



SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270-238, OMB Control No. 3235-0214]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request Copies Available From:
Securities and Exchange Commission
Office of FOIA Services
100 F Street, NE
Washington, DC 20549-02736

Extension: Rule 17a-7

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”) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information described below.

Rule 17a-7 (17 CFR 270.17a-7) (the “rule”) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 et seq.) (the “Act”) is entitled “Exemption of certain purchase or sale transactions between an investment company and certain affiliated persons thereof.” It provides an exemption from section 17(a) of the Act for purchases and sales of securities between registered investment companies (“funds”), that are affiliated persons (“first-tier affiliates”) or affiliated persons of affiliated persons (“second-tier affiliates”), or between a fund and a first- or second-tier affiliate other than another fund, when the affiliation arises solely because of a common investment adviser, director, or officer. Rule 17a-7 requires funds to keep various records in connection with purchase or sale transactions effected in reliance on the rule. The rule requires the fund’s board of directors to establish procedures reasonably designed to ensure that the rule’s conditions have been satisfied. The board is also required to determine, at least on a quarterly basis, that all affiliated transactions effected during the preceding quarter in reliance on the rule were made in compliance with these established procedures. If a fund enters into a purchase or sale transaction with an affiliated person, the rule requires the fund to compile and

maintain written records of the transaction.¹ The Commission's examination staff uses these records to evaluate for compliance with the rule.

While most funds do not commonly engage in transactions covered by rule 17a-7, the Commission staff estimates that nearly all funds have adopted procedures for complying with the rule.² Of the approximately 2,915 currently active funds, the staff estimates that virtually all have already adopted procedures for compliance with rule 17a-7. This is a one-time burden, and the staff therefore does not estimate an ongoing burden related to the policies and procedures requirement of the rule for funds.³ The staff estimates that there are approximately 90 new funds that register each year, and that each of these funds adopts the relevant policies and procedures. The staff estimates that it takes approximately 4 hours to develop and adopt these policies and procedures. Therefore, the total annual burden related to developing and adopting these policies and procedures would be approximately 360 hours.⁴

Of the 2,915 existing funds, the staff assumes that approximately 25%, (or 729) enter into transactions affected by rule 17a-7 each year (either by the fund directly or through one of the fund's series), and that the same percentage (25%, or 23 funds) of the estimated 90 funds that newly register each year will also enter into these transactions, for a total of 752⁵ companies that are affected by the recordkeeping requirements of rule 17a-7. These funds must keep records of each of these transactions, and the board of directors must quarterly determine that all relevant

¹ The written records are required to set forth a description of the security purchased or sold, the identity of the person on the other side of the transaction, and the information or materials upon which the board of directors' determination that the transaction was in compliance with the procedures was made.

² Unless stated otherwise, these estimates are based on conversations with the examination and inspections staff of the Commission and fund representatives.

³ Based on our reviews and conversations with fund representatives, we understand that funds rarely, if ever, need to make changes to these policies and procedures once adopted, and therefore we do not estimate a paperwork burden for such updates.

⁴ This estimate is based on the following calculations: (4 hours × 90 new funds = 360 hours).

⁵ This estimate is based on the following calculation: (729 + 23 = 752).

transactions were made in compliance with the company's policies and procedures. The rule generally imposes a minimal burden of collecting and storing records already generated for other purposes.⁶ The staff estimates that the burden related to making these records and for the board to review all transactions would be 3 hours annually for each respondent, (2 hours spent by compliance attorneys and 1 hour spent by the board of directors)⁷ or 2,256 total hours each year.⁸

Based on these estimates, the staff estimates the combined total annual burden hours associated with rule 17a-7 is 2,616 hours.⁹ The staff also estimates that there are approximately 752 respondents and 6,016 total responses.¹⁰

The estimates of burden hours are made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act, and are 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 17a-7 is necessary to obtain the benefits of the rule. Responses will not be kept confidential. 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 control number.

The public may view background documentation for this information collection at the following website: www.reginfo.gov. Find this particular information collection by selecting

⁶ Commission staff believes that rule 17a-7 does not impose any costs associated with record preservation in addition to the costs that funds already incur to comply with the record preservation requirements of rule 31a-2 under the Act. Rule 31a-2 requires companies to preserve certain records for specified periods of time.

⁷ The staff estimates that funds that rely on rule 17a-7 annually enter into an average of 8 rule 17a-7 transactions each year. The staff estimates that the compliance attorneys of the companies spend approximately 15 minutes per transaction on this recordkeeping, and the board of directors spends a total of 1 hour annually in determining that all transactions made that year were done in compliance with the company's policies and procedures.

⁸ This estimate is based on the following calculation: (3 hours × 752 companies = 2,256 hours).

⁹ This estimate is based on the following calculation: (360 hours + 2,256 hours = 2,616 total hours).

¹⁰ This estimate is based on the following calculations: 752 funds that engage in rule 17a-7 transactions × 8 transactions per year = 6,016.

"Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to (i) www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain and (ii) David Bottom, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Cynthia Roscoe, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549, or by sending an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.

Dated: December 4, 2020.

J. Matthew DeLesDernier,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2020-27027 Filed: 12/8/2020 8:45 am; Publication Date: 12/9/2020]