approved collection of information provided for the following rules: Rules 3a68–2 and 3a68–4(c) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.).

Rule 3a68–2 creates a process for interested persons to request a joint interpretation by the SEC and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") (together with the SEC, the "Commissions") regarding whether a particular instrument (or class of instruments) is a swap, a security-based swap, or both (i.e., a mixed swap). Under Rule 3a68–2, a person provides to the Commissions a copy of all material information regarding the terms of, and a statement of the economic characteristics and purpose of, each relevant agreement, contract, or transaction (or class thereof), along with that person’s determination as to whether each such agreement, contract, or transaction (or class thereof) should be characterized as a swap, security-based swap, or both (i.e., a mixed swap). The Commissions also may request the submitting person to provide additional information.

The SEC estimates 25 requests pursuant to Rule 3a68–2 per year. The SEC estimates the total paperwork burden associated with preparing and submitting each request would be 20 hours to retrieve, review, and submit the information associated with the submission. This 20 hour burden is divided between the SEC and the CFTC, with 10 hours per response regarding reporting to the SEC and 10 hours of response regarding third party disclosure to the CFTC. The SEC estimates this would result in an aggregate annual burden of 500 hours (25 requests × 20 hours/request).

The SEC estimates that the total costs resulting from a submission under Rule 3a68–2 would be approximately $12,000 for outside attorneys to retrieve, review, and submit the information associated with the submission. The SEC also estimates that the total costs associated with preparing and submitting a party’s request pursuant to Rule 3a68–2 was not previously made (1 request × 50 hours/request × $400). For the nine requests for which a request for a joint interpretation pursuant to Rule 3a68–2 was previously made, the SEC estimates the total costs associated with preparing and submitting the information associated with the submission of the one request for which a request for a joint interpretation pursuant to Rule 3a68–2 was not previously made (1 request × 50 hours/request × $400). For the nine requests for which a request for a joint interpretation pursuant to Rule 3a68–2 was previously made, the SEC estimates the total costs associated with preparing and submitting a party’s request pursuant to Rule 3a68–2 would be $6,000 less per request because, as discussed above, some of the information required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 3a68–2(c) already would have been submitted pursuant to Rule 3a68–2. The SEC estimates this would result in an aggregate cost each year of $126,000 for the services of outside attorneys (9 requests × 35 hours/request × $400).

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 website: 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: Lindsay.M.Abele@OMB.eop.gov; and (ii) Charles Riddle, Acting Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Candace Kenner, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, or by sending an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.


Eduardo A. Aleman,
Deputy Secretary.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270–401, OMB Control No. 3235–0459]

Proposed Collection; 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 3a–4.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 3a–4 (17 CFR 270.3a–4) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a) ("Investment Company Act" or "Act") provides a nonexclusive safe harbor from the definition of investment company under the Act for certain investment advisory programs. These programs, which include "wrap fee" programs, generally are designed to provide professional portfolio management services on a discretionary basis to clients who are investing less than the minimum investments for individual accounts usually required by the investment adviser but more than the minimum account size of most mutual funds. Under wrap fee and similar programs, a client’s account is typically managed on a discretionary basis according to pre-selected investment objectives. Clients with similar investment objectives often receive the same investment advice and may hold the same or substantially similar securities in their accounts. Because of this similarity of management, some of these investment advisory programs may meet the
definition of investment company under the Act.

In 1997, the Commission adopted rule 3a–4, which clarifies that programs organized and operated in accordance with the rule are not required to register under the Investment Company Act or comply with the Act’s requirements. These programs differ from investment companies because, among other things, they provide individualized investment advice to the client. The rule’s provisions have the effect of ensuring that clients in a program relying on the rule receive advice tailored to the client’s needs.

For a program to be eligible for the rule’s safe harbor, each client’s account must be managed on the basis of the client’s financial situation and investment objectives and in accordance with any reasonable restrictions the client imposes on managing the account. When an account is opened, the sponsor (or its designee) must provide each client with information regarding the selection of, persons sponsoring, organizing or administering the programs that meet the requirements of rule 3a–4. In addition, the sponsor (or its designee) must contact the client annually to determine whether the client’s financial situation or investment objectives have changed and whether the client wishes to impose any reasonable restrictions on the management of the account or reasonably modify existing restrictions. The sponsor (or its designee) must also notify the client quarterly, in writing, to contact the sponsor (or its designee) regarding changes to the client’s financial situation, investment objectives, or restrictions on the account’s management.

Additionally, the sponsor (or its designee) must provide each client with a quarterly statement describing all activity in the client’s account during the previous quarter. The sponsor and personnel of the client’s account manager who know about the client’s account and its management must be reasonably available to consult with the client. Each client also must retain certain indicia of ownership of all securities and funds in the account.

The Commission staff estimates that 19,618,731 clients participate each year in investment advisory programs relying on rule 3a–4. Of that number, the staff estimates that 3,531,372 are new clients and 16,087,359 are continuing clients. The staff estimates that each year the investment advisory program sponsors’ staff engage in 1.5 hours per new client and 1 hour per continuing client to prepare, conduct and/or review interviews regarding the client’s financial situation and investment objectives as required by the rule. Furthermore, the staff estimates that each year the investment advisory program sponsors’ staff spends 1 hour per client to prepare and mail quarterly client account statements, including notices to update information. Based on the estimate above, the Commission estimates that the total annual burden of the rule’s paperwork requirements is 41,003,148 hours.

The estimate of average burden hours is made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act. The estimate is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules and forms. 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.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission’s estimate of the burdens of the collections of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burdens of the collections of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Charles Riddle, Acting Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Candace Kenner, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549; or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.


Eduardo A. Aleman,
Deputy Secretary.

SEC File No. 270–774, OMB Control No. 3235–0726

Proposed Collection; 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: Rules 300–304 of Regulation Crowdfunding (Intermediaries).

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (“PRA”) (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) is soliciting comments on the collection of information provided for Rule 17Ab2–1 (17 CFR 240.17Ab2–1) and Form CA–1: Registration of Clearing Agencies (17 CFR 249b.200) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”) (15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.). The Commission plans to submit this existing collection...