

and soundness and to enable federal savings associations to conduct their operations in accordance with best practices (by efficiently delivering low-cost credit to the public free from undue regulatory duplication and burden), OTS hereby occupies the entire field of lending regulation for federal savings associations. OTS intends to give federal savings associations maximum flexibility to exercise their lending powers in accordance with a uniform federal scheme of regulation. Accordingly, federal savings associations may extend credit as authorized under federal law, including this part, without regard to state laws purporting to regulate or otherwise affect their credit activities, except to the extent provided in paragraph (c) of this section or § 560.110 of this part. For purposes of this section, "state law" includes any state statute, regulation, ruling, order or judicial decision.

(b) *Illustrative examples.* Except as provided in § 560.110 of this part, the types of state laws preempted by paragraph (a) of this section include, without limitation, state laws purporting to impose requirements regarding:

- (1) Licensing, registration, filings, or reports by creditors;
- (2) The ability of a creditor to require or obtain private mortgage insurance, insurance for other collateral, or other credit enhancements;
- (3) Loan-to-value ratios;
- (4) The terms of credit, including amortization of loans and the deferral and capitalization of interest and adjustments to the interest rate, balance, payments due, or term to maturity of the loan, including the circumstances under which a loan may be called due and payable upon the passage of time or a specified event external to the loan;
- (5) Loan-related fees, including without limitation, initial charges, late charges, prepayment penalties, servicing fees, and overlimit fees;
- (6) Escrow accounts, impound accounts, and similar accounts;
- (7) Security property, including leaseholds;
- (8) Access to and use of credit reports;
- (9) Disclosure and advertising, including laws requiring specific state-

ments, information, or other content to be included in credit application forms, credit solicitations, billing statements, credit contracts, or other credit-related documents and laws requiring creditors to supply copies of credit reports to borrowers or applicants;

(10) Processing, origination, servicing, sale or purchase of, or investment or participation in, mortgages;

(11) Disbursements and repayments;

(12) Usury and interest rate ceilings to the extent provided in 12 U.S.C. 1735f-7a and part 590 of this chapter and 12 U.S.C. 1463(g) and § 560.110 of this part; and

(13) Due-on-sale clauses to the extent provided in 12 U.S.C. 1701j-3 and part 591 of this chapter.

(c) *State laws that are not preempted.* State laws of the following types are not preempted to the extent that they only incidentally affect the lending operations of Federal savings associations or are otherwise consistent with the purposes of paragraph (a) of this section:

- (1) Contract and commercial law;
- (2) Real property law;
- (3) Homestead laws specified in 12 U.S.C. 1462a(f);
- (4) Tort law;
- (5) Criminal law; and
- (6) Any other law that OTS, upon review, finds:
  - (i) Furthers a vital state interest; and
  - (ii) Either has only an incidental effect on lending operations or is not otherwise contrary to the purposes expressed in paragraph (a) of this section.

### § 560.3 Definitions.

For purposes of this part and any determination under 12 U.S.C. 1467a(m):

*Consumer loans* include loans for personal, family, or household purposes and loans reasonably incident thereto, and may be made as either open-end or closed-end consumer credit, but do not include credit extended in connection with credit cards nor *bona fide* overdraft loans.

*Credit card* is any card, plate, coupon book, or other single credit device that may be used from time to time to obtain credit.

*Credit card account* is a credit account established in conjunction with the issuance of, or the extension of credit through, a credit card. This term includes loans made to consolidate credit card debt, including credit card debt held by other lenders, and participation certificates, securities and similar instruments secured by credit card receivables.

*Home loans* include any loans made on the security of homes (including a unit of a condominium or cooperative), combinations of homes and business property, farm residences, and combinations of farm residences and commercial farm real estate.

*Loan commitment* includes a loan in process, a letter of credit, or any other commitment to extend credit.

*Real estate loan* includes any loan for which a Federal savings association relies substantially upon the real estate as the primary security for the loan. A loan is made on the security of real estate if:

- (1) The security property is real estate pursuant to the law of the state in which the property is located;
- (2) The security interest of the Federal savings association may be enforced as a real estate mortgage or its equivalent pursuant to the law of the state in which the property is located;
- (3) The security property is capable of separate appraisal; and
- (4) With regard to a security property that is a leasehold or other interest for a period of years, the term of the interest extends, or is subject to extension or renewal at the option of the Federal savings association for a term of at least five years following the maturity of the loan.

*Small business* includes a small business concern or entity as defined by section 3(a) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 632(a), and implemented by the regulations of the Small Business Administration at 13 CFR Part 121.

*Small business loans* and *loans to small businesses* include any loan to a small business as defined in this section; or a loan (including a group of loans to one borrower) that meets the original amount restrictions and other criteria for “loans to small businesses and small farms” as defined in the instructions for preparation of the Thrift Financial Report.

[61 FR 50971, Sept. 30, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 60184, Nov. 27, 1996; 62 FR 15825, Apr. 3, 1997]

**Subpart A—Lending and Investment Powers for Federal Savings Associations**

**§ 560.30 General lending and investment powers of federal savings associations.**

Pursuant to section 5(c) of the Home Owners’ Loan Act (HOLA), 12 U.S.C. 1464(c), a federal savings association may make, invest in, purchase, sell, participate in, or otherwise deal in (including brokerage or warehousing) all loans and investments allowed under section 5(c) of the HOLA including, without limitation, the following loans, extensions of credit, and investments, subject to the limitations indicated and any such terms, conditions, or limitations as may be prescribed from time to time by the OTS by policy directive, order, or regulation:

LENDING AND INVESTMENT POWERS CHART

| Category  | HOLA authorization | Statutory investment limitations (Endnotes contain applicable regulatory limitations)                                  |
|---|--------------------|--|
| Bankers’ bank stock .....                           | 5(c)(4)(E) .....   | Same terms as applicable to national banks.  |
| Business development credit corporations            | 5(c)(4)(A) .....   | The lesser of .5% of total outstanding loans or \$250,000.   |
| Commercial loans .....                              | 5(c)(2)(A) .....   | 20% of total assets, provided that amounts in excess of 10% of total assets may be used only for small business loans. |
| Commercial paper and corporate debt securities.     | 5(c)(2)(D) .....   | Up to 35% of total assets. <sup>1,2</sup>  |
| Community development loans and equity investments. | 5(c)(3)(B) .....   | 5% of total assets, provided equity investments do not exceed 2% of total assets. <sup>3</sup>                         |