

§712.4

12 CFR Ch. VII (1–1–14 Edition)

CUSO engaged in complex or high-risk activities, the report must contain:

(i) For each credit union investing in, lending to, or receiving services from the CUSO:

(A) A list of services provided to each credit union;

(B) The investment amount, loan amount, or level of activity of each credit union;

(ii) The CUSO's most recent year-end audited financial statements; and

(iii) (A) For CUSOs engaged in credit and lending services:

(1) The total dollar amount of loans outstanding;

(2) The total number of loans outstanding;

(3) The total dollar amount of loans granted year-to-date; and

(4) The total number of loans granted year-to-date.

(B) Such information must be provided by loan type for each type of loan originated or serviced by the CUSO.

(5) For purposes of paragraph (d)(4) of this section, complex or high-risk activities include preapproved CUSO activities and services related to credit and lending, information technology, and custody, safekeeping, and investment management services for credit unions. Specific activities related to these categories include:

(i) *Credit and lending*:

(A) Business loan origination;

(B) Consumer mortgage loan origination;

(C) Loan support services, including servicing;

(D) Student loan origination; and

(E) Credit card loan origination.

(ii) *Information technology*:

(A) Electronic transaction services;

(B) Record retention, security, and disaster recovery services; and

(C) Payroll processing services.

(iii) *Custody, safekeeping, and investment management services for credit unions*.

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§712.4 What must an FCU and a CUSO do to maintain separate corporate identities?

(a) *Corporate separateness*. An FCU and a CUSO must be operated in a manner that demonstrates to the public the separate corporate existence of the FCU and the CUSO. Good business practices dictate that each must operate so that:

(1) Its respective business transactions, accounts, and records are not intermingled;

(2) Each observes the formalities of its separate corporate procedures;

(3) Each is adequately financed as a separate unit in the light of normal ob-

ligations reasonably foreseeable in a business of its size and character;

(4) Each is held out to the public as a separate enterprise;

(5) The FCU does not dominate the CUSO to the extent that the CUSO is treated as a department of the FCU; and

(6) Unless the FCU has guaranteed a loan obtained by the CUSO, all borrowings by the CUSO indicate that the FCU is not liable.

(b) *Legal opinion*. Prior to an FCU investing in a CUSO, the FCU must obtain written legal advice as to whether the CUSO is established in a manner that will limit potential exposure of the FCU to no more than the loss of funds invested in, or lent to, the CUSO. In addition, if a CUSO in which an FCU has an investment plans to change its structure under §712.3(a), an FCU must also obtain prior, written legal advice that the CUSO will remain established in a manner that will limit potential exposure of the FCU to no more than the loss of funds invested in, or loaned to, the CUSO. The legal advice must address factors that have led courts to “pierce the corporate veil” such as inadequate capitalization, lack of separate corporate identity, common boards of directors and employees, control of one entity over another, and lack of separate books and records. The legal advice may be provided by independent legal counsel of the investing FCU or the CUSO.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 78 FR 72549, Dec. 3, 2013, §712.4 was revised, effective June 30, 2014. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§712.4 What must a FICU and a CUSO do to maintain separate corporate identities?

(a) *Corporate separateness*. A FICU and a CUSO must be operated in a manner that demonstrates to the public the separate corporate existence of the FICU and the CUSO. Good business practices dictate that each must operate so that:

(1) Its respective business transactions, accounts, and records are not intermingled;

(2) Each observes the formalities of its separate corporate procedures;

(3) Each is adequately financed as a separate unit in the light of normal obligations reasonably foreseeable in a business of its size and character;

(4) Each is held out to the public as a separate enterprise;

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(5) The FICU does not dominate the CUSO to the extent that the CUSO is treated as a department of the FICU; and

(6) Unless the FICU has guaranteed a loan obtained by the CUSO, all borrowings by the CUSO indicate that the FICU is not liable.

(b) *Written legal advice.* Prior to a FICU investing in a CUSO, the FICU must obtain written legal advice as to whether the CUSO is established in a manner that will limit potential exposure of the FICU to no more than the loss of funds invested in, or loaned to, the CUSO. In addition, if a FICU invests in, or makes a loan to, a CUSO, and that CUSO plans to change its structure under § 712.3(a), the FICU must also obtain prior written legal advice that the CUSO will remain established in a manner that will limit potential exposure of the FICU to no more than the loss of funds invested in, or loaned to, the CUSO. The written legal advice must address factors that have led courts to “pierce the corporate veil,” such as inadequate capitalization, lack of separate corporate identity, common boards of directors and employees, control of one entity over another, and lack of separate books and records. The written legal advice must be provided by independent legal counsel of the investing FICU or the CUSO.

§ 712.5 What activities and services are preapproved for CUSOs?

NCUA may at any time, based upon supervisory, legal, or safety and soundness reasons, limit any CUSO activities or services, or refuse to permit any CUSO activities or services. Otherwise, an FICU may invest in, loan to, and/or contract with only those CUSOs that are sufficiently bonded or insured for their specific operations and engaged in the preapproved activities and services related to the routine daily operations of credit unions. The specific activities listed within each preapproved category are provided in this section as illustrations of activities permissible under the particular category, not as an exclusive or exhaustive list.

(a) *Checking and currency services:*

(1) Check cashing;

(2) Coin and currency services;

(3) Money order, savings bonds, travelers checks, and purchase and sale of U.S. Mint commemorative coins services; and

(4) Stored value products

(b) *Clerical, professional and management services:*

(1) Accounting services;

(2) Courier services;

(3) Credit analysis;

(4) Facsimile transmissions and copying services;

(5) Internal audits for credit unions;

(6) Locator services;

(7) Management and personnel training and support;

(8) Marketing services;

(9) Research services;

(10) Supervisory committee audits; and

(11) Employee leasing services.

(c) *Business loan origination*, including the authority to buy and sell participation interests in such loans;

(d) *Consumer mortgage loan origination*, including the authority to buy and sell participation interests in such loans;

(e) *Electronic transaction services:*

(1) Automated teller machine (ATM) services;

(2) Credit card and debit card services;

(3) Data processing;

(4) Electronic fund transfer (EFT) services;

(5) Electronic income tax filing;

(6) Payment item processing;

(7) Wire transfer services; and

(8) Cyber financial services;

(f) *Financial counseling services:*

(1) Developing and administering Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA), Keogh, deferred compensation, and other personnel benefit plans;

(2) Estate planning;

(3) Financial planning and counseling;

(4) Income tax preparation;

(5) Investment counseling;

(6) Retirement counseling; and

(7) Business counseling and consultant services;

(g) *Fixed asset services:*

(1) Management, development, sale, or lease of fixed assets; and

(2) Sale, lease, or servicing of computer hardware or software;

(h) *Insurance brokerage or agency:*

(1) Agency for sale of insurance;

(2) Provision of vehicle warranty programs;

(3) Provision of group purchasing programs; and

(4) Real estate settlement services;

(i) *Leasing:*

(1) Personal property; and

(2) Real estate leasing of excess CUSO property;