

PART 32—LENDING LIMITS

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AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*, 84, and 93a.

SOURCE: 60 FR 8532, Feb. 15, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

§ 32.1 Authority, purpose and scope.

(a) *Authority.* This part is issued pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*, 12 U.S.C. 84, and 12 U.S.C. 93a.

(b) *Purpose.* The purpose of this part is to protect the safety and soundness of national banks by preventing excessive loans to one person, or to related persons that are financially dependent, and to promote diversification of loans and equitable access to banking services.

(c) *Scope.* (1) This part applies to all loans and extensions of credit made by national banks and their domestic operating subsidiaries. This part does not apply to loans made by a national bank and its domestic operating subsidiaries to the bank's "affiliates," as that term is defined in 12 U.S.C. 371c(b)(1), to the bank's operating subsidiaries, or to Edge Act or Agreement Corporation subsidiaries.

(2) The lending limits in this part are separate and independent from the investment limits prescribed by 12 U.S.C. 24 (Seventh), and a national bank may make loans or extensions of credit to one borrower up to the full amount permitted by this part and also hold eligible securities of the same obligor up to the full amount permitted under 12 U.S.C. 24 (Seventh) and 12 CFR part 1.

(3) Extensions of credit to executive officers, directors and principal shareholders of national banks, and their related interests are subject to limits prescribed by 12 U.S.C. 375a and 375b in addition to the lending limits established by 12 U.S.C. 84 and this part.

(4) In addition to the foregoing, loans and extensions of credit made by national banks and their domestic operating subsidiaries must be consistent with safe and sound banking practices.

§ 32.2 Definitions.

(a) *Borrower* means a person who is named as a borrower or debtor in a loan or extension of credit, or any other person, including a drawer, endorser, or guarantor, who is deemed to be a borrower under the "direct benefit" or the "common enterprise" tests set forth in § 32.5.

(b) *Capital and surplus* means—

(1) A bank's Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital included in the bank's risk-based capital under the OCC's Minimum Capital Ratios in Appendix A of part 3 of this chapter; plus

(2) The balance of a bank's allowance for loan and lease losses not included in the bank's Tier 2 capital, for purposes of the calculation of risk-based capital under part 3 of this chapter.

(c) *Close of business* means the time at which a bank closes its accounting records for the business day.

(d) *Consumer* means the user of any products, commodities, goods, or services, whether leased or purchased, but does not include any person who purchases products or commodities for resale or fabrication into goods for sale.

(e) *Consumer paper* means paper relating to automobiles, mobile homes, residences, office equipment, household items, tuition fees, insurance premium fees, and similar consumer items. Consumer paper also includes paper covering the lease (where the bank is not the owner or lessor) or purchase of equipment for use in manufacturing, farming, construction, or excavation.

(f) *Contractual commitment to advance funds.* (1) The term includes a bank's obligation to—

(i) Make payment (directly or indirectly) to a third person contingent upon default by a customer of the bank in performing an obligation and to make such payment in keeping with the agreed upon terms of the customer's contract with the third person, or to make payments upon some other stated condition;

(ii) Guarantee or act as surety for the benefit of a person;

(iii) Advance funds under a qualifying commitment to lend, as defined in paragraph (l) of this section; and