

# Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

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Instructions for the Preparation of

## **Notice by Financial Institutions of Government Securities Broker or Government Securities Dealer Activities**

Reporting Form G-FIN

Effective August 2019



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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION OF

# Notice by Financial Institutions of Government Securities Broker or Government Securities Dealer Activities FORM G-FIN

### General Instructions

#### A. Terms and Abbreviations

For purposes of this report, the following terms shall be defined as described below:

- (1) “Act” refers to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended by the Government Securities Act of 1986.
- (2) “ARA” refers to the financial institution’s appropriate regulatory agency, as defined in section 3(a)(34)(G) of the Act. See general instruction (E) below for a listing of appropriate regulatory agencies.
- (3) “Government securities” are defined in section 3(a)(42) of the Act. In general, this term refers to direct obligations of or obligations guaranteed as to principal or interest by the United States; securities issued or guaranteed as to principal or interest by corporations designated by statute or by the Secretary of the Treasury to constitute exempt securities; and puts, calls, straddles or options on such securities. Although not all inclusive, the following are the more common types of government securities covered by the term: U.S. Treasury bills, bonds, notes; discount notes, bonds, certain collateralized mortgage obligations, pass throughs, master notes, and other obligations of the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC), Student Loan Marketing Association (SLMA), Federal Home Loan Banks and Farm Credit Banks; securitized Small Business Association (SBA) loans; and FNMA stock.
- (4) “Government securities broker” is defined in section 3(a)(43) of the Act. In general, this term refers to a financial institution that is regularly engaged in the business of effecting transactions in government securities for the account of others.
- (5) “Government securities dealer” is defined in section 3(a)(44) of the Act. In general, this term refers to a financial institution engaged in the business of buying and selling government securities for its own account but does not include a financial institution insofar as it buys or sells securities for its own account but not as a part of its regular business or in a fiduciary capacity.
- (6) “Financial institution” is defined in Section 3(a)(46) of the Act. In general, the term refers to any national or state chartered bank or trust company which is supervised and examined by a state or federal bank supervisory agency, a foreign bank, and any other institution whose deposits were formerly insured by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation.
- (7) “Associated person” is defined by Treasury regulation (17 C.F.R. 400.3(c)) to mean a person directly engaged in any of the following activities in either a supervisory or nonsupervisory capacity: underwriting, trading or sales of government securities; financial advisory or consultant services for issuers in connection with the issuance of government securities; other communications with public investors, or research or investment advice other than general economic information or advice, with respect to government securities in connection with the activities described above. The term is further defined in Section 400.3(c) to cover persons engaged in the

following activities in a supervisory capacity: processing and clearance activities with respect to government securities and maintenance of records involving any of the activities described in this paragraph.

This definition does not include directors and senior officers of the financial institution who may from time to time set broad policy guidelines affecting the financial institution as a whole, but are not directly involved in the conduct of the financial institution's government securities business on a day-to-day basis. It also does not cover persons whose functions are solely clerical or ministerial, persons who are acting in a fiduciary capacity, or persons who act solely as order takers without giving investment advice or receiving transaction-based compensation.

## B. Who Must File?

Under Section 15C(a)(1)(B) of the Act, any financial institution that is a government securities broker or government securities dealer within the foregoing definitions must file with its ARA a written notice, on the form prescribed herein, except as described below. A financial institution that buys and sells securities solely for investment for its own account or for accounts for which it acts as a fiduciary will not generally be classified as a dealer, even though such purchases and sales are made with some frequency. Virtually every financial institution purchases government securities for investment; and purchases and sales may occur to accommodate changes in the financial institution's financial position or to reflect investment decisions. The legislative history of the Act indicates that the Congress did not intend to require financial institutions engaged in such investment-type activity to register as dealers. The Department of the Treasury has exempted financial institutions that engage solely in the following activities:

- (1) Acting as issuing agent, payment agent or forwarding agent for U.S. Savings Bonds (17 C.F.R. 401.1);
- (2) submission of tenders for the account of customers for purchase on original issue of U.S. Treasury securities (17 C.F.R. 401.2);

- (3) the sale and subsequent repurchase and the purchase and subsequent resale of government securities pursuant to a repurchase or reverse repurchase agreement (17 C.F.R. 401.4); or
- (4) sales or purchases in a fiduciary capacity (17 C.F.R. 401.4).

In general, government securities activities that may bring a financial institution within the definition of government securities dealer include the following: (1) underwriting or participating in a selling group for the sale of government securities; (2) advertising or otherwise holding itself out to other dealers or investors as a dealer in government securities; or (3) quoting a market for government securities, and in connection with such quotations, standing ready to purchase or sell government securities.

The Department of the Treasury also has exempted (17 C.F.R. 401.3) any financial institution from the definition of government securities broker unless it (1) holds itself out as a government securities broker or interdealer broker; or (2) actively solicits individual purchases or sales of government securities on an agency basis. In addition, a financial institution will be exempt if it (a) effects less than 500 brokerage transactions per year or (b) except for U.S. Savings Bonds and submissions of tenders for U.S. Treasury securities (as described above), effects all brokerage transactions through a government securities broker or dealer who is clearly identified as the entity providing the brokerage services, and who meets the other conditions of the exemption.

A branch or agency of a foreign bank that engages in government securities transactions solely with non-U.S. citizens that are resident outside the United States is also exempt (17 C.F.R. 401.6).

## C. When to File

A financial institution that was acting as a government securities broker or government securities dealer on July 25, 1987, was required to file a notice with its ARA on or before that date. Any financial institution that proposes to act as a government securities broker or government securities dealer after that date shall file the notice before it commences operations.

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## D. Amendments

In the event any of the information previously submitted on this notice becomes incomplete, inaccurate or no longer applicable, the notice must be amended. This amendment must be filed within 30 calendar days of the notice becoming inaccurate (17 C.F.R. 400.5(b)).

Items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 of the notice shall be completed for each amendment. Otherwise, only those items which are being amended need to be completed.

## E. How and Where to file: Number of copies

Each financial institution must file the number of copies of the notice and each amendment as required by its ARA, a copy of which will be sent by the ARA to the SEC. The financial institution must retain one exact copy until at least three years after the financial institution has notified its ARA that it has ceased to function as a government securities broker or dealer. A financial institution may determine the name and address of its ARA from the following:

- (1) A national bank, federal savings bank, a bank operating in the District of Columbia that is examined by the Comptroller of the Currency, or a federal branch or federal agency of a foreign bank, files one copy with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. New filers may send the completed form to:

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency  
Market Risk Division  
400 7th Street, S.W.  
Mail Stop 7W-3  
Washington, DC 20 219

Form amendments must be uploaded to the OCC's BankNet website [www.banknet.gov](http://www.banknet.gov). For assistance call (202) 649-6396.

- (2) A state member bank of the Federal Reserve System, a foreign bank, an uninsured state branch or a state agency of a foreign bank, a commercial lending company owned or controlled by a foreign bank, or an Edge corporation files one copy with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System by submitting Portable Document Format ("PDF") versions

of the form and attachments to the designated email address [MSD-GSD-Registration@frb.gov](mailto:MSD-GSD-Registration@frb.gov). An institution that is required to file this form with the Federal Reserve System should contact their district Federal Reserve Bank if the institution believes it may not be able to submit the form electronically.

- (3) A bank insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (other than a bank which is a member of the Federal Reserve System or a federal savings bank) or an insured branch of a foreign bank files two copies with the:

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
Division of Risk Management Supervision  
Attention: Government Securities  
Broker/Dealers  
550 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20429

or via email at [MSD-GSD-Registration@FDIC.gov](mailto:MSD-GSD-Registration@FDIC.gov)

- (4) A state chartered bank or a state chartered trust company that is not a member of the Federal Reserve System and whose deposits are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or any other financial institution not described in the preceding paragraphs, files with the:

Securities and Exchange Commission  
100 F Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20549

## F. Disclosure of Information

Disclosure is mandatory for all financial institutions that act as government securities brokers or government securities dealers that are not exempted from filing under Treasury Department regulations (see 17 C.F.R. Part 401). The principal purpose of this notice is to identify to the appropriate regulatory agencies those financial institutions that act as government securities brokers or government securities dealers and are subject to regulation under the Act. Information supplied on this form will be included routinely in the public files of the appropriate regulatory agencies and will be available for inspection by any interested person. In addition, the Securities and Exchange Commission will maintain copies of all G-FIN notices in the

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public files, and will make them available for public inspection by any interested person. Financial institutions that do not provide the information solicited on this form may not lawfully act as government securities

brokers or government securities dealers unless exempted from the notice requirement by Treasury Department regulation (17 C.F.R. Part 401).