exemption, to determine whether the conditions of the transaction have been met. Finally, an authorized purchaser must provide a confirmation statement with respect to each covered transaction to the person who directs the transaction for the IRA.

The recordkeeping requirement facilitates the Department's ability to make findings under section 408 of ERISA and section 4975(c) of the Code. The confirmation and disclosure requirements protect a participant or beneficiary investing in IRAs transacting in Coins with authorized purchasers by providing the investor or the person directing his or her investments with timely information about the market in Coins and about the individual's account in particular.

### II. Desired Focus of Comments

The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the

functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

• Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

• Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

**III. Current Actions**

This Notice requests comments on the extension of the ICR included in PTE 91–55. The Department is not proposing or implementing changes to the existing ICR at this time.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection of information.

*Agency:* Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Department of Labor.

*Title:* Prohibited Transaction Exemption 91–55.

*OMB Number:* 1210–0079.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; Individuals.

*Total Respondents:* 3.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Total Responses:* 55,000.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 2,400 hours.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 6, 2001.

**Gerald B. Lindrew,**

*Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Deputy Director, Office of Policy and Research.*

[FR Doc. 01–3729 Filed 2–13–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510–29–P

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

## Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

**[Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2001–07; Exemption Application No. D–10855, et al.]**

## Grant of Individual Exemptions; American Express Financial Corporation (AEFC)

**AGENCY:** Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Labor.

**ACTION:** Grant of individual exemptions.

**SUMMARY:** This document contains exemptions issued by the Department of Labor (the Department) from certain of the prohibited transaction restrictions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (the Act) and/or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code).

Notices were published in the **Federal Register** of the pendency before the Department of proposals to grant such exemptions. The notices set forth a summary of facts and representations contained in each application for exemption and referred interested persons to the respective applications for a complete statement of the facts and representations. The applications have been available for public inspection at the Department in Washington, DC. The notices also invited interested persons to submit comments on the requested exemptions to the Department. In addition the notices stated that any interested person might submit a written request that a public hearing be held (where appropriate). The applicants have represented that they have complied with the requirements of the notification to interested persons. No public comments and no requests for a hearing, unless otherwise stated, were received by the Department.

The notices of proposed exemption were issued and the exemptions are being granted solely by the Department because, effective December 31, 1978, section 102 of Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1978, 5 U.S.C. App. 1 (1996), transferred the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to issue exemptions of the type proposed to the Secretary of Labor.

**Statutory Findings**

In accordance with section 408(a) of the Act and/or section 4975(c)(2) of the Code and the procedures set forth in 29 CFR Part 2570, Subpart B (55 FR 32836, 32847, August 10, 1990) and based upon the entire record, the Department makes the following findings:

(a) The exemptions are administratively feasible;

(b) They are in the interests of the plans and their participants and beneficiaries; and

(c) They are protective of the rights of the participants and beneficiaries of the plans.

**American Express Financial Corporation (AEFC) Located in Minneapolis, MN; Exemption**

[Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2001–07; Exemption Application No. D–10855]

*Section I. Exemption for the Acquisition, Holding and Disposition of American Express Company Stock*

The restrictions of sections 406(a)(1)(D), 406(b)(1) and section 406(b)(2) of the Act, section 8477(c)(2)(A) and (B) of the Federal Employees Retirement System Act, and the sanctions resulting from the application of section 4975 of the Code by reason of section 4975(c)(1)(D) and (E) of the Code, shall not apply to the acquisition, holding and disposition of the common stock of American Express Company or its current and future affiliates (AE Stock) by Index and Model-Driven Funds (collectively, the Funds) that are managed by AEFC and its affiliates [as defined in Section III(g)(1)], provided that the following conditions and the General Conditions of Section II are met:

(a) The acquisition or disposition of AE Stock is for the sole purpose of maintaining strict quantitative conformity with the relevant index upon which the Index or Model-Driven Fund is based, and does not involve any agreement, arrangement or understanding regarding the design or operation of the Fund acquiring the AE Stock which is intended to benefit AEFC or any party in which AEFC may have an interest.

(b) Whenever AE Stock is initially added to an index on which an Index or Model-Driven Fund is based, or initially added to the portfolio of an Index or Model-Driven Fund, all acquisitions of AE Stock necessary to bring the Fund's holdings of such Stock either to its capitalization-weighted or other specified composition in the relevant index, as determined by the independent organization maintaining such index, or to its correct weighting as determined by the model which has been used to transform the index, occur in the following manner:

(1) Purchases are from, or through, only one broker or dealer on a single trading day;

(2) Based on the best available information, purchases are not the opening transaction for the trading day;