

§ 563f.6

records sufficient to support its determination of eligibility for the exemption under paragraph (a) of this section, and must reconfirm that determination on an annual basis.

[64 FR 51680, Sept. 24, 1999]

§ 563f.6 General exemption.

(a) *Exemption.* The OTS may by agency order exempt an interlock from the prohibitions in § 563f.3 if the OTS finds that the interlock would not result in a monopoly or substantial lessening of competition and would not present safety and soundness concerns. A depository organization may apply to OTS for an exemption under part 516, subpart E, of this chapter.

(b) *Presumptions.* In reviewing an application for an exemption under this section, the OTS will apply a rebuttable presumption that an interlock will not result in a monopoly or substantial lessening of competition if the depository organization seeking to add a management official:

- (1) Primarily serves low- and moderate-income areas;
- (2) Is controlled or managed by persons who are members of a minority group, or women;
- (3) Is a depository institution that or has been chartered for less than two years; or
- (4) Is deemed to be in "troubled condition" as defined in § 563.555 of this chapter.

(c) *Duration.* Unless a shorter expiration period is provided in the OTS approval, an exemption permitted by paragraph (a) of this section may continue so long as it does not result in a monopoly or substantial lessening of competition, or is unsafe or unsound. If the OTS grants an interlock exemption in reliance upon a presumption under paragraph (b) of this section, the interlock may continue for three years, unless otherwise provided by the OTS in writing.

[64 FR 51680, Sept. 24, 1999, as amended at 66 FR 13009, Mar. 2, 2001]

§ 563f.7 Change in circumstances.

(a) *Termination.* A management official shall terminate his or her service or apply for an exemption if a change in circumstances causes the service to

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become prohibited. A change in circumstances may include an increase in asset size of an organization, a change in the delineation of the RMSA or community, the establishment of an office, an increase in the aggregate deposits of the depository organization, or an acquisition, merger, consolidation, or reorganization of the ownership structure of a depository organization that causes a previously permissible interlock to become prohibited.

(b) *Transition period.* A management official described in paragraph (a) of this section may continue to serve the depository organization involved in the interlock for 15 months following the date of the change in circumstances. The OTS may shorten this period under appropriate circumstances.

[61 FR 40308, Aug. 2, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 51681, Sept. 24, 1999]

§ 563f.8 Enforcement.

Except as provided in this section, the OTS administers and enforces the Interlocks Act with respect to savings associations, savings and loan holding companies, and affiliates of either, and may refer any case of a prohibited interlocking relationship involving these entities to the Attorney General of the United States to enforce compliance with the Interlocks Act and this part. If an affiliate of a savings association or savings and loan holding company is subject to the primary regulation of another Federal depository organization supervisory agency, then the OTS does not administer and enforce the Interlocks Act with respect to that affiliate.

§ 563f.9 Interlocking relationships permitted pursuant to Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

A management official or prospective management official of a depository organization may enter into an otherwise prohibited interlocking relationship with another depository organization for a period of up to 10 years if such relationship is approved by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation pursuant to section 13(k)(1)(A)(v) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1823(k)(1)(A)(v)).