

Federal Reserve System

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extensions of credit. In addition, a bank, as defined in section 3 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. 78c) and the rules thereunder, may rely on §221.5 of Regulation U (12 CFR 221.5) in making loans to brokers and dealers without regard to membership in the Federal Reserve System or the existence of an agreement with the Federal Reserve under former section 8(a) of the Exchange Act.

[Reg. G, 61 FR 60166, Nov. 26, 1996]

PART 208—MEMBERSHIP OF STATE BANKING INSTITUTIONS IN THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM (REGULATION H)

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APPENDIX E TO PART 208—CAPITAL ADEQUACY GUIDELINES FOR STATE MEMBER BANKS; MARKET RISK MEASURE

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 24, 248(a), 248(c), 321-338a, 371d, 461, 481-486, 601, 611, 1814, 1820(d)(9), 1823(j), 1828(o), 1831o, 1831p-1, 1835a, 3105, 3310, 3331-3351, and 3906-3909; 15 U.S.C. 78b, 781(b), 781(g), 781(i), 78o-4(c)(5), 78q, 78q-1, and 78w; 31 U.S.C. 5318.

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SOURCE: Reg. H, 17 FR 8006, Sept. 4, 1952, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 208.1 Definitions.

For the purposes of this part:

(a) The term *State bank* means any bank or trust company incorporated under a special or general law of a State or under a general law for the District of Columbia, any mutual savings bank (unless otherwise indicated), and any Morris Plan bank or other incorporated banking institution engaged in similar business.¹

(b) The term *mutual savings bank* means a bank without capital stock transacting a savings bank business, the net earnings of which inure wholly to the benefit of its depositors after payment of obligations for any advances by its organizers, and in addition thereto includes any other banking institution the capital of which consists of weekly or other time deposits which are segregated from all other deposits and are regarded as capital stock for the purposes of taxation and the declaration of dividends.

(c) The term *Board* means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

(d) The term *board of directors* means the governing board of any institution performing the usual functions of a board of directors.

(e) The term *Federal Reserve Bank stock* includes the deposit which may be made with a Federal Reserve Bank in lieu of a subscription for stock by a

¹ Under the provisions of section 19 of the Federal Reserve Act, national banks and banks organized under local laws, located in a dependency or insular possession or any part of the United States outside of the States of the United States and the District of Columbia are not required to become members of the Federal Reserve System but may, with the consent of the board, become members of the System. However, this Part 208 is applicable only to the admission of banks eligible for admission to membership under section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act and does not cover the admission of banks eligible under section 19 of the Act. Any bank desiring to be admitted to the System under the provisions of section 19 should communicate with the Federal Reserve Bank with which it desires to do business.

mutual savings bank which is not permitted to purchase stock in a Federal Reserve Bank, unless otherwise indicated.

(f) The terms *capital* and *capital stock* means common stock, preferred stock and legally issued capital notes and debentures purchased by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation which may be considered capital and capital stock for purposes of membership in the Federal Reserve System under the provisions of section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act.

[Reg. H, 17 FR 8006, Sept. 4, 1952, as amended at 24 FR 7029, Aug. 29, 1959]

§ 208.2 Eligibility requirements.

(a) Under the terms of section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act, as amended, to be eligible for admission to membership in the Federal Reserve System:

(1) A State bank, other than a mutual savings bank, must possess capital stock and surplus which, in the judgment of the Board, are adequate in relation to the character and condition of its assets and to its existing and prospective deposit liabilities and other corporate responsibilities: *Provided*, That no bank engaged in the business of receiving deposits other than trust funds, which does not possess capital stock and surplus in an amount equal to that which would be required for the establishment of a national banking association in the place in which it is located, shall be admitted to membership unless it is, or has been, approved for deposit insurance under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(2) A mutual savings bank must possess surplus and undivided profits not less than the amount of capital required for the organization of a national bank in the place where it is situated.

(b) The minimum capital required for the organization of a national bank, referred to hereinbefore in connection with the capital required for admission to membership in the Federal Reserve System, is as follows:

	Minimum capital
If located in a city or town with a population:	
Not exceeding 6,000 inhabitants	\$50,000
Exceeding 6,000 but not exceeding 50,000 inhabitants	100,000

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	Minimum capital
Exceeding 50,000 inhabitants (except as stated below)	200,000
In an outlying district of a city with a population exceeding 50,000 inhabitants; provided State law permits organization of State banks in such location with a capital of \$100,000 or less	100,000

With certain exceptions not here applicable, a national bank must have surplus equal to 20 percent of its capital in order to commence business.

§208.3 Insurance of deposits.

Any State bank becoming a member of the Federal Reserve System which is engaged in the business of receiving deposits other than trust funds and which is not at the time an insured bank under the provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, will become an insured bank under the provisions of that Act on the date upon which it becomes a member of the Federal Reserve System.² In the case of an insured bank which is admitted to membership in the Federal Reserve System, the bank will continue to be an insured bank.

§208.4 Application for membership.

(a) *State bank, other than a mutual savings bank.* A state bank, other than a mutual savings bank, applying for membership, shall make application on Form FR 83A to the Board for an amount of capital stock in the Federal Reserve Bank of its district equal to six percent of the paid-up capital stock and surplus of the applying institution.

²In the case of a State bank which is engaged in the business of receiving deposits other than trust funds and which at the time of its admission to membership in the Federal Reserve System is not an insured bank, the Board is required under the provisions of sections 4 and 6 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to issue a certificate to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to the effect that the bank is a member of the Federal Reserve System and that consideration has been given to the financial history and condition of the bank, the adequacy of its capital structure, its future earnings prospects, the general character of its management, the convenience and needs of the community to be served by the bank, and whether or not its corporate powers are consistent with the purposes of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(b) *Mutual savings bank.* A mutual savings bank applying for membership shall make application on Form FR 83B to the Board for an amount of capital stock in the Federal Reserve Bank of its district equal to six-tenths of one percent of its total deposit liabilities as shown by the most recent report of examination of such institution preceding its admission to membership, or, if such institution be not permitted by the laws under which it was organized to purchase stock in a Federal Reserve Bank, on Form FR 83C, for permission to deposit with the Federal Reserve Bank an amount equal to the amount which it would have been required to pay in on account of a subscription to capital stock.

(c) *Mutual savings bank which is not authorized to purchase stock of Federal Reserve Bank at time of admission.* If a mutual savings bank be admitted to membership on the basis of a deposit of the required amount with the Federal Reserve Bank in lieu of payment upon capital stock because the laws under which such bank was organized do not at that time authorize it to purchase stock in the Federal Reserve Bank, it shall subscribe on Form F.R. 83D for the appropriate amount of stock in the Federal Reserve Bank whenever such laws are amended so as to authorize it to purchase stock in a Federal Reserve Bank.³

(d) *Execution and filing of application.* Each application made under the provisions of this section and the exhibits referred to in the application blank shall be executed and filed, in duplicate, with the Federal Reserve Bank of the district in which the applying bank is located.

³The Federal Reserve Act provides that, if the laws under which any such savings bank was organized be not amended at the first session of the legislature following the admission of the savings bank to membership so as to authorize mutual savings banks to purchase Federal Reserve Bank stock, or if such laws be so amended and the bank fail within six months thereafter to purchase such stock, all of its rights and privileges as a member bank shall be forfeited and its membership in the Federal Reserve System shall be terminated in the manner prescribed in section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act.

§ 208.5 Approval of application.

(a) *Matters given special consideration by Board.* In passing upon an application, the following matters will be given special consideration:

(1) The financial history and condition of the applying bank and the general character of its management;

(2) The adequacy of its capital structure in relation to the character and condition of its assets and to its existing and prospective deposit liabilities and other corporate responsibilities; and its future earnings prospects;

(3) The convenience and needs of the community to be served by the bank; and

(4) Whether its corporate powers are consistent with the purposes of the Federal Reserve Act.

(b) *Procedure for admission to membership after approval of application.* If an applying bank conforms to all the requirements of the Federal Reserve Act and this part and is otherwise qualified for membership, its application will be approved subject to such conditions as may be prescribed pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Reserve Act. When the conditions prescribed have been accepted by the applying bank, it should pay to the Federal Reserve Bank of its district one-half of the amount of its subscription and, upon receipt of advice from the Federal Reserve Bank as to the required amount, one-half of one percent of its paid-up subscription for each month from the period of the last dividend.⁴ The remaining half of the bank's subscription shall be subject to call when deemed necessary by the Board. The bank's membership in the Federal Reserve System shall become effective on the date as of which a certificate of stock of the Federal Reserve Bank is issued to it pursuant to its application for membership or, in the case of a mutual savings bank which is not authorized to subscribe for stock, on the date as of

⁴In the case of a mutual savings bank which is not permitted by the laws under which it was organized to purchase stock in a Federal Reserve Bank, it shall deposit with the Federal Reserve Bank an amount equal to the amount which it would have been required to pay in on account of a subscription to capital stock.

which a certificate representing the acceptance of a deposit with the Federal Reserve Bank in place of a payment on account of a subscription to stock is issued to it pursuant to its application for membership.

§ 208.6 Privileges and requirements of membership.

Every State bank while a member of the Federal Reserve System—

(a) Shall retain its full charter and statutory rights subject to the provisions of the Federal Reserve Act and other acts of Congress applicable to member State banks, to the regulations of the Board made pursuant to law, and to the conditions prescribed by the Board and agreed to by such bank prior to its admission;

(b) Shall enjoy all the privileges and observe all the requirements of the Federal Reserve Act and other acts of Congress applicable to member State banks and of the regulations of the Board made pursuant to law which are applicable to member State banks;

(c) Shall comply at all times with any and all conditions of membership prescribed by the Board in connection with the admission of such bank to membership in the Federal Reserve System; and

(d) Shall not reduce its capital stock except with the prior consent of the Board.⁵

§ 208.7 Conditions of membership.

(a) Pursuant to the authority contained in the first paragraph of section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act, which authorizes the Board to permit applying State banks to become members of the Federal Reserve System "subject to the provisions of this act and to such conditions as it may prescribe pursuant thereto," the Board, except as hereinafter stated, will prescribe the following conditions of membership for each State bank hereafter applying for

⁵This applies to capital stock of all classes and to capital notes and debentures legally issued and purchased by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation which, under the Federal Reserve Act, are considered as capital stock for purposes of membership.

admission to the Federal Reserve System, and, in addition, such other conditions as may be considered necessary or advisable in the particular case:

(1) Such bank at all times shall conduct its business and exercise its powers with due regard to the safety of its depositors, and, except with the permission of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, such bank shall not cause or permit any change to be made in the general character of its business or in the scope of the corporate powers exercised by it at the time of admission to membership.⁶

(2) The net capital and surplus funds of such bank shall be adequate in relation to the character and condition of its assets and to its deposit liabilities and other corporate responsibilities.

(b) The acquisition by a member State bank of the assets of another institution through merger, consolidation, or purchase may result in a change in the general character of its business or in the scope of its corporate powers within the meaning of the condition set forth in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, and if at any time a bank subject to such condition anticipates making any such acquisition a detailed report setting forth all the facts in connection with the transaction shall be made promptly to the Federal Reserve Bank of the district in which such bank is located.

(c) If at any time, in the light of all the circumstances, the aggregate amount of a member State bank's net

capital and surplus funds appears to be inadequate, the bank, within such period as shall be deemed by the Board to be reasonable for this purpose, shall increase the amount thereof to an amount which in the judgment of the Board shall be adequate in relation to the character and condition of its assets and to its deposit liabilities and other corporate responsibilities.

§208.8 Banking practices.

(a) *Scope.* No State member bank shall engage in practices which are unsafe or unsound or which result in a violation of law, rule, or regulation, or which violate any condition imposed by or agreements entered into with the Board. This section outlines certain of the practices in which State member banks should not engage.

(b) *Waiver.* A State member bank has the right to petition the Board to waive the conditions of this §208.8. A waiver may be granted upon a showing of good cause. The Board in its discretion may choose to limit, among other items, the scope, duration, and timing of the waiver.

(c) *Effect on other banking practices.* Nothing in this section shall be construed as restricting in any manner the Board's authority to deal with any banking practice which is deemed to be unsafe or unsound or otherwise not in accordance with law, rule, or regulation or which violates any condition imposed in writing by the Board in connection with the granting of any application or other request by a State member bank, or any written agreement entered into by such bank with the Board. Compliance with the provisions of this section shall neither relieve a State member bank of its duty to conduct all operations in a safe and sound manner nor prevent the Board from taking whatever action it deems necessary and desirable to deal with general or specific acts or practices which, although perhaps not violating the provisions of this section, are considered nevertheless to be an unsafe or unsound banking practice.

(d) *Letters of credit and acceptances—*
(1) *Definitions.* For the purpose of this paragraph, *standby letters of credit* include every letter of credit (or similar

⁶For many years, the Board prescribed, as standard conditions of membership, a condition which, in general, prohibited banks from engaging as a business in the sale of real estate loans to the public and certain conditions relating to the exercise of trust powers, including one which prohibited self-dealing in the investment of trust funds. The elimination of these conditions as standard conditions of membership does not reflect any change in the Board's position as to the undesirability of the practices formerly prohibited by such conditions; and attention is called to the fact that engaging as a business in the sale of real estate loans to the public or failing to conduct trust business in accordance with the applicable State laws and sound principles of trust administration may constitute unsafe or unsound practices and violate the condition set forth in this paragraph.

arrangement however named or designated) which represents an obligation to the beneficiary on the part of the issuer (i) to repay money borrowed by or advanced to or for the account of the account party or (ii) to make payment on account of any evidence of indebtedness undertaken by the account party, or (iii) to make payment on account of any default by the account party in the performance of an obligation.^{6a} An *ineligible acceptance* is a time draft accepted by a bank, which does not meet the requirements for discount with a Federal Reserve Bank.

(2) *Restrictions.* (i) A State member bank shall not issue, extend, or amend a standby letter of credit (or other similar arrangement, however named or described) or make an ineligible acceptance or grant any other extension of credit if, in the aggregate, the amount of all standby letters of credit and ineligible acceptances issued, renewed, extended, or amended on or after the effective date of this amendment, when combined with other extensions of credit issued by the bank would exceed the legal limitations on loans imposed by the State (including limitations to any one customer or on aggregate extensions of credit) or exceed legal limits pertaining to loans to affiliates under Federal law (12 U.S.C. 371(c)): *Provided*, That, if any State has a separate limitation on the issuance of letters of credit or acceptances which apply to a standby letter of credit or to ineligible acceptances respectively, then the separate limitation shall apply in lieu of the standard loan limitation.

(ii) No State member bank shall issue a standby letter of credit or ineligible acceptance unless the credit standing of the account party under any letter of credit, and the customer of an ineligible acceptance, is the subject of credit analysis equivalent to that applica-

ble to a potential borrower in an ordinary loan situation.

(iii) If several banks participate in the issuance of a standby letter of credit or ineligible acceptance under a *bona fide* binding agreement which provides that, regardless of any event, each participant shall be liable only up to a certain percentage or certain amount of the total amount of the standby letter of credit or ineligible acceptance issued, a State member bank need only include the amount of its participation for purposes of this section; otherwise, the entire amount of the letter of credit or acceptance must be included.

(3) *Disclosure; recordkeeping.* The amount of all outstanding standby letters of credit and ineligible acceptances, regardless of when issued, shall be adequately disclosed in the bank's published financial statements.

Each State member bank shall maintain adequate control and subsidiary records of its standby letters of credit comparable to the records maintained in connection with the bank's direct loans so that at all times the bank's potential liability thereunder and the bank's compliance with this paragraph (d) may be readily determined.

(4) *Exceptions.* A standby letter of credit is not subject to the restrictions set forth above in the following situations:

(i) Prior to or at the time of issuance of the credit, the issuing bank is paid an amount equal to the bank's maximum liability under the standby letter of credit; or

(ii) Prior to or at the time of issuance, the bank has set aside sufficient funds in a segregated, clearly earmarked deposit account to cover the bank's maximum liability under the standby letter of credit.

(e) [Reserved]

(f) *State member banks as transfer agents.* (1) On or after December 1, 1975, no State member bank or any of its subsidiaries shall act as transfer agent, as defined in section 3(a)(25) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, (*Act*) with respect to any security registered under section 12 of the Act or which would be required to be registered except for the exemption from registration provided by subsection (g)(2)(B) or (g)(2)(G) of that section, unless it shall

^{6a} As defined, *standby letter of credit* would not include (1) commercial letters of credit and similar instruments where the issuing bank expects the beneficiary to draw upon the issuer and which do not *guaranty* payment of a money obligation or (2) a guaranty or similar obligation issued by a foreign branch in accordance with and subject to the limitations of Regulation K.

have filed a registration statement with the Board in conformity with the requirements of Form TA-1, which registration statement shall have become effective as hereinafter provided. Any registration statement filed by a State member bank or its subsidiary shall become effective on the thirtieth day after filing with the Board unless the Board takes affirmative action to accelerate, deny or postpone such registration in accordance with the provisions of section 17A(c) of the Act. Such filings with the Board will constitute filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission for purposes of section 17(c)(1) of the Act.

(2) If the information contained in Form TA-1 becomes inaccurate, misleading or incomplete for any reason, the bank or its subsidiary shall, within sixty calendar days thereafter, file an amendment to Form TA-1 correcting the inaccurate, misleading or incomplete information.

(3) Each registration statement on Form TA-1 or amendment thereto shall constitute a *report* or *application* within the meaning of sections 17, 17A(c) and 32(a) of the Act.

(g) *State member banks as registered clearing agencies*—(1) *Requirement of notice*. Any State, member bank or any of its subsidiaries that is a registered clearing agency pursuant to section 17A(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the *Act*), which imposes any final disciplinary sanction on any participant therein, denies participation to any applicant or prohibits or limits any person in respect to access to services offered by such registered clearing agency, shall file with the Board and the appropriate regulatory agency (if other than the Board) for a participant or applicant notice thereof in the manner prescribed herein.

(2) *Notice of final disciplinary action*. Any registered clearing agency for which the Board is the appropriate regulatory agency that takes any final disciplinary action with respect to any participant shall promptly file a notice thereof with the Board in accordance with paragraph (g)(3) of this section. For the purposes of this paragraph *final disciplinary action* shall mean the imposition of any disciplinary sanction pursuant to section 17A(b)(3)(G) of the Act

or other action of a registered clearing agency which, after notice and opportunity for hearing, results in any final disposition of charges of:

(i) One or more violations of the rules of such registered clearing agency; or

(ii) Acts or practices constituting a statutory disqualification of a type defined in paragraph (iv) or (v) (except prior convictions) of section 3(a)(39) of the Act.

However, if a registered clearing agency fee schedule specifies certain charges for errors made by its participants in giving instructions to the registered clearing agency which are de minimis on a per error basis and whose purpose is in part to provide revenues to the registered clearing agency to compensate it for effort expended in beginning to process an erroneous instruction, such error charges shall not be considered a *final disciplinary action* for purposes of this paragraph.

(3) *Content of notice required by paragraph (g)(2)*. Any notice filed pursuant to paragraph (g)(2) of this section shall consist of the following, as appropriate:

(i) The name of the respondent concerned together with the respondent's last known address as reflected on the records of the registered clearing agency and the name of the person, committee, or other organizational unit that brought the charges involved; except that, as to any respondent who has been found not to have violated a provision covered by a charge, identifying information with respect to such person may be deleted insofar as the notice reports the disposition of that charge and, prior to the filing of the notice, the respondent does not request that identifying information be included in the notice.

(ii) A statement describing the investigative or other origin of the action;

(iii) As charged in the proceeding, the specific provision or provisions of the rules of the registered clearing agency violated by such person or the statutory disqualification referred to in paragraph (g)(2)(ii) of this section and a statement describing the answer of the respondent to the charges;

(iv) A statement setting forth findings of fact with respect to any act or practice in which such respondent was charged with having engaged in or

omitted; the conclusion of the registered clearing agency as to whether such respondent violated any rule or was subject to a statutory disqualification as charged; and a statement of the registered clearing agency in support of its resolution of the principal issues raised in the proceedings;

(v) A statement describing any sanction imposed, the reasons therefor, and the date upon which such sanction has or will become effective; and

(vi) Such other matters as the registered clearing agency may deem relevant.

(4) *Notice of final denial, prohibition, termination or limitation based on qualification or administrative rules.* Any registered clearing agency for which the Board is the appropriate regulatory agency that takes any final action which denies participation to, or conditions the participation of, any person or prohibits or limits any person with respect to access to services offered by the clearing agency based on an alleged failure of such person to:

(i) Comply with the qualification standards prescribed by the rules of such registered clearing agency pursuant to section 17A(b)(4)(B) of the Act; or

(ii) Comply with any administrative requirements of such registered clearing agency (including failure to pay entry or other dues or fees or to file prescribed forms or reports) not involving charges of violations which may lead to a disciplinary sanction shall not considered a *final disciplinary action* for purposes of paragraph (g)(2) of this section, but notice thereof shall be promptly filed with the Board and the appropriate regulatory agency (if other than the Board) for the affected person in accordance with paragraph (g)(5) of this section; provided however, that no such action shall be considered *final* pursuant to this subparagraph that results merely from, a notice of such failure to the person affected, if such person has not sought an adjudication of the matter, including a hearing, or otherwise exhausted his administrative remedies within the registered clearing agency with respect to such a matter.

(5) *Content of notice required by paragraph (g)(4).* Any notice filed pursuant

to paragraph (g)(4) of this section shall consist of the following, as appropriate:

(i) The name of each person concerned together with each such person's last known address as reflected in the records of the registered clearing agency;

(ii) The specific grounds upon which the action of the registered clearing agency was based, and a statement describing the answer of the person concerned;

(iii) A statement setting forth findings of fact and conclusions as to each alleged failure of the person to comply with qualification standards, or comply with administrative obligations, and a statement of the registered clearing agency in support of the resolution of the principal issues raised in the proceeding;

(iv) The date upon which such action has or will become effective; and

(v) Such other matters as the registered clearing agency deems relevant.

(6) *Notice of final action based upon prior adjudicated statutory disqualifications.* Any registered clearing agency for which the Board is the appropriate regulatory agency that takes any final action with respect to any person that:

(i) Denies or conditions participation to any person or prohibits or limits access to service offered by such registered clearing agency; and

(ii) Is based upon a statutory disqualification of a type defined in paragraph (A), (B) or (C) of section 3(a)(39) of the Act of consisting of a prior conviction as described in subparagraph (E) of said section 3(a)(39) shall promptly file notice thereof with the Board and the appropriate regulatory agency (if other than the Board) for the affected person in accordance with paragraph (g)(7) of this section; provided, however, that no such action shall be considered *final* pursuant to this paragraph which results merely from a notice of such failure to the person affected, if such person has not sought an adjudication of the matter, including a hearing, or otherwise exhausted his administrative remedies within the registered clearing agency with respect to such a matter.

(7) *Content of notice required by paragraph (g)(6) of this section.* Any notice filed pursuant to paragraph (g)(6) of

this section shall consist of the following, as appropriate:

(i) The name of the person concerned, together with each such person's last known address as reflected in the records of the registered clearing agency;

(ii) A statement setting forth the principal issues raised, the answer of any person concerned, and a statement of the registered clearing agency in support of its resolution of the principal issues raised in the proceeding;

(iii) Any description furnished by or on behalf of the person concerned of the activities engaged in by the person since the adjudication upon which the disqualification is based;

(iv) A copy of the order or decision of the court, the appropriate regulatory agency or the self-regulatory organization which adjudicated the matter giving rise to such statutory disqualification;

(v) The nature of the action taken and the date upon which such action is to be made effective; and

(vi) Such other matters as the registered clearing agency deems relevant.

(8) *Notice of summary suspension of participation.* Any registered clearing agency for which the Board is the appropriate regulatory agency that summarily suspends or closes the accounts of a participant pursuant to the provisions of section 17A(b)(5)(C) of the Act shall within one business day after the effectiveness of such action file notice thereof with the Board and the appropriate regulatory agency for the participant (if other than the Board) of such action in accordance with paragraph (g)(9) of this section.

(9) *Content of notice of summary suspension of participation.* Any notice pursuant to paragraph (g)(8) of this section shall contain at least the following information, as appropriate:

(i) The name of the participant concerned together with the participant's last known address as reflected in the records of the registered clearing agency;

(ii) The date upon which such summary action has or will become effective;

(iii) If such summary action is based upon the provisions of section 17A(b)(5)(C)(i) of the Act, a copy of the

relevant order or decision of the self-regulatory organization if available to the registered clearing agency;

(iv) If such summary action is based upon the provisions of section 17A(b)(5)(C)(ii) of the Act, a statement describing the default of any delivery of funds or securities to the registered clearing agency;

(v) If such summary action is based upon the provisions of section 17A(b)(5)(C)(iii) of the Act, a statement describing the financial or operating difficulty of the participant based upon which the registered clearing agency determined that such suspension and closing of accounts was necessary for the protection of the clearing agency, its participants, creditors or investors;

(vi) The nature and effective date of the suspension; and

(vii) Such other matters as the registered clearing agency deems relevant.

(h) *Applications for stays of disciplinary sanctions or summary suspensions by a registered clearing agency.* If a registered clearing agency for which the Securities and Exchange Commission is not the appropriate regulatory agency imposes any final disciplinary sanction pursuant to section 17A(b)(3)(G) of the Act, or summarily suspends or limits or prohibits access pursuant to section 17A(b)(5)(C) of the Act, any participant aggrieved thereby for which the Board is the appropriate regulatory agency may file with the Board, by telegram or otherwise, a request for a stay of imposition of such action. Such request shall be in writing and shall include a statement as to why such stay should be granted.

(i) *Application for review of final disciplinary sanctions, denials of participation or prohibitions or limitations of access to services imposed by registered clearing agencies—(1) Scope.* Proceedings on an application to the Board under section 19(d)(2) of the Act by a person that is subject to the Board's jurisdiction for review of any action by a registered clearing agency for which the Securities and Exchange Commission is not the appropriate regulatory agency shall be governed by this paragraph.

(2) *Procedure.* (i) An application for review pursuant to section 19(d)(2) of the Act shall be filed with the Board within 30 days after notice is filed by

the registered clearing agency pursuant to section 19(d)(1) of the Act and received by the aggrieved person applying for review, or within such longer period as the Board may determine. The Secretary of the Board shall serve a copy of the application on the registered clearing agency, which shall, within ten days after receipt of the application, certify and file with the Board one copy of the record upon which the action complained was taken, together with three copies of an index to such record. The Secretary shall serve upon the parties copies of such index and any papers subsequently filed.

(ii) Within 20 days after receipt of a copy of the index, the applicant shall file a brief or other statement in support of his application which shall state the specific grounds on which the application is based, the particular findings of the registered clearing agency to which objection is taken, and the relief sought. Any application not perfected by such timely brief or statement may be dismissed as abandoned.

(iii) Within 20 days after receipt of the applicant's brief or statement the registered clearing agency may file an answer thereto, and within 10 days of receipt of any such answer the applicant may file a reply. Any such papers not filed within the time provided by items (i), (ii), or (iii) will not be received except upon special permission of the Board.

(iv) On its own motion, the Board may direct that the record under review be supplemented with such additional evidence as it may deem relevant. Nevertheless, the registered clearing agency and persons who may be aggrieved by such clearing agency's action shall not be entitled to adduce evidence not presented in the proceedings before the registered clearing agency unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Board that such additional evidence is material and that there were reasonable grounds for failure to present such evidence in the proceedings before the registered clearing agency. Any request for leave to adduce additional evidence shall be filed promptly so as not to delay the disposition of the proceeding.

(v) Oral argument before the Board may be requested by the applicant or the registered clearing agency as follows:

(A) By the applicant with his brief or statement or within 10 days after receipt of the registered clearing agency's answer; or

(B) By the registered clearing agency with its answer.

The Board, in its discretion, may grant or deny any request for oral argument and, where it deems it appropriate to do so, the Board will consider an application on the basis of the papers filed by the parties, without oral argument.

(vi) The Board's Rule of Practice for Formal Hearings shall apply to review proceedings under this rule to the extent that they are not inconsistent with this rule. Attention is directed particularly to §263.21 of the Rules of Practice relating to formal requirements to the papers filed.

(j) *State member banks, and subsidiaries, departments, and divisions thereof, which are municipal securities dealers.* (1) For purposes of this paragraph, the terms herein have the meanings given them in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)) and the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. The term Act shall mean the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*).

(2) On and after October 31, 1977, a State member bank of the Federal Reserve System, or a subsidiary or a department or a division thereof, that is a municipal securities dealer shall not permit a person to be associated with it as a municipal securities principal or municipal securities representative unless it has filed with the Board an original and two copies of Form MSD-4, "Uniform Application for Municipal Securities Principal or Municipal Securities Representative Associated with a Bank Municipal Securities Dealer," completed in accordance with the instructions contained therein, for that person. Form MSD-4 is prescribed by the Board for purposes of paragraph (b) of Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board Rule G-7, "Information Concerning Associated Persons."

(3) Whenever a municipal securities dealer receives a statement pursuant

to paragraph (c) of Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board Rule G-7, "Information Concerning Associated Persons," from a person for whom it has filed a Form MSD-4 with the Board pursuant to paragraph (j)(2) of this section, such dealer shall within ten days thereafter, file three copies of that statement with the Board accompanied by an original and two copies of a transmittal letter which includes the name of the dealer and a reference to the material transmitted identifying the person involved and is signed by a municipal securities principal associated with the dealer.

(4) Within thirty days after the termination of the association of a municipal securities principal or municipal securities representative with a municipal securities dealer that has filed a Form MSD-4 with the Board for that person pursuant to paragraph (j)(2) of this section, such dealer shall file an original and two copies of a notification of termination with the Board on Form MSD-5, "Uniform Termination Notice for Municipal Securities Principal or Municipal Securities Representative Associated With a Bank Municipal Securities Dealer," completed in accordance with instructions contained therein.

(5) A municipal securities dealer that files a Form MSD-4, Form MSD-5, or statement with the Board under this paragraph shall retain a copy of each such Form MSD-4, Form MSD-5, or statement until at least three years after the termination of the employment or other association with such dealer of the municipal securities principal or municipal securities representative to whom the form or statement relates.

(6) The date that the Board receives a Form MSD-4, Form MSD-5, or statement filed with the Board under this paragraph shall be the date of filing. Such a form MSD-4, Form MSD-5, or statement which is not prepared and executed in accordance with the applicable requirements may be returned as unacceptable for filing. Acceptance for filing shall not constitute any finding that a Form MSD-4, Form MSD-5 or statement has been completed in accordance with the applicable requirements or that any information re-

ported therein is true, current, complete, or not misleading. Every Form MSD-4, Form MSD-5, or statement filed with the Board under this paragraph shall constitute a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission for purposes of section 17(c)(1) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78q(c)(1)) and a *report, application, or document* within the meaning of section 32(a) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78ff(a)).

(k) [Reserved]

EDITORIAL NOTE: For FEDERAL REGISTER citations affecting § 208.8, see the List of CFR Sections Affected in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

§ 208.9 Establishment or maintenance of branches.

(a) *In general.* Every State bank which is or hereafter becomes a member of the Federal Reserve System is subject to the provisions of section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act relating to the establishment and maintenance of branches⁷ in the United States or in a dependency or insular possession thereof or in a foreign country. Under the provisions of section 9, member State banks establishing and operating branches in the United States beyond the corporate limits of the city, town, or village in which the parent bank is situated must conform to the same terms, conditions, limitations, and restrictions as are applicable to the establishment of branches by national banks under the provisions of section 5155 of the Revised Statutes of the United States relating to the establishment of branches in the United States, except that the approval of any such branches must be obtained from the Board rather than from the Comptroller of the Currency. The approval of the Board must likewise be obtained before any member State bank establishes any branch after July 15, 1952, within the corporate limits of the city, town, or village in which the parent

⁷ Section 5155 of the Revised Statutes of the United States provides that: (f) The term *branch* as used in this section shall be held to include any branch bank, branch office, branch agency, additional office, or any branch place of business located in any State or territory of the United States or in the District of Columbia at which deposits are received, or checks paid, or money lent."

bank is situated (except within the District of Columbia). Under the provisions of section 9, member State banks establishing and operating branches in a dependency or insular possession of the United States or in a foreign country must conform to the terms, conditions, limitations, and restrictions contained in section 25 of the Federal Reserve Act relating to the establishment by national banks of branches in such places.

(b) *Branches in the United States.* (1) Before a member State bank establishes a branch (except within the District of Columbia), it must obtain the approval of the Board.

(2) Before any nonmember State bank having a branch or branches established after February 25, 1927, beyond the corporate limits of the city, town, or village in which the bank is situated is admitted to membership in the Federal Reserve System, it must obtain the approval of the Board for the retention of such branches.

(3) A member State bank located in a State which by statute law permits the maintenance of branches within county or greater limits may, with the approval of the Board, establish and operate, without regard to the capital requirements of section 5155 of the Revised Statutes, a seasonal agency in any resort community within the limits of the county in which the main office of such bank is located for the purpose of receiving and paying out deposits, issuing and cashing checks and drafts, and doing business incident thereto, if no bank is located and doing business in the place where the proposed agency is to be located; and any permit issued for the establishment of such an agency shall be revoked upon the opening of a State or national bank in the community where the agency is located.

(4) Except as stated in paragraph (b)(3) of this section, in order for a member State bank to establish a branch beyond the corporate limits of the city, town, or village in which it is situated, the aggregate capital stock of the member State bank and its branches shall at no time be less than the aggregate minimum capital stock required by law for the establishment of an equal number of national banking

associations situated in the various places where such member State bank and its branches are situated.⁸

(5) A member State bank may not establish a branch beyond the corporate limits of the city, town, or village in which it is situated unless such establishment and operation are at the time authorized to State banks by the statute law of the State in question by language specifically granting such authority affirmatively and not merely by implication or recognition.

(6) Any member State bank which, on February 25, 1927, had established and was actually operating a branch or branches in conformity with the State law is permitted to retain and operate the same while remaining a member of the Federal Reserve System, regardless of the location of such branch or branches.

(7) The removal of a branch of a member State bank from one town to another town constitutes the establishment of a branch in such other town and, accordingly, requires the approval of the Board. The removal of a branch of a member State bank from one location in a town to another location in the same town will require the approval of the Board if the circumstances of the removal are such that the effect thereof is to constitute the establishment of a new branch as distinguished from the mere relocation of an existing branch in the immediate neighborhood without affecting the nature of its business or customers served.

(c) *Application for approval of branches in United States.* Any member State bank desiring to establish a branch should submit a request for the approval by the Board of any such branch

⁸ The requirement of this paragraph is met if the aggregate capital stock of a member State bank having branches is not less than the total amount of capital stock which would be required for the establishment of one national bank in each of the places in which the head office and branches of the member State banks are located, irrespective of the number of offices which the bank may have in any such place. There are no additional capital requirements for additional branches within the city, town, or village in which the head office is located.

to the Federal Reserve Bank of the district in which the bank is located. Any nonmember State bank applying for membership and desiring to retain any branch established after February 25, 1927, beyond the corporate limits of the city, town, or village in which the bank is situated should submit a similar request. Any such request should be accompanied by advice as to the scope of the functions and the character of the business which are or will be performed by the branch and detailed information regarding the policy followed or proposed to be followed with reference to supervision of the branch by the head office; and the bank may be required in any case to furnish additional information which will be helpful to the Board in determining whether to approve such request.

(d) *Foreign branches.* With prior Board approval, a member state bank having capital and surplus of \$1,000,000 or more may establish branches in *foreign countries*, as defined in §211.2(f) of Regulation K (12 CFR 211.2(f)). If a member State bank has established a branch in such a country, it may, unless otherwise advised by the Board, establish other branches therein after 30 days' notice to the Board with respect to each such branch.

[Reg. H, 17 FR 8006, Sept. 4, 1952, as amended at 28 FR 8361, Aug. 15, 1963. Redesignated at 39 FR 5482, Feb. 13, 1974 and amended at 47 FR 19321, May 5, 1982]

§208.10 Waiver of reports of affiliates.

Pursuant to section 21 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 486), the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System waives the requirement for the submission of reports of affiliates of State bank members of the Federal Reserve System, unless such reports are specifically requested by the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System may require the submission of reports which are necessary to disclose fully relations between member banks and their affiliates and the effect thereof upon the affairs of member banks.

[Reg. H, 17 FR 8006, Sept. 4, 1952, as amended at 34 FR 5928, Mar. 29, 1969; 39 FR 788, Jan. 3, 1974; 39 FR 1974, Jan. 16, 1974. Redesignated at 39 FR 5482, Feb. 13, 1974; 54 FR 7183, Feb. 17, 1989; 59 FR 55988, Nov. 10, 1994]

§208.11 Voluntary withdrawal from Federal Reserve System.

(a) *General.* Any State bank desiring to withdraw from membership in a Federal Reserve Bank may do so after six months' written notice has been filed with the Board;⁹ and the Board, in its discretion, may waive such six months' notice in any individual case and may permit such bank to withdraw from membership in a Federal Reserve Bank, subject to such conditions as the Board may prescribe, prior to the expiration of six months from the date of the written notice of its intention to withdraw.

(b) *Notice of intention of withdrawal.*

(1) Any State bank desiring to withdraw from membership in a Federal Reserve Bank should signify its intention to do so, with the reasons therefor, in a letter addressed to the Board and mailed to the Federal Reserve Bank of which such bank is a member. Any such bank desiring to withdraw from membership prior to the expiration of six months from the date of written notice of its intention to withdraw should so state in the letter signifying its intention to withdraw and should state the reason for its desire to withdraw prior to the expiration of six months.

(2) Every notice of intention of a bank to withdraw from membership in the Federal Reserve System and every application for the waiver of such notice should be accompanied by a certified copy of a resolution duly adopted by the board of directors of such bank authorizing the withdrawal of such bank from membership in the Federal Reserve System and authorizing a certain officer or certain officers of such bank to file such notice or application, to surrender for cancellation the Federal Reserve Bank stock held by such bank, to receive and receipt for any moneys or other property due to such

⁹ Under specific provisions of section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act, however, no Federal Reserve Bank shall, except upon express authority of the Board, cancel within the same calendar year more than twenty-five percent of its capital stock for the purpose of effecting voluntary withdrawals during that year. All applications for voluntary withdrawals are required by the law to be dealt with in the order in which they are filed with the Board.

bank from the Federal Reserve Bank and to do such other things as may be necessary to effect the withdrawal of such bank from membership in the Federal Reserve System.

(3) Notice of intention to withdraw or application for waiver of six months' notice of intention to withdraw by any bank which is in the hands of a conservator or other State official acting in a capacity similar to that of a conservator should be accompanied by advice from the conservator or other such State official that he joins in such notice or application.

(c) *Time and method of effecting actual withdrawal.* Upon the expiration of six months after notice of intention to withdraw or upon the waiving of such six months' notice by the Board, such bank may surrender its stock and its certificate of membership to the Federal Reserve Bank and request that same be canceled and that all amounts due to it from the Federal Reserve Bank be refunded.¹⁰ Unless withdrawal is thus effected within eight months after notice of intention to withdraw is first given, or unless the bank requests and the Board grants an extension of time, such bank will be presumed to have abandoned its intention of withdrawing from membership and will not be permitted to withdraw without

¹⁰ A bank's withdrawal from membership in the Federal Reserve System is effective on the date on which the Federal Reserve Bank stock held by it is duly canceled. Until such stock has been canceled, such bank remains a member of the Federal Reserve System, is entitled to all the privileges of membership, and is required to comply with all provisions of law and all regulations of the Board pertaining to member banks and with all conditions of membership applicable to it. Upon the cancellation of such stock, all rights and privileges of such bank as a member bank shall terminate.

Upon the cancellation of such stock, and after due provision has been made for any indebtedness due or to become due to the Federal Reserve Bank, such bank shall be entitled to a refund of its cash paid subscription with interest at the rate of one-half of one percent per month from the date of last dividend, the amount refunded in no event to exceed the book value of the stock at that time, and shall likewise be entitled to the repayment of deposits and of any other balance due from the Federal Reserve Bank.

again giving six months' written notice or obtaining the waiver of such notice.

(d) *Withdrawal of notice.* Any bank which has given notice of its intention to withdraw from membership in a Federal Reserve Bank may withdraw such notice at any time before its stock has been canceled and upon doing so may remain a member of the Federal Reserve System. The notice rescinding the former notice should be accompanied by a certified copy of an appropriate resolution duly adopted by the board of directors of the bank.

[Reg. H, 17 FR 8006, Sept. 4, 1952. Redesignated at 39 FR 5482, Feb. 13, 1974, as amended at 59 FR 55988, Nov. 10, 1994]

§ 208.12 Board forms.

All forms referred to in this part and all such forms as they may be amended from time to time shall be a part of the regulations in this part.

[Reg. H, 17 FR 8006, Sept. 4, 1952. Redesignated at 39 FR 5482, Feb. 13, 1974]

§ 208.13 Capital adequacy.

The standards and guidelines by which the capital adequacy of state member banks will be evaluated by the Board are set forth in appendix A and appendix E for risk-based capital purposes, and, with respect to the ratios relating capital to total assets, in appendix B to part 208 and in appendix B to the Board's Regulation Y, 12 CFR part 225.

[Reg. H, 61 FR 47369, Sept. 6, 1996]

§ 208.14 Procedures for monitoring Bank Secrecy Act compliance.

(a) *Purpose.* This section is issued to assure that all state member banks establish and maintain procedures reasonably designed to assure and monitor their compliance with the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, the Bank Secrecy Act, and the implementing regulations promulgated thereunder by the Department of Treasury at 31 CFR part 103, requiring recordkeeping and reporting of currency transactions.

(b) *Establishment of compliance program.* On or before April 27, 1987, each bank shall develop and provide for the continued administration of a program

reasonably designed to assure and monitor compliance with the recordkeeping and reporting requirements set forth in subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, the Bank Secrecy Act, and the implementing regulations promulgated thereunder by the Department of Treasury at 31 CFR part 103. The compliance program shall be reduced to writing, approved by the board of directors, and noted in the minutes.

(c) *Contents of compliance program.* The compliance program shall, at a minimum:

- (1) Provide for a system of internal controls to assure ongoing compliance;
- (2) Provide for independent testing for compliance to be conducted by bank personnel or by an outside party;
- (3) Designate an individual or individuals responsible for coordinating and monitoring day-to-day compliance; and
- (4) Provide training for appropriate personnel.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 7100-0196)

[Reg. H, 52 FR 2860, Jan. 27, 1987]

§ 208.15 Agricultural loan loss amortization.

(a) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section:

- (1) *Agricultural Bank* means a bank:
 - (i) The deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;
 - (ii) Which is located in an area of the country the economy of which is dependent on agriculture;
 - (iii) Which has total assets of \$100,000,000 or less as of the most recent Report of Condition; and
 - (iv) Which has:
 - (A) At least 25 percent of its total loans in qualified agricultural loans and agriculturally-related other property; or
 - (B) Less than 25 percent of its total loans in qualified agricultural loans and agriculturally-related other property but which bank the Board or the Reserve Bank in whose District the bank is located or its primary state regulator has recommended to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for eligibility under this part.

(2) *Qualified agricultural loan* means:

- (i) Loans qualifying as *loans to finance agricultural production and other loans to farmers* or as *loans secured by farm land* for purposes of Schedule RC-C of the FFIEC Consolidated Report of Condition or such other comparable schedule;
- (ii) Loans secured by farm machinery;
- (iii) Other loans that a bank proves to be sufficiently related to agriculture for classification as an agricultural loan by the Federal Reserve; and
- (iv) The remaining unpaid balance of any loans, described in paragraphs (a)(2) (i), (ii) and (iii) of this section, that have been charged off since January 1, 1984, and that qualify for deferral under this section.

(3) *Accepting Official* means:

- (i) The Reserve Bank in whose District the bank is located; or
- (ii) The Director of the Division of Banking Supervision and Regulation in cases in which the Reserve Bank cannot determine that the bank qualifies under the regulation.

(4) *Agriculturally-related other property* means any property, real or personal, that the bank owned on January 1, 1983, and any such additional property that it acquires prior to January 1, 1992, in connection with a qualified agricultural loan. For the purposes of §§ 208.15(a)(1)(iv) and 205.15(e), the value of such property shall include the amount previously charged off as loss.

(b) *Loss amortization and reappraisal.*

(1) *Provided* That there is no evidence that the loss resulted from fraud or criminal abuse on the part of the bank, its officers, directors, or principal shareholders, a bank that has been accepted under this section may, in the manner described below, amortize in its Reports of Condition and Income:

(i) Any loss that the bank would be required to reflect in its financial statements for any period between and including 1984 and 1991.

(ii) Any loss that the bank would be required to reflect in its financial statements for any period between and including 1983 and 1991 resulting from a reappraisal or sale of agriculturally-related other property.

(2) Amortization under this section shall be computed over a period not to

exceed seven years on a quarterly straight-line basis commencing in the first quarter after the loan was or is charged off so as to be fully amortized not later than December 31, 1998.

(c) *Accounting for amortization.* Any bank which is permitted to amortize losses in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section, may restate its capital and other relevant accounts and account for future authorized deferrals and amortizations in accordance with the instructions to the FFIEC Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income. Any resulting increase in the capital account shall be included in primary capital as per § 208.13 of this part.

(d) *Eligibility.* A proposal submitted in accord with paragraph (f) of this section shall be accepted, subject to the conditions described in paragraph (e) of this section, if the Accepting Official finds:

(1) The proposing bank is an agricultural bank;

(2) The proposing bank's current capital is in need of restoration, but the bank remains an economically viable, fundamentally sound institution;

(3) There is no evidence that fraud or criminal abuse by the bank or its officers, directors, or principal shareholders led to significant losses on qualified agricultural loans or from a reappraisal or sale of agriculturally-related other property; and

(4) The proposing bank has submitted a capital plan approved by the Accepting Official that will restore its capital to an acceptable level.

(e) *Conditions on acceptance.* All acceptances of proposals shall be subject to the following conditions:

(1) The bank shall fully adhere to the approved capital plan and shall obtain the prior approval of the Accepting Official for any modifications to the plan;

(2) With respect to each asset subject to loss deferral under the program, the bank shall maintain accounting records adequate to document the amount and timing of the deferrals, repayments and amortizations;

(3) The financial condition of the bank shall not deteriorate to the point where it is no longer a viable, fundamentally sound institution;

(4) The bank agrees to make a reasonable effort, consistent with safe and

sound banking practices, to maintain in its loan portfolio a percentage of agricultural loans, including agriculturally-related other property, not lower than the percentage of such loans in its loan portfolio on January 1, 1986; and

(5) The bank shall agree to provide the Accepting Official, upon request, with such information as the Accepting Official deems necessary to monitor the bank's amortization, its compliance with conditions, and its continued eligibility.

(f) *Submission of proposals.* (1) A bank wishing to amortize losses on qualified agricultural loans or from reappraisal or sale of agriculturally-related other property shall submit a proposal to the appropriate Accepting Official.

(2) The proposal shall contain the following information:

(i) Name and address of the bank;

(ii) Information establishing that the bank is located in an area the economy of which is dependent on agriculture; the information could consist of a description of the bank's location, dominant lines of commerce in its service area, and any other information the bank believes will support the contention that it is located in such an area.

(iii) A copy of the bank's most recent Report of Condition and Income;

(iv) If the Report of Condition and Income fails to show that at least 25 percent of the bank's total loans are qualified agricultural loans, the basis upon which the bank believes that it should be declared eligible to amortize losses;

(v) A capital plan demonstrating that the bank will achieve an acceptable capital level not later than the end of the bank's amortization period. The plan should provide for a realistic improvement in the bank's capital, over the course of the amortization period, from earnings retention, capital injections, or other sources; and include specific information regarding dividend levels, compensation to directors, executive officers and individuals who have a controlling interest and in turn to their related interests, and payments for services or products furnished by affiliated companies.

(vi) A list of the loans and agriculturally-related other property upon which

the bank proposes to defer loss including for each such loan or property, the following information:

(A) The name of the borrower, the amount of the loan that resulted in the loss, and the amount of the loss;

(B) The date on which the loss was declared;

(C) The basis upon which the loss resulted from a qualified agricultural loan;

(vii) A certification by the bank's chief executive officer that there is no evidence that the losses resulted from fraud or criminal abuse by the bank, its officers, directors, or principal shareholders;

(viii) A copy of a resolution by the bank's Board of Directors authorizing submission of the proposal; and

(ix) Such other information as the Accepting Official may require.

(g) *Revocation of eligibility.* The failure to comply with any condition in an acceptance or with the capital restoration plan is grounds for revocation of acceptance for loss amortization and for an administrative action against the bank under 12 U.S.C. 1818(b). Additionally, acceptance of a bank for loss amortization will not foreclose any administrative action against the bank that the Board may deem appropriate.

[Reg. H, 52 FR 42090, Nov. 3, 1987, as amended at 53 FR 20812, June 7, 1988]

§208.16 Reporting requirements for State member banks subject to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

(a) *Filing requirements.* Except as otherwise provided in this section, a State member bank the securities of which are subject to registration pursuant to section 12(b) or section 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the *1934 Act*) (15 U.S.C. 78l (b) and (g)) shall comply with the rules, regulations and forms adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (*Commission*) pursuant to sections 12, 13, 14(a), 14(c), 14(d), 14(f) and 16 of the 1934 Act (15 U.S.C. 78l, 78m, 78n(a), (c), (d), (f) and 78p). The term *Commission* as used in those rules and regulations shall with respect to securities issued by State member banks be deemed to refer to the Board unless the context otherwise requires.

(b) *Elections permitted of State member banks with total assets of \$150 million or less.* (1) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section or the rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission pursuant to the 1934 Act, a State member bank that has total assets of \$150 million or less as of the end of its most recent fiscal year and no foreign offices may elect to substitute for the financial statements required by the Commission's Form 10-Q the balance sheet and income statement from the quarterly report of condition required to be filed by such bank with the Board under section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 324) (Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Form 033 or 034).

(2) A State member bank may not elect to file financial statements from its quarterly report of condition pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this section if the amounts reported for net income, total assets or total equity capital in those statements, which are prepared on the basis of Federal bank regulatory reporting standards, would differ materially from such amounts reported in financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (*GAAP*).

(3) A State member bank qualifying for and electing to file financial statements from its quarterly report of condition pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this section in its form 10-Q shall include earnings per share or net loss per share data prepared in accordance with GAAP and disclose any material contingencies as required by Article 10 of the Commission's Regulation S-X (15 CFR 210.10-01), in the Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations section of Form 10-Q.

(c) *Filing instructions, inspection of documents, and nondisclosure of certain information filed.* (1) All papers required to be filed with the Board pursuant to the 1934 Act or regulations thereunder shall be submitted to the Division of Banking Supervision and Regulation, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20551. Material may be filed by delivery to the Board, through the mails, or otherwise. The date on which papers

are actually received by the Board shall be the date of filing thereof if all of the requirements with respect to the filing have been complied with.

(2) No filing fees specified by the Commission's rules shall be paid to the Board.

(3) Copies of the registration statement, definitive proxy solicitation materials, reports and annual reports to shareholders required by this section (exclusive of exhibits) will be available for public inspection at the Board's offices in Washington, DC, as well as at the Federal Reserve Banks of New York, Chicago, and San Francisco and at the Reserve Bank in the district in which the reporting bank is located.

(4) Any person filing any statement, report, or document under the 1934 Act may make written objection to the public disclosure of any information contained therein in accordance with the procedure set forth below:

(i) The person shall omit from the statement, report, or document, when it is filed, the portion thereof that the person desires to keep undisclosed (hereinafter called the confidential portion). The person shall indicate at the appropriate place in the statement, report, or document that the confidential portion has been so omitted and filed separately with the Board.

(ii) The person shall file with the copies of the statement, report, or document filed with the Board:

(A) As many copies of the confidential portion, each clearly marked "CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT", as there are copies of the statement, report, or document filed with the Board. Each copy of the confidential portion shall contain the complete text of the item and, notwithstanding that the confidential portion does not constitute the whole of the answer, the entire answer thereto; except that in case the confidential portion is part of a financial statement or schedule, only the particular financial statement or schedule need be included. All copies of the confidential portion shall be in the same form as the remainder of the statement, report, or document; and

(B) An application making objection to the disclosure of the confidential portion. Such application shall be on a sheet or sheets separate from the con-

fidential portion, and shall (1) identify the portion of the statement, report, or document that has been omitted, (2) include a statement of the grounds of objection, and (3) include the name of each exchange, if any, with which the statement, report, or document is filed. The copies of the confidential portion and the application filed in accordance with this paragraph shall be enclosed in a separate envelope marked "CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT" and addressed to Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551.

(iii) Pending the determination by the Board on the objection filed in accordance with this paragraph, the confidential portion will not be disclosed by the Board.

(iv) If the Board determines that the objection shall be sustained, a notation to that effect will be made at the appropriate place in the statement, report, or document.

(v) If the Board determines that the objection shall not be sustained because disclosure of the confidential portion is in the public interest, a finding and determination to that effect will be entered and notice of the finding and determination will be sent by registered or certified mail to the person.

(vi) If the Board determines that the objection shall not be sustained pursuant to paragraph (c)(4)(v) of this section, the confidential portion shall be made available to the public:

(A) 15 days after notice of the Board's determination not to sustain the objection has been given as required by paragraph (c)(4)(v) of this section, provided that the person filing the objection has not previously filed with the Board a written statement that he intends in good faith to seek judicial review of the finding and determination;

(B) 60 days after notice of the Board's determination not to sustain the objection has been given as required by paragraph (c)(4)(v) of this section and the person filing the objection has filed with the Board a written statement that he intends to seek judicial review of the finding and determination but has failed to file a petition for judicial review of the Board's determination; or

(C) Upon final judicial determination, if adverse to the party filing the objection.

(vii) If the confidential portion is made available to the public, a copy thereof shall be attached to each copy of the statement, report, or document filed with the Board.

[Reg. H, 52 FR 49376, Dec. 31, 1987]

§ 208.17 Disclosure of financial information by state member banks.

(a) *Purpose and scope.* The purpose of this section is to facilitate the dissemination of publicly available information regarding the financial condition of state member banks, state licensed agencies of foreign banks, and state licensed branches of foreign banks that are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. This section requires all state-chartered banks that are members of the Federal Reserve System and all other covered institutions:

(1) To make year-end Call Reports or Reports of Assets and Liabilities of U.S. Branches and Agencies of Foreign Banks or, in the case of state member banks, other alternative financial information, available to shareholders, customers, and the general public upon request; and

(2) To advise shareholders and the public of the availability of this information.

(b) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) *Call Report* means the Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income (OMB No. 7100-0036) filed pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 324 and § 208.10 of this regulation (12 CFR 208.10).

(2) *State member bank* means a bank that is chartered by a State and is a member of the Federal Reserve System.

(3) *Other covered institutions* means state licensed agencies of foreign banks, or state licensed branches of foreign banks that are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

(c) *Availability of financial information*—(1) *Shareholders.* Each state member bank shall advise its shareholders, by a written announcement, which may be included in the notice of the

annual shareholders' meeting, that one copy of certain financial information is available free of charge upon request. The announcement shall include, at a minimum, an address or telephone number to which requests may be directed.

(2) *General public.* State member banks and other covered institutions shall use reasonable means at their disposal to advise the public of the availability of information pursuant to this section. Bankers' banks, as defined by the Federal Reserve Act, as amended by the Monetary Control Act of 1980 (title I of Pub. L. 96-221), and 12 CFR 204.121, are exempt from this requirement. The notification to the public shall state that one copy of the information is available free of charge upon request and state an address or telephone number to which requests may be directed.

(d) *Financial information to be provided by state member banks.* The bank shall have discretion to determine which type of information, identified in this subsection, to release. The bank shall make the information it chooses to release available as soon as is reasonably possible but not later than April 1 of the year immediately following the end of the year to which the most recently available information pertains. State member banks shall fulfill the requirements of this section by providing, upon request, at least one free copy to each requestor of the following information:

(1) Copies of their entire Call Report for the most recent year end and the prior year end, excluding any information for which confidential treatment is permitted pursuant to the Call Report instructions; or

(2) Copies of only the following schedules from their Call Reports for the most recent year end and the prior year end, excluding any information for which confidential treatment is permitted pursuant to the Call Report instructions:

- (i) Schedule RC (Balance Sheet);
- (ii) Schedule RC-N (Past Due and Nonaccrual Loans and Leases);
- (iii) Schedule RI (Income Statement);
- (iv) Schedule RI-A (Changes in Equity Capital); and

(v) Schedule RI-B (Charge-offs and Recoveries and Changes in Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses)—Part I may be omitted; or

(3) In the case of a bank required to file statements and reports pursuant to the Board's Regulation H, a copy of the bank's annual report to shareholders for meetings at which directors are to be elected or the bank's annual report; or

(4) In the case of a bank with independently audited financial statements, copies of the audited financial statements and the certificate or report of the independent accountant if such statements contain information for the two most recent year ends comparable to that specified in paragraph (d)(2) of this section; or

(5) In the case of a bank that is the only bank subsidiary of a bank holding company, that is majority owned by that bank holding company, and that has assets equal to 95 percent or more of the bank holding company's consolidated total assets, a copy of either:

(i) The annual report of the bank holding company prepared in conformity with the regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission; or

(ii) If the holding company has consolidated assets of \$150 million or more, the sections in the bank holding company's consolidated financial statements for the most recent year end and the prior year end on Form FR-Y-9C ("Consolidated Financial Statements for Bank Holding Companies With Total Consolidated Assets of \$150 Million or More, or With More Than One Subsidiary Bank" (OMB control number 7100-0128)) prepared pursuant to the Board's Regulation Y, and comparable to the Call Report schedules enumerated in paragraph (d)(2) of this section.

(e) *Financial information to be provided by other covered institutions.* Other covered institutions shall fulfill the requirements of this section by providing, upon request, at least one free copy to each requestor of the following schedules from the Report of Assets and Liabilities of U.S. Branches and Agencies of Foreign Banks (OMB control number 7100-0032) for the most recent year end and the prior year end:

(1) Schedule RAL (Assets and Liabilities);

(2) Schedule E (Deposit Liabilities and Credit Balances);

(3) Schedule P (Other Borrowed Money).

The institution shall make the information available as soon as is reasonably possible but not later than April 1 of the year immediately following the end of the year to which the most recently available information pertains.

(f) *Disclaimer.* The following legend shall be included with any financial information provided pursuant to this section:

This financial information has not been reviewed, or confirmed for accuracy or relevancy, by the Federal Reserve System.

(g) This section is not intended to create a private right of action against any institution disclosing documents pursuant to this section.

[54 FR 6117, Feb. 8, 1989, as amended at Reg. H, 59 FR 55988, Nov. 10, 1994]

§ 208.18 Appraisal standards for federally related transactions.

The standards applicable to appraisals rendered in connection with federally related transactions entered into by state member banks are set forth in subpart G of the Board's Regulation Y, 12 CFR part 225.

[55 FR 27771, July 5, 1990]

§ 208.19 Payment of dividends.

(a) *Capital limitations on payment of dividends.* No state member bank shall, during the time it continues its banking operations, withdraw, or permit to be withdrawn, either in the form of dividends or otherwise, any portion of its capital. If losses have at any time been sustained by a state member bank that equal or exceed its undivided profits then on hand, no dividend shall be paid. No dividend shall be paid by a state member bank while it continues its banking operations, to an amount greater than its net profits then on hand, deducting therefrom its losses and bad debts.

(1) *Exceptions.* Exceptions to the limitations contained in this paragraph (a) may be made only with the prior approval of the Board and of at least two-thirds of the shares of each class of stock outstanding.

(2) *Dividends on common and preferred stock.* The provisions of this paragraph (a) shall apply to the payment of dividends on both common and preferred stock.

(3) *Bad debt.* Under this paragraph (a), bad debts must be deducted from the net profits then on hand in computing funds available for the payment of dividends. The term *bad debt* includes matured obligations due a bank on which the interest is past due and unpaid for six months unless the debts are well secured and in the process of collection. Obligations include every type of indebtedness owed to the bank, including, for example, loans, investment securities, time deposits in other depository institutions, and leases. The six-month period of default may begin at any time, regardless of when the debt matures.

(i) *Matured debt.* Whether a debt has matured for the purposes of this subsection usually will be determined by applicable contract law. Generally, a debt is matured when all or a part of the principal is due and payable as a result of demand, arrival of the stated maturity date, or acceleration by contract or by operation of law. Nevertheless, any demand debt on which the payment of interest is six months past due will be considered matured even though payment on the debt has not been demanded. Installment loans on which any payment is six months past due will be considered matured even though acceleration of the total debt may not have occurred.

(ii) *Well-secured debt.* A debt is well secured if it is secured by collateral in the form of liens on, or pledges of, real or personal property, including securities, having realizable value sufficient to discharge the debt in full, or by the guaranty of a financially responsible party. If a loan that would otherwise be considered a bad debt is partially secured, that portion not properly secured will be considered a bad debt.

(iii) *Debt in process of collection.* A debt is in the process of collection if collection of the debt is proceeding in due course, either through legal action, including judgment enforcement procedures, or, in appropriate circumstances, through collection efforts not involving legal action which are

reasonably expected to result in repayment of the debt or in its restoration to current status. In any case, the bank should have a plan of collection setting forth the reasons for the selected method of collection, the responsibilities of the bank and the borrower, and the expected date of repayment of the debt or its restoration to current status.

(iv) *Debts of bankrupt or deceased debtors.* A claim duly filed against the estate of a bankrupt or deceased debtor is considered as being in the process of collection. The obligation is well secured if it meets the criteria set forth in paragraph (a)(3)(ii) of this section or if the claim of the bank against the estate has been duly filed and the statutory period for filing has expired and the assets of the estate are adequate to discharge all obligations in full.

(v) *Documentation.* The bank must maintain in its files documentation to support its evaluation of the obligation. In addition, the bank must retain, at a minimum, monthly progress reports on its collection efforts, noting and explaining any deviation from the collection plan.

(4) *Undivided profits then on hand.* For the purpose of this section, the terms *undivided profits then on hand* and *net profits then on hand* shall have the same meaning, and shall be referred to herein as *undivided profits then on hand*.

(i) *Allowance for loan and lease losses.* When calculating the amount of dividends a bank can pay under 12 U.S.C. 56 and this paragraph, the bank may not add the balance in its allowance for loan and lease losses to its undivided profits for the purpose of determining undivided profits then on hand. The terms *allowance for loan and lease losses* and *undivided profits* shall have the same meaning as set forth in the instructions for the Reports of Condition and Income.

(ii) *Bad debts.* When deducting its bad debts from its undivided profits then on hand, a bank shall first subtract the sum of its bad debts from the balance of its allowance for loan and lease losses account. If the sum of a bank's bad debts is greater than its allowance for loan and lease losses, the excess bad debt shall then be deducted from the bank's undivided profits then on hand.

(iii) *Surplus surplus*. State member banks are required to comply with state law provisions concerning the maintenance of surplus funds in addition to common capital. To the extent a bank has capital surplus in excess of that required under applicable state law, the bank has *surplus surplus*. Only that portion of the surplus surplus that meets the following conditions may be transferred to the undivided profits account and be available for the payment of dividends:

(A) The bank's board of directors approves the transfer of funds from capital surplus to undivided profits; and

(B) The transfer has been approved by the Board. The bank must be able to demonstrate to the Board that the portion of the surplus surplus to be transferred came from the earnings of prior periods, excluding earnings transferred as a result of stock dividends. Requests for Board approval shall be submitted to the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank. The bank may consider the transfer to be approved if the Board or the Reserve Bank does not notify the bank within thirty days after the Reserve Bank's receipt of the notice that the transfer has been disapproved or that it is subject to continuing consideration.

(b) *Earnings limitations on payment of dividends*. A state member bank may not pay a dividend if the total of all dividends declared by the bank in any calendar year exceeds the total of its net profits for that year combined with its retained net profits of the preceding two calendar years, less any required transfers to surplus or to a fund for the retirement of any preferred stock, unless the bank has received the prior approval of the Board for the dividend under paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(1) *Dividends on common and preferred stock*. The provisions of this paragraph (b) apply to the payment of dividends on both preferred and common stock.

(2) *Net profits*. *Net profits* shall be equal to the net income or loss as reported by a state member bank in its Reports of Condition and Income. When computing its *net profits* under this section, a bank should not add its provisions for loan and lease losses to, nor deduct net charge offs from, its reported net income.

(3) *Retained net profits*. Retained net profits of any period shall be equal to the net income or loss as reported in the Reports of Condition and Income less any common or preferred stock dividends declared or otherwise charged to the undivided profits of the period for which retained net profits are computed.

(4) *Approval of dividends*. A bank must request and receive the approval of the Board before declaring a dividend if the amount of all dividends (common and preferred), including the proposed dividend, declared by the bank in any calendar year exceeds the total of the bank's net profits of that year to date combined with its retained net profits of the preceding two calendar years, less any required transfers to surplus or a fund for the retirement of any preferred stock. Requests for the Board's approval shall be submitted to the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank.

(5) *Effective date and transition provisions*. (i) For the purpose of computing *net profits* pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 60, a state member bank must apply paragraph (b)(2) of this section no later than January 1, 1991. A bank may elect to use this paragraph (b)(2) of this section to calculate net profits for 1990, if it applies this provision on a full calendar year to date basis.

(ii) Whether a bank chooses to use paragraph (b)(2) of this section beginning as of January 1, 1990 or 1991, it may elect to apply the paragraph (b)(2) of this section to recalculate retained net profits for one or both of the prior two years.

(iii) Once a bank has elected to calculate net profits or retained net profits for a particular year applying the provisions of paragraph (b)(2) of this section, retained net profits and net profits for all subsequent periods in the calculation must also be calculated using paragraph (b)(2) of this section. If a state member bank has elected to use paragraph (b)(2) of this section for a particular year, the bank may not change the method of calculation used for that year during subsequent periods.

[55 FR 52986, Dec. 26, 1990]

§ 208.20 Suspicious Activity Reports.

(a) *Purpose.* This section ensures that a state member bank files a Suspicious Activity Report when it detects a known or suspected violation of Federal law, or a suspicious transaction related to a money laundering activity or a violation of the Bank Secrecy Act. This section applies to all state member banks.

(b) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this section:

(1) *FinCEN* means the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury.

(2) *Institution-affiliated party* means any institution-affiliated party as that term is defined in 12 U.S.C. 1786(r), or 1813(u) and 1818(b) (3), (4) or (5).

(3) *SAR* means a Suspicious Activity Report on the form prescribed by the Board.

(c) *SARs required.* A state member bank shall file a SAR with the appropriate Federal law enforcement agencies and the Department of the Treasury in accordance with the form's instructions by sending a completed SAR to FinCEN in the following circumstances:

(1) *Insider abuse involving any amount.* Whenever the state member bank detects any known or suspected Federal criminal violation, or pattern of criminal violations, committed or attempted against the bank or involving a transaction or transactions conducted through the bank, where the bank believes that it was either an actual or potential victim of a criminal violation, or series of criminal violations, or that the bank was used to facilitate a criminal transaction, and the bank has a substantial basis for identifying one of its directors, officers, employees, agents or other institution-affiliated parties as having committed or aided in the commission of a criminal act regardless of the amount involved in the violation.

(2) *Violations aggregating \$5,000 or more where a suspect can be identified.* Whenever the state member bank detects any known or suspected Federal criminal violation, or pattern of criminal violations, committed or attempted against the bank or involving a transaction or transactions conducted through the bank and involving or ag-

gregating \$5,000 or more in funds or other assets, where the bank believes that it was either an actual or potential victim of a criminal violation, or series of criminal violations, or that the bank was used to facilitate a criminal transaction, and the bank has a substantial basis for identifying a possible suspect or group of suspects. If it is determined prior to filing this report that the identified suspect or group of suspects has used an "alias," then information regarding the true identity of the suspect or group of suspects, as well as alias identifiers, such as drivers' license or social security numbers, addresses and telephone numbers, must be reported.

(3) *Violations aggregating \$25,000 or more regardless of a potential suspect.* Whenever the state member bank detects any known or suspected Federal criminal violation, or pattern of criminal violations, committed or attempted against the bank or involving a transaction or transactions conducted through the bank and involving or aggregating \$25,000 or more in funds or other assets, where the bank believes that it was either an actual or potential victim of a criminal violation, or series of criminal violations, or that the bank was used to facilitate a criminal transaction, even though there is no substantial basis for identifying a possible suspect or group of suspects.

(4) *Transactions aggregating \$5,000 or more that involve potential money laundering or violations of the Bank Secrecy Act.* Any transaction (which for purposes of this paragraph (c)(4) means a deposit, withdrawal, transfer between accounts, exchange of currency, loan, extension of credit, purchase or sale of any stock, bond, certificate of deposit, or other monetary instrument or investment security, or any other payment, transfer, or delivery by, through, or to a financial institution, by whatever means effected) conducted or attempted by, at or through the state member bank and involving or aggregating \$5,000 or more in funds or other assets, if the bank knows, suspects, or has reason to suspect that:

(i) The transaction involves funds derived from illegal activities or is intended or conducted in order to hide or

disguise funds or assets derived from illegal activities (including, without limitation, the ownership, nature, source, location, or control of such funds or assets) as part of a plan to violate or evade any law or regulation or to avoid any transaction reporting requirement under federal law;

(ii) The transaction is designed to evade any regulations promulgated under the Bank Secrecy Act; or

(iii) The transaction has no business or apparent lawful purpose or is not the sort in which the particular customer would normally be expected to engage, and the bank knows of no reasonable explanation for the transaction after examining the available facts, including the background and possible purpose of the transaction.

(d) *Time for reporting.* A state member bank is required to file a SAR no later than 30 calendar days after the date of initial detection of facts that may constitute a basis for filing a SAR. If no suspect was identified on the date of detection of the incident requiring the filing, a state member bank may delay filing a SAR for an additional 30 calendar days to identify a suspect. In no case shall reporting be delayed more than 60 calendar days after the date of initial detection of a reportable transaction. In situations involving violations requiring immediate attention, such as when a reportable violation is on-going, the financial institution shall immediately notify, by telephone, an appropriate law enforcement authority and the Board in addition to filing a timely SAR.

(e) *Reports to state and local authorities.* State member banks are encouraged to file a copy of the SAR with state and local law enforcement agencies where appropriate.

(f) *Exceptions.* (1) A state member bank need not file a SAR for a robbery or burglary committed or attempted that is reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

(2) A state member bank need not file a SAR for lost, missing, counterfeit, or stolen securities if it files a report pursuant to the reporting requirements of 17 CFR 240.17f-1.

(g) *Retention of records.* A state member bank shall maintain a copy of any SAR filed and the original or business

record equivalent of any supporting documentation for a period of five years from the date of the filing of the SAR. Supporting documentation shall be identified and maintained by the bank as such, and shall be deemed to have been filed with the SAR. A state member bank must make all supporting documentation available to appropriate law enforcement agencies upon request.

(h) *Notification to board of directors.* The management of a state member bank shall promptly notify its board of directors, or a committee thereof, of any report filed pursuant to this section.

(i) *Compliance.* Failure to file a SAR in accordance with this section and the instructions may subject the state member bank, its directors, officers, employees, agents, or other institution-affiliated parties to supervisory action.

(j) *Confidentiality of SARs.* SARs are confidential. Any state member bank subpoenaed or otherwise requested to disclose a SAR or the information contained in a SAR shall decline to produce the SAR or to provide any information that would disclose that a SAR has been prepared or filed citing this section, applicable law (e.g., 31 U.S.C. 5318(g)), or both, and notify the Board.

(k) *Safe harbor.* The safe harbor provisions of 31 U.S.C. 5318(g), which exempts any state member bank that makes a disclosure of any possible violation of law or regulation from liability under any law or regulation of the United States, or any constitution, law or regulation of any state or political subdivision, covers all reports of suspected or known criminal violations and suspicious activities to law enforcement and financial institution supervisory authorities, including supporting documentation, regardless of whether such reports are filed pursuant to this section or are filed on a voluntary basis.

[Reg. H, 61 FR 4343, Feb. 5, 1996]

§ 208.21 Community development and public welfare investments.

(a) *Definitions—(1) Low- or moderate-income area* means:

(i) One or more census tracts in a Metropolitan Statistical Area where the median family income adjusted for family size in each census tract is less than eighty percent of the median family income adjusted for family size of the Metropolitan Statistical Area; or

(ii) If not in a Metropolitan Statistical Area, one or more census tracts or block-numbered areas where the median family income adjusted for family size in each census tract or block-numbered area is less than eighty percent of the median family income adjusted for family size of the State.

(2) *Low- and moderate-income persons* has the same meaning as low- and moderate-income persons as defined in 42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(20)(A).

(3) *Small business* means a business that meets the size eligibility standards of 13 CFR 121.802(a)(2).

(b) *Investments that do not require prior Board approval.* Notwithstanding the provisions of section 5136 of the Revised Statutes (12 U.S.C. 24 (Seventh)) made applicable to State member banks by paragraph 20 of section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 335), a State member bank may make an investment, without prior Board approval, if the following conditions are met:

(1) The investment is in a corporation, limited partnership, or other entity;

(i) Where the Board has determined that an investment in that entity or class of entities is a public welfare investment under paragraph 23 of section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 338a), or a community development investment under Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.25(b)(6));

(ii) Where the Comptroller of the Currency has determined, by order or regulation, that an investment in that entity by a national bank is a public welfare investment under section 5136 of the Revised Statutes (12 U.S.C. 24 (Eleventh));

(iii) Where that entity is a community development financial institution as defined in section 103(5) of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702(5)); or

(iv) Where that entity, directly or indirectly, engages solely in or makes

loans solely for the purposes of one or more of the following community development activities:

(A) Investing in, developing, rehabilitating, managing, selling, or renting residential property if a majority of the units will be occupied by low- and moderate-income persons or if the property is a "qualified low-income building" as defined in section 42(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 42(c)(2));

(B) Investing in, developing, rehabilitating, managing, selling, or renting nonresidential real property or other assets located in a low- or moderate-income area and targeted towards low- and moderate-income persons;

(C) Investing in one or more small businesses located in a low- or moderate-income area to stimulate economic development;

(D) Investing in, developing, or otherwise assisting job training or placement facilities or programs that will be targeted towards low- and moderate-income persons;

(E) Investing in an entity located in a low- or moderate-income area if that entity creates long-term employment opportunities, a majority of which (based on full time equivalent positions) will be held by low- and moderate-income persons; and

(F) Providing technical assistance, credit counseling, research, and program development assistance to low- and moderate-income persons, small businesses, or nonprofit corporations to help achieve community development;

(2) The investment is permitted by State law;

(3) The investment will not expose the State member bank to liability beyond the amount of the investment;

(4) The investment does not exceed the sum of two percent of the State member bank's capital stock and surplus as defined under 12 CFR 250.162;

(5) The aggregate of all such investments of the State member bank does not exceed the sum of five percent of its capital stock and surplus as defined under 12 CFR 250.162;

(6) The State member bank is well capitalized or adequately capitalized under §§ 208.33(b) (1) and (2);

(7) The State member bank received a composite CAMEL rating of “1” or “2” under the Uniform Financial Institutions Rating System as of its most recent examination and an overall rating of at least “satisfactory” as of its most recent consumer compliance examination; and

(8) The State member bank is not subject to any written agreement, cease and desist order, capital directive, prompt corrective action directive, or memorandum of understanding issued by the Board or a Federal Reserve Bank.

(c) *Notice.* Not more than 30 days after making an investment under paragraph (b) of this section, the State member bank shall advise its Federal Reserve Bank of the investment, including the amount of the investment and the identity of the entity in which the investment is made.

(d) *Investments requiring Board approval.* (1) With prior Board approval, a State member bank may make public welfare investments under paragraph 23 of section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 338a), other than those specified in paragraph (b) of this section.

(2) Requests for approval under this paragraph should include, at a minimum, the amount of the proposed investment, a description of the entity in which the investment is to be made, an explanation of why the investment is a public welfare investment under paragraph 23 of section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 338a), a description of the State member bank’s potential liability under the proposed investment, the amount of the State member bank’s aggregate outstanding public welfare investments under paragraph 23 of section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act, and the amount of the State member bank’s capital stock and surplus as defined in 12 CFR 250.162.

(3) The Board will act on a request under this paragraph within 60 calendar days after receipt of a request that meets the requirements of paragraph (d)(2) of this section, unless the Board notifies the requesting State member bank that a longer time period will be required.

(e) *Divestiture of investments.* A State member bank shall divest itself of an investment made under paragraph (b), (d) or (f) of this section to the extent that the investment exceeds the scope of, or ceases to meet, the requirements of paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(5), or paragraph (d) of this section. The divestiture shall be made in the manner specified in 12 CFR 225.140, Regulation Y, for interests acquired by a lending subsidiary of a bank holding company or the bank holding company itself in satisfaction of a debt previously contracted.

(f) *Preexisting investments.* (1) For ongoing investments made prior to January 9, 1995 that are covered by paragraph (b) of this section, a State member bank shall notify its Federal Reserve Bank of the investment not more than sixty days after January 9, 1995.

(2) For other ongoing investments made prior to January 9, 1995, a State member bank shall request Board approval not more than one year after January 9, 1995.

[Reg. H, 59 FR 63711, Dec. 9, 1994]

§ 208.22 Investment in bank premises.

(a) Under Section 24A of the Federal Reserve Act, state member bank investments in bank premises or in the stock, bonds, debentures, or other such obligations of any corporation holding the premises of the bank, and loans on the security of the stock of such corporation, do not require the approval of the Board if the aggregate of all such investments and loans, together with the indebtedness incurred by any such corporation that is an affiliate of the bank (as defined in section 2 of the Banking Act of 1933, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 221a):

(1) Does not exceed the capital stock account of the bank; or

(2) Does not exceed 50 percent of the bank’s Tier 1 capital and the bank:

(i) Is well capitalized as defined in § 208.33(b)(1) of this part;

(ii) Received a composite CAMEL rating of “1” or “2” as of its most recent examination by the relevant Federal Reserve Bank or state regulatory authority; and

(iii) Is not subject to any written agreement, cease and desist order, capital directive, or prompt corrective action directive issued by the Board or a Federal Reserve Bank.

[Reg. H, 59 FR 28761, June 3, 1994]

§ 208.23 Loans in areas having special flood hazards.

(a) *Purpose and scope*—(1) *Purpose*. The purpose of this section is to implement the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4001–4129).

(2) *Scope*. This section, except for paragraphs (f) and (h) of this section, applies to loans secured by buildings or mobile homes located or to be located in areas determined by the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to have special flood hazards. Paragraphs (f) and (h) of this section apply to loans secured by buildings or mobile homes, regardless of location.

(b) *Definitions*. (1) *Act* means the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4001–4129).

(2) *Building* means a walled and roofed structure, other than a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground and affixed to a permanent site, and a walled and roofed structure while in the course of construction, alteration, or repair.

(3) *Community* means a State or a political subdivision of a State that has zoning and building code jurisdiction over a particular area having special flood hazards.

(4) *Designated loan* means a loan secured by a building or mobile home that is located or to be located in a special flood hazard area in which flood insurance is available under the Act.

(5) *Director of FEMA* means the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(6) *Mobile home* means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, that is built on a permanent chassis and designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when attached to the required utilities. The term *mobile home* does not include a recreational vehicle. For purposes of this section, the term *mobile home* means a mobile home on a permanent foundation. The term *mobile home* includes a

manufactured home as that term is used in the NFIP.

(7) *NFIP* means the National Flood Insurance Program authorized under the Act.

(8) *Residential improved real estate* means real estate upon which a home or other residential building is located or to be located.

(9) *Servicer* means the person responsible for:

(i) Receiving any scheduled, periodic payments from a borrower under the terms of a loan, including amounts for taxes, insurance premiums, and other charges with respect to the property securing the loan; and

(ii) Making payments of principal and interest and any other payments from the amounts received from the borrower as may be required under the terms of the loan.

(10) *Special flood hazard area* means the land in the flood plain within a community having at least a one percent chance of flooding in any given year, as designated by the Director of FEMA.

(11) *Table funding* means a settlement at which a loan is funded by a contemporaneous advance of loan funds and an assignment of the loan to the person advancing the funds.

(c) *Requirement to purchase flood insurance where available*—(1) *In general*. A state member bank shall not make, increase, extend, or renew any designated loan unless the building or mobile home and any personal property securing the loan is covered by flood insurance for the term of the loan. The amount of insurance must be at least equal to the lesser of the outstanding principal balance of the designated loan or the maximum limit of coverage available for the particular type of property under the Act. Flood insurance coverage under the Act is limited to the overall value of the property securing the designated loan minus the value of the land on which the property is located.

(2) *Table funded loans*. A state member bank that acquires a loan from a mortgage broker or other entity through table funding shall be considered to be making a loan for the purposes of this section.

(d) *Exemptions.* The flood insurance requirement prescribed by paragraph (c) of this section does not apply with respect to:

(1) Any State-owned property covered under a policy of self-insurance satisfactory to the Director of FEMA, who publishes and periodically revises the list of States falling within this exemption; or

(2) Property securing any loan with an original principal balance of \$5,000 or less and a repayment term of one year or less.

(e) *Escrow requirement.* If a state member bank requires the escrow of taxes, insurance premiums, fees, or any other charges for a loan secured by *residential* improved real estate or a mobile home that is made, increased, extended, or renewed on or after October 1, 1996, the state member bank shall also require the escrow of all premiums and fees for any flood insurance required under paragraph (c) of this section. The state member bank, or a servicer acting on its behalf, shall deposit the flood insurance premiums on behalf of the borrower in an escrow account. This escrow account will be subject to escrow requirements adopted pursuant to section 10 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2609) (RESPA), which generally limits the amount that may be maintained in escrow accounts for certain types of loans and requires escrow account statements for those accounts, only if the loan is otherwise subject to RESPA. Following receipt of a notice from the Director of FEMA or other provider of flood insurance that premiums are due, the state member bank, or a servicer acting on its behalf, shall pay the amount owed to the insurance provider from the escrow account by the date when such premiums are due.

(f) *Required use of standard flood hazard determination form—(1) Use of form.* A state member bank shall use the standard flood hazard determination form developed by the Director of FEMA (as set forth in Appendix A of 44 CFR part 65) when determining whether the building or mobile home offered as collateral security for a loan is or will be located in a special flood hazard area in which flood insurance is avail-

able under the Act. The standard flood hazard determination form may be used in a printed, computerized, or electronic manner.

(2) *Retention of form.* A state member bank shall retain a copy of the completed standard flood hazard determination form, in either hard copy or electronic form, for the period of time the bank owns the loan.

(g) *Forced placement of flood insurance.* If a state member bank, or a servicer acting on behalf of the bank, determines at any time during the term of a designated loan that the building or mobile home and any personal property securing the designated loan is not covered by flood insurance or is covered by flood insurance in an amount less than the amount required under paragraph (c) of this section, then the bank or its servicer shall notify the borrower that the borrower should obtain flood insurance, at the borrower's expense, in an amount at least equal to the amount required under paragraph (c) of this section, for the remaining term of the loan. If the borrower fails to obtain flood insurance within 45 days after notification, then the state member bank or its servicer shall purchase insurance on the borrower's behalf. The state member bank or its servicer may charge the borrower for the cost of premiums and fees incurred in purchasing the insurance.

(h) *Determination fees—(1) General.* Notwithstanding any Federal or State law other than the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4001–4129), any state member bank, or a servicer acting on behalf of the bank, may charge a reasonable fee for determining whether the building or mobile home securing the loan is located or will be located in a special flood hazard area. A determination fee may also include, but is not limited to, a fee for life-of-loan monitoring.

(2) *Borrower fee.* The determination fee authorized by paragraph (h)(1) of this section may be charged to the borrower if the determination:

(i) Is made in connection with a making, increasing, extending, or renewing of the loan that is initiated by the borrower;

(ii) Reflects the Director of FEMA's revision or updating of floodplain areas or flood-risk zones;

(iii) Reflects the Director of FEMA's publication of a notice or compendium that:

(A) Affects the area in which the building or mobile home securing the loan is located; or

(B) By determination of the Director of FEMA, may reasonably require a determination whether the building or mobile home securing the loan is located in a special flood hazard area; or

(iv) Results in the purchase of flood insurance coverage by the lender or its servicer on behalf of the borrower under paragraph (g) of this section.

(3) *Purchaser or transferee fee.* The determination fee authorized by paragraph (h)(1) of this section may be charged to the purchaser or transferee of a loan in the case of the sale or transfer of the loan.

(i) *Notice of special flood hazards and availability of Federal disaster relief assistance—(1) Notice requirement.* When a state member bank makes, increases, extends, or renews a loan secured by a building or a mobile home located or to be located in a special flood hazard area, the bank shall mail or deliver a written notice to the borrower and to the servicer in all cases whether or not flood insurance is available under the Act for the collateral securing the loan.

(2) *Contents of notice.* The written notice must include the following information:

(i) A warning, in a form approved by the Director of FEMA, that the building or the mobile home is or will be located in a special flood hazard area;

(ii) A description of the flood insurance purchase requirements set forth in section 102(b) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4012a(b));

(iii) A statement, where applicable, that flood insurance coverage is available under the NFIP and may also be available from private insurers; and

(iv) A statement whether Federal disaster relief assistance may be available in the event of damage to the building or mobile home caused by flooding in a Federally declared disaster.

(3) *Timing of notice.* The state member bank shall provide the notice required by paragraph (i)(1) of this section to the borrower within a reasonable time before the completion of the transaction, and to the servicer as promptly as practicable after the bank provides notice to the borrower and in any event no later than the time the bank provides other similar notices to the servicer concerning hazard insurance and taxes. Notice to the servicer may be made electronically or may take the form of a copy of the notice to the borrower.

(4) *Record of receipt.* The state member bank shall retain a record of the receipt of the notices by the borrower and the servicer for the period of time the bank owns the loan.

(5) *Alternate method of notice.* Instead of providing the notice to the borrower required by paragraph (i)(1) of this section, a state member bank may obtain satisfactory written assurance from a seller or lessor that, within a reasonable time before the completion of the sale or lease transaction, the seller or lessor has provided such notice to the purchaser or lessee. The state member bank shall retain a record of the written assurance from the seller or lessor for the period of time the bank owns the loan.

(6) *Use of prescribed form of notice.* A state member bank will be considered to be in compliance with the requirement for notice to the borrower of this paragraph (i) by providing written notice to the borrower containing the language presented in appendix A to this section within a reasonable time before the completion of the transaction. The notice presented in appendix A to this section satisfies the borrower notice requirements of the Act.

(j) *Notice of servicer's identity—(1) Notice requirement.* When a state member bank makes, increases, extends, renews, sells, or transfers a loan secured by a building or mobile home located or to be located in a special flood hazard area, the bank shall notify the Director of FEMA (or the Director's designee) in writing of the identity of the servicer of the loan. The Director of FEMA has designated the insurance provider to receive the state member bank's notice of the servicer's identity.

This notice may be provided electronically if electronic transmission is satisfactory to the Director of FEMA's designee. (2) *Transfer of servicing rights.* The state member bank shall notify the Director of FEMA (or the Director's designee) of any change in the servicer of a loan described in paragraph (j)(1) of this section within 60 days after the effective date of the change. This notice may be provided electronically if electronic transmission is satisfactory to the Director of FEMA's designee. Upon any change in the servicing of a loan described in paragraph (j)(1) of this section, the duty to provide notice under this paragraph (j)(2) shall transfer to the transferee servicer.

APPENDIX A TO §208.23—SAMPLE FORM OF NOTICE OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARDS AND AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

We are giving you this notice to inform you that:

The building or mobile home securing the loan for which you have applied is or will be located in an area with special flood hazards.

The area has been identified by the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a special flood hazard area using FEMA's *Flood Insurance Rate Map* or the *Flood Hazard Boundary Map* for the following community: _____. This area has at least a one percent (1%) chance of a flood equal to or exceeding the base flood elevation (a 100-year flood) in any given year. During the life of a 30-year mortgage loan, the risk of a 100-year flood in a special flood hazard area is 26 percent (26%).

Federal law allows a lender and borrower jointly to request the Director of FEMA to review the determination of whether the property securing the loan is located in a special flood hazard area. If you would like to make such a request, please contact us for further information.

_____ The community in which the property securing the loan is located participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Federal law will not allow us to make you the loan that you have applied for if you do not purchase flood insurance. The flood insurance must be maintained for the life of the loan. If you fail to purchase or renew flood insurance on the property, Federal law authorizes and requires us to purchase the flood insurance for you at your expense.

- Flood insurance coverage under the NFIP may be purchased through an insurance agent who will obtain the policy either di-

rectly through the NFIP or through an insurance company that participates in the NFIP. Flood insurance also may be available from private insurers that do not participate in the NFIP.

- At a minimum, flood insurance purchased must cover the *lesser of*:

- (1) the outstanding principal balance of the loan; *or*

- (2) the maximum amount of coverage allowed for the type of property under the NFIP.

Flood insurance coverage under the NFIP is limited to the overall value of the property securing the loan minus the value of the land on which the property is located.

- Federal disaster relief assistance (usually in the form of a low-interest loan) may be available for damages incurred in excess of your flood insurance if your community's participation in the NFIP is in accordance with NFIP requirements.

_____ Flood insurance coverage under the NFIP is not available for the property securing the loan because the community in which the property is located does not participate in the NFIP. In addition, if the non-participating community has been identified for at least one year as containing a special flood hazard area, properties located in the community will not be eligible for Federal disaster relief assistance in the event of a Federally-declared flood disaster.

[Reg. H, 61 FR 45704, Aug. 29, 1996]

§208.24 Recordkeeping and confirmation of certain securities transactions effected by State member banks.

(a) *Exceptions and safe and sound operations.*

(1) A State member bank may be exempted from one or more of the requirements of this section if it meets one of the following conditions of paragraphs (a)(1)(i) through (a)(1)(iv) of this section:

- (i) *De minimis transactions.* The requirements of paragraphs (c)(2) through (c)(4) and paragraphs (e)(1) through (e)(3) of this section shall not apply to banks having an average of less than 200 securities transactions per year for customers over the prior three calendar year period, exclusive of transactions in government securities;

- (ii) *Government securities.* The record-keeping requirements of paragraph (c) of this section shall not apply to banks effecting fewer than 500 government securities brokerage transactions per year; provided that this exception shall not apply to government securities

transactions by a State member bank that has filed a written notice, or is required to file notice, with the Federal Reserve Board that it acts as a government securities broker or a government securities dealer;

(iii) *Municipal securities.* The municipal securities activities of a State member bank that are subject to regulations promulgated by the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board shall not be subject to the requirements of this section; and

(iv) *Foreign branches.* The requirements of this section shall not apply to the activities of foreign branches of a State member bank.

(2) Every State member bank qualifying for an exemption under paragraph (a)(1) of this section that conducts securities transactions for customers shall, to ensure safe and sound operations, maintain effective systems of records and controls regarding its customer securities transactions that clearly and accurately reflect appropriate information and provide an adequate basis for an audit of the information.

(b) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section:

(1) *Asset-backed security* shall mean a security that is serviced primarily by the cash flows of a discrete pool of receivables or other financial assets, either fixed or revolving, that by their terms convert into cash within a finite time period plus any rights or other assets designed to assure the servicing or timely distribution of proceeds to the security holders.

(2) *Collective investment fund* shall mean funds held by a State member bank as fiduciary and, consistent with local law, invested collectively as follows:

(i) In a common trust fund maintained by such bank exclusively for the collective investment and reinvestment of monies contributed thereto by the bank in its capacity as trustee, executor, administrator, guardian, or custodian under the Uniform Gifts to Minors Act; or

(ii) In a fund consisting solely of assets of retirement, pension, profit sharing, stock bonus or similar trusts which are exempt from Federal income

taxation under the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C.).

(3) *Completion of the transaction* effected by or through a state member bank shall mean:

(i) For purchase transactions, the time when the customer pays the bank any part of the purchase price (or the time when the bank makes the book-entry for any part of the purchase price if applicable); however, if the customer pays for the security prior to the time payment is requested or becomes due, then the transaction shall be completed when the bank transfers the security into the account of the customer; and

(ii) For sale transactions, the time when the bank transfers the security out of the account of the customer or, if the security is not in the bank's custody, then the time when the security is delivered to the bank; however, if the customer delivers the security to the bank prior to the time delivery is requested or becomes due then the transaction shall be completed when the banks makes payment into the account of the customer.

(4) *Crossing of buy and sell orders* shall mean a security transaction in which the same bank acts as agent for both the buyer and the seller.

(5) *Customer* shall mean any person or account, including any agency, trust, estate, guardianship, or other fiduciary account, for which a State member bank effects or participates in effecting the purchase or sale of securities, but shall not include a broker, dealer, bank acting as a broker or dealer, municipal securities broker or dealer, or issuer of the securities which are the subject of the transactions.

(6) *Debt security* as used in paragraph (c) of this section shall mean any security, such as a bond, debenture, note or any other similar instrument which evidences a liability of the issuer (including any security of this type that is convertible into stock or similar security) and fractional or participation interests in one or more of any of the foregoing; provided, however, that securities issued by an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, 15 U.S.C. 80a-1 et seq., shall not be included in this definition.

(7) *Government security* shall mean:

(i) A security that is a direct obligation of, or obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by, the United States;

(ii) A security that is issued or guaranteed by a corporation in which the United States has a direct or indirect interest and which is designated by the Secretary of the Treasury for exemption as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors;

(iii) A security issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by any corporation whose securities are designated, by statute specifically naming the corporation, to constitute exempt securities within the meaning of the laws administered by the Securities and Exchange Commission; or

(iv) Any put, call, straddle, option, or privilege on a security as described in paragraphs (b)(7) (i), (ii), or (iii) of this section other than a put, call, straddle, option, or privilege that is traded on one or more national securities exchanges, or for which quotations are disseminated through an automated quotation system operated by a registered securities association.

(8) *Investment discretion* with respect to an account shall mean if the State member bank, directly or indirectly, is authorized to determine what securities or other property shall be purchased or sold by or for the account, or makes decisions as to what securities or other property shall be purchased or sold by or for the account even though some other person may have responsibility for such investment decisions.

(9) *Municipal security* shall mean a security which is a direct obligation of, or obligation guaranteed as to principal or interest by, a State or any political subdivision thereof, or any agency or instrumentality of a State or any political subdivision thereof, or any municipal corporate instrumentality of one or more States, or any security which is an industrial development bond (as defined in 26 U.S.C. 103(c)(2) the interest on which is excludable from gross income under 26 U.S.C. 103(a)(1), by reason of the application of paragraph (4) or (6) of 26 U.S.C. 103(c) (determined as if paragraphs (4)(A), (5) and (7) were not included in 26 U.S.C.

103(c)), paragraph (1) of 26 U.S.C. 103(c) does not apply to such security.

(10) *Periodic plan* shall mean:

(i) A written authorization for a State member bank to act as agent to purchase or sell for a customer a specific security or securities, in a specific amount (calculated in security units or dollars) or to the extent of dividends and funds available, at specific time intervals, and setting forth the commission or charges to be paid by the customer or the manner of calculating them (including dividend reinvestment plans, automatic investment plans, and employee stock purchase plans); or

(ii) Any prearranged, automatic transfer or sweep of funds from a deposit account to purchase a security, or any prearranged, automatic redemption or sale of a security with the funds being transferred into a deposit account (including cash management sweep services).

(11) *Security* shall mean:

(i) Any note, stock, treasury stock, bond, debenture, certificate of interest or participation in any profit-sharing agreement or in any oil, gas, or other mineral royalty or lease, any collateral-trust certificate, preorganization certificate or subscription, transferable share, investment contract, voting-trust certificate, for a security, any put, call, straddle, option, or privilege on any security, or group or index of securities (including any interest therein or based on the value thereof), any instrument commonly known as a "security"; or any certificate of interest or participation in, temporary or interim certificate for, receipt for, or warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase, any of the foregoing.

(ii) But does not include a deposit or share account in a federally or state insured depository institution, a loan participation, a letter of credit or other form of bank indebtedness incurred in the ordinary course of business, currency, any note, draft, bill of exchange, or bankers acceptance which has a maturity at the time of issuance of not exceeding nine months, exclusive of days of grace, or any renewal thereof the maturity of which is likewise limited, units of a collective investment fund, interests in a variable

amount (master) note of a borrower of prime credit, or U.S. Savings Bonds.

(c) *Recordkeeping.* Except as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, every State member bank effecting securities transactions for customers, including transactions in government securities, and municipal securities transactions by banks not subject to registration as municipal securities dealers, shall maintain the following records with respect to such transactions for at least three years. Nothing contained in this section shall require a bank to maintain the records required by this paragraph in any given manner, provided that the information required to be shown is clearly and accurately reflected and provides an adequate basis for the audit of such information. Records may be maintained in hard copy, automated, or electronic form provided the records are easily retrievable, readily available for inspection, and capable of being reproduced in a hard copy. A bank may contract with third party service providers, including broker/dealers, to maintain records required under this part.

(1) Chronological records of original entry containing an itemized daily record of all purchases and sales of securities. The records of original entry shall show the account or customer for which each such transaction was effected, the description of the securities, the unit and aggregate purchase or sale price (if any), the trade date and the name or other designation of the broker/dealer or other person from whom purchased or to whom sold;

(2) Account records for each customer which shall reflect all purchases and sales of securities, all receipts and deliveries of securities, and all receipts and disbursements of cash with respect to transactions in securities for such account and all other debits and credits pertaining to transactions in securities;

(3) A separate memorandum (order ticket) of each order to purchase or sell securities (whether executed or cancelled), which shall include:

(i) The account(s) for which the transaction was effected;

(ii) Whether the transaction was a market order, limit order, or subject to special instructions;

(iii) The time the order was received by the trader or other bank employee responsible for effecting the transaction;

(iv) The time the order was placed with the broker/dealer, or if there was no broker/dealer, the time the order was executed or canceled;

(v) The price at which the order was executed; and

(vi) The broker/dealer utilized;

(4) A record of all broker/dealers selected by the bank to effect securities transactions and the amount of commissions paid or allocated to each broker during the calendar year; and

(5) A copy of the written notification required by paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section.

(d) *Content and time of notification.* Every State member bank effecting a securities transaction for a customer shall give or send to such customer either of the following types of notifications at or before completion of the transaction or; if the bank uses a broker/dealer's confirmation, within one business day from the bank's receipt of the broker/dealer's confirmation:

(1) A copy of the confirmation of a broker/dealer relating to the securities transaction; and if the bank is to receive remuneration from the customer or any other source in connection with the transaction, and the remuneration is not determined pursuant to a prior written agreement between the bank and the customer, a statement of the source and the amount of any remuneration to be received; or

(2) A written notification disclosing:

(i) The name of the bank;

(ii) The name of the customer;

(iii) Whether the bank is acting as agent for such customer, as agent for both such customer and some other person, as principal for its own account, or in any other capacity;

(iv) The date of execution and a statement that the time of execution will be furnished within a reasonable time upon written request of such customer specifying the identity, price and number of shares or units (or principal amount in the case of debt securities) of such security purchased or sold by such customer;

(v) The amount of any remuneration received or to be received, directly or indirectly, by any broker/dealer from such customer in connection with the transaction;

(vi) The amount of any remuneration received or to be received by the bank from the customer and the source and amount of any other remuneration to be received by the bank in connection with the transaction, unless remuneration is determined pursuant to a written agreement between the bank and the customer, provided, however, in the case of Government securities and municipal securities, this paragraph (d)(2)(vi) shall apply only with respect to remuneration received by the bank in an agency transaction. If the bank elects not to disclose the source and amount of remuneration it has or will receive from a party other than the customer pursuant to this paragraph (d)(2)(vi), the written notification must disclose whether the bank has received or will receive remuneration from a party other than the customer, and that the bank will furnish within a reasonable time the source and amount of this remuneration upon written request of the customer. This election is not available, however, if, with respect to a purchase, the bank was participating in a distribution of that security; or with respect to a sale, the bank was participating in a tender offer for that security;

(vii) The name of the broker/dealer utilized; or, where there is no broker/dealer, the name of the person from whom the security was purchased or to whom it was sold, or the fact that such information will be furnished within a reasonable time upon written request;

(viii) In the case of a transaction in a debt security subject to redemption before maturity, a statement to the effect that the debt security may be redeemed in whole or in part before maturity, that the redemption could affect the yield represented and that additional information is available on request;

(ix) In the case of a transaction in a debt security effected exclusively on the basis of a dollar price:

(A) The dollar price at which the transaction was effected;

(B) The yield to maturity calculated from the dollar price; provided, however, that this paragraph (c)(2)(ix)(B) shall not apply to a transaction in a debt security that either has a maturity date that may be extended by the issuer with a variable interest payable thereon, or is an asset-backed security that represents an interest in or is secured by a pool of receivables or other financial assets that are subject to continuous prepayment;

(x) In the case of a transaction in a debt security effected on the basis of yield:

(A) The yield at which the transaction was effected, including the percentage amount and its characterization (e.g., current yield, yield to maturity, or yield to call) and if effected at yield to call, the type of call, the call date, and the call price; and

(B) The dollar price calculated from the yield at which the transaction was effected; and

(C) If effected on a basis other than yield to maturity and the yield to maturity is lower than the represented yield, the yield to maturity as well as the represented yield; provided, however, that this paragraph (c)(2)(x)(C) shall not apply to a transaction in a debt security that either has a maturity date that may be extended by the issuer with a variable interest rate payable thereon, or is an asset-backed security that represents an interest in or is secured by a pool of receivables or other financial assets that are subject to continuous prepayment;

(xi) In the case of a transaction in a debt security that is an asset-backed security which represents an interest in or is secured by a pool of receivables or other financial assets that are subject continuously to prepayment, a statement indicating that the actual yield of such asset-backed security may vary according to the rate at which the underlying receivables or other financial assets are prepaid and a statement of the fact that information concerning the factors that affect yield (including at a minimum, the estimated yield, weighted average life, and the prepayment assumptions underlying yield) will be furnished upon written request of such customer; and

(xii) In the case of a transaction in a debt security, other than a government security, that the security is unrated by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization, if that is the case.

(e) *Notification by agreement; alternative forms and times of notification.* A State member bank may elect to use the following alternative procedures if a transaction is effected for:

(1) Accounts (except periodic plans) where the bank does not exercise investment discretion and the bank and the customer agree in writing to a different arrangement as to the time and content of the notification; provided, however, that such agreement makes clear the customer's right to receive the written notification pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section at no additional cost to the customer;

(2) Accounts (except collective investment funds) where the bank exercises investment discretion in other than an agency capacity, in which instance the bank shall, upon request of the person having the power to terminate the account or, if there is no such person, upon the request of any person holding a vested beneficial interest in such account, give or send to such person the written notification within a reasonable time. The bank may charge such person a reasonable fee for providing this information;

(3) Accounts, where the bank exercises investment discretion in an agency capacity, in which instance:

(i) The bank shall give or send to each customer not less frequently than once every three months an itemized statement which shall specify the funds and securities in the custody or possession of the bank at the end of such period and all debits, credits and transactions in the customer's accounts during such period; and

(ii) If requested by the customer, the bank shall give or send to each customer within a reasonable time the written notification described in paragraph (c) of this section. The bank may charge a reasonable fee for providing the information described in paragraph (c) of this section;

(4) A collective investment fund, in which instance the bank shall at least annually furnish a copy of a financial report of the fund, or provide notice

that a copy of such report is available and will be furnished upon request, to each person to whom a regular periodic accounting would ordinarily be rendered with respect to each participating account. This report shall be based upon an audit made by independent public accountants or internal auditors responsible only to the board of directors of the bank;

(5) A periodic plan, in which instance the bank:

(i) Shall (except for a cash management sweep service) give or send to the customer a written statement not less than every three months if there are no securities transactions in the account, showing the customer's funds and securities in the custody or possession of the bank; all service charges and commissions paid by the customer in connection with the transaction; and all other debits and credits of the customer's account involved in the transaction; or

(ii) Shall for a cash management sweep service or similar periodic plan as defined in §208.24(b)(10)(ii) give or send its customer a written statement in the same form as prescribed in paragraph (e)(i) above for each month in which a purchase or sale of a security takes place in a deposit account and not less than once every three months if there are no securities transactions in the account subject to any other applicable laws or regulations;

(6) Upon the written request of the customer the bank shall furnish the information described in paragraph (c) of this section, except that any such information relating to remuneration paid in connection with the transaction need not be provided to the customer when paid by a source other than the customer. The bank may charge a reasonable fee for providing the information described in paragraph (d) of this section.

(f) Settlement of securities transactions. All contracts for the purchase or sale of a security shall provide for completion of the transaction within the number of business days in the standard settlement cycle for the security followed by registered broker dealers in the United States unless otherwise agreed to by the parties at the time of the transaction.

(g) Securities trading policies and procedures. Every State member bank effecting securities transactions for customers shall establish written policies and procedures providing:

(1) Assignment of responsibility for supervision of all officers or employees who:

(i) Transmit orders to or place orders with broker/dealers;

(ii) Execute transactions in securities for customers; or

(iii) Process orders for notification and/or settlement purposes, or perform other back office functions with respect to securities transactions effected for customers; provided that procedures established under this paragraph (g)(1)(iii) should provide for supervision and reporting lines that are separate from supervision of personnel under paragraphs (g)(1)(i) and (g)(1)(ii) of this section;

(2) For the fair and equitable allocation of securities and prices to accounts when orders for the same security are received at approximately the same time and are placed for execution either individually or in combination;

(3) Where applicable and where permissible under local law, for the crossing of buy and sell orders on a fair and equitable basis to the parties to the transaction; and

(4) That bank officers and employees who make investment recommendations or decisions for the accounts of customers, who participate in the determination of such recommendations or decisions, or who, in connection with their duties, obtain information concerning which securities are being purchased or sold or recommended for such action, must report to the bank, within ten days after the end of the calendar quarter, all transactions in securities made by them or on their behalf, either at the bank or elsewhere in which they have a beneficial interest. The report shall identify the securities purchased or sold and indicate the dates of the transactions and whether the transactions were purchases or sales. Excluded from this requirement are transactions for the benefit of the officer or employee over which the officer or employee has no direct or indirect influence or control, transactions in mutual fund shares, and all trans-

actions involving in the aggregate \$10,000 or less during the calendar quarter. For purposes of this paragraph (g)(4), the term securities does not include government securities.

[Reg. H, 62 FR 9911, Mar. 5, 1997]

§208.25 Government securities sales practices.

(a) *Scope.* This subpart is applicable to state member banks that have filed notice as, or are required to file notice as, government securities brokers or dealers pursuant to section 15C of the Securities Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. 78o-5) and Department of the Treasury rules under section 15C (17 CFR 400.1(d) and part 401).

(b) *Definitions*—(1) *Bank that is a government securities broker or dealer* means a state member bank that has filed notice, or is required to file notice, as a government securities broker or dealer pursuant to section 15C of the Securities Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. 78o-5) and Department of the Treasury rules under section 15C (17 CFR 400.1(d) and part 401).

(2) *Customer* does not include a broker or dealer or a government securities broker or dealer.

(3) *Government security* has the same meaning as this term has in section 3(a)(42) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(42)).

(4) *Non-institutional customer* means any customer other than:

(i) A bank, savings association, insurance company, or registered investment company;

(ii) An investment adviser registered under section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-3); or

(iii) Any entity (whether a natural person, corporation, partnership, trust, or otherwise) with total assets of at least \$50 million.

(c) *Business conduct.* A bank that is a government securities broker or dealer shall observe high standards of commercial honor and just and equitable principles of trade in the conduct of its business as a government securities broker or dealer.

(d) *Recommendations to customers.* In recommending to a customer the purchase, sale or exchange of a government security, a bank that is a government securities broker or dealer shall

have reasonable grounds for believing that the recommendation is suitable for the customer upon the basis of the facts, if any, disclosed by the customer as to the customer's other security holdings and as to the customer's financial situation and needs.

(e) *Customer information.* Prior to the execution of a transaction recommended to a non-institutional customer, a bank that is a government securities broker or dealer shall make reasonable efforts to obtain information concerning:

- (1) The customer's financial status;
- (2) The customer's tax status;
- (3) The customer's investment objectives; and
- (4) Such other information used or considered to be reasonable by the bank in making recommendations to the customer.

[Reg. H, 62 FR 13285, Mar. 19, 1997]

§ 208.26 Frequency of examination.

(a) *General.* The Federal Reserve examines insured member banks pursuant to authority conferred by 12 U.S.C. 325 and the requirements of 12 U.S.C. 1820(d). The Federal Reserve is required to conduct a full-scope, on-site examination of every insured member bank at least once during each 12-month period.

(b) *18-month rule for certain small institutions.* The Federal Reserve may conduct a full-scope, on-site examination at least once during each 18-month period, rather than each 12-month period as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) The insured member bank has total assets of \$250 million or less;
- (2) The insured member bank is well capitalized as defined in subpart B of this part (§208.33);
- (3) At its most recent examination, the Federal Reserve found the insured member bank to be well managed;
- (4) At its most recent examination, the Federal Reserve determined that the insured member bank was in outstanding or good condition, that is, it received a composite rating of 1 or 2 under the Uniform Financial Institutions Rating System (Copies are available at the address specified in §216.6 of this chapter);

(5) The insured member bank currently is not subject to a formal enforcement proceeding or order by the FDIC, OCC, or Federal Reserve Board; and

(6) No person acquired control of the insured member bank during the preceding 12-month period in which a full-scope on-site examination would have been required but for this section.

(c) *Authority to conduct more frequent examinations.* This section does not limit the authority of the Federal Reserve to examine any insured member bank as frequently as the agency deems necessary.

[Reg. H, 62 FR 6452, Feb. 12, 1997]

§ 208.28 Prohibition against use of interstate branches primarily for deposit production.

(a) *Purpose and scope—(1) Purpose.* The purpose of this section is to implement section 109 (12 U.S.C. 1835a) of the Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994 (Interstate Act).

(2) *Scope.* (i) This section applies to any State member bank that has operated a covered interstate branch for a period of at least one year, and any foreign bank that has operated a covered interstate branch licensed by a State for a period of at least one year.

(ii) This section describes the requirements imposed under 12 U.S.C. 1835a, which requires the appropriate Federal banking agencies (the Board, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) to prescribe uniform rules that prohibit a bank from using any authority to engage in interstate branching pursuant to the Interstate Act, or any amendment made by the Interstate Act to any other provision of law, primarily for the purpose of deposit production.

(b) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) *Bank* means, unless the context indicates otherwise:

- (i) A State member bank as that term is defined in 12 U.S.C. 1813(d)(2); and
- (ii) A foreign bank as that term is defined in 12 U.S.C. 3101(7) and 12 CFR 211.21.

(2) *Covered interstate branch* means any branch of a State member bank, and any uninsured branch of a foreign bank licensed by a State, that:

(i) Is established or acquired outside the bank's home state pursuant to the interstate branching authority granted by the Interstate Act or by any amendment made by the Interstate Act to any other provision of law; or

(ii) Could not have been established or acquired outside of the bank's home state but for the establishment or acquisition of a branch described in paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section.

(3) *Home state* means:

(i) With respect to a state bank, the state that chartered the bank;

(ii) With respect to a national bank, the state in which the main office of the bank is located; and

(iii) With respect to a foreign bank, the home state of the foreign bank as determined in accordance with 12 U.S.C. 3103(c) and 12 CFR 211.22.

(4) *Host state* means a state in which a bank establishes or acquires a covered interstate branch.

(5) *Host state loan-to-deposit ratio* generally means, with respect to a particular host state, the ratio of total loans in the host state relative to total deposits from the host state for all banks (including institutions covered under the definition of "bank" in 12 U.S.C. 1813(a)(1)) that have that state as their home state, as determined and updated periodically by the appropriate Federal banking agencies and made available to the public.

(6) *State* means state as that term is defined in 12 U.S.C. 1813(a)(3).

(7) *Statewide loan-to-deposit ratio* means, with respect to a bank, the ratio of the bank's loans to its deposits in a state in which the bank has one or more covered interstate branches, as determined by the Board.

(c) *Loan-to-deposit ratio screen*—(1) *Application of screen.* Beginning no earlier than one year after a bank establishes or acquires a covered interstate branch, the Board will consider whether the bank's statewide loan-to-deposit ratio is less than 50 percent of the relevant host state loan-to-deposit ratio.

(2) *Results of screen.* (i) If the Board determines that the bank's statewide loan-to-deposit ratio is 50 percent or

more of the host state loan-to-deposit ratio, no further consideration under this section is required.

(ii) If the Board determines that the bank's statewide loan-to-deposit ratio is less than 50 percent of the host state loan-to-deposit ratio, or if reasonably available data are insufficient to calculate the bank's statewide loan-to-deposit ratio, the Board will make a credit needs determination for the bank as provided in paragraph (d) of this section.

(d) *Credit needs determination*—(1) *In general.* The Board will review the loan portfolio of the bank and determine whether the bank is reasonably helping to meet the credit needs of the communities in the host state that are served by the bank.

(2) *Guidelines.* The Board will use the following considerations as guidelines when making the determination pursuant to paragraph (d)(1) of this section:

(i) Whether covered interstate branches were formerly part of a failed or failing depository institution;

(ii) Whether covered interstate branches were acquired under circumstances where there was a low loan-to-deposit ratio because of the nature of the acquired institution's business or loan portfolio;

(iii) Whether covered interstate branches have a high concentration of commercial or credit card lending, trust services, or other specialized activities, including the extent to which the covered interstate branches accept deposits in the host state;

(iv) The Community Reinvestment Act ratings received by the bank, if any, under 12 U.S.C. 2901 *et seq.*;

(v) Economic conditions, including the level of loan demand, within the communities served by the covered interstate branches;

(vi) The safe and sound operation and condition of the bank; and

(vii) The Board's Regulation BB—Community Reinvestment (12 CFR Part 228) and interpretations of that regulation.

(e) *Sanctions*—(1) *In general.* If the Board determines that a bank is not reasonably helping to meet the credit needs of the communities served by the bank in the host state, and that the bank's statewide loan-to-deposit ratio

is less than 50 percent of the host state loan-to-deposit ratio, the Board:

(i) May order that a bank's covered interstate branch or branches be closed unless the bank provides reasonable assurances to the satisfaction of the Board, after an opportunity for public comment, that the bank has an acceptable plan under which the bank will reasonably help to meet the credit needs of the communities served by the bank in the host state; and

(ii) Will not permit the bank to open a new branch in the host state that would be considered to be a covered interstate branch unless the bank provides reasonable assurances to the satisfaction of the Board, after an opportunity for public comment, that the bank will reasonably help to meet the credit needs of the community that the new branch will serve.

(2) *Notice prior to closure of a covered interstate branch.* Before exercising the Board's authority to order the bank to close a covered interstate branch, the Board will issue to the bank a notice of the Board's intent to order the closure and will schedule a hearing within 60 days of issuing the notice.

(3) *Hearing.* The Board will conduct a hearing scheduled under paragraph (e)(2) of this section in accordance with the provisions of 12 U.S.C. 1818(h) and 12 CFR part 263.

[Reg. H, 62 FR 47735, Sept. 10, 1997]

Subpart B—Prompt Corrective Action

SOURCE: 57 FR 44885, Sept. 29, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

§ 208.30 Authority, purpose, scope, other supervisory authority, and disclosure of capital categories.

(a) *Authority.* This subpart is issued by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) pursuant to section 38 (section 38) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (FDI Act) as added by section 131 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (Pub. L. 102-242, 105 Stat. 2236 (1991)) (12 U.S.C. 1831o.).

(b) *Purpose.* Section 38 of the FDI Act establishes a framework of supervisory actions for insured depository institu-

tions that are not adequately capitalized. The principal purpose of this subpart is to define, for state member banks, the capital measures and capital levels that are used for determining the supervisory actions authorized under section 38 of the FDI Act. This subpart also establishes procedures for submission and review of capital restoration plans and for issuance and review of directives and orders pursuant to section 38.

(c) *Scope.* This subpart implements the provisions of section 38 of the FDI Act as they apply to state member banks. Certain of these provisions also apply to officers, directors and employees of state member banks. Other provisions apply to any company that controls a state member bank and to the affiliates of a state member bank.

(d) *Other supervisory authority.* Neither section 38 nor this subpart in any way limits the authority of the Board under any other provision of law to take supervisory actions to address unsafe or unsound practices, deficient capital levels, violations of law, unsafe or unsound conditions, or other practices. Action under section 38 of the FDI Act and this subpart may be taken independently of, in conjunction with, or in addition to any other enforcement action available to the Board, including issuance of cease and desist orders, capital directives, approval or denial of applications or notices, assessment of civil money penalties, or any other actions authorized by law.

(e) *Disclosure of capital categories.* The assignment of a bank under this subpart within a particular capital category is for purposes of implementing and applying the provisions of section 38. Unless permitted by the Board or otherwise required by law, no bank may state in any advertisement or promotional material its capital category under this subpart or that the Board or any other Federal banking agency has assigned the bank to a particular capital category.

§ 208.31 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart, except as modified in this section or unless the context otherwise requires, the terms used have the same meanings as

set forth in section 38 and section 3 of the FDI Act.

(a) (1) *Control* has the same meaning assigned to it in section 2 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1841), and the term “controlled” shall be construed consistently with the term “control.”

(2) *Exclusion for fiduciary ownership.* No insured depository institution or company controls another insured depository institution or company by virtue of its ownership or control of shares in a fiduciary capacity. Shares shall not be deemed to have been acquired in a fiduciary capacity if the acquiring insured depository institution or company has sole discretionary authority to exercise voting rights with respect thereto.

(3) *Exclusion for debts previously contracted.* No insured depository institution or company controls another insured depository institution or company by virtue of its ownership or control of shares acquired in securing or collecting a debt previously contracted in good faith, until two years after the date of acquisition. The two-year period may be extended at the discretion of the appropriate Federal banking agency for up to three one-year periods.

(b) *Controlling person* means any person having control of an insured depository institution and any company controlled by that person.

(c) *Leverage ratio* means the ratio of Tier 1 capital to average total consolidated assets, as calculated in accordance with the Board’s Capital Adequacy Guidelines for State Member Banks: Tier 1 Leverage Measure (appendix B to part 208).

(d) *Management fee* means any payment of money or provision of any other thing of value to a company or individual for the provision of management services or advice to the bank or related overhead expenses, including payments related to supervisory, executive, managerial, or policymaking functions, other than compensation to an individual in the individual’s capacity as an officer or employee of the bank.

(e) *Risk-weighted assets* means total weighted risk assets, as calculated in accordance with the Board’s Capital

Adequacy Guidelines for State Member Banks: Risk-Based Measure (appendix A to part 208).

(f) *Tangible equity* means the amount of core capital elements in the Board’s Capital Adequacy Guidelines for State Member Banks: Risk-Based Measure (Appendix A to this part), plus the amount of outstanding cumulative perpetual preferred stock (including related surplus), minus all intangible assets except mortgage servicing rights to the extent that the Board determines that mortgage servicing rights may be included in calculating the bank’s tier 1 capital.

(g) *Tier 1 capital* means the amount of Tier 1 capital as defined in the Board’s Capital Adequacy Guidelines for State Member Banks: Risk-Based Measure (appendix A to part 208).

(h) *Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio* means the ratio of Tier 1 capital to weighted risk assets, as calculated in accordance with the Board’s Capital Adequacy Guidelines for State Member Banks: Risk-Based Measure (appendix A to part 208).

(i) *Total assets* means quarterly average total assets as reported in a bank’s Report of Condition and Income (Call Report), minus intangible assets as provided in the definition of tangible equity.

(j) *Total risk-based capital ratio* means the ratio of qualifying total capital to weighted risk assets, as calculated in accordance with the Board’s Capital Adequacy Guidelines for State Member Banks: Risk-Based Measure (appendix A to part 208).

[57 FR 44885, Sept. 29, 1992, as amended at 60 FR 39229, Aug. 1, 1995]

§208.32 Notice of capital category.

(a) *Effective date of determination of capital category.* A state member bank shall be deemed to be within a given capital category for purposes of section 38 of the FDI Act and this subpart as of the date the bank is notified of, or is deemed to have notice of, its capital category, pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Notice of capital category.* A state member bank shall be deemed to have been notified of its capital levels and its capital category as of the most recent date:

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(1) A Report of Condition and Income (Call Report) is required to be filed with the Board;

(2) A final report of examination is delivered to the bank; or

(3) Written notice is provided by the Board to the bank of its capital category for purposes of section 38 of the FDI Act and this subpart or that the bank's capital category has changed as provided in paragraph (c) of this section or §208.33(c).

(c) *Adjustments to reported capital levels and capital category*—(1) *Notice of adjustment by bank*. A state member bank shall provide the Board with written notice that an adjustment to the bank's capital category may have occurred no later than 15 calendar days following the date that any material event has occurred that would cause the bank to be placed in a lower capital category from the category assigned to the bank for purposes of section 38 and this subpart on the basis of the bank's most recent Call Report or report of examination.

(2) *Determination by the Board to change capital category*. After receiving notice pursuant to paragraph (c)(1) of this section, the Board shall determine whether to change the capital category of the bank and shall notify the bank of the Board's determination.

§208.33 Capital measures and capital category definitions.

(a) *Capital measures*. For purposes of section 38 and this subpart, the relevant capital measures shall be:

(1) The total risk-based capital ratio;

(2) The Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio; and

(3) The leverage ratio.

(b) *Capital categories*. For purposes of section 38 and this subpart, a state member bank shall be deemed to be:

(1) "Well capitalized" if the bank:

(i) Has a total risk-based capital ratio of 10.0 percent or greater; and

(ii) Has a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 6.0 percent or greater; and

(iii) Has a leverage ratio of 5.0 percent or greater; and

(iv) Is not subject to any written agreement, order, capital directive, or prompt corrective action directive issued by the Board pursuant to section 8 of the FDI Act, the International

Lending Supervision Act of 1983 (12 U.S.C. 3907), or section 38 of the FDI Act, or any regulation thereunder, to meet and maintain a specific capital level for any capital measure.

(2) "Adequately capitalized" if the bank:

(i) Has a total risk-based capital ratio of 8.0 percent or greater; and

(ii) Has a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 4.0 percent or greater; and

(iii) Has—

(A) A leverage ratio of 4.0 percent or greater, or

(B) A leverage ratio of 3.0 percent or greater if the bank is rated composite 1 under the CAMEL rating system in the most recent examination of the bank and is not experiencing or anticipating significant growth; and

(iv) Does not meet the definition of a "well capitalized" bank.

(3) "Undercapitalized" if the bank:

(i) Has a total risk-based capital ratio that is less than 8.0 percent; or

(ii) Has a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio that is less than 4.0 percent; or

(iii) (A) Except as provided in clause (B), has a leverage ratio that is less than 4.0 percent; or

(B) Has a leverage ratio that is less than 3.0 percent, if the bank is rated composite 1 under the CAMEL rating system in the most recent examination of the bank and is not experiencing or anticipating significant growth.

(4) "Significantly undercapitalized" if the bank has—

(i) A total risk-based capital ratio that is less than 6.0 percent; or

(ii) A Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio that is less than 3.0 percent; or

(iii) A leverage ratio that is less than 3.0 percent.

(5) "Critically undercapitalized" if the bank has a ratio of tangible equity to total assets that is equal to or less than 2.0 percent.

(c) *Reclassification based on supervisory criteria other than capital*. The Board may reclassify a well capitalized state member bank as adequately capitalized and may require an adequately capitalized or an undercapitalized state member bank to comply with certain mandatory or discretionary supervisory actions as if the bank were in the next lower capital category (except that the Board may not reclassify a

significantly undercapitalized bank as critically undercapitalized) (each of these actions are hereinafter referred to generally as “reclassifications”) in the following circumstances:

(1) *Unsafe or unsound condition.* The Board has determined, after notice and opportunity for hearing pursuant to §263.203 of this chapter, that the bank is in unsafe or unsound condition; or

(2) *Unsafe or unsound practice.* The Board has determined, after notice and opportunity for hearing pursuant to §263.203 of this chapter, that, in the most recent examination of the bank, the bank received and has not corrected, a less-than-satisfactory rating for any of the categories of asset quality, management, earnings, or liquidity.

§208.34 Capital restoration plans.

(a) *Schedule for filing plan—(1) In general.* A state member bank shall file a written capital restoration plan with the appropriate Reserve Bank within 45 days of the date that the bank receives notice or is deemed to have notice that the bank is undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized, or critically undercapitalized, unless the Board notifies the bank in writing that the plan is to be filed within a different period. An adequately capitalized bank that has been required pursuant to §208.33(c) to comply with supervisory actions as if the bank were undercapitalized is not required to submit a capital restoration plan solely by virtue of the reclassification.

(2) *Additional capital restoration plans.* Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(1) of this section, a bank that has already submitted and is operating under a capital restoration plan approved under section 38 and this subpart is not required to submit an additional capital restoration plan based on a revised calculation of its capital measures or a reclassification of the institution under §208.33(c) unless the Board notifies the bank that it must submit a new or revised capital plan. A bank that is notified that it must submit a new or revised capital restoration plan shall file the plan in writing with the appropriate Reserve Bank within 45 days of receiving such notice, unless the Board notifies the bank in writing

that the plan is to be filed within a different period.

(b) *Contents of plan.* All financial data submitted in connection with a capital restoration plan shall be prepared in accordance with the instructions provided on the Call Report, unless the Board instructs otherwise. The capital restoration plan shall include all of the information required to be filed under section 38(e)(2) of the FDI Act. A bank that is required to submit a capital restoration plan as the result of a reclassification of the bank pursuant to §208.33(c) shall include a description of the steps the bank will take to correct the unsafe or unsound condition or practice. No plan shall be accepted unless it includes any performance guarantee described in section 38(e)(2)(C) of that Act by each company that controls the bank.

(c) *Review of capital restoration plans.* Within 60 days after receiving a capital restoration plan under this subpart, the Board shall provide written notice to the bank of whether the plan has been approved. The Board may extend the time within which notice regarding approval of a plan shall be provided.

(d) *Disapproval of capital plan.* If a capital restoration plan is not approved by the Board, the bank shall submit a revised capital restoration plan within the time specified by the Board. Upon receiving notice that its capital restoration plan has not been approved, any undercapitalized state member bank (as defined in §208.33(b)(3)) shall be subject to all of the provisions of section 38 and this subpart applicable to significantly undercapitalized institutions. These provisions shall be applicable until such time as a new or revised capital restoration plan submitted by the bank has been approved by the Board.

(e) *Failure to submit capital restoration plan.* A state member bank that is undercapitalized (as defined in §208.33(b)(3)) and that fails to submit a written capital restoration plan within the period provided in this section shall, upon the expiration of that period, be subject to all of the provisions of section 38 and this subpart applicable to significantly undercapitalized institutions.

(f) *Failure to implement capital restoration plan.* Any undercapitalized state member bank that fails in any material respect to implement a capital restoration plan shall be subject to all of the provisions of section 38 and this subpart applicable to significantly undercapitalized institutions.

(g) *Amendment of capital plan.* A bank that has filed an approved capital restoration plan may, after prior written notice to and approval by the Board, amend the plan to reflect a change in circumstance. Until such time as a proposed amendment has been approved, the bank shall implement the capital restoration plan as approved prior to the proposed amendment.

(h) *Notice to FDIC.* Within 45 days of the effective date of Board approval of a capital restoration plan, or any amendment to a capital restoration plan, the Board shall provide a copy of the plan or amendment to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

(i) *Performance guarantee by companies that control a bank—(1) Limitation on Liability—(i) Amount limitation.* The aggregate liability under the guarantee provided under section 38 and this subpart for all companies that control a specific state member bank that is required to submit a capital restoration plan under this subpart shall be limited to the lesser of:

(A) An amount equal to 5.0 percent of the bank's total assets at the time the bank was notified or deemed to have notice that the bank was undercapitalized; or

(B) The amount necessary to restore the relevant capital measures of the bank to the levels required for the bank to be classified as adequately capitalized, as those capital measures and levels are defined at the time that the bank initially fails to comply with a capital restoration plan under this subpart.

(ii) *Limit on duration.* The guarantee and limit of liability under section 38 and this subpart shall expire after the Board notifies the bank that it has remained adequately capitalized for each of four consecutive calendar quarters. The expiration or fulfillment by a company of a guarantee of a capital restoration plan shall not limit the liability of the company under any guaran-

tee required or provided in connection with any capital restoration plan filed by the same bank after expiration of the first guarantee.

(iii) *Collection on guarantee.* Each company that controls a given bank shall be jointly and severally liable for the guarantee for such bank as required under section 38 and this subpart, and the Board may require and collect payment of the full amount of that guarantee from any or all of the companies issuing the guarantee.

(2) *Failure to provide guarantee.* In the event that a bank that is controlled by any company submits a capital restoration plan that does not contain the guarantee required under section 38(e) (2) of the FDI Act, the bank shall, upon submission of the plan, be subject to the provisions of section 38 and this subpart that are applicable to banks that have not submitted an acceptable capital restoration plan.

(3) *Failure to perform guarantee.* Failure by any company that controls a bank to perform fully its guarantee of any capital plan shall constitute a material failure to implement the plan for purposes of section 38(f) of the FDI Act. Upon such failure, the bank shall be subject to the provisions of section 38 and this subpart that are applicable to banks that have failed in a material respect to implement a capital restoration plan.

§208.35 Mandatory and discretionary supervisory actions under section 38.

(a) *Mandatory supervisory actions—(1) Provisions applicable to all banks.* All state member banks are subject to the restrictions contained in section 38(d) of the FDI Act on payment of capital distributions and management fees.

(2) *Provisions applicable to undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized, and critically undercapitalized banks.* Immediately upon receiving notice or being deemed to have notice, as provided in section §208.32 or section §208.34 of this subpart, that the bank is undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized, or critically undercapitalized, the bank shall become subject to the provisions of section 38 of the FDI Act:

(i) Restricting payment of capital distributions and management fees (section 38(d));

(ii) Requiring that the Board monitor the condition of the bank (section 38(e)(1));

(iii) Requiring submission of a capital restoration plan within the schedule established in this subpart (section 38(e)(2));

(iv) Restricting the growth of the bank's assets (section 38(e)(3)); and

(v) Requiring prior approval of certain expansion proposals (section 3(e)(4)).

(3) *Additional provisions applicable to significantly undercapitalized, and critically undercapitalized banks.* In addition to the provisions of section 38 of the FDI Act described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, immediately upon receiving notice or being deemed to have notice, as provided in §208.32 or §208.34 of this subpart, that the bank is significantly undercapitalized, or critically undercapitalized, or that the bank is subject to the provisions applicable to institutions that are significantly undercapitalized because the bank failed to submit or implement in any material respect an acceptable capital restoration plan, the bank shall become subject to the provisions of section 38 of the FDI Act that restrict compensation paid to senior executive officers of the institution (section 38(f)(4)).

(4) *Additional provisions applicable to critically undercapitalized banks.* In addition to the provisions of section 38 of the FDI Act described in paragraphs (a)(2) and (3) of this section, immediately upon receiving notice or being deemed to have notice, as provided in §208.32 of this subpart, that the bank is critically undercapitalized, the bank shall become subject to the provisions of section 38 of the FDI Act:

(i) Restricting the activities of the bank (section 38(h)(1)); and

(ii) Restricting payments on subordinated debt of the bank (section 38(h)(2)).

(b) *Discretionary supervisory actions.* In taking any action under section 38 that is within the Board's discretion to take in connection with: A state member bank that is deemed to be undercapitalized, significantly undercapital-

ized, or critically undercapitalized, or has been reclassified as undercapitalized, or significantly undercapitalized; an officer or director of such bank; or a company that controls such bank, the Board shall follow the procedures for issuing directives under §§263.202 and 263.204 of this chapter, unless otherwise provided in section 38 or this subpart.

Subpart C—Real Estate Lending Standards

SOURCE: 57 FR 62899, Dec. 31, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

§208.51 Purpose and scope.

This subpart, issued pursuant to section 304 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991, 12 U.S.C. 1828(o), prescribes standards for real estate lending to be used by state member banks in adopting internal real estate lending policies.

§208.52 Real estate lending standards.

(a) Each state bank that is a member of the Federal Reserve System shall adopt and maintain written policies that establish appropriate limits and standards for extensions of credit that are secured by liens on or interests in real estate, or that are made for the purpose of financing permanent improvements to real estate.

(b)(1) Real estate lending policies adopted pursuant to this section must:

(i) Be consistent with safe and sound banking practices;

(ii) Be appropriate to the size of the institution and the nature and scope of its operations; and

(iii) Be reviewed and approved by the bank's board of directors at least annually.

(2) The lending policies must establish:

(i) Loan portfolio diversification standards;

(ii) Prudent underwriting standards, including loan-to-value limits, that are clear and measurable;

(iii) Loan administration procedures for the bank's real estate portfolio; and

(iv) Documentation, approval, and reporting requirements to monitor compliance with the bank's real estate lending policies.

(c) Each state member bank must monitor conditions in the real estate market in its lending area to ensure that its real estate lending policies continue to be appropriate for current market conditions.

(d) The real estate lending policies adopted pursuant to this section should reflect consideration of the Interagency Guidelines for Real Estate Lending Policies established by the Federal bank and thrift supervisory agencies.

Subpart D—Standards for Safety and Soundness

§ 208.60 Standards for safety and soundness.

The Interagency Guidelines Establishing Standards for Safety and Soundness prescribed pursuant to section 39 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831p-1), as set forth as appendix D to this part apply to all state member banks.

[60 FR 35682, July 10, 1995]

Subpart E—Interpretations

§ 208.116 Sale of bank's money orders off premises as establishment of branch office.

(a) The Board of Governors has been asked to consider whether the appointment by a State member bank of an agent to sell the bank's money orders, at a location other than the premises of the bank, constitutes the establishment of a branch office.

(b) Section 5155 of the Revised Statutes (12 U.S.C. 36), which is also applicable to State member banks, defines the term *branch* as including "any branch bank, branch office, branch agency, additional office, or any branch place of business * * * at which deposits are received, or checks paid, or money lent." The basic question is whether the sale of a bank's money orders by an agent amounts to the receipt of *deposits* at a *branch place of business* within the meaning of this statute.

(c) Money orders are classified as deposits for certain purposes. However, they bear a strong resemblance to trav-

eler's checks that are issued by banks and sold off premises. In both cases, the purchaser does not intend to establish a deposit account in the bank, although a liability on the bank's part is created. Even though they result in a deposit liability, the Board is of the opinion that the issuance of a bank's money orders by an authorized agent does not involve the receipt of deposits at a "branch place of business" and accordingly does not require the Board's permission to establish a branch.

(d) Banks engaging in this practice should, of course, exercise the utmost discretion in choosing agents to sell the bank's money orders. It has been suggested that the agents be bonded, their authority be limited, and proceeds of the sales be remitted daily. Also the bank's blanket bond might be amended to provide protection if the present provisions are inadequate.

[30 FR 3525, Mar. 17, 1965]

§ 208.117 Mobile branches.

The Board of Governors was recently requested by a State member bank to approve the operation of mobile offices at designated out-of-town locations. These offices would be stationed at such locations on certain days and hours each week. Section 5155 of the Revised Statutes (12 U.S.C. 36), which is made applicable by section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act to the establishment of branches by State member banks, defines the term *branch* as any "place of business * * * at which deposits are received or checks paid, or money lent." Accordingly, the Board concluded that as each location would be a place of business at which some or all of such activities would be conducted, permission to establish branches was required. Such offices may only be approved by the Board when State statute permits branch banking at such locations. The approval of the State authorities had been obtained and the Board approved the establishment of branches at these locations.

[30 FR 14552, Nov. 23, 1965]

§ 208.122 Loan “Production Offices” as branches.

For text of interpretation relating to this subject, see § 250.141 of this chapter.

[33 FR 11812, Aug. 21, 1968]

§ 208.123 Loan production offices and “back office” facilities.

(a) *Scope.* The Board has considered two issues:

(1) Whether a state member bank may establish a “back office” facility that is not accessible to the public and is not visited by customers without such a facility being considered to be a branch of the bank; and

(2) Whether a loan production office will be considered to be a branch of the bank if it takes loan applications and performs related functions, but the loans are approved at locations other than an approved branch or main office of the bank and funds are not disbursed at the loan production office.

(b) *Authority.* State member banks are subject to the same limitations on branching as national banks. Federal Reserve Act, section 9, paragraph 3 (12 U.S.C. 321). Under the McFadden Act (44 Stat. 1228), national banks may establish branches within a state only at locations at which a state bank would be permitted to establish a branch. 12 U.S.C. 36(c). For the purposes of the McFadden Act, “branch” is defined to include “any branch bank, branch office, branch agency, additional office, or any branch place of business * * * at which deposits are received, or checks are paid, or money lent.” 12 U.S.C. 36(f). Interpreting the branching restrictions of the McFadden Act, the Supreme Court has stated that the purpose of the McFadden Act was to maintain competitive equality between national and state banks, and that the determination as to whether a facility was a branch must be based on the convenience of the customer, rather than on the technical or legal relationship between the customer and the bank. In later cases addressing automated teller machines, the courts generally have rejected arguments that money is lent at the time and place where a loan or line of credit is approved, and instead found that money is lent for the purposes of

the McFadden Act when the customer actually receives the funds and interest begins to run on the loan. *See, e.g., IBAA v. Smith*, 534 F.2d 921 (D.C. Cir. 1976).

(c) *Interpretation.* The Board previously had determined that an office engaged in preliminary or servicing functions is not lending money and therefore is not a “branch” for the purposes of the McFadden Act if the loans originated by the office are approved and the funds disbursed at the main office or an approved branch of the bank. *See* 12 CFR 250.141. Whether a loan production office should be considered to be a branch if loans originated by the office are approved at locations other than the main office or a branch of the bank depends on whether the location where loan approval takes place enhances the convenience to the customer and therefore provides a competitive advantage to the bank. Back office facilities that are not accessible to the public are not visited by customers and do not appear to provide customers of the bank with any greater level of convenience. From the point of view of a customer whose loan has been originated at a loan production office, there does not appear to be any difference in the convenience based on whether the loan is approved at the back office facility or at a branch of a bank, as it is unlikely that the customer will visit either location. Based on this analysis, the Board has concluded that a state member bank may establish a back office facility without such a facility being considered to be a branch for the purposes of the McFadden Act. The Board also has determined that loans originated by a loan production office may be approved at a back office location, rather than at the main office or a branch of the bank, without the loan production office being considered to be a branch, provided that the proceeds of loans originated by the loan production office are received by the customer at locations other than a loan production office or back office facility. This interpretation supersedes the Board’s prior interpretation, published at 12 CFR 250.141, as it applies to loan production offices.

[60 FR 17437, Apr. 6, 1995]

§ 208.124 Purchase of investment company stock by a state member bank.

(a) *Scope.* The Board of Governors has been asked whether a state member bank may purchase and hold for its own account stock of investment companies (mutual funds) whose portfolios consist entirely of securities that state member banks may purchase directly, and futures, forwards, options, repurchase agreements and securities lending contracts relating to those securities.

(b) *Investment authority.* The National Bank Act, 12 U.S.C. 24(7), provides that a national bank may purchase for its own account investment securities under such limits and restrictions as the Comptroller of the Currency may prescribe. The statute defines *investment securities* to mean marketable obligations evidencing indebtedness of any person, partnership, association, or corporation in the form of bonds, notes, and debentures. The Act further limits the holdings of securities of any one issuer to an amount equal to ten percent of the capital stock and surplus of the bank. These limits, however, do not apply to obligations issued by the United States, general obligations of any state or any political subdivision of any state, and to certain obligations of federal agencies. The restrictions of 12 U.S.C. 24(7) also apply to state member banks under 12 U.S.C. 335.

(c) *Authorization.* The Board has determined that a state member bank may purchase and hold for its own account stock of any investment company (including a money market mutual fund), subject to the following conditions:

(1) *Investment authority of the investment company.* The investment company may have authority, as stated in the investment objectives of its current prospectus, to invest in the following securities and no others: United States Treasury and agency obligations, general obligations of states and municipalities, corporate debt securities, and any other securities designated in 12 U.S.C. 24(7) as eligible for purchase by national banks that state member banks are authorized to purchase directly. The investment company may have authority, as stated in

the investment objectives of its current prospectus, to enter into futures, forwards and option contracts relating to the above securities when those futures, forwards and option contracts are to be used solely to reduce interest rate risk and not for speculation. The investment company may also have authority, as stated in the investment objectives of its current prospectus, to enter into repurchase agreements and securities lending contracts relating to the securities designated above if those contracts comply with policy statements adopted by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council. See 45 FR 18120 (Mar. 20, 1980) and Fed. Res. Reg. Svc. ¶¶ 3-1535, 3-1579.1, and 3-1579.5.

(2) *Limits on investment.* (i) If the portfolio of the investment company in which a state member bank may invest consists solely of obligations that the bank could purchase without restriction as to amount, or solely of those obligations and futures, forwards, options, repurchase agreements and securities lending contracts relating solely to those obligations, no express limit is placed on investment.

(ii) If the portfolio of the investment company in which a state member bank may invest includes any securities that the bank could purchase subject to a restriction as to amount, the pro-rata share of holdings of such securities of an issuer indirectly held by a state member bank through its holdings of investment company stock (including money market mutual funds), when aggregated with the direct investment in securities of that issuer by the bank, must not exceed the investment limit.

(3) *Registration of publicly offered investment company stock.* Except as provided in section (c)(4), investment company stock purchased by a state member bank must be of an investment company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and the Securities Act of 1933.

(4) *Privately offered fund.* The stock purchased may be of a privately offered fund if the sponsor of the fund is a subsidiary of a bank holding company, and if the stock of the fund is held solely

by subsidiaries of the bank holding company.

(5) *Proportionate and undivided interest.* The stock purchased must represent an equitable, equal, and proportionate undivided interest in the underlying assets of the investment company.

(6) *Stockholders shielded from liability.* The stockholders must be shielded from personal liability for acts and obligations of the investment company.

(7) *Bank investment policy and procedures.* (i) The investment policy of the bank, as formally approved by its board of directors, must specifically provide for investment in investment company stock. The investment policy must establish procedures, standards, and controls that relate specifically to investments in investment company stock.

(ii) Prior approval of the board of directors of the bank must be obtained for investment in a specific investment company and recorded in the official board minutes.

(iii) Unless the investment objectives of the investment companies, as stated in their current prospectuses, restrict investments to those obligations that the state member bank could purchase without restriction as to amount, the bank must review its holdings of investment company stock at least quarterly to ensure that investments have been made in accordance with established bank policies and legal requirements.

(8) *Reporting and accounting.* Reporting of holdings of investment company stock must be consistent with established standards for “marketable equity securities.” Accordingly, the instructions for the quarterly Reports of Condition and Income and the requirements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 12 must be followed.

(i) Holdings of investment company stock must be reported as “All other” securities on Schedule RC-B, Item 4(b) on the quarterly Reports of Condition, unless otherwise directed.

(ii) In no case may the carrying value of investment stock be increased above aggregate cost as a result of net unrealized gains. Holdings of investment company stock must be reported in the

Reports of Condition at the lower of their aggregate cost or aggregate market value, determined as of the report date.

(iii) Sales fees, both “front end load” and “deferred contingency,” must be deducted in calculating market value.

(iv) Any net unrealized loss or increase in a previously recorded net unrealized loss must be charged directly against “undivided profits and capital reserves.” Subsequent reductions of any net unrealized loss must be credited directly to “undivided profits and capital reserves.”

(v) A loss on an individual investment that is other than temporary, as that term is used for purposes of FASB Statement No. 12, must be charged to “noninterest expense” on Schedule RI of the Income Statement.

(d) *Evaluation of investment risk.* Investments in stock of investment companies and direct investments in debt securities are not treated the same for accounting, tax, and other purposes. Consequently, state member banks should evaluate investments in investment company stock in light of these differences and give special attention to the risks these differences impose.¹

(e) *No effect on state law.* This interpretation shall not be construed as exempting a state member bank from any provision of state law.

[54 FR 7181 Feb 17, 1989; 54 FR 10482, Mar. 13, 1989]

§208.125 Necessity for Board approval of stock dividend by State member bank.

(a) The opinion of the Board of Governors has been requested as to whether section 5199(b) of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended September 8, 1959 (12 U.S.C. 60), requires the Board’s approval for the declaration of a stock dividend by a State member bank in an amount which would exceed the total of net profits

¹The Board has issued a cautionary letter in conjunction with this interpretation. This letter recommends that a state member bank avoid undue concentration of investments in the stock of any fund or family of funds and appraises state member banks of the accounting and tax treatment of holding investment company stock. See Fed. Res. Reg. Svc. ¶3-416.16.

for the present year combined with the retained net profits of the preceding 2 years. This statute is made applicable to State member banks by the sixth paragraph of section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 324).

(b) The purpose of this provision is to prevent the depletion of the capital structure of a bank by the payment of excessive dividends. Since a stock dividend does not result in the distribution of cash or assets, the Board does not consider the term *dividend* in this statute as including stock dividends. Consequently, the Board's approval for the declaration of a stock dividend is not required.

(12 U.S.C. 60)

[33 FR 9866, July 10, 1968. Redesignated at 55 FR 52987, Dec. 26, 1990]

§ 208.126 Payment of dividends; effect of net losses.

(a) Section 5199(b) of the Revised Statutes (12 U.S.C. 60), as amended in 1959: *Provides*, That:

The approval of the Comptroller of the Currency shall be required if the total of all dividends declared by [a national bank] in any calendar year shall exceed the total of its net profits of that year combined with its retained net profits of the preceding 2 years * * *

Under the sixth paragraph of section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 324), member State banks are required "to conform to the provisions of section 5199(b) * * * with respect to the payment of dividends", except that the approval of the Board of Governors is required in lieu of the approval of the Comptroller.

(b) The question has arisen whether it is necessary in determining whether a bank's dividends in a particular year "exceed the total of its net profits of that year combined with its retained net profits of the preceding two years", to take into consideration the amount of a net loss in the current year or in one or both of the preceding 2 years.

(c) The purpose of the 1959 amendment of section 5199(b) was to prevent a bank from paying a dividend (except with supervisory approval) unless it has on hand, from operations during the 3 latest years, sufficient net profits to cover the proposed dividend. If a net

loss for one or more of those 3 years was disregarded in making the calculation called for by section 5199(b), a member State bank could pay dividends, without the approval of the Board of Governors, even though the aggregate results of the 3 latest years' operations was a net deficit. This was precisely the sort of situation in which Congress intended to prevent the payment of a dividend unless the supervisory authority was satisfied that special circumstances justified the proposed dividend.

(d) Accordingly, it is the position of the Board that, in making the calculation required by section 5199(b), it is necessary to take into consideration the actual results of operations during the current year and the 2 preceding years, whether the figures for those years are plus or minus figures. For example, if a bank had

(1) Retained net profits of \$30,000 from 1959;

(2) A net loss of \$40,000 in 1960 (and dividends of \$10,000 were paid in that year, with the Board's approval); and

(3) Net profits of \$20,000 in 1961,

It could not pay any dividend in 1961 without the Board's approval, since the calculation required by section 5199(b) would result in a zero figure (\$30,000 minus \$50,000 plus \$20,000). It will be noted that, for the purposes of section 5199, any dividends paid in a loss year must be included in the "net loss" for that year, just as dividends paid in a profitable year must be deducted from "net profits" in calculating "retained net profits".

(12 U.S.C. 60)

[33 FR 9866, July 10, 1968. Redesignated at 55 FR 52987, Dec. 26, 1990]

§ 208.127 Payment of dividends exceeding net profits to date of declaration.

(a) Section 5199(b) of the Revised Statutes of the United States (12 U.S.C. 60) and the sixth paragraph of section 9 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 324), provide in effect that "the approval of the Comptroller of the Currency (or the Board of Governors) shall be required if the total of all dividends declared by such association (a national bank or a member State bank) in any calendar year shall exceed the

total of its net profits of that year combined with its retained net profits of the preceding two years.”

(b) The question has been presented whether the Board’s approval must be obtained when the amount of a dividend proposed to be declared by a member State bank, prior to the end of the calendar year, would exceed the total of the bank’s net profits up to the date of the declaration, combined with its retained net profits of the preceding 2 years.

(c) If the question related only to the literal meaning of words, divorced from the statute’s underlying purpose and from the factual situations to which it relates, it might be contended that since the statute refers to “all dividends declared * * * in any calendar year” and “the total of its net profits of that year”, its applicability cannot be determined until the calendar year is completed. As explained below, however, such an interpretation is not required by the language of the statute and would substantially defeat its purpose, as revealed by the legislative history; and consequently it is believed that the statute should be construed as relating to dividends declared, and to net profits, in the calendar year up to the date of such declaration.

(d) The purpose of the statute was described as follows by the Senate Banking Committee:

This provision is designed to restrict the payment of dividends * * * where such payments would result in dissipating needed capital funds. This provision strengthens the regulatory authority of the Comptroller [and the Board of Governors]. Under it, he will be able to prevent the declaration of dividends which are not justified by current and recent accumulated earnings, and which would result in a weakened and undercapitalized bank and violate safe and sound banking practice.

(S. Rep. No. 730, 86th Cong. (Aug. 19, 1959), pp. 6-7)

(1) It seems that Congress had in mind the following test: At the time the dividend is declared, does the bank have available, from profits of the current calendar year and the 2 preceding calendar years, enough profits to cover the dividend? If not, the dividend may not be declared and paid unless the Comptroller or the Board of Governors

specifically approves, in view of the circumstances of the particular case.

(2) Bearing in mind the Senate Committee’s reference to “dissipating needed capital funds,” it is obvious that the danger that a proposed dividend would unduly weaken a bank’s capital structure is just as great if the dividend is declared in June as if it is declared in December. If a bank does not have profits on hand sufficient to cover a proposed dividend, the fact that the declaration is made in 1 month rather than in another has little or no bearing on the extent to which payment of the dividend may unduly diminish the capital “cushion” on which depend the bank’s continued existence and the safety of its depositors.

(e) An illustration may be helpful. For simplicity, let us assume that a member State bank opened for business on January 1, 1959, with a capital structure of \$300,000, as required by the supervisory authorities. The bank had no net profit in 1959 or 1960. Up to June 30, 1961, it still has no net profits, but nevertheless the directors declare a dividend of \$20,000 on that date. The bank’s capital structure is thereby reduced from \$300,000 to \$280,000. It seems that this was precisely what Congress intended should not happen unless the Board of Governors approved the dividend, for adequate reasons. An undesirable situation would exist, and the Congressional purpose would be defeated, if such a weakening of the bank’s capital structure were permissible if the dividend was declared and paid (without supervisory approval) in June, whereas the same action would involve a violation of the statute if the dividend was declared and paid, instead, in December. This might actually mean that no violation of section 5199(b) could occur except with respect to end-of-year dividends—unless, perhaps, it could be established that the bank’s directors, when they declared the dividend earlier in the year, knew (or had reason to believe) that the bank’s net profits for the entire year would not be sufficient.

(f) The statutory reference to “all dividends declared * * * in any calendar year” can be interpreted, even from the viewpoint of literal meaning, as referring to dividends declared in a

calendar year up to the date of declaration. Particularly because the clear Congressional purpose would otherwise be largely defeated, it is concluded that this is the correct interpretation and that, consequently, the declaration by the member State bank, without the Board's approval, of a dividend in the amount of \$20,000 would be in violation of the applicable statutes, since the amount of that dividend would exceed "the total of (the bank's) net profits of that year combined with its retained net profits of the preceding two years."

(12 U.S.C. 60)

[33 FR 9866, July 10, 1968. Redesignated at 55 FR 52987, Dec. 26, 1990]

§208.128 Commodity- or equity-linked transactions.

(a) State-chartered banks that are members of the Federal Reserve System are required to obtain the approval of the Board under Regulation H (Membership of State Banking Institutions in the Federal Reserve System) before permitting any change to be made in the general character of their business or in the scope of the corporate powers they exercised at the time of admission to membership. The Board has considered whether engaging in transactions linked to commodity or equity security prices or indices would represent a change in the general character of the business of a state member bank.

(b) Banking organizations have developed a number of commodity- or equity-linked transactions in which a portion of the return is linked to the price of a particular commodity or equity security or to an index of such prices. These transactions have been offered in a variety of forms, including commodity-indexed deposits, loans, debt issues, and derivative products, such as forwards, options, and swaps. In these transactions, the interest, principal, or both, or payment streams in the case of swaps, are linked to the price of a commodity. In addition, banks are also entering into exchange-traded commodity or stock-index futures and options in order to hedge the exposure inherent in these transactions. These types of transactions have been linked to a variety of commodities, including gold, oil, alu-

minum, and copper, as well as individual securities and stock indices.

(c) With the exception of gold, silver, and, in some cases, platinum, banks are not empowered to purchase or hold the commodities or equity securities that underlie these transactions. Although commodity-linked transactions settle only in cash, they effectively expose banks to commodity or equity market price risks. Thus, linking payments to commodities or equities may present risks with which banks generally are not familiar, and the inability of the bank to purchase the commodity or equity security to which a transaction is linked may increase the difficulty of hedging the exposure created by such transactions.

(d) The Board has determined that engaging in transactions linked to commodities or securities that a state member bank does not have the authority to purchase and hold directly should generally be considered a change in the character of the bank's business unless the transactions are entered into on a perfectly matched basis.¹ State member banks that wish to engage in commodity- or equity-linked transactions that are considered to be a change in the general character of their business should obtain Board approval before initiating these transactions or, in the case of activities commenced prior to the adoption of this interpretation, to continue such activities. Applications to continue such activities should be submitted on or before February 3, 1992.

(e) Transactions linked to securities or monetary metals that a state member bank is authorized to purchase and

¹The term *perfectly matched*, as used in this interpretation refers to transactions that are entered into on a matched basis, that is, offsetting transactions where the counterparties for both transactions have been found before the bank enters into either transaction and the transactions are consummated on the same day. Offsetting transactions include transactions that have a price differential to provide the bank with its usual and customary fee or commission for its services. The exemption from prior approval for perfectly matched transactions would include mirror image equity swaps executed by a state member bank with any affiliate that is authorized under Regulation K to engage in equity swaps.

hold directly will not be considered to be a change in the general nature of the bank's business, and approval will not be required.² Additionally, approval will not be required for a state member bank to offer loan or deposit contracts in which only the interest portion of the return is linked to a commodity or security even if the bank is not authorized to hold the commodity or security.

(f) Applications to engage in commodity-related activities should outline the types of transactions and scope of activities that the bank plans to undertake. The application also should demonstrate that the bank has the expertise to engage in such transactions and has developed adequate policies and controls to govern the conduct of these activities and to monitor the associated risks.

(g) Recent revisions to Regulation K (International Banking Operations) permit bank holding company subsidiaries, Edge and agreement corporations, and member banks to act as principal or agent outside of the United States in swap transactions, subject to any limitations applicable to state member banks under Regulation H. Banking organizations that wish to engage in swap transactions based on commodities that the organizations do not have the authority to purchase directly, therefore, must submit applications under Regulation K in order to engage in such transactions. Because Regulation K provides separate authority to engage outside of the United States in swap transactions based on equity securities or indices, approval of these transactions is not required.

[56 FR 63407, Dec. 4, 1991]

§ 208.129 Obligations concerning institutional customers.

(a) As a result of broadened authority provided by the Government Securities Act Amendments of 1993 (15 U.S.C. 78o-3 and 78o-5), the Board is adopting sales practice rules for the government secu-

²Gold and silver are the only commodities that banks generally have authority to purchase. In states where banks have authority to deal in platinum, transactions linked to platinum will not be considered a change in the general nature of the business of a bank.

rities market, a market with a particularly broad institutional component. Accordingly, the Board believes it is appropriate to provide further guidance to banks on their suitability obligations when making recommendations to institutional customers.

(b) The Board's Suitability Rule, § 208.25(d), is fundamental to fair dealing and is intended to promote ethical sales practices and high standards of professional conduct. Banks' responsibilities include having a reasonable basis for recommending a particular security or strategy, as well as having reasonable grounds for believing the recommendation is suitable for the customer to whom it is made. Banks are expected to meet the same high standards of competence, professionalism, and good faith regardless of the financial circumstances of the customer.

(c) In recommending to a customer the purchase, sale, or exchange of any government security, the bank shall have reasonable grounds for believing that the recommendation is suitable for the customer upon the basis of the facts, if any, disclosed by the customer as to the customer's other security holdings and financial situation and needs.

(d) The interpretation in this section concerns only the manner in which a bank determines that a recommendation is suitable for a particular institutional customer. The manner in which a bank fulfills this suitability obligation will vary, depending on the nature of the customer and the specific transaction. Accordingly, the interpretation in this section deals only with guidance regarding how a bank may fulfill customer-specific suitability obligations under § 208.25(d).¹

(e) While it is difficult to define in advance the scope of a bank's suitability obligation with respect to a specific institutional customer transaction recommended by a bank, the

¹The interpretation in this section does not address the obligation related to suitability that requires that a bank have " * * * a 'reasonable basis' to believe that the recommendation could be suitable for at least some customers." *In the Matter of the Application of F.J. Kaufman and Company of Virginia and Frederick J. Kaufman, Jr.*, 50 SEC 164 (1989).

Board has identified certain factors that may be relevant when considering compliance with §208.25(d). These factors are not intended to be requirements or the only factors to be considered but are offered merely as guidance in determining the scope of a bank's suitability obligations.

(f) The two most important considerations in determining the scope of a bank's suitability obligations in making recommendations to an institutional customer are the customer's capability to evaluate investment risk independently and the extent to which the customer is exercising independent judgement in evaluating a bank's recommendation. A bank must determine, based on the information available to it, the customer's capability to evaluate investment risk. In some cases, the bank may conclude that the customer is not capable of making independent investment decisions in general. In other cases, the institutional customer may have general capability, but may not be able to understand a particular type of instrument or its risk. This is more likely to arise with relatively new types of instruments, or those with significantly different risk or volatility characteristics than other investments generally made by the institution. If a customer is either generally not capable of evaluating investment risk or lacks sufficient capability to evaluate the particular product, the scope of a bank's customer-specific obligations under §208.25(d) would not be diminished by the fact that the bank was dealing with an institutional customer. On the other hand, the fact that a customer initially needed help understanding a potential investment need not necessarily imply that the customer did not ultimately develop an understanding and make an independent investment decision.

(g) A bank may conclude that a customer is exercising independent judgement if the customer's investment decision will be based on its own independent assessment of the opportunities and risks presented by a potential investment, market factors and other investment considerations. Where the bank has reasonable grounds for concluding that the institutional customer is making independent investment de-

isions and is capable of independently evaluating investment risk, then a bank's obligations under §208.25(d) for a particular customer are fulfilled.² Where a customer has delegated decision-making authority to an agent, such as an investment advisor or a bank trust department, the interpretation in this section shall be applied to the agent.

(h) A determination of capability to evaluate investment risk independently will depend on an examination of the customer's capability to make its own investment decisions, including the resources available to the customer to make informed decisions. Relevant considerations could include:

(1) The use of one or more consultants, investment advisers, or bank trust departments;

(2) The general level of experience of the institutional customer in financial markets and specific experience with the type of instruments under consideration;

(3) The customer's ability to understand the economic features of the security involved;

(4) The customer's ability to independently evaluate how market developments would affect the security; and

(5) The complexity of the security or securities involved.

(i) A determination that a customer is making independent investment decisions will depend on the nature of the relationship that exists between the bank and the customer. Relevant considerations could include:

(1) Any written or oral understanding that exists between the bank and the customer regarding the nature of the relationship between the bank and the customer and the services to be rendered by the bank;

(2) The presence or absence of a pattern of acceptance of the bank's recommendations;

(3) The use by the customer of ideas, suggestions, market views and information obtained from other government securities brokers or dealers or market professionals, particularly those relating to the same type of securities; and

²See footnote 1 in paragraph (d) of this section.

(4) The extent to which the bank has received from the customer current comprehensive portfolio information in connection with discussing recommended transactions or has not been provided important information regarding its portfolio or investment objectives.

(j) Banks are reminded that these factors are merely guidelines that will be utilized to determine whether a bank has fulfilled its suitability obligation with respect to a specific institutional customer transaction and that the inclusion or absence of any of these factors is not dispositive of the determination of suitability. Such a determination can only be made on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration all the facts and circumstances of a particular bank/customer relationship, assessed in the context of a particular transaction.

(k) For purposes of the interpretation in this section, an institutional customer shall be any entity other than a natural person. In determining the applicability of the interpretation in this section to an institutional customer, the Board will consider the dollar value of the securities that the institutional customer has in its portfolio and/or under management. While the interpretation in this section is potentially applicable to any institutional customer, the guidance contained in this section is more appropriately applied to an institutional customer with at least \$10 million invested in securities in the aggregate in its portfolio and/or under management.

[Reg. H, 62 FR 13285, Mar. 19, 1997, as amended at 62 FR 15601, Apr. 2, 1997]

APPENDIX A TO PART 208—CAPITAL ADEQUACY GUIDELINES FOR STATE MEMBER BANKS: RISK-BASED MEASURE

I. Overview

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System has adopted a risk-based capital measure to assist in the assessment of the capital adequacy of state member banks.¹ The principal objectives of this

¹Supervisory ratios that relate capital to total assets for state member banks are outlined in appendix B of this part and in appendix B to part 225 of the Federal Reserve's Regulation Y, 12 CFR part 225.

measure are to: (i) Make regulatory capital requirements more sensitive to differences in risk profiles among banks; (ii) factor off-balance sheet exposures into the assessment of capital adequacy; (iii) minimize disincentives to holding liquid, low-risk assets; and (iv) achieve greater consistency in the evaluation of the capital adequacy of major banks throughout the world.²

The risk-based capital guidelines include both a definition of capital and a framework for calculating weighted risk assets by assigning assets and off-balance sheet items to broad risk categories. A bank's risk-based capital ratio is calculated by dividing its qualifying capital (the numerator of the ratio) by its weighted risk assets (the denominator).³ The definition of qualifying capital is outlined below in section II, and the procedures for calculating weighted risk assets are discussed in Section III. Attachment I illustrates a sample calculation of weighted risk assets and the risk-based capital ratio.

In addition, when certain banks that engage in trading activities calculate their risk-based capital ratio under this appendix A, they must also refer to appendix E of this part, which incorporates capital charges for certain market risks into the risk-based capital ratio. When calculating their risk-based capital ratio under this appendix A, such banks are required to refer to appendix E of this part for supplemental rules to determine qualifying and excess capital, calculate risk-weighted assets, calculate market risk equivalent assets, and calculate risk-based capital ratios adjusted for market risk.

The risk-based capital guidelines also establish a schedule for achieving a minimum supervisory standard for the ratio of qualifying capital to weighted risk assets and provide for transitional arrangements during a phase-in period to facilitate adoption and implementation of the measure at the end of

²The risk-based capital measure is based upon a framework developed jointly by supervisory authorities from the countries represented on the Basle Committee on Banking Regulations and Supervisory Practices (Basle Supervisors' Committee) and endorsed by the Group of Ten Central Bank Governors. The framework is described in a paper prepared by the BSC entitled "International Convergence of Capital Measurement," July 1988.

³Banks will initially be expected to utilize period-end amounts in calculating their risk-based capital ratios. When necessary and appropriate, ratios based on average balances may also be calculated on a case-by-case basis. Moreover, to the extent banks have data on average balances that can be used to calculate risk-based ratios, the Federal Reserve will take such data into account.

1992. These interim standards and transitional arrangements are set forth in section IV.

The risk-based guidelines apply to all state member banks on a consolidated basis. They are to be used in the examination and supervisory process as well as in the analysis of applications acted upon by the Federal Reserve. Thus, in considering an application filed by a state member bank, the Federal Reserve will take into account the bank's risk-based capital ratio, the reasonableness of its capital plans, and the degree of progress it has demonstrated toward meeting the interim and final risk-based capital standards.

The risk-based capital ratio focuses principally on broad categories of credit risk, although the framework for assigning assets and off-balance-sheet items to risk categories does incorporate elements of transfer risk, as well as limited instances of interest rate and market risk. The framework incorporates risks arising from traditional banking activities as well as risks arising from nontraditional activities. The risk-based ratio does not, however, incorporate other factors that can affect an institution's financial condition. These factors include overall interest-rate exposure; liquidity, funding and market risks; the quality and level of earnings; investment, loan portfolio, and other concentrations of credit; certain risks arising from nontraditional activities; the quality of loans and investments; the effectiveness of loan and investment policies; and management's overall ability to monitor and control financial and operating risks, including the risks presented by concentrations of credit and nontraditional activities.

In addition to evaluating capital ratios, an overall assessment of capital adequacy must take account of those factors, including, in particular, the level and severity of problem and classified assets as well as a bank's exposure to declines in the economic value of its capital due to changes in interest rates. For this reason, the final supervisory judgment on a bank's capital adequacy may differ significantly from conclusions that might be drawn solely from the level of its risk-based capital ratio.

The risk-based capital guidelines establish *minimum* ratios of capital to weighted risk assets. In light of the considerations just discussed, banks generally are expected to operate well above the minimum risk-based ratios. In particular, banks contemplating significant expansion proposals are expected to maintain strong capital levels substantially above the minimum ratios and should not allow significant diminution of financial strength below these strong levels to fund their expansion plans. Institutions with high or inordinate levels of risk are also expected to operate well above minimum capital standards. In all cases, institutions should

hold capital commensurate with the level and nature of the risks to which they are exposed. Banks that do not meet the minimum risk-based standard, or that are otherwise considered to be inadequately capitalized, are expected to develop and implement plans acceptable to the Federal Reserve for achieving adequate levels of capital within a reasonable period of time.

The Board will monitor the implementation and effect of these guidelines in relation to domestic and international developments in the banking industry. When necessary and appropriate, the Board will consider the need to modify the guidelines in light of any significant changes in the economy, financial markets, banking practices, or other relevant factors.

II. Definition of Qualifying Capital for the Risk-Based Capital Ratio

A bank's qualifying total capital consists of two types of capital components: "core capital elements" (comprising Tier 1 capital) and "supplementary capital elements" (comprising Tier 2 capital). These capital elements and the various limits, restrictions, and deductions to which they are subject, are discussed below and are set forth in Attachment II.

To qualify as an element of Tier 1 or Tier 2 capital, a capital instrument may not contain or be covered by any covenants, terms, or restrictions that are inconsistent with safe and sound banking practices.

Redemptions of permanent equity or other capital instruments before stated maturity could have a significant impact on a bank's overall capital structure. Consequently, a bank considering such a step should consult with the Federal Reserve before redeeming any equity or debt capital instrument (prior to maturity) if such redemption could have a material effect on the level or composition of the institution's capital base.⁴

A. The Components of Qualifying Capital

1. *Core capital elements (Tier 1 capital).* The Tier 1 component of a bank's qualifying capital must represent at least 50 percent of qualifying total capital and may consist of the following items that are defined as core capital elements:

- (i) Common stockholders' equity.
- (ii) Qualifying noncumulative perpetual preferred stock (including related surplus).
- (iii) Minority interest in the equity accounts of consolidated subsidiaries.

⁴Consultation would not ordinarily be necessary if an instrument were redeemed with the proceeds of, or replaced by, a like amount of a similar or higher quality capital instrument and the organization's capital position is considered fully adequate by the Federal Reserve.

Tier 1 capital is generally defined as the sum of core capital elements⁵ less goodwill and other intangible assets required to be deducted in accordance with section II.B.1.b. of this appendix.

a. *Common stockholders' equity.* For purposes of calculating the risk-based capital ratio, common stockholders' equity is limited to common stock; related surplus; and retained earnings, including capital reserves and adjustments for the cumulative effect of foreign currency translation, net of any treasury stock; less net unrealized holding losses on available-for-sale equity securities with readily determinable fair values. For this purpose, net unrealized holding gains on such equity securities and net unrealized holding gains (losses) on available-for-sale debt securities are not included in common stockholders' equity.

b. *Perpetual preferred stock.* Perpetual preferred stock is defined as preferred stock that does not have a maturity date, that cannot be redeemed at the option of the holder of the instrument, and that has no other provisions that will require future redemption of the issue. Consistent with these provisions, any perpetual preferred stock with a feature permitting redemption at the option of the issuer may qualify as capital only if the redemption is subject to prior approval of the Federal Reserve. In general, preferred stock will qualify for inclusion in capital only if it can absorb losses while the issuer operates as a going concern (a fundamental characteristic of equity capital) and only if the issuer has the ability and legal right to defer or eliminate preferred dividends.

The only form of perpetual preferred stock that state member banks may consider as an element of Tier 1 capital is noncumulative perpetual preferred. While the guidelines allow for the inclusion of noncumulative perpetual preferred stock in Tier 1, it is desirable from a supervisory standpoint that voting common stockholders' equity remain the dominant form of Tier 1 capital. Thus, state member banks should avoid overreliance on preferred stock or non-voting equity elements within Tier 1.

Perpetual preferred stock in which the dividend is reset periodically based, in whole or in part, upon the bank's current credit standing (that is, auction rate perpetual preferred stock, including so-called Dutch auction, money market, and remarketable preferred) will not qualify for inclusion in Tier

⁵During the transition period and subject to certain limitations set forth in section IV below, Tier 1 capital may also include items defined as supplementary capital elements.

⁶[Reserved]

1 capital.⁷ Such instruments, however, qualify for inclusion in Tier 2 capital.

c. *Minority interest in equity accounts of consolidated subsidiaries.* This element is included in Tier 1 because, as a general rule, it represents equity that is freely available to absorb losses in operating subsidiaries. While not subject to an explicit sublimit within Tier 1, banks are expected to avoid using minority interest in the equity accounts of consolidated subsidiaries as an avenue for introducing into their capital structures elements that might not otherwise qualify as Tier 1 capital or that would, in effect, result in an excessive reliance on preferred stock within Tier 1.

2. *Supplementary capital elements (Tier 2 capital).* The Tier 2 component of a bank's qualifying total capital may consist of the following items that are defined as supplementary capital elements:

(i) Allowance for loan and lease losses (subject to limitations discussed below).

(ii) Perpetual preferred stock and related surplus (subject to conditions discussed below).

(iii) Hybrid capital instruments (as defined below) and mandatory convertible debt securities.

(iv) Term subordinated debt and intermediate-term preferred stock, including related surplus (subject to limitations discussed below).

The maximum amount of Tier 2 capital that may be included in a bank's qualifying total capital is limited to 100 percent of Tier 1 capital (net of goodwill and other intangible assets required to be deducted in accordance with section II.B.1.b. of this appendix).

The elements of supplementary capital are discussed in greater detail below.⁸

⁷Adjustable rate noncumulative perpetual preferred stock (that is, perpetual preferred stock in which the dividend rate is not affected by the issuer's credit standing or financial condition but is adjusted periodically according to a formula based solely on general market interest rates) may be included in Tier 1.

⁸The Basle capital framework also provides for the inclusion of "undisclosed reserves" in Tier 2. As defined in the framework, undisclosed reserves represent accumulated after-tax retained earnings that are not disclosed on the balance sheet of a bank. Apart from the fact that these reserves are not disclosed publicly, they are essentially of the same quality and character as retained earnings, and, to be included in capital, such reserves must be accepted by the bank's home supervisor. Although such undisclosed reserves are common in some countries, under generally accepted accounting

a. *Allowance for loan and lease losses.* Allowances for loan and lease losses are reserves that have been established through a charge against earnings to absorb future losses on loans or lease financing receivables. Allowances for loan and lease losses exclude "allocated transfer risk reserves,"⁹ and reserves created against identified losses.

During the transition period, the risk-based capital guidelines provide for reducing the amount of this allowance that may be included in an institution's total capital. Initially, it is unlimited. However, by year-end 1990, the amount of the allowance for loan and lease losses that will qualify as capital will be limited to 1.5 percent of an institution's weighted risk assets. By the end of the transition period, the amount of the allowance qualifying for inclusion in Tier 2 capital may not exceed 1.25 percent of weighted risk assets.¹⁰

b. *Perpetual preferred stock.* Perpetual preferred stock, as noted above, is defined as preferred stock that has no maturity date, that cannot be redeemed at the option of the holder, and that has no other provisions that will require future redemption of the issue. Such instruments are eligible for inclusion in Tier 2 capital without limit.¹¹

c. *Hybrid capital instruments and mandatory convertible debt securities.* Hybrid capital instruments include instruments that are es-

principles (GAAP) and long-standing supervisory practice, these types of reserves are not recognized for state member banks.

⁹Allocated transfer risk reserves are reserves that have been established in accordance with Section 905(a) of the International Lending Supervision Act of 1983, 12 U.S.C. 3904(a), against certain assets whose value U.S. supervisory authorities have found to be significantly impaired by protracted transfer risk problems.

¹⁰The amount of the allowance for loan and lease losses that may be included in Tier 2 capital is based on a percentage of gross weighted risk assets. A bank may deduct reserves for loan and lease losses in excess of the amount permitted to be included in Tier 2 capital, as well as allocated transfer risk reserves, from the sum of gross weighted risk assets and use the resulting net sum of weighted risk assets in computing the denominator of the risk-based capital ratio.

¹¹Long-term preferred stock with an original maturity of 20 years or more (including related surplus) will also qualify in this category as an element of Tier 2. If the holder of such an instrument has a right to require the issuer to redeem, repay, or repurchase the instrument prior to the original stated maturity, maturity would be defined, for risk-based capital purposes, as the earliest possible date on which the holder can put the instrument back to the issuing bank.

entially permanent in nature and that have certain characteristics of both equity and debt. Such instruments may be included in Tier 2 without limit. The general criteria hybrid capital instruments must meet in order to qualify for inclusion in Tier 2 capital are listed below:

(1) The instrument must be unsecured; fully paid-up; and subordinated to general creditors and must also be subordinated to claims of depositors.

(2) The instrument must not be redeemable at the option of the holder prior to maturity, except with the prior approval of the Federal Reserve. (Consistent with the Board's criteria for perpetual debt and mandatory convertible securities, this requirement implies that holders of such instruments may not accelerate the payment of principal except in the event of bankruptcy, insolvency, or reorganization.)

(3) The instrument must be available to participate in losses while the issuer is operating as a going concern. (Term subordinated debt would not meet this requirement.) To satisfy this requirement, the instrument must convert to common or perpetual preferred stock in the event that the accumulated losses exceed the sum of the retained earnings and capital surplus accounts of the issuer.

(4) The instrument must provide the option for the issuer to defer interest payments if: (a) The issuer does not report a profit in the preceding annual period (defined as combined profits for the most recent four quarters), and (b) the issuer eliminates cash dividends on common and preferred stock.

Mandatory convertible debt securities in the form of equity contract notes that meet the criteria set forth in 12 CFR part 225, appendix B, also qualify as unlimited elements of Tier 2 capital. In accordance with that appendix, equity commitment notes issued prior to May 15, 1985 also qualify for inclusion in Tier 2.

d. *Subordinated debt and intermediate term preferred stock.* The aggregate amount of term subordinated debt (excluding mandatory convertible debt) and intermediate-term preferred stock that may be treated as supplementary capital is limited to 50 percent of Tier 1 capital (net of goodwill and other intangible assets required to be deducted in accordance with section II.B.1.b. of this appendix). Amounts in excess of these limits may be issued and, while not included in the ratio calculation, will be taken into account in the overall assessment of a bank's funding and financial condition.

Subordinated debt and intermediate-term preferred stock must have an original weighted average maturity of at least five years to qualify as supplementary capital. (If the holder has the option to require the issuer to redeem, repay, or repurchase the

instrument prior to the original stated maturity, maturity would be defined, for risk-based capital purposes, as the earliest possible date on which the holder can put the instrument back to the issuing bank.)

In the case of subordinated debt, the instrument must be unsecured and must clearly state on its face that it is not a deposit and is not insured by a Federal agency. To qualify as capital in banks, debt must be subordinated to general creditors and claims of depositors. Consistent with current regulatory requirements, if a state member bank wishes to redeem subordinated debt before the stated maturity, it must receive prior approval of the Federal Reserve.

e. *Discount of supplementary capital instruments.* As a limited-life capital instrument approaches maturity it begins to take on characteristics of a short-term obligation. For this reason, the outstanding amount of term subordinated debt and any long- or intermediate-life, or term, preferred stock eligible for inclusion in Tier 2 is reduced, or discounted, as these instruments approach maturity: one-fifth of the original amount, less any redemptions, is excluded each year during the instrument's last five years before maturity.¹²

f. *Revaluation reserves.* i. Such reserves reflect the formal balance sheet restatement or revaluation for capital purposes of asset carrying values to reflect current market values. The federal banking agencies generally have not included unrealized asset appreciation in capital ratio calculations, although they have long taken such values into account as a separate factor in assessing the overall financial strength of a bank.

ii. Consistent with long-standing supervisory practice, the excess of market values over book values for assets held by state member banks will generally not be recognized in supplementary capital or in the calculation of the risk-based capital ratio. However, all banks are encouraged to disclose their equivalent of premises (building) and security revaluation reserves. The Federal

¹²For example, outstanding amounts of these instruments that count as supplementary capital include: 100 percent of the outstanding amounts with remaining maturities of more than five years; 80 percent of outstanding amounts with remaining maturities of four to five years; 60 percent of outstanding amounts with remaining maturities of three to four years; 40 percent of outstanding amounts with remaining maturities of two to three years; 20 percent of outstanding amounts with remaining maturities of one to two years; and 0 percent of outstanding amounts with remaining maturities of less than one year. Such instruments with a remaining maturity of less than one year are excluded from Tier 2 capital.

Reserve will consider any appreciation, as well as any depreciation, in specific asset values as additional considerations in assessing overall capital strength and financial condition.

B. DEDUCTIONS FROM CAPITAL AND OTHER ADJUSTMENTS

Certain assets are deducted from a bank's capital for the purpose of calculating the risk-based capital ratio.¹³ These assets include:

(i)(a) Goodwill—deducted from the sum of core capital elements.

(b) Certain identifiable intangible assets, that is, intangible assets other than goodwill—deducted from the sum of core capital elements in accordance with section II.B.1.b. of this appendix.

(i) Investments in banking and finance subsidiaries that are not consolidated for accounting or supervisory purposes and, on a case-by-case basis, investments in other designated subsidiaries or associated companies at the discretion of the Federal Reserve—deducted from total capital components.

(iii) Reciprocal holdings of capital instruments of banking organizations—deducted from total capital components.

(iv) Deferred tax assets—portions are deducted from the sum of core capital elements in accordance with section II.B.4. of this Appendix A.

1. *Goodwill and other intangible assets.—a. Goodwill.* Goodwill in an intangible asset that represents the excess of the purchase price over the fair market value of identifiable assets acquired less liabilities assumed in acquisitions accounted for under the purchase method of accounting. State member banks generally have not been allowed to include goodwill in regulatory capital under current supervisory policies. Consistent with this policy, all goodwill in state member banks will be deducted from Tier 1 capital.

b. *Other intangible assets.* i. The only types of identifiable intangible assets that may be included in, that is, not deducted from, a bank's capital are readily marketable mortgage servicing rights and purchased credit card relationships, provided that, in the aggregate, the total amount of these assets included in capital does not exceed 50 percent of tier 1 capital. Purchased credit card relationships are subject to a separate sublimit of 25 percent of tier 1 capital.¹⁴

¹³Any assets deducted from capital in computing the numerator of the ratio are not included in weighted risk assets in computing the denominator of the ratio.

¹⁴Amounts of mortgage servicing rights and purchased credit card relationships in excess of these limitations, as well as all other identifiable intangible assets, including core deposit intangibles and favorable

ii. For purposes of calculating these limitations on mortgage servicing rights and purchased credit card relationships, tier 1 capital is defined as the sum of core capital elements, net of goodwill and all identifiable intangible assets other than mortgage servicing rights and purchased credit card relationships, regardless of the date acquired. This method of calculation could result in mortgage servicing rights and purchased credit card relationships being included in capital in an amount greater than 50 percent—or in purchased credit card relationships being included in an amount greater than 25 percent—of the amount of tier 1 capital used to calculate an institution's capital ratios. In such instances, the Federal Reserve may determine that a bank is operating in an unsafe and unsound manner because of over-reliance on intangible assets in tier 1 capital.

iii. Banks must review the book value of all intangible assets at least quarterly and make adjustments to these values as necessary. The fair market value of mortgage servicing rights and purchased credit card relationships also must be determined at least quarterly. The fair market value generally shall be determined by applying an appropriate market discount rate to the expected future net cash flows. This determination shall include adjustments for any significant changes in original valuation assumptions, including changes in prepayment estimates or account attrition rates.

iv. Examiners will review both the book value and the fair market value assigned to these assets, together with supporting documentation, during the examination process. In addition, the Federal Reserve may require, on a case-by-case basis, an independent valuation of a bank's intangible assets.

v. The amount of mortgage servicing rights and purchased credit card relationships that a bank may include in capital shall be the lesser of 90 percent of their fair market value, as determined in accordance with this section, or 100 percent of their book value, as adjusted for capital purposes in accordance with the instructions in the commercial bank Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income (Call Reports). If both the application of the limits on mortgage servicing rights and purchased credit card relationships and the adjustment of the bal-

leaseholds, are to be deducted from a bank's core capital elements in determining tier 1 capital. However, identifiable intangible assets (other than mortgage servicing rights and purchased credit card relationships) acquired on or before February 19, 1992, generally will not be deducted from capital for supervisory purposes, although they will continue to be deducted for applications purposes.

ance sheet amount for these intangibles would result in an amount being deducted from capital, the bank would deduct only the greater of the two amounts from its core capital elements in determining tier 1 capital.

vi. The treatment of identifiable intangible assets set forth in this section generally will be used in the calculation of a bank's capital ratios for supervisory and applications purposes. However, in making an overall assessment of a bank's capital adequacy for applications purposes, the Board may, if it deems appropriate, take into account the quality and composition of a bank's capital, together with the quality and value of its tangible and intangible assets.

vii. Consistent with long-standing Board policy, banks experiencing substantial growth, whether internally or by acquisition, are expected to maintain strong capital positions substantially above minimum supervisory levels, without significant reliance on intangible assets.

2. *Investments in certain subsidiaries.* The aggregate amount of investments in banking or finance subsidiaries¹⁵ whose financial statements are not consolidated for accounting or bank regulatory reporting purposes will be deducted from a bank's total capital components.¹⁶ Generally, investments for this purpose are defined as equity and debt capital investments and any other instruments that are deemed to be capital in the particular subsidiary.

Advances (that is, loans, extensions of credit, guarantees, commitments, or any other forms of credit exposure) to the subsidiary that are not deemed to be capital will generally not be deducted from a bank's capital. Rather, such advances generally will be included in the bank's consolidated assets and be assigned to the 100 percent risk category, unless such obligations are backed by recognized collateral or guarantees, in which case they will be assigned to the risk category appropriate to such collateral or guarantees. These advances may, however, also be deducted from the bank's capital if, in the judgment of the Federal Reserve, the risks

¹⁵For this purpose, a banking and finance subsidiary generally is defined as any company engaged in banking or finance in which the parent institution holds directly or indirectly more than 50 percent of the outstanding voting stock, or which is otherwise controlled or capable of being controlled by the parent institution.

¹⁶An exception to this deduction would be made in the case of shares acquired in the regular course of securing or collecting a debt previously contracted in good faith. The requirements for consolidation are spelled out in the instructions to the Call Report.

stemming from such advances are comparable to the risks associated with capital investments or if the advances involve other risk factors that warrant such an adjustment to capital for supervisory purposes. These other factors could include, for example, the absence of collateral support.

Inasmuch as the assets of unconsolidated banking and finance subsidiaries are not fully reflected in a bank's consolidated total assets, such assets may be viewed as the equivalent of off-balance sheet exposures since the operations of an unconsolidated subsidiary could expose the bank to considerable risk. For this reason, it is generally appropriate to view the capital resources invested in these unconsolidated entities as primarily supporting the risks inherent in these off-balance sheet assets, and not generally available to support risks or absorb losses elsewhere in the bank.

The Federal Reserve may, on a case-by-case basis, also deduct from a bank's capital, investments in certain other subsidiaries in order to determine if the consolidated bank meets minimum supervisory capital requirements without reliance on the resources invested in such subsidiaries.

The Federal Reserve will not automatically deduct investments in other consolidated subsidiaries or investments in joint ventures and associated companies.¹⁷ Nonetheless, the resources invested in these entities, like investments in unconsolidated banking and finance subsidiaries, support assets not consolidated with the rest of the bank's activities and, therefore, may not be generally available to support additional leverage or absorb losses elsewhere in the bank. Moreover, experience has shown that banks stand behind the losses of affiliated institutions, such as joint ventures and associated companies, in order to protect the reputation of the organization as a whole. In some cases, this has led to losses that have exceeded the investments in such organizations.

For this reason, the Federal Reserve will monitor the level and nature of such investments for individual banks and, on a case-by-case basis may, for risk-based capital purposes, deduct such investments from total capital components, apply an appropriate risk-weighted capital charge against the bank's proportionate share of the assets of its associated companies, require a line-by-line consolidation of the entity (in the event that the bank's control over the entity

¹⁷The definition of such entities is contained in the instructions to the commercial bank Call Report. Under regulatory reporting procedures, associated companies and joint ventures generally are defined as companies in which the bank owns 20 to 50 percent of the voting stock.

makes it the functional equivalent of a subsidiary), or otherwise require the bank to operate with a risk-based capital ratio above the minimum.

In considering the appropriateness of such adjustments or actions, the Federal Reserve will generally take into account whether:

(1) The bank has significant influence over the financial or managerial policies or operations of the subsidiary, joint venture, or associated company;

(2) The bank is the largest investor in the affiliated company; or

(3) Other circumstances prevail that appear to closely tie the activities of the affiliated company to the bank.

3. *Reciprocal holdings of banking organizations' capital instruments.* Reciprocal holdings of banking organizations' capital instruments (that is, instruments that qualify as Tier 1 or Tier 2 capital)¹⁸ will be deducted from a bank's total capital components for the purpose of determining the numerator of the risk-based capital ratio.

Reciprocal holdings are cross-holdings resulting from formal or informal arrangements in which two or more banking organizations swap, exchange, or otherwise agree to hold each other's capital instruments. Generally, deductions will be limited to intentional cross-holdings. At present, the Board does not intend to require banks to deduct non-reciprocal holdings of such capital instruments.¹⁹

4. *Deferred tax assets.* The amount of deferred tax assets that are dependent upon future taxable income, net of the valuation allowance for deferred tax assets, that may be included in, that is, not deducted from, a bank's capital may not exceed the lesser of: (i) the amount of these deferred tax assets that the bank is expected to realize within one year of the calendar quarter-end date,

¹⁸See 12 CFR part 225, appendix A for instruments that qualify as Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital for bank holding companies.

¹⁹Deductions of holdings of capital securities also would not be made in the case of interstate "stake out" investments that comply with the Board's Policy Statement on Nonvoting Equity Investments, 12 CFR 225.143 (Federal Reserve Regulatory Service 4-172.1; 68 Federal Reserve Bulletin 413 (1982)). In addition, holdings of capital instruments issued by other banking organizations but taken in satisfaction of debts previously contracted would be exempt from any deduction from capital. The Board intends to monitor nonreciprocal holdings of other banking organizations' capital instruments and to provide information on such holdings to the Basle Supervisors' Committee as called for under the Basle capital framework.

based on its projections of future taxable income for that year,²⁰ or (ii) 10 percent of tier 1 capital. The reported amount of deferred tax assets, net of any valuation allowance for deferred tax assets, in excess of the lesser of these two amounts is to be deducted from a bank's core capital elements in determining tier 1 capital. For purposes of calculating the 10 percent limitation, tier 1 capital is defined as the sum of core capital elements, net of goodwill and all identifiable intangible assets other than mortgage servicing rights and purchased credit card relationships, before any disallowed deferred tax assets are deducted. There generally is no limit in tier 1 capital on the amount of deferred tax assets that can be realized from taxes paid in prior carryback years or from future reversals of existing taxable temporary differences, but, for banks that have a parent, this may not exceed the amount the bank could reasonably expect its parent to refund.

III. Procedures for Computing Weighted Risk Assets and Off-Balance Sheet Items

A. Procedures

Assets and credit equivalent amounts of off-balance sheet items of state member banks are assigned to one of several broad risk categories, according to the obligor, or, if relevant, the guarantor or the nature of the collateral. The aggregate dollar value of the amount in each category is then multiplied by the risk weight associated with that category. The resulting weighted values from each of the risk categories are added together, and this sum is the bank's total weighted risk assets that comprise the denominator of the risk-based capital ratio. Attachment I provides a sample calculation.

Risk weights for all off-balance sheet items are determined by a two-step process.

²⁰To determine the amount of expected deferred tax assets realizable in the next 12 months, an institution should assume that all existing temporary differences fully reverse as of the report date. Projected future taxable income should not include net operating loss carryforwards to be used during that year or the amount of existing temporary differences a bank expects to reverse within the year. Such projections should include the estimated effect of tax planning strategies that the organization expects to implement to realize net operating losses or tax credit carryforwards that would otherwise expire during the year. Institutions do not have to prepare a new 12 month projection each quarter. Rather, on interim report dates, institutions may use the future taxable income projections for their current fiscal year, adjusted for any significant changes that have occurred or are expected to occur.

First, the "credit equivalent amount" of off-balance sheet items is determined, in most cases by multiplying the off-balance sheet item by a credit conversion factor. Second, the credit equivalent amount is treated like any balance sheet asset and generally is assigned to the appropriate risk category according to the obligor, or, if relevant, the guarantor or the nature of the collateral.

In general, if a particular item qualifies for placement in more than one risk category, it is assigned to the category that has the lowest risk weight. A holding of a U.S. municipal revenue bond that is fully guaranteed by a U.S. bank, for example, would be assigned the 20 percent risk weight appropriate to claims guaranteed by U.S. banks, rather than the 50 percent risk weight appropriate to U.S. municipal revenue bonds.²¹

²¹An investment in shares of a fund whose portfolio consists solely of various securities or money market instruments that, if held separately, would be assigned to different risk categories, is generally assigned to the risk category appropriate to the highest risk-weighted security or instrument that the fund is permitted to hold in accordance with its stated investment objectives. However, in no case will indirect holdings through shares in such funds be assigned to the zero percent risk category. For example, if a fund is permitted to hold U.S. Treasuries and commercial paper, shares in that fund would generally be assigned the 100 percent risk weight appropriate to commercial paper, regardless of the actual composition of the fund's investments at any particular time. Shares in a fund that may invest only in U.S. Treasury securities would generally be assigned to the 20 percent risk category. If, in order to maintain a necessary degree of short-term liquidity, a fund is permitted to hold an insignificant amount of its assets in short-term, highly liquid securities of superior credit quality that do not qualify for a preferential risk weight, such securities will generally not be taken into account in determining the risk category into which the bank's holding in the overall fund should be assigned. Regardless of the composition of the fund's securities, if the fund engages in any activities that appear speculative in nature (for example, use of futures, forwards, or option contracts for purposes other than to reduce interest rate risk) or has any other characteristics that are inconsistent with the preferential risk weighting assigned to the fund's investments, holdings in the fund will be assigned to the 100 percent risk category. During the examination process, the treatment of shares in such funds that are assigned to a lower risk weight will be subject to examiner review to ensure that they have been assigned an appropriate risk weight.

The terms *claims* and *securities* used in the context of the discussion of risk weights, unless otherwise specified, refer to loans or debt obligations of the entity on whom the claim is held. Assets in the form of stock or equity holdings in commercial or financial firms are assigned to the 100 percent risk category, unless some other treatment is explicitly permitted.

B. Collateral, Guarantees, and Other Considerations

1. *Collateral.* The only forms of collateral that are formally recognized by the risk-based capital framework are: Cash on deposit in the bank; securities issued or guaranteed by the central governments of the OECD-based group of countries²², U.S. Government agencies, or U.S. Government-sponsored agencies; and securities issued by multilateral lending institutions or regional development banks. Claims fully secured by such collateral generally are assigned to the 20 percent risk-weight category. Collateralized transactions meeting all the conditions described in section III.C.1. may be assigned a zero percent risk weight.

With regard to collateralized claims that may be assigned to the 20 percent risk-weight category, the extent to which qualifying securities are recognized as collateral is determined by their current market value. If such a claim is only partially secured, that is, the market value of the pledged securities

²²The OECD-based group of countries comprises all full members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) regardless of entry date, as well as countries that have concluded special lending arrangements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) associated with the IMF's General Arrangements to Borrow, but excludes any country that has rescheduled its external sovereign debt within the previous five years. As of November 1995, the OECD included the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States; and Saudi Arabia had concluded special lending arrangements with the IMF associated with the IMF's General Arrangements to Borrow. A rescheduling of external sovereign debt generally would include any renegotiation of terms arising from a country's inability or unwillingness to meet its external debt service obligations, but generally would not include renegotiations of debt in the normal course of business, such as a renegotiation to allow the borrower to take advantage of a decline in interest rates or other change in market conditions.

is less than the face amount of a balance-sheet asset or an off-balance-sheet item, the portion that is covered by the market value of the qualifying collateral is assigned to the 20 percent risk category, and the portion of the claim that is not covered by collateral in the form of cash or a qualifying security is assigned to the risk category appropriate to the obligor or, if relevant, the guarantor. For example, to the extent that a claim on a private sector obligor is collateralized by the current market value of U.S. Government securities, it would be placed in the 20 percent risk category, and the balance would be assigned to the 100 percent risk category.

2. *Guarantees.* Guarantees of the OECD and non-OECD central governments, U.S. Government agencies, U.S. Government-sponsored agencies, state and local governments of the OECD-based group of countries, multilateral lending institutions and regional development banks, U.S. depository institutions, and foreign banks are also recognized. If a claim is partially guaranteed, that is, coverage of the guarantee is less than the face amount of a balance sheet asset or an off-balance sheet item, the portion that is not fully covered by the guarantee is assigned to the risk category appropriate to the obligor or, if relevant, to any collateral. The face amount of a claim covered by two types of guarantees that have different risk weights, such as a U.S. Government guarantee and a state guarantee, is to be apportioned between the two risk categories appropriate to the guarantors.

The existence of other forms of collateral or guarantees that the risk-based capital framework does not formally recognize may be taken into consideration in evaluating the risks inherent in a bank's loan portfolio—which, in turn, would affect the overall supervisory assessment of the bank's capital adequacy.

3. *Mortgage-backed securities.* Mortgage-backed securities, including pass-throughs and collateralized mortgage obligations (but not stripped mortgage-backed securities), that are *issued* or *guaranteed* by a U.S. Government agency or U.S. Government-sponsored agency are assigned to the risk weight category appropriate to the issuer or guarantor. Generally, a privately-issued mortgage-backed security meeting certain criteria set forth in the accompanying footnote,²³ is

²³A privately-issued mortgage-backed security may be treated as an indirect holding of the underlying assets provided that: (1) The underlying assets are held by an independent trustee and the trustee has a first priority, perfected security interest in the underlying assets on behalf of the holders of the security; (2) either the holder of the security has an undivided *pro rata* ownership interest in the underlying mortgage assets

treated as essentially an indirect holding of the underlying assets, and assigned to the same risk category as the underlying assets, but in no case to the zero percent risk category. Privately-issued mortgage-backed securities whose structures do not qualify them to be regarded as indirect holdings of the underlying assets are assigned to the 100 percent risk category. During the examination process, privately-issued mortgage-backed securities that are assigned to a lower risk weight category will be subject to examiner review to ensure that they meet the appropriate criteria.

While the risk category to which mortgage-backed securities is assigned will generally be based upon the issuer or guarantor or, in the case of privately-issued mortgage-backed securities, the assets underlying the security, any class of a mortgage-backed security that can absorb more than its *pro rata* share of loss without the whole issue being in default (for example, a so-called subordinate class or residual interest), is assigned to the 100 percent risk category. Furthermore, all stripped mortgage-backed securities, including interest-only strips (IOs), principal-only strips (POs), and similar instruments are also assigned to the 100 percent risk weight category, regardless of the issuer or guarantor.

4. *Maturity.* Maturity is generally not a factor in assigning items to risk categories with the exception of claims on non-OECD banks, commitments, and interest rate and foreign exchange rate contracts. Except for commitments, short-term is defined as one year or less *remaining* maturity and long-term is defined as over one year *remaining* maturity. In the case of commitments, short-term is defined as one year or less

or the trust or single purpose entity (or conduit) that issues the security has no liabilities unrelated to the issued securities; (3) the security is structured such that the cash flow from the underlying assets in all cases fully meets the cash flow requirements of the security without undue reliance on any reinvestment income; and (4) there is no material reinvestment risk associated with any funds awaiting distribution to the holders of the security. In addition, if the underlying assets of a mortgage-backed security are composed of more than one type of asset, for example, U.S. Government-sponsored agency securities and privately-issued pass-through securities that qualify for the 50 percent risk category, the entire mortgage-backed security is generally assigned to the category appropriate to the highest risk-weighted asset underlying the issue. Thus, in this example, the security would receive the 50 percent risk weight appropriate to the privately-issued pass-through securities.

original maturity and long-term is defined as over one year *original* maturity.²⁴

5. *Small Business Loans and Leases on Personal Property Transferred with Recourse.* a. Notwithstanding other provisions of this appendix A, a qualifying bank that has transferred small business loans and leases on personal property (small business obligations) with recourse shall include in weighted-risk assets only the amount of retained recourse, provided two conditions are met. First, the transaction must be treated as a sale under GAAP and, second, the bank must establish pursuant to GAAP a non-capital reserve sufficient to meet the bank's reasonably estimated liability under the recourse arrangement. Only loans and leases to businesses that meet the criteria for a small business concern established by the Small Business Administration under section 3(a) of the Small Business Act are eligible for this capital treatment.

b. For purposes of this appendix A, a bank is qualifying if it meets the criteria set forth in the Board's prompt corrective action regulation (12 CFR 208.30) for well capitalized or, by order of the Board, adequately capitalized. For purposes of determining whether a bank meets the criteria, its capital ratios must be calculated without regard to the preferential capital treatment for transfers of small business obligations with recourse specified in section III.B.5.a. of this appendix A. The total outstanding amount of recourse retained by a qualifying bank on transfers of small business obligations receiving the preferential capital treatment cannot exceed 15 percent of the bank's total risk-based capital. By order, the Board may approve a higher limit.

c. If a bank ceases to be qualifying or exceeds the 15 percent capital limitation, the preferential capital treatment will continue to apply to any transfers of small business obligations with recourse that were consummated during the time that the bank was qualifying and did not exceed the capital limit.

d. The risk-based capital ratios of the bank shall be calculated without regard to the preferential capital treatment for transfers of small business obligations with recourse specified in section III.B.5.a. of this appendix A for purposes of:

(i) Determining whether a bank is adequately capitalized, undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized, or critically undercapitalized under prompt corrective action (12 CFR 208.33(b)); and

²⁴Through year-end 1992, remaining, rather than original, maturity may be used for determining the maturity of commitments.

(ii) Reclassifying a well capitalized bank to adequately capitalized and requiring an adequately capitalized bank to comply with certain mandatory or discretionary supervisory actions as if the bank were in the next lower prompt corrective action capital category (12 CFR 208.33(c)).

C. Risk Weights

Attachment III contains a listing of the risk categories, a summary of the types of assets assigned to each category and the weight associated with each category, that is, 0 percent, 20 percent, 50 percent, and 100 percent. A brief explanation of the components of each category follows.

1. *Category 1: zero percent.* This category includes cash (domestic and foreign) owned and held in all offices of the bank or in transit and gold bullion held in the bank's own vaults or in another bank's vaults on an allocated basis, to the extent it is offset by gold bullion liabilities.²⁵ The category also includes all direct claims (including securities, loans, and leases) on, and the portions of claims that are directly and unconditionally guaranteed by, the central governments²⁶ of the OECD countries and U.S. Government agencies,²⁷ as well as all direct local cur-

rency claims on, and the portions of local currency claims that are directly and unconditionally guaranteed by, the central governments of non-OECD countries, to the extent that the bank has liabilities booked in that currency. A claim is not considered to be unconditionally guaranteed by a central government if the validity of the guarantee is dependent upon some affirmative action by the holder or a third party. Generally, securities guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies that are actively traded in financial markets, such as GNMA securities, are considered to be unconditionally guaranteed.

This category also includes claims collateralized by cash on deposit in the bank or by securities issued or guaranteed by OECD central governments or U.S. government agencies for which a positive margin of collateral is maintained on a daily basis, fully taking into account any change in the bank's exposure to the obligor or counterparty under a claim in relation to the market value of the collateral held in support of that claim.

2. *Category 2: 20 percent.* This category includes cash items in the process of collection, both foreign and domestic; short-term claims (including demand deposits) on, and the portions of short-term claims that are guaranteed²⁸ by, U.S. depository institutions²⁹ and foreign banks³⁰; and long-term

²⁵ All other holdings of bullion are assigned to the 100 percent risk category.

²⁶ A central government is defined to include departments and ministries, including the central bank, of the central government. The U.S. central bank includes the 12 Federal Reserve Banks, and the stock held in these banks as a condition of membership is assigned to the zero percent risk category. The definition of central government does not include state, provincial, or local governments; or commercial enterprises owned by the central government. In addition, it does not include local government entities or commercial enterprises whose obligations are guaranteed by the central government, although any claims on such entities guaranteed by central governments are placed in the same general risk category as other claims guaranteed by central governments. OECD central governments are defined as central governments of the OECD-based group of countries; non-OECD central governments are defined as central governments that do not belong to the OECD-based group countries.

²⁷ A U.S. Government agency is defined as an instrumentality of the U.S. Government whose obligations are fully and explicitly guaranteed as to the timely payment of principal and interest by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. Such agencies include the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), the Veterans Administration (VA), the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), the Export-Import Bank

(Exim Bank), the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

²⁸ Claims guaranteed by U.S. depository institutions and foreign banks include risk participations in both bankers acceptances and standby letters of credit, as well as participations in commitments, that are conveyed to other U.S. depository institutions or foreign banks.

²⁹ U.S. depository institutions are defined to include branches (foreign and domestic) of federally-insured banks and depository institutions chartered and headquartered in the 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. territories and possessions. The definition encompasses banks, mutual or stock savings banks, savings or building and loan associations, cooperative banks, credit unions, and international banking facilities of domestic banks. U.S.-chartered depository institutions owned by foreigners are also included in the definition. However, branches and agencies of foreign banks located in the U.S., as well as all bank holding companies, are excluded.

³⁰ Foreign banks are distinguished as either OECD banks or non-OECD banks. OECD banks include banks and their branches (foreign and domestic) organized under the laws

claims on, and the portions of long-term claims that are guaranteed by, U.S. depository institutions and OECD banks.³¹

This category also includes the portions of claims that are conditionally guaranteed by OECD central governments and U.S. Government agencies, as well as the portions of local currency claims that are conditionally guaranteed by non-OECD central governments, to the extent that the bank has liabilities booked in that currency. In addition, this category also includes claims on, and the portions of claims that are guaranteed by, U.S. government-sponsored³² agencies and claims on, and the portions of claims guaranteed by, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), the International Finance Corporation, the Interamerican Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Nordic Investment Bank, and other multilateral lending institutions or regional development banks in which the U.S. government is a shareholder or contributing member. Gen-

of countries (other than the U.S.) that belong to the OECD-based group of countries. Non-OECD banks include banks and their branches (foreign and domestic) organized under the laws of countries that do not belong to the OECD-based group of countries. For this purpose, a bank is defined as an institution that engages in the business of banking; is recognized as a bank by the bank supervisory or monetary authorities of the country of its organization or principal banking operations; receives deposits to a substantial extent in the regular course of business; and has the power to accept demand deposits.

³¹ Long-term claims on, or guaranteed by, non-OECD banks and all claims on bank holding companies are assigned to the 100 percent risk category, as are holdings of bank-issued securities that qualify as capital of the issuing banks.

³² For this purpose, U.S. government-sponsored agencies are defined as agencies originally established or chartered by the Federal government to serve public purposes specified by the U.S. Congress but whose obligations are *not explicitly* guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. These agencies include the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC), the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA), the Farm Credit System, the Federal Home Loan Bank System, and the Student Loan Marketing Association (SLMA). Claims on U.S. government-sponsored agencies include capital stock in a Federal Home Loan Bank that is held as a condition of membership in that Bank.

eral obligation claims on, or portions of claims guaranteed by the full faith and credit of, states or other political subdivisions of the U.S. or other countries of the OECD-based group are also assigned to this category.³³

This category also includes the portions of claims (including repurchase transactions) collateralized by cash on deposit in the bank or by securities issued or guaranteed by OECD central governments or U.S. government agencies that do not qualify for the zero percent risk-weight category; collateralized by securities issued or guaranteed by U.S. government-sponsored agencies; or collateralized by securities issued by multilateral lending institutions or regional development banks in which the U.S. government is a shareholder or contributing member.

3. *Category 3: 50 percent.* This category includes loans fully secured by first liens³⁴ on 1- to 4-family residential properties, either owner-occupied or rented, or on multifamily residential properties,³⁵ that meet certain

³³ Claims on, or guaranteed by, states or other political subdivisions of countries that do not belong to the OECD-based group of countries are placed in the 100 percent risk category.

³⁴ If a bank holds the first and junior liens(s) on a residential property and no other party holds an intervening lien, the transaction is treated as a single loan secured by a first lien for the purpose of determining the loan-to-value ratio.

³⁵ Loans that qualify as loans secured by 1- to 4-family residential properties or multifamily residential properties are listed in the instructions to the commercial bank Call Report. In addition, for risk-based capital purposes, loans secured by 1- to 4-family residential properties include loans to builders with substantial project equity for the construction of 1- to 4-family residences that have been presold under firm contracts to purchasers who have obtained firm commitments for permanent qualifying mortgage loans and have made substantial earnest money deposits.

The instructions to the Call Report also discuss the treatment of loans, including multifamily housing loans, that are sold subject to a pro rata loss sharing arrangement. Such an arrangement should be treated by the selling bank as sold (and excluded from balance sheet assets) to the extent that the sales agreement provides for the purchaser of the loan to share in any loss incurred on the loan on a pro rata basis with the selling bank. In such a transaction, from the standpoint of the selling bank, the portion of the loan that is treated as sold is not subject to

Continued

criteria.³⁶ Loans included in this category must have been made in accordance with prudent underwriting standards;³⁷ be performing in accordance with their original terms; and not be 90 days or more past due or carried in nonaccrual status. The following additional criteria must also be applied to a loan secured by a multifamily residential property that is included in this category: all principal and interest payments on the loan must have been made on time for at least the year preceding placement in this category, or in the case where the existing property owner is refinancing a loan on that property, all principal and interest payments on the loan being refinanced must have been made on time for at least the year preceding placement in this category; amortization of the principal and interest must occur over a period of not more than 30 years and the minimum original maturity for repayment of principal must not be less than 7 years; and the annual net operating income (before debt service) generated by the property dur-

the risk-based capital standards. In connection with sales of multifamily housing loans in which the purchaser of a loan shares in any loss incurred on the loan with the selling institution on other than a pro rata basis, these other loss sharing arrangements are taken into account for purposes of determining the extent to which such loans are treated by the selling bank as sold (and excluded from balance sheet assets) under the risk-based capital framework in the same manner as prescribed for reporting purposes in the instructions to the Call Report.

³⁶Residential property loans that do not meet all the specified criteria or that are made for the purpose of speculative property development are placed in the 100 percent risk category.

³⁷Prudent underwriting standards include a conservative ratio of the current loan balance to the value of the property. In the case of a loan secured by multifamily residential property, the loan-to-value ratio is not conservative if it exceeds 80 percent (75 percent if the loan is based on a floating interest rate). Prudent underwriting standards also dictate that a loan-to-value ratio used in the case of originating a loan to acquire a property would not be deemed conservative unless the value is based on the lower of the acquisition cost of the property or appraised (or if appropriate, evaluated) value. Otherwise, the loan-to-value ratio generally would be based upon the value of the property as determined by the most current appraisal, or if appropriate, the most current evaluation. All appraisals must be made in a manner consistent with the Federal banking agencies' real estate appraisal regulations and guidelines and with the bank's own appraisal guidelines.

ing its most recent fiscal year must not be less than 120 percent of the loan's current annual debt service (115 percent if the loan is based on a floating interest rate) or, in the case of a cooperative or other not-for-profit housing project, the property must generate sufficient cash flow to provide comparable protection to the institution. Also included in this category are privately-issued mortgage-backed securities provided that

(1) The structure of the security meets the criteria described in section III(B)(3) above;

(2) If the security is backed by a pool of conventional mortgages, on 1- to 4-family residential or multifamily residential properties each underlying mortgage meets the criteria described above in this section for eligibility for the 50 percent risk category at the time the pool is originated;

(3) If the security is backed by privately-issued mortgage-backed securities, *each* underlying security qualifies for the 50 percent risk category; and

(4) If the security is backed by a pool of multifamily residential mortgages, principal and interest payments on the security are not 30 days or more past due.

Privately-issued mortgage-backed securities that do not meet these criteria or that do not qualify for a lower risk weight are generally assigned to the 100 percent risk category.

Also assigned to this category are *revenue* (non-general obligation) bonds or similar obligations, including loans and leases, that are obligations of states or other political subdivisions of the U.S. (for example, municipal revenue bonds) or other countries of the OECD-based group, but for which the government entity is committed to repay the debt with revenues from the specific projects financed, rather than from general tax funds.

Credit equivalent amounts of derivative contracts involving standard risk obligors (that is, obligors whose loans or debt securities would be assigned to the 100 percent risk category) are included in the 50 percent category, unless they are backed by collateral or guarantees that allow them to be placed in a lower risk category.

4. *Category 4: 100 percent.* All assets not included in the categories above are assigned to this category, which comprises standard risk assets. The bulk of the assets typically found in a loan portfolio would be assigned to the 100 percent category.

This category includes long-term claims on, or guaranteed by, non-OECD banks, and all claims on non-OECD central governments that entail some degree of transfer risk.³⁸

³⁸Such assets include all non-local currency claims on, or guaranteed by, non-OECD central governments and those portions of local currency claims on, or guaranteed by, non-OECD central governments that

This category also includes all claims on foreign and domestic private sector obligors not included in the categories above (including loans to nondepository financial institutions and bank holding companies); claims on commercial firms owned by the public sector; customer liabilities to the bank on acceptances outstanding involving standard risk claims³⁹; investments in fixed assets, premises, and other real estate owned; common and preferred stock of corporations, including stock acquired for debts previously contracted; commercial and consumer loans (except those assigned to lower risk categories due to recognized guarantees or collateral and loans for residential property that qualify for a lower risk weight); mortgage-backed securities that do not meet criteria for assignment to a lower risk weight (including any classes of mortgage-backed securities that can absorb more than their *pro rata* share of loss without the whole issue being in default); and all stripped mortgage-backed and similar securities.

Also included in this category are industrial development bonds and similar obligations issued under the auspices of states or political subdivisions of the OECD-based group of countries for the benefit of a private party or enterprise where that party or enterprise, not the government entity, is obligated to pay the principal and interest, and all obligations of states or political subdivisions of countries that do not belong to the OECD-based group.

The following assets also are assigned a risk weight of 100 percent if they have not been deducted from capital: investments in unconsolidated companies, joint ventures, or associated companies; instruments that qualify as capital issued by other banking organizations; and any intangibles, including those that may have been grandfathered into capital.

D. Off-Balance Sheet Items

The face amount of an off-balance sheet item is incorporated into the risk-based capital ratio by multiplying it by a credit conversion factor. The resultant credit equivalent

exceed the local currency liabilities held by the bank.

³⁹Customer liabilities on acceptances outstanding involving non-standard risk claims, such as claims on U.S. depository institutions, are assigned to the risk category appropriate to the identity of the obligor or, if relevant, the nature of the collateral or guarantees backing the claims. Portions of acceptances conveyed as risk participations to U.S. depository institutions or foreign banks are assigned to the 20 percent risk category appropriate to short-term claims guaranteed by U.S. depository institutions and foreign banks.

amount is assigned to the appropriate risk category according to the obligor, or, if relevant, the guarantor or the nature of the collateral.⁴⁰ Attachment IV sets forth the conversion factors for various types of off-balance sheet items.

1. *Items with a 100 percent conversion factor.*

a. A 100 percent conversion factor applies to direct credit substitutes, which include guarantees, or equivalent instruments, backing financial claims, such as outstanding securities, loans, and other financial liabilities, or that back off-balance sheet items that require capital under the risk-based capital framework. Direct credit substitutes include, for example, financial standby letters of credit, or other equivalent irrevocable undertakings or surety arrangements, that guarantee repayment of financial obligations such as: commercial paper, tax-exempt securities, commercial or individual loans or debt obligations, or standby or commercial letters of credit. Direct credit substitutes also include the acquisition of risk participations in bankers acceptances and standby letters of credit, since both of these transactions, in effect, constitute a guarantee by the acquiring bank that the underlying account party (obligor) will repay its obligation to the originating, or issuing, institution.⁴¹ (Standby letters of credit that are performance-related are discussed below and have a credit conversion factor of 50 percent.)

b. The full amount of a direct credit substitute is converted at 100 percent and the resulting credit equivalent amount is assigned to the risk category appropriate to the obligor or, if relevant, the guarantor or the nature of the collateral. In the case of a direct credit substitute in which a risk participation⁴² has been conveyed, the full amount is still converted at 100 percent.

⁴⁰The sufficiency of collateral and guarantees for off-balance-sheet items is determined by the market value of the collateral or the amount of the guarantee in relation to the face amount of the item, except for derivative contracts, for which this determination is generally made in relation to the credit equivalent amount. Collateral and guarantees are subject to the same provisions noted under section III.B. of this appendix A.

⁴¹Credit equivalent amounts of acquisitions of risk participations are assigned to the risk category appropriate to the account party obligor, or, if relevant, the nature of the collateral or guarantees.

⁴²That is, a participation in which the originating bank remains liable to the beneficiary for the full amount of the direct credit substitute if the party that has acquired the participation fails to pay when the instrument is drawn.

However, the credit equivalent amount that has been conveyed is assigned to whichever risk category is lower: the risk category appropriate to the obligor, after giving effect to any relevant guarantees or collateral, or the risk category appropriate to the institution acquiring the participation. Any remainder is assigned to the risk category appropriate to the obligor, guarantor, or collateral. For example, the portion of a direct credit substitute conveyed as a risk participation to a U.S. domestic depository institution or foreign bank is assigned to the risk category appropriate to claims guaranteed by those institutions, that is, the 20 percent risk category.⁴³ This approach recognizes that such conveyances replace the originating bank's exposure to the obligor with an exposure to the institutions acquiring the risk participations.⁴⁴

c. In the case of direct credit substitutes that take the form of a syndication as defined in the instructions to the commercial bank Call Report, that is, where each bank is obligated only for its *pro rata* share of the risk and there is no recourse to the originating bank, each bank will only include its *pro rata* share of the direct credit substitute in its risk-based capital calculation.

d. Financial standby letters of credit are distinguished from loan commitments (discussed below) in that standbys are irrevocable obligations of the bank to pay a third-party beneficiary when a customer (account party) fails to repay an outstanding loan or debt instrument (direct credit substitute). Performance standby letters of credit (performance bonds) are irrevocable obligations of the bank to pay a third-party beneficiary when a customer (account party) fails to perform some other contractual non-financial obligation.

e. The distinguishing characteristic of a standby letter of credit for risk-based capital purposes is the combination of irrevocability with the fact that funding is triggered by some failure to repay or perform an obligation. Thus, any commitment (by whatever name) that involves an *irrevocable* obligation to make a payment to the customer or to a third party in the event the customer fails to repay an outstanding debt obligation or fails to perform a contractual obligation is treat-

ed, for risk-based capital purposes, as respectively, a financial guarantee standby letter of credit or a performance standby.

f. A loan commitment, on the other hand, involves an obligation (with or without a material adverse change or similar clause) of the bank to fund its customer in the normal course of business should the customer seek to draw down the commitment.

g. Sale and repurchase agreements and asset sales with recourse (to the extent not included on the balance sheet) and forward agreements also are converted at 100 percent. The risk-based capital definition of the sale of assets with recourse, including the sale of 1- to 4-family residential mortgages, is the same as the definition contained in the instructions to the commercial bank Call Report. Accordingly, the entire amount of any assets transferred with recourse that are not already included on the balance sheet, including pools of 1- to 4-family residential mortgages, are to be converted at 100 percent and assigned to the risk weight appropriate to the obligor, or if relevant, the nature of any collateral or guarantees. The terms of a transfer of assets with recourse may contractually limit the amount of the institution's liability to an amount less than the effective risk-based capital requirement for the assets being transferred with recourse. If such a transaction (including one that is reported as a financing, i.e., the assets are not removed from the balance sheet) meets the criteria for sales treatment under GAAP, the amount of total capital required is equal to the maximum amount of loss possible under the recourse provision. If the transaction is also treated as a sale for regulatory reporting purposes, then the required amount of capital may be reduced by the balance of any associated non-capital liability account established pursuant to GAAP to cover estimated probable losses under the recourse provision. So-called "loan strips" (that is, short-term advances sold under long-term commitments without direct recourse) are defined in the instructions to the commercial bank Call Report and for risk-based capital purposes as assets sold with recourse.

h. Forward agreements are legally binding contractual obligations to purchase assets with certain drawdown at a specified future date. Such obligations include forward purchases, forward deposits placed,⁴⁵ and partly-paid shares and securities; they do not include commitments to make residential mortgage loans or forward foreign exchange contracts.

i. Securities lent by a bank are treated in one of two ways, depending upon whether the lender is at risk of loss. If a bank, as agent

⁴³Risk participations with a remaining maturity of over one year that are conveyed to non-OECD banks are to be assigned to the 100 percent risk category, unless a lower risk category is appropriate to the obligor, guarantor, or collateral.

⁴⁴A risk participation in bankers acceptances conveyed to other institutions is also assigned to the risk category appropriate to the institution acquiring the participation or, if relevant, the guarantor or nature of the collateral.

⁴⁵Forward deposits accepted are treated as interest rate contracts.

for a customer, lends the customer's securities and does not indemnify the customer against loss, then the transaction is excluded from the risk-based capital calculation. If, alternatively, a bank lends its own securities or, acting as agent for a customer, lends the customer's securities and indemnifies the customer against loss, the transaction is converted at 100 percent and assigned to the risk weight category appropriate to the obligor, to any collateral delivered to the lending bank, or, if applicable, to the independent custodian acting on the lender's behalf. Where a bank is acting as agent for a customer in a transaction involving the lending or sale of securities that is collateralized by cash delivered to the bank, the transaction is deemed to be collateralized by cash on deposit in the bank for purposes of determining the appropriate risk-weight category, provided that any indemnification is limited to no more than the difference between the market value of the securities and the cash collateral received and any reinvestment risk associated with that cash collateral is borne by the customer.

2. *Items with a 50 percent conversion factor.* Transaction-related contingencies are converted at 50 percent. Such contingencies include bid bonds, performance bonds, warranties, standby letters of credit related to particular transactions, and performance standby letters of credit, as well as acquisitions of risk participations in performance standby letters of credit. Performance standby letters of credit represent obligations backing the performance of nonfinancial or commercial contracts or undertakings. To the extent permitted by law or regulation, performance standby letters of credit include arrangements backing, among other things, subcontractors' and suppliers' performance, labor and materials contracts, and construction bids.

The unused portion of commitments with an *original* maturity exceeding one year,⁴⁶ including underwriting commitments, and commercial and consumer credit commitments also are converted at 50 percent. Original maturity is defined as the length of time between the date the commitment is issued and the earliest date on which: (1) The bank can, at its option, unconditionally (without cause) cancel the commitment,⁴⁷

⁴⁶Through year-end 1992, remaining maturity may be used for determining the maturity of off-balance sheet loan commitments; thereafter, original maturity must be used.

⁴⁷In the case of consumer home equity or mortgage lines of credit secured by liens on 1-4 family residential properties, the bank is deemed able to unconditionally cancel the commitment for the purpose of this criterion if, at its option, it can prohibit additional extensions of credit, reduce the credit line,

and (2) the bank is scheduled to (and as a normal practice actually does) review the facility to determine whether or not it should be extended. Such reviews must continue to be conducted at least annually for such a facility to qualify as a short-term commitment.

Commitments are defined as any legally binding arrangements that obligate a bank to extend credit in the form of loans or leases; to purchase loans, securities, or other assets; or to participate in loans and leases. They also include overdraft facilities, revolving credit, home equity and mortgage lines of credit, and similar transactions. Normally, commitments involve a written contract or agreement and a commitment fee, or some other form of consideration. Commitments are included in weighted risk assets regardless of whether they contain "material adverse change" clauses or other provisions that are intended to relieve the issuer of its funding obligation under certain conditions. In the case of commitments structured as syndications, where the bank is obligated solely for its *pro rata* share, only the bank's proportional share of the syndicated commitment is taken into account in calculating the risk-based capital ratio.

Facilities that are unconditionally cancellable (without cause) at any time by the bank are not deemed to be commitments, provided the bank makes a separate credit decision before each drawing under the facility. Commitments with an original maturity of one year or less are deemed to involve low risk and, therefore, are not assessed a capital charge. Such short-term commitments are defined to include the unused portion of lines of credit on retail credit cards and related plans (as defined in the instructions to the commercial bank Call Report) if the bank has the unconditional right to cancel the line of credit at any time, in accordance with applicable law.

Once a commitment has been converted at 50 percent, any portion that has been conveyed to other U.S. depository institutions or OECD banks as participations in which the originating bank retains the full obligation to the borrower if the participating bank fails to pay when the instrument is drawn, is assigned to the 20 percent risk category. This treatment is analogous to that accorded to conveyances of risk participations in standby letters of credit. The acquisition of a participation in a commitment by a bank is converted at 50 percent and assigned to the risk category appropriate to the account party obligor or, if relevant, the nature of the collateral or guarantees.

Revolving underwriting facilities (RUFs), note issuance facilities (NIFs), and other

and terminate the commitment to the full extent permitted by relevant Federal law.

similar arrangements also are converted at 50 percent regardless of maturity. These are facilities under which a borrower can issue on a revolving basis short-term paper in its own name, but for which the underwriting banks have a legally binding commitment either to purchase any notes the borrower is unable to sell by the roll-over date or to advance funds to the borrower.

3. *Items with a 20 percent conversion factor.* Short-term, self-liquidating trade-related contingencies which arise from the movement of goods are converted at 20 percent. Such contingencies generally include commercial letters of credit and other documentary letters of credit collateralized by the underlying shipments.

4. *Items with a zero percent conversion factor.* These include unused portions of commitments with an original maturity of one year or less,⁴⁸ or which are unconditionally cancellable at any time, provided a separate credit decision is made before each drawing under the facility. Unused portions of lines of credit on retail credit cards and related plans are deemed to be short-term commitments if the bank has the unconditional right to cancel the line of credit at any time, in accordance with applicable law.

E. Derivative Contracts (Interest Rate, Exchange Rate, Commodity—including precious metals) and Equity-Linked Contracts)

1. *Scope.* Credit equivalent amounts are computed for each of the following off-balance-sheet derivative contracts:

a. *Interest Rate Contracts.* These include single currency interest rate swaps, basis swaps, forward rate agreements, interest rate options purchased (including caps, collars, and floors purchased), and any other instrument linked to interest rates that gives rise to similar credit risks (including when-issued securities and forward deposits accepted).

b. *Exchange Rate Contracts.* These include cross-currency interest rate swaps, forward foreign exchange contracts, currency options purchased, and any other instrument linked to exchange rates that gives rise to similar credit risks.

c. *Equity Derivative Contracts.* These include equity-linked swaps, equity-linked options purchased, forward equity-linked contracts, and any other instrument linked to

equities that gives rise to similar credit risks.

d. *Commodity (including precious metal) Derivative Contracts.* These include commodity-linked swaps, commodity-linked options purchased, forward commodity-linked contracts, and any other instrument linked to commodities that gives rise to similar credit risks.

e. *Exceptions.* Exchange rate contracts with an original maturity of fourteen or fewer calendar days and derivative contracts traded on exchanges that require daily receipt and payment of cash variation margin may be excluded from the risk-based ratio calculation. Gold contracts are accorded the same treatment as exchange rate contracts except that gold contracts with an original maturity of fourteen or fewer calendar days are included in the risk-based ratio calculation. Over-the-counter options purchased are included and treated in the same way as other derivative contracts.

2. *Calculation of credit equivalent amounts.* a. The credit equivalent amount of a derivative contract that is not subject to a qualifying bilateral netting contract in accordance with section III.E.3. of this appendix A is equal to the sum of (i) the current exposure (sometimes referred to as the replacement cost) of the contract; and (ii) an estimate of the potential future credit exposure of the contract.

b. The current exposure is determined by the mark-to-market value of the contract. If the mark-to-market value is positive, then the current exposure is equal to that mark-to-market value. If the mark-to-market value is zero or negative, then the current exposure is zero. Mark-to-market values are measured in dollars, regardless of the currency or currencies specified in the contract, and should reflect changes in underlying rates, prices, and indices, as well as counterparty credit quality.

c. The potential future credit exposure of a contract, including a contract with a negative mark-to-market value, is estimated by multiplying the notional principal amount of the contract by a credit conversion factor. Banks should use, subject to examiner review, the effective rather than the apparent or stated notional amount in this calculation. The credit conversion factors are:

CONVERSION FACTORS

[In percent]

Remaining maturity	Interest rate	Exchange rate and gold	Equity	Commodity, excluding precious metals	Precious metals, except gold
One year or less	0.0	1.0	6.0	10.0	7.0

⁴⁸Through year-end 1992, remaining maturity may be used for determining term to

maturity for off-balance sheet loan commitments; thereafter, original maturity must be used.

CONVERSION FACTORS—Continued
[In percent]

Remaining maturity	Interest rate	Exchange rate and gold	Equity	Commodity, excluding precious metals	Precious metals, except gold
Over one to five years	0.5	5.0	8.0	12.0	7.0
Over five years	1.5	7.5	10.0	15.0	8.0

d. For a contract that is structured such that on specified dates any outstanding exposure is settled and the terms are reset so that the market value of the contract is zero, the remaining maturity is equal to the time until the next reset date. For an interest rate contract with a remaining maturity of more than one year that meets these criteria, the minimum conversion factor is 0.5 percent.

e. For a contract with multiple exchanges of principal, the conversion factor is multiplied by the number of remaining payments in the contract. A derivative contract not included in the definitions of interest rate, exchange rate, equity, or commodity contracts as set forth in section III.E.1. of this appendix A, is subject to the same conversion factors as a commodity, excluding precious metals.

f. No potential future exposure is calculated for a single currency interest rate swap in which payments are made based upon two floating rate indices (a so called floating/floating or basis swap); the credit exposure on such a contract is evaluated solely on the basis of the mark-to-market value.

g. The Board notes that the conversion factors set forth above, which are based on observed volatilities of the particular types of instruments, are subject to review and modification in light of changing volatilities or market conditions.

3. *Netting.* a. For purposes of this appendix A, netting refers to the offsetting of positive and negative mark-to-market values when determining a current exposure to be used in the calculation of a credit equivalent amount. Any legally enforceable form of bilateral netting (that is, netting with a single counterparty) of derivative contracts is recognized for purposes of calculating the credit equivalent amount provided that:

i. The netting is accomplished under a written netting contract that creates a single legal obligation, covering all included individual contracts, with the effect that the bank would have a claim to receive, or obligation to pay, only the net amount of the sum of the positive and negative mark-to-market values on included individual contracts in the event that a counterparty, or a counterparty to whom the contract has been validly assigned, fails to perform due to any

of the following events: default, insolvency, liquidation, or similar circumstances.

ii. The bank obtains a written and reasoned legal opinion(s) representing that in the event of a legal challenge—including one resulting from default, insolvency, liquidation, or similar circumstances—the relevant court and administrative authorities would find the bank's exposure to be the net amount under:

1. The law of the jurisdiction in which the counterparty is chartered or the equivalent location in the case of noncorporate entities, and if a branch of the counterparty is involved, then also under the law of the jurisdiction in which the branch is located;

2. The law that governs the individual contracts covered by the netting contract; and

3. The law that governs the netting contract.

iii. The bank establishes and maintains procedures to ensure that the legal characteristics of netting contracts are kept under review in the light of possible changes in relevant law.

iv. The bank maintains in its files documentation adequate to support the netting of derivative contracts, including a copy of the bilateral netting contract and necessary legal opinions.

b. A contract containing a walkaway clause is not eligible for netting for purposes of calculating the credit equivalent amount.⁴⁹

c. A bank netting individual contracts for the purpose of calculating credit equivalent amounts of derivative contracts, represents that it has met the requirements of this appendix A and all the appropriate documents are in the bank's files and available for inspection by the Federal Reserve. The Federal Reserve may determine that a bank's files are inadequate or that a netting contract, or any of its underlying individual contracts, may not be legally enforceable under any one of the bodies of law described in section

⁴⁹A walkaway clause is a provision in a netting contract that permits a non-defaulting counterparty to make lower payments than it would make otherwise under the contract, or no payment at all, to a defaulter or to the estate of a defaulter, even if the defaulter or the estate of the defaulter is a net creditor under the contract.

III.E.3.a.ii. of this appendix A. If such a determination is made, the netting contract may be disqualified from recognition for risk-based capital purposes or underlying individual contracts may be treated as though they are not subject to the netting contract.

d. The credit equivalent amount of contracts that are subject to a qualifying bilateral netting contract is calculated by adding (i) the current exposure of the netting contract (net current exposure) and (ii) the sum of the estimates of potential future credit exposures on all individual contracts subject to the netting contract (gross potential future exposure) adjusted to reflect the effects of the netting contract.⁵⁰

e. The net current exposure is the sum of all positive and negative mark-to-market values of the individual contracts included in the netting contract. If the net sum of the mark-to-market values is positive, then the net current exposure is equal to that sum. If the net sum of the mark-to-market values is zero or negative, then the net current exposure is zero. The Federal Reserve may determine that a netting contract qualifies for risk-based capital netting treatment even though certain individual contracts included under the netting contract may not qualify. In such instances, the nonqualifying contracts should be treated as individual contracts that are not subject to the netting contract.

f. Gross potential future exposure, or A_{gross} is calculated by summing the estimates of potential future exposure (determined in accordance with section III.E.2 of this appendix A) for each individual contract subject to the qualifying bilateral netting contract.

g. The effects of the bilateral netting contract on the gross potential future exposure are recognized through the application of a formula that results in an adjusted add-on amount (A_{net}). The formula, which employs the ratio of net current exposure to gross current exposure (NGR) is expressed as:

$$A_{net} = (0.4 \times A_{gross}) + 0.6(NGR \times A_{gross})$$

h. The NGR may be calculated in accordance with either the counterparty-by-counterparty approach or the aggregate approach.

i. Under the counterparty-by-counterparty approach, the NGR is the ratio of the net current exposure for a netting contract to the gross current exposure of the netting contract. The gross current exposure is the sum of the current exposures of all individ-

ual contracts subject to the netting contract calculated in accordance with section III.E.2. of this appendix A. Net negative mark-to-market values for individual netting contracts with the same counterparty may not be used to offset net positive mark-to-market values for other netting contracts with that counterparty.

ii. Under the aggregate approach, the NGR is the ratio of the sum of all of the net current exposures for qualifying bilateral netting contracts to the sum of all of the gross current exposures for those netting contracts (each gross current exposure is calculated in the same manner as in section III.E.3.h.i. of this appendix A). Net negative mark-to-market values for individual counterparties may not be used to offset net positive mark-to-market values for other counterparties.

iii. A bank must consistently use either the counterparty-by-counterparty approach or the aggregate approach to calculate the NGR. Regardless of the approach used, the NGR should be applied individually to each qualifying bilateral netting contract to determine the adjusted add-on for that netting contract.

i. In the event a netting contract covers contracts that are normally excluded from the risk-based ratio calculation—for example, exchange rate contracts with an original maturity of fourteen or fewer calendar days or instruments traded on exchanges that require daily payment and receipt of cash variation margin—a bank may elect to either include or exclude all mark-to-market values of such contracts when determining net current exposure, provided the method chosen is applied consistently.

4. *Risk Weights.* Once the credit equivalent amount for a derivative contract, or a group of derivative contracts subject to a qualifying bilateral netting contract, has been determined, that amount is assigned to the risk category appropriate to the counterparty, or, if relevant, the guarantor or the nature of any collateral.⁵¹ However, the maximum risk weight applicable to the credit equivalent amount of such contracts is 50 percent.

5. *Avoidance of double counting.* a. In certain cases, credit exposures arising from the derivative contracts covered by section III.E. of this appendix A may already be reflected,

⁵⁰For purposes of calculating potential future credit exposure to a netting counterparty for foreign exchange contracts and other similar contracts in which notional principal is equivalent to cash flows, total notional principal is defined as the net receipts falling due on each value date in each currency.

⁵¹For derivative contracts, sufficiency of collateral or guarantees is generally determined by the market value of the collateral or the amount of the guarantee in relation to the credit equivalent amount. Collateral and guarantees are subject to the same provisions noted under section III.B. of this appendix A.

in part, on the balance sheet. To avoid double counting such exposures in the assessment of capital adequacy and, perhaps, assigning inappropriate risk weights, counterparty credit exposures arising from the derivative instruments covered by these guidelines may need to be excluded from balance sheet assets in calculating a bank's risk-based capital ratios.

b. Examples of the calculation of credit equivalent amounts for contracts covered under this section III.E. are contained in Attachment V of this appendix A.

IV. Minimum Supervisory Ratios and Standards

The interim and final supervisory standards set forth below specify *minimum* supervisory ratios based primarily on broad credit risk considerations. As noted above, the risk-based ratio does not take explicit account of the quality of individual asset portfolios or the range of other types of risks to which banks may be exposed, such as interest rate, liquidity, market or operational risks. For this reason, banks are generally expected to operate with capital positions above the minimum ratios.

Institutions with high or inordinate levels of risk are expected to operate well above minimum capital standards. Banks experiencing or anticipating significant growth are also expected to maintain capital, including tangible capital positions, well above the minimum levels. For example, most such institutions generally have operated at capital levels ranging from 100 to 200 basis points above the stated minimums. Higher capital ratios could be required if warranted by the particular circumstances or risk profiles of individual banks. In all cases, banks should hold capital commensurate with the level and nature of all of the risks, including the volume and severity of problem loans, to which they are exposed.

Upon adoption of the risk-based framework, any bank that does not meet the interim or final supervisory ratios, or whose capital is otherwise considered inadequate, is expected to develop and implement a plan acceptable to the Federal Reserve for achieving an adequate level of capital consistent with the provisions of these guidelines or with the special circumstances affecting the individual institution. In addition, such banks should avoid any actions, including increased risk-taking or unwarranted expansion, that would lower or further erode their capital positions.

A. Minimum Risk-Based Ratio After Transition Period

As reflected in Attachment VI, by year-end 1992, all state member banks should meet a minimum ratio of qualifying total capital to weighted risk assets of 8 percent, of which at least 4.0 percentage points should be in the

form of Tier 1 capital. For purposes of section IV.A., Tier 1 capital is defined as the sum of core capital elements less goodwill and other intangible assets required to be deducted in accordance with section II.B.1.b. of this appendix. The maximum amount of supplementary capital elements that qualifies as Tier 2 capital is limited to 100 percent of Tier 1 capital. In addition, the combined maximum amount of subordinated debt and intermediate-term preferred stock that qualifies as Tier 2 capital is limited to 50 percent of Tier 1 capital. The maximum amount of the allowance for loan and lease losses that qualifies as Tier 2 capital is limited to 1.25 percent of gross weighted risk assets. Allowances for loan and lease losses in excess of this limit may, of course, be maintained, but would not be included in a bank's total capital. The Federal Reserve will continue to require banks to maintain reserves at levels fully sufficient to cover losses inherent in their loan portfolios.

Qualifying total capital is calculated by adding Tier 1 capital and Tier 2 capital (limited to 100 percent of Tier 1 capital) and then deducting from this sum certain investments in banking or finance subsidiaries that are not consolidated for accounting or supervisory purposes, reciprocal holdings of banking organization capital securities, or other items at the direction of the Federal Reserve. These deductions are discussed above in section II(B).

B. Transition Arrangements

The transition period for implementing the risk-based capital standard ends on December 31, 1992.⁵² Initially, the risk-based capital

⁵²The Basle capital framework does not establish an initial minimum standard for the risk-based capital ratio before the end of 1990. However, for the purpose of calculating a risk-based capital ratio prior to year-end 1990, no sublimit is placed on the amount of the allowance for loan and lease losses includable in Tier 2. In addition, this framework permits, under temporary transition arrangements, a certain percentage of a bank's Tier 1 capital to be made up of supplementary capital elements. In particular, supplementary elements may constitute 25 percent of a bank's Tier 1 capital (before the deduction of goodwill) up to the end of 1990; from year-end 1990 up to the end of 1992, this allowable percentage of supplementary elements in Tier 1 declines to 10 percent of Tier 1 (before the deduction of goodwill). Beginning on December 31, 1992, supplementary elements may not be included in Tier 1. The amount of subordinated debt and intermediate-term preferred stock temporarily included in Tier 1 under these arrangements will not be subject to the sublimit on the

Continued

guidelines do not establish a minimum level of capital. However, by year-end 1990, banks are expected to meet a minimum interim target ratio for qualifying total capital to weighted risk assets of 7.25 percent, at least one-half of which should be in the form of Tier 1 capital. For purposes of meeting the 1990 interim target, the amount of loan loss reserves that may be included in capital is limited to 1.5 percent of weighted risk assets

amount of such instruments includable in Tier 2 capital. Goodwill must be deducted from the sum of a bank's permanent core capital elements (that is, common equity, noncumulative perpetual preferred stock, and minority interest in the equity of unconsolidated subsidiaries) plus supplementary items that may temporarily qualify as Tier 1 elements for the purpose of calculating Tier 1 (net of goodwill), Tier 2, and total capital.

and up to 10 percent of a bank's Tier 1 capital may consist of supplementary capital elements. Thus, the 7.25 percent interim target ratio implies a minimum ratio of Tier 1 capital to weighted risk assets of 3.6 percent (one-half of 7.25) and a minimum ratio of core capital elements to weighted risk assets ratio of 3.25 percent (nine-tenths of the Tier 1 capital ratio).

Through year-end 1990, banks have the option of complying with the minimum 7.25 percent year-end 1990 risk-based capital standard, in lieu of the minimum 5.5 percent primary and 6 percent total capital to total assets capital ratios set forth in appendix B to part 225 of the Federal Reserve's Regulation Y. In addition, as more fully set forth in appendix B to this part, banks are expected to maintain a minimum ratio of Tier 1 capital total assets during this transition period.

ATTACHMENT I—SAMPLE CALCULATION OF RISK-BASED CAPITAL RATIO FOR STATE MEMBER BANKS

Example of a bank with \$6,000 in total capital and the following assets and off-balance sheet items:

Balance Sheet Assets:	
Cash	\$5,000
U.S. Treasuries	20,000
Balances at domestic banks	5,000
Loans secured by first liens on 1-4 family residential properties	5,000
Loans to private corporations	65,000
Total Balance Sheet Assets	\$100,000
Off-Balance Sheet Items:	
Standby letters of credit ("SLCs") backing general obligation debt issues of U.S. municipalities ("GOs")	\$10,000
Long-term legally binding commitments to private corporations	20,000
Total Off-Balance Sheet Items	30,000

This bank's total capital to total assets (leverage) ratio would be: $(\$6,000/\$100,000)=6.00\%$

To compute the bank's weighted risk assets:

1. Compute the credit equivalent amount of each off-balance sheet ("OBS") item

OBS item	Face value	Conversion factor	Credit equivalent amount
SLCS backing municipal GOs	$\$10,000 \times$	1.00 =	\$10,000
Long-term commitments to private corporations	$20,000 \times$	0.50 =	10,000
2. Multiply each balance sheet asset and the credit equivalent amount of each OBS item by the appropriate risk weight.			
0% Category:			
Cash	\$ 5,000		
U.S. Treasuries	20,000		
20% Category:			
Balances at domestic banks	$25,000 \times$	0 =	0
Credit equivalent amounts of SLCSs backing GOs of U.S. municipalities	5,000		
	10,000		
50% Category:			
Loans secured by first liens on 1-4 family residential properties	$15,000 \times$	.20 =	\$3,000
100% Category:			
Loans to private corporations	$5,000 \times$	.50 =	2,500
Credit equivalent amounts of long-term commitments to private corporations	65,000		
	10,000		
Total risk-weighted assets	$75,000 \times$	1.00 =	75,000
			80,500

This bank's ratio of total capital to weighted risk assets (risk-based capital ratio) would be: $(\$6,000/\$80,500)=7.45\%$

ATTACHMENT II—SUMMARY DEFINITION OF QUALIFYING CAPITAL FOR STATE MEMBER BANKS* USING THE YEAR-END 1992 STANDARDS

Components	Minimum requirements after transition period
Core Capital (Tier 1): Common stockholders' equity Qualifying non-cumulative perpetual preferred stock Minority interest in equity accounts of consolidated subsidiaries	Must equal or exceed 4% of weighted risk assets. No limit. No limit; banks should avoid undue reliance on preferred stock in Tier 1. Banks should avoid using minority interests to introduce elements not otherwise qualifying for Tier 1 capital.
Less: Goodwill and other intangible assets required to be deducted from capital. ¹ Supplementary Capital (Tier 2): Allowance for loan and lease losses Perpetual preferred stock Hybrid capital instruments and equity contract notes Subordinated debt and intermediate-term preferred stock (original weighted average maturity of 5 years or more). Revaluation reserves (equity and building)	Total of Tier 2 is limited to 100% of Tier 1. ² Limited to 1.25% of weighted risk assets. ² No limit within Tier 2. No limit within Tier 2. Subordinated debt and intermediate-term preferred stock are limited to 50% of Tier 1; ³ amortized for capital purposes as they approach maturity. Not included; banks encouraged to disclose; may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for international comparisons; and taken into account in making an overall assessment of capital.
Deductions (from sum of Tier 1 and Tier 2): Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries Reciprocal holdings of banking organizations' capital securities Other deductions (such as other subsidiaries or joint ventures) as determined by supervisory authority. Total Capital (Tier 1+Tier 2)—Deductions	On a case-by-case basis or as a matter of policy after formal rulemaking. Must equal or exceed 8% of weighted risk assets.

*See discussion in section II of the Guidelines for a complete description of the requirements for, and the limitations on, the components of qualifying capital.

¹ Requirements for the deduction of other intangible assets are set forth in section II.B.1.b. of this appendix.

² Amounts in excess of limitations are permitted but do not qualify as capital.

³ Amounts in excess of limitations are permitted but do not qualify as capital.

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ATTACHMENT III—SUMMARY OF RISK WEIGHTS AND RISK CATEGORIES FOR STATE MEMBER BANKS

Category 1: Zero Percent

1. Cash (domestic and foreign) held in the bank or in transit.

2. Balances due from Federal Reserve Banks (including Federal Reserve Bank stock) and central banks in other OECD countries.

3. Direct claims on, and the portions of claims that are unconditionally guaranteed by, the U.S. Treasury and U.S. Government agencies¹ and the central governments of other OECD countries, and local currency claims on, and the portions of local currency claims that are unconditionally guaranteed by, the central governments of non-OECD countries including the central banks of non-OECD countries), to the extent that the bank has liabilities booked in that currency.

4. Gold bullion held in the bank's vaults or in another's vaults on an allocated basis, to the extent offset by gold bullion liabilities.

5. Claims collateralized by cash on deposit in the bank or by securities issued or guaranteed by OECD central governments or U.S. government agencies for which a positive margin of collateral is maintained on a daily basis, fully taking into account any change in the bank's exposure to the obligor or counterparty under a claim in relation to the market value of the collateral held in support of that claim.

Category 2: 20 Percent

1. Cash items in the process of collection.

2. All claims (long- or short-term) on, and the portions of claims (long- or short-term) that are guaranteed by, U.S. depository institutions and OECD banks.

3. Short-term claims (remaining maturity of one year or less) on, and the portions of short-term claims that are guaranteed by, non-OECD banks.

4. The portions of claims that are conditionally guaranteed by the central governments of OECD countries and U.S. Government agencies, and the portions of local currency claims that are conditionally guaranteed by the central governments of non-OECD countries, to the extent that the bank has liabilities booked in that currency.

¹For the purpose of calculating the risk-based capital ratio, a U.S. Government agency is defined as an instrumentality of the U.S. Government whose obligations are fully and explicitly guaranteed as to the timely payment of principal and interest by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government.

5. Claims on, and the portions of claims that are guaranteed by, U.S. Government-sponsored agencies.²

6. General obligation claims on, and the portions of claims that are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of, local governments and political subdivisions of the U.S. and other OECD local governments.

7. Claims on, and the portions of claims that are guaranteed by, official multilateral lending institutions or regional development banks.

8. The portions of claims that are collateralized³ by cash on deposit in the bank or by securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury, the central governments of other OECD countries, and U.S. government agencies that do not qualify for the zero percent risk-weight category, or that are collateralized by securities issued or guaranteed by U.S. government-sponsored agencies.

9. The portions of claims that are collateralized³ by securities issued by official multilateral lending institutions or regional development banks.

10. Certain privately-issued securities representing indirect ownership of mortgage-backed U.S. Government agency or U.S. Government-sponsored agency securities.

11. Investment in shares of a fund whose portfolio is permitted to hold only securities that would qualify for the zero or 20 percent risk categories.

Category 3: 50 Percent

1. Loans fully secured by first liens on 1-to 4-family residential properties or on multi-family residential properties that have been made in accordance with prudent underwriting standards, that are performing in accordance with their original terms, that are not past due or in nonaccrual status, and that meet other qualifying criteria, and certain privately-issued mortgage-backed securities representing indirect ownership of such loans. (Loans made for speculative purposes are excluded.)

2. Revenue bonds or similar claims that are obligations of U.S. state or local governments, or other OECD local governments, but for which the government entity is committed to repay the debt only out of revenues from the facilities financed.

²For the purpose of calculating the risk-based capital ratio, a U.S. Government-sponsored agency is defined as an agency originally established or chartered to serve public purposes specified by the U.S. Congress but whose obligations are not *explicitly* guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government.

³The extent of collateralization is determined by current market value.

3. Credit equivalent amounts of interest rate and foreign exchange rate related contracts, except for those assigned to a lower risk category.

Category 4: 100 Percent

1. All other claims on private obligors.
2. Claims on, or guaranteed by, non-OECD foreign banks with a remaining maturity exceeding one year.
3. Claims on, or guaranteed by, non-OECD central governments that are not included in item 3 of Category 1 or item 4 of Category 2; all claims on non-OECD state or local governments.
4. Obligations issued by U.S. state or local governments, or other OECD local governments (including industrial development authorities and similar entities), repayable solely by a private party or enterprise.
5. Premises, plant, and equipment; other fixed assets; and other real estate owned.
6. Investments in any unconsolidated subsidiaries, joint ventures, or associated companies—if not deducted from capital.
7. Instruments issued by other banking organizations that qualify as capital—if not deducted from capital.
8. Claims on commercial firms owned by a government.
9. All other assets, including any intangible assets that are not deducted from capital.

ATTACHMENT IV—CREDIT CONVERSION FACTORS FOR OFF-BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS FOR STATE MEMBER BANKS

100 Percent Conversion Factor

1. Direct credit substitutes. (These include general guarantees of indebtedness and all guarantee-type instruments, including standby letters of credit backing the financial obligations of other parties.)
2. Risk participations in bankers acceptances and direct credit substitutes, such as standby letters of credit.
3. Sale and repurchase agreements and assets sold with recourse that are not included on the balance sheet.
4. Forward agreements to purchase assets, including financing facilities, on which drawdown is certain.

5. Securities lent for which the bank is at risk.

50 Percent Conversion Factor

1. Transaction-related contingencies. (These include bid-bonds, performance bonds, warranties, and standby letters of credit backing the nonfinancial performance of other parties.)
2. Unused portions of commitments with an original maturity exceeding one year, including underwriting commitments and commercial credit lines.
3. Revolving underwriting facilities (RUFs), note issuance facilities (NIFs), and similar arrangements.

20 Percent Conversion Factor

Short-term, self-liquidating trade-related contingencies, including commercial letters of credit.

Zero Percent Conversion Factor

Unused portions of commitments with an original maturity of one year or less, or which are unconditionally cancellable at any time, provided a separate credit decision is made before each drawing.

Credit Conversion for Derivative Contracts

1. The credit equivalent amount of a derivative contract is the sum of the current credit exposure of the contract and an estimate of potential future increases in credit exposure. The current exposure is the positive mark-to-market value of the contract (or zero if the mark-to-market value is zero or negative). For derivative contracts that are subject to a qualifying bilateral netting contract, the current exposure is, generally, the net sum of the positive and negative mark-to-market values of the contracts included in the netting contract (or zero if the net sum of the mark-to-market values is zero or negative). The potential future exposure is calculated by multiplying the effective notional amount of a contract by one of the following credit conversion factors, as appropriate:

CONVERSION FACTORS
[In percent]

Remaining maturity	Interest rate	Exchange rate and gold	Equity	Commodity, excluding precious metals	Precious metals, except gold
One year or less	0.0	1.0	6.0	10.0	7.0
Over one to five years	0.5	5.0	8.0	12.0	7.0
Over five years	1.5	7.5	10.0	15.0	8.0

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For contracts subject to a qualifying bilateral netting contract, the potential future exposure is, generally, the sum of the individual potential future exposures for each contract included under the netting contract adjusted by the application of the following formula:

$$A_{net} = (0.4 \times A_{gross}) + 0.6(NGR \times A_{gross})$$

NGR is the ratio of net current exposure to gross current exposure.

2. No potential future exposure is calculated for single currency interest rate

swaps in which payments are made based upon two floating indices, that is, so called floating/floating or basis swaps. The credit exposure on these contracts is evaluated solely on the basis of their mark-to-market value. Exchange rate contracts with an original maturity of fourteen days or fewer are excluded. Instruments traded on exchanges that require daily receipt and payment of cash variation margin are also excluded.

ATTACHMENT V—CALCULATING CREDIT EQUIVALENT AMOUNTS FOR DERIVATIVE CONTRACTS

Type of contract	Notional principal amount	Conversion factor	Potential exposure (dollars)	Mark-to-market	Current exposure (dollars)	Credit equivalent amount
(1) 120-day forward foreign exchange ..	5,000,000	0.01	50,000	100,000	100,000	150,000
(2) 4-year forward foreign exchange	6,000,000	0.05	300,000	-120,000	0	300,000
(3) 3-year single-currency fixed & floating interest rate swap	10,000,000	0.005	50,000	200,000	200,000	250,000
(4) 6-month oil swap	10,000,000	0.10	1,000,000	-250,000	0	1,000,000
(5) 7-year cross-currency floating & floating interest rate swap	20,000,000	0.075	1,500,000	-1,500,000	0	1,500,000
Total			2,900,000	+	300,000	3,200,000

a. If contracts (1) through (5) above are subject to a qualifying bilateral netting contract, then the following applies:

Contract	Potential future exposure	Net current exposure	Credit equivalent amount
(1)	50,000	.....	.....
(2)	300,000	.....	.....
(3)	50,000	.....	.....
(4)	1,000,000	.....	.....
(5)	1,500,000	.....	.....
Total	2,900,000	+0	2,900,000

NOTE: The total of the mark-to-market values from the first table is -\$1,370,000. Since this is a negative amount, the net current exposure is zero.

b. To recognize the effects of bilateral netting on potential future exposure the following formula applies:

$$A_{net} = (.4 \times A_{gross}) + .6(NGR \times A_{gross})$$

c. In the above example where the net current exposure is zero, the credit equivalent amount would be calculated as follows:

$$NGR = 0 = (0/300,000)$$

$$A_{net} = (0.4 \times \$2,900,000) + 0.6 (0 \times \$2,900,000)$$

$$A_{net} = \$1,160,000$$

The credit equivalent amount is \$1,160,000+0=\$1,160,000.

d. If the net current exposure was a positive number, for example \$200,000, the credit equivalent amount would be calculated as follows:

$$NGR = .67 = (\$200,000/\$300,000)$$

$$A_{net} = (0.4 \times \$2,900,000) + 0.6 (.67 \times \$2,900,000)$$

$$A_{net} = \$2,325,800.$$

The credit equivalent amount would be \$2,325,800+\$200,000=\$2,525,800.

ATTACHMENT VI—SUMMARY

	Transitional arrangements for State member banks			Final arrangement—Year-end 1992
	Initial	Year-end 1990		
1. Minimum standard of total capital to weighted risk assets.	None	7.25%	8.0%	
2. Definition of Tier 1 capital	Common equity, qualifying noncum. perpetual preferred stock, minority interests, plus supplementary elements ¹ less goodwill.	Common equity, qualifying noncum. perpetual preferred stock, minority interests, plus supplementary elements ² less goodwill.	Common equity, qualifying noncumulative perpetual preferred stock, and minority interest less goodwill and other intangible assets required to be deducted from capital. ³	
3. Minimum standard of Tier 1 capital to weighted risk assets.	None	3.625%	4.0%	
4. Minimum standard of stockholders' equity to weighted risk assets.	None	3.25%	4.0%	
5. Limitations on supplementary capital elements:				
a. Allowance for loan and lease losses	No limit within Tier 2	1.5% of weighted risk assets	1.25% of weighted risk assets.	
b. Qualifying perpetual preferred stock	No limit within Tier 2	No limit within Tier 2	No limit within Tier 2.	
c. Hybrid capital instruments and equity contract notes.	No limit within Tier 2	No limit within Tier 2	No limit within Tier 2.	
d. Subordinated debt and intermediate term preferred stock.	Combined maximum of 50% of Tier 1	Combined maximum of 50% of Tier 1	Combined maximum of 50% of Tier 1.	
e. Total qualifying Tier 2 capital	May not exceed Tier 1 capital	May not exceed Tier 1 capital	May not exceed Tier 1 capital.	
6. Definition of total capital	Tier 1 plus Tier 2 less —reciprocal holdings of banking organizations' capital instruments. —investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries.	Tier 1 plus Tier 2 less —reciprocal holdings of banking organizations' capital instruments. —investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries.	Tier 1 plus Tier 2 less —reciprocal holdings of banking organizations' capital instruments. —investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries.	

¹ Supplementary elements may be included in Tier 1 up to 25% of the sum of Tier 1 plus goodwill.
² Supplementary elements may be included in Tier 1 up to 10% of the sum of Tier 1 plus goodwill.
³ Requirements for the deduction of other intangible assets are set forth in section II.B.1.b. of this appendix.
 [54 FR 4198, Jan. 27, 1989; 54 FR 12531, Mar. 27, 1989, as amended at 55 FR 32831, Aug. 10, 1990; 56 FR 51156, Oct. 10, 1991; 57 FR 2012, Jan. 17, 1992; 57 FR 60719, Dec. 22, 1992; 57 FR 62179, 62182, Dec. 30, 1992; 58 FR 7979, Feb. 11, 1993; 58 FR 68738, Dec. 29, 1993; Reg. H, 59 FR 62992, Dec. 7, 1994; 59 FR 63244, Dec. 8, 1994; 59 FR 64563, Dec. 15, 1994; 59 FR 65924, 65925, Dec. 22, 1994; 60 FR 8180, Feb. 13, 1995; 60 FR 39229, 39230, Aug. 1, 1995; 60 FR 39493, Aug. 2, 1995; 60 FR 45615, Aug. 31, 1995; 60 FR 46176, 46178, Sept. 5, 1995; 60 FR 60044, Dec. 20, 1995; 61 FR 47370, Sept. 6, 1996]

APPENDIX B TO PART 208—CAPITAL ADEQUACY GUIDELINES FOR STATE MEMBER BANKS: TIER 1 LEVERAGE MEASURE

I. OVERVIEW

a. The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System has adopted a minimum ratio of tier 1 capital to total assets to assist in the assessment of the capital adequacy of state member banks.¹ The principal objective of this measure is to place a constraint on the maximum degree to which a state member bank can leverage its equity capital base. It is intended to be used as a supplement to the risk-based capital measure.

b. The guidelines apply to all state member banks on a consolidated basis and are to be used in the examination and supervisory process as well as in the analysis of applications acted upon by the Federal Reserve. The Board will review the guidelines from time to time and will consider the need for possible adjustments in light of any significant changes in the economy, financial markets, and banking practices.

II. THE TIER 1 LEVERAGE RATIO

a. The Board has established a *minimum* level of tier 1 capital to total assets of 3 percent. An institution operating at or near these levels is expected to have well-diversified risk, including no undue interest-rate risk exposure; excellent asset quality; high liquidity; and good earnings; and in general be considered a strong banking organization, rated composite 1 under CAMEL rating system of banks. Institutions not meeting these characteristics, as well as institutions with supervisory, financial, or operational weaknesses, are expected to operate well above minimum capital standards. Institutions experiencing or anticipating significant growth also are expected to maintain capital ratios, including tangible capital positions, well above the minimum levels. For example, most such banks generally have operated at capital levels ranging from 100 to 200 basis points above the stated minimums. Higher capital ratios could be required if warranted by the particular circumstances or risk profiles of individual banks. Thus for all but the most highly rated banks meeting the conditions set forth above, the minimum tier 1 leverage ratio is to be 3 percent plus an additional cushion of a least 100 to 200 basis points. In all cases, banking institutions should hold capital commensurate with the level and nature of all risks, including the

¹Supervisory risk-based capital ratios that related capital to weighted-risk assets for state member banks are outlined in Appendix A to this part.

volume and severity of problem loans, to which they are exposed.

b. A bank's tier 1 leverage ratio is calculated by dividing its tier 1 capital (the numerator of the ratio) by its average total consolidated assets (the denominator of the ratio). The ratio will also be calculated using period-end assets whenever necessary, on a case-by-case basis. For the purpose of this leverage ratio, the definition of tier 1 capital for year-end 1992 as set forth in the risk-based capital guidelines contained in Appendix A of this part will be used.² As a general matter, average total consolidated assets are defined as the quarterly average total assets (defined net of the allowance for loan and lease losses) reported on the bank's Reports of Condition and Income (Call Reports), less goodwill; amounts of mortgage servicing rights and purchased credit card relationships that, in the aggregate, are in excess of 50 percent of tier 1 capital; amounts of purchased credit card relationships in excess of 25 percent of tier 1 capital; all other intangible assets; any investments in subsidiaries or associated companies that the Federal Reserve determines should be deducted from tier 1 capital; and deferred tax assets that are dependent upon future taxable income, net of their valuation allowance, in excess of the limitation set forth in section II.B.4 of this Appendix A.³

c. Notwithstanding other provisions of this appendix B, a qualifying bank that has transferred small business loans and leases on personal property (small business obligations) with recourse shall, for purposes of calculating its tier 1 leverage ratio, exclude from its average total consolidated assets the outstanding principal amount of the small business loans and leases transferred with recourse, provided two conditions are met. First, the transaction must be treated

²At the end of 1992, tier 1 capital for state member banks includes common equity, minority interest in the equity accounts of consolidated subsidiaries, and qualifying non-cumulative perpetual preferred stock. In addition, as a general matter, tier 1 capital excludes goodwill; amounts of mortgage servicing rights and purchased credit card relationships that, in the aggregate, exceed 50 percent of tier 1 capital; amounts of purchased credit card relationships that exceed 25 percent of tier 1 capital; all other intangible assets; and deferred tax assets that are dependent upon future taxable income, net of their valuation allowance, in excess of certain limitations. The Federal Reserve may exclude certain investments in subsidiaries or associated companies as appropriate.

³Deductions from tier 1 capital and other adjustments are discussed more fully in section II.B. in Appendix A of this part.

as a sale under generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and, second, the bank must establish pursuant to GAAP a non-capital reserve sufficient to meet the bank's reasonably estimated liability under the recourse arrangement. Only loans and leases to businesses that meet the criteria for a small business concern established by the Small Business Administration under section 3(a) of the Small Business Act are eligible for this capital treatment.

d. For purposes of this appendix B, a bank is qualifying if it meets the criteria set forth in the Board's prompt corrective action regulation (12 CFR 208.30) for well capitalized or, by order of the Board, adequately capitalized. For purposes of determining whether a bank meets these criteria, its capital ratios must be calculated without regard to the preferential capital treatment for transfers of small business obligations with recourse specified in section II.c. of this appendix B. The total outstanding amount of recourse retained by a qualifying bank on transfers of small business obligations receiving the preferential capital treatment cannot exceed 15 percent of the bank's total risk-based capital. By order, the Board may approve a higher limit.

e. If a bank ceases to be qualifying or exceeds the 15 percent capital limitation, the preferential capital treatment will continue to apply to any transfers of small business obligations with recourse that were consummated during the time that the bank was qualifying and did not exceed the capital limit.

f. The leverage capital ratio of the bank shall be calculated without regard to the preferential capital treatment for transfers of small business obligations with recourse specified in section II of this appendix B for purposes of:

(i) Determining whether a bank is adequately capitalized, undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized, or critically undercapitalized under prompt corrective action (12 CFR 208.33(b)); and

(ii) Reclassifying a well capitalized bank to adequately capitalized and requiring an adequately capitalized bank to comply with certain mandatory or discretionary supervisory actions as if the bank were in the next lower prompt corrective action capital category (12 CFR 208.33(c)).

g. Whenever appropriate, including when a bank is undertaking expansion, seeking to engage in new activities or otherwise facing unusual or abnormal risks, the Board will continue to consider the level of an individual bank's tangible tier 1 leverage ratio (after deducting all intangibles) in making an overall assessment of capital adequacy. This is consistent with the Federal Reserve's risk-based capital guidelines an long-standing Board policy and practice with regard to leverage guidelines. Banks experiencing

growth, whether internally or by acquisition, are expected to maintain strong capital position substantially above minimum supervisory levels, without significant reliance on intangible assets.

[Reg. H, 59 FR 65925, Dec. 22, 1994, as amended at 60 FR 39230, Aug. 1, 1995; 60 FR 45615, Aug. 31, 1995]

APPENDIX C TO PART 208—INTERAGENCY GUIDELINES FOR REAL ESTATE LENDING POLICIES

The agencies' regulations require that each insured depository institution adopt and maintain a written policy that establishes appropriate limits and standards for all extensions of credit that are secured by liens on or interests in real estate or made for the purpose of financing the construction of a building or other improvements.⁵ These guidelines are intended to assist institutions in the formulation and maintenance of a real estate lending policy that is appropriate to the size of the institution and the nature and scope of its individual operations, as well as satisfies the requirements of the regulation.

Each institution's policies must be comprehensive, and consistent with safe and sound lending practices, and must ensure that the institution operates within limits and according to standards that are reviewed and approved at least annually by the board of directors. Real estate lending is an integral part of many institutions' business plans and, when undertaken in a prudent manner, will not be subject to examiner criticism.

LOAN PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The lending policy should contain a general outline of the scope and distribution of the institution's credit facilities and the manner in which real estate loans are made, serviced, and collected. In particular, the institution's policies on real estate lending should:

- Identify the geographic areas in which the institution will consider lending.
- Establish a loan portfolio diversification policy and set limits for real estate loans by type and geographic market (e.g., limits on higher risk loans).
- Identify appropriate terms and conditions by type of real estate loan.
- Establish loan origination and approval procedures, both generally and by size and type of loan.

⁵The agencies have adopted a uniform rule on real estate lending. See 12 CFR part 365 (FDIC); 12 CFR part 208, subpart C (FRB); 12 CFR part 34, subpart D (OCC); and 12 CFR 563.100–101 (OTS).

- Establish prudent underwriting standards that are clear and measurable, including loan-to-value limits, that are consistent with these supervisory guidelines.

- Establish review and approval procedures for exception loans, including loans with loan-to-value percentages in excess of supervisory limits.

- Establish loan administration procedures, including documentation, disbursement, collateral inspection, collection, and loan review.

- Establish real estate appraisal and evaluation programs.

- Require that management monitor the loan portfolio and provide timely and adequate reports to the board of directors.

The institution should consider both internal and external factors in the formulation of its loan policies and strategic plan. Factors that should be considered include:

- The size and financial condition of the institution.

- The expertise and size of the lending staff.

- The need to avoid undue concentrations of risk.

- Compliance with all real estate related laws and regulations, including the Community Reinvestment Act, anti-discrimination laws, and for savings associations, the Qualified Thrift Lender test.

- Market conditions.

The institution should monitor conditions in the real estate markets in its lending area so that it can react quickly to changes in market conditions that are relevant to its lending decisions. Market supply and demand factors that should be considered include:

- Demographic indicators, including population and employment trends.

- Zoning requirements.

- Current and projected vacancy, construction, and absorption rates.

- Current and projected lease terms, rental rates, and sales prices, including concessions.

- Current and projected operating expenses for different types of projects.

- Economic indicators, including trends and diversification of the lending area.

- Valuation trends, including discount and direct capitalization rates.

UNDERWRITING STANDARDS

Prudently underwritten real estate loans should reflect all relevant credit factors, including:

- The capacity of the borrower, or income from the underlying property, to adequately service the debt.

- The value of the mortgaged property.

- The overall creditworthiness of the borrower.

- The level of equity invested in the property.

- Any secondary sources of repayment.

- Any additional collateral or credit enhancements (such as guarantees, mortgage insurance or takeout commitments).

The lending policies should reflect the level of risk that is acceptable to the board of directors and provide clear and measurable underwriting standards that enable the institution's lending staff to evaluate these credit factors. The underwriting standards should address:

- The maximum loan amount by type of property.

- Maximum loan maturities by type of property.

- Amortization schedules.

- Pricing structure for different types of real estate loans.

- Loan-to-value limits by type of property.

For development and construction projects, and completed commercial properties, the policy should also establish, commensurate with the size and type of the project or property:

- Requirements for feasibility studies and sensitivity and risk analyses (*e.g.*, sensitivity of income projections to changes in economic variables such as interest rates, vacancy rates, or operating expenses).

- Minimum requirements for initial investment and maintenance of hard equity by the borrower (*e.g.*, cash or unencumbered investment in the underlying property).

- Minimum standards for net worth, cash flow, and debt service coverage of the borrower or underlying property.

- Standards for the acceptability of and limits on non-amortizing loans.

- Standards for the acceptability of and limits on the use of interest reserves.

- Pre-leasing and pre-sale requirements for income-producing property.

- Pre-sale and minimum unit release requirements for non-income-producing property loans.

- Limits on partial recourse or non-recourse loans and requirements for guarantor support.

- Requirements for takeout commitments.

- Minimum covenants for loan agreements.

LOAN ADMINISTRATION

The institution should also establish loan administration procedures for its real estate portfolio that address:

- Documentation, including:

- Type and frequency of financial statements, including requirements for verification of information provided by the borrower;

- Type and frequency of collateral evaluations (appraisals and other estimates of value).

- Loan closing and disbursement.

- Payment processing.
- Escrow administration.
- Collateral administration.
- Loan payoffs.
- Collections and foreclosure, including:
 - Delinquency follow-up procedures;
 - Foreclosure timing;
 - Extensions and other forms of forbearance;
 - Acceptance of deeds in lieu of foreclosure.
- Claims processing (e.g., seeking recovery on a defaulted loan covered by a government guaranty or insurance program).
- Servicing and participation agreements.

SUPERVISORY LOAN-TO-VALUE LIMITS

Institutions should establish their own internal loan-to-value limits for real estate loans. These internal limits should not exceed the following supervisory limits:

Loan category	Loan-to-value limit (percent)
Raw land	65
Land development	75
Construction:	
Commercial, multifamily, ¹ and other non-residential	80
1- to 4-family residential	85
Improved property	85
Owner-occupied 1- to 4-family and home equity	(2)

¹Multifamily construction includes condominiums and cooperatives.

²A loan-to-value limit has not been established for permanent mortgage or home equity loans on owner-occupied, 1- to 4-family residential property. However, for any such loan with a loan-to-value ratio that equals or exceeds 90 percent at origination, an institution should require appropriate credit enhancement in the form of either mortgage insurance or readily marketable collateral.

The supervisory loan-to-value limits should be applied to the underlying property that collateralizes the loan. For loans that fund multiple phases of the same real estate project (e.g., a loan for both land development and construction of an office building), the appropriate loan-to-value limit is the limit applicable to the final phase of the project funded by the loan; however, loan disbursements should not exceed actual development or construction outlays. In situations where a loan is fully cross-collateralized by two or more properties or is secured by a collateral pool of two or more properties, the appropriate maximum loan amount under supervisory loan-to-value limits is the sum of the value of each property, less senior liens, multiplied by the appropriate loan-to-value limit for each property. To ensure that collateral margins remain within the supervisory limits, lenders should redetermine conformity whenever collateral substitutions are made to the collateral pool.

In establishing internal loan-to-value limits, each lender is expected to carefully con-

sider the institution-specific and market factors listed under “Loan Portfolio Management Considerations,” as well as any other relevant factors, such as the particular subcategory or type of loan. For any subcategory of loans that exhibits greater credit risk than the overall category, a lender should consider the establishment of an internal loan-to-value limit for that subcategory that is lower than the limit for the overall category.

The loan-to-value ratio is only one of several pertinent credit factors to be considered when underwriting a real estate loan. Other credit factors to be taken into account are highlighted in the “Underwriting Standards” section above. Because of these other factors, the establishment of these supervisory limits should not be interpreted to mean that loans at these levels will automatically be considered sound.

LOANS IN EXCESS OF THE SUPERVISORY LOAN-TO-VALUE LIMITS

The agencies recognize that appropriate loan-to-value limits vary not only among categories of real estate loans but also among individual loans. Therefore, it may be appropriate in individual cases to originate or purchase loans with loan-to-value ratios in excess of the supervisory loan-to-value limits, based on the support provided by other credit factors. Such loans should be identified in the institutions's records, and their aggregate amount reported at least quarterly to the institution's board of directors. (See additional reporting requirements described under “Exceptions to the General Policy.”)

The aggregate amount of all loans in excess of the supervisory loan-to-value limits should not exceed 100 percent of total capital.² Moreover, within the aggregate limit, total loans for all commercial, agricultural, multifamily or other non-1-to-4 family residential properties should not exceed 30 percent of total capital. An institution will come under increased supervisory scrutiny as the total of such loans approaches these levels.

In determining the aggregate amount of such loans, institutions should: (a) Include all loans secured by the same property if any one of those loans exceeds the supervisory

²For the state member banks, the term “total capital” means “total risk-based capital” as defined in appendix A to 12 CFR part 208. For insured state non-member banks, “total capital” refers to that term described in table I of appendix A to 12 CFR part 325. For national banks, the term “total capital” is defined at 12 CFR 3.2(e). For savings associations, the term “total capital” is defined at 12 CFR 567.5(c).

loan-to-value limits; and (b) include the recourse obligation of any such loan sold with recourse. Conversely, a loan should no longer be reported to the directors as part of aggregate totals when reduction in principal or senior liens, or additional contribution of collateral or equity (e.g., improvements to the real property securing the loan), bring the loan-to-value ratio into compliance with supervisory limits.

EXCLUDED TRANSACTIONS

The agencies also recognize that there are a number of lending situations in which other factors significantly outweigh the need to apply the supervisory loan-to-value limits. These include:

- Loans guaranteed or insured by the U.S. government or its agencies, provided that the amount of the guaranty or insurance is at least equal to the portion of the loan that exceeds the supervisory loan-to-value limit.
- Loans backed by the full faith and credit of a state government, provided that the amount of the assurance is at least equal to the portion of the loan that exceeds the supervisory loan-to-value limit.
- Loans guaranteed or insured by a state, municipal or local government, or an agency thereof, provided that the amount of the guaranty or insurance is at least equal to the portion of the loan that exceeds the supervisory loan-to-value limit, and provided that the lender has determined that the guarantor or insurer has the financial capacity and willingness to perform under the terms of the guaranty or insurance agreement.
- Loans that are to be sold promptly after origination, without recourse, to a financially responsible third party.
- Loans that are renewed, refinanced, or restructured without the advancement of new funds or an increase in the line of credit (except for reasonable closing costs), or loans that are renewed, refinanced, or restructured in connection with a workout situation, either with or without the advancement of new funds, where consistent with safe and sound banking practices and part of a clearly defined and well-documented program to achieve orderly liquidation of the debt, reduce risk of loss, or maximize recovery on the loan.
- Loans that facilitate the sale of real estate acquired by the lender in the ordinary course of collecting a debt previously contracted in good faith.
- Loans for which a lien on or interest in real property is taken as additional collateral through an abundance of caution by the lender (e.g., the institution takes a blanket lien on all or substantially all of the assets of the borrower, and the value of the real property is low relative to the aggregate value of all other collateral).

- Loans, such as working capital loans, where the lender does not rely principally on real estate as security and the extension of credit is not used to acquire, develop, or construct permanent improvements on real property.

- Loans for the purpose of financing permanent improvements to real property, but not secured by the property, if such security interest is not required by prudent underwriting practice.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE GENERAL LENDING POLICY

Some provision should be made for the consideration of loan requests from credit-worthy borrowers whose credit needs do not fit within the institution's general lending policy. An institution may provide for prudently underwritten exceptions to its lending policies, including loan-to-value limits, on a loan-by-loan basis. However, any exceptions from the supervisory loan-to-value limits should conform to the aggregate limits on such loans discussed above.

The board of directors is responsible for establishing standards for the review and approval of exception loans. Each institution should establish an appropriate internal process for the review and approval of loans that do not conform to its own internal policy standards. The approval of any such loan should be supported by a written justification that clearly sets forth all of the relevant credit factors that support the underwriting decision. The justification and approval documents for such loans should be maintained as a part of the permanent loan file. Each institution should monitor compliance with its real estate lending policy and individually report exception loans of a significant size to its board of directors.

SUPERVISORY REVIEW OF REAL ESTATE LENDING POLICIES AND PRACTICES

The real estate lending policies of institutions will be evaluated by examiners during the course of their examinations to determine if the policies are consistent with safe and sound lending practices, these guidelines, and the requirements of the regulation. In evaluating the adequacy of the institution's real estate lending policies and practices, examiners will take into consideration the following factors:

- The nature and scope of the institution's real estate lending activities.
- The size and financial condition of the institution.
- The quality of the institution's management and internal controls.
- The expertise and size of the lending and loan administration staff.
- Market conditions.

Lending policy exception reports will also be reviewed by examiners during the course of their examinations to determine whether

the institutions' exceptions are adequately documented and appropriate in light of all of the relevant credit considerations. An excessive volume of exceptions to an institution's real estate lending policy may signal a weakening of its underwriting practices, or may suggest a need to revise the loan policy.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of these Guidelines:

Construction loan means an extension of credit for the purpose of erecting or rehabilitating buildings or other structures, including any infrastructure necessary for development.

Extension of credit or loan means:

(1) The total amount of any loan, line of credit, or other legally binding lending commitment with respect to real property; and

(2) The total amount, based on the amount of consideration paid, of any loan, line of credit, or other legally binding lending commitment acquired by a lender by purchase, assignment, or otherwise.

Improved property loan means an extension of credit secured by one of the following types of real property:

(1) Farmland, ranchland or timberland committed to ongoing management and agricultural production;

(2) 1- to 4-family residential property that is not owner-occupied;

(3) Residential property containing five or more individual dwelling units;

(4) Completed commercial property; or

(5) Other income-producing property that has been completed and is available for occupancy and use, except income-producing owner-occupied 1- to 4-family residential property.

Land development loan means an extension of credit for the purpose of improving unimproved real property prior to the erection of structures. The improvement of unimproved real property may include the laying or placement of sewers, water pipes, utility cables, streets, and other infrastructure necessary for future development.

Loan origination means the time of inception of the obligation to extend credit (i.e., when the last event or prerequisite, controllable by the lender, occurs causing the lender to become legally bound to fund an extension of credit).

Loan-to-value or loan-to-value ratio means the percentage or ratio that is derived at the time of loan origination by dividing an extension of credit by the total value of the property(ies) securing or being improved by the extension of credit plus the amount of any readily marketable collateral and other acceptable collateral that secures the extension of credit. The total amount of all senior liens on or interests in such property(ies) should be included in determining the loan-to-value ratio. When mortgage insurance or collateral is used in the calculation of the

loan-to-value ratio, and such credit enhancement is later released or replaced, the loan-to-value ratio should be recalculated.

Other acceptable collateral means any collateral in which the lender has a perfected security interest, that has a quantifiable value, and is accepted by the lender in accordance with safe and sound lending practices. Other acceptable collateral should be appropriately discounted by the lender consistent with the lender's usual practices for making loans secured by such collateral. Other acceptable collateral includes, among other items, unconditional irrevocable standby letters of credit for the benefit of the lender.

Owner-occupied, when used in conjunction with the term *1- to 4-family residential property* means that the owner of the underlying real property occupies at least one unit of the real property as a principal residence of the owner.

Readily marketable collateral means insured deposits, financial instruments, and bullion in which the lender has a perfected interest. Financial instruments and bullion must be salable under ordinary circumstances with reasonable promptness at a fair market value determined by quotations based on actual transactions, on an auction or similarly available daily bid and ask price market. Readily marketable collateral should be appropriately discounted by the lender consistent with the lender's usual practices for making loans secured by such collateral.

Value means an opinion or estimate, set forth in an appraisal or evaluation, whichever may be appropriate, of the market value of real property, prepared in accordance with the agency's appraisal regulations and guidance. For loans to purchase an existing property, the term "value" means the lesser of the actual acquisition cost or the estimate of value.

1- to 4-family residential property means property containing fewer than five individual dwelling units, including manufactured homes permanently affixed to the underlying property (when deemed to be real property under state law).

[57 FR 62896, 62900, Dec. 31, 1992; 58 FR 4460, Jan. 14, 1993]

APPENDIX D TO PART 208—INTERAGENCY GUIDELINES ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR SAFETY AND SOUNDNESS

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- B. Compensation leading to material financial loss.

I. INTRODUCTION

i. Section 39 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act¹ (FDI Act) requires each Federal banking agency (collectively, the agencies) to establish certain safety and soundness standards by regulation or by guideline for all insured depository institutions. Under section 39, the agencies must establish three types of standards: (1) Operational and managerial standards; (2) compensation standards; and (3) such standards relating to asset quality, earnings, and stock valuation as they determine to be appropriate.

ii. Section 39(a) requires the agencies to establish operational and managerial standards relating to: (1) Internal controls, information systems and internal audit systems, in accordance with section 36 of the FDI Act (12 U.S.C. 1831m); (2) loan documentation; (3) credit underwriting; (4) interest rate exposure; (5) asset growth; and (6) compensation, fees, and benefits, in accordance with subsection (c) of section 39. Section 39(b) requires the agencies to establish standards relating to asset quality, earnings, and stock valuation that the agencies determine to be appropriate.

iii. Section 39(c) requires the agencies to establish standards prohibiting as an unsafe and unsound practice any compensatory arrangement that would provide any executive officer, employee, director, or principal shareholder of the institution with excessive compensation, fees or benefits and any compensatory arrangement that could lead to material financial loss to an institution. Section 39(c) also requires that the agencies establish standards that specify when compensation is excessive.

¹Section 39 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831p-1) was added by section 132 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (FDICIA), Pub. L. 102-242, 105 Stat. 2236 (1991), and amended by section 956 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, Pub. L. 102-550, 106 Stat. 3895 (1992) and section 318 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994, Pub. L. 103-325, 108 Stat. 2160 (1994).

iv. If an agency determines that an institution fails to meet any standard established by guideline under subsection (a) or (b) of section 39, the agency may require the institution to submit to the agency an acceptable plan to achieve compliance with the standard. In the event that an institution fails to submit an acceptable plan within the time allowed by the agency or fails in any material respect to implement an accepted plan, the agency must, by order, require the institution to correct the deficiency. The agency may, and in some cases must, take other supervisory actions until the deficiency has been corrected.

v. The agencies have adopted amendments to their rules and regulations to establish deadlines for submission and review of compliance plans.²

vi. The following Guidelines set out the safety and soundness standards that the agencies use to identify and address problems at insured depository institutions before capital becomes impaired. The agencies believe that the standards adopted in these Guidelines serve this end without dictating how institutions must be managed and operated. These standards are designed to identify potential safety and soundness concerns and ensure that action is taken to address those concerns before they pose a risk to the deposit insurance funds.

A. *Preservation of Existing Authority*

Neither section 39 nor these Guidelines in any way limits the authority of the agencies to address unsafe or unsound practices, violations of law, unsafe or unsound conditions, or other practices. Action under section 39 and these Guidelines may be taken independently of, in conjunction with, or in addition to any other enforcement action available to the agencies. Nothing in these Guidelines limits the authority of the FDIC pursuant to section 38(i)(2)(F) of the FDI Act (12 U.S.C. 1831(o)) and Part 325 of Title 12 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

B. *Definitions*

1. *In general.* For purposes of these Guidelines, except as modified in the Guidelines or unless the context otherwise requires, the terms used have the same meanings as set forth in sections 3 and 39 of the FDI Act (12 U.S.C. 1813 and 1831p-1).

²For the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, these regulations appear at 12 CFR Part 30; for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, these regulations appear at 12 CFR Part 263; for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, these regulations appear at 12 CFR Part 308, subpart R, and for the Office of Thrift Supervision, these regulations appear at 12 CFR Part 570.

2. *Board of directors*, in the case of a state-licensed insured branch of a foreign bank and in the case of a federal branch of a foreign bank, means the managing official in charge of the insured foreign branch.

3. *Compensation* means all direct and indirect payments or benefits, both cash and non-cash, granted to or for the benefit of any executive officer, employee, director, or principal shareholder, including but not limited to payments or benefits derived from an employment contract, compensation or benefit agreement, fee arrangement, perquisite, stock option plan, postemployment benefit, or other compensatory arrangement.

4. *Director* shall have the meaning described in 12 CFR 215.2(c).³

5. *Executive officer* shall have the meaning described in 12 CFR 215.2(d).⁴

6. *Principal shareholder* shall have the meaning described in 12 CFR 215.2(l).⁵

II. Operational and Managerial Standards

A. *Internal controls and information systems.*

An institution should have internal controls and information systems that are appropriate to the size of the institution and the nature, scope and risk of its activities and that provide for:

1. An organizational structure that establishes clear lines of authority and responsibility for monitoring adherence to established policies;

2. Effective risk assessment;

3. Timely and accurate financial, operational and regulatory reports;

4. Adequate procedures to safeguard and manage assets; and

5. Compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

B. *Internal audit system.* An institution should have an internal audit system that is appropriate to the size of the institution and the nature and scope of its activities and that provides for:

1. Adequate monitoring of the system of internal controls through an internal audit function. For an institution whose size, complexity or scope of operations does not warrant a full scale internal audit function, a system of independent reviews of key internal controls may be used;

2. Independence and objectivity;

3. Qualified persons;

³In applying these definitions for savings associations, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1464, savings associations shall use the terms “savings associations” and “insured savings association” in place of the terms “member bank” and “insured bank”.

⁴See footnote 3 in section I.B.4. of this appendix.

⁵See footnote 3 in section I.B.4. of this appendix.

4. Adequate testing and review of information systems;

5. Adequate documentation of tests and findings and any corrective actions;

6. Verification and review of management actions to address material weaknesses; and

7. Review by the institution's audit committee or board of directors of the effectiveness of the internal audit systems.

C. *Loan documentation.* An institution should establish and maintain loan documentation practices that:

1. Enable the institution to make an informed lending decision and to assess risk, as necessary, on an ongoing basis;

2. Identify the purpose of a loan and the source of repayment, and assess the ability of the borrower to repay the indebtedness in a timely manner;

3. Ensure that any claim against a borrower is legally enforceable;

4. Demonstrate appropriate administration and monitoring of a loan; and

5. Take account of the size and complexity of a loan.

D. *Credit underwriting.* An institution should establish and maintain prudent credit underwriting practices that:

1. Are commensurate with the types of loans the institution will make and consider the terms and conditions under which they will be made;

2. Consider the nature of the markets in which loans will be made;

3. Provide for consideration, prior to credit commitment, of the borrower's overall financial condition and resources, the financial responsibility of any guarantor, the nature and value of any underlying collateral, and the borrower's character and willingness to repay as agreed;

4. Establish a system of independent, ongoing credit review and appropriate communication to management and to the board of directors;

5. Take adequate account of concentration of credit risk; and

6. Are appropriate to the size of the institution and the nature and scope of its activities.

E. *Interest rate exposure.* An institution should:

1. Manage interest rate risk in a manner that is appropriate to the size of the institution and the complexity of its assets and liabilities; and

2. Provide for periodic reporting to management and the board of directors regarding interest rate risk with adequate information for management and the board of directors to assess the level of risk.

F. *Asset growth.* An institution's asset growth should be prudent and consider:

1. The source, volatility and use of the funds that support asset growth;

2. Any increase in credit risk or interest rate risk as a result of growth; and

3. The effect of growth on the institution's capital.

G. *Asset quality.* An insured depository institution should establish and maintain a system that is commensurate with the institution's size and the nature and scope of its operations to identify problem assets and prevent deterioration in those assets. The institution should:

1. Conduct periodic asset quality reviews to identify problem assets;
2. Estimate the inherent losses in those assets and establish reserves that are sufficient to absorb estimated losses;
3. Compare problem asset totals to capital;
4. Take appropriate corrective action to resolve problem assets;
5. Consider the size and potential risks of material asset concentrations; and
6. Provide periodic asset reports with adequate information for management and the board of directors to assess the level of asset risk.

H. *Earnings.* An insured depository institution should establish and maintain a system that is commensurate with the institution's size and the nature and scope of its operations to evaluate and monitor earnings and ensure that earnings are sufficient to maintain adequate capital and reserves. The institution should:

1. Compare recent earnings trends relative to equity, assets, or other commonly used benchmarks to the institution's historical results and those of its peers;
2. Evaluate the adequacy of earnings given the size, complexity, and risk profile of the institution's assets and operations;
3. Assess the source, volatility, and sustainability of earnings, including the effect of nonrecurring or extraordinary income or expense;
4. Take steps to ensure that earnings are sufficient to maintain adequate capital and reserves after considering the institution's asset quality and growth rate; and
5. Provide periodic earnings reports with adequate information for management and the board of directors to assess earnings performance.

I. *Compensation, fees and benefits.* An institution should maintain safeguards to prevent the payment of compensation, fees, and benefits that are excessive or that could lead to material financial loss to the institution.

III. PROHIBITION ON COMPENSATION THAT CONSTITUTES AN UNSAFE AND UNSOUND PRACTICE

A. Excessive Compensation

Excessive compensation is prohibited as an unsafe and unsound practice. Compensation shall be considered excessive when amounts paid are unreasonable or disproportionate to the services performed by an executive offi-

cer, employee, director, or principal shareholder, considering the following:

1. The combined value of all cash and non-cash benefits provided to the individual;
2. The compensation history of the individual and other individuals with comparable expertise at the institution;
3. The financial condition of the institution;
4. Comparable compensation practices at comparable institutions, based upon such factors as asset size, geographic location, and the complexity of the loan portfolio or other assets;
5. For postemployment benefits, the projected total cost and benefit to the institution;
6. Any connection between the individual and any fraudulent act or omission, breach of trust or fiduciary duty, or insider abuse with regard to the institution; and
7. Any other factors the agencies determine to be relevant.

B. Compensation Leading to Material Financial Loss

Compensation that could lead to material financial loss to an institution is prohibited as an unsafe and unsound practice.

[60 FR 35678, 35682, July 10, 1995, as amended by Reg. H, 61 FR 43951, Aug. 27, 1996]

APPENDIX E TO PART 208—CAPITAL ADEQUACY GUIDELINES FOR STATE MEMBER BANKS; MARKET RISK MEASURE

Section 1. Purpose, Applicability, Scope, and Effective Date

(a) *Purpose.* The purpose of this appendix is to ensure that banks with significant exposure to market risk maintain adequate capital to support that exposure.¹ This appendix supplements and adjusts the risk-based capital ratio calculations under appendix A of this part with respect to those banks.

(b) *Applicability.* (1) This appendix applies to any insured state member bank whose trading activity² (on a worldwide consolidated basis) equals:

¹This appendix is based on a framework developed jointly by supervisory authorities from the countries represented on the Basle Committee on Banking Supervision and endorsed by the Group of Ten Central Bank Governors. The framework is described in a Basle Committee paper entitled "Amendment to the Capital Accord to Incorporate Market Risks," January 1996. Also see modifications issued in September 1997.

²Trading activity means the gross sum of trading assets and liabilities as reported in

Continued

- (i) 10 percent or more of total assets;³ or
- (ii) \$1 billion or more.

(2) The Federal Reserve may additionally apply this appendix to any insured state member bank if the Federal Reserve deems it necessary or appropriate for safe and sound banking practices.

(3) The Federal Reserve may exclude an insured state member bank otherwise meeting the criteria of paragraph (b)(1) of this section from coverage under this appendix if it determines the bank meets such criteria as a consequence of accounting, operational, or similar considerations, and the Federal Reserve deems it consistent with safe and sound banking practices.

(c) *Scope.* The capital requirements of this appendix support market risk associated with a bank's covered positions.

(d) *Effective date.* This appendix is effective as of January 1, 1997. Compliance is not mandatory until January 1, 1998. Subject to supervisory approval, a bank may opt to comply with this appendix as early as January 1, 1997.⁴

Section 2. Definitions

For purposes of this appendix, the following definitions apply:

(a) *Covered positions* means all positions in a bank's trading account, and all foreign exchange⁵ and commodity positions, whether or not in the trading account.⁶ Positions include on-balance-sheet assets and liabilities and off-balance-sheet items. Securities subject to repurchase and lending agreements are included as if they are still owned by the lender.

(b) *Market risk* means the risk of loss resulting from movements in market prices. Market risk consists of general market risk and specific risk components.

(1) *General market risk* means changes in the market value of covered positions resulting from broad market movements, such as changes in the general level of interest rates, equity prices, foreign exchange rates, or commodity prices.

(2) *Specific risk* means changes in the market value of specific positions due to factors other than broad market movements. Spe-

cial risk includes such risk as idiosyncratic variation, as well as event and default risk.

cific risk includes such risk as idiosyncratic variation, as well as event and default risk.

(c) *Tier 1* and *Tier 2 capital* are defined in appendix A of this part.

(d) *Tier 3 capital* is subordinated debt that is unsecured; is fully paid up; has an original maturity of at least two years; is not redeemable before maturity without prior approval by the Federal Reserve; includes a lock-in clause precluding payment of either interest or principal (even at maturity) if the payment would cause the issuing bank's risk-based capital ratio to fall or remain below the minimum required under appendix A of this part; and does not contain and is not covered by any covenants, terms, or restrictions that are inconsistent with safe and sound banking practices.

(e) *Value-at-risk (VAR)* means the estimate of the maximum amount that the value of covered positions could decline during a fixed holding period within a stated confidence level, measured in accordance with section 4 of this appendix.

Section 3. Adjustments to the Risk-Based Capital Ratio Calculations

(a) *Risk-based capital ratio denominator.* A bank subject to this appendix shall calculate its risk-based capital ratio denominator as follows:

(1) *Adjusted risk-weighted assets.* Calculate adjusted risk-weighted assets, which equals risk-weighted assets (as determined in accordance with appendix A of this part), excluding the risk-weighted amounts of all covered positions (except foreign exchange positions outside the trading account and over-the-counter derivative positions).⁷

(2) *Measure for market risk.* Calculate the measure for market risk, which equals the sum of the VAR-based capital charge, the specific risk add-on (if any), and the capital charge for de minimis exposures (if any).

(i) *VAR-based capital charge.* The VAR-based capital charge equals the higher of:

(A) The previous day's VAR measure; or

(B) The average of the daily VAR measures for each of the preceding 60 business days multiplied by three, except as provided in section 4(e) of this appendix;

(ii) *Specific risk add-on.* The specific risk add-on is calculated in accordance with section 5 of this appendix; and

(iii) *Capital charge for de minimis exposure.* The capital charge for de minimis exposure is calculated in accordance with section 4(a) of this appendix.

³Total assets means quarter-end total assets as reported in the bank's most recent Call Report.

⁴A bank that voluntarily complies with the final rule prior to January 1, 1998, must comply with all of its provisions.

⁵Subject to supervisory review, a bank may exclude structural positions in foreign currencies from its covered positions.

⁶The term trading account is defined in the instructions to the Call Report.

⁷Foreign exchange positions outside the trading account and all over-the-counter derivative positions, whether or not in the trading account, must be included in adjusted risk weighted assets as determined in appendix A of this part.

(3) *Market risk equivalent assets.* Calculate market risk equivalent assets by multiplying the measure for market risk (as calculated in paragraph (a)(2) of this section) by 12.5.

(4) *Denominator calculation.* Add market risk equivalent assets (as calculated in paragraph (a)(3) of this section) to adjusted risk-weighted assets (as calculated in paragraph (a)(1) of this section). The resulting sum is the bank's risk-based capital ratio denominator.

(b) *Risk-based capital ratio numerator.* A bank subject to this appendix shall calculate its risk-based capital ratio numerator by allocating capital as follows:

(1) *Credit risk allocation.* Allocate Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital equal to 8.0 percent of adjusted risk-weighted assets (as calculated in paragraph (a)(1) of this section).⁸

(2) *Market risk allocation.* Allocate Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 capital equal to the measure for market risk as calculated in paragraph (a)(2) of this section. The sum of Tier 2 and Tier 3 capital allocated for market risk must not exceed 250 percent of Tier 1 capital allocated for market risk. (This requirement means that Tier 1 capital allocated in this paragraph (b)(2) must equal at least 28.6 percent of the measure for market risk.)

(3) *Restrictions.* (i) The sum of Tier 2 capital (both allocated and excess) and Tier 3 capital (allocated in paragraph (b)(2) of this section) may not exceed 100 percent of Tier 1 capital (both allocated and excess).⁹

(ii) Term subordinated debt (and intermediate-term preferred stock and related surplus) included in Tier 2 capital (both allocated and excess) may not exceed 50 percent of Tier 1 capital (both allocated and excess).

(4) *Numerator calculation.* Add Tier 1 capital (both allocated and excess), Tier 2 capital (both allocated and excess), and Tier 3 capital (allocated under paragraph (b)(2) of this section). The resulting sum is the bank's risk-based capital ratio numerator.

Section 4. Internal Models.

(a) *General.* For risk-based capital purposes, a bank subject to this appendix must use its internal model to measure its daily VAR, in accordance with the requirements of this section.¹⁰ The Federal Reserve may per-

⁸A bank may not allocate Tier 3 capital to support credit risk (as calculated under appendix A of this part).

⁹Excess Tier 1 capital means Tier 1 capital that has not been allocated in paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2) of this section. Excess Tier 2 capital means Tier 2 capital that has not been allocated in paragraph (b)(1) and (b)(2) of this section, subject to the restrictions in paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

¹⁰A bank's internal model may use any generally accepted measurement techniques,

mit a bank to use alternative techniques to measure the market risk of de minimis exposures so long as the techniques adequately measure associated market risk.

(b) *Qualitative requirements.* A bank subject to this appendix must have a risk management system that meets the following minimum qualitative requirements:

(1) The bank must have a risk control unit that reports directly to senior management and is independent from business trading units.

(2) The bank's internal risk measurement model must be integrated into the daily management process.

(3) The bank's policies and procedures must identify, and the bank must conduct, appropriate stress tests and backtests.¹¹ The bank's policies and procedures must identify the procedures to follow in response to the results of such tests.

(4) The bank must conduct independent reviews of its risk measurement and risk management systems at least annually.

(c) *Market risk factors.* The bank's internal model must use risk factors sufficient to measure the market risk inherent in all covered positions. The risk factors must address interest rate risk,¹² equity price risk, foreign exchange rate risk, and commodity price risk.

(d) *Quantitative requirements.* For regulatory capital purposes, VAR measures must meet the following quantitative requirements:

(1) The VAR measures must be calculated on a daily basis using a 99 percent, one-tailed confidence level with a price shock equivalent to a ten-business day movement in rates

such as variance-covariance models, historical simulations, or Monte Carlo simulations. However, the level of sophistication and accuracy of a bank's internal model must be commensurate with the nature and size of its covered positions. A bank that modifies its existing modeling procedures to comply with the requirements of this appendix for risk-based capital purposes should, nonetheless, continue to use the internal model it considers most appropriate in evaluating risks for other purposes.

¹¹Stress tests provide information about the impact of adverse market events on a bank's covered positions. Backtests provide information about the accuracy of an internal model by comparing a bank's daily VAR measures to its corresponding daily trading profits and losses.

¹²For material exposures in the major currencies and markets, modeling techniques must capture spread risk and must incorporate enough segments of the yield curve—at least six—to capture differences in volatility and less than perfect correlation of rates along the yield curve.

and prices. In order to calculate VAR measures based on a ten-day price shock, the bank may either calculate ten-day figures directly or convert VAR figures based on holding periods other than ten days to the equivalent of a ten-day holding period (for instance, by multiplying a one-day VAR measure by the square root of ten).

(2) The VAR measures must be based on a historical observation period (or effective observation period for a bank using a weighting scheme or other similar method) of at least one year. The bank must update data sets at least once every three months or more frequently as market conditions warrant.

(3) The VAR measures must include the risks arising from the non-linear price characteristics of options positions and the sensitivity of the market value of the positions to changes in the volatility of the underlying rates or prices. A bank with a large or complex options portfolio must measure the volatility of options positions by different maturities.

(4) The VAR measures may incorporate empirical correlations within and across risk categories, provided that the bank's process for measuring correlations is sound. In the event that the VAR measures do not incorporate empirical correlations across risk categories, then the bank must add the separate VAR measures for the four major risk categories to determine its aggregate VAR measure.

(e) *Backtesting.* (1) Beginning one year after a bank starts to comply with this appendix, a bank must conduct backtesting by comparing each of its most recent 250 business days' actual net trading profit or loss¹³ with the corresponding daily VAR measures generated for internal risk measurement purposes and calibrated to a one-day holding period and a 99 percent, one-tailed confidence level.

(2) Once each quarter, the bank must identify the number of exceptions, that is, the number of business days for which the magnitude of the actual daily net trading loss, if any, exceeds the corresponding daily VAR measure.

(3) A bank must use the multiplication factor indicated in Table 1 of this appendix in determining its capital charge for market risk under section 3(a)(2)(i)(B) of this appendix until it obtains the next quarter's backtesting results, unless the Federal Reserve determines that a different adjustment or other action is appropriate.

¹³Actual net trading profits and losses typically include such things as realized and unrealized gains and losses on portfolio positions as well as fee income and commissions associated with trading activities.

TABLE 1.—MULTIPLICATION FACTOR BASED ON RESULTS OF BACKTESTING

Number of exceptions	Multiplication factor
4 or fewer	3.00
5	3.40
6	3.50
7	3.65
8	3.75
9	3.85
10 or more	4.00

Section 5. Specific Risk

(a) *Modeled specific risk* A bank may use its internal model to measure specific risk. If the bank has demonstrated to the Federal Reserve that its internal model measures the specific risk, including event and default risk as well as idiosyncratic variation, of covered debt and equity positions and includes the specific risk measures in the VAR-based capital charge in section 3(a)(2)(i) of this appendix, then the bank has no specific risk add-on for purposes of section 3(a)(2)(ii) of this appendix. The model should explain the historical price variation in the trading portfolio and capture concentration, both magnitude and changes in composition. The model should also be robust to an adverse environment and have been validated through backtesting which assesses whether specific risk is being accurately captured.

(b) *Add-on charge for modeled specific risk.* If a bank's model measures specific risk, but the bank has not been able to demonstrate to the Federal Reserve that the model adequately measures event and default risk for covered debt and equity positions, then the bank's specific risk add-on is determined as follows:

(1) If the model is susceptible to valid separation of the VAR measure into a specific risk portion and a general market risk portion, then the specific risk add-on is equal to the previous day's specific risk portion.

(2) If the model does not separate the VAR measure into a specific risk portion and a general market risk portion, then the specific risk add-on is the sum of the previous day's VAR measures for subportfolios of covered debt and covered equity positions.

(c) *Add-on charge if specific risk is not modeled.* If a bank does not model specific risk in accordance with paragraph (a) or (b) of this section, then the bank's specific risk add-on charge equals the components for covered debt and equity positions as appropriate:

(1) *Covered debt positions.* (i) For purposes of this section 5, covered debt positions means fixed-rate or floating-rate debt instruments located in the trading account and instruments located in the trading account with values that react primarily to changes in interest rates, including certain non-convertible preferred stock, convertible bonds, and

instruments subject to repurchase and lending agreements. Also included are derivatives (including written and purchased options) for which the underlying instrument is a covered debt instrument that is subject to a non-zero specific risk capital charge.

(A) For covered debt positions that are derivatives, a bank must risk-weight (as described in paragraph (c)(1)(iii) of this section) the market value of the effective notional amount of the underlying debt instrument or index portfolio. Swaps must be included as the notional position in the underlying debt instrument or index portfolio, with a receiving side treated as a long position and a paying side treated as a short position; and

(B) For covered debt positions that are options, whether long or short, a bank must risk-weight (as described in paragraph (c)(1)(iii) of this section) the market value of the effective notional amount of the underlying debt instrument or index multiplied by the option's delta.

(ii) A bank may net long and short covered debt positions (including derivatives) in identical debt issues or indices.

(iii) A bank must multiply the absolute value of the current market value of each net long or short covered debt position by the appropriate specific risk weighting factor indicated in Table 2 of this appendix. The specific risk capital charge component for covered debt positions is the sum of the weighted values.

TABLE 2.—SPECIFIC RISK WEIGHTING FACTORS FOR COVERED DEBT POSITIONS

Category	Remaining maturity (contractual)	Weighting factor (in percent)
Government	N/A	0.00
Qualifying	6 months or less	0.25
	Over 6 months to 24 months	1.00
	Over 24 months	1.60
Other	N/A	8.00

(A) The *government* category includes all debt instruments of central governments of OECD-based countries¹⁴ including bonds, Treasury bills, and other short-term instruments, as well as local currency instruments of non-OECD central governments to the extent the bank has liabilities booked in that currency.

(B) The *qualifying* category includes debt instruments of U.S. government-sponsored agencies, general obligation debt instruments issued by states and other political subdivisions of OECD-based countries, multilateral development banks, and debt instru-

¹⁴Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)-based countries is defined in appendix A of this part.

ments issued by U.S. depository institutions or OECD-banks that do not qualify as capital of the issuing institution.¹⁵ This category also includes other debt instruments, including corporate debt and revenue instruments issued by states and other political subdivisions of OECD countries, that are:

(1) Rated investment-grade by at least two nationally recognized credit rating services;

(2) Rated investment-grade by one nationally recognized credit rating agency and not rated less than investment-grade by any other credit rating agency; or

(3) Unrated, but deemed to be of comparable investment quality by the reporting bank and the issuer has instruments listed on a recognized stock exchange, subject to review by the Federal Reserve.

(C) The *other* category includes debt instruments that are not included in the government or qualifying categories.

(2) *Covered equity positions.* (i) For purposes of this section 5, covered equity positions means equity instruments located in the trading account and instruments located in the trading account with values that react primarily to changes in equity prices, including voting or non-voting common stock, certain convertible bonds, and commitments to buy or sell equity instruments. Also included are derivatives (including written and purchased options) for which the underlying is a covered equity position.

(A) For covered equity positions that are derivatives, a bank must risk weight (as described in paragraph (c)(2)(iii) of this section) the market value of the effective notional amount of the underlying equity instrument or equity portfolio. Swaps must be included as the notional position in the underlying equity instrument or index portfolio, with a receiving side treated as a long position and a paying side treated as a short position; and

(B) For covered equity positions that are options, whether long or short, a bank must risk weight (as described in paragraph (c)(2)(iii) of this section) the market value of the effective notional amount of the underlying equity instrument or index multiplied by the option's delta.

(ii) A bank may net long and short covered equity positions (including derivatives) in identical equity issues or equity indices in the same market.¹⁶

(iii)(A) A bank must multiply the absolute value of the current market value of each

¹⁵U.S. government-sponsored agencies, multilateral development banks, and OECD banks are defined in appendix A of this part.

¹⁶A bank may also net positions in depository receipts against an opposite position in the underlying equity or identical equity in different markets, provided that the bank includes the costs of conversion.

net long or short covered equity position by a risk weighting factor of 8.0 percent, or by 4.0 percent if the equity is held in a portfolio that is both liquid and well-diversified.¹⁷ For covered equity positions that are index contracts comprising a well-diversified portfolio of equity instruments, the net long or short position is multiplied by a risk weighting factor of 2.0 percent.

(B) For covered equity positions from the following futures-related arbitrage strategies, a bank may apply a 2.0 percent risk weighting factor to one side (long or short) of each position with the opposite side exempt from charge, subject to review by the Federal Reserve:

(1) Long and short positions in exactly the same index at different dates or in different market centers; or

(2) Long and short positions in index contracts at the same date in different but similar indices.

(C) For futures contracts on broadly-based indices that are matched by offsetting positions in a basket of stocks comprising the index, a bank may apply a 2.0 percent risk weighting factor to the futures and stock basket positions (long and short), provided that such trades are deliberately entered into and separately controlled, and that the basket of stocks comprises at least 90 percent of the capitalization of the index.

(iv) The specific risk capital charge component for covered equity positions is the sum of the weighted values.

[Reg. H, 61 FR 47370, Sept. 6, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 68067, Dec. 30, 1997]

PART 209—ISSUE AND CANCELLATION OF CAPITAL STOCK OF FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (REGULATION I)

Sec.

209.1 National bank in process of organization.

209.2 State bank becoming member.

¹⁷A portfolio is liquid and well-diversified if: (1) It is characterized by a limited sensitivity to price changes of any single equity issue or closely related group of equity issues held in the portfolio; (2) the volatility of the portfolio's value is not dominated by the volatility of any individual equity issue or by equity issues from any single industry or economic sector; (3) it contains a large number of individual equity positions, with no single position representing a substantial portion of the portfolio's total market value; and (4) it consists mainly of issues traded on organized exchanges or in well-established over-the-counter markets.

209.3 Increase or decrease of capital or surplus.

209.4 Increase or decrease of deposits by mutual savings bank.

209.5 Merger or consolidation.

209.6 Conversion of national bank.

209.7 Insolvency.

209.8 Voluntary liquidation.

209.9 Other closed national banks.

209.10 Other closed State member banks.

209.11 Voluntary withdrawal from membership.

209.12 Involuntary termination of membership.

209.13 Cancellation of old and issue of new stock certificate.

209.14 Forms.

209.15 Location of bank.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 248, 321–338, 486, 1814, 1816.

SOURCE: Reg. I, 27 FR 12915, Dec. 29, 1962, unless otherwise noted.

§209.1 National bank in process of organization.

Each national bank,¹ while in process of organization,² shall file with the Federal Reserve Bank of its district an application on Form FR 30, and each nonmember State bank converting into a national bank,³ shall file an application on Form FR 30a, for an amount of

¹ Under the provisions of section 19 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 466), national banks located in a dependency or insular possession or any part of the United States outside the States of the United States and the District of Columbia are not required to become members of the Federal Reserve System but may, with the consent of the Board, become members of the System. Any such bank desiring to be admitted to the System under the provisions of section 19 should communicate with the Federal Reserve Bank with which it desires to do business.

² A new national bank with no capital or board of directors which is organized by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation pursuant to the provisions of section 11(h) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(h)), should not apply for stock of the Federal Reserve Bank of its district until it is in process of organization as a national bank with capital pursuant to the provisions of section 11(k) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(k)).

³ Whenever a State member bank is converted into a national bank under section 5154 of the Revised Statutes (12 U.S.C. 35), it may continue to hold as a national bank its shares of Federal Reserve Bank stock previously held as a State member bank. If the aggregate amount of its capital and surplus