



This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 07/19/2018 and available online at <https://federalregister.gov/d/2018-15374>, and on govinfo.gov

**8011-01p
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

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 20549-2736

Extension: Rule 17f-6

SEC File No. 270-392, OMB Control No. 3235-0447

Notice is hereby given that, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Rule 17f-6 (17 CFR 270.17f-6) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a) permits registered investment companies (“funds”) to maintain assets (*i.e.*, margin) with futures commission merchants (“FCMs”) in connection with commodity transactions effected on both domestic and foreign exchanges. Before the rule was adopted, funds generally were required to maintain such assets in special accounts with a custodian bank.

The rule requires a written contract that contains certain provisions designed to ensure important safeguards and other benefits relating to the custody of fund assets by FCMs. To protect fund assets, the contract must require that FCMs comply with the segregation or secured amount requirements of the Commodity Exchange Act (“CEA”) and the rules under that statute. The contract also must contain a requirement that FCMs obtain an acknowledgment from any clearing organization that the fund’s assets are held on behalf of the FCM’s customers according to CEA provisions.

Because rule 17f-6 does not impose any ongoing obligations on funds or FCMs, Commission staff estimates there are no costs related to *existing* contracts between funds and FCMs. This estimate does not include the time required by an FCM to comply with the rule's contract requirements because, to the extent that complying with the contract provisions could be considered "collections of information," the burden hours for compliance are already included in other PRA submissions.¹

Thus, Commission staff estimates that any burden of the rule would be borne by funds and FCMs entering into *new* contracts pursuant to the rule. Commission staff estimates that approximately 214 fund complexes and 2,825 funds currently effect commodities transactions and could deposit margin with FCMs in connection with those transactions pursuant to rule 17f-6.² Staff further estimates that of this number, 21 fund complexes and 283 funds enter into new contracts with FCMs each year.³

Based on conversations with fund representatives, Commission staff understands that fund complexes typically enter into contracts with FCMs on behalf of all funds in the fund complex that engage in commodities transactions. Funds covered by the contract are typically listed in an attachment, which may be amended to encompass new funds. Commission staff estimates that the burden for a fund complex to enter into a contract with an FCM that contains the contract requirements of rule 17f-6 is

¹ The rule requires a contract with the FCM to contain two provisions requiring the FCM to comply with existing requirements under the CEA and rules adopted thereunder. Thus, to the extent these provisions could be considered collections of information, the hours required for compliance would be included in the collection of information burden hours submitted by the CFTC for its rules.

² This estimate is based on the number of funds that reported on Form N-SAR from June 1, 2017 – November 30, 2017, in response to sub-items E through I of item 70, that they engaged in futures and commodity options transactions.

³ These estimates are based on the assumption that 10% of fund complexes and funds enter into new FCM contracts each year. This assumption encompasses fund complexes and funds that enter into FCM contracts for the first time, as well as fund complexes and fund that change the FCM with whom they maintain margin accounts for commodities transactions.

one hour, and further estimates that the burden to add a fund to an existing contract between a fund complex and an FCM is 6 minutes.

Accordingly, Commission staff estimates that funds and FCMs spend 49 burden hours annually complying with the information collection requirements of rule 17f-6.⁴ These estimates 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 and forms.

Compliance with the collection of information requirements of the rule is necessary to obtain the benefit of relying on the rule. 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 the background documentation for this information collection at the following website, www.reginfo.gov. Comments should be directed to: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of

⁴ This estimate is based upon the following calculation: (21 fund complexes x 1 hour) + (283 funds x 0.1 hours) = 49 hours.

Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC

20503, or by sending an e-mail to: Shagufta_Ahmed@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) Pamela Dyson, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Candace Kenner, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: July 13, 2018.

Eduardo A. Aleman,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-15374 Filed: 7/18/2018 8:45 am; Publication Date: 7/19/2018]