

**[6714-0I-PJ]**

**FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION**

12 CFR Part 327

RIN 3064-AE16

Assessments

AGENCY: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The FDIC is proposing: 1) to revise the ratios and ratio thresholds for capital evaluations used in its risk-based deposit insurance assessment system to conform to the prompt corrective action capital ratios and ratio thresholds adopted by the FDIC, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency; 2) to revise the assessment base calculation for custodial banks to conform to the asset risk weights adopted by the FDIC, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency; and 3) to require all highly complex institutions to measure counterparty exposure for deposit insurance assessment purposes using the Basel III standardized approach credit equivalent amount for derivatives and the Basel III standardized approach exposure amount for other securities financing transactions, such as repo-style transactions, margin loans and similar transactions, as adopted by the Federal banking agencies. These changes are intended to accommodate recent changes to the Federal banking agencies' capital rules that are referenced in portions of the assessments regulation.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before [Insert date 60 days after the date of publication in the Federal Register].

ADDRESSES:

You may submit comments, identified by RIN number, by any of the following methods:

- *Agency Web Site:* <http://www.fdic.gov/regulations/laws/federal/>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the Agency Web site.
- *Email:* [Comments@FDIC.gov](mailto:Comments@FDIC.gov). Include RIN number in the subject line of the message.
- *Mail:* Robert E. Feldman, Executive Secretary, Attention: Comments, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 550 17<sup>th</sup> Street N.W., Washington, DC 20429.
- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Guard station at the rear of the 550 17<sup>th</sup> Street Building (located on F Street) on business days between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. (EDT).
- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Public Inspection:* All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.fdic.gov/regulations/laws/federal> including any personal information provided. Additionally, you may send a copy of your comments to: By mail to the U.S. OMB, 725 17th Street, NW, #10235, Washington, DC 20503 or by facsimile to 202.395.6974, Attention: Federal Banking Agency Desk Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Ratios and Ratio Thresholds Relating to Capital Evaluations

###### A. *Background*

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (FDICIA)<sup>1</sup> required that the FDIC establish a risk-based deposit insurance assessment system. To implement this requirement, the FDIC adopted by regulation a system that placed all insured depository institutions (IDIs or banks) into nine risk classifications based on two criteria: capital evaluations and supervisory ratings.<sup>2</sup> Each bank was assigned one of three capital evaluations based on data reported in its Consolidated Report of Condition and Income (Call Report): well capitalized, adequately capitalized, or undercapitalized. The capital ratios and ratio thresholds used to determine each capital evaluation were based on the capital ratios and ratio thresholds adopted by the FDIC, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Federal Reserve), and the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS)—the Federal banking agencies at that time—for prompt corrective action (PCA)

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<sup>1</sup> 12 U.S.C. 1817(b), Pub. L. No. 102-242, 105 Stat. 2236 (1991).

<sup>2</sup> The FDIC first published a transitional rule that provided the industry guidance during the period of transition from a uniform rate to a risk-based assessment system. 57 FR 45263 (Oct. 1, 1992). The FDIC established the new risk-based assessment system, which became effective on January 1, 1994, to replace the transitional rule. 58 FR 34357 (June 25, 1993). 12 CFR 327.3 (1993).

purposes.<sup>3</sup> In 1993, the ratios and ratio thresholds used to determine each capital evaluation for assessment purposes were as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Capital ratios used to determine capital evaluations for assessment purposes

Capital Evaluations	Total risk-based ratio	Tier 1 risk-based ratio	Tier 1 leverage ratio
Well Capitalized	$\geq 10\%$	$\geq 6\%$	$\geq 5\%$
Adequately Capitalized*	$\geq 8\%$	$\geq 4\%$	$\geq 4\%$
Undercapitalized	Does not qualify as either Well Capitalized or Adequately Capitalized		

\*An institution is Adequately Capitalized if it is not Well Capitalized, but satisfies each of the listed capital ratio standards for Adequately Capitalized.

In 2007, the nine risk classifications were consolidated into four risk categories, which continued to be based on capital evaluations and supervisory ratings;<sup>4</sup> the capital ratios and the thresholds used to determine capital evaluations remained unchanged.<sup>5</sup>

In 2011, the FDIC adopted a revised assessment system for large banks—generally, those with at least \$10 billion in total assets (Assessments final rule).<sup>6</sup> This system eliminated risk

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<sup>3</sup> This final rule, issued by the FDIC, OCC, Federal Reserve, and OTS, in part, established capital ratios and ratio thresholds for the five capital categories for purposes of the PCA rules: well capitalized, adequately capitalized, undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized, and critically undercapitalized. 57 FR 44866 (Sept. 29, 1992). The risk-based assessment system does not use the two lowest capital categories (significantly undercapitalized and critically undercapitalized) under the PCA rules. For assessment purposes, banks that would be in one of these capital categories are treated as undercapitalized.

<sup>4</sup> The four risk categories are I, II, III, and IV. Banks posing the least risk are assigned to risk category I. 71 FR 69282 (Nov. 30, 2006).

<sup>5</sup> To the extent that the definitions of components of the ratios—such as tier 1 capital, total capital, and risk-weighted assets—have changed over time for PCA purposes, the assessment system has reflected these changes.

<sup>6</sup> 76 FR 10672 (Feb. 25, 2011). The FDIC amended Part 327 in a subsequent final rule by revising some of the definitions used to determine assessment rates for large and highly complex IDIs. 77 FR 66000 (Oct. 31, 2012). The term “Assessments final rule” includes the October 2012 final rule.

categories for these banks, but the capital evaluations continue to be used to determine whether an assessment rate is subject to adjustment for significant amounts of brokered deposits.<sup>7</sup>

The assessment system for small banks, generally those with less than \$10 billion in total assets, continues to use risk categories based on capital evaluations and supervisory ratings; the capital ratios and the thresholds used to determine capital evaluations have remained unchanged.

On September 7, 2013, the FDIC adopted an interim final rule.<sup>8</sup> On April 14, 2014, the FDIC published a final rule that, in part, revises the definition of regulatory capital.<sup>9</sup> The OCC and the Federal Reserve adopted a final rule in October 2013 that is substantially identical to the FDIC's interim final rule and final rule.<sup>10</sup> (The FDIC's interim final rule and final rule and the OCC and Federal Reserve's final rule are referred to collectively hereafter as the Basel III capital rules.) The Basel III capital rules revise the thresholds for the tier 1 risk-based capital ratio used to determine a bank's capital category under the PCA rules (that is, whether the bank is well capitalized, adequately capitalized, undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized or critically undercapitalized). The Basel III capital rules also add a new ratio, the common equity tier 1

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<sup>7</sup> In 2009, the FDIC added adjustments to its risk-based pricing methods to improve the way the assessment system differentiates risk among insured institutions. The brokered deposit adjustment (one of the adjustments added in 2009) is applicable only to small institutions in risk categories II, III, and IV, and large institutions that are either less than well capitalized or have a composite CAMELS rating of 3, 4 or 5 (under the Uniform Financial Institution Rating System). The adjustment increases assessment rates for significant amounts of brokered deposits. 75 FR 9525 (Mar. 4, 2009).

<sup>8</sup> 78 FR 55340 (Sept. 10, 2013).

<sup>9</sup> 79 FR 20754 (Apr. 14, 2014).

<sup>10</sup> 78 FR 62018 (Oct. 11, 2013).

capital ratio, and new thresholds for that ratio to determine a bank's capital category under the PCA rules.<sup>11</sup> The new ratio and ratio thresholds will take effect on January 1, 2015.

The Basel III capital rules also adopt changes to the regulatory capital requirements for banking organizations consistent with section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act), often referred to as the "Collins Amendment." Under section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Act, the generally applicable capital requirements serve as a risk-based capital floor for banking organizations subject to the advanced approaches risk-based capital rules<sup>12</sup> (advanced approaches banks<sup>13</sup>). Under the Basel III capital rules effective January 1, 2015, the minimum capital requirements as determined by the regulatory capital ratios based on the standardized approach<sup>14</sup> become the "generally applicable" capital requirements under section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Act.

All banks, including advanced approaches banks, must calculate risk-weighted assets under the standardized approach and report these risk-weighted assets, for capital purposes, in Schedule RC-R of the Call Report effective January 1, 2015. Advanced approaches banks also must calculate risk weights using the advanced approaches and report risk-weighted assets in the

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<sup>11</sup> 78 FR at 62027 and 62283 (OCC and Federal Reserve) and 78 FR 55592 (FDIC), codified, in part, at 12 CFR part 6 (OCC); 12 CFR part 208 (Regulation H), subpart D (Federal Reserve); and 12 CFR part 324, subpart H (FDIC).

<sup>12</sup> The FDIC's advanced approaches rule is at 12 CFR part 324, subpart E. The advanced approaches rule is also supplemented by the FDIC's risk-based capital requirements for banks subject to significant exposure to market risk (market risk rule) in 12 CFR part 324, subpart F.

<sup>13</sup> As used herein, an advanced approaches bank means an IDI that is an advanced approaches national bank or Federal savings association under 12 CFR 3.100(b)(1), an advanced approaches Board-regulated institution under 12 CFR 217.100(b)(1), or an advanced approaches FDIC-supervised institution under 12 CFR 324.100(b)(1). In general, an IDI is an advanced approaches bank if it has total consolidated assets of \$250 billion or more, has total consolidated on-balance sheet foreign exposures of \$10 billion or more, or elects to use or is a subsidiary of an IDI, bank holding company, or savings and loan holding company that uses the advanced approaches to calculate risk-weighted assets.

<sup>14</sup> The FDIC's standardized approach risk-based capital rule is at 12 CFR part 324, subpart D. The standardized-approach risk-based capital rule is supplemented by the FDIC's market risk rule in 12 CFR part 324, subpart F.

Risk-Based Capital Reporting for Institutions Subject to the Advanced Capital Adequacy Framework (FFIEC 101). Revisions to the advanced approaches risk-weight calculations became effective January 1, 2014. An advanced approaches bank that has successfully completed the parallel run process<sup>15</sup> must determine whether it meets its minimum risk-based capital requirements by calculating the three risk-based capital ratios using total risk-weighted assets under the generally applicable risk-based capital rules and, separately, total risk-weighted assets under the advanced approaches.<sup>16</sup> The lower ratio for each risk-based capital requirement is the ratio that will be used to determine an advanced approaches bank's compliance with the minimum capital requirements<sup>17</sup> and, beginning on January 1, 2015, for purposes of determining compliance with the new PCA requirements.<sup>18</sup>

For advanced approaches banks, the Basel III capital rules also introduce the supplementary leverage ratio and a threshold for that ratio that advanced approaches banks must meet to be deemed adequately capitalized.<sup>19</sup> (The supplementary leverage ratio as adopted in the Basel III capital rules does not, however, establish a ratio that advanced approaches banks must meet to be deemed well capitalized.) While all advanced approaches banks must calculate and

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<sup>15</sup> Before determining its risk-weighted assets under advanced approaches, a bank must conduct a satisfactory parallel run. A satisfactory parallel run is a period of no less than four consecutive calendar quarters during which the bank complies with the qualification requirements to the satisfaction of its primary Federal regulator. Following completion of a satisfactory parallel run, a bank must receive approval from its primary Federal regulator to calculate risk-based capital requirements under the advanced approaches. See 12 CFR 324.121 (FDIC); 12 CFR 3.121 (OCC); and 12 CFR 217.121 (Federal Reserve).

<sup>16</sup> Currently, the generally applicable risk-based capital rules are found at 12 CFR part 325, appendix A (as supplemented by the risk-based capital requirements for banks subject to the market risk rule in appendix C). Effective January 1, 2015, the generally applicable risk-based capital rules will be based on the standardized approach for calculating risk-weighted assets under the Basel III capital rules, 12 CFR part 324, subpart D (as supplemented by the risk-based capital requirements for banks subject to the market risk rule in subpart F).

<sup>17</sup> See 12 CFR 324.10(c) (FDIC); 12 CFR 3.10(c) (OCC); and 12 CFR 217.10(c) (Federal Reserve).

<sup>18</sup> See 12 CFR part 324, subpart H.

<sup>19</sup> The supplementary leverage ratio includes many off-balance sheet exposures in its denominator, while the generally applicable leverage ratio does not.

begin reporting the supplementary leverage ratio beginning in the first quarter of 2015, the supplementary leverage ratio does not become effective for PCA purposes until January 1, 2018.<sup>20</sup>

On May 1, 2014, the Federal Reserve, FDIC, and OCC (the Federal banking agencies) published a final rule (the Enhanced Supplementary Leverage Ratio final rule) that strengthens the supplementary leverage ratio standards for the largest advanced approaches banks.<sup>21</sup> The Enhanced Supplementary Leverage Ratio final rule provides that an IDI that is a subsidiary of a covered bank holding company (BHC) must maintain a supplementary leverage ratio of at least 6 percent to be well capitalized under the Federal banking agencies' PCA framework.<sup>22</sup> Again, the supplementary leverage ratio does not become effective for PCA purposes until January 1, 2018.

#### *B. Proposed Capital Evaluations*

The FDIC proposes to revise the ratios and ratio thresholds relating to capital evaluations for deposit insurance assessment purposes to conform to the new PCA capital rules. This proposed revision would maintain the consistency between capital evaluations for deposit insurance assessment purposes and capital ratios and ratio thresholds for PCA purposes that has existed since the creation of the risk-based assessment system over 20 years ago. Ensuring that the same ratios, ratio thresholds, and terminology used for PCA purposes also are used for

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<sup>20</sup> 78 FR at 62277 (OCC and Federal Reserve); 78 FR at 55592 (FDIC).

<sup>21</sup> 79 FR 24528 (May 1, 2014).

<sup>22</sup> 79 FR at 24530. IDI subsidiaries of a “covered BHC” are a subset of IDIs subject to advanced approaches requirements. A covered BHC is any U.S. top-tier U.S. BHC with more than \$700 billion in total consolidated assets or more than \$10 trillion in assets under custody. 79 FR at 24530. The list of “covered BHCs” is consistent with the list of banking organizations that meet the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) definition of a Global Systemically Important Bank (G-SIB), based on year-end 2011 data, and consistent with the revised list, based on year-end 2012 data. The revised list is available at [http://www.financialstabilityboard.org/publications/r\\_13111.pdf](http://www.financialstabilityboard.org/publications/r_13111.pdf).

deposit insurance assessment purposes will avoid differing capital definitions and potential confusion, and will decrease regulatory burden for banks because they will be subject to only a single set of capital category definitions.

Specifically, the FDIC proposes to revise the definitions of well capitalized and adequately capitalized for deposit insurance assessment purposes to reflect the threshold changes for the tier 1 risk-based capital ratio, to incorporate the common equity tier 1 capital ratio and its thresholds and, for those banks subject to the supplementary leverage ratio for PCA purposes, to incorporate the supplementary leverage ratio and its thresholds.<sup>23</sup> The definition of undercapitalized will remain unchanged. The FDIC proposes to make the revisions to the definitions of well capitalized and adequately capitalized for deposit insurance assessment purposes effective when the new PCA capital rules become effective. Therefore, some of the revisions for deposit insurance assessment purposes would become effective January 1, 2015 and the remaining revisions would become effective January 1, 2018.

Effective January 1, 2015, the FDIC proposes that for deposit insurance assessment purposes:

1. An institution will be well capitalized if it satisfies each of the following capital ratio standards: total risk-based capital ratio, 10.0 percent or greater; tier 1 risk-based capital ratio, 8.0 percent or greater (as opposed to the current 6.0 percent or greater);

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<sup>23</sup> To the extent that the definitions of components of the ratios—such as tier 1 capital, total capital, and risk-weighted assets—change in the future for PCA purposes, the assessment system will automatically incorporate these changes as implemented under the Basel III capital rules. Thus, for example, if the Federal banking agencies adopt a final rule redefining the denominator of the supplementary leverage ratio, as they have proposed, 79 FR 24596 (May 1, 2014), the new definition will automatically become applicable to the assessment system.

leverage ratio, 5.0 percent or greater; and common equity tier 1 capital ratio, 6.5 percent or greater.

2. An institution will be adequately capitalized if it is not well capitalized but satisfies each of the following capital ratio standards: total risk-based capital ratio, 8.0 percent or greater; tier 1 risk-based capital ratio, 6.0 percent or greater (as opposed to the current 4.0 percent or greater); leverage ratio, 4.0 percent or greater; and common equity tier 1 capital ratio, 4.5 percent or greater.

The definition of an undercapitalized institution remains the same: an institution will be undercapitalized if it does not qualify as either well capitalized or adequately capitalized.

The FDIC also proposes a technical amendment to Part 327 to replace the terms “Total risk-based ratio,” “Tier 1 risk-based ratio,” and “Tier 1 leverage ratio,” with “total risk-based capital ratio,” “tier 1 risk-based capital ratio,” and “leverage ratio,” respectively, wherever such terms appear.<sup>24</sup>

Table 2 summarizes the proposed ratios and ratio thresholds for determining capital evaluations for deposit insurance assessment purposes, to be effective January 1, 2015.

Table 2 – Proposed capital ratios used to determine capital evaluations for assessment purposes, effective January 1, 2015

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<sup>24</sup> The FDIC has identified a slight inconsistency in terminology between the PCA capital rules of Parts 324 and 325 and the deposit insurance assessment system of Part 327. Currently, the risk-based assessment system under Part 327 uses the terms “Total risk-based ratio,” “Tier 1 risk-based ratio,” and “Tier 1 leverage ratio.” The PCA capital rules use the terms “total risk-based *capital* ratio,” “tier 1 risk-based *capital* ratio,” and “leverage ratio” (emphasis added). Despite this minor difference in nomenclature, the underlying calculations for each of these three ratios are the same under Parts 324, 325 and 327 of the FDIC regulations.

Capital Evaluations	Total risk-based capital ratio	Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio	Common equity tier 1 capital ratio	Leverage ratio
Well Capitalized	$\geq 10\%$	$\geq 8\%$	$\geq 6.5\%$	$\geq 5\%$
Adequately Capitalized*	$\geq 8\%$	$\geq 6\%$	$\geq 4.5\%$	$\geq 4\%$
Undercapitalized	Does not qualify as either Well Capitalized or Adequately Capitalized			
*An institution is Adequately Capitalized if it is not Well Capitalized, but satisfies each of the listed capital ratio standards for Adequately Capitalized.				

Effective January 1, 2018, the FDIC proposes to add the supplementary leverage ratio to its capital evaluations for deposit insurance assessment purposes to conform to the PCA capital rules. For assessment purposes, an advanced approaches bank, including an IDI subsidiary of a covered BHC, must have at least a 3.0 percent supplementary leverage ratio to be adequately capitalized, and an IDI subsidiary of a covered BHC must have at least a 6.0 percent supplementary leverage ratio to be well capitalized.

Table 3 summarizes the proposed ratios and ratio thresholds for determining capital evaluations for deposit insurance assessment purposes, to be effective January 1, 2018.

Table 3 - Proposed capital ratios used to determine capital evaluations for assessment purposes, effective January 1, 2018

Capital Evaluations	Total risk-based capital ratio	Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio	Common equity tier 1 capital ratio	Leverage ratio	Supplementary leverage ratio (advanced approaches banking organizations)	Supplementary leverage ratio (subsidiary IDIs of covered BHCs)
Well Capitalized	$\geq 10\%$	$\geq 8\%$	$\geq 6.5\%$	$\geq 5\%$	Not applicable	$\geq 6\%$
Adequately Capitalized*	$\geq 8\%$	$\geq 6\%$	$\geq 4.5\%$	$\geq 4\%$	$\geq 3\%$	$\geq 3\%$
Undercapitalized	Does not qualify as either Well Capitalized or Adequately Capitalized					
*An institution is Adequately Capitalized if it is not Well Capitalized, but satisfies each of the listed capital ratio standards for Adequately Capitalized.						

### C. Alternatives

Given the information available, the FDIC has considered whether there are reasonable alternatives. The only alternative the FDIC has identified would be to leave in place the current terminology and capital evaluations for deposit insurance assessment purposes. This would create unnecessary complexity and inconsistency between the ratios and ratio thresholds used to determine whether a bank is well capitalized, adequately capitalized or undercapitalized for deposit insurance assessment purposes and for PCA purposes. This complexity and inconsistency could lead to confusion and increase regulatory burden on banks.

## II. Assessment Base Calculation for Custodial Banks

### A. *Background*

The FDIC charges IDIs an amount for deposit insurance equal to the IDI's deposit insurance assessment base multiplied by its risk-based assessment rate. The Dodd-Frank Act directed the FDIC to amend its regulatory definition of "assessment base" for purposes of setting assessments for IDIs. Specifically, the Dodd-Frank Act required the FDIC to define the term "assessment base" with respect to a depository institution:

as an amount equal to –

- (1) the average consolidated total assets of the insured depository institution during the assessment period; minus
- (2) the sum of –
  - (A) the average tangible equity of the insured depository institution during the assessment period, and
  - (B) in the case of an insured depository institution that is a custodial bank (as defined by the Corporation, based on factors including the percentage of total

revenues generated by custodial businesses and the level of assets under custody)

..., an amount that the Corporation determines is necessary to establish

assessments consistent with the definition under section 7(b)(1) of the Federal

Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(b)(1)) for a custodial bank ...<sup>25</sup>

In February 2011, the FDIC implemented this requirement in the Assessments final rule.<sup>26</sup> The Assessments final rule defines a custodial bank and specifies the additional amount to be deducted from a custodial bank's average consolidated total assets for purposes of determining its assessment base. The assessment base deduction for custodial banks is defined as the daily or weekly average (depending upon the way the bank reports its average consolidated total assets) of a specified amount of certain low-risk, liquid assets, subject to the limitation that the daily or weekly average value of such assets not exceed the average value of deposits that are classified as transaction accounts and are identified by the bank as being directly linked to a fiduciary or custodial and safekeeping account.

Under the Assessments final rule, a custodial bank may deduct all asset types described in the instructions to lines 34, 35, 36, and 37 of Schedule RC–R of the Call Report as of December 31, 2010 with a Basel risk weight of 0 percent, regardless of maturity, and 50 percent of those asset types described in the instructions to those same lines with a Basel risk weight of 20 percent, again regardless of maturity.<sup>27</sup> These assets include cash and balances due from

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<sup>25</sup> Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Public Law 111–203 (Dodd-Frank Act), § 331(b), 124 Stat. 1376, 1538 (codified at 12 U.S.C. 1817(nt)).

<sup>26</sup> 76 FR at 10706.

<sup>27</sup> Risk-weighted assets are generally determined by assigning assets to broad risk-weight categories. The amount of an asset is multiplied by its risk weight (for example, 0 percent or 20 percent) to calculate the risk-weighted asset amount.

depository institutions, securities, federal funds sold, and securities purchased under agreements to resell.

Under the Basel III capital rules, the standardized approach introduces 2 percent and 4 percent risk weights for cleared transactions with Qualified Central Counterparties (QCCPs), as defined in the regulatory capital rules, subject to certain collateral requirements.<sup>28</sup> The lower risk weights reflect the Federal banking agencies' support for "incentives designed to encourage clearing of derivative and repo-style transactions through a CCP [central counterparty] wherever possible in order to promote transparency, multilateral netting, and robust risk-management practices."<sup>29</sup> Nonetheless, the new 2 percent and 4 percent risk weights (being greater than 0) recognize that, while clearing transactions through a CPP significantly reduces counterparty credit risk, the clearing process does not eliminate risk altogether and that some degree of residual risk is retained.

Section 939A of the Dodd-Frank Act requires the removal of any regulatory reference to or requirement of reliance on credit ratings for assessing the credit-worthiness of a security or money market instrument and the substitution of new standards of credit-worthiness.<sup>30</sup> Consequently, the Basel III capital rules remove references to credit ratings for purposes of determining risk weights for risk-based capital calculations, and the standardized approach introduces a formula-based methodology for calculating risk-weighted assets for many securitization exposures. Risk weights under the standardized approach for certain other assets,

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<sup>28</sup> See 78 FR 62184-85 (OCC and Federal Reserve); 78 FR at 55502 (FDIC).

<sup>29</sup> See 78 FR at 62096 (OCC and Federal Reserve); 78 FR at 55414 (FDIC).

<sup>30</sup> See 15 U.S.C. 78o-7 note.

including but not limited to exposures to foreign sovereigns, foreign banks, and foreign public sector entities, have also changed.

*B. Proposed Assessment Base Calculation*

The FDIC proposes to revise the assessment base deduction for custodial banks to conform to the new standardized approach for risk-weighted assets adopted in the Basel III capital rules. For deposit insurance assessment purposes, the FDIC proposes to continue using the generally applicable risk weights (as revised under the standardized approach, effective January 1, 2015), even for advanced approaches banks. Using a single set of risk weights assures that all custodial banks will be treated consistently for purposes of determining the assessment base deduction, whether or not they are advanced approaches banks. In addition, as described above, all banks, including advanced approaches banks, must calculate standardized approach risk weights to determine compliance with minimum capital requirements and the PCA standards. Thus, the FDIC's proposal should not increase reporting burden for advanced approaches banks.

The FDIC proposes to continue to define the assessment base deduction for custodial banks as the daily or weekly average of a certain amount of specified low-risk, liquid assets, subject to the limitation that the daily or weekly average value of these assets cannot exceed the daily or weekly average value of deposits that are classified as transaction accounts and are identified by the bank as being directly linked to a fiduciary or custodial and safekeeping account asset. Subject to this limitation, effective January 1, 2015, the FDIC proposes that the assessment base deduction be the daily or weekly average of:

1. 100 percent of those asset types described in the instructions to lines 1, 2, and 3 of Schedule RC of the Consolidated Report of Condition and Income with a standardized approach risk weight of 0 percent, regardless of maturity, excluding any asset that qualifies as a securitization exposure; plus
2. 50 percent of those asset types described in the instructions to lines 1, 2, and 3 of Schedule RC of the Consolidated Report of Condition and Income with a standardized approach risk weight greater than 0 and up to and including 20 percent, regardless of maturity, excluding any asset that qualifies as a securitization exposure.

In general, the assets described in lines 1, 2, and 3 of Schedule RC of the Call Report include cash and balances due from depository institutions, securities (both held-to-maturity and available-for-sale), federal funds sold, and securities under agreements to resell. The inclusion of these asset types in the assessment base deduction for custodial banks is consistent with the asset types included in the current adjustment.

The assessment base of a custodial bank is adjusted because of the custodial bank's need to hold low-risk, liquid assets to facilitate the payments and processing function associated with its custody and safekeeping accounts. For this reason, the FDIC is proposing to exclude from the assessment base deduction those asset types described in lines 1, 2, and 3 of Schedule RC of the Call Report that qualify as a securitization exposure as defined in the regulatory capital rules,<sup>31</sup> since these assets are often not liquid. Under the Basel III capital rules, a securitization exposure generally includes credit exposures with more than one underlying exposure where the credit risk associated with the underlying exposures has been separated into at least two tranches reflecting

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<sup>31</sup> 78 FR at 55482.

different levels of seniority.<sup>32</sup> Traditional collateralized mortgage obligations issued or guaranteed by the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, or Government National Mortgage Association that do not have credit tranches generally do not meet this definition of a securitization exposure, and thus will generally continue to be included in the assessment base deduction for custodial banks.

In addition, 50 percent of assets described in line 3 of Schedule RC of the Call Report that are assigned a 2 or 4 percent risk weight may be included in the assessment base deduction for custodial banks. While these assets are generally liquid and low-risk, they are not risk-free and consequently do not merit a 100 percent inclusion in the assessment base deduction for custodial banks.

The FDIC also proposes a technical amendment to the definition of “custodial bank.” This amendment removes any reference to the Call Report date of December 31, 2010 and ensures conformity with the Basel III capital rules.

#### C. *Alternatives*

Given the information available, the FDIC has considered whether there are reasonable alternatives to this proposal. One possible alternative would be to maintain the current assessment base calculation applicable to custodial banks. This alternative would create unnecessary complexity and inconsistency between the asset risk weights used for regulatory

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<sup>32</sup> Securitization exposure is defined as an on- or off-balance sheet credit exposure (including credit-enhancing representations and warranties) that arises from a traditional securitization or a synthetic securitization (including a re-securitization), or an exposure that directly or indirectly references a securitization exposure. See 78 FR at 62168 (OCC and Federal Reserve); 78 FR at 55482 (FDIC).

capital purposes and for deposit insurance assessment purposes. This complexity and inconsistency could lead to confusion and increase regulatory burden on banks.

As previously noted, the Basel III capital rules revise asset risk weights for capital purposes. The FDIC is proposing to adjust the assessment base deduction for custodial banks to conform to the revised risk weights under the Basel III capital rules. The Basel III capital rules introduce new 2 and 4 percent risk weights for cleared transactions with QCCPs. The FDIC is proposing to include in the assessment base deduction for custodial banks the daily or weekly average of 50 percent of certain low-risk assets assigned the new 2 or 4 percent risk weight. Alternatively, the FDIC has considered including 100 percent of these asset types in the adjustment. As previously stated, however, while these assets are generally liquid and low-risk, they are not risk-free and consequently the FDIC believes that they do not merit a 100 percent inclusion in the assessment base deduction for custodial banks.

### III. Calculation of Counterparty Exposures in the Highly Complex Institution Scorecard

#### A. *Background*

Under section 7 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, the FDIC may establish a separate risk-based assessment system for large members of the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF). In setting assessments for IDIs, the FDIC must consider certain enumerated factors, including the probability that the DIF will incur a loss with respect to an institution, taking into consideration the risks attributable to different categories and concentrations of assets and liabilities.<sup>33</sup> In the Assessments final rule, the FDIC adopted a revised assessment system for large banks—

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<sup>33</sup> 12 U.S.C. 1817(b).

generally, those with at least \$10 billion in total assets. This system, which went into effect in the second quarter of 2011, uses scorecards that combine CAMELS ratings and certain financial measures to assess the risk a large institution poses to the DIF. One scorecard applies to most large institutions and another applies to highly complex institutions, those that are structurally and operationally complex or that pose unique challenges and risks to the DIF in the event of failure.<sup>34</sup>

The scorecards for both large and highly complex institutions use quantitative measures that are useful in predicting a large institution's long-term performance. Most of the measures used in the highly complex institution scorecard are similar to the measures used in the large bank scorecard. The scorecard for highly complex institutions, however, includes additional measures, such as the ratio of top 20 counterparty exposures to Tier 1 capital and reserves and the ratio of the largest counterparty exposure to Tier 1 capital and reserves (collectively, the counterparty exposure measures). Both ratios are defined in the Assessments final rule.

The Assessments final rule defines counterparty exposure as the sum of exposure at default (EAD) associated with derivatives trading<sup>35</sup> and securities financing transactions (SFTs) and the gross lending exposure for each counterparty or borrower.<sup>36</sup> Generally, since June 30, 2011, when highly complex institutions began reporting for scorecard purposes, they have

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<sup>34</sup> A "highly complex institution" is defined as: (1) An IDI (excluding a credit card bank) that has had \$50 billion or more in total assets for at least four consecutive quarters that either is controlled by a U.S. parent holding company that has had \$500 billion or more in total assets for four consecutive quarters, or is controlled by one or more intermediate U.S. parent holding companies that are controlled by a U.S. holding company that has had \$500 billion or more in assets for four consecutive quarters; or (2) a processing bank or trust company. 12 CFR 327.8(g).

<sup>35</sup> Derivatives trading exposures include both over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives and derivative contracts that an IDI has entered into with a central counterparty.

<sup>36</sup> Counterparty exposure excludes all counterparty exposure to the U.S. government and departments or agencies of the U.S. government that is unconditionally guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States.

determined and reported their counterparty exposures for assessment purposes using certain methods permitted under the Assessments final rule.<sup>37</sup> The Assessments final rule allows use of an approach based on internal models (the Internal Models Method, or IMM) to calculate counterparty exposures subject to approval by primary federal regulators, but until recently no highly complex institution has been permitted to use the IMM.

The IMM is one component of the advanced approaches risk-based capital framework. Banking organizations that have received approval to use the advanced approaches do not automatically have approval to use the IMM, which requires a separate approval. Seven of the nine highly complex institutions recently received approval from their primary regulators to use the advanced approaches for regulatory capital beginning in the first quarter of 2014. Of these seven banks, some, but not all, have received approval from their primary regulator to use the IMM for calculating part of their counterparty credit risk beginning in the second quarter of 2014. Thus, some of the nine banks using the highly complex institution scorecard began calculating their counterparty exposure in the second quarter of 2014 using the IMM, while the others will use non-IMM methods.

Based on preliminary assessments data, the adoption of the IMM by itself will cause a significant reduction in counterparty exposure amounts and change the scorecard results in a way that significantly reduces deposit insurance assessments for the banks using the IMM. This significant reduction in assessments does not appear to be driven primarily by a change in risk exposure, but rather by a change in measurement methodology. Moreover, since the second

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<sup>37</sup> For example, permitted methods for derivatives exposures have included the credit equivalent amount as calculated under the Federal banking agencies' general risk based capital rules and the current exposure method (CEM) under the BCBS Basel II framework.

quarter of 2014, the nine banks currently subject to the highly complex institution scorecard have been measuring counterparty risk in different ways, and the differences in assessments are driven primarily by the different methodologies these banks are using.

*B. General Description and Rationale for Proposed Counterparty Exposure Calculation*

Consequently, the FDIC is proposing that all banks using the highly complex institution scorecard calculate their counterparty exposure using standardized approach measures from the Basel III capital rules starting in the first quarter of 2015. Using the standardized approach has four primary advantages. First, all banks employing the highly complex institution scorecard would calculate their counterparty exposure using a common measurement framework. Using a common, consistent methodology for measuring counterparty exposure would ensure that methodological differences do not determine a bank's exposure relative to its peers. This advantage is an important consideration in a risk-based assessment system that in part functions by comparing banks according to specified risk metrics. Second, this approach would ensure a consistent measurement of counterparty exposure even among advanced approaches banks approved for the use of IMM. Third, as compared to allowing the IMM to determine the counterparty exposure measure for the scorecard, the FDIC's proposal is generally more consistent with the approach taken in the Federal banking agencies' regulatory capital framework, because most advanced approaches banks will be bound by the floor set by the standardized approach risk-based capital rules. Finally, all nine institutions currently using the highly complex institution scorecard would be using counterparty exposure measures they will compute for the standardized approach, so that the FDIC's proposal would not impose additional reporting burdens.

The FDIC's proposal to use the standardized approach is intended to be broadly consistent with the way banks have measured their counterparty exposure under the Assessments final rule (before adopting IMM). Under this NPR, exposure to a counterparty would be the sum of gross loans, the credit equivalent amount of all derivatives exposures as reported in the revised Basel III regulatory reporting instructions for the standardized approach, and the amount of SFTs subject to risk weighting. The proposal is described in more detail directly below.

*C. Specifics of the Proposed Counterparty Exposure Calculation*

For deposit insurance assessment purposes, the FDIC proposes that, effective January 1, 2015, all highly complex institutions calculate counterparty exposure amounts for the counterparty exposure measures based upon the standardized approach implemented under the Basel III capital rules. Counterparty exposure amounts would continue to include derivatives, SFTs and gross lending exposures (including all unfunded commitments). SFTs would include repurchase agreements, reverse repurchase agreements, security lending and borrowing, and margin lending transactions, where the value of the transactions depends on market valuations and the transactions are often subject to margin agreements. A cleared transaction, which is an exposure associated with an outstanding derivative contract or repo-style transaction that an IDI has entered into with a central counterparty, would be included in the counterparty exposure measures. Counterparty exposure would continue to exclude all counterparty exposure to the U.S. government and departments or agencies of the U.S. government that is unconditionally guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States.

Specifically, the FDIC proposes that, for deposit insurance assessment purposes, the counterparty exposure amount associated with derivatives, including OTC derivatives, a cleared

transaction that is a derivative contract, or a netting set of derivative contracts,<sup>38</sup> would be calculated as the credit equivalent amount under the standardized approach. The credit equivalent amount under the standardized approach is the exposure amount set forth in 12 CFR 324.34(a) and is the sum of current credit exposure and potential future exposure without reduction for collateral.<sup>39</sup> This approach is generally consistent with the manner in which highly complex institutions have been measuring derivatives exposure for the counterparty exposure measures before their approval to use IMM.

The FDIC proposes that, for deposit insurance assessment purposes, the counterparty exposure amount associated with SFTs, including SFTs that are cleared transactions, would be calculated using either the simple approach or the collateral haircut approach contained in 12 CFR 324.37(b) and (c), respectively. This treatment is generally consistent with the manner in which highly complex institutions have been measuring counterparty exposure under the Assessments final rule.

For both derivative and SFT exposures, the amount of counterparty exposure to central counterparties must also include the default fund contribution, which is the funds contributed or commitments made by a clearing member to a central counterparty's mutualized loss sharing arrangement.

These proposals are likely to change the amounts that highly complex institutions report in their counterparty exposure measures. For banks that have begun reporting counterparty

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<sup>38</sup> A “netting set” is a group of transactions with a single counterparty that are subject to a qualifying master netting agreement or a qualifying cross-product master netting agreement. 12 CFR 324.2.

<sup>39</sup> For multiple OTC derivative contracts subject to a qualifying master netting agreement, however, the exposure amount equals the sum of the net current credit exposure and the adjusted sum of potential future exposure OTC derivative contracts subject to the qualifying master netting agreement, also without reduction for collateral.

exposure using the IMM, the amounts reported under the proposals are likely to increase total scores and assessment rates compared to amounts reported under the IMM; however, the FDIC lacks sufficient data to determine the magnitude of the increases at this time. The proposals also may change the counterparty exposure amounts reported by banks that do not use the IMM because the standardized approach in the Basel III capital rules changes the generally applicable risk-based capital rules. Because banks will not begin reporting under the Basel III standardized approach until March 2015, the FDIC lacks sufficient data at this time to determine whether the proposals would increase or decrease total scores and assessment rates for these banks.

To ensure that scores for the counterparty exposure measures appropriately differentiate for risk, the FDIC may need to revise the conversion of the counterparty exposures measures to scores (that is, recalibrate the conversion) after reviewing data reported for some or all of 2015. The FDIC's Board would continue to reserve the right to make such a revision without further notice-and-comment rulemaking.<sup>40</sup> From time to time, the FDIC could add new data for subsequent reporting periods to its analysis and exclude some earlier reporting periods from its analysis. Updating the conversion of the counterparty exposure measures to scores would allow the FDIC to use the most recent data, thereby improving the accuracy of the scorecard method. The NPR also proposes that FDIC give banks at least one quarter notice before any revision takes effect.

#### *D. Alternatives*

Given the information available, the FDIC has considered reasonable alternatives to this proposal. One possible alternative would be to recalibrate the conversion of counterparty

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<sup>40</sup> See 76 FR at 10700; 77 FR at 66016.

exposure measures into scores using exposures calculated using the IMM approach with the additional counterparty credit components included in the Basel III capital rules (that is, credit valuation adjustment<sup>41</sup> and default fund contribution charges). As described above, however, at the time of this rulemaking only some of the nine banks employing the highly complex institution scorecard are using the IMM. Also, there may be differences in assumptions and measurement approaches among the banks using the IMM. Recent publications by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision indicate that the use of internal models has resulted in a material amount of variability between banks, a significant amount of which may be driven by banks' individual modeling choices rather than distinctions in portfolio risk or risk management practices.<sup>42</sup> For these reasons, the FDIC believes it would be difficult to calibrate and adjust counterparty exposure measures in a way that appropriately reflects relative risk.

Another approach would be to provide full recognition for collateral posted in derivatives transactions; that is, to reduce the credit equivalent amount of derivatives using the collateral haircut approach. This approach recognizes benefits of collateral for derivatives in the same manner as the proposal recognizes them for repo-style transactions, margin loans and other secured transactions. In the context of a rulemaking that is designed to accommodate the transition to Basel III, the FDIC views this alternative as a material departure from past practice

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<sup>41</sup> Credit valuation adjustment means the fair value adjustment to reflect counterparty credit risk in valuation of OTC derivative contracts.

<sup>42</sup> See, Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. (January 2013). “Regulatory consistency assessment programme (RCAP) – Analysis of risk-weighted assets for market risk”, available online at <http://www.bis.org/publ/bcbs240.htm>; Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. (July 2013). “Regulatory consistency assessment programme (RCAP) - Analysis of risk-weighted assets for credit risk in the banking book,” available online at <http://www.bis.org/publ/bcbs256.htm>; and Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. (July 2013). “The regulatory framework: balancing risk sensitivity, simplicity and comparability - discussion paper,” available online at <http://www.bis.org/publ/bcbs258.htm>.

with deposit insurance assessments and one that could unduly underprice the risks associated with large volumes of derivatives activity.

Another approach would be to measure counterparty exposure using “total leverage exposure,” the exposure measure in the denominator of the supplementary leverage ratio as defined in the Basel III capital rules. Both in the existing Basel III capital rules and under the proposed denominator changes in a recent notice of proposed rulemaking,<sup>43</sup> the total leverage exposure measure is a more comprehensive measure of exposure. The definition of total leverage exposure, however, is the subject of an open interagency rulemaking, and while advanced approaches institutions are expected to begin reporting total leverage exposure in 2015, some of the associated reporting elements are new and some are unknown pending the outcome of the leverage rulemaking. The FDIC is seeking comment on the desirability and feasibility of implementing this approach for assessment purposes in the first quarter of 2015.

Whether the FDIC adopts the proposed approach or an alternative, the FDIC believes that it should take some action to ensure that counterparty exposures are meaningfully captured in the highly complex institution scorecard and converted to scores in a way that appropriately and consistently reflects risk. If the FDIC does not adopt the proposal set forth above, it would have to take other action, such as adopting one of the foregoing alternatives and ensuring that counterparty exposures are converted to scores in a way that appropriately and consistently reflects risk.

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<sup>43</sup> 79 FR 24596 (May 1, 2014).

*E. Request for Comments on Questions Related to Counterparty Exposures*

The FDIC seeks comment on the following questions related to the counterparty exposure measures:

- (1) Should the FDIC consider methods other than the proposed approach to measure counterparty exposures consistently across institutions?
- (2) Would reduction of the credit equivalent amount for derivatives to reflect collateral better reflect relative risk across institutions; and, if so, would this benefit be outweighed by an understatement or underpricing of the potential risk associated with large volumes of derivatives activities with large counterparties?
- (3) Should the FDIC measure counterparty exposures using “total leverage exposure” as defined in the Basel III capital rules or the recent notice of proposed rulemaking proposing changes to the denominator of the supplementary leverage ratio?
- (4) Should exposure to particular counterparties (e.g., central counterparties, affiliates) be excluded from the counterparty exposure measure?

**IV. Request for Comments**

In addition to its request for comment on specific questions, the FDIC seeks comment on all aspects of this proposed rulemaking, including comments on possible alternatives and comments on potential benefits and costs of its proposals and any alternatives.

**V. Effective Date**

*A. Ratios and Thresholds Relating to Capital Evaluations*

As discussed above, the FDIC proposes two effective dates for the ratios and ratio thresholds relating to the capital evaluations used in its deposit insurance system: January 1, 2015, and January 1, 2018, the effective dates of the changes to the PCA capital rules.

*B. Assessment Base Calculation for Custodial Banks*

As discussed above, the FDIC proposes an effective date for the assessment base calculation for custodial banks of January 1, 2015.

*C. Calculation of Counterparty Exposures in the Highly Complex Institution Scorecard*

As discussed above, the FDIC proposes an effective date for the calculation of counterparty exposures in the highly complex institution scorecard of January 1, 2015.

**VI. Regulatory Analysis and Procedure**

*A. Solicitation of Comments on Use of Plain Language*

Section 722 of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, Public Law 106-102, 113 Stat. 1338, 1471 (Nov. 12, 1999), requires the Federal banking agencies to use plain language in all proposed final rules published after January 1, 2000. The FDIC invites your comments on how to make this proposal easier to understand. For example:

- Has the FDIC organized the material to suit your needs? If not, how could the material be better organized?
- Are the requirements in the proposed regulation clearly stated? If not, how could the regulation be stated more clearly?

- Does the proposed regulation contain language or jargon that is unclear? If so, which language requires clarification?
- Would a different format (grouping and order of sections, use of headings, paragraphing) make the regulation easier to understand?

*B. Regulatory Flexibility Act*

The FDIC has carefully considered the potential impacts on all banking organizations, including community banking organizations, and has sought to minimize the potential burden of these changes where consistent with applicable law and the agencies' goals.

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) requires that each Federal agency either certify that a proposed rule would not, if adopted in final form, have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities or prepare an initial regulatory flexibility analysis of the proposal and publish analysis for comment.<sup>44</sup> Certain types of rules, such as rules of particular applicability relating to rates or corporate or financial structures, or practices relating to such rates or structures, are expressly excluded from the definition of "rule" for purposes of the RFA.<sup>45</sup> Nonetheless, the FDIC is voluntarily undertaking a regulatory flexibility analysis to aid the public in commenting on the effect of the proposed rule on small institutions.

As of December 31, 2013, of the 6,812 IDIs, there were 5,655 small IDIs as that term is defined for the purposes of the RFA (*i.e.*, institutions with \$550 million or less in total assets). Under the revisions to the ratios and ratio thresholds for capital evaluations in the proposed rule,

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<sup>44</sup> See 5 U.S.C. 603 and 605.

<sup>45</sup> See 5 U.S.C. 601.

five small IDIs (0.09 percent of small IDIs) would have had higher deposit insurance assessments as of the end of December 2013 (assuming that they had not increased their capital in response to the new PCA capital rules). None would have had lower assessments. In the aggregate, these five small IDIs would have been assessed approximately \$1 million more in annual assessments under the proposed rule. In aggregate, the proposed rule would have increased small IDIs' assessments by 0.01 percent of all small IDIs' income before taxes.

Four additional IDIs that meet the RFA definition of a small IDI were identified as subsidiaries of custodial banks subject to assessments adjustments. The FDIC estimates that under the proposed rule, the assessments for these additional small IDIs would not be affected.

The proposed rule regarding the calculation of counterparty exposures in the highly complex institution scorecard, if adopted in final form, would not affect any small IDIs.

Thus, the proposed rule, if adopted in final form, would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

*C. Paperwork Reduction Act*

No collections of information pursuant to the Paperwork Reductions Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) are contained in the proposed rule.

*D. The Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 1999—Assessment of Federal Regulations and Policies on Families*

The FDIC has determined that the proposed rule will not affect family well-being within the meaning of section 654 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act,

enacted as part of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1999 (Public Law 105-277, 112 Stat. 2681).

List of subjects in 12 CFR Part 327.

Bank deposit insurance, Banks, Savings Associations.

For the reasons set forth above, the FDIC proposes to amend Part 327 of title 12 of the Code of Federal Regulations to be effective January 1, 2015 as follows:

## PART 327—ASSESSMENTS

1. The authority for 12 CFR Part 327 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 12 U.S.C. §§ 1441, 1813, 1815, 1817–19, 1821.

2. In § 327.5, revise paragraphs (c)(1), (2) to read as follows:

§327.5 Assessment base.

\* \* \*

(c) *Assessment base for custodial banks –*

(1) *Custodial bank defined.* A custodial bank for purposes of calculating deposit insurance assessments shall be an insured depository institution with previous calendar-year trust assets (fiduciary and custody and safekeeping assets, as described in the instructions to Schedule RC-T of the Consolidated Report of Condition and Income) of at least \$50 billion or an insured depository institution that derived more than 50 percent of its total revenue (interest income plus non-interest income) from trust activity over the previous calendar year.

(2) *Assessment base calculation for custodial banks.* A custodial bank shall pay deposit insurance assessments on its assessment base as calculated in paragraph (a) of this section, but the FDIC will exclude from that assessment base the daily or weekly average (depending on how the bank reports its average consolidated total assets) of all asset types described in the instructions to lines 1, 2, and 3 of Schedule RC of the Consolidated Report of Condition and Income with a standardized approach risk weighting of 0 percent, regardless of maturity, except those assets that qualify as securitization exposures (as defined in § 324.2), plus 50 percent of those asset types described in the instructions to lines 1, 2, and 3 of Schedule RC of the Consolidated Report of Condition and Income, with a standardized approach risk-weighting greater than 0 and up to and including 20 percent, regardless of maturity, except those assets that qualify as securitization exposures (as defined in § 324.2), subject to the limitation that the daily or weekly average (depending on how the bank reports its average consolidated total assets) value of all assets deducted under this section cannot exceed the daily or weekly average value of those deposits that are classified as transaction accounts in the instructions to Schedule RC-E of the Consolidated Report of Condition and Income and that are identified by the institution as being directly linked to a fiduciary or custodial and safekeeping account asset.

3. In § 327.9, revise paragraphs (a)(2)(i) and (ii) to read as follows:

§327.9 Assessment pricing methods.

(a) \* \* \*

(2) \* \* \*

(i) *Well Capitalized*. A Well Capitalized institution is one that satisfies each of the following capital ratio standards: total risk-based capital ratio, 10.0 percent or greater; tier 1 risk-based capital ratio, 8.0 percent or greater; leverage ratio, 5.0 percent or greater; and common equity tier 1 capital ratio, 6.5 percent or greater.

(ii) *Adequately Capitalized*. An Adequately Capitalized institution is one that does not satisfy the standards of Well Capitalized under this paragraph but satisfies each of the following capital ratio standards: total risk-based capital ratio, 8.0 percent or greater; tier 1 risk-based capital ratio, 6.0 percent or greater; leverage ratio, 4.0 percent or greater; and common equity tier 1 capital ratio, 4.5 percent or greater.

4. In part 327, subpart A, replace the term “Tier 1 leverage ratio” with “Leverage ratio” wherever it appears.

5. In part 327, subpart A, amend appendix A under the section heading, “VI. Description of Scorecard Measures” by revising the description of the “Concentration Measure for Highly Complex Institutions” to read as follows:

\* \* \*

Concentration Measure  
for Highly Complex  
Institutions

\* \* \*

(1) Higher-Risk  
Assets/Tier 1 Capital and  
Reserves

\* \* \*

Sum of the 20 largest total exposure amounts to counterparties divided by Tier 1 capital and reserves. The total exposure amount is equal to the sum of the institution’s exposure amounts to one counterparty (or borrower) for derivatives, securities financing transactions (SFTs), and cleared transactions, and its gross lending

(2) Top 20 Counterparty Exposure/Tier 1 Capital and Reserves

exposure (including all unfunded commitments) to that counterparty (or borrower). Exposures to entities that are affiliates of each other are treated as exposures to one counterparty (or borrower).

Counterparty exposure excludes all counterparty exposure to the U.S. government and departments or agencies of the U.S. government that is unconditionally guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States. The exposure amount for derivatives, including OTC derivatives, cleared transactions that are derivative contracts, and netting sets of derivative contracts, must be calculated using the methodology set forth in 12 CFR 324.34(a), without any reduction for collateral. The exposure amount associated with SFTs, including cleared transactions that are SFTs, must be calculated using the standardized approach set forth in 12 CFR 324.37(b) or (c). For both derivatives and SFT exposures, the exposure amount to central counterparties must also include the default fund contribution.<sup>2</sup>

(3) Largest Counterparty Exposure/Tier 1 Capital and Reserves

The largest total exposure amount to one counterparty divided by Tier 1 capital and reserves. The total exposure amount is equal to the sum of the institution's exposure amounts to one counterparty (or borrower) for derivatives, SFTs, and cleared transactions, and its gross lending exposure (including all unfunded commitments) to that counterparty (or borrower). Exposures to entities that are affiliates of each other are treated as exposures to one counterparty (or borrower). Counterparty exposure excludes all counterparty exposure to the U.S. government and departments or agencies of the U.S. government that is unconditionally guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States. The exposure amount for derivatives, including OTC derivatives, cleared transactions that are derivative contracts, and netting sets of derivative contracts, must be calculated using the methodology set forth in 12 CFR 324.34(a), without any reduction for collateral. The exposure amount associated with SFTs, including cleared transactions that are SFTs, must be calculated using the standardized approach set forth in 12 CFR 324.37(b) or (c). For both derivatives and SFT exposures, the exposure amount to central counterparties must also include the default fund contribution.<sup>2</sup>

\* \* \*

<sup>2</sup> SFTs include repurchase agreements, reverse repurchase agreements, security lending and borrowing, and margin lending transactions, where the value of the transactions depends on market valuations and the transactions are often subject to margin agreements. The default fund contribution is the funds contributed or commitments made by a clearing member to a central counterparty's mutualized loss sharing arrangement. The other terms used in this description are as defined in 12 CFR Part 324, Subparts A and D, unless defined otherwise in 12 CFR Part 327.

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For the reasons set forth above, the FDIC proposes to amend Part 327 of title 12 of the Code of Federal Regulations to be effective January 1, 2018 as follows:

## PART 327—ASSESSMENTS

1. The authority for part 327 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 12 U.S.C. §§ 1441, 1813, 1815, 1817–19, 1821.

2. In § 327.9, revise paragraphs (a)(2)(i) and (ii) to read as follows:

### §327.9 Assessment pricing methods.

(a) \* \* \*

(2) \* \* \*

(i) *Well Capitalized.* A Well Capitalized institution is one that satisfies each of the following capital ratio standards: total risk-based capital ratio, 10.0 percent or greater; tier 1 risk-based capital ratio, 8.0 percent or greater; leverage ratio, 5.0 percent or greater; common equity tier 1 capital ratio, 6.5 percent or greater; and, if the institution is an insured depository institution subject to the enhanced supplementary leverage ratio standards under 12 CFR 6.4(c)(1)(iv)(B), 12 CFR 208.43(c)(iv)(B), or 12 CFR 324.403(b)(1)(v), as each may be amended from time to time, a supplementary leverage ratio of 6.0 percent or greater.

(ii) *Adequately Capitalized.* An Adequately Capitalized institution is one that does not satisfy the standards of Well Capitalized under this paragraph but satisfies each of the following capital ratio standards: total risk-based capital ratio, 8.0 percent or greater; tier 1 risk-based capital ratio, 6.0 percent or greater; leverage ratio, 4.0 percent or greater; common equity tier 1 capital ratio,

4.5 percent or greater; and, if the institution is subject to the advanced approaches risk-based capital rules under 12 CFR 6.4(c)(2)(iv)(B), 12 CFR 208.43(c)(2)(iv)(B), or 12 CFR 324.403(b)(2)(vi), as each may be amended from time to time, a supplementary leverage ratio of 3.0 percent or greater.

By order of the Board of Directors.

Dated at Washington, D.C., this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

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Robert E. Feldman,  
Executive Secretary

Robert Feldman

Executive Secretary (SEAL)

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