that is registered with and subject to regular inspection by the Public
Company Accounting Oversight Board ("PCAOB").

The rule exempts advisers from the rule with respect to clients that are
registered investment companies. Advisers to limited partnerships,
limited liability companies and other pooled investment vehicles are excepted from the account statement delivery and deemed to comply with the annual surprise examination requirement if the limited partnerships, limited liability companies or pooled investment vehicles are subject to annual audit by an independent public accountant registered with, and subject to regular inspection by the PCAOB, and the audited financial statements are distributed to investors in the pools.

The rule also provides an exception to the surprise examination requirement for advisers that have custody because they have authority to deduct advisory fees from client accounts and advisers that have custody solely because a related person holds the adviser’s client assets and the related person is operationally independent of the adviser.

Advisory clients use this information to confirm proper handling of their accounts. The Commission’s staff uses the information obtained through this collection in its enforcement, regulatory and examination programs. Without the information collected under the rule, the Commission would be less efficient and effective in its programs and clients would not have information valuable for monitoring an adviser’s handling of their accounts.

The respondents to this information collection are investment advisers registered with the Commission and have custody of clients’ funds or securities. We estimate that 5,228 advisers would be subject to the information collection burden under rule 206(4)–2. The number of responses under rule 206(4)–2 will vary considerably depending on the number of clients for which an adviser has custody of funds or securities, and the number of investors in pooled investment vehicles that the adviser manages. It is estimated that the average number of responses annually for each respondent would be 6,830, and an average time of 0.02286 hour per response. The annual aggregate burden for all respondents to the requirements of rule 206(4)–2 is estimated to be 816,285 hours.

The estimated average burden hours are made solely for purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act and are not derived from a comprehensive or even representative survey or study of the cost of Commission rules and forms.

Written comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Pamela Dyson, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Remi Pavlik-Simon, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549; or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov.


Robert W. Errett,
Deputy Secretary.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549–2736.


Rule 15c3–4 requires certain broker-dealers that are registered as OTC derivatives dealers or who compute their net capital charges under Appendix E to Rule 15c3–1 (17 CFR 240.15c3–1) ("ANC firms")., to establish, document, and maintain a system of internal risk management controls. The Rule sets forth the basic elements for an OTC derivatives dealer or an ANC firm to consider and include when establishing, documenting, and reviewing its internal risk management control system, which are designed to, among other things, ensure the integrity of an OTC derivatives dealer’s or an ANC firm’s risk measurement, monitoring, and management process, to clarify accountability at the appropriate organizational level, and to define the permitted scope of the dealer’s activities and level of risk. The Rule also requires that management of an OTC derivatives dealer or an ANC firm must periodically review, in accordance with written procedures, the firm’s business activities for consistency with its risk management guidelines.

The staff estimates that the average amount of time a new OTC derivatives dealer will spend establishing and documenting its risk management control system is 2,000 hours and that, on average, a registered OTC derivatives dealer will spend approximately 200 hours each year to maintain (e.g., reviewing and updating) its risk management control system.

This notice does not cover the hour burden associated with ANC firms, because the hour burden for ANC firms is included in the Paperwork
An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Please direct your written comments to: Pamela Dyson, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlak-Simon, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549, or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@SEC.gov.

Robert W. Errett, Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015–27904 Filed 11–2–15; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Extension: Rule 3a–4; SEC File No. 270–401, OMB Control No. 3235–0459]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request


Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 3a–4 (17 CFR 270.3a–4) under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a) (“Investment Company Act” or “Act”) provides a nonexclusive safe harbor from the definition of investment company under the Act for certain investment advisory programs. These programs, which include “wrap fee” programs, generally are designed to provide professional portfolio management services on a discretionary basis to clients who are investing less than the minimum investments for individual accounts usually required by the investment adviser but more than the minimum account size of most mutual funds. Under wrap fee and similar programs, a client’s account is typically managed on a discretionary basis according to pre-selected investment objectives. Clients with similar investment objectives often receive the same investment advice and may hold the same or substantially similar securities in their accounts.

Because of this similarity of management, some of these investment advisory programs may meet the definition of investment company under the Act.

In 1997, the Commission adopted rule 3a–4, which clarifies that programs organized and operated in accordance with the rule are not required to register under the Investment Company Act or comply with the Act’s requirements. These programs differ from investment companies because, among other things, they provide individualized investment advice to the client. The rule’s provisions have the effect of ensuring that clients in a program relying on the rule receive advice tailored to the client’s needs.

For a program to be eligible for the rule’s safe harbor, each client’s account must be managed on the basis of the client’s financial situation and investment objectives and in accordance with any reasonable restrictions the client imposes on managing the account. When an account is opened, the sponsor (or its designee) must obtain information from each client regarding the client’s financial situation and investment objectives, and must allow the client an opportunity to impose reasonable restrictions on managing the account. In addition, the sponsor (or its designee) must contact the client annually to determine whether the client’s financial situation or investment objectives have changed and whether the client wishes to impose any reasonable restrictions on the management of the account or reasonably modify existing restrictions. The sponsor (or its designee) must also notify the client quarterly, in writing, to contact the sponsor (or its designee) regarding changes to the client’s financial situation, investment objectives, or restrictions on the account’s management.

Additionally, the sponsor (or its designee) must provide each client with a quarterly statement describing all activity in the client’s account during the previous quarter. The sponsor and personnel of the client’s account manager who know about the client’s account and its management must be reasonably available to consult with the client. Each client also must retain certain indicia of ownership of all securities and funds in the account.

The Commission staff estimates that 16,537,781 clients participate each year in investment advisory programs relying on rule 3a–4. Of that number, the staff estimates that 4,918,064 are new clients and 11,619,717 are continuing clients. The staff estimates that each year the investment advisory program sponsors’