be made under the bank’s standard procedures for making such determinations in regards to the best interests of its collective investment funds; and

4. The bank must make any necessary amendments to the written plan for the STIF to reflect these temporary changes.

5. The OCC also hereby determines that the relief provided by this administrative order terminates on July 20, 2020, unless the OCC revises this order to provide otherwise before that date.

By authority of the Comptroller of the Currency.


Morris R. Morgan,
First Deputy Comptroller, Comptroller of the Currency.

[FR Doc. 2020–06286 Filed 3–23–20; 11:15 am]

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

12 CFR Part 9
[Docket No. OCC–2020–0012]
RIN 1557–AE84

Short-Term Investment Funds


ACTION: Interim final rule and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The OCC is adopting an interim final rule to revise the OCC’s short-term investment fund (STIF) rule (STIF Rule) for national banks acting in a fiduciary capacity. Sudden disruptions in the financial markets have created conditions that may constrain the ability of a national bank’s management team to execute certain elements of a STIF’s written investment policy, specifically with regard to investment plan components addressing the weighted average maturity and weighted average life of the STIF’s investment portfolio. The OCC is issuing this interim final rule to allow national banks to operate affected STIFs on a limited-time basis with increased maturity limits under these circumstances.

DATES: The interim final rule is effective March 23, 2020, and is applicable beginning March 20, 2020. Comments on the interim final rule must be received no later than May 11, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Commenters are encouraged to submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal or email, if possible. Please use the title “Short-term Investment Funds” to facilitate the organization and distribution of the comments. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal—Regulations.gov Classic or Regulations.gov Beta:
  Regulations.gov Classic: Go to https://www.regulations.gov/. Enter “Docket ID OCC–2020–0012” in the Search Box and click “Search.” Click on “Comment Now” to submit public comments. For help with submitting effective comments please click on “View Commenter’s Checklist.”
  Public comments can be submitted via the “Comment” box below the displayed document information or by clicking on the document title and then clicking the “Comment” box on the top-left side of the screen. For help with submitting effective comments please click on “Commenter’s Checklist.”
  For assistance with the Regulations.gov Beta site, please call (877) 378–5457 (toll free) or (703) 454–9859 Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. ET or email regulations@erulemakinghelpdesk.com.
  Email: regs.comments@occ.treas.gov.
  Fax: (571) 465–4326.

Instructions: You must include “OCC” as the agency name and “Docket ID OCC–2020–0012” in your comment. In general, the OCC will enter all comments received into the docket and publish the comments on the Regulations.gov website without change, including any business or personal information provided such as name and address information, email addresses, or phone numbers.

Comments received, including attachments and other supporting materials, are part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. Do not include any information in your comment or supporting materials that you consider confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure.

You may review comments and other related materials that pertain to this rulemaking action by any of the following methods:

- Viewing Comments Electronically—Regulations.gov Classic or Regulations.gov Beta:
  Regulations.gov Classic: Go to https://www.regulations.gov/.
  Regulations.gov Beta: Go to https://beta.regulations.gov/ or click “Visit New Regulations.gov Site” from the Regulations.gov Classic homepage.

The docket may be viewed after the close of the comment period in the same manner as during the comment period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Patricia Dalton, Director for Asset Management Policy, Market Risk Policy Division, Bank Supervision Policy, (202)
A CIF is a form of Collective Investment Fund (CIF). A CIF is a bank-managed fiduciary fund that holds pooled assets; the bank is required to establish and operate the CIF in accordance with specific criteria established by the OCC fiduciary activities regulation at 12 CFR 9.18. Under 12 CFR 9.18(b)(1), each CIF is established under a “Plan” approved by the bank’s board of directors (or an authorized board committee) that details the terms under which the bank manages and administers the fund’s assets. The bank acts as a fiduciary for the CIF and holds legal title to the fund’s assets, which are funded through contributions by the CIF’s participants, as discussed below. Participants in a CIF are the beneficial owners of the fund’s assets. Each participant owns an undivided interest in the aggregate assets of a CIF; a participant does not directly own any specific asset held by a CIF.¹

A participant’s investment in a CIF is called a “participating interest.” Participating interests in a CIF are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and are not subject to potential claims by a bank’s creditors. In addition, a participating interest in a CIF cannot be pledged or otherwise encumbered in favor of a third party. A CIF admitting a participant (that is, allowing the participant, in effect, to purchase a proportionate interest in the assets of the CIF) or withdrawing all or part of its participating interest in the CIF may only do so on the basis of a valuation of the CIF’s assets, as of the admission or withdrawal date, and only for non-cancellable requests made before or on the valuation date.² This general valuation rule is designed to protect all participants in the CIF from the risk that other participants will be admitted or withdrawn at valuations that dilute the value of existing participating interests in the CIF.

A STIF is a type of CIF that permits a bank to value the STIF’s assets on an amortized cost basis, rather than at mark-to-market value, for purposes of admissions and withdrawals. Because a STIF’s investments are limited to shorter-term assets and those assets generally are required to be held to maturity, differences between the amortized cost and mark-to-market value of the assets will be rare, absent atypical market conditions or an impaired asset. STIFs typically operate with the primary objective of maintaining a stable net asset value (NAV) per participation interest of $1.00.³

The OCC’s STIF Rule at 12 CFR 9.18(b)(4)(iii) governs STIFs managed by national banks, but it is also common for other types of financial institutions (collectively with national banks, “banks”) to manage collective investment funds pursuant to the requirements of other laws which, in turn, cross-reference the OCC’s CIF Rule at 12 CFR 9.18 and the STIF Rule subcomponent thereof at 12 CFR 9.18(b)(4)(iii).⁴

There are a number of important differences between MMMFs and STIFs; most significantly, MMMFs are open to all retail, commercial, institutional, and public sector investors, whereas, STIFs only are available to authorized fiduciary accounts of a bank and certain employee benefit plans.⁵ Additionally, the combined asset value of all STIFs nationwide totals only a fraction of the combined asset value of all MMMFs.

B. Market Disturbances Impacting STIF Liquidity Management Functions

Recent events have significantly and adversely impacted global financial markets, and the OCC is concerned about the potential effects on STIFs operated by national banks. The spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–2019) has slowed economic activity in many countries, including the United States. Sudden disruptions in financial markets have put increasing liquidity pressure on MMMFs, as they have been faced with redemption requests from clients with immediate cash needs. The Board of Governor of the Federal Reserve System, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, has authorized the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston to establish the Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility, pursuant to section 13(3) of the Federal Reserve Act,⁶ as a measure to ameliorate these liquidity pressures. Although STIFs do not serve the same broad investor market as MMMFs, the OCC remains concerned that, in light of the acute effects the COVID–2019 virus is triggering across the markets broadly, there may be elevated participation interest withdrawals for STIFs operated by national banks, notwithstanding these differences between STIFs and MMMFs. Regulatory authorities supervising other categories of banks operating STIFs—in accordance with the legal requirements governing those banks and incorporating the OCC’s STIF rules as part of those requirements—have conveyed similar concerns to the OCC.

In addition to the OCC’s concerns about unusual withdrawal levels, the OCC observes that STIF investment portfolios are generally made up of the same types of securities and investments as those held by MMMFs.

¹ 12 CFR 9.18.
² 12 CFR 9.18(b)(5).
⁴ For example, New York state law provides that all investments in short-term investment common trust funds may be valued at cost, if the plan of operation requires that: (i) The type or category of investments of the fund shall comply with the rules and regulations of the Comptroller of the Currency pertaining to short-term investment funds and (ii) in computing income, the difference between cost of investment and anticipated receipt on maturity of investment shall be accrued on a straight-line basis. See N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. Tit. 3, section 22.23 (2010). Additionally, in order to retain their tax-exempt status pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, common trust funds must operate in compliance with § 9.18 as well as the Federal tax laws. See 26 U.S.C. 584. Although the direct scope of the STIF Rule provisions in § 9.18 of the OCC’s regulations is national banks and Federal branches and agencies of foreign banks acting in a fiduciary capacity (12 CFR 9.18(b)(4)(iii)), the nomenclature of the STIF Rule refers simply to “banks.” For the sake of convenience, the OCC continues this approach and also applies the same convention to the discussion of the STIF final rule.
⁵ 15 U.S.C. 80a; 17 CFR 270.2a–7. Because STIFs are a form of CIF, they are generally exempt from the SEC’s rules under the Investment Company Act. STIFs used exclusively for (1) the collective investment of money by a bank in its fiduciary capacity as trustee, executor, administrator, or guardian and (2) the collective investment of assets of certain employee benefit plans are exempt from the Investment Company Act under 15 U.S.C. 80a– 3(c)(5) and (c)(11), respectively. MMMFs are not subject to comparable restrictions as to the type of participant who may invest in the fund or the purpose of such investment.
Accordingly, liquidity pressures related to the COVID–2019 virus in the marketplace for those assets raise similar concerns as those presented for MMMFs. The OCC’s STIF Rule requires management to operate the fund pursuant to liquidity management standards allowing the STIF to balance appropriately the volume of the STIF’s daily admissions and withdrawals in conjunction with the maturities of the fund’s investments. Under the OCC STIF Rule, these standards must address contingent funding needs, and the bank must operate an independent program of stress testing to assess the STIF’s ability to maintain a stable NAV in varying market conditions.7 Acute market-wide disturbances in the depth of liquidity available for a bank seeking to purchase and sell portfolio assets to maintain a STIF’s liquidity put pressure on the bank’s ability to perform these functions.

In addition, the OCC’s STIF Rule requires the STIF to be operated pursuant to a written, board-approved plan that requires the fund to maintain a dollar-weighted average portfolio maturity of 60 days or less and a dollar-weighted average portfolio life maturity of 120 days or less, as determined in the same manner as is required by the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Rule 2a–7 for money market mutual funds (17 CFR 270.2a–7). The OCC is concerned that the current market-wide liquidity disturbances may put pressure on bank management’s ability to comply with these maturity limits.

II. Description of the Interim Final Rule

The OCC is amending the OCC STIF Rule to add a reservation of authority provision addressing the rule’s limits on weighted average portfolio maturity, weighted average portfolio life maturity, and the method for determining those limits. The OCC believes that the temporary nature of the need for relief, and the uncertainty associated with future market conditions, counsel the OCC’s use of a flexible method of administering relief from the limits, rather than a direct rule amendment to the limits themselves. In designing the proposed rule, the OCC is also mindful that banks other than national banks supervised and regulated by the OCC also operate their STIFs under applicable legal requirements that cross-reference the OCC STIF Rule. The OCC believes it is important to include a mechanism in the reservation of authority that provides these banks access to public information about the

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to whether a final rule constitutes a “major” rule. If a rule is deemed a “major rule” by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Congressional Review Act generally provides that the rule may not take effect until at least 60 days following its publication.

The Congressional Review Act defines a “major rule” as any rule that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the OMB finds has resulted in or is likely to result in (A) an annual effect on the economy of $100,000,000 or more; (B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies or geographic regions, or (C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets.

For the same reasons set forth above, the OCC is adopting the interim final rule without the delayed effective date generally prescribed under the Congressional Review Act. The delayed effective date required by the Congressional Review Act does not apply to any rule for which an agency for good cause finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefor in the rule issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest. In light of current market uncertainty, the OCC believes that delaying the effective date of the rule would be contrary to the public interest.

As required by the Congressional Review Act, the OCC will submit the final rule and other appropriate reports to Congress and the Government Accountability Office for review.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3521) (PRA) 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 OMB control number. The interim final rule contains no collection of information under the PRA.

D. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) requires an agency to consider whether the rules it proposes will have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The RFA applies only to rules for which an agency publishes a general notice of proposed rulemaking pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b). As discussed previously, consistent with section 553(b)(B) of the APA, the OCC has determined for good cause that general notice and opportunity for public comment is unnecessary, and therefore the OCC is not issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking. Accordingly, the OCC has concluded that the RFA’s requirements relating to initial and final regulatory flexibility analysis do not apply.

Nevertheless, the OCC seeks comment on whether, and the extent to which, the interim final rule would affect a significant number of small entities.

E. Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994

Pursuant to section 302(a) of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act (RCDRIA), in determining the effective date and administrative compliance requirements for new regulations that impose additional reporting, disclosure, or other requirements on insured depository institutions (IDIs), each Federal banking agency must consider, consistent with the principle of safety and soundness and the public interest, any administrative burdens that such regulations would place on depository institutions, including small depository institutions, and customers of depository institutions, as well as the benefits of such regulations. In addition, section 302(b) of RCDRIA requires new regulations and amendments to regulations that impose additional reporting, disclosures, or other new requirements on IDIs generally to take effect on the first day of a calendar quarter that begins on or after the date on which the regulations are published in final form, with certain exceptions, including for good cause. For the reasons described above, the OCC finds good cause exists under section 302 of RCDRIA to publish this interim final rule with an immediate effective date.

As such, the final rule will be effective immediately. Nevertheless, the OCC seeks comment on RCDRIA.

F. Use of Plain Language

Section 722 of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act requires the Federal banking agencies to use plain language in all proposed and final rules published after January 1, 2000. The OCC has sought to present the interim final rule in a simple and straightforward manner. The OCC invites comments on whether there are additional steps it could take to make the rule easier to understand. For example:

- Have the OCC organized the material to suit your needs? If not, how could this material be better organized?
- Are the requirements in the regulation clearly stated? If not, how could the regulation be more clearly stated?
- Does the regulation contain language or jargon that is not clear? 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? If so, what changes to the format would make the regulation easier to understand? What else could we do to make the regulation easier to understand?

G. Unfunded Mandates

As a general matter, the Unfunded Mandates Act of 1995 (UMRA), 2 U.S.C. 1531 et seq., requires the preparation of a budgetary impact statement before promulgating a rule that includes a Federal mandate that may result in the expenditure by State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of $100 million or more in any one year. However, the UMRA does not apply to final rules for which a general notice of proposed rulemaking was not published. See 2 U.S.C. 1532(a). Therefore, because the OCC has found good cause to dispense with notice and comment for this interim final rule, the OCC has not prepared an economic analysis of the rule under the UMRA.

List of Subjects in 12 CFR Part 9

Estates, Investments, National banks, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements. Trusts and trustees.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, chapter 1 of title 12 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 9—FIDUCIARY ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL BANKS

1. The authority citation for part 9 continues to read as follows:

§ 9.18 Collective investment funds.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(4) * * *

(iv) Reservation of authority.

Notwithstanding paragraph (b)(4)(iii)(B) of this section, during periods of market stress negatively affecting, on a temporary basis, the ability of banks to operate STIFs in compliance with the requirements of the paragraph:

(A) The OCC may issue an administrative order specifying, for purposes of paragraph (b)(4)(iii)(B) of this section, temporary revisions to the length of the dollar-weighted average portfolio maturity requirement, the length of dollar-weighted average portfolio life maturity, and the manner of determining such limits;

(B) A bank seeking to comply with paragraph (b)(4)(iii)(B) will be deemed to be in compliance with that paragraph’s requirements by complying with the limits or other revisions, and any applicable conditions, described in the administrative order; and

(C) The OCC will publish the administrative order on www.occ.gov and through other methods, as appropriate.

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Morris R. Morgan,
First Deputy Comptroller, Comptroller of the Currency.

[FR Doc. 2020–06293 Filed 3–23–20; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 4810–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 25

[Docket No. FAA–2020–0223; Special Conditions No. 25–768–SC]

Special Conditions: GDC Technics, Boeing Model 777–300ER Series Airplane; Lower Lobe Crew Rest Compartment

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final special conditions; request for comments.

SUMMARY: These special conditions are issued for the Boeing Model 777–300ER series airplane. This airplane, as modified by GDC Technics, will have a novel or unusual design feature when compared to the state of technology envisioned in the airworthiness standards for transport category airplanes. This design feature is a lower lobe crew rest (LLCR) compartment located under the passenger cabin floor of the Boeing Model 777–300ER series airplane. The applicable airworthiness regulations do not contain adequate or appropriate safety standards for this design feature. These special conditions contain the additional safety standards that the Administrator considers necessary to establish a level of safety equivalent to that established by the existing airworthiness standards.

DATES: This action is effective on GDC Technics on March 25, 2020. Send comments on or before May 11, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Send comments identified by Docket No. FAA–2020–0223 using any of the following methods:

• Federal eRegulations Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov/ and follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.

• Mail: Send comments to Docket Operations, M–30, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12–140, West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

• Hand Delivery or Courier: Take comments to Docket Operations in Room W12–140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

• Fax: Fax comments to Docket Operations at 202–493–2251.

Privacy: The FAA will post all comments it receives, without change, to http://www.regulations.gov/, including any personal information the commenter provides. Using the search function of the docket website, anyone can find and read the electronic form of all comments received into any FAA docket, including the name of the individual sending the comment (or signing the comment for an association, business, labor union, etc.). DOT’s complete Privacy Act Statement can be found in the Federal Register published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477–19478).

Docket: Background documents or comments received may be read at http://www.regulations.gov/ at any time. Follow the online instructions for accessing the docket or go to Docket Operations in Room W12–140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shannon Lennon, Airframe and Cabin Safety Section, AIR–675, Transport Standards Branch, Policy and Innovation Division, Aircraft Certification Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 2200 South 216th Street, Des Moines, Washington 98198; telephone and fax 206–231–3209; email Shannon.Lennon@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The substance of these special conditions previously has been published in the Federal Register for public comment. These special conditions have been derived without substantive change from those previously issued. It is unlikely that prior public comment would result in a significant change from the substance contained herein. Therefore, the FAA has determined that prior public notice and comment are unnecessary, and finds that, for the same reason, good cause exists for adopting these special conditions upon publication in the Federal Register.

Comments Invited

The FAA invites interested people to take part in this rulemaking by sending written comments, data, or views. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the special conditions, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data.

The FAA will consider all comments received by the closing date for comments. The FAA may change these special conditions based on the comments received.

Background

On April 25, 2016, GDC Technics applied for a supplemental type certificate for a LLCR compartment in the Boeing Model 777–300ER series airplane. The Boeing Model 777–300ER series airplane is a twin-engine, transport category airplane, with capacity for 550 passengers, and a maximum takeoff weight of 775,000 pounds.

The LLCR is located under the passenger cabin floor in the aft cargo compartment of Boeing Model 777–300ER series airplanes. Occupancy for the LLCR compartment is limited to a maximum of six (6) occupants. The LLCR will only be occupied in flight, i.e., not during taxi, takeoff, or landing. Six berths are able to withstand the maximum flight loads when the LLCR compartment is at maximum capacity. New components for smoke detection system, oxygen system, emergency lighting system and manual firefighting system (fire extinguisher) will be installed and integrated into existing systems.