

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION****[SEC File No. 270-794, OMB Control No. 3235-0737]****Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension: Rule 22e-4***Upon Written Request, Copies Available*

From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-2736

Notice is hereby given that, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Section 22(e) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Investment Company Act") provides that no registered investment company shall suspend the right of redemption or postpone the date of payment of redemption proceeds for more than seven days after tender of the security absent specified unusual circumstances. The provision was designed to prevent funds and their investment advisers from interfering with the redemption rights of shareholders for improper purposes, such as the preservation of management fees. Although section 22(e) permits funds to postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption for up to seven days, it does not permit funds to suspend the right of redemption for any amount of time, absent certain specified circumstances or a Commission order.

Rule 22e-4 under the Act [17 CFR 270.22e-4] requires an open-end fund and an exchange-traded fund that redeems in kind ("In-Kind ETF") to establish a written liquidity risk management program that is reasonably designed to assess and manage the fund's or In-Kind ETF's liquidity risk. This program includes policies and procedures that incorporate certain program elements, including: (i) for funds and In-Kind ETFs, the assessment, management, and periodic review of liquidity risk (with such review occurring no less frequently than annually); (ii) for funds, the classification of the liquidity of a fund's portfolio investments, as well as at-least-monthly reviews of the fund's liquidity classifications; (iii) for funds that do not primarily hold assets that are highly liquid investments, the determination of and periodic review of

the fund's highly liquid investment minimum and establishment of policies and procedures for responding to a shortfall of the fund's highly liquid investment minimum, which includes reporting to the fund's board of directors; (iv) for funds and In-Kind ETFs, the limitation of the fund's or In-Kind ETF's investment in illiquid investments that are assets to no more than 15% of the fund's or In-Kind ETF's net assets; and (iv) for funds and In-Kind ETFs, the establishment of policies and procedures regarding redemptions in kind, to the extent that the fund engages in or reserves the right to engage in redemptions in kind. The rule also requires board approval and oversight of a fund's or In-Kind ETF's liquidity risk management program and recordkeeping.

Rule 22e-4 also requires a limited liquidity review, under which an unit investment trust's ("UIT") principal underwriter or depositor determines, on or before the date of the initial deposit of portfolio securities into the UIT, that the portion of the illiquid investments that the UIT holds or will hold at the date of deposit that are assets is consistent with the redeemable nature of the securities it issues and retains a record of such determination for the life of the UIT and for five years thereafter.

The requirements under rule 22e-4 that a fund and In-Kind ETF, as applicable, adopt a written liquidity risk management program, report to the board, maintain a written record of how the highly liquid investment minimum was determined and written policies and procedures for responding to a shortfall of the fund's highly liquid investment minimum, which includes reporting to the fund's board of directors (for funds that do not primarily hold highly liquid investments), establish written policies and procedures regarding how the fund will engage in redemptions in kind, and retain certain other records are all collections of information. In addition, the requirement under rule 22e-4 that the principal underwriter or depositor of a UIT assess the liquidity of the UIT on or before the date of the initial deposit of portfolio securities into the UIT and retain a record of such determination for the life of the UIT, and for five years thereafter, is also a collection of information.

The Commission staff estimates that 11,659 funds, 603 newly-registered funds, and 8 UITs are subject to rule 22e-4. The internal annual burden estimate is 16 hours for a fund, 11 for a newly-registered fund, and 8 hours for an UIT. Based on these estimates, the total annual burden hours associated

with the rule is estimated to be 193,241 hours. The estimated burden hours associated with rule 22e-4 have increased by 165,091 hours from the current allocation of 28,150 hours. This increase is due to an increase in the estimated number of affected entities, as well as revisions in the manner of calculation. The external cost associated with this collection of information is approximately \$3,124 per fund and \$2,000 per newly-registered fund, and the total annual external cost burden is \$37,628,716. The estimated external cost has increased by \$37,628,716 from the current estimate of \$0. This increase is due to the staff's determination to revise the manner in which it calculates these estimates.

The estimate of average burden hours is made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act, and is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules. The collection of information required by rule 22e-4 is necessary to obtain the benefits of the rule. Information regarding a fund's monthly position-level liquidity classification and its highly liquid investment minimum reported on Form N-PORT will be kept confidential. Other information provided to the Commission in connection with staff examinations or investigations is kept confidential subject to the provisions of applicable law. If information collected pursuant to rule 22e-4 is reviewed by the Commission's examination staff, it is accorded the same level of confidentiality accorded to other responses provided to the Commission in the context of its examination and oversight program. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

*Written comments are invited on:* (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted by May 8, 2023.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to

respond to, a collection of information under the PRA unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

*Please direct your written comments to:* David Bottom, Acting Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o John Pezzullo, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549 or send an email to: [PRA\\_Mailbox@sec.gov](mailto:PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov).

Dated: March 2, 2023.

**Sherry R. Haywood,**  
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2023-04627 Filed 3-6-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270-259, OMB Control No. 3235-0269]

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension: Rule 17f-5

*Upon Written Request, Copies Available From:* Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-2736

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit the existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 17f-5 (17 CFR 270.17f-5) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 [15 U.S.C. 80a] (the "Act") governs the custody of the assets of registered management investment companies ("funds") with custodians outside the United States. Under rule 17f-5, a fund or its foreign custody manager (as delegated by the fund's board) may maintain the fund's foreign assets in the care of an eligible fund custodian under certain conditions. If the fund's board delegates to a foreign custody manager authority to place foreign assets, the fund's board must find that it is reasonable to rely on each delegate the board selects to act as the fund's foreign custody manager. The delegate must agree to provide written reports that notify the board when the fund's assets are placed with a foreign custodian and when any material change occurs in the fund's custody arrangements. The delegate must agree to exercise reasonable care, prudence, and diligence, or to adhere to a higher standard of care, in performing the

delegated services. When the foreign custody manager selects an eligible foreign custodian, it must determine that the fund's assets will be subject to reasonable care if maintained with that custodian, and that the written contract that governs each custody arrangement will provide reasonable care for fund assets. The contract must contain certain specified provisions or others that provide at least equivalent care. The foreign custody manager must establish a system to monitor the performance of the contract and the appropriateness of continuing to maintain assets with the eligible foreign custodian.

The collection of information requirements in rule 17f-5 are intended to provide protection for fund assets maintained with a foreign bank custodian whose use is not authorized by statutory provisions that govern fund custody arrangements,<sup>1</sup> and that is not subject to regulation and examination by U.S. regulators. The requirement that the fund board determine that it is reasonable to rely on each delegate is intended to ensure that the board carefully considers each delegate's qualifications to perform its responsibilities. The requirement that the delegate provide written reports to the board is intended to ensure that the delegate notifies the board of important developments concerning custody arrangements so that the board may exercise effective oversight. The requirement that the delegate agree to exercise reasonable care is intended to provide assurances to the fund that the delegate will properly perform its duties.

The requirements that the foreign custody manager determine that fund assets will be subject to reasonable care with the eligible foreign custodian and under the custody contract, and that each contract contain specified provisions or equivalent provisions, are intended to ensure that the delegate has evaluated the level of care provided by the custodian, that it weighs the adequacy of contractual provisions, and that fund assets are protected by minimal contractual safeguards. The requirement that the foreign custody manager establish a monitoring system is intended to ensure that the manager periodically reviews each custody arrangement and takes appropriate action if developing custody risks may threaten fund assets.<sup>2</sup>

Commission staff estimates that each year, approximately 62 registrants<sup>3</sup> could be required to make an average of one response per registrant under rule 17f-5. A "response" may involve the fund's directors making certain findings concerning foreign custody managers, and the review and ratification of custodial contracts. Commission staff estimates a response relating to these matters will require approximately 2.5 hours of board of director time per response, to make the necessary findings concerning foreign custody managers, and 1 hour of related compliance attorney time per response, to assist the fund board.<sup>4</sup> For registrants, the total annual burden associated with these requirements of the rule is up to approximately 217 hours (62 responses × 3.5 hours per response).

Foreign custody managers are also affected by the collection of information requirements under rule 17f-5. Commission staff estimate that, in connection with each registrant's board of directors making certain findings concerning a foreign custody manager, those findings will require approximately 20 hours of trust administrator time from the applicable manager. This burden relates to the foreign custody manager's initial considerations regarding custodial arrangements with the registrant and preparing reports to the fund board.<sup>5</sup> Commission staff further estimate that annually, approximately 15 foreign custody managers will be required to make an average of 4 responses per manager concerning the use of foreign custodians other than depositories.<sup>6</sup> This "response" may involve the foreign custody manager establishing bank custody arrangements, negotiating/renewing custodial contracts, preparing reports to fund boards, and

<sup>3</sup> This figure is an estimate of the number of new management investment company registrants each year, based on data reported on Form N-CEN as of December 2019, 2020, and 2021. Commission staff anticipates that the number of existing registrants that change their foreign custody managers is negligible and, therefore, the compliance burden of rule 17f-5 falls primarily on new registrants. In practice, not all registrants will use foreign custody managers. The actual figure therefore may be smaller.

<sup>4</sup> As discussed below, Commission staff estimate that a response from a registrant will also include a related burden for the applicable foreign custody manager chosen by the registrant's board of directors.

<sup>5</sup> This estimate does not include burden hours related to the establishment and/or amendment of the foreign custody manager's system for monitoring custody arrangements for its clients, which is accounted for separately as discussed below.

<sup>6</sup> This figure is based on the staff's estimate of the number of global custodians that may act as foreign custody managers under rule 17f-5.

<sup>1</sup> See section 17(f) of the Act. 15 U.S.C. 80a-17(f).

<sup>2</sup> The staff believes that subcustodian monitoring does not involve "collection of information" within the meaning of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520) ("Paperwork Reduction Act").