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United States Code Annotated [Currentness](#)

Title 15. Commerce and Trade

[Chapter 2B. Securities Exchanges \(Refs & Annos\)](#)

→ **§ 78c. Definitions and application**

(a) Definitions

When used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires--

(1) The term “exchange” means any organization, association, or group of persons, whether incorporated or unincorporated, which constitutes, maintains, or provides a market place or facilities for bringing together purchasers and sellers of securities or for otherwise performing with respect to securities the functions commonly performed by a stock exchange as that term is generally understood, and includes the market place and the market facilities maintained by such exchange.

(2) The term “facility” when used with respect to an exchange includes its premises, tangible or intangible property whether on the premises or not, any right to the use of such premises or property or any service thereof for the purpose of effecting or reporting a transaction on an exchange (including, among other things, any system of communication to or from the exchange, by ticker or otherwise, maintained by or with the consent of the exchange), and any right of the exchange to the use of any property or service.

(3)(A) The term “member” when used with respect to a national securities exchange means (i) any natural person permitted to effect transactions on the floor of the exchange without the services of another person acting as broker, (ii) any registered broker or dealer with which such a natural person is associated, (iii) any registered broker or dealer permitted to designate as a representative such a natural person, and (iv) any other registered broker or dealer which agrees to be regulated by such exchange and with respect to which the exchange undertakes to enforce compliance with the provisions of this chapter, the rules and regulations thereunder, and its own rules. For purposes of [sections 78f\(b\)\(1\), 78f\(b\)\(4\), 78f\(b\)\(6\), 78f\(b\)\(7\), 78f\(d\), 78q\(d\), 78s\(d\), 78s\(e\), 78s\(g\), 78s\(h\), and 78u](#) of this title, the term “member” when used with respect to a national securities exchange also means, to the extent of the rules of the exchange specified by the Commission, any person required by the Commission to comply with such rules pursuant to [section 78f\(f\)](#) of this title.

(B) The term “member” when used with respect to a registered securities association means any broker or dealer who agrees to be regulated by such association and with respect to whom the association undertakes to enforce compliance with the provisions of this chapter, the rules and regulations thereunder, and its own rules.

(4) Broker

(A) In general

The term “broker” means any person engaged in the business of effecting transactions in securities for the account of others.

(B) Exception for certain bank activities

A bank shall not be considered to be a broker because the bank engages in any one or more of the following activities under the conditions described:

(i) Third party brokerage arrangements

The bank enters into a contractual or other written arrangement with a broker or dealer registered under this chapter under which the broker or dealer offers brokerage services on or off the premises of the bank if--

(I) such broker or dealer is clearly identified as the person performing the brokerage services;

(II) the broker or dealer performs brokerage services in an area that is clearly marked and, to the extent practicable, physically separate from the routine deposit-taking activities of the bank;

(III) any materials used by the bank to advertise or promote generally the availability of brokerage services under the arrangement clearly indicate that the brokerage services are being provided by the broker or dealer and not by the bank;

(IV) any materials used by the bank to advertise or promote generally the availability of brokerage services under the arrangement are in compliance with the Federal securities laws before distribution;

(V) bank employees (other than associated persons of a broker or dealer who are qualified pursuant to the rules of a self-regulatory organization) perform only clerical or ministerial functions in connection with brokerage transactions including scheduling appointments with the associated persons of a broker or dealer, except that bank employees may forward customer funds or securities and may describe in general terms the types of investment vehicles available from the bank and the broker or dealer under the arrangement;

(VI) bank employees do not receive incentive compensation for any brokerage transaction unless such employees are associated persons of a broker or dealer and are qualified pursuant to the rules of a self-regulatory organization, except that the bank employees may receive compensation for the referral of any customer if the compensation is a nominal one-time cash fee of a fixed dollar amount and the payment of the fee is not contingent on whether the referral results in a transaction;

(VII) such services are provided by the broker or dealer on a basis in which all customers that receive any services are fully disclosed to the broker or dealer;

(VIII) the bank does not carry a securities account of the customer except as permitted under clause (ii) or (viii) of this subparagraph; and

(IX) the bank, broker, or dealer informs each customer that the brokerage services are provided by the broker or dealer and not by the bank and that the securities are not deposits or other obligations of the bank, are not guaranteed by the bank, and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

(ii) Trust activities

The bank effects transactions in a trustee capacity, or effects transactions in a fiduciary capacity in its trust department or other department that is regularly examined by bank examiners for compliance with fiduciary principles and standards, and--

(I) is chiefly compensated for such transactions, consistent with fiduciary principles and standards, on the basis of an administration or annual fee (payable on a monthly, quarterly, or other basis), a percentage of assets under management, or a flat or capped per order processing fee equal to not more than the cost incurred by the bank in connection with executing securities transactions for trustee and fiduciary customers, or any combination of such fees; and

(II) does not publicly solicit brokerage business, other than by advertising that it effects transactions in securities in conjunction with advertising its other trust activities.

(iii) Permissible securities transactions

The bank effects transactions in--

(I) commercial paper, bankers acceptances, or commercial bills;

(II) exempted securities;

(III) qualified Canadian government obligations as defined in [section 24 of Title 12](#), in conformity with [section 78o-5](#) of this title and the rules and regulations thereunder, or obligations of the North American Development Bank; or

(IV) any standardized, credit enhanced debt security issued by a foreign government pursuant to the March 1989 plan of then Secretary of the Treasury Brady, used by such foreign government to retire outstanding commercial bank loans.

(iv) Certain stock purchase plans

(I) Employee benefit plans

The bank effects transactions, as part of its transfer agency activities, in the securities of an issuer as part of any pension, retirement, profit-sharing, bonus, thrift, savings, incentive, or other similar benefit plan for the employees of that issuer or its affiliates (as defined in [section 1841 of Title 12](#)), if the bank does not solicit transactions or provide investment advice with respect to the purchase or sale of securities in connection with the plan.

(II) Dividend reinvestment plans

The bank effects transactions, as part of its transfer agency activities, in the securities of an issuer as part of that issuer's dividend reinvestment plan, if--

(aa) the bank does not solicit transactions or provide investment advice with respect to the purchase or sale of securities in connection with the plan; and

(bb) the bank does not net shareholders' buy and sell orders, other than for programs for odd-lot holders or plans registered with the Commission.

(III) Issuer plans

The bank effects transactions, as part of its transfer agency activities, in the securities of an issuer as part of a plan or program for the purchase or sale of that issuer's shares, if--

(aa) the bank does not solicit transactions or provide investment advice with respect to the purchase or sale of securities in connection with the plan or program; and

(bb) the bank does not net shareholders' buy and sell orders, other than for programs for odd-lot holders or plans registered with the Commission.

(IV) Permissible delivery of materials

The exception to being considered a broker for a bank engaged in activities described in subclauses (I), (II), and (III) will not be affected by delivery of written or electronic plan materials by a bank to employees of the issuer, shareholders of the issuer, or members of affinity groups of the issuer, so long as such materials are--

(aa) comparable in scope or nature to that permitted by the Commission as of November 12, 1999; or

(bb) otherwise permitted by the Commission.

(v) Sweep accounts

The bank effects transactions as part of a program for the investment or reinvestment of deposit funds into any no-load, open-end management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 [15 U.S.C.A. § 80a-1 et seq.] that holds itself out as a money market fund.

(vi) Affiliate transactions

The bank effects transactions for the account of any affiliate of the bank (as defined in [section 1841 of Title 12](#)) other than--

(I) a registered broker or dealer; or

(II) an affiliate that is engaged in merchant banking, as described in [section 1843\(k\)\(4\)\(H\) of Title 12](#).

(vii) Private securities offerings

The bank--

(I) effects sales as part of a primary offering of securities not involving a public offering, pursuant to [section 77c\(b\)](#), [77d\(2\)](#), or [77d\(6\)](#) of this title or the rules and regulations issued thereunder;

(II) at any time after the date that is 1 year after November 12, 1999, is not affiliated with a broker or dealer that has been registered for more than 1 year in accordance with this chapter, and engages in dealing, market making, or underwriting activities, other than with respect to exempted securities; and

(III) if the bank is not affiliated with a broker or dealer, does not effect any primary offering described in subclause (I) the aggregate amount of which exceeds 25 percent of the capital of the bank, except that the limitation of this subclause shall not apply with respect to any sale of government securities or municipal securities.

(viii) Safekeeping and custody activities

(I) In general

The bank, as part of customary banking activities--

(aa) provides safekeeping or custody services with respect to securities, including the exercise of warrants and other rights on behalf of customers;

(bb) facilitates the transfer of funds or securities, as a custodian or a clearing agency, in connection

with the clearance and settlement of its customers' transactions in securities;

(cc) effects securities lending or borrowing transactions with or on behalf of customers as part of services provided to customers pursuant to division (aa) or (bb) or invests cash collateral pledged in connection with such transactions;

(dd) holds securities pledged by a customer to another person or securities subject to purchase or resale agreements involving a customer, or facilitates the pledging or transfer of such securities by book entry or as otherwise provided under applicable law, if the bank maintains records separately identifying the securities and the customer; or

(ee) serves as a custodian or provider of other related administrative services to any individual retirement account, pension, retirement, profit sharing, bonus, thrift savings, incentive, or other similar benefit plan.

(II) Exception for carrying broker activities

The exception to being considered a broker for a bank engaged in activities described in subclause (I) shall not apply if the bank, in connection with such activities, acts in the United States as a carrying broker (as such term, and different formulations thereof, are used in [section 78o\(c\)\(3\)](#) of this title and the rules and regulations thereunder) for any broker or dealer, unless such carrying broker activities are engaged in with respect to government securities (as defined in paragraph (42) of this subsection).

(ix) Identified banking products

The bank effects transactions in identified banking products as defined in section 206 of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act [15 U.S.C.A. § 78c note].

(x) Municipal securities

The bank effects transactions in municipal securities.

(xi) De minimis exception

The bank effects, other than in transactions referred to in clauses (i) through (x), not more than 500 transactions in securities in any calendar year, and such transactions are not effected by an employee of the bank who is also an employee of a broker or dealer.

(C) Execution by broker or dealer

The exception to being considered a broker for a bank engaged in activities described in clauses (ii), (iv), and (viii) of subparagraph (B) shall not apply if the activities described in such provisions result in the trade

in the United States of any security that is a publicly traded security in the United States, unless--

- (i) the bank directs such trade to a registered broker or dealer for execution;
- (ii) the trade is a cross trade or other substantially similar trade of a security that--
 - (I) is made by the bank or between the bank and an affiliated fiduciary; and
 - (II) is not in contravention of fiduciary principles established under applicable Federal or State law; or
- (iii) the trade is conducted in some other manner permitted under rules, regulations, or orders as the Commission may prescribe or issue.

(D) Fiduciary capacity

For purposes of subparagraph (B)(ii), the term “fiduciary capacity” means--

- (i) in the capacity as trustee, executor, administrator, registrar of stocks and bonds, transfer agent, guardian, assignee, receiver, or custodian under a uniform gift to minor act, or as an investment adviser if the bank receives a fee for its investment advice;
- (ii) in any capacity in which the bank possesses investment discretion on behalf of another; or
- (iii) in any other similar capacity.

(E) Exception for entities subject to section 78o(e) of this title

The term “broker” does not include a bank that--

- (i) was, on the day before November 12, 1999, subject to [section 78o\(e\)](#) of this title; and
- (ii) is subject to such restrictions and requirements as the Commission considers appropriate.

(F) Joint rulemaking required

The Commission and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall jointly adopt a single set of rules or regulations to implement the exceptions in subparagraph (B).

(5) Dealer

(A) In general

The term “dealer” means any person engaged in the business of buying and selling securities for such person's own account through a broker or otherwise.

(B) Exception for person not engaged in the business of dealing

The term “dealer” does not include a person that buys or sells securities for such person's own account, either individually or in a fiduciary capacity, but not as a part of a regular business.

(C) Exception for certain bank activities

A bank shall not be considered to be a dealer because the bank engages in any of the following activities under the conditions described:

(i) Permissible securities transactions

The bank buys or sells--

(I) commercial paper, bankers acceptances, or commercial bills;

(II) exempted securities;

(III) qualified Canadian government obligations as defined in [section 24 of Title 12](#), in conformity with [section 78o-5](#) of this title and the rules and regulations thereunder, or obligations of the North American Development Bank; or

(IV) any standardized, credit enhanced debt security issued by a foreign government pursuant to the March 1989 plan of then Secretary of the Treasury Brady, used by such foreign government to retire outstanding commercial bank loans.

(ii) Investment, trustee, and fiduciary transactions

The bank buys or sells securities for investment purposes--

(I) for the bank; or

(II) for accounts for which the bank acts as a trustee or fiduciary.

(iii) Asset-backed transactions

The bank engages in the issuance or sale to qualified investors, through a grantor trust or other separate entity, of securities backed by or representing an interest in notes, drafts, acceptances, loans, leases, receivables, other obligations (other than securities of which the bank is not the issuer), or pools of any such obligations predominantly originated by--

(I) the bank;

(II) an affiliate of any such bank other than a broker or dealer; or

(III) a syndicate of banks of which the bank is a member, if the obligations or pool of obligations consists of mortgage obligations or consumer-related receivables.

(iv) Identified banking products

The bank buys or sells identified banking products, as defined in section 206 of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act [15 U.S.C.A. § 78c note].

(6) The term “bank” means (A) a banking institution organized under the laws of the United States or a Federal savings association, as defined in [section 1462\(5\) of Title 12](#), (B) a member bank of the Federal Reserve System, (C) any other banking institution or savings association, as defined in [section 1462\(4\) of Title 12](#), whether incorporated or not, doing business under the laws of any State or of the United States, a substantial portion of the business of which consists of receiving deposits or exercising fiduciary powers similar to those permitted to national banks under the authority of the Comptroller of the currency pursuant to [section 92a of Title 12](#), and which is supervised and examined by State or Federal authority having supervision over banks or savings associations, and which is not operated for the purpose of evading the provisions of this chapter, and (D) a receiver, conservator, or other liquidating agent of any institution or firm included in clauses (A), (B), or (C) of this paragraph.

(7) The term “director” means any director of a corporation or any person performing similar functions with respect to any organization, whether incorporated or unincorporated.

(8) The term “issuer” means any person who issues or proposes to issue any security; except that with respect to certificates of deposit for securities, voting-trust certificates, or collateral-trust certificates, or with respect to certificates of interest or shares in an unincorporated investment trust not having a board of directors or of the fixed, restricted management, or unit type, the term “issuer” means the person or persons performing the acts and assuming the duties of depositor or manager pursuant to the provisions of the trust or other agreement or instrument under which such securities are issued; and except that with respect to equipment-trust certificates or like securities, the term “issuer” means the person by whom the equipment or property is, or is to be, used.

(9) The term “person” means a natural person, company, government, or political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a government.

(10) The term “security” means any note, stock, treasury stock, security future, bond, debenture, certificate of interest or participation in any profit-sharing agreement or in any oil, gas, or other mineral royalty or lease, any collateral-trust certificate, preorganization certificate or subscription, transferable share, investment contract, voting-trust certificate, certificate of deposit for a security, any put, call, straddle, option, or privilege on any security, certificate of deposit, or group or index of securities (including any interest therein or based on the value thereof), or any put, call, straddle, option, or privilege entered into on a national securities exchange relating to foreign currency, or in general, any instrument commonly known as a “security”; or any certificate of interest or participation in, temporary or interim certificate for, receipt for, or warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase, any of the foregoing; but shall not include currency or any note, draft, bill of exchange, or banker's acceptance which has a maturity at the time of issuance of not exceeding nine months, exclusive of days of grace, or any renewal thereof the maturity of which is likewise limited.

(11) The term “equity security” means any stock or similar security; or any security future on any such security; or any security convertible, with or without consideration, into such a security, or carrying any warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase such a security; or any such warrant or right; or any other security which the Commission shall deem to be of similar nature and consider necessary or appropriate, by such rules and regulations as it may prescribe in the public interest or for the protection of investors, to treat as an equity security.

(12)(A) The term “exempted security” or “exempted securities” includes--

(i) government securities, as defined in paragraph (42) of this subsection;

(ii) municipal securities, as defined in paragraph (29) of this subsection;

(iii) any interest or participation in any common trust fund or similar fund that is excluded from the definition of the term “investment company” under [section 80a-3\(c\)\(3\)](#) of this title;

(iv) any interest or participation in a single trust fund, or a collective trust fund maintained by a bank, or any security arising out of a contract issued by an insurance company, which interest, participation, or security is issued in connection with a qualified plan as defined in subparagraph (C) of this paragraph;

(v) any security issued by or any interest or participation in any pooled income fund, collective trust fund, collective investment fund, or similar fund that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under [section 80a-3\(c\)\(10\)\(B\)](#) of this title;

(vi) solely for purposes of [sections 78l](#), [78m](#), [78n](#), and, [78p](#) of this title, any security issued by or any interest or participation in any church plan, company, or account that is excluded from the definition of an in-

vestment company under [section 80a-3\(c\)\(14\)](#) of this title; and

(vii) such other securities (which may include, among others, unregistered securities, the market in which is predominantly intrastate) as the Commission may, by such rules and regulations as it deems consistent with the public interest and the protection of investors, either unconditionally or upon specified terms and conditions or for stated periods, exempt from the operation of any one or more provisions of this chapter which by their terms do not apply to an “exempted security” or to “exempted securities”.

(B)(i) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A)(i) of this paragraph, government securities shall not be deemed to be “exempted securities” for the purposes of [section 78q-1](#) of this title.

(ii) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A)(ii) of this paragraph, municipal securities shall not be deemed to be “exempted securities” for the purposes of [sections 78o](#) and [78q-1](#) of this title.

(C) For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iv) of this paragraph, the term “qualified plan” means (i) a stock bonus, pension, or profit-sharing plan which meets the requirements for qualification under [section 401 of Title 26](#), (ii) an annuity plan which meets the requirements for the deduction of the employer's contribution under [section 404\(a\)\(2\) of Title 26](#), (iii) a governmental plan as defined in [section 414\(d\) of Title 26](#) which has been established by an employer for the exclusive benefit of its employees or their beneficiaries for the purpose of distributing to such employees or their beneficiaries the corpus and income of the funds accumulated under such plan, if under such plan it is impossible, prior to the satisfaction of all liabilities with respect to such employees and their beneficiaries, for any part of the corpus or income to be used for, or diverted to, purposes other than the exclusive benefit of such employees or their beneficiaries, or (iv) a church plan, company, or account that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under [section 3\(c\)\(14\) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 \[15 U.S.C.A. § 80a-3\(c\)\(14\)\]](#), other than any plan described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of this subparagraph which (I) covers employees some or all of whom are employees within the meaning of [section 401\(c\) of Title 26](#), or (II) is a plan funded by an annuity contract described in [section 403\(b\) of Title 26](#).

(13) The terms “buy” and “purchase” each include any contract to buy, purchase, or otherwise acquire. For security futures products, such term includes any contract, agreement, or transaction for future delivery.

(14) The terms “sale” and “sell” each include any contract to sell or otherwise dispose of. For security futures products, such term includes any contract, agreement, or transaction for future delivery.

(15) The term “Commission” means the Securities and Exchange Commission established by [section 78d](#) of this title.

(16) The term “State” means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, or any other possession of the United States.

(17) The term “interstate commerce” means trade, commerce, transportation, or communication among the several States, or between any foreign country and any State, or between any State and any place or ship outside thereof. The term also includes intrastate use of (A) any facility of a national securities exchange or of a telephone or other interstate means of communication, or (B) any other interstate instrumentality.

(18) The term “person associated with a broker or dealer” or “associated person of a broker or dealer” means any partner, officer, director, or branch manager of such broker or dealer (or any person occupying a similar status or performing similar functions), any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with such broker or dealer, or any employee of such broker or dealer, except that any person associated with a broker or dealer whose functions are solely clerical or ministerial shall not be included in the meaning of such term for purposes of [section 78o\(b\)](#) of this title (other than paragraph (6) thereof).

(19) The terms “investment company”, “affiliated person”, “insurance company”, “separate account”, and “company” have the same meanings as in the Investment Company Act of 1940 [[15 U.S.C.A. § 80a-1 et seq.](#)].

(20) The terms “investment adviser” and “underwriter” have the same meanings as in the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 [[15 U.S.C.A. § 80b-1 et. seq.](#)].

(21) The term “person associated with a member” or “associated person of a member” when used with respect to a member of a national securities exchange or registered securities association means any partner, officer, director, or branch manager of such member (or any person occupying a similar status or performing similar functions), any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with such member, or any employee of such member.

(22)(A) The term “securities information processor” means any person engaged in the business of (i) collecting, processing, or preparing for distribution or publication, or assisting, participating in, or coordinating the distribution or publication of, information with respect to transactions in or quotations for any security (other than an exempted security) or (ii) distributing or publishing (whether by means of a ticker tape, a communications network, a terminal display device, or otherwise) on a current and continuing basis, information with respect to such transactions or quotations. The term “securities information processor” does not include any bona fide newspaper, news magazine, or business or financial publication of general and regular circulation, any self-regulatory organizations, any bank, broker, dealer, building and loan, savings and loan, or homestead association, or cooperative bank, if such bank, broker, dealer, association, or cooperative bank would be deemed to be a securities information processor solely by reason of functions performed by such institutions as part of customary banking, brokerage, dealing, association, or cooperative bank activities, or any common carrier, as defined in [section 153 of Title 47](#), subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Communications Commission or a State commission, as defined in [section 153 of Title 47](#), unless the Commission determines that such carrier is engaged in the business of collecting, processing, or preparing for distribution or publication, information with respect to transactions in or quotations for any security.

(B) The term “exclusive processor” means any securities information processor or self-regulatory organization which, directly or indirectly, engages on an exclusive basis on behalf of any national securities exchange or

registered securities association, or any national securities exchange or registered securities association which engages on an exclusive basis on its own behalf, in collecting, processing, or preparing for distribution or publication any information with respect to (i) transactions or quotations on or effected or made by means of any facility of such exchange or (ii) quotations distributed or published by means of any electronic system operated or controlled by such association.

(23)(A) The term “clearing agency” means any person who acts as an intermediary in making payments or deliveries or both in connection with transactions in securities or who provides facilities for comparison of data respecting the terms of settlement of securities transactions, to reduce the number of settlements of securities transactions, or for the allocation of securities settlement responsibilities. Such term also means any person, such as a securities depository, who (i) acts as a custodian of securities in connection with a system for the central handling of securities whereby all securities of a particular class or series of any issuer deposited within the system are treated as fungible and may be transferred, loaned, or pledged by bookkeeping entry without physical delivery of securities certificates, or (ii) otherwise permits or facilitates the settlement of securities transactions or the hypothecation or lending of securities without physical delivery of securities certificates.

(B) The term “clearing agency” does not include (i) any Federal Reserve bank, Federal home loan bank, or Federal land bank; (ii) any national securities exchange or registered securities association solely by reason of its providing facilities for comparison of data respecting the terms of settlement of securities transactions effected on such exchange or by means of any electronic system operated or controlled by such association; (iii) any bank, broker, dealer, building and loan, savings and loan, or homestead association, or cooperative bank if such bank, broker, dealer, association, or cooperative bank would be deemed to be a clearing agency solely by reason of functions performed by such institution as part of customary banking, brokerage, dealing, association, or cooperative banking activities, or solely by reason of acting on behalf of a clearing agency or a participant therein in connection with the furnishing by the clearing agency of services to its participants or the use of services of the clearing agency by its participants, unless the Commission, by rule, otherwise provides as necessary or appropriate to assure the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions or to prevent evasion of this chapter; (iv) any life insurance company, its registered separate accounts, or a subsidiary of such insurance company solely by reason of functions commonly performed by such entities in connection with variable annuity contracts or variable life policies issued by such insurance company or its separate accounts; (v) any registered open-end investment company or unit investment trust solely by reason of functions commonly performed by it in connection with shares in such registered open-end investment company or unit investment trust, or (vi) any person solely by reason of its performing functions described in paragraph (25)(E) of this subsection.

(24) The term “participant” when used with respect to a clearing agency means any person who uses a clearing agency to clear or settle securities transactions or to transfer, pledge, lend, or hypothecate securities. Such term does not include a person whose only use of a clearing agency is (A) through another person who is a participant or (B) as a pledgee of securities.

(25) The term “transfer agent” means any person who engages on behalf of an issuer of securities or on behalf of itself as an issuer of securities in (A) countersigning such securities upon issuance; (B) monitoring the issuance of such securities with a view to preventing unauthorized issuance, a function commonly performed by a

person called a registrar; (C) registering the transfer of such securities; (D) exchanging or converting such securities; or (E) transferring record ownership of securities by bookkeeping entry without physical issuance of securities certificates. The term “transfer agent” does not include any insurance company or separate account which performs such functions solely with respect to variable annuity contracts or variable life policies which it issues or any registered clearing agency which performs such functions solely with respect to options contracts which it issues.

(26) The term “self-regulatory organization” means any national securities exchange, registered securities association, or registered clearing agency, or (solely for purposes of [sections 78s\(b\)](#), [78s\(c\)](#), and [78w\(b\)](#) of this title) the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board established by [section 78o-4](#) of this title.

(27) The term “rules of an exchange”, “rules of an association”, or “rules of a clearing agency” means the constitution, articles of incorporation, bylaws, and rules, or instruments corresponding to the foregoing, of an exchange, association of brokers and dealers, or clearing agency, respectively, and such of the stated policies, practices, and interpretations of such exchange, association, or clearing agency as the Commission, by rule, may determine to be necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors to be deemed to be rules of such exchange, association, or clearing agency.

(28) The term “rules of a self-regulatory organization” means the rules of an exchange which is a national securities exchange, the rules of an association of brokers and dealers which is a registered securities association, the rules of a clearing agency which is a registered clearing agency, or the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

(29) The term “municipal securities” means securities which are direct obligations of, or obligations guaranteed as to principal or interest by, a State or any political subdivision thereof, or any agency or instrumentality of a State or any political subdivision thereof, or any municipal corporate instrumentality of one or more States, or any security which is an industrial development bond (as defined in [section 103\(c\)\(2\) of Title 26](#)) the interest on which is excludable from gross income under [section 103\(a\)\(1\) of Title 26](#) if, by reason of the application of [paragraph \(4\) or \(6\) of section 103\(c\) of Title 26](#) (determined as if paragraphs (4)(A), (5), and (7) were not included in such section 103(c)), paragraph (1) of such section 103(c) does not apply to such security.

(30) The term “municipal securities dealer” means any person (including a separately identifiable department or division of a bank) engaged in the business of buying and selling municipal securities for his own account, through a broker or otherwise, but does not include--

(A) any person insofar as he buys or sells such securities for his own account, either individually or in some fiduciary capacity, but not as a part of a regular business; or

(B) a bank, unless the bank is engaged in the business of buying and selling municipal securities for its own account other than in a fiduciary capacity, through a broker or otherwise: *Provided, however,* That if the

bank is engaged in such business through a separately identifiable department or division (as defined by the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board in accordance with [section 78o-4\(b\)\(2\)\(H\)](#) of this title), the department or division and not the bank itself shall be deemed to be the municipal securities dealer.

(31) The term “municipal securities broker” means a broker engaged in the business of effecting transactions in municipal securities for the account of others.

(32) The term “person associated with a municipal securities dealer” when used with respect to a municipal securities dealer which is a bank or a division or department of a bank means any person directly engaged in the management, direction, supervision, or performance of any of the municipal securities dealer's activities with respect to municipal securities, and any person directly or indirectly controlling such activities or controlled by the municipal securities dealer in connection with such activities.

(33) The term “municipal securities investment portfolio” means all municipal securities held for investment and not for sale as part of a regular business by a municipal securities dealer or by a person, directly or indirectly, controlling, controlled by, or under common control with a municipal securities dealer.

(34) The term “appropriate regulatory agency” means--

(A) When used with respect to a municipal securities dealer:

(i) the Comptroller of the Currency, in the case of a national bank, or a subsidiary or a department or division of any such bank;

(ii) the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, in the case of a State member bank of the Federal Reserve System, a subsidiary or a department or division thereof, a bank holding company, a subsidiary of a bank holding company which is a bank other than a bank specified in clause (i), (iii), or (iv) of this subparagraph, or a subsidiary or a department or division of such subsidiary;

(iii) the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, in the case of a bank insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (other than a member of the Federal Reserve System), or a subsidiary or department or division thereof;

(iv) the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, in the case of a savings association (as defined in [section 1813\(b\) of Title 12](#)), the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, a subsidiary or a department or division of any such savings association, or a savings and loan holding company; and

(v) the Commission in the case of all other municipal securities dealers.

(B) When used with respect to a clearing agency or transfer agent:

- (i) the Comptroller of the Currency, in the case of a national bank, or a subsidiary of any such bank;
- (ii) the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, in the case of a State member bank of the Federal Reserve System, a subsidiary thereof, a bank holding company, or a subsidiary of a bank holding company which is a bank other than a bank specified in clause (i), (iii), or (iv) of this subparagraph;
- (iii) the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, in the case of a bank insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (other than a member of the Federal Reserve System), or a subsidiary thereof;
- (iv) the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, in the case of a savings association (as defined in [section 1813\(b\) of Title 12](#)), the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or a subsidiary of any such savings association, or a savings and loan holding company; and
- (v) the Commission in the case of all other clearing agencies and transfer agents.

(C) When used with respect to a participant or applicant to become a participant in a clearing agency or a person requesting or having access to services offered by a clearing agency:

- (i) the Comptroller of the Currency, in the case of a national bank when the appropriate regulatory agency for such clearing agency is not the Commission;
- (ii) the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in the case of a State member bank of the Federal Reserve System, a bank holding company, or a subsidiary of a bank holding company, or a subsidiary of a bank holding company which is a bank other than a bank specified in clause (i), (iii), or (iv) of this subparagraph when the appropriate regulatory agency for such clearing agency is not the Commission;
- (iii) the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, in the case of a bank insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (other than a member of the Federal Reserve System) when the appropriate regulatory agency for such clearing agency is not the Commission;
- (iv) the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, in the case of a savings association (as defined in [section 1813\(b\) of Title 12](#)), the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, a savings and loan holding company, or a subsidiary of a savings and loan holding company when the appropriate regulatory agency for such clearing agency is not the Commission; and
- (v) the Commission in all other cases.

(D) When used with respect to an institutional investment manager which is a bank the deposits of which are insured in accordance with the Federal Deposit Insurance Act [[12 U.S.C.A. § 1811 et seq.](#)]:

(i) the Comptroller of the Currency, in the case of a national bank;

(ii) the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, in the case of any other member bank of the Federal Reserve System;

(iii) the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, in the case of a savings association (as defined in [section 1813\(b\) of Title 12](#)) the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and

(iv) the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, in the case of any other insured bank.

(E) When used with respect to a national securities exchange or registered securities association, member thereof, person associated with a member thereof, applicant to become a member thereof or to become associated with a member thereof, or person requesting or having access to services offered by such exchange or association or member thereof, or the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, the Commission.

(F) When used with respect to a person exercising investment discretion with respect to an account;

(i) the Comptroller of the Currency, in the case of a national bank;

(ii) the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, in the case of a savings association (as defined in [section 1813\(b\) of Title 12](#)), the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and

(iii) the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, in the case of any other member bank of the Federal Reserve System;

(iv) the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, in the case of any other bank the deposits of which are insured in accordance with the Federal Deposit Insurance Act [[12 U.S.C.A. § 1811 et seq.](#)]; and

(v) the Commission, in the case of all other such persons.

(G) When used with respect to a government securities broker or government securities dealer, or person associated with a government securities broker or government securities dealer:

(i) the Comptroller of the Currency, in the case of a national bank or a Federal branch or Federal agency of a foreign bank (as such terms are used in the International Banking Act of 1978 [[12 U.S.C.A. § 3101 et seq.](#)]);

(ii) the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, in the case of a State member bank of the Federal Reserve System, a foreign bank, an uninsured State branch or State agency of a foreign bank, a commercial lending company owned or controlled by a foreign bank (as such terms are used in the International Banking Act of 1978), or a corporation organized or having an agreement with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System pursuant to section 25 or section 25A of the Federal Reserve Act [[12 U.S.C.A. § 601 et seq.](#) or [611 et seq.](#)];

(iii) the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, in the case of a bank insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (other than a member of the Federal Reserve System or a Federal savings bank) or an insured State branch of a foreign bank (as such terms are used in the International Banking Act of 1978);

(iv) the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, in the case of a savings association (as defined in [section 1813\(b\) of Title 12](#)) the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; [[FN1](#)]

(v) the Commission, in the case of all other government securities brokers and government securities dealers.

(H) When used with respect to an institution described in [subparagraph \(D\)](#), [\(F\)](#), or [\(G\)](#) of [section 1841\(c\)\(2\)](#), or held under [section 1843\(f\)](#), of [Title 12](#)--

(i) the Comptroller of the Currency, in the case of a national bank;

(ii) the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, in the case of a State member bank of the Federal Reserve System or any corporation chartered under section 25A of the Federal Reserve Act [[12 U.S.C.A. § 611 et seq.](#)];

(iii) the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, in the case of any other bank the deposits of which are insured in accordance with the Federal Deposit Insurance Act [[12 U.S.C.A. § 1811 et seq.](#)]; or

(iv) the Commission in the case of all other such institutions.

As used in this paragraph, the terms “bank holding company” and “subsidiary of a bank holding company” have the meanings given them in [section 1841 of Title 12](#), and the term “District of Columbia savings and loan association” means any association subject to examination and supervision by the Office of Thrift Supervision under [section 1466a of Title 12](#). As used in this paragraph, the term “savings and loan holding

company” has the same meaning as in [section 1467a\(a\) of Title 12](#).

(35) A person exercises “investment discretion” with respect to an account if, directly or indirectly, such person (A) is authorized to determine what securities or other property shall be purchased or sold by or for the account, (B) makes decisions as to what securities or other property shall be purchased or sold by or for the account even though some other person may have responsibility for such investment decisions, or (C) otherwise exercises such influence with respect to the purchase and sale of securities or other property by or for the account as the Commission, by rule, determines, in the public interest or for the protection of investors, should be subject to the operation of the provisions of this chapter and the rules and regulations thereunder.

(36) A class of persons or markets is subject to “equal regulation” if no member of the class has a competitive advantage over any other member thereof resulting from a disparity in their regulation under this chapter which the Commission determines is unfair and not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter.

(37) The term “records” means accounts, correspondence, memorandums, tapes, discs, papers, books, and other documents or transcribed information of any type, whether expressed in ordinary or machine language.

(38) The term “market maker” means any specialist permitted to act as a dealer, any dealer acting in the capacity of block positioner, and any dealer who, with respect to a security, holds himself out (by entering quotations in an inter-dealer communications system or otherwise) as being willing to buy and sell such security for his own account on a regular or continuous basis.

(39) A person is subject to a “statutory disqualification” with respect to membership or participation in, or association with a member of, a self-regulatory organization, if such person--

(A) has been and is expelled or suspended from membership or participation in, or barred or suspended from being associated with a member of, any self-regulatory organization, foreign equivalent of a self-regulatory organization, foreign or international securities exchange, contract market designated pursuant to section 5 of the Commodity Exchange Act ([7 U.S.C. 7](#)), or any substantially equivalent foreign statute or regulation, or futures association registered under section 17 of such Act ([7 U.S.C. 21](#)), or any substantially equivalent foreign statute or regulation, or has been and is denied trading privileges on any such contract market or foreign equivalent;

(B) is subject to--

(i) an order of the Commission, other appropriate regulatory agency, or foreign financial regulatory authority--

(I) denying, suspending for a period not exceeding 12 months, or revoking his registration as a broker,

dealer, municipal securities dealer, government securities broker, or government securities dealer or limiting his activities as a foreign person performing a function substantially equivalent to any of the above; or

(II) barring or suspending for a period not exceeding 12 months his being associated with a broker, dealer, municipal securities dealer, government securities broker, government securities dealer, or foreign person performing a function substantially equivalent to any of the above;

(ii) an order of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission denying, suspending, or revoking his registration under the Commodity Exchange Act ([7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.](#)); or

(iii) an order by a foreign financial regulatory authority denying, suspending, or revoking the person's authority to engage in transactions in contracts of sale of a commodity for future delivery or other instruments traded on or subject to the rules of a contract market, board of trade, or foreign equivalent thereof;

(C) by his conduct while associated with a broker, dealer, municipal securities dealer, government securities broker, or government securities dealer, or while associated with an entity or person required to be registered under the Commodity Exchange Act [[7 U.S.C.A. § 1 et seq.](#)], has been found to be a cause of any effective suspension, expulsion, or order of the character described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this paragraph, and in entering such a suspension, expulsion, or order, the Commission, an appropriate regulatory agency, or any such self-regulatory organization shall have jurisdiction to find whether or not any person was a cause thereof;

(D) by his conduct while associated with any broker, dealer, municipal securities dealer, government securities broker, government securities dealer, or any other entity engaged in transactions in securities, or while associated with an entity engaged in transactions in contracts of sale of a commodity for future delivery or other instruments traded on or subject to the rules of a contract market, board of trade, or foreign equivalent thereof, has been found to be a cause of any effective suspension, expulsion, or order by a foreign or international securities exchange or foreign financial regulatory authority empowered by a foreign government to administer or enforce its laws relating to financial transactions as described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this paragraph;

(E) has associated with him any person who is known, or in the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to him to be a person described by subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of this paragraph; or

(F) has committed or omitted any act, or is subject to an order or finding, enumerated in subparagraph (D), (E), (H), or (G) [[FN3](#)] of [paragraph \(4\) of section 78o\(b\)](#) of this title, has been convicted of any offense specified in subparagraph (B) of such paragraph (4) or any other felony within ten years of the date of the filing of an application for membership or participation in, or to become associated with a member of, such self-regulatory organization, is enjoined from any action, conduct, or practice specified in subparagraph (C) of such paragraph (4), has willfully made or caused to be made in any application for membership or participa-

tion in, or to become associated with a member of, a self-regulatory organization, report required to be filed with a self-regulatory organization, or proceeding before a self-regulatory organization, any statement which was at the time, and in the light of the circumstances under which it was made, false or misleading with respect to any material fact, or has omitted to state in any such application, report, or proceeding any material fact which is required to be stated therein.

(40) The term “financial responsibility rules” means the rules and regulations of the Commission or the rules and regulations prescribed by any self-regulatory organization relating to financial responsibility and related practices which are designated by the Commission, by rule or regulation, to be financial responsibility rules.

(41) The term “mortgage related security” means a security that is rated in one of the two highest rating categories by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization, and either:

(A) represents ownership of one or more promissory notes or certificates of interest or participation in such notes (including any rights designed to assure servicing of, or the receipt or timeliness of receipt by the holders of such notes, certificates, or participations of amounts payable under, such notes, certificates, or participations), which notes:

(i) are directly secured by a first lien on a single parcel of real estate, including stock allocated to a dwelling unit in a residential cooperative housing corporation, upon which is located a dwelling or mixed residential and commercial structure, on a residential manufactured home as defined in [section 5402\(6\) of Title 42](#), whether such manufactured home is considered real or personal property under the laws of the State in which it is to be located or on one or more parcels of real estate upon which is located one or more commercial structures; and

(ii) were originated by a savings and loan association, savings bank, commercial bank, credit union, insurance company, or similar institution which is supervised and examined by a Federal or State authority, or by a mortgagee approved by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to [sections 1709 and 1715b of Title 12](#), or, where such notes involve a lien on the manufactured home, by any such institution or by any financial institution approved for insurance by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to [section 1703 of Title 12](#); or

(B) is secured by one or more promissory notes or certificates of interest or participations in such notes (with or without recourse to the issuer thereof) and, by its terms, provides for payments of principal in relation to payments, or reasonable projections of payments, on notes meeting the requirements of subparagraphs (A)(i) and (ii) or certificates of interest or participations in promissory notes meeting such requirements.

For the purpose of this paragraph, the term “promissory note”, when used in connection with a manufactured home, shall also include a loan, advance, or credit sale as evidence [\[FN2\]](#) by a retail installment sales contract or other instrument.

(42) The term “government securities” means--

(A) securities which are direct obligations of, or obligations guaranteed as to principal or interest by, the United States;

(B) securities which are issued or guaranteed by the Tennessee Valley Authority or by corporations in which the United States has a direct or indirect interest and which are designated by the Secretary of the Treasury for exemption as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors;

(C) securities issued or guaranteed as to principal or interest by any corporation the securities of which are designated, by statute specifically naming such corporation, to constitute exempt securities within the meaning of the laws administered by the Commission;

(D) for purposes of [sections 78o-5](#) and [78q-1](#) of this title, any put, call, straddle, option, or privilege on a security described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) other than a put, call, straddle, option, or privilege--

(i) that is traded on one or more national securities exchanges; or

(ii) for which quotations are disseminated through an automated quotation system operated by a registered securities association; or

(E) for purposes of [sections 78o](#), [78o-5](#), and [78q-1](#) of this title as applied to a bank, a qualified Canadian government obligation as defined in [section 24 of Title 12](#).

(43) The term “government securities broker” means any person regularly engaged in the business of effecting transactions in government securities for the account of others, but does not include--

(A) any corporation the securities of which are government securities under subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (42) of this subsection; or

(B) any person registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, any contract market designated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, such contract market's affiliated clearing organization, or any floor trader on such contract market, solely because such person effects transactions in government securities that the Commission, after consultation with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, has determined by rule or order to be incidental to such person's futures-related business.

(44) The term “government securities dealer” means any person engaged in the business of buying and selling government securities for his own account, through a broker or otherwise, but does not include--

(A) any person insofar as he buys or sells such securities for his own account, either individually or in some fiduciary capacity, but not as a part of a regular business;

(B) any corporation the securities of which are government securities under subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (42) of this subsection;

(C) any bank, unless the bank is engaged in the business of buying and selling government securities for its own account other than in a fiduciary capacity, through a broker or otherwise; or

(D) any person registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, any contract market designated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, such contract market's affiliated clearing organization, or any floor trader on such contract market, solely because such person effects transactions in government securities that the Commission, after consultation with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, has determined by rule or order to be incidental to such person's futures-related business.

(45) The term “person associated with a government securities broker or government securities dealer” means any partner, officer, director, or branch manager of such government securities broker or government securities dealer (or any person occupying a similar status or performing similar functions), and any other employee of such government securities broker or government securities dealer who is engaged in the management, direction, supervision, or performance of any activities relating to government securities, and any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with such government securities broker or government securities dealer.

(46) The term “financial institution” means--

(A) a bank (as defined in paragraph (6) of this subsection);

(B) a foreign bank (as such term is used in the International Banking Act of 1978); and

(C) a savings association (as defined in [section 1813\(b\) of Title 12](#)) the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

(47) The term “securities laws” means the Securities Act of 1933 ([15 U.S.C. 77a et seq.](#)), the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ([15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.](#)), the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 ([15 U.S.C. 79a et seq.](#)) [[15 U.S.C.A. § 79 et seq.](#)], the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 ([15 U.S.C. 77aaa et seq.](#)), the Investment Company Act of 1940 ([15 U.S.C. 80a-1 et seq.](#)), the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ([15 U.S.C. 80b et seq.](#)) [[15 U.S.C.A. § 80b-1 et seq.](#)], and the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 ([15 U.S.C. 78aaa et seq.](#)).

(48) The term “registered broker or dealer” means a broker or dealer registered or required to register pursuant

to [section 78o](#) or [78o-4](#) of this title, except that in paragraph (3) of this subsection and [sections 78f](#) and [78o-3](#) of this title the term means such a broker or dealer and a government securities broker or government securities dealer registered or required to register pursuant to [section 78o-5\(a\)\(1\)\(A\)](#) of this title.

(49) The term “person associated with a transfer agent” and “associated person of a transfer agent” mean any person (except an employee whose functions are solely clerical or ministerial) directly engaged in the management, direction, supervision, or performance of any of the transfer agent's activities with respect to transfer agent functions, and any person directly or indirectly controlling such activities or controlled by the transfer agent in connection with such activities.

(50) The term “foreign securities authority” means any foreign government, or any governmental body or regulatory organization empowered by a foreign government to administer or enforce its laws as they relate to securities matters.

(51)(A) The term “penny stock” means any equity security other than a security that is--

(i) registered or approved for registration and traded on a national securities exchange that meets such criteria as the Commission shall prescribe by rule or regulation for purposes of this paragraph;

(ii) authorized for quotation on an automated quotation system sponsored by a registered securities association, if such system (I) was established and in operation before January 1, 1990, and (II) meets such criteria as the Commission shall prescribe by rule or regulation for purposes of this paragraph;

(iii) issued by an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 [[15 U.S.C.A. § 80a-1 et seq.](#)];

(iv) excluded, on the basis of exceeding a minimum price, net tangible assets of the issuer, or other relevant criteria, from the definition of such term by rule or regulation which the Commission shall prescribe for purposes of this paragraph; or

(v) exempted, in whole or part, conditionally or unconditionally, from the definition of such term by rule, regulation, or order prescribed by the Commission.

(B) The Commission may, by rule, regulation, or order, designate any equity security or class of equity securities described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) as within the meaning of the term “penny stock” if such security or class of securities is traded other than on a national securities exchange or through an automated quotation system described in clause (ii) of subparagraph (A).

(C) In exercising its authority under this paragraph to prescribe rules, regulations, and orders, the Commission shall determine that such rule, regulation, or order is consistent with the public interest and the protection of

investors.

(52) The term “foreign financial regulatory authority” means any (A) foreign securities authority, (B) other governmental body or foreign equivalent of a self-regulatory organization empowered by a foreign government to administer or enforce its laws relating to the regulation of fiduciaries, trusts, commercial lending, insurance, trading in contracts of sale of a commodity for future delivery, or other instruments traded on or subject to the rules of a contract market, board of trade, or foreign equivalent, or other financial activities, or (C) membership organization a function of which is to regulate participation of its members in activities listed above.

(53)(A) The term “small business related security” means a security that is rated in 1 of the 4 highest rating categories by at least 1 nationally recognized statistical rating organization, and either--

(i) represents an interest in 1 or more promissory notes or leases of personal property evidencing the obligation of a small business concern and originated by an insured depository institution, insured credit union, insurance company, or similar institution which is supervised and examined by a Federal or State authority, or a finance company or leasing company; or

(ii) is secured by an interest in 1 or more promissory notes or leases of personal property (with or without recourse to the issuer or lessee) and provides for payments of principal in relation to payments, or reasonable projections of payments, on notes or leases described in clause (i).

(B) For purposes of this paragraph--

(i) an “interest in a promissory note or a lease of personal property” includes ownership rights, certificates of interest or participation in such notes or leases, and rights designed to assure servicing of such notes or leases, or the receipt or timely receipt of amounts payable under such notes or leases;

(ii) the term “small business concern” means a business that meets the criteria for a small business concern established by the Small Business Administration under [section 632\(a\)](#) of this title;

(iii) the term “insured depository institution” has the same meaning as in [section 1813 of Title 12](#); and

(iv) the term “insured credit union” has the same meaning as in [section 1752 of Title 12](#).

(54) Qualified investor

(A) Definition

Except as provided in subparagraph (B), for purposes of this chapter, the term ‘qualified investor’ means--

- (i) any investment company registered with the Commission under [section 80a-8](#) of this title;
- (ii) any issuer eligible for an exclusion from the definition of investment company pursuant to [section 80a-3\(c\)\(7\)](#) of this title;
- (iii) any bank (as defined in paragraph (6) of this subsection), savings association (as defined in [section 1813\(b\) of Title 12](#)), broker, dealer, insurance company (as defined in [section 77b\(a\)\(13\)](#) of this title), or business development company (as defined in [section 80a-2\(a\)\(48\)](#) of this title);
- (iv) any small business investment company licensed by the United States Small Business Administration under [section 681\(c\)](#) or (d) of this title;
- (v) any State sponsored employee benefit plan, or any other employee benefit plan, within the meaning of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, other than an individual retirement account, if the investment decisions are made by a plan fiduciary, as defined in [section 1002\(21\) of Title 29](#), which is either a bank, savings and loan association, insurance company, or registered investment adviser;
- (vi) any trust whose purchases of securities are directed by a person described in clauses (i) through (v) of this subparagraph;
- (vii) any market intermediary exempt under [section 80a-3\(c\)\(2\)](#) of this title;
- (viii) any associated person of a broker or dealer other than a natural person;
- (ix) any foreign bank (as defined in [section 3101\(b\)\(7\) of Title 12](#));
- (x) the government of any foreign country;
- (xi) any corporation, company, or partnership that owns and invests on a discretionary basis, not less than \$25,000,000 in investments;
- (xii) any natural person who owns and invests on a discretionary basis, not less than \$25,000,000 in investments;
- (xiii) any government or political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a government who owns and invests on a discretionary basis not less than \$50,000,000 in investments; or
- (xiv) any multinational or supranational entity or any agency or instrumentality thereof.

(B) Altered thresholds for asset-backed securities and loan participations

For purposes of subsection (a)(5)(C)(iii) of this section and section 206(a)(5) of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act [15 U.S.C.A. § 78c note], the term ‘qualified investor’ has the meaning given such term by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph except that clauses (xi) and (xii) shall be applied by substituting ‘\$10,000,000’ for ‘\$25,000,000’.

(C) Additional authority

The Commission may, by rule or order, define a “qualified investor” as any other person, taking into consideration such factors as the financial sophistication of the person, net worth, and knowledge and experience in financial matters.

(55)(A) The term “security future” means a contract of sale for future delivery of a single security or of a narrow-based security index, including any interest therein or based on the value thereof, except an exempted security under subsection (a)(12) as in effect on January 11, 1983 (other than any municipal security as defined in subsection (a)(29) as in effect on January 11, 1983). The term “security future” does not include any agreement, contract, or transaction excluded from the Commodity Exchange Act under [section 2\(c\)](#), [2\(d\)](#), [2\(f\)](#), or [2\(g\) of Title 7](#) (as in effect on December 21, 2000) or title IV of the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000.

(B) The term “narrow-based security index” means an index--

(i) that has 9 or fewer component securities;

(ii) in which a component security comprises more than 30 percent of the index's weighting;

(iii) in which the five highest weighted component securities in the aggregate comprise more than 60 percent of the index's weighting; or

(iv) in which the lowest weighted component securities comprising, in the aggregate, 25 percent of the index's weighting have an aggregate dollar value of average daily trading volume of less than \$50,000,000 (or in the case of an index with 15 or more component securities, \$30,000,000), except that if there are two or more securities with equal weighting that could be included in the calculation of the lowest weighted component securities comprising, in the aggregate, 25 percent of the index's weighting, such securities shall be ranked from lowest to highest dollar value of average daily trading volume and shall be included in the calculation based on their ranking starting with the lowest ranked security.

(C) Notwithstanding subparagraph (B), an index is not a narrow-based security index if--

(i)(I) it has at least nine component securities;

- (II) no component security comprises more than 30 percent of the index' s weighting; and
- (III) each component security is--
 - (aa) registered pursuant to [section 78I](#) of this title;
 - (bb) one of 750 securities with the largest market capitalization; and
 - (cc) one of 675 securities with the largest dollar value of average daily trading volume;
- (ii) a board of trade was designated as a contract market by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission with respect to a contract of sale for future delivery on the index, before December 21, 2000;
- (iii)(I) a contract of sale for future delivery on the index traded on a designated contract market or registered derivatives transaction execution facility for at least 30 days as a contract of sale for future delivery on an index that was not a narrow-based security index; and
- (II) it has been a narrow-based security index for no more than 45 business days over 3 consecutive calendar months;
- (iv) a contract of sale for future delivery on the index is traded on or subject to the rules of a foreign board of trade and meets such requirements as are jointly established by rule or regulation by the Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission;
- (v) no more than 18 months have passed since December 21, 2000 and--
 - (I) it is traded on or subject to the rules of a foreign board of trade;
 - (II) the offer and sale in the United States of a contract of sale for future delivery on the index was authorized before December 21, 2000; and
 - (III) the conditions of such authorization continue to be met; or
- (vi) a contract of sale for future delivery on the index is traded on or subject to the rules of a board of trade and meets such requirements as are jointly established by rule, regulation, or order by the Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.
- (D) Within 1 year after December 21, 2000, the Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commis-

sion jointly shall adopt rules or regulations that set forth the requirements under clause (iv) of subparagraph (C).

(E) An index that is a narrow-based security index solely because it was a narrow-based security index for more than 45 business days over 3 consecutive calendar months pursuant to clause (iii) of subparagraph (C) shall not be a narrow-based security index for the 3 following calendar months.

(F) For purposes of subparagraphs (B) and (C) of this paragraph--

(i) the dollar value of average daily trading volume and the market capitalization shall be calculated as of the preceding 6 full calendar months; and

(ii) the Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall, by rule or regulation, jointly specify the method to be used to determine market capitalization and dollar value of average daily trading volume.

(56) The term “security futures product” means a security future or any put, call, straddle, option, or privilege on any security future.

(57)(A) The term “margin”, when used with respect to a security futures product, means the amount, type, and form of collateral required to secure any extension or maintenance of credit, or the amount, type, and form of collateral required as a performance bond related to the purchase, sale, or carrying of a security futures product.

(B) The terms “margin level” and “level of margin”, when used with respect to a security futures product, mean the amount of margin required to secure any extension or maintenance of credit, or the amount of margin required as a performance bond related to the purchase, sale, or carrying of a security futures product.

(C) The terms “higher margin level” and “higher level of margin”, when used with respect to a security futures product, mean a margin level established by a national securities exchange registered pursuant to [section 78f\(g\)](#) of this title that is higher than the minimum amount established and in effect pursuant to [section 78g\(c\)\(2\)\(B\)](#) of this title.

(58) Audit committee

The term “audit committee” means--

(A) a committee (or equivalent body) established by and amongst the board of directors of an issuer for the purpose of overseeing the accounting and financial reporting processes of the issuer and audits of the financial statements of the issuer; and

(B) if no such committee exists with respect to an issuer, the entire board of directors of the issuer.

(59) Registered public accounting firm

The term “registered public accounting firm” has the same meaning as in [section 7201](#) of this title.

(60) Credit rating

The term “credit rating” means an assessment of the creditworthiness of an obligor as an entity or with respect to specific securities or money market instruments.

(61) Credit rating agency

The term “credit rating agency” means any person--

(A) engaged in the business of issuing credit ratings on the Internet or through another readily accessible means, for free or for a reasonable fee, but does not include a commercial credit reporting company;

(B) employing either a quantitative or qualitative model, or both, to determine credit ratings; and

(C) receiving fees from either issuers, investors, or other market participants, or a combination thereof.

(62) Nationally recognized statistical rating organization

The term “nationally recognized statistical rating organization” means a credit rating agency that--

(A) has been in business as a credit rating agency for at least the 3 consecutive years immediately preceding the date of its application for registration under [section 78o-7](#) of this title;

(B) issues credit ratings certified by qualified institutional buyers, in accordance with [section 78o-7\(a\)\(1\)\(B\)](#) (ix) of this title, with respect to--

(i) financial institutions, brokers, or dealers;

(ii) insurance companies;

(iii) corporate issuers;

(iv) issuers of asset-backed securities (as that term is defined in section 1101(c) of part 229 of title 17,

Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on September 29, 2006);

(v) issuers of government securities, municipal securities, or securities issued by a foreign government; or

(vi) a combination of one or more categories of obligors described in any of clauses (i) through (v); and

(C) is registered under [section 78o-7](#) of this title.

(63) Person associated with a nationally recognized statistical rating organization

The term “person associated with” a nationally recognized statistical rating organization means any partner, officer, director, or branch manager of a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (or any person occupying a similar status or performing similar functions), any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with a nationally recognized statistical rating organization, or any employee of a nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

(64) Qualified institutional buyer

The term “qualified institutional buyer” has the meaning given such term in [section 230.144A\(a\) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations](#), or any successor thereto.

(b) Power to define technical, trade, accounting, and other terms

The Commission and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, as to matters within their respective jurisdictions, shall have power by rules and regulations to define technical, trade, accounting, and other terms used in this chapter, consistently with the provisions and purposes of this chapter.

(c) Application to governmental departments or agencies

No provision of this chapter shall apply to, or be deemed to include, any executive department or independent establishment of the United States, or any lending agency which is wholly owned, directly or indirectly, by the United States, or any officer, agent, or employee of any such department, establishment, or agency, acting in the course of his official duty as such, unless such provision makes specific reference to such department, establishment, or agency.

(d) Issuers of municipal securities

No issuer of municipal securities or officer or employee thereof acting in the course of his official duties as such shall be deemed to be a “broker”, “dealer”, or “municipal securities dealer” solely by reason of buying, selling, or effecting transactions in the issuer's securities.

(e) Charitable organizations

(1) Exemption

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, but subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a charitable organization, as defined in [section 80a-3\(c\)\(10\)\(D\)](#) of this title, or any trustee, director, officer, employee, or volunteer of such a charitable organization acting within the scope of such person's employment or duties with such organization, shall not be deemed to be a “broker”, “dealer”, “municipal securities broker”, “municipal securities dealer”, “government securities broker”, or “government securities dealer” for purposes of this chapter solely because such organization or person buys, holds, sells, or trades in securities for its own account in its capacity as trustee or administrator of, or otherwise on behalf of or for the account of--

(A) such a charitable organization;

(B) a fund that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under [section 80a-3\(c\)\(10\)\(B\)](#) of this title; or

(C) a trust or other donative instrument described in [section 80a-3\(c\)\(10\)\(B\)](#) of this title, or the settlors (or potential settlors) or beneficiaries of any such trust or other instrument.

(2) Limitation on compensation

The exemption provided under paragraph (1) shall not be available to any charitable organization, or any trustee, director, officer, employee, or volunteer of such a charitable organization, unless each person who, on or after 90 days after December 8, 1995, solicits donations on behalf of such charitable organization from any donor to a fund that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under [section 80a-3\(c\)\(10\)\(B\)](#) of this title, is either a volunteer or is engaged in the overall fund raising activities of a charitable organization and receives no commission or other special compensation based on the number or the value of donations collected for the fund.

(f) Consideration of promotion of efficiency, competition, and capital formation

Whenever pursuant to this chapter the Commission is engaged in rulemaking, or in the review of a rule of a self-regulatory organization, and is required to consider or determine whether an action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, the Commission shall also consider, in addition to the protection of investors, whether the action will promote efficiency, competition, and capital formation.

(g) Church plans

No church plan described in [section 414\(e\) of Title 26](#), no person or entity eligible to establish and maintain such a plan under Title 26, no company or account that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under [section 80a-3\(c\)\(14\)](#) of this title, and no trustee, director, officer or employee of or volunteer for such plan, company, account person, or entity, acting within the scope of that person's employment or activities with respect to such plan, shall be deemed to be a “broker”, “dealer”, “municipal securities broker”, “municipal securities dealer”, “government securities broker”, “government securities dealer”, “clearing agency”, or

“transfer agent” for purposes of this chapter--

(1) solely because such plan, company, person, or entity buys, holds, sells, trades in, or transfers securities or acts as an intermediary in making payments in connection with transactions in securities for its own account in its capacity as trustee or administrator of, or otherwise on behalf of, or for the account of, any church plan, company, or account that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under [section 80a-3\(c\)\(14\)](#) of this title; and

(2) if no such person or entity receives a commission or other transaction-related sales compensation in connection with any activities conducted in reliance on the exemption provided by this subsection.

CREDIT(S)

(June 6, 1934, c. 404, Title I, § 3, 48 Stat. 882; Aug. 23, 1935, c. 614, § 203(a), 49 Stat. 704; Proc. No. 2695, eff. July 4, 1946, [11 F.R. 7517](#), 60 Stat. 1352; June 25, 1959, Pub.L. 86-70, § 12(b), 73 Stat. 143; July 12, 1960, Pub.L. 86-624, § 7(b), 74 Stat. 412; Aug. 20, 1964, Pub.L. 88-467, § 2, 78 Stat. 565; Aug. 10, 1970, Pub.L. 91-373, Title IV, § 401(b), 84 Stat. 718; Dec. 14, 1970, Pub.L. 91-547, § 28(a), (b), 84 Stat. 1435; Dec. 22, 1970, Pub.L. 91-567, § 6(b), 84 Stat. 1499; June 4, 1975, [Pub.L. 94-29, § 3](#), 89 Stat. 97; May 21, 1978, [Pub.L. 95-283, § 16](#), 92 Stat. 274; Oct. 21, 1980, [Pub.L. 96-477, Title VII, § 702](#), 94 Stat. 2295; Oct. 13, 1982, [Pub.L. 97-303, § 2](#), 96 Stat. 1409; Aug. 10, 1984, [Pub.L. 98-376, § 6\(a\)](#), 98 Stat. 1265; Oct. 3, 1984, [Pub.L. 98-440, Title I, § 101](#), 98 Stat. 1689; Oct. 22, 1986, [Pub.L. 99-514, § 2](#), 100 Stat. 2095; Oct. 28, 1986, [Pub.L. 99-571, Title I, § 102\(a\)](#) to (d), 100 Stat. 3214 to 3216; Dec. 4, 1987, [Pub.L. 100-181, Title III, §§ 301](#) to 306, 101 Stat. 1253, 1254; Nov. 19, 1988, [Pub.L. 100-704, § 6\(a\)](#), 102 Stat. 4681; Aug. 9, 1989, [Pub.L. 101-73, Title VII, § 744\(u\)\(1\)](#), 103 Stat. 441; Oct. 15, 1990, [Pub.L. 101-429, Title V, § 503](#), 104 Stat. 952; Nov. 15, 1990, [Pub.L. 101-550, Title II, §§ 203\(b\)](#), 204, 104 Stat. 2717, 2718; Dec. 17, 1993, [Pub.L. 103-202, Title I, §§ 106\(b\)\(2\)\(A\)](#), 109(a), 107 Stat. 2350, 2352; Sept. 23, 1994, [Pub.L. 103-325, Title II, § 202](#), [Title III, § 347\(a\)](#), 108 Stat. 2198, 2241; Dec. 8, 1995, [Pub.L. 104-62, § 4\(a\)](#), (b), 109 Stat. 684; Oct. 11, 1996, [Pub.L. 104-290, Title I, § 106\(b\)](#), [Title V, § 508\(c\)](#), 110 Stat. 3425, 3447; Nov. 3, 1998, [Pub.L. 105-353, Title III, § 301\(b\)\(1\)](#) to (4), 112 Stat. 3235; Nov. 12, 1999, [Pub.L. 106-102, Title II, §§ 201](#), 202, 207, 208, 221(b), 231(b)(1), 113 Stat. 1385, 1390, 1394, 1395, 1401, 1406; Dec. 21, 2000, [Pub.L. 106-554, § 1\(a\)\(5\)](#) [Title II, § 201], 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-413; July 30, 2002, [Pub.L. 107-204, § 2\(b\)](#), Title II, § 205(a), Title VI, § 604(c)(1)(A), 116 Stat. 749, 773, 796; Oct. 25, 2004, [Pub.L. 108-359, § 1\(c\)\(1\)](#), 118 Stat. 1666; Oct. 30, 2004, [Pub.L. 108-386, § 8\(f\)\(1\)](#) to (3), 118 Stat. 2232; Dec. 8, 2004, [Pub.L. 108-447, Div. H, Title V, § 520\(1\)](#), 118 Stat. 3267; Sept. 29, 2006, [Pub.L. 109-291, § 3\(a\)](#), 120 Stat. 1328; Oct. 13, 2006, [Pub.L. 109-351, Title I, § 101\(a\)\(1\)](#), [Title IV, § 401\(a\)\(1\)](#), (2), 120 Stat. 1968, 1971, 1972.)

[FN1] So in original. Probably should be followed by “and”.

[FN2] So in original. Probably should be “evidenced”.

[FN3] So in original. Probably should be “(G) or (H)”.

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