

mutual holding company, any associate of an insider of the mutual holding company, or any tax-qualified or non-tax-qualified employee stock benefit plan of the mutual holding company unless the mutual holding company provides notice to the OTS at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the proposed transfer. This notice shall be in addition to any other application or notice required under applicable laws or regulations, including, without limitation, this part and parts 563, 563b, 574 of this chapter.

[58 FR 44114, Aug. 19, 1993, as amended at 60 FR 66720, Dec. 26, 1995; 63 FR 11365, Mar. 9, 1998]

§ 575.11 Operating restrictions.

(a) *Activities restrictions.* A mutual holding company may engage in any business activity specified in 12 U.S.C. 1467a(c)(2) or (c)(9)(A)(ii). In addition, the business activities of subsidiaries of mutual holding companies may include the activities specified in § 575.10(a)(6) of this part. A mutual holding company or its subsidiaries may engage in the foregoing activities only upon compliance with the procedures specified in §§ 584.2-1(c) or 584.2-2(b) of this chapter.

(b) *Pledging stock.* (1) No mutual holding company may pledge the stock of its resulting association, an acquiree association, or any subsidiary savings association that was in the mutual form when acquired by the mutual holding company (or its parent mutual holding company), unless the proceeds of the loan secured by the pledge are infused into the association whose stock is pledged. No mutual holding company may pledge the stock of its subsidiary holding company unless the proceeds of the loan secured by the pledge are infused into any savings association subsidiary of the subsidiary holding company that is a resulting association, an acquiree association, or a subsidiary savings association that was in the mutual form when acquired by the subsidiary holding company (or its parent mutual holding company). In the event the subsidiary holding company has more than one savings association subsidiary, the loan proceeds shall, unless otherwise approved by the OTS, be infused in equal amounts to

each savings association subsidiary. Any amount of the stock of such association or subsidiary holding company may be pledged for these purposes. Nothing in this paragraph (b)(1) shall be deemed to prohibit:

(i) The payment of dividends from a subsidiary savings association to its mutual holding company parent to the extent otherwise permissible; or

(ii) The payment of dividends from a subsidiary holding company to its mutual holding company parent to the extent otherwise permissible; or

(iii) A mutual holding company from pledging the stock of more than one savings association subsidiary provided that the stock pledged of each such subsidiary association is proportionate to the proceeds of the loan infused into each subsidiary association.

(2) Within 10 days after its pledge of stock pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this section, a mutual holding company shall provide written notice to the OTS regarding the terms of the transaction (including the amount of principal and interest, repayment terms, maturity date, the nature and amount of collateral, and the terms governing seizure of the collateral) and shall include in such notice a certification that the proceeds of the loan have been transferred to the subsidiary savings association whose stock (or the stock of its parent subsidiary holding company) has been pledged.

(3) Any mutual holding company that fails to make any payment on a loan secured by the pledge of stock pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this section on or before the date on which such payment is due shall, on the first day after such payment is due, provide written notice of nonpayment to the Regional Director.

(c) *Restrictions on stock repurchases.*

(1) No subsidiary savings association of a mutual holding company that has any stockholders other than the association's mutual holding company and no subsidiary holding company that has any stockholders other than its parent mutual holding company may repurchase any share of stock within one year of its date of issuance (which may include the time period the shares issued by the savings association were outstanding if the subsidiary holding

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company was formed after the initial issuance by the savings association), unless the repurchase:

(i) Is in compliance with §563b.510 of this chapter;

(ii) Is part of a general repurchase made on a pro rata basis pursuant to an offer approved by the OTS and made to all stockholders of the association or subsidiary holding company (except that the parent mutual holding company may be excluded from the repurchase with the OTS' approval);

(iii) Is limited to the repurchase of qualifying shares of a director; or

(iv) Is purchased in the open market by a tax-qualified or non-tax-qualified employee stock benefit plan of the savings association (or of a subsidiary holding company) in an amount reasonable and appropriate to fund such plan.

(2) No mutual holding company may purchase shares of its subsidiary savings association or subsidiary holding company within one year after a stock issuance, except if the purchase complies with §563b.510 of this chapter. For purposes of this subsection, the reference in §563b.510 of this chapter to five percent refers to minority shareholders.

(d) *Restrictions on waiver of dividends.* No mutual holding company may waive its right to receive any dividend declared by a subsidiary unless either:

(1) No insider of the mutual holding company, associate of an insider, or tax-qualified or non-tax-qualified employee stock benefit plan of the mutual holding company holds any share of stock in the class of stock to which the waiver would apply; or

(2) The mutual holding company provides the OTS with written notice of its intent to waive its right to receive dividends 30 days prior to the proposed date of payment of the dividend, and the OTS does not object. The OTS shall not object to a notice of intent to waive dividends if:

(i) The waiver would not be detrimental to the safe and sound operation of the savings association; and

(ii) The board of directors of the mutual holding company expressly determines that waiver of the dividend by the mutual holding company is consistent with the directors' fiduciary du-

ties to the mutual members of such company. A dividend waiver notice shall include a copy of the resolution of the board of directors of the mutual holding company, in form and substance satisfactory to the OTS, together with any supporting materials relied upon by the board, concluding that the proposed dividend waiver is consistent with the board's fiduciary duties to the mutual members of the mutual holding company.

(3) The OTS will not consider waived dividends in determining an appropriate exchange ratio in the event of a full conversion to stock form.

(e) *Restrictions on issuance of stock to insiders.* A subsidiary of a mutual holding company that is not a savings association or subsidiary holding company may issue stock to any insider, associate of an insider or tax-qualified or non-tax-qualified employee stock benefit plan of the mutual holding company or any subsidiary of the mutual holding company, provided that such persons or plans provide written notice to the OTS at least 30 days prior to the stock issuance, and OTS does not object to the subsequent stock issuance. Subsidiary savings associations and subsidiary holding companies may issue stock to such persons only in accordance with §575.7.

(f) *Restrictions on indemnification.* The provisions of §545.121 of this chapter shall apply to mutual holding companies in the same manner as if they were federal savings associations.

(g) *Restrictions on employment contracts.* The provisions of §563.39 of this chapter and any policies of the OTS thereunder shall apply to mutual holding companies in the same manner as if they were savings associations.

(h) *Applicability of rules governing savings and loan holding companies.* Except as expressly provided in this part, mutual holding companies shall be subject to the provisions of 12 U.S.C. 1467a and 3201 *et seq.* and parts 563e, 574, 583, and 584 of this chapter.

(i) *Separate vote for charitable organization contribution.* In a mutual holding company stock issuance, a separate vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock held by stockholders other than the mutual holding

company or subsidiary holding company must approve any charitable organization contribution.

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§ 575.12 Conversion or liquidation of mutual holding companies.

(a) *Conversion*—(1) *Generally*. A mutual holding company may convert to the stock form in accordance with the rules and regulations set forth in part 563b of this chapter.

(2) Exchange of savings association stock. Any stock issued pursuant to § 575.7 by a subsidiary savings association or subsidiary holding company of a mutual holding company to persons other than the parent mutual holding company may be exchanged for the stock issued by the parent mutual holding company in connection with the conversion of the parent mutual holding company to stock form. The parent mutual holding company and the subsidiary holding company or savings association must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the OTS that the basis for the exchange is fair and reasonable.

(3) If a subsidiary holding company or subsidiary savings association has issued shares to an entity other than the mutual holding company, the conversion of the mutual holding company to stock form may not be consummated unless a majority of the shares issued to entities other than the mutual holding company vote in favor of the conversion. This requirement applies in addition to any otherwise required account holder or shareholder votes.

(b) *Involuntary liquidation*. (1) The OTS may file a petition with the federal bankruptcy courts requesting the liquidation of a mutual holding company pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1467a(o)(9) and title 11, United States Code, upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

(i) The default of the resulting association, any acquiree association, or any subsidiary savings association of the mutual holding company that was in the mutual form when acquired by the mutual holding company;

(ii) The default of the parent mutual holding company or its subsidiary holding company; or

(iii) Foreclosure on any pledge by the mutual holding company of subsidiary savings association stock or subsidiary holding company stock pursuant to § 575.11(b).

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(3) of this section, the net proceeds of any liquidation of any mutual holding company shall be transferred to the members of the mutual holding company or the stock holders of the subsidiary holding company in accordance with the charter of the mutual holding company or subsidiary holding company.

(3) If the FDIC incurs a loss as a result of the default of any savings association subsidiary of a mutual holding company and that mutual holding company is liquidated pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the FDIC shall succeed to the membership interests of the depositors of such savings association in the mutual holding company, to the extent of the FDIC's loss.

(c) *Voluntary liquidation*. The provisions of § 546.4 of this chapter shall apply to mutual holding companies in the same manner as if they were federal savings associations.

[58 FR 44114, Aug. 19, 1993, as amended at 63 FR 11366, Mar. 9, 1998; 67 FR 52036, Aug. 9, 2002]

§ 575.13 Procedural requirements.

(a) *Proxies and proxy statements*—(1) *Solicitation of proxies*. The provisions of §§ 563b.225 to 563b.295 of this chapter shall apply to all solicitations of proxies by any person in connection with any membership vote required by this part. OTS must authorize all proxy materials used in connection with such solicitations. Proxy materials must be in the form and contain the information specified in §§ 563b.255 and 563b.270 of this chapter and Form PS, to the extent such information is relevant to the action that members are being asked to approve, with such additions, deletions, and other modifications as are necessary or appropriate under the disclosure standard set forth in § 563b.280 of this chapter. File proxies and proxy statements in accordance