

(e) *Voluntary audits.* When a savings association, savings and loan holding company, or affiliate (as defined by 12 CFR 563.41(b)(1)) obtains an independent audit voluntarily, it shall be performed only by an independent public accountant who satisfies the requirements of paragraphs (d)(1), (d)(2), and (d)(3) of this section.

[59 FR 60304, Nov. 23, 1994, as amended at 62 FR 3780, Jan. 27, 1997]

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### Subpart A—Accounts

#### §563.1 Chartering documents.

(a) *Submission for approval.* Any *de novo* savings association prior to commencing operations shall file its charter and bylaws with the OTS for approval, together with a certification that such charter and bylaws are permissible under all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

(b) *Availability of chartering documents.* Each savings association shall cause a true copy of its charter and bylaws and all amendments thereto to be

available to accountholders at all times in each office of the savings association, and shall upon request deliver to any accountholders a copy of such charter and bylaws or amendments thereto.

[57 FR 14344, Apr. 20, 1992]

**§ 563.4 [Reserved]**

**§ 563.5 Securities: Statement of non-insurance.**

Every security issued by a savings association must include in its provisions a clear statement that the security is not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

**Subpart B—Operation and Structure**

**§ 563.22 Merger, consolidation, purchase or sale of assets, or assumption of liabilities.**

(a) No savings association may, without application to and approval by the Office:

(1) Combine with any insured depository institution, if the acquiring or resulting institution is to be a savings association; or

(2) Assume liability to pay any deposit made in, any insured depository institution.

(b)(1) No savings association may, without notifying the Office, as provided in paragraph (h)(1) of this section:

(i) Combine with another insured depository institution where a savings association is not the resulting institution; or

(ii) In the case of a savings association that meets the conditions for expedited treatment under § 516.3(a) of this chapter, convert, directly or indirectly, to a national or state bank.

(2) No savings association that does not meet the conditions for expedited treatment under § 516.3(a) of this chapter may, directly or indirectly, convert to a national or state bank without prior application to and approval of the Office, as provided in paragraph (h)(2)(ii) of this section.

(c) No savings association may make any transfer (excluding transfers subject to paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section) without notice or application to

the Office, as provided in paragraph (h)(2) of this section. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “transfer” means purchases or sales of assets or liabilities in bulk not made in the ordinary course of business including, but not limited to, transfers of assets or savings account liabilities, purchases of assets, and assumptions of deposit accounts or other liabilities, and combinations with a depository institution other than an insured depository institution.

(d)(1) In determining whether to confer approval for a transaction under paragraphs (a), (b)(2), or (c) of this section, the Office shall take into account the following:

(i) The capital level of any resulting savings association;

(ii) The financial and managerial resources of the constituent institutions;

(iii) The future prospects of the constituent institutions;

(iv) The convenience and needs of the communities to be served;

(v) The conformity of the transaction to applicable law, regulation, and supervisory policies;

(vi) Factors relating to the fairness of and disclosure concerning the transaction, including, but not limited to:

(A) *Equitable treatment.* The transaction should be equitable to all concerned—savings account holders, borrowers, creditors and stockholders (if any) of each savings association—giving proper recognition of and protection to their respective legal rights and interests. The transaction will be closely reviewed for fairness where the transaction does not appear to be the result of arms’ length bargaining or, in the case of a stock savings association, where controlling stockholders are receiving different consideration from other stockholders. No finder’s or similar fee should be paid to any officer, director, or controlling person of a savings association which is a party to the transaction.

(B) *Full disclosure.* The filing should make full disclosure of all written or oral agreements or understandings by which any person or company will receive, directly or indirectly, any money, property, service, release of pledges made, or other thing of value,