B. Consistency With Rule 17Ad–22(e)(13) Under the Exchange Act

Rule 17Ad–22(e)(13) under the Exchange Act requires OCC to establish, implement, maintain, and enforce written policies and procedures reasonably designed to ensure the covered clearing agency has the authority and operational capacity to take timely action to contain losses and liquidity demands.15

Based on its review of the record, and for the reasons described below, the Commission believes that the proposed changes described above are consistent with Rule 17Ad–22(e)(13) under the Exchange Act. The proposed changes would facilitate on-boarding of potential bidders by removing certain administrative steps in the process of becoming a pre-qualified auction bidder. For example, the proposal would remove an administrative step so that Clearing Members would not need OCC’s initial invitation for consideration as a pre-qualified bidder. As long as a Clearing Member completes the required documentation in advance, the Clearing Member could be considered for the pre-qualified bidder pool. Meanwhile, OCC proposes to remove the initial step for OCC to post a website invitation notice to non-Clearing Members from time to time, and to remove existing limitations on non-Clearing Members seeking to become pre-qualified bidders (e.g., that a non-Clearing Member must currently fulfill certain trading activity requirements to pre-qualify as a bidder generally, as opposed to having its trading activity considered later during a selection process for participation in a specific auction). Additionally, OCC’s proposal to eliminate periodic reviews of the pre-qualified bidder pool and the accompanying removal process would simplify the administration of pre-qualified bidders, as it would eliminate a bidder review process that appears duplicative in purpose to the I&P .02(d) pre-auction reviews that OCC has stated it would continue to perform.16

Removing administrative obstacles to the bidder on-boarding process would increase the likelihood that OCC would have a large enough bidder pool and the operational capacity to hold efficient, competitive auctions in a timely manner, and as a result cover losses and meet liquidity demands promptly. The Commission believes, therefore, that the proposal to modify auction participant requirements for Clearing Members and non-Clearing Members is consistent with the requirements of Rule 17Ad–22(e)(13) under the Exchange Act.17

IV. Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, the Commission finds that the Proposed Rule Change is consistent with the requirements of the Exchange Act, and in particular, the requirements of Section 17A of the Exchange Act18 and the rules and regulations thereunder. It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act,19 that the Proposed Rule Change (SR–OCC–2021–004) be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.20

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,
Assistant Secretary.

\[FR Doc. 2021–10961 Filed 5–24–21; 8:45 am\]
BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 11427]

Determination and Certification of Countries Not Cooperating Fully With Antiterrorism Efforts

Pursuant to section 40A of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2781), and Executive Order 13637, as amended, I hereby determine and certify to the Congress that the following countries are not cooperating fully with United States antiterrorism efforts: Iran, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK, or North Korea), Syria, Venezuela, and Cuba.

This determination and certification shall be transmitted to the Congress and published in the Federal Register.


Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State.

[FR Doc. 2021–10948 Filed 5–24–21; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4710–AD–P