

SUBCHAPTER A—REGULATIONS UNDER SECTION 15C OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

PART 400—RULES OF GENERAL APPLICATION

Sec.

- 400.1 Scope of regulations.
- 400.2 Office responsible for regulations; filing of requests for exemptions, for interpretations, and of other materials.
- 400.3 Definitions.
- 400.4 Information concerning associated persons of financial institutions that are government securities brokers or dealers.
- 400.5 Amendments to application for registration and to notice of status as a government securities broker or dealer.
- 400.6 Notice of withdrawal from business as a government securities broker or dealer by a financial institution.

AUTHORITY: 15 U.S.C. 78o-5.

SOURCE: 52 FR 27926, July 24, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 400.1 Scope of regulations.

(a) Title I of the Government Securities Act of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-571, 100 Stat. 3208) amends the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (48 Stat. 881-905; 15 U.S.C. chapter 2B) ("Act") by adding section 15C, authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to promulgate regulations concerning the financial responsibility, protection of customer securities and balances, recordkeeping and reporting of brokers and dealers in government securities. Those regulations constitute subchapter A of this chapter. Unless otherwise explicitly provided, all regulations in this subchapter apply to all government securities brokers or dealers, including registered brokers or dealers and financial institutions. Registered brokers or dealers include OTC derivatives dealers.

(b) Section 15C(a)(1)(A) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o-5(a)(1)(A)) requires all government securities brokers and government securities dealers, except those who are brokers or dealers registered pursuant to section 15 or section 15B of the Act or financial institutions, to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"). Regulations concerning registration are at §240.15Ca2-1 et seq. of this title. The Commission is responsible for the

interpretation of the definitions of government securities broker and government securities dealer and of the regulations at §240.15Ca2-1 et seq.

(c) Section 15C(a)(1)(B)(i) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o-5(a)(1)(B)(i)) requires all government securities brokers or dealers that are also registered brokers or dealers to notify the Commission of their status as government securities brokers or dealers. Regulations concerning notice are at §240.15Ca1-1 of this title.

(d) Section 15C(a)(1)(B)(i) of the Act also requires all government securities brokers or dealers that are financial institutions to notify the appropriate regulatory agency, as defined in section 3(a)(34)(G) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(34)(G)), of their status as government securities brokers or dealers. The form of notice, Form G-FIN, is at §449.1 of this chapter. Forms are available from the appropriate regulatory agency.

(e) Section 104 of the Government Securities Act Amendments of 1993 (Pub. L. 103-202, 107 Stat. 2344) amended Section 15C of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o-5) by adding a new subsection (f), authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to adopt rules to require specified persons holding, maintaining or controlling a large position in to-be-issued or recently-issued Treasury securities to report such a position and make and keep records related to such a position. Part 420 of this subchapter contains the rules governing large position reporting.

[52 FR 27926, July 24, 1987, as amended at 61 FR 48348, Sept. 12, 1996; 71 FR 54410, Sept. 15, 2006]

§ 400.2 Office responsible for regulations; filing of requests for exemptions, for interpretations and of other materials.

(a) *Office responsible.* The regulations in this chapter are promulgated by the Assistant Secretary (Domestic Finance) pursuant to a delegation of authority from the Secretary of the

Treasury. The office responsible for implementation of the regulations, including interpretations and action on requests for exemption, classification or modification, is the Office of the Commissioner, Bureau of the Public Debt.

(b)(1) *Exemptions and classifications.* Section 15C(a)(4) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o-5(a)(4)) authorizes the Secretary to exempt any government securities broker or dealer or class thereof, conditionally or unconditionally, from the requirements of registration or regulations promulgated under section 15C. In addition, section 15C(b)(3) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o-5(b)(3)) provides for classification, by the Secretary, of government securities brokers or dealers and authorizes the whole or partial exemption of classes from rules under section 15C or the application of different standards to different classes.

(2) *Interpretations.* Although the appropriate regulatory agencies, as defined in § 400.3, and the self-regulatory organizations, as defined in section 3(a)(26) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(26)), have enforcement responsibility under section 15C of the Act, Treasury is responsible for interpretation of section 15C(b) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o-5(b)) and related sections and for interpretation and amendment of the regulations under this chapter (with the exception of Forms G-FIN and G-FINW, §§ 449.1 and 449.2 of this chapter, which are the responsibility of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System [“Board”]).

(c) *Requests for interpretations, exemptions, classifications.* (1) Interpretations under this chapter may be provided, at the discretion of the Department, to firms or individuals actually or potentially affected by the Act or regulations, or to their representatives.

(2) Exemptions and classifications under sections 15C (a), (b) and (d) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o-5 (a), (b), and (d)) and related sections and Treasury regulations thereunder may be provided at the discretion of the Department and after consultation with the SEC and the Board, to firms or individuals actually or potentially affected by the Act or regulations, or to their representatives.

(3) All requests for exemptions and classifications, and all requests for binding interpretations, shall be in writing, and shall conform to the following procedures.

(i) The names of the company or companies and all other persons involved shall be stated. Letters pertaining to unnamed companies or persons or hypothetical situations will not be answered.

(ii) The letter must contain a concise but complete statement of all material facts, a complete and accurate description of the entire transaction if the request is transactional (even though a request may apply to only a portion of a transaction), and a concise and unambiguous statement of the request, including precise statutory and regulatory citations.

(iii) The letter shall indicate why the writer believes a problem exists or interpretation is needed, the writer’s opinion on the matter, and the basis for such opinion.

(iv) In addition to requests for confidential treatment under paragraph (c)(7)(ii) of this section, a person may request confidential treatment of information that is submitted as part of, or in support of, a request for interpretation, exemption, or classification. A separate request for confidential treatment and the basis for such request shall be submitted at the time the information for which confidential treatment is requested is submitted. The request for confidential treatment must specifically identify the information for which such confidential treatment is requested. To the extent practicable, the information should be segregated from information for which confidential treatment is not requested and should be clearly marked as confidential.

(v) Information designated as confidential in accordance with paragraph (c)(3)(iv) of this section shall not be disclosed to a person requesting such information other than in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Department’s regulations published at 31 CFR 1.6.

(vi) An original and two copies of each request letter shall be submitted to the Office of the Commissioner, Bureau of the Public Debt, 9th Floor, 799

Department of the Treasury

§ 400.3

9th Street NW., Washington, DC 20239-0001. The envelope shall be marked "Government Securities Act Request." The letter shall indicate in the upper right hand corner of the first page the particular sections of the Act and of the regulations at issue.

(4) A written response by the Department to a request filed as stated in paragraph (c)(3) of this section shall be binding, with respect to the requester, on the Department, but shall cease to be binding if the facts are not as stated in the request or, prospectively, if the Department issues a superseding interpretation. In responding to such a request, the Department will, where appropriate, consult with and may obtain the formal concurrence of the appropriate regulatory agencies or their staffs. The Department understands that even if formal concurrence is not received the appropriate regulatory agencies and self-regulatory organizations will give appropriate deference to binding interpretations of the Department. The Department also expects the SEC staff to reflect such interpretations in responding, pursuant to the established procedures of the Commission, to no-action requests concerning rules the SEC enforces.

(5) The Department may decline to issue an interpretation for any reason and, in particular, may require that a requester make inquiry of its appropriate regulatory agency, the Commission or designated examining authority before the Department responds to a request.

(6) The Department will also provide informal oral and written advice, but such advice is not binding on the Department or on any other agency or organization.

(7)(i) Except as provided in paragraphs (c)(3)(iv) and (c)(7)(ii) of this section, every letter or other written communication requesting the Department to provide interpretive legal advice under the Act or to grant, deny or modify an exemption, classification or modification of the regulations, together with any written response thereto, shall be made available for inspection and copying as soon as practicable after the response has been sent or given to the person requesting it. These documents will be made avail-

able at the following location: Treasury Department Library, Room 1318, Main Treasury Building, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20220.

(ii) Any person submitting a letter or communication may also simultaneously submit a request that the letter or communication and the Department's response be accorded confidential treatment for a specified period of time not to exceed 120 days from the date the response has been made or given to such person. The request shall state the basis upon which the request for confidential treatment has been made. If the Department determines that the request for confidential treatment should be denied, the requester will be given 30 days to withdraw either the request for confidential treatment or the letter or communication requesting an interpretation, classification, or exemption.

(d) *Effect of Commission interpretations.* Interpretations of the Commission and its staff (including no-action positions) and of the designated examining authorities, of any Commission regulation expressly adopted by reference in these regulations shall be of the same effect as if the regulation being interpreted were solely the Commission's regulation. However, in the event the Treasury has issued a formal interpretation on the subject, the Treasury understands that the Commission will give that interpretation appropriate deference, particularly with respect to both subsequent no-action positions and the continued validity of prior no-action positions.

[52 FR 27926, July 24, 1987, as amended at 53 FR 28984, Aug. 1, 1988; 72 FR 54410, Sept. 15, 2006]

§ 400.3 Definitions.

Unless otherwise explicitly provided, in this subchapter and for the purposes of these regulations:

Act means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (48 Stat. 881, 15 U.S.C. chapter 2B, as amended);

Appropriate regulatory agency has the meaning set out in section 3(a)(34)(G) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(34)(G)), and, with respect to a financial institution for which an appropriate regulatory agency is not explicitly designated, the

§ 400.3

17 CFR Ch. IV (4-1-08 Edition)

appropriate regulatory agency is the SEC;

Associated person means a person other than a person whose functions are solely clerical or ministerial:

(1) Directly engaged in any of the following activities in either a supervisory or non-supervisory capacity:

(i) Underwriting, trading or sales of government securities;

(ii) Financial advisory or consultant services for issuers in connection with the issuance of government securities;

(iii) Research or investment advice, other than general economic information or advice, with respect to government securities in connection with the activities described in paragraphs (c)(1)(i) and (c)(1)(ii) of this section;

(iv) Activities other than those specifically mentioned which involve communication, directly or indirectly, with public investors in government securities in connection with the activities described in paragraphs (c)(1)(i) and (c)(1)(ii) of this section; or

(2) Directly engaged in the following activities in a supervisory capacity:

(i) Processing and clearance activities with respect to government securities;

(ii) Maintenance of records involving any of the activities described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section;

Provided, however,

(3) That in the case of a financial institution,

(i) Persons whose government securities functions: (A) Consist solely of carrying out the financial institution's activities in a fiduciary capacity and (B) are subject to examination by the appropriate regulatory agency for compliance with requirements applicable to activities by the financial institution in a fiduciary capacity, shall not be considered "associated persons";

(ii) Persons whose sole government securities activities are, without exercising any investment discretion and solely at the direction of customers, to receive and/or transmit customer orders to purchase or sell government securities, but who do not give investment advice or receive transaction-based compensation shall not be considered "associated persons"; and

(iii) Directors and senior officers of the financial institution who may from time to time set broad policy guidelines affecting the financial institution as a whole that are not directly related to the conduct of the financial institution's government securities business are not considered to be "directly engaged" in the activities described in this paragraph (c);

Board means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;

Branch or agency of a foreign bank means a Federal branch or Federal agency of a foreign bank or a State branch or State agency of a foreign bank as such terms are used in the International Banking Act of 1978, Pub. L. 95-369, 92 Stat. 607;

CFTC means the Commodity Futures Trading Commission;

Commission or *SEC* means the Securities and Exchange Commission;

Designated examining authority and *Examining Authority* mean (1) in the case of a registered government securities broker or dealer that belongs to only one self-regulatory organization, such self-regulatory organization, and (2) in the case of a registered government securities broker or dealer that belongs to more than one self-regulatory organization, the self-regulatory organization designated by the Commission pursuant to section 17(d) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78q(d)) as the entity with responsibility for examining such registered government securities broker or dealer;

Fiduciary capacity includes trustee, executor, administrator, registrar, transfer agent, guardian, assignee, receiver, managing agent, and any other similar capacity involving the sole or shared exercise of discretion by a financial institution having fiduciary powers that is supervised by a Federal or state financial institution regulatory agency;

Financial institution has the meaning set out in section 3(a)(46) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(46)), and such term explicitly does not include a subsidiary or affiliate of an institution described in such section unless such subsidiary or affiliate is itself described in such section;

Government securities broker has the meaning set out in section 3(a)(43) of

Department of the Treasury

§ 400.4

the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(43)), and explicitly includes not only registered government securities brokers, but also registered brokers and financial institutions;

Government securities dealer has the meaning set out in section 3(a)(44) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(44)), and explicitly includes not only registered government securities dealers, but also registered dealers and financial institutions;

Government securities has the meaning set out in section 3(a)(42) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(42));

OTC derivatives dealer has the same meaning set out in 17 CFR 240.3b-12.

Registered broker or dealer means a broker or dealer registered pursuant to section 15 or section 15B of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o, 78o-4)) but does not include a municipal securities dealer that is a bank or a separately identifiable department or division of a bank;

Registered government securities broker or dealer means a government securities broker or dealer registered pursuant to section 15C(a)(1)(A) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o-5(a)(1)(A));

Secretary means the Secretary of the Treasury; and

Treasury or *Department* means the Department of the Treasury, including in particular the Bureau of the Public Debt.

[52 FR 27926, July 24, 1987, as amended at 55 FR 6604, Feb. 26, 1990; 71 FR 54410, Sept. 15, 2006]

§ 400.4 Information concerning associated persons of financial institutions that are government securities brokers or dealers.

(a) Every associated person of a financial institution that is a government securities broker or dealer that is not exempt pursuant to Part 401 of this chapter shall file with such financial institution a completed Form G-FIN-4 (§ 449.4 of this chapter) unless such person has on file with such financial institution a completed and current Form U-4 (promulgated by a self-regulatory organization) or Form MSD-4 (as required for associated persons of bank municipal securities dealers).

(b) To the extent any information furnished by an associated person pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section

(including information on a Form U-4 or Form MSD-4) is or becomes materially inaccurate or incomplete, such associated person shall promptly furnish in writing to such financial institution, in a form acceptable to the appropriate regulatory agency for such financial institution, a statement correcting such information.

(c) For the purpose of verifying the information furnished by an associated person pursuant to paragraph (a) of this rule, every government securities broker or dealer that is a financial institution shall make inquiry of all other employers of such associated person during the immediately preceding three years concerning the accuracy and completeness of such information.

(d) Every government securities broker or dealer that is a financial institution not exempt from this section pursuant to Part 401 of this chapter shall:

(1) Promptly obtain and, within 10 days thereafter, file with the appropriate regulatory agency, in a form acceptable to such appropriate regulatory agency, the information required by paragraph (a) of this section (which shall consist of all Forms G-FIN-4 filed and a list of all associated persons who have filed Forms MSD-4 or U-4 with the financial institution since the last such filing, designating whether the associated person is serving in a supervisory or non-supervisory capacity) and by paragraph (b) of this section; and

(2) File with the appropriate regulatory agency within 30 days after the termination of the status of an individual as an associated person a Form G-FIN-5 (§ 449.4 of this chapter), unless—

(i) The financial institution is required to and has filed a Form U-5 or Form MSD-5 with respect to such person; or

(ii) The financial institution notifies the appropriate regulatory agency that the individual will remain in the financial institution's employment and the financial institution will continue to update the information about such individual as provided in paragraph (b) of this section and will file a Form G-

§ 400.5

FIN-5 within 30 days after the termination of such individual's employment with the financial institution.

(e) Every notice and form filed pursuant to this section shall constitute a "report" within the meaning of sections 15, 15C and 32(a) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o, 78o-5, 78ff(a)).

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1535-0089)

[52 FR 27926, July 24, 1987, as amended at 60 FR 11026, Mar. 1, 1995]

§ 400.5 Amendments to application for registration and to notice of status as a government securities broker or dealer.

(a)(1) If the information contained in any application for registration as a government securities broker or dealer (other than the statements required by §240.15Ca2-2 of this title) or in any amendment thereto, becomes inaccurate for any reason, the registered government securities broker or dealer shall file within 30 days thereafter an amendment on Form BD (§249.501 of this title) correcting such information, in accordance with the instructions provided therein.

(2) If the information contained in any notice of status as a government securities broker or dealer filed by a registered broker or dealer, or in any amendment thereto, becomes inaccurate for any reason, the registered broker or dealer shall file within 30 days an amendment on Form BD (§249.501 of this title) correcting such information, in accordance with the instructions provided therein.

(b) If the information contained in any notice of status as a government securities broker or dealer filed by a financial institution, or any amendment thereto, becomes inaccurate for any reason, the financial institution shall file within 30 days an amendment on Form G-FIN (§449.1 of this chapter) correcting such information, in accordance with the instructions provided therein.

(c) Every amendment filed pursuant to this section shall constitute a "report" within the meaning of sections

17 CFR Ch. IV (4-1-08 Edition)

15, 15C and 32(a) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o, 78o-5, 78ff(a)).

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1535-0089)

[52 FR 27926, July 24, 1987, as amended at 60 FR 11026, Mar. 1, 1995]

§ 400.6 Notice of withdrawal from business as a government securities broker or dealer by a financial institution.

(a) Whenever a financial institution that is a government securities broker or dealer that is not exempt from the notice requirements of section 15C(a)(1)(B)(i) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o-5(a)(1)(B)(i)) and of §400.5 pursuant to part 401 of this chapter, ceases to act as a government securities broker or dealer, it shall file with the appropriate regulatory agency notice of such cessation on Form G-FINW (§449.2 of this chapter) in accordance with the instructions contained therein.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, a notice that a financial institution has ceased to act as a government securities broker or dealer shall become effective for all purposes on the 60th day after the filing thereof with the appropriate regulatory agency or within such shorter period of time as the appropriate regulatory agency determines.

(c) If the notice described in paragraph (a) of this section is filed with the appropriate regulatory agency any time after the date of the issuance of a notice or order by the appropriate regulatory agency instituting proceedings pursuant to section 15C(c)(2)(A) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o-5(c)(2)(A)) to censure, suspend, limit, or bar from acting as a government securities broker or government securities dealer the entity filing such notice, or if the appropriate regulatory agency has instituted any action against the entity filing such notice pursuant to section 15C(2)(B) of the Act (15 U.S.C. §78o-5(c)(2)(B)), the notice shall become effective pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section at such time and upon such terms and conditions as the appropriate regulatory agency deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest for the protection of investors.

(d) Every notice filed pursuant to this section shall constitute a "report"

Department of the Treasury

§ 401.3

within the meaning of sections 15, 15C and 32(a) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o, 78o-5, 78ff(a)).

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1535-0089)

[52 FR 27926, July 24, 1987, as amended at 60 FR 18734, Apr. 13, 1995]

PART 401—EXEMPTIONS

Sec.

- 401.1 Exemption for organizations handling transactions in United States Savings Bonds.
- 401.2 Exemption for depository institutions that submit tenders for the account of customers for purchase on original issue of United States Treasury securities.
- 401.3 Exemption for financial institutions that are engaged in limited government securities brokerage activities.
- 401.4 Exemption for financial institutions engaged in limited government securities dealer activities.
- 401.5 Exemption for corporate credit unions transacting limited government securities business with other credit unions.
- 401.6 Exemption for branches and agencies of foreign banks that deal solely with non-United States citizens resident offshore.
- 401.7 Temporary exemption for certain government securities brokers and dealers terminating business on or before October 31, 1987.
- 401.8 Temporary exemption for government securities brokers and dealers that are futures commission merchants registered with the CFTC.
- 401.9 Exemption for certain foreign government securities brokers or dealers.

AUTHORITY: Sec. 101, Pub. L. 99-571, 100 Stat. 3209 (15 U.S.C. 78o-5(a)(4)).

SOURCE: 52 FR 27930, July 24, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 401.1 Exemption for organizations handling transactions in United States Savings Bonds.

An organization that handles United States Savings Bond transactions, including a qualified issuing or paying agent or an organization that accommodates customers or employees by forwarding requested transactions to qualified issuing or paying agents or the Treasury and whose transactions in government securities are limited to these transactions and such other activities that are exempted by the regulations under this subchapter, shall be exempt from the provisions of section

15C (a), (b) and (d) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o-5 (a), (b), (d)) and the regulations of this subchapter. For the purposes of this section, the term "United States Savings Bond" means any savings-type security offered by the Treasury, including all series of United States Savings Bonds, United States Savings Notes and United States Savings Stamps.

§ 401.2 Exemption for depository institutions that submit tenders for the account of customers for purchase on original issue of United States Treasury securities.

(a) Subject to the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section, a depository institution that submits tenders or subscriptions for purchase on original issue of United States Treasury securities for the account of customers on a fully disclosed basis, whose transactions in government securities are limited to such transactions and such other activities as have been exempted by regulation under this subchapter shall be exempt from the provisions of section 15C (a), (b) and (d) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o-5 (a), (b), (d)) and the regulations of this subchapter.

(b) A depository institution that relies on the exemption contained in paragraph (a) of this section is required to comply with the regulations of part 450 of this chapter concerning custodial holdings of government securities.

(c) For the purposes of this section, "depository institution" has the meaning stated in clauses (i) through (vi) of section 19(b)(1)(A) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 461(b)(1)(A)(i)-(vi)) and also includes a foreign bank, an agency or branch of a foreign bank and a commercial lending company owned or controlled by a foreign bank (as such terms are used in the International Banking Act of 1978, Pub. L. 95-369, 92 Stat. 607).

§ 401.3 Exemption for financial institutions that are engaged in limited government securities brokerage activities.

(a)(1) Subject to the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section, a financial institution shall be exempt from the provisions of sections 15C (a), (b), and (d) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o-5 (a),