

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Housing Finance Board (Finance Board) has adjusted the cap on average total assets that defines a "Community Financial Institution" and the limits on annual compensation for Federal Home Loan Bank (Bank) directors based on the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) as published by the Department of Labor (DOL). These changes take effect on January 1, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia L. Sweeney, Office of Supervision, by telephone at 202-408-2872, by electronic mail at sweeneypl@fhfb.gov, or by regular mail at the Federal Housing Finance Board, 1625 Eye Street NW., Washington DC 20006-4001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**A. Statutory and Regulatory Background**

Section 2(13) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (Bank Act) and § 925.1 of the Finance Board regulations define a Bank member that is a "Community Financial Institution" (CFI) by the member's total asset size. See 12 U.S.C. 1422(13)(A) and 12 CFR 925.1. The Bank Act requires the Finance Board annually to adjust the CFI asset cap to reflect any percentage increase in the preceding year's CPI-U as published by the DOL. See 12 U.S.C. 1422(13)(B).

Section 7(i)(2)(B) of the Bank Act and § 918.3(a)(1) of the Finance Board regulations require the Finance Board to make similar annual adjustments to the annual compensation limits for members of the boards of directors of the Banks. See 12 U.S.C. 1427(i)(2) and 12 CFR 918.3(a).

B. Calculating the Annual Adjustments

The annual adjustments to the CFI asset cap and Bank director compensation limits reflect the percentage by which the CPI-U published for November of the preceding calendar year exceeds the CPI-U published for November of the year before the preceding calendar year (if at all). Thus, the adjustments that take effect on January 1, 2008, are based on the percentage increase in the CPI-U from November 2006 to November 2007. The Finance Board uses November data to provide notice of the changes to the annual limits before the January 1st effective date. This practice is consistent with that of other federal agencies.

The DOL encourages use of CPI-U data that have not been seasonally adjusted in "escalation agreements" because seasonal factors are updated

annually and seasonally adjusted data are subject to revision for up to 5 years following the original release.

Unadjusted data are not routinely subject to revision, and previously published unadjusted data are only corrected when significant calculation errors are discovered. Accordingly, the Finance Board is using data that have not been seasonally adjusted.

The unadjusted CPI-U was 4.3 percent higher in November 2007 than in November 2006. Based on this change, the Finance Board made the following adjustments, which take effect on January 1, 2008:

CFI Asset Cap: The CFI Asset Cap, which was \$599 million for 2007, is \$625 million in 2008. The Finance Board arrived at the adjusted limit of \$625 million by rounding to the nearest million.

Annual Compensation Limits: The annual compensation limits for the Banks' boards of directors in 2008 are as follows: for a chairperson—\$31,232; for a vice-chairperson—\$24,986; for members of a board of directors—\$18,739. The Finance Board arrived at the adjusted annual compensation limits by rounding to the nearest dollar.

Dated: December 19, 2007.

By the Federal Housing Finance Board.

Ronald A. Rosenfeld,

Chairman.

[FR Doc. E7-25156 Filed 12-27-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6725-01-P

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION**Ocean Transportation Intermediary License Applicants**

Notice is hereby given that the following applicants have filed with the Federal Maritime Commission an application for license as a Non-Vessel Operating Common Carrier and Ocean Freight Forwarder—Ocean Transportation Intermediary pursuant to section 19 of the Shipping Act of 1984 as amended (46 U.S.C. Chapter 409 and 46 CFR part 515).

Persons knowing of any reason why the following applicants should not receive a license are requested to contact the Office of Transportation Intermediaries, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573.

Non-Vessel Operating Common Carrier Ocean Transportation Intermediary Applicant

CEC International, 17800 Castleton Street, Ste. 418, City of Industry, CA 91748. *Officer:* Jenny Tsao, CFO, (Qualifying Individual).

Non-Vessel Operating Common Carrier and Ocean Freight Forwarder Transportation Intermediary Applicants

AAC Perishable Logistics, Inc., 6300 N.W. 97th Ave., Miami, FL 33178.

Officer: Carlos Del Corral, President, (Qualifying Individual).

Access International Services, Corp., 8008 N.W. 68 Street, Miami, FL 33166. Gustavo A. Lopez, Vice President, (Qualifying Individual), Maria J. Rivas, President.

USTC America, Inc., 3550 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1020, Los Angeles, CA 90010. *Officer:* Jong Soo Park, President, (Qualifying Individual).

Thunderbolt Global Logistics, LLC, 2200 Broening Highway, Ste. 241, Baltimore, MD 21224. *Officers:* James Simon Shapiro, Member, (Qualifying Individual), Stuart M. Tobin, Managing Member.

Ocean Freight Forwarder—Ocean Transportation Intermediary Applicant

Shipping Logistics LLC, 15550 Vickery Drive, Ste. 100, Houston, TX 77032.

Officer: Mary K. Francis, Owner, (Qualifying Individual).

Dated: December 21, 2007.

Karen V. Gregory,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. E7-25238 Filed 12-27-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisition of Shares of Bank or Bank Holding Companies**

The notificants listed below have applied under the Change in Bank Control Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)) and § 225.41 of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.41) to acquire a bank or bank holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the notices are set forth in paragraph 7 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)(7)).

The notices are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notices also will be available for inspection at the office of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing to the Reserve Bank indicated for that notice or to the offices of the Board of Governors. Comments must be received not later than January 9, 2008.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (Todd Offenbacher, Assistant Vice President) 925 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64198-0001:

1. *Russell H. Loewenstein*, Orleans, Nebraska, individually and as a member

of the Loewenstein group; and Karl Randecker, Jr., Cozad, Nebraska, individually and as a member of the Randecker group; to acquire control of Stamford Banco, Inc., Stamford, Nebraska, and thereby indirectly acquire control of Community Bank, Alma, Nebraska.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 21, 2007.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. E7-25158 Filed 12-27-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center website at www.ffiec.gov/nic/.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than January 18, 2008.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of New York (Anne MacEwen, Bank Applications Officer) 33 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10045-0001:

1. *National Australia Bank Limited*, Melbourne, Australia; to become a bank

holding company, by acquiring 100 percent of the voting shares of Great Western Bancorporation, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Great Western Bank, Watertown, South Dakota.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 21, 2007.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. E7-25157 Filed 12-27-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the intention of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approve the proposed information collection project: "Evaluation of the Effectiveness of AHRQ's Grant-Supported Research on Healthcare Costs, Productivity, and Market Forces." In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), AHRQ invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 26, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Doris Lefkowitz, Reports Clearance Officer, AHRQ, by E-mail at doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov.

Copies of the proposed collection plans, data collection instruments, and specific details on the estimated burden can be obtained from the AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Doris Lefkowitz, AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 427-1477 or by E-mail at doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Project

"Evaluation of the Effectiveness of AHRQ's Grant-Supported Research on Healthcare Costs, Productivity, and Market Forces"

The proposed information collection will support AHRQ's efforts to systematically review the effectiveness

of its grant-supported research on healthcare costs, productivity, and market forces since the late 1990s. In the first phase of its ongoing evaluation, AHRQ determined it had funded 149 grants in the area of cost, productivity, organization and market forces since the late 1990s (Krissik, Lake and Gold, 2007). Prior to this proposed information collection, no evaluation of these grants and their effects has been conducted. Collecting such information through a survey of the 149 grantees will assist AHRQ in its mission of supporting the synthesis and dissemination of available scientific evidence for use by patients, consumers, practitioners, providers, purchasers, policymakers, and educators. The survey will provide information on grant activities that is not currently available, including up-to-date information on grantee dissemination activities and feedback on AHRQ's role in supporting research and dissemination.

A survey of the universe of grantees who were funded to carry out the above-described health services research work offers a rational and scientific approach to collecting data on the impact of AHRQ's research in this area that is otherwise not currently available. The survey will be an integral part of AHRQ's overall evaluation, which attempts to describe the research and the pathways through which research findings that it has supported are disseminated and used. The survey interviews principal investigators about their grant research projects and will capture data that systematically track grant outcomes, providing information on: (1) The main substantive findings from the work and the ways they have been communicated; (2) known impacts of the work to date; (3) linkage of work to other research in the field; (4) grantee ratings of the support that AHRQ provided before, during, and after award and how AHRQ services for grantees could be improved; and, (5) grantee perceptions of AHRQ's role in research funding in this area and how sponsor interest influences the topics that are addressed.

Method of Collection

A web-based questionnaire will be used to conduct the survey with AHRQ grantees. A self-administered mode was selected for this survey because respondents may need to look up information in order to answer some questions. A self-administered mode allows respondents to complete the survey at their own pace and schedule. If requested, a hardcopy of the