

## Comptroller of the Currency, Treasury

## § 4.15

to apply an exemption to a requested record has no precedential significance as to the application or nonapplication of the exemption to any other requested record, regardless of who requests the record or when the OCC receives the request. The OCC will provide predisclosure notice to submitters of confidential commercial information in accordance with § 4.16.

(d) *Segregability*. The OCC provides copies of reasonably segregable portions of a record to any person properly requesting the record pursuant to § 4.15, after redacting any portion that is exempt under paragraph (b) of this section.

### § 4.13 Publication in the Federal Register.

The OCC publishes certain documents in the FEDERAL REGISTER for the guidance of the public, including the following:

- (a) Proposed and final rules; and
- (b) Certain notices and policy statements of concern to the general public.

### § 4.14 Public inspection and copying.

(a) *Available information*. Subject to the exemptions listed in § 4.12(b), the OCC makes the following information readily available for public inspection and copying:

- (1) Any final order, agreement, or other enforceable document issued in the adjudication of an OCC enforcement case, including a final order published pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1818(u);
- (2) Any final opinion issued in the adjudication of an OCC enforcement case;
- (3) Any statement of general policy or interpretation of general applicability not published in the FEDERAL REGISTER;
- (4) Any administrative staff manual or instruction to staff that may affect a member of the public as such;
- (5) A current index identifying the information referred to in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(4) of this section issued, adopted, or promulgated after July 4, 1967;
- (6) A list of available OCC publications;

(7) A list of forms available from the OCC, and specific forms and instructions;<sup>1</sup>

(8) Any public Community Reinvestment Act performance evaluation;

(9) Any public securities-related filing required under part 11 or 16 of this chapter;

(10) Any public comment letter regarding a proposed rule; and

(11) The public file (as defined in 12 CFR 5.9) with respect to a pending application described in part 5 of this chapter.

(b) *Redaction of identifying details*. To the extent necessary to prevent an invasion of personal privacy, the OCC may redact identifying details from any information described in paragraph (a) of this section before making the information available for public inspection and copying.

(c) *Addresses*. The information described in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(10) of this section is available from the Disclosure Officer, Communications Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219. The information described in paragraph (a)(11) of this section is available from the Licensing Manager at the appropriate district office at the address listed in § 4.5(a), or in the case of banks supervised by the Multinational Banking Department, from the Licensing Manager, Multinational Banking, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219.

### § 4.15 Specific requests for records.

(a) *Available information*. Subject to the exemptions described in § 4.12(b), any OCC record is available to any person upon specific request in accordance with this section.

(b) *Where to submit request or appeal*—  
(1) *General*. Except as provided in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, a person requesting a record or filing an administrative appeal under this section must submit the request or appeal to the

<sup>1</sup>Some forms and instructions that national banks use, such as the Consolidated Report of Condition and Income (FFIEC 031-034), are not available from the OCC. The OCC will provide information on where persons may obtain these forms and instructions upon request.

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Disclosure Officer, Communications Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219.

(2) *Exceptions*—(i) *Records at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.* A person requesting any of the following records, other than blank forms (see § 4.14(a)(7)), must submit the request to the Disclosure Group, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 550–17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20429, (800) 945–2186:

(A) Consolidated Report of Condition and Income (FFIEC 031, 032, 033, 034);

(B) Annual Report of Trust Assets (FFIEC 001);

(C) Uniform Bank Performance Report; and

(D) Special Report.

(ii) *Records of another agency.* When the OCC receives a request for records in its possession that another Federal agency either generated or provided to the OCC, the OCC promptly informs the requester and immediately forwards the request to that agency for processing in accordance with that agency's regulations.

(c) *Request for records*—(1) *Content of request for records.* A person requesting records under this section must state, in writing:

(i) The requester's full name, address, and telephone number;

(ii) A reasonable description of the records sought (including sufficient detail to enable OCC employees who are familiar with the subject matter of the request to locate the records with a reasonable amount of effort);

(iii) A statement agreeing to pay all fees that the OCC assesses under § 4.17;

(iv) A description of how the requester intends to use the records, if a requester seeks placement in a lower fee category (i.e., a fee category other than "commercial use requester") under § 4.17; and

(v) Whether the requester prefers the OCC to deliver a copy of the records or to allow the requester to inspect the records at the appropriate OCC office.

(2) *Initial determination.* The OCC's Director of Communications or that person's delegate initially determines whether to grant a request for OCC records.

(3) *If request is granted.* If the OCC grants a request for records, in whole or in part, the OCC promptly discloses the records in one of two ways, depending on the requester's stated preference:

(i) The OCC may deliver a copy of the records to the requester. If the OCC delivers a copy of the records to the requester, the OCC duplicates the records at reasonable and proper times that do not interfere with their use by the OCC or preclude other persons from making inspections; or

(ii) The OCC may allow the requester to inspect the records at reasonable and proper times that do not interfere with their use by the OCC or preclude other persons from making inspections. If the OCC allows the requester to inspect the records, the OCC may place a reasonable limit on the number of records that a person may inspect during a day.

(4) *If request is denied.* If the OCC denies a request for records, in whole or in part, the OCC notifies the requester by mail. The notification is dated and contains a brief statement of the reasons for the denial, sets forth the name and title or position of the official making the decision, and advises the requester of the right to an administrative appeal in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section.

(d) *Administrative appeal of a denial*—(1) *Procedure.* A requester must submit an administrative appeal of denial of a request for records in writing within 35 days of the date of the initial determination. The appeal must include the circumstances and arguments supporting disclosure of the requested records.

(2) *Appellate determination.* The Comptroller or the Comptroller's delegate determines whether to grant an appeal of a denial of a request for OCC records.

(3) *If appeal is granted.* If the OCC grants an appeal, in whole or in part, the OCC treats the request as if it were originally granted, in whole or in part, by the OCC in accordance with paragraph (c)(3) of this section.

(4) *If appeal is denied.* If the OCC denies an appeal, in whole or in part, the OCC notifies the requester by mail. The notification contains a brief statement of the reasons for the denial, sets forth

the name and title or position of the official making the decision, and advises the requester of the right to judicial review of the denial under 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(4)(B).

(e) *Judicial review*—(1) *General*. If the OCC denies an appeal pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section, or if the OCC fails to make a determination within the time limits specified in paragraph (f) of this section, the requester may commence an action to compel disclosure of records, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(4)(B), in the United States district court in:

- (i) The district where the requester resides;
- (ii) The district where the requester's principal place of business is located;
- (iii) The district where the records are located; or
- (iv) The District of Columbia.

(2) *Service of process*. In commencing an action described in paragraph (e)(1) of this section, the requester, in addition to complying with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (28 U.S.C. appendix) for service upon the United States or agencies thereof, must serve process on the Chief Counsel or the Chief Counsel's delegate at the following location: Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219.

(f) *Time limits*—(1) *Request*. The OCC makes an initial determination to grant or deny a request for records within 10 business days after the date of receipt of the request, as described in paragraph (g) of this section, except as stated in paragraph (f)(3) of this section.

(2) *Appeal*. The OCC makes a determination to grant or deny an administrative appeal within 20 business days after the date of receipt of the appeal, as described in paragraph (g) of this section, except as stated in paragraph (f)(3) of this section.

(3) *Extension of time*. The time limits set forth in paragraphs (f)(1) and (2) of this section may be extended as follows:

(i) *In unusual circumstances*. The OCC may extend the time limits in unusual circumstances for a maximum of 10 business days. If the OCC extends the time limits, the OCC provides written notice to the person making the re-

quest or appeal, containing the reason for the extension and the date on which the OCC expects to make a determination. Unusual circumstances exist when the OCC requires additional time to:

(A) Search for and collect the requested records from field facilities or other buildings that are separate from the office processing the request or appeal;

(B) Search for, collect, and appropriately examine a voluminous amount of requested records;

(C) Consult with another agency that has a substantial interest in the determination of the request; or

(D) Allow two or more components of the OCC that have substantial interest in the determination of the request to consult with each other;

(ii) *By agreement*. A requester may agree to extend the time limits for any amount of time; or

(iii) *By judicial action*. If a requester commences an action pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section for failure to comply with the time limits set forth in this paragraph (f), a court with jurisdiction may, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6)(C), allow the OCC additional time to complete the review of the records requested.

(g) *Date of receipt of request or appeal*. The date of receipt of a request for records or an appeal is the date that OCC Communications Division receives a request that satisfies the requirements of paragraph (c)(1) or (d)(1) of this section, except as provided in § 4.17(d).

#### § 4.16 Predisdisclosure notice for confidential commercial information.

(a) *Definitions*. For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) *Confidential commercial information* means records that arguably contain material exempt from release under Exemption 4 of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4); § 4.12(b)(4)), because disclosure reasonably could cause substantial competitive harm to the submitter.

(2) *Submitter* means any person or entity that provides confidential commercial information to the OCC. This term includes corporations, State governments, foreign governments, and