

(e)(2)(ii) of this section, along with evidence demonstrating that the mortgagee has implemented the corrective action plan.

(3) *HUD action on reinstatement application.* The Secretary will grant the mortgagee's application for reinstatement if the mortgagee's application is complete and the Secretary determines that the underlying causes for the termination have been satisfactorily remedied.

[62 FR 20082, Apr. 24, 1997, as amended at 62 FR 30225, June 2, 1997; 62 FR 65181, Dec. 10, 1997; 69 FR 75807, Dec. 17, 2004; 75 FR 20731, Apr. 20, 2010]

#### § 202.4 Request for determination of compliance.

Pursuant to section 539(a) of the Act, any person may file a request that the Secretary determine whether a lender or mortgagee is in compliance with § 202.12(a) or with provisions of this chapter implementing sections 223(a)(7) and 535 of the Act such as §§ 201.10(g), 203.18d and 203.43(c)(5) of this chapter (only section 535 applies to lenders). The request for determination shall be made to the following address: Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Lender Activities and Program Compliance, 451 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, 20410. The Secretary shall inform the requestor of the disposition of the request. The Secretary shall publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER the disposition of any case referred by the Secretary to the Mortgage Review Board.

#### § 202.5 General approval standards.

To be approved for participation in the Title I or Title II programs, and to maintain approval, a lender or mortgagee shall meet and continue to meet the general requirements of paragraphs (a) through (n) of this section (except as provided in § 202.10(b)) and the requirements for one of the eligible classes of lenders or mortgagees in §§ 202.6 through 202.10.

(a) *Business form.* (1) The lender or mortgagee shall be a corporation or other chartered institution, a permanent organization having succession, or a partnership. A partnership must meet the requirements of paragraphs (a)(1)(i) through (iv) of this section.

(i) Each general partner must be a corporation or other chartered institution consisting of two or more persons.

(ii) One general partner must be designated as the managing general partner. The managing general partner shall comply with the requirements of paragraphs (b), (c), and (f) of this section. The managing general partner must have as its principal activity the management of one or more partnerships, all of which are mortgage lenders or property improvement or manufactured home lenders, and must have exclusive authority to deal directly with the Secretary on behalf of each partnership. Newly admitted partners must agree to the management of the partnership by the designated managing general partner. If the managing general partner withdraws or is removed from the partnership for any reason, a new managing general partner shall be substituted, and the Secretary shall be immediately notified of the substitution.

(iii) The partnership agreement shall specify that the partnership shall exist for the minimum term of years required by the Secretary. All insured mortgages and Title I loans held by the partnership shall be transferred to a lender or mortgagee approved under this part prior to the termination of the partnership. The partnership shall be specifically authorized to continue its existence if a partner withdraws.

(iv) The Secretary must be notified immediately of any amendments to the partnership agreement that would affect the partnership's actions under the Title I or Title II programs.

(2) *Use of business name.* The lender or mortgagee must use its HUD-registered business name in all advertisements and promotional materials related to FHA programs. HUD-registered business names include any alias or "doing business as" (DBA) on file with FHA. The lender or mortgagee must keep copies of all print and electronic advertisements and promotional materials for a period of 2 years from the date that the materials are circulated or used to advertise.

(3) *Non-FHA-approved entities.* A lender or mortgagee that accepts a loan application from a non-FHA-approved entity must confirm that the entity's

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legal name and Tax ID number are included in the FHA loan origination system record for the subject loan. The loan to be insured by FHA must be underwritten by the FHA-approved lender or mortgagee.

(b) *Employees.* The lender or mortgagee shall employ competent personnel trained to perform their assigned responsibilities in consumer or mortgage lending, including origination, servicing, and collection activities, and shall maintain adequate staff and facilities to originate and service mortgages or Title I loans, in accordance with applicable regulations, to the extent the mortgagee or lender engages in such activities.

(c) *Officers.* All employees who will sign applications for mortgage insurance on behalf of the mortgagee or report loans for insurance shall be corporate officers or shall otherwise be authorized to bind the lender or mortgagee in the origination transaction. The lender or mortgagee shall ensure that an authorized person reports all originations, purchases, and sales of Title I loans or Title II mortgages to the Secretary for the purpose of obtaining or transferring insurance coverage.

(d) *Escrows.* The lender or mortgagee shall not use escrow funds for any purpose other than that for which they were received. It shall segregate escrow commitment deposits, work completion deposits, and all periodic payments received under loans or insured mortgages on account of ground rents, taxes, assessments, and insurance charges or premiums, and shall deposit such funds with one or more financial institutions in a special account or accounts that are fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Administration, except as otherwise provided in writing by the Secretary.

(e) *Servicing.* A lender shall service or arrange for servicing of the loan in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR part 201. A mortgagee shall service or arrange for servicing of the mortgage in accordance with the servicing responsibilities contained in subpart C of 24 CFR part 203 and in 24 CFR part 207, with all other applicable regulations contained in this title, and with

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such additional conditions and requirements as the Secretary may impose.

(f) *Business changes.* The lender or mortgagee shall provide prompt notification to the Secretary, in such form as prescribed by the Secretary, of:

(1) All changes in its legal structure, including, but not limited to, mergers, terminations, name, location, control of ownership, and character of business; and

(2) Any officer, partner, director, principal, manager, supervisor, loan processor, loan underwriter, loan originator, of the lender or mortgagee, or the lender or mortgagee itself, that is subject to one or more of the sanctions in paragraph (j) of this section.

(g) *Financial statements.* The lender or mortgagee shall furnish to the Secretary a copy of its annual audited financial statement within 90 days of its fiscal year end, furnish such other information as the Secretary may request, and submit to an examination of that portion of its records that relates to its Title I and/or Title II program activities.

(h) *Quality control plan.* The lender or mortgagee shall implement a written quality control plan, acceptable to the Secretary, that assures compliance with the regulations and other issuances of the Secretary regarding loan or mortgage origination and servicing.

(i) *Fees.* The lender or mortgagee, unless approved under § 202.10, shall pay an application fee and annual fees, including additional fees for each branch office authorized to originate Title I loans or submit applications for mortgage insurance, at such times and in such amounts as the Secretary may require. The Secretary may identify additional classes or groups of lenders or mortgagees that may be exempt from one or more of these fees.

(j) *Ineligibility.* For a lender or mortgagee to be eligible for FHA approval, neither the lender or mortgagee, nor any officer, partner, director, principal, manager, supervisor, loan processor, loan underwriter, or loan originator of the lender or mortgagee shall:

(1) Be suspended, debarred, under a limited denial of participation (LDP), or otherwise restricted under 2 CFR part 2424 or 24 CFR part 25, or under

similar procedures of any other federal agency;

(2) Be indicted for, or have been convicted of, an offense that reflects adversely upon the integrity, competency, or fitness to meet the responsibilities of the lender or mortgagee to participate in the Title I or Title II programs;

(3) Be subject to unresolved findings as a result of HUD or other governmental audit, investigation, or review;

(4) Be engaged in business practices that do not conform to generally accepted practices of prudent mortgagees or that demonstrate irresponsibility;

(5) Be convicted of, or have pled guilty or *nolo contendere* to, a felony related to participation in the real estate or mortgage loan industry:

(i) During the 7-year period preceding the date of the application for licensing and registration; or

(ii) At any time preceding such date of application, if such felony involved an act of fraud, dishonesty, or a breach of trust or money laundering;

(6) Be in violation of provisions of the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5101 *et seq.*) or any applicable provision of state law; or

(7) Be in violation of any other requirement established by the Secretary.

(k) *Branch offices.* A lender may, upon approval by the Secretary, maintain branch offices for the origination of Title I or Title II loans. A branch office of a mortgagee must be registered with the Department in order to originate mortgages or submit applications for mortgage insurance. The lender or mortgagee shall remain fully responsible to the Secretary for the actions of its branch offices.

(1) *Conflict of interest and responsibility.* A mortgagee may not pay anything of value, directly or indirectly, in connection with any insured mortgage transaction or transactions to any person or entity if such person or entity has received any other consideration from the mortgagor, seller, builder, or any other person for services related to such transactions or related to the purchase or sale of the mortgaged property, except that consideration, approved by the Secretary, may be paid

for services actually performed. The mortgagee shall not pay a referral fee to any person or organization.

(m) *Reports.* Each lender and mortgagee must submit an annual certification on a form prescribed by the Secretary. Upon application for approval and with each annual recertification, each lender and mortgagee must submit a certification that it has not been refused a license and has not been sanctioned by any state or states in which it will originate insured mortgages or Title I loans. In addition, each mortgagee shall file the following:

(1) An audited or unaudited financial statement, within 30 days of the end of each fiscal quarter in which the mortgagee experiences an operating loss of 20 percent of its net worth, and until the mortgagee demonstrates an operating profit for 2 consecutive quarters or until the next recertification, whichever is the longer period; and

(2) A statement of net worth within 30 days of the commencement of voluntary or involuntary bankruptcy, conservatorship, receivership, or any transfer of control to a federal or state supervisory agency.

(n) *Net worth*—(1) *Applicability.* The requirements of this section apply to approved supervised and nonsupervised lenders and mortgagees under §202.6 and §202.7, and approved investing lenders and mortgagees under §202.9. For ease of reference, these institutions are referred to as “approved lenders and mortgagees” for purposes of this section. The requirements of this section also apply to applicants for FHA approval under §§202.6, 202.7, and 202.9. For ease of reference, these entities are referred to as “applicants” for purposes of this section.

(2) *Phased-in net worth requirements for 2010 and 2011*—(i) *Applicants.* Effective on May 20, 2010, applicants shall comply with the net worth requirements set forth in paragraph (n)(2)(iii) of this section.

(ii) *Approved mortgagees.* Effective on May 20, 2011, each approved lender or mortgagee with FHA approval as of May 20, 2010 shall comply with the net worth requirements set forth in paragraphs (n)(2)(iii) or (n)(2)(iv) of this section, as applicable.

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(iii) *Net worth requirements for non-small businesses.* Each approved lender or mortgagee that exceeds the size standard for its industry classification established by the Small Business Administration at 13 CFR 121.201 Sector 52 (Finance and Insurance), Subsector 522 (Credit Intermediation and Related Activities) shall have a net worth of not less than \$1,000,000, of which no less than 20 percent must be liquid assets consisting of cash or its equivalent acceptable to the Secretary.

(iv) *Net worth requirements for small businesses.* Each approved lender or mortgagee that meets the size standard for its industry classification established by the Small Business Administration at 13 CFR 121.201 Sector 52 (Finance and Insurance), Subsector 522 (Credit Intermediation and Related Activities) shall have a net worth of not less than \$500,000, of which no less than 20 percent must be liquid assets consisting of cash or its equivalent acceptable to the Secretary. If, based on the audited financial statement prepared at the end of its fiscal year and provided to HUD at the commencement of the new fiscal year, an approved lender or mortgagee no longer meets the Small Business Administration size standard for its industry classification, the approved lender or mortgagee shall meet the net worth requirement set forth in paragraph (n)(2)(iii) of this section for a non-small business approved lender or mortgagee by the last day of the fiscal year in which the audited financial statements were submitted.

(3) *Net worth requirements for 2013 and subsequent years.* Effective May 20, 2013:

(i) Irrespective of size, each applicant and each approved lender or mortgagee, for participation solely under the FHA single family programs, shall have a net worth of not less than \$1 million, plus an additional net worth of one percent of the total volume in excess of \$25 million of FHA single family insured mortgages originated, underwritten, purchased, or serviced during the prior fiscal year, up to a maximum required net worth of \$2.5 million. No less than 20 percent of the applicant's or approved lender or mortgagee's required net worth must be liquid assets consisting of cash or its equivalent acceptable to the Secretary.

(ii) *Multifamily net worth requirements.* Irrespective of size, each applicant for approval and each approved lender or mortgagee for participation solely under the FHA multifamily programs shall have a minimum net worth of not less than \$1 million. For those multifamily approved lenders or mortgagees that also engage in mortgage servicing, an additional net worth of one percent of the total volume in excess of \$25 million of FHA multifamily mortgages originated, purchased, or serviced during the prior fiscal year, up to a maximum required net worth of \$2.5 million, is required. For multifamily approved lenders or mortgagees that do not perform mortgage servicing, an additional net worth of one half of one percent of the total volume in excess of \$25 million of FHA multifamily mortgages originated during the prior fiscal year, up to a maximum required net worth of \$2.5 million, is required. No less than 20 percent of the applicant's or approved lender's or mortgagee's required net worth must be liquid assets consisting of cash or its equivalent acceptable to the Secretary.

(iii) *Dual participation net worth requirements.* Irrespective of size, each applicant for approval and each approved lender or mortgagee that is a participant in both FHA single-family and multifamily programs must meet the net worth requirements as set forth in paragraph (n)(3)(i) of this section.

[75 FR 20732, Apr. 20, 2010; 75 FR 23582, May 4, 2010]

### Subpart B—Classes of Lenders and Mortgagees

#### § 202.6 Supervised lenders and mortgagees.

(a) *Definition.* A supervised lender or mortgagee is a financial institution that is a member of the Federal Reserve System or an institution whose accounts are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Administration. A supervised mortgagee may submit applications for mortgage insurance. A supervised lender or mortgagee may originate, purchase, hold, service or sell loans or insured mortgages, respectively.