Among other things, in order to rely to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget requests for extension of the previously approved collections of information discussed below.

Section 32(a)(2) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a 31(a)(2)) ("Act") requires that the selection of a registered management investment company’s or registered face-amount certificate company’s (collectively, “funds”) independent public accountant be submitted to shareholders for ratification or rejection. Rule 32a–4 under the Investment Company Act (17 CFR 270.32a–4) exempts a fund from this requirement if, among other things, the fund has an audit committee consisting entirely of independent directors. The rule permits continuing oversight of a fund’s accounting and auditing processes by an independent audit committee in place of a shareholder vote.

Among other things, in order to rely on rule 32a–4, a fund’s board of directors must adopt an audit committee charter and must preserve that charter, and any modifications to the charter, permanently in an easily accessible place. The purpose of these conditions is to ensure that Commission staff will be able to monitor the duties and responsibilities of an audit committee of a fund relying on the rule.

Commission staff estimates that on average the board of directors takes 15 minutes to adopt the audit committee charter. Commission staff has estimated that with an average of 8 directors on the board, total director time to adopt the charter is 2 hours. Combined with an estimated ½ hour of paralegal time to prepare the charter for board review, the staff estimates a total one-time collection of information burden of 2½ hours for each fund. Once a board adopts an audit committee charter, the charter is preserved as part of the fund’s records. Commission staff estimates that there is no annual hourly burden associated with preserving the charter in accordance with this rule.2

Because virtually all existing funds have now adopted audit committee charters, the annual one-time collection of information burden associated with adopting audit committee charters is limited to the burden incurred by newly established funds. Commission staff estimates that fund sponsors establish approximately 112 new funds each year, and that all of these funds will adopt an audit committee charter in order to comply with rule 32a–4. Thus, Commission staff estimates that the annual one-time hour burden associated with adopting audit committee charters under rule 32a–4 is approximately 280 hours.4

When funds adopt an audit committee charter in order to rely on rule 32a–4, they also may incur one-time costs related to hiring outside counsel to prepare the charter. Commission staff estimates that those costs average approximately $1500 per fund.5 As noted above, Commission staff estimates that approximately 112 new funds each year will adopt an audit committee charter in order to comply with rule 32a–4. Thus, Commission staff estimates that the ongoing annual cost burden associated with rule 32a–4 in the future will be approximately $168,000.6

The estimates of average burden hours and costs are made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act, and are not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules and forms. The collections of information required by rule 32a–4 are necessary to obtain the benefits of the rule. The Commission is seeking OMB approval, because an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

The public may view the background documentation for this information collection at the following Web site, www.reginfo.gov. Comments should be directed to: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503, or by sending an email to: Shagufta_Ahmed@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) Pamela Dyson, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.


Eduardo A. Aleman, Assistant Secretary.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available

Extension:
Rule 32a–4, SEC File No. 270–473, OMB Control No. 3235–0530.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget requests for extension of the previously approved collections of information discussed below.

Section 32(a)(2) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a 31(a)(2)) ("Act") requires that the selection of a registered management investment company’s or registered face-amount certificate company’s (collectively, “funds”) independent public accountant be submitted to shareholders for ratification or rejection. Rule 32a–4 under the Investment Company Act (17 CFR 270.32a–4) exempts a fund from this requirement if, among other things, the fund has an audit committee consisting entirely of independent directors. The rule permits continuing oversight of a fund’s accounting and auditing processes by an independent audit committee in place of a shareholder vote.

Among other things, in order to rely on rule 32a–4, a fund’s board of directors must adopt an audit committee charter and must preserve that charter, and any modifications to the charter, permanently in an easily accessible place. The purpose of these conditions is to ensure that Commission staff will be able to monitor the duties and responsibilities of an audit committee of a fund relying on the rule.

Commission staff estimates that on average the board of directors takes 15 minutes to adopt the audit committee charter. Commission staff has estimated that with an average of 8 directors on the board, total director time to adopt the charter is 2 hours. Combined with an estimated ½ hour of paralegal time to prepare the charter for board review, the staff estimates a total one-time collection of information burden of 2½ hours for each fund. Once a board adopts an audit committee charter, the charter is preserved as part of the fund’s records. Commission staff estimates that there is no annual hourly burden associated with preserving the charter in accordance with this rule.2

Because virtually all existing funds have now adopted audit committee charters, the annual one-time collection of information burden associated with adopting audit committee charters is limited to the burden incurred by newly established funds. Commission staff estimates that fund sponsors establish approximately 112 new funds each year, and that all of these funds will adopt an audit committee charter in order to comply with rule 32a–4. Thus, Commission staff estimates that the annual one-time hour burden associated with adopting audit committee charters under rule 32a–4 is approximately 280 hours.4

When funds adopt an audit committee charter in order to comply with rule 32a–4, they also may incur one-time costs related to hiring outside counsel to prepare the charter. Commission staff estimates that those costs average approximately $1500 per fund.5 As noted above, Commission staff estimates that approximately 112 new funds each year will adopt an audit committee charter in order to comply with rule 32a–4. Thus, Commission staff estimates that the ongoing annual cost burden associated with rule 32a–4 in the future will be approximately $168,000.6

The estimates of average burden hours and costs are made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act, and are not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules and forms. The collections of information required by rule 32a–4 are necessary to obtain the benefits of the rule. The Commission is seeking OMB approval, because an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

The public may view the background documentation for this information collection at the following Web site, www.reginfo.gov. Comments should be directed to: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503, or by sending an email to: Shagufta_Ahmed@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) Pamela Dyson, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.


Eduardo A. Aleman, Assistant Secretary.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available

Extension:
Rule 17a–22, SEC File No. 270–202, OMB Control No. 3235–0196.


Rule 17a–22 requires all registered clearing agencies to file with the...
Commission three copies of all materials they issue or make generally available to their participants or other entities with which they have a significant relationship, such as pledges, transfer agents, or self-regulatory organizations. Such materials include manuals, notices, circulars, bulletins, lists, and periodicals. The filings with the Commission must be made within ten days after the materials are issued or made generally available. When the Commission is not the clearing agency’s appropriate regulatory agency, the clearing agency must file one copy of the material with its appropriate regulatory agency. The Commission is responsible for overseeing clearing agencies and uses the information filed pursuant to Rule 17a–22 to determine whether a clearing agency is implementing procedural or policy changes. The information filed aids the Commission in determining whether such changes are consistent with the purposes of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. Also, the Commission uses the information to determine whether a clearing agency has changed its rules without reporting the actual or prospective change to the Commission as required under Section 19(b) of the Exchange Act.

The respondents to Rule 17a–22 are registered clearing agencies. The frequency of filings made by clearing agencies pursuant to Rule 17a–22 varies but on average there are approximately 200 filings per year per active clearing agency. There are seven active registered clearing agencies. The Commission staff estimates that each response requires approximately .25 hours (fifteen minutes), which represents the time it takes for a staff person at the clearing agency to properly identify a document subject to the rule, print and makes copies, and mail that document to the Commission. Thus, the total annual burden for all active clearing agencies is 350 hours (7 clearing agencies multiplied by 200 filings per clearing agency multiplied by .25 hours) and a total of 50 hours (1400 responses multiplied by .25 hours divided by 7 active clearing agencies) per year are expended by each respondent to comply with the rule.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the agency displays a currently valid OMB control number. The total estimated annual internal labor compliance cost for the respondents is approximately $1,964,170.00, resulting in an internal cost of compliance for each respondent per response of approximately $1267.21 (i.e., $1,964,170.00/1550 responses).

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information under the PRA unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The public may view background documentation for this information collection at the following Web site: www.reginfo.gov. Comments should be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.


Eduardo A. Aleman, Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017–08759 Filed 4–28–17; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SEcurities AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270–408, OMB Control No. 3235–0464]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549–2736.

Extension: Rule 101.


Rule 101 prohibits distribution of securities to persons who do not meet the conditions specified in the rule. Persons otherwise covered by this rule may seek to use several applicable exceptions such as a calculation of the average daily trading volume of the securities in distribution, the maintenance of policies regarding information barriers between their affiliates, and the maintenance of a written policy regarding general compliance with Regulation M for de minimis transactions.

There are approximately 1550 respondents per year that require an aggregate total of 30,218 hours to comply with this rule. Each respondent makes an estimated 1 annual response. Each response takes on average approximately 19.495 hours to complete. Thus, the total compliance burden per year is 30,218 burden hours. The total estimated internal labor compliance cost for the respondents is approximately $1,964,170.00, resulting in an internal cost of compliance for each respondent per response of approximately $1267.21 (i.e., $1,964,170.00/1550 responses).

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information under the PRA unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The public may view background documentation for this information collection at the following Web site: www.reginfo.gov. Comments should be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.


Eduardo A. Aleman, Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017–08767 Filed 4–28–17; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SEcurities AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–80523; File No. SR-CBOE–2017–017]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated; Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Bylaws and Certificate of Incorporation

April 25, 2017.

I. Introduction


3 See Amended and Restated Bylaws of Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated (“Bylaws”).