will be prohibited from shipping under the systems approach until APHIS and the NPPO of Ecuador both agree that the pest risk has been mitigated. As conditions warrant, the average number of *A. fraterculus* per trap per day may be raised or lowered if jointly agreed to between APHIS and the NPPO of Ecuador in the operational workplan. (6) The NPPO of Ecuador must maintain records of trap placement, checking of traps, and any quarantine pest captures in accordance with the operational workplan. Trapping records must be maintained for APHIS review for at least 1 year.

(d) **Packinghouse requirements.** (1) The NPPO of Ecuador must monitor packinghouse operations to verify that the packinghouses are complying with the requirements of the systems approach. If the NPPO of Ecuador finds that a packinghouse is not complying with the requirements of the systems approach, no pitahaya fruit from the packinghouse will be eligible for export to the continental United States until APHIS and the NPPO of Ecuador conduct an investigation and both agree that the pest risk has been mitigated.

(2) All packinghouses that participate in the pitahaya export program must be registered with the NPPO of Ecuador. (3) The pitahaya fruit must be packed within 24 hours of harvest in a pest-exclusionary packinghouse. The pitahaya must be safeguarded by an insect-proof mesh screen or plastic tarpaulin while in transit to the packinghouse and while awaiting packing. These safeguards must remain intact until arrival in the continental United States or the consignment will be denied entry.

(4) During the time the packinghouse is in use for exporting pitahaya fruit to the continental United States, the packinghouse may only accept pitahaya fruit from registered production sites.

(e) **Phytosanitary inspection.** (1) A biometric sample of pitahaya fruit (jointly agreed upon by APHIS and the NPPO) must be inspected in Ecuador by the NPPO of Ecuador following post-harvest processing. The biometric sample must be visually inspected for any quarantine pests, and a portion of the fruit will be cut open to detect internal signs of *A. fraterculus*.

(2) Pitahaya fruit presented for inspection at the port of entry to the United States must be identified in the shipping documents accompanying each lot of fruit to specify the production site or sites, in which the fruit was produced, and the packing shed in which the fruit was processed, in accordance with the requirements in the operational workplan. This identification must be maintained until the fruit is released for entry into the continental United States. The pitahaya fruit are subject to inspection at the port of entry for all quarantine pests of concern, including *A. fraterculus*. If a single larva of *A. fraterculus* is found in a shipment from a place of production (either by the NPPO in Ecuador or by inspectors at the continental United States port of entry), the entire lot of fruit will be prohibited from export, and the place of production of that fruit will be suspended from the export program until appropriate measures agreed upon by the NPPO of Ecuador and APHIS have been taken.

(i) **Phytosanitary certificate.** Each consignment of pitahaya fruit must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the NPPO of Ecuador bearing the additional declaration that the consignment was produced and prepared for export in accordance with the requirements of §319.56–76.

Done in Washington, DC, this 5th day of April 2016.

Kevin Shea, Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2016–08189 Filed 4–7–16; 8:45 am]

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

12 CFR Part 217

[Regulation Q; Docket No. R–1535]

RIN 7100 AE–49

Risk-Based Capital Guidelines: Implementation of Capital Requirements for Global Systemically Important Bank Holding Companies

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) is inviting public comment on proposed clarifying revisions (proposed rule) to the Board’s rule regarding risk-based capital surcharges for U.S. based global systemically important bank holding companies (GSIB surcharge rule). The proposed rule proposed rule would modify the GSIB surcharge rule to provide that a bank holding company subject to the rule would continue to calculate its method 1 and method 2 GSIB surcharge scores annually using data as of December 31 of the previous calendar year, even though the date will be due quarterly beginning with the June 30, 2016, report. In addition, the proposed rule would clarify that a bank holding company subject to the GSIB surcharge rule is required to calculate its method 2 GSIB surcharge score using systemic indicator amounts expressed in billions of dollars even though the data is reported in millions of dollars. The preamble to the proposed rule also provides clarifying information on how a covered bank holding company should calculate its short-term wholesale funding score for purposes of calculating its method 2 score under the GSIB surcharge rule.

DATES: Comments must be received May 13, 2016.

ADDRESSES: When submitting comments, please consider submitting your comments by email or fax because paper mail in the Washington, DC area and at the Board may be subject to delay. You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. R–1535 and RIN 7100 AE–49, by any of the following methods:


• Federal eRulemaking Portal: www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

• Email: regs.comments@ federalreserve.gov. Include the docket number in the subject line of the message.

• Fax: (202) 452–3819 or (202) 452–3102.

• Mail: Address to Robert de V. Frierson, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20551.

All public comments will be made available on the Board’s Web site at www.federalreserve.gov/generalinfo/foia/ProposedRegs.cfm as submitted, unless modified for technical reasons. Accordingly, comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information. Public comments may also be viewed electronically or in paper in Room MP–500 of the Board’s Martin Building (20th and C Streets NW., Washington, DC 20551) between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anna Lee Hewko, Associate Director, (202) 530–6260, Constance M. Horsley, Assistant Director, (202) 452–5239, Juan C. Climent, Manager, (202) 872–7526, or Holly Kirkpatrick, Supervisory Financial Analyst, (202) 452–2796, Division of Banking Supervision and Regulation; or Benjamin McDonough, Special Counsel, (202) 452–2036, Mark Buresco, Senior Attorney, (202) 452–
The GSIB surcharge rule works to mitigate the potential risk that the material financial distress or failure of a GSIB could pose to U.S. financial stability by increasing the stringency of capital standards for GSIBs, thereby increasing the resiliency of these firms. The GSIB surcharge rule takes into consideration the nature, scope, size, scale, concentration, interconnectedness, and mix of activities of each company subject to the rule. These factors are reflected in the GSIB surcharge rule’s method 1 and method 2 scores, which use quantitative metrics reported on the FR Y–15 reporting form to measure the firm’s systemic footprint. A bank holding company whose method 1 score exceeds a defined threshold is identified as a GSIB. Bank holding companies that are identified as GSIBs under the GSIB surcharge rule must calculate their method 1 and method 2 scores each year using data reported on a firm’s FR Y–15 as of December 31 of the prior year. GSIB surcharges are established using these scores, and GSIBs with higher scores are subject to higher GSIB surcharges.

Method 1 uses five equally-weighted categories that are correlated with systemic importance—size, interconnectedness, cross-jurisdictional activity, substitutability, and complexity—and these categories are subdivided into twelve systemic indicators. For each systemic indicator, a firm divides its own measure of the systemic indicator by an aggregate global indicator amount. Each resulting value is then weighted and put onto a standard scale. The firm’s method 1 score is the sum of its weighted systemic indicator scores. Method 2 uses similar inputs to those used in method 1, but replaces the substitutability category with a measure of a firm’s use of short-term wholesale funding. The GSIB surcharge for the firm is the higher of the two surcharges determined under method 1 and method 2. Method 2 is calibrated differently from method 1 and method 2 generally results in a higher GSIB surcharge. The FR Y–15 reporting form collects systemic risk data from U.S. bank holding companies and covers savings and loan holding companies with total consolidated assets of $50 billion or more. The Federal Reserve primarily uses the FR Y–15 data to monitor, on an ongoing basis, the systemic risk profile of the institutions that are subject to enhanced prudential standards under section 165 of the Dodd-Frank Act. The information reported on the FR Y–15 is also used in the calculation of a bank holding company’s method 1 and method 2 scores under the GSIB surcharge rule. Currently, the FR Y–15 requires reporting of the components used in calculating the method 1 and method 2 scores on the FR Y–15, but does not require reporting of the scores themselves.

III. Revisions Related to FR Y–15 Reporting Frequency

The FR Y–15, as implemented on December 31, 2012, is an annual report that collects data regarding a firm’s systemic risk. The Board recently adopted revisions to the FR Y–15 that include requiring the FR Y–15 to be filed on a quarterly basis, beginning with the report as of June 30, 2016. Under the GSIB surcharge rule, bank holding companies are required to calculate their method 1 and method 2 scores using data from the most recent FR Y–15. At the time the GSIB surcharge rule was adopted, these calculations were intended to be conducted annually consistent with the frequency of the FR Y–15 and using data as of December 31 of the prior calendar year. The proposed rule would revise the GSIB surcharge rule to require continued use of a December 31 as-of-date for purposes of a bank holding company’s calculation of its method 1 and method 2 scores. In particular, the proposed rule would revise sections 217.404 and 217.405 of the GSIB surcharge rule, which are the sections that describe the methodology for calculating a firm’s method 1 and method 2 scores, respectively. The revisions to sections 217.404 and 217.405 would clarify that the systemic indicator amount used in the calculations would be drawn from a firm’s FR Y–15 as of December 31 of the previous calendar year even after the FR Y–15 becomes a quarterly report.

IV. Revision To Clarify the Method 2 Score Calculation

The proposed rule would revise section 217.405 of the Board’s Regulation Q to clarify that, for purposes of calculating its method 2 score, a GSIB should convert its systemic indicator amounts as reported on the FR Y–15 in millions of dollars to billions of dollars. The FR Y–15 requires these data to be reported in millions of dollars, while the fixed coefficients used in the calculation of a firm’s method 2 score were determined using aggregate data expressed in billions of dollars.

1 Beginning on January 1, 2016, a bank holding company that is subject to a GSIB surcharge is required to report its applicable GSIB surcharge on line 67 of the FFIEC 101 report.
3 Covered savings and loan holding companies are those which are not substantially engaged in insurance or commercial activities. For more information, see the definition of “covered savings and loan holding company” provided in 12 CFR 217.2.
4 12 CFR 217.404.
5 12 CFR 217.405.
6 12 CFR 217.403.
7 See 80 FR 77344 (December 14, 2015).
8 See 80 FR 49082 (August 14, 2015).
9 See 80 FR 49082, 49088.
Therefore, to properly use the fixed coefficients in the method 2 score methodology, a firm should reflect its systemic indicator amounts used in the method 2 score calculation in billions of dollars.

V. Clarification of the Short-Term Wholesale Funding Method 2 Score Calculation

A firm subject to the GSIB surcharge rule must calculate a short-term wholesale funding score in order to calculate the denominator of its method 2 GSIB surcharge, if any. Some firms subject to the GSIB surcharge rule have requested clarification on what the appropriate denominator should be for determining the short-term wholesale funding score during the transitional period before the GSIB surcharge becomes fully phased in. Consistent with the definition in the GSIB surcharge rule, the draft Federal Register notice would state that, for purposes of calculating this denominator during the transitional period, the average risk-weighted assets used in determining a firm’s short-term wholesale funding score is the four-quarter average of total risk-weighted assets associated with the lower of the firm’s common equity tier 1 capital ratios, as reported on the firm’s FR Y–9C for each quarter of the previous calendar year.12

As it relates to the numerator used in the short-term wholesale funding score calculation, the GSIB surcharge rule contains a transition provision that directs firms identified as GSIBs to determine the average of their weighted short-term wholesale funding amounts for the GSIB surcharge in effect beginning January 1, 2016, and January 1, 2017, by averaging their weighted short-term wholesale funding amounts on July 31, 2015, August 24, 2015, and September 30, 2015.13 These transition arrangements relate only to the calculation of a firm’s average weighted short-term wholesale funding amount that is used as a component of the calculation of a firm’s short-term wholesale funding score for the GSIB surcharges in effect during calendar year 2016 and calendar year 2017. These transition arrangements do not affect any other amount used in the calculation of a firm’s short-term wholesale funding score, method 2 score, method 1 score, or GSIB surcharge. This is described further in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GSIB Surcharge Calculation During the Transitional Period</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surcharges calculated in:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2016 .. December 31, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2017 .. December 31, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2018 .. December 31, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December [Year] .. December [Year] [Year – 1]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VI. Request for Comment

The Board seeks comment on all aspects of the proposed revisions to the GSIB surcharge rule.

VII. Regulatory Analysis

A. Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)

There is no new collection of information pursuant to the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) contained in this proposed rule.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis

The Board is providing an initial regulatory flexibility analysis with respect to this proposed rule. The Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 et seq. (RFA), generally requires that an agency prepare and make available an initial regulatory flexibility analysis in connection with a notice of proposed rulemaking. Under regulations issued by the Small Business Administration, a small entity includes a depository institution, bank holding company, or savings and loan holding company with assets of $550 million or less (small banking organizations).15 As of December 31, 2014, there were approximately 3,833 small bank holding companies.

The proposed rule would apply only to advanced approaches bank holding companies, which, generally, are bank holding companies with total consolidated assets of $250 billion or more, that have total consolidated on-balance sheet foreign exposures of $10 billion or more, that have subsidiary depository institutions that are advanced approaches institutions, or that elect to use the advanced approaches framework.16 Bank holding companies that are subject to the proposed rule therefore are expected to substantially exceed the $550 million asset threshold at which a banking entity would qualify as a small bank holding company.

Because the proposed rule is not likely to apply to any bank holding company with assets of $550 million or less, if adopted in final form, it is not expected to apply to any small bank holding company for purposes of the RFA. The Board does not believe that standards for banking organizations to $550 million in assets from $500 million in assets. 79 FR 33647 (June 12, 2014).

\begin{itemize}
  \item[13] 12 CFR 217.401(c).
  \item[14] 12 CFR 217.401(c).
  \item[15] 12 CFR 217.400(b)(3). The funding sources were defined using terminology from the Liquidity Coverage Ratio rule (12 CFR part 240) and aligned with items that are reported on the Board’s Complex Institution Liquidity Monitoring Report on Form FR 2052a.
  \item[16] See 13 CFR 121.201. Effective July 14, 2014, the Small Business Administration revised the size
\end{itemize}
the proposed rule duplicates, overlaps, or conflicts with any other Federal rules. In light of the foregoing, the Board does not believe that the proposed rule, if adopted in final form, would have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Nonetheless, the Board seeks comment on whether the proposed rule would impose undue burdens on, or have unintended consequences for, small organizations, and whether there are ways such potential burdens or consequences could be minimized in a manner consistent with the purpose of the proposed rule.

C. Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994

In determining the effective date and administrative compliance requirements for new regulations that impose additional reporting, disclosure, or other requirements on state member banks, the Board is required to consider, consistent with the principles of safety and soundness and the public interest, any administrative burdens that such regulations would place on depository institutions, and the benefits of such regulations. 17 In addition, new regulations that impose additional reporting disclosures or other new requirements on insured depository institutions generally must take effect on the first day of a calendar quarter which begins on or after the date on which the regulations are published in final form. 18

The proposed revision to the Board’s GSIB surcharge rule are only applicable to advanced approaches bank holding companies. Therefore, those requirements are not applicable to this proposed rule.

D. Plain Language

Section 722 of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act requires the Board to use plain language in all proposed and final rules published after January 1, 2000. The Board has sought to present the proposed rule in a simple straightforward manner, and invites comment on the use of plain language. For example:

• Has the Board organized the material to suit your needs? If not, how could the Board present the proposed rule more clearly?
• Are the requirements in the proposed rule clearly stated? If not, how could the proposed rule be more clearly stated?
• Do the regulations contain technical language or jargon that is not clear? If so, which language requires clarification?