

considered to have been acquired by the financial holding company under this part on the date the financial holding company first acquired ownership or control of the shares, assets or ownership interests under such other provision of law. For purposes of this paragraph (b)(3), a financial holding company includes a depository institution controlled by the financial holding company and any subsidiary of such a depository institution.

(4) *Approval required to hold interests held in excess of time limit.* A financial holding company may seek Board approval to own, control or hold shares, assets or ownership interests of a company under this part for a period that exceeds the period specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section. A request for approval must:

- (i) Be submitted to the Board at least 90 days prior to the expiration of the applicable time period;
- (ii) Provide the reasons for the request, including information that addresses the factors in paragraph (b)(5) of this section; and
- (iii) Explain the financial holding company's plan for divesting the shares, assets or ownership interests.

(5) *Factors governing Board determinations.* In reviewing any proposal under paragraph (b)(4) of this section, the Board may consider all the facts and circumstances related to the investment, including:

- (i) The cost to the financial holding company of disposing of the investment within the applicable period;
- (ii) The total exposure of the financial holding company to the company and the risks that disposing of the investment may pose to the financial holding company;
- (iii) Market conditions;
- (iv) The nature of the portfolio company's business;
- (v) The extent and history of involvement by the financial holding company in the management and operations of the company; and
- (vi) The average holding period of the financial holding company's merchant banking investments.

(6) *Restrictions applicable to investments held beyond time period.* A financial holding company that directly or indirectly owns, controls or holds any

share, asset or ownership interest of a company under this part for a total period that exceeds the period specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section must—

(i) For purposes of determining the financial holding company's regulatory capital, apply to the financial holding company's adjusted carrying value of such shares, assets, or ownership interests a capital charge determined by the Board that must be:

(A) Higher than the maximum marginal Tier 1 capital charge applicable under the Board's capital adequacy rules or guidelines (*see* 12 CFR 225 appendix A) to merchant banking investments held by that financial holding company; and

(B) In no event less than 25 percent of the adjusted carrying value of the investment; and

(ii) Abide by any other restrictions that the Board may impose in connection with granting approval under paragraph (b)(4) of this section.

§ 1500.4 How are investments in private equity funds treated under this part?

(a) *What is a private equity fund?* For purposes of this part, a "private equity fund" is any company that:

- (1) Is formed for the purpose of and is engaged exclusively in the business of investing in shares, assets, and ownership interests of financial and non-financial companies for resale or other disposition;
- (2) Is not an operating company;
- (3) No more than 25 percent of the total equity of which is held, owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the financial holding company and its directors, officers, employees and principal shareholders;
- (4) Has a maximum term of not more than 15 years; and
- (5) Is not formed or operated for the purpose of making investments inconsistent with the authority granted under section 4(k)(4)(H) of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843(k)(4)(H)) or evading the limitations governing merchant banking investments contained in this part.

(b) *What form may a private equity fund take?* A private equity fund may be a corporation, partnership, limited

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liability company or other type of company that issues ownership interests in any form.

(c) *What is the holding period permitted for interests in private equity funds?*—(1) *In general.* A financial holding company may own, control or hold any interest in a private equity fund under this part and any interest in a portfolio company that is owned or controlled by a private equity fund in which the financial holding company owns or controls any interest under this part for the duration of the fund, up to a maximum of 15 years.

(2) *Request to hold interest for longer period.* A financial holding company may seek Board approval to own, control or hold an interest in or held through a private equity fund for a period longer than the duration of the fund in accordance with §1500.3(b) of this part.

(3) *Application of rules.* The rules described in §1500.3(b)(2) and (3) governing holding periods of interests acquired, transferred or previously held by a financial holding company apply to interests in, held through, or acquired from a private equity fund.

(d) *How do the restrictions on routine management and operation apply to private equity funds and investments held through a private equity fund?*—(1) *Portfolio companies held through a private equity fund.* A financial holding company may not routinely manage or operate a portfolio company that is owned or controlled by a private equity fund in which the financial holding company owns or controls any interest under this part, except as permitted under §1500.2(e).

(2) *Private equity funds controlled by a financial holding company.* A private equity fund that is controlled by a financial holding company may not routinely manage or operate a portfolio company, except as permitted under §1500.2(e).

(3) *Private equity funds that are not controlled by a financial holding company.* A private equity fund may routinely manage or operate a portfolio company so long as no financial holding company controls the private equity fund or as permitted under §1500.2(e).

(4) *When does a financial holding company control a private equity fund?* A financial holding company controls a private equity fund for purposes of this part if the financial holding company, including any director, officer, employee or principal shareholder of the financial holding company:

(i) Serves as a general partner, managing member, or trustee of the private equity fund (or serves in a similar role with respect to the private equity fund);

(ii) Owns or controls 25 percent or more of any class of voting shares or similar interests in the private equity fund;

(iii) In any manner selects, controls or constitutes a majority of the directors, trustees or management of the private equity fund; or

(iv) Owns or controls more than 5 percent of any class of voting shares or similar interests in the private equity fund and is the investment adviser to the fund.

§ 1500.5 What aggregate thresholds apply to merchant banking investments?

(a) *In general.* A financial holding company may not, without Board approval, directly or indirectly acquire any additional shares, assets or ownership interests under this part or make any additional capital contribution to any company the shares, assets or ownership interests of which are held by the financial holding company under this part if the aggregate carrying value of all merchant banking investments held by the financial holding company under this part exceeds:

(1) 30 percent of the Tier 1 capital of the financial holding company; or

(2) After excluding interests in private equity funds, 20 percent of the Tier 1 capital of the financial holding company

(b) *How do these thresholds apply to a private equity fund?* Paragraph (a) of this section applies to the interest acquired or controlled by the financial holding company under this part in a private equity fund. Paragraph (a) of this section does not apply to any interest in a company held by a private equity fund or to any interest held by