

committee and the General Counsel or designee shall review the interests and affiliations of each member of the Designated Federal Officer's advisory committee annually, and upon the commencement of the member's appointment to the committee, for the purpose of ensuring that such appointment is consistent with the laws and regulations on conflict of interest applicable to that member.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day of December 2002.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

William D. Travers,

Executive Director for Operations.

[FR Doc. 02-32954 Filed 12-30-02; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

11 CFR Parts 100, 104, and 113

[Notice 2002-31]

Brokerage Loans and Lines of Credit

AGENCY: Federal Election Commission.

ACTION: Final rule; announcement of effective date.

SUMMARY: On June 4, 2002, the Commission published the text of regulations regarding brokerage loans and lines of credit. The Commission announces the effective dates of the rules.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The final rules for 11 CFR 104.3, 104.8, 104.9, 104.14, and 113.1 are effective December 31, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Rosemary C. Smith, Acting Associate General Counsel, or Ms. Mai T. Dinh, Acting Assistant General Counsel, 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20463, (202) 694-1650 or (800) 424-9530.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission is announcing the effective date of revisions to the regulations at 11 CFR 104.3, 104.8, 104.9, 104.14, and 113.1 regarding brokerage loans and lines of credit. See Explanation and Justification for Brokerage Loans and Lines of Credit, 67 FR 38353 (June 4, 2002). These rules implement Public Law 106-346 (Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001, 114 Stat. 1356 (2000)), which amended the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, 2 U.S.C. 431 *et seq.*, ("the Act" or "FECA"). Under the new regulations, candidates may receive, and repay, advances from their brokerage accounts, credit cards, home equity lines of credit, or other lines of credit without such advances constituting "contributions"

or "expenditures" under the Act. In addition, the new regulations require reporting of the receipt and repayment of such advances.

Under the Administrative Procedures Act, 5 U.S.C. 553(d), and the Congressional Review of Agency Rulemaking Act, 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1), agencies must submit final rules to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate and publish them in the **Federal Register** at least 30 calendar days before they take effect. The final rules on Brokerage Loans and Lines of Credit were transmitted to Congress on May 28, 2002. Thirty legislative days expired in the Senate on July 19, 2002, and in the House of Representatives on July 26, 2002.

In addition, please note, that as part of the rulemakings implementing the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-155, 116 Stat. 81 (March 27, 2002), the Commission reorganized 11 CFR 100.7 and 100.8. The final rules regarding brokerage loans and lines of credit that amended 11 CFR 100.7(b)(11) and (22), and 100.8(b)(12) and (24) were incorporated into the reorganization at new 11 CFR 100.82 and 100.83, and 100.142 and 100.143, respectively. See Distribution Table in the final rules for Reorganization of Regulations on "Contribution" and "Expenditure," 67 FR 50582 (Aug. 5, 2002). Because the final rules for Reorganization of Regulations on "Contribution" and "Expenditure" became effective on November 6, 2002, the revisions to 11 CFR 100.7(b) and 100.8(b) have been superseded. Therefore, this notice does not establish an effective date for the revisions to these sections.

The Commission also revised FEC Form C-1, C-P, and C-P-1 and their respective instructions. The revised forms and instructions are also effective as of December 31, 2002.

Dated: December 23, 2002.

Ellen L. Weintraub,

Vice-Chair, Federal Election Commission.

[FR Doc. 02-32983 Filed 12-30-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6715-01-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

12 CFR Part 203

[Regulation C; Docket No. R-1140]

Home Mortgage Disclosure

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

ACTION: Final rule; staff commentary.

SUMMARY: The Board is publishing a final rule amending the staff commentary that interprets the requirements of Regulation C (Home Mortgage Disclosure). The Board is required to adjust annually the asset-size exemption threshold for depository institutions based on the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. The present adjustment reflects changes for the twelve-month period ending in November 2002. During this period, the index increased by 1.27 percent; as a result, the exemption threshold remains at \$32 million. Thus, depository institutions with assets of \$32 million or less as of December 31, 2002, are exempt from data collection in 2003.

DATES: Effective January 1, 2003. This rule applies to all data collection in 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan S. Sokolov, Attorney, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, at (202) 452-3667; for users of Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) only, contact (202) 263-4869.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA; 12 U.S.C. 2801 *et seq.*) requires most mortgage lenders located in metropolitan areas to collect data about their housing-related lending activity. Annually, lenders must file reports with their federal supervisory agencies and make disclosures available to the public. The Board's Regulation C (12 CFR part 203) implements HMDA.

Provisions of the Economic Growth and Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996 (codified at 12 U.S.C. 2808(b)) amended HMDA to expand the exemption for small depository institutions. Prior to 1997, HMDA exempted depository institutions with assets totaling \$10 million or less, as of the preceding year-end. The statutory amendment increased the asset-size exemption threshold by requiring a one-time adjustment of the \$10 million figure based on the percentage by which the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPIW) for 1996 exceeded the CPIW for 1975, and provided for annual adjustments thereafter based on the annual percentage increase in the CPIW. The one-time adjustment increased the exemption threshold to \$28 million for 1997 data collection.

Section 203.3(a)(1)(ii) of Regulation C provides that the Board will adjust the threshold based on the year-to-year change in the average of the CPIW, not seasonally adjusted, for each twelve-month period ending in November,

rounded to the nearest million. Pursuant to this section, the Board raised the threshold to \$29 million for 1998 data collection, raised it to \$30 million for 1999 data collection, and kept it at that level for data collection in 2000. The Board raised the threshold to \$31 million for data collection in 2001 and to \$32 million for data collected in 2002.

During the period ending November 2002, the CPIW increased by 1.27 percent. As a result, the exemption threshold remains at \$32 million. Thus, depository institutions with assets of \$32 million or less as of December 31, 2002, are exempt from data collection in 2003. An institution's exemption from collecting data in 2003 does not affect its responsibility to report the data it was required to collect in 2002.

The Board is amending comment 3(a)-2 of the staff commentary to implement the increase in the exemption threshold. Under the Administrative Procedure Act, notice and opportunity for public comment are not required if the Board finds that notice and public comment are unnecessary. 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B). Regulation C establishes the formula for determining adjustments to the exemption threshold, if any, and the amendment to the staff commentary merely applies the formula. This amendment is technical and not subject to interpretation. For these reasons, the Board has determined that publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking and providing opportunity for public comment are unnecessary. Therefore, the amendment is adopted in final form.

List of Subjects in 12 CFR Part 203

Banks, Banking, Federal Reserve System, Mortgages, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Board amends 12 CFR part 203 as follows:

PART 203—HOME MORTGAGE DISCLOSURE (REGULATION C)

1. The authority citation for part 203 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 12 U.S.C. 2801–2810.

2. In Supplement I to part 203, under Section 203.3—Exempt Institutions, under 3(a) *Exemption based on location, asset size, or number of home-purchase loans*, paragraph 2 is revised to read as follows:

Supplement I to Part 203—Staff Commentary

* * * * *

Section 203.3—Exempt Institutions

3(a) Exemption based on location, asset size, or number of home-purchase loans.

* * * * *

2. Adjustment of exemption threshold for depository institutions. For data collection in 2003, the asset-size exemption threshold is \$32 million. Depository institutions with assets at or below \$32 million are exempt from collecting data for 2003.

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By order of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, acting through the Director of the Division of Consumer and Community Affairs under delegated authority, December 24, 2002.

Jennifer J. Johnson,
Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 02-32948 Filed 12-30-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

19 CFR Part 360

[Docket #: 020711168–2325–02]

RIN 0625-AA60

Steel Import Licensing and Surge Monitoring

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: Import Administration (IA) issues this final rule to add new regulations implementing the Steel Import Licensing and Surge Monitoring program originally outlined in the President's March 5, 2002, Proclamation about Steel Safeguards. This final rule requires all importers of steel products covered under the above mentioned steel safeguards proclamation to obtain a license from the Department of Commerce prior to completing their Customs import summary documentation. To obtain the license, the importer, or the importer's broker or agent, will fill out a form supplying certain statistical information to Commerce about the steel import. The license number will be generated immediately upon submitting the information. That license number will be needed to complete the Customs Entry documentation. IA will use the statistical information collected from the license forms as the basis of its surge monitoring program and early warning system to alert the public about changes in the quantities, types, or origins of steel imports.

In addition, IA informs the public of the approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of the collection-of-information requirements contained in this final rule and publishes the OMB control numbers for those collections.

DATES: This final rule is effective February 1, 2003. Filers will be able to obtain their user identification numbers and apply for licenses on or after January 6, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Al-Saadawi: telephone (202) 482-1930; fax (202) 501-7952; e-mail steel_license@ita.doc.gov. Additional information will also be posted on the import licensing Web site (<http://www.ia.ita.doc.gov/steel/license/>) starting on January 6, 2003.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Import Administration (IA) issues this final rule to add new regulations implementing the Steel Import Licensing and Surge Monitoring program originally outlined in the President's March 5, 2002, Proclamation about Steel Safeguards. This final rule requires all importers of steel products covered under the above mentioned steel safeguards proclamation to obtain a license from the Department of Commerce prior to completing their Customs import summary documentation. In order to obtain the license, the importer, or the importer's broker or agent, must fill out a form supplying certain statistical information to Commerce about the steel import. The license number will be generated immediately upon submitting the information. That license number will be needed to complete the Customs Entry documentation. The statistical information collected from the license forms will be used as the basis of IA's surge monitoring program and early warning system to alert the public about changes in the quantities, types, or origins of steel imports. IA will manage the information collection under the license system as well as the surge monitoring of the steel imports; however, it will be the responsibility of the U.S. Customs Service to enforce the licensing requirements at U.S. ports of entry. A public version of the surge monitoring system will be available on the following Web site: <http://www.ia.ita.doc.gov/steel/license/>. The proposed rule was published on July 18, 2002 (67 FR 47338) and it requested comments through August 19, 2002. The rationale and authority for the program was provided in the preamble to the proposed rule and is not repeated here. *Comments on Proposed Rules:* Comments received during the public comment period set forth in the