SUMMARY: The OCC, the Board, and the FDIC (collectively, the Agencies) are amending their Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) regulations to adjust the asset-size thresholds used to define “small bank” or “small savings association” and “intermediate small bank” or “intermediate small savings association.” As required by the CRA regulations, the adjustment to the threshold amount is based on the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI–W). The FDIC is also amending its definition of “consumer loan” to correct a typographical error included in a CRA final rule issued on November 24, 2017. DATES: Effective Date: January 1, 2018.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Description of the Joint Final Rule

The Agencies’ CRA regulations establish CRA performance standards for small and intermediate small banks and savings associations. The CRA regulations define small and intermediate small banks and savings associations by reference to asset-size criteria expressed in dollar amounts, and they further require the Agencies to publish annual adjustments to these dollar figures based on the year-to-year change in the average of the CPI–W, not seasonally adjusted, for each 12-month period ending in November, with rounding to the nearest million. 12 CFR 25.12(u)(1), 195.12(u)(1), 228.12(u)(1), and 345.12(u)(1). This amendment final rule revises these thresholds.

During the 12-month period ending November 2017, the CPI–W increased by 2.11 percent. As a result, the Agencies are revising 12 CFR 25.12(u)(1), 195.12(u)(1), 228.12(u)(1), and 345.12(u)(1) to make this annual adjustment. Beginning January 1, 2018, banks and savings associations that, as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years, had assets of less than $1.252 billion are small banks or small savings associations. Small banks and small savings associations with assets of at least $313 million as of December 31 of both of the prior two calendar years and less than $1.252 billion as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years are intermediate small banks or intermediate small savings associations. 12 CFR 25.12(u)(1), 195.12(u)(1), 228.12(u)(1), and 345.12(u)(1). This joint final rule revises these thresholds.

During the 12-month period ending November 2017, the CPI–W increased by 2.11 percent. As a result, the Agencies are revising 12 CFR 25.12(u)(1), 195.12(u)(1), 228.12(u)(1), and 345.12(u)(1) to make this annual adjustment. Beginning January 1, 2018, banks and savings associations that, as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years, had assets of less than $1.252 billion are small banks or small savings associations. Small banks and small savings associations with assets of at least $313 million as of December 31 of both of the prior two calendar years and less than $1.252 billion as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years are intermediate small banks or intermediate small savings associations. Small banks and small savings associations with assets of at least $313 million as of December 31 of both of the prior two calendar years and less than $1.252 billion as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years are intermediate small banks or intermediate small savings associations.

an annual adjustment formula consistent with that of the other federal banking agencies in its CRA rule previously set forth at 12 CFR part 563e. 72 FR 13429 (Mar. 22, 2007).

Pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act), effective July 21, 2011, CRA rulemaking authority for federal and state savings associations was transferred from the OTS to the OCC, and the OCC subsequently republished, at 12 CFR part 195, the CRA regulations applicable to those institutions. In addition, the Dodd-Frank Act transferred responsibility for supervision of savings and loan holding companies and their non-depository subsidiaries from the OTS to the Board, and the Board subsequently amended its CRA regulation to reflect this transfer of supervisory authority.

The threshold for small banks and small savings associations was revised most recently in December 2016 and became effective January 18, 2017. 82 FR 5354 (Jan. 18, 2017). The current CRA regulations provide that banks and savings associations that, as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years, had assets of less than $1.226 billion are small banks or small savings associations. Small banks and small savings associations with assets of at least $307 million as of December 31 of both of the prior two calendar years and less than $1.226 billion as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years are intermediate small banks or intermediate small savings associations. 12 CFR 25.12(u)(1), 195.12(u)(1), 228.12(u)(1), and 345.12(u)(1). This joint final rule revises these thresholds.

During the 12-month period ending November 2017, the CPI–W increased by 2.11 percent. As a result, the Agencies are revising 12 CFR 25.12(u)(1), 195.12(u)(1), 228.12(u)(1), and 345.12(u)(1) to make this annual adjustment. Beginning January 1, 2018, banks and savings associations that, as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years, had assets of less than $1.252 billion are small banks or small savings associations. Small banks and small savings associations with assets of at least $313 million as of December 31 of both of the prior two calendar years and less than $1.252 billion as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years are intermediate small banks or intermediate small savings associations. Small banks and small savings associations with assets of at least $313 million as of December 31 of both of the prior two calendar years and less than $1.252 billion as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years are intermediate small banks or intermediate small savings associations. Small banks and small savings associations with assets of at least $313 million as of December 31 of both of the prior two calendar years and less than $1.252 billion as of

2 See OCC interim final rule, 76 FR 48950 (Aug. 9, 2011).
3 See Board interim final rule, 76 FR 56508 (Sept. 13, 2011).

Additionally, on November 24, 2017, the Agencies amended their collective CRA regulations (82 FR 55734) to be consistent with prior amendments to Regulation C by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Section 345.12(j)(4) of the FDIC’s CRA regulation, which provides for the definition of “consumer loan,” contained a typographical error in the Federal Register publication: § 345.12(j)(4) was reserved in error. To correct this error, § 345.12(j)(5) is redesignated as § 345.12(j)(4) and § 345.12(j)(5) is removed.

Administrative Procedure Act and Effective Date

Under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), an agency may, for good cause, find (and incorporate the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefore in the rules issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.

The amendments to the regulations to adjust the asset-size thresholds for small and intermediate small banks and savings associations result from the application of a formula established by a provision in the respective CRA regulations that the Agencies previously published for comment. See 70 FR 12148 (Mar. 11, 2005), 70 FR 44256 (Aug. 2, 2005), 71 FR 67826 (Nov. 24, 2006), and 72 FR 13429 (Mar. 22, 2007). As a result, §§ 25.12(u)(1), 195.12(u)(1), 228.12(u)(1), and 345.12(u)(1) of the Agencies’ respective CRA regulations are amended by adjusting the asset-size thresholds as provided for in §§ 25.12(u)(2), 195.12(u)(2), 228.12(u)(2), and 345.12(u)(2).

Accordingly, the Agencies’ rules provide no discretion as to the computation or timing of the revisions to the asset-size criteria. Furthermore, amending the FDIC’s definition of “consumer loan” to correct a typographical error is a technical and non-substantive revision. For these reasons, the Agencies have determined that publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking and providing opportunity for public comment are unnecessary. The effective date of this joint final rule is January 1, 2018. Under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) of the APA, the required publication or service of a substantive rule shall be made not less than 30 days before its effective date, except, among other things, as provided by the agency for good cause found and published with the rule. Because this rule adjusts asset-size thresholds consistent with the procedural requirements of the CRA rules, the Agencies conclude that it is not substantive within the meaning of the APA’s delayed effective date provision. Moreover, the Agencies find that there is good cause for dispensing with the delayed effective date requirement, even if it applied, because their current rules already provide notice that the small and intermediate small asset-size thresholds will be adjusted as of December 31 based on 12-month data as of the end of November each year.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) does not apply to a rulemaking when a general notice of proposed rulemaking is not required. 5 U.S.C. 603 and 604. As noted previously, the Agencies have determined that it is unnecessary to publish a general notice of proposed rulemaking for this joint final rule. Accordingly, the RFA’s requirements relating to an initial and final regulatory flexibility analysis do not apply.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3521) states that no agency may conduct or sponsor, nor is the respondent required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The Agencies have determined that this final rule does not create any new, or revise any existing, collections of information pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act. Consequently, no information collection request will be submitted to the OMB for review.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

Section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Unfunded Mandates Act), 2 U.S.C. 1532, requires the OCC to prepare a budgetary impact statement before promulgating any final rule for which a general notice of proposed rulemaking was published. As discussed above, the OCC has determined that the publication of a general notice of proposed rulemaking is unnecessary. Accordingly, this joint final rule is not subject to section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Act.

List of Subjects

12 CFR Part 25

Community development, Credit, Investments, National banks, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.
§ 195.12 Definitions.

(u) Small savings association—(1) Definition. Small savings association means a savings association that, as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years, had assets of less than $1.252 billion. Intermediate small savings association means a small savings association with assets of at least $313 million as of December 31 of both of the prior two calendar years and less than $1.252 billion as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years.

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

12 CFR Chapter II

For the reasons set forth in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System amends part 228 of chapter II of title 12 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 228—COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT (REGULATION BB)

5. The authority citation for part 228 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 12 U.S.C. 321, 325, 1828(c), 1842, 1843, 1844, and 2901 et seq.

6. Section 228.12 is amended by revising paragraph (u)(1) to read as follows:

§ 228.12 Definitions.

(u) Small bank—(1) Definition. Small bank means a bank that, as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years, had assets of less than $1.252 billion. Intermediate small bank means a small bank with assets of at least $313 million as of December 31 of both of the prior two calendar years and less than $1.252 billion as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years.

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FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

12 CFR Chapter III

Authority and Issuance

For the reasons set forth in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section, the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation amends part 345 of chapter III of title 12 of the Code of Federal Regulations to read as follows:

PART 345—COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT

7. The authority citation for part 345 continues to read as follows:


§ 345.12 Definitions.

(u) Small savings association—(1) Definition. Small savings association means a savings association that, as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years, had assets of less than $1.252 billion. Intermediate small savings association means a small savings association with assets of at least $313 million as of December 31 of both of the prior two calendar years and less than $1.252 billion as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years.

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

12 CFR Chapter II

For the reasons set forth in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System amends part 345 of chapter III of title 12 of the Code of Federal Regulations to read as follows:

PART 345—COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT

8. Section 345.12 is amended by redesignating paragraph [j][5] as paragraph [j][4] and revising paragraph [u][1] to read as follows:

§ 345.12 Definitions.

(u) Small bank—(1) Definition. Small bank means a bank that, as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years, had assets of less than $1.252 billion. Intermediate small bank means a small bank with assets of at least $313 million as of December 31 of both of the prior two calendar years and less than $1.252 billion as of December 31 of either of the prior two calendar years.

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† Supplementary Information:
The NCUA is correcting a mistake in the February 19, 2018, Federal Register. On page 60292, in the second column, in part 790, in amendment 10, the instruction “In § 790.2, revise the second sentence of paragraph (b)(6), paragraph (b)(12), the third sentence of paragraph (b)(13), and paragraph (b)(15) to read as follows:” is corrected to read “In § 790.2, revise the second sentence of paragraph (b)(6), paragraph (b)(12), the fourth sentence of paragraph (b)(13), and paragraph (b)(15) to read as follows:”.

By the National Credit Union Administration Board on December 21, 2017.

Gerard Poliquin,
Secretary of the Board

[FR Doc. 2017–27411 Filed 12–26–17; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7535–01–P

BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

12 CFR Part 1003

Home Mortgage Disclosure (Regulation C) Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold

AGENCY: Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

ACTION: Final rule; official commentary.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (Bureau) is issuing a final rule amending the official commentary that interprets the requirements of the Bureau’s Regulation C (Home Mortgage Disclosure) to reflect the asset-size exemption threshold for banks, savings associations, and credit unions based on the annual percentage change in the average of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI–W). Based on the 2.1 percent increase in the average of the CPI–W for the 12-month period ending in November 2017, the exemption threshold is adjusted to increase to $45 million from $44 million. Therefore, banks, savings associations, and credit unions with assets of $45 million or less as of December 31, 2017, are exempt from collecting data in 2018.

DATES: This final rule is effective January 1, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Monique Chenault, Paralegal Specialist, Office of Regulations, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In FR Doc. 2017–27411, appearing on page 60290 in the Federal Register, December 20, 2017, the following corrections are made:

§ 790.2 [Corrected]

On page 60292, in the second column, in part 790, in amendment 10, the instruction “In § 790.2, revise the second sentence of paragraph (b)(6), paragraph (b)(12), the third sentence of paragraph (b)(13), and paragraph (b)(15) to read as follows:” is corrected to read “In § 790.2, revise the second sentence of paragraph (b)(6), paragraph (b)(12), the fourth sentence of paragraph (b)(13), and paragraph (b)(15) to read as follows:”.

By the National Credit Union Administration Board on December 21, 2017.

Gerard Poliquin,
Secretary of the Board

[FR Doc. 2017–27812 Filed 12–26–17; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7535–01–P

BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

12 CFR Part 790

RIN 3133–AE81

Agency Reorganization; Correction

AGENCY: National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: The NCUA is correcting a final rule that appeared in the Federal Register on December 20, 2017. The document implemented certain features of the NCUA reorganization that the NCUA Board announced earlier this year. This correction amends one reference within the document.

DATES: This correction is effective January 6, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Wirick, Senior Staff Attorney, Office of General Counsel, 2175 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or telephone (703) 518–6540.