Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection Revision, Comment Request: Adoption of Revised Registration Form 8–R and Cancellation of Form 3–R

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC” or the “Commission”) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed revision to the collection of certain information by the Commission. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (“PRA”), Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information and to allow 60 days for public comment. The Commission revised its Form 8–R, the application form that individuals use to register with the Commission or to be listed as a principal. This notice solicits comments on the PRA implications of the revisions to Form 8–R, including comments that address the burdens associated with the modified information collection requirements of the revised Form 8–R. Additionally, this notice also solicits comments on the PRA implications of reassigning the burdens associated with the information collection requirements of Commission Form 3–R, which is no longer used, to Commission Forms 7–R and 8–R.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before June 27, 2017.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by “OMB control numbers 3038–0023 and 3038–0072; Adoption of Revised Registration Form 8–R and Cancellation of Form 3–R.” by any of the following methods:

• The Commission’s Web site, via its Comments Online process at http://comments.cftc.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments through the Web site.

• Mail: Christopher Kirkpatrick, Secretary of the Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW., Washington, DC 20581.

• Hand Delivery/Courier: Same as Mail above.

• Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov/. Follow the instructions for submitting comments through the Portal.

Please submit your comments using only one method.

All comments must be submitted in English, or if not, accompanied by an English translation. Comments will be posted as received to http://www.cftc.gov. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. If you wish the Commission to consider information that you believe is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, a petition for confidential treatment of the exempt information may be submitted according to the procedures established in Regulation 145.9. 1

The Commission reserves the right, but shall have no obligation, to review, pre-screen, filter, redact, refuse or remove any or all of your submission from http://www.cftc.gov that it may deem to be inappropriate for publication, such as obscene language. All submissions that have been redacted or removed that contain comments on the merits of the information collection request will be retained in the public comment file and will be considered as required under the Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws, and may be accessible under the Freedom of Information Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Gardy, Associate Director, (202) 418–7645, lgardy@cftc.gov; or August A. Imholtz III, Special Counsel, (202) 418–5140, aimholtz@cftc.gov, Division of Swap Dealer and Intermediary Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st Street NW., Washington, DC 20581.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. “Collection of Information” is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3 and includes agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), requires Federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, the CFTC is publishing notice of the proposed revision to the collections of information listed below. 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 number.

Titles: Registration Under the Commodity Exchange Act (OMB control number 3038–0023); Registration of Swap Dealers and Major Swap Participants (OMB control number 3038–0072). This is a request for extension and revision of these currently approved information collections.

Abstract: The Commission recently revised its Form 8–R, the application form that individuals must use to register with the Commission as an associated person, floor broker, or floor trader, or to be listed as a principal. The collections of information related to Form 8–R were previously approved by OMB in accordance with the PRA and assigned OMB control numbers 3038–0023 and 3038–0072. Additionally, the Commission no longer requires individuals and entities to use Commission Form 3–R to update their registration information, which now can be updated directly on Forms 7–R or 8–R. The Commission therefore is reassigning to Forms 7–R and 8–R the information collection burden previously associated with Commission Form 3–R. The collection of information related to Form 3–R was previously approved by OMB in accordance with the PRA and assigned OMB control number 3038–0023.

1. Form 8–R Revision

The revised Form 8–R contains several changes that increase the existing information collection burden, currently 0.8 hours, associated with Form 8–R. The Commission estimates that the changes, which are discussed below, when considered together in aggregate add a total of 0.1 burden hours to the information collection burdens associated with Form 8–R.

17 CFR 145.9.
First, in the “Fingerprint Card Information” section, revised Form 8–R adds two new questions. One new question addresses new requirements and exemptions thereto contained in Commission Regulation 3.21(e) applicable to non-U.S. persons. The other new question addresses the fingerprinting requirement exception for certain outside directors of registered firms. Second, in the section titled “Disciplinary Information—Regulatory Disclosures,” a new question was added to existing Question E. Among other things, Question E inquires whether the applicant (or an entity of which the applicant was a principal) violated, or aided and abetted the violation of, any investment-related statutes or regulations, a potential statutory basis for refusing or conditioning registration. The new question directs the applicant to disclose whether he or she has ever been found to have “failed to supervise another person’s activities under any investment-related statute or regulation.” Third, in the section titled “Disciplinary Information—Financial Disclosures,” the Commission revised Question J. Prior to the revision, Question J asked whether the applicant has “currently failed to comply with any order to pay any futures-related civil monetary penalties, restitution amounts, disgorgement amounts, reparation amounts or arbitration awards.” As revised, Question J now inquires whether the applicant “failed to pay any arbitration awards involving CFTC-regulated products, CFTC civil monetary penalties, CFTC restitution amounts, CFTC disgorgement amounts, or CFTC reparation amounts.”

The revised Form 8–R also contains several changes that do not alter the information collection burdens associated with Form 8–R. First, the revised Form 8–R combines into a single form two separate, existing versions of the Form 8–R, the Form 8–R “Individual Application” and the Form 8–R “Floor Trader Order Enterer Individual Application,” both of which were previously approved by OMB. In the section titled “Sponsor Information and Registration Categories,” the revised Form 8–R adds “floor trader order enterer” as a new category of persons that can be associated with a sponsor. Also in connection with this change, the revised Form 8–R includes two newly defined terms: “entity floor trader” and “floor trader order enterer.” Second, in the section titled “Principal Information,” the prior version of Form 8–R contained a blank space in which an applicant entered a title. In the revised Form 8–R, the space is replaced with a list of available titles for applicants to choose from. Third, NFA is simplifying the process by which it requests supplemental information and documentation regarding the applicant’s criminal, regulatory or financial disclosures. The prior version of Form 8–R requested that applicants provide a written explanation of the facts and circumstances regarding any such disclosures. Applicants were also separately requested to provide NFA with copies of pertinent documents associated with each disclosure. To consolidate and modernize this process, the revised Form 8–R allows applicants to complete a separate “Disclosure Matter Page” for each matter, instance or event requiring disclosure and to simultaneously upload all pertinent documents associated with each disclosure. The Disclosure Matter Page provides applicants with an efficient and effective method of supplying the supplemental information and documentation that NFA requests in the normal course whenever an applicant responds affirmatively to any of the questions regarding criminal, regulatory or financial disclosures.

Lastly, the revised Form 8–R contains numerous changes to the language, formatting and organization of Form 8–R, all of which—individually and collectively—do not alter the information collection burdens associated with Form 8–R. The only changes to Form 8–R that affect the information collection burdens associated with the form are those discussed above.

2. Cancellation of Form 3–R

Commission Regulations 3.11 and 3.31 historically required entities and individuals to use Commission Form 3–R to update or correct certain types of information that originally was supplied on Commission Forms 7–R or 8–R, the registration forms for entities and individuals respectively. Regulations 3.11 and 3.31 were amended in 2012 to reflect a new practice whereby Forms 7–R and 8–R could be directed updated online, and the requirement to use Form 3–R for updates, or for any other purpose, was deleted from the Commission rules. At that time, however, the Commission did not reassign to Forms 7–R and 8–R the information collection burdens formerly associated with Commission Form 3–R reallocates the information collection burdens within OMB control number 3038–0023, and therefore does not increase or decrease the total information collection burden under that control number.

The Commission estimates the burden of this collection of information under OMB control number 3038–0023 to be: Respondents/Affected Entities: (1) Users of Form 7–R, specifically futures commission merchants, retail foreign exchange dealers, introducing brokers, commodity trading advisors, commodity pool operators, floor trader firms, and additional 0.1 hours each to the Form 7–R and 8–R. Accordingly, by virtue of cancelling Form 3–R, and reassigning to Forms 7–R and 8–R the information collection burdens associated with Form 3–R, the information collection burdens for Forms 7–R and 8–R each will increase by 0.1 hours. The reassignment of the information collection burden from Form 3–R to Forms 7–R and 8–R reallocates the information collection burdens within OMB control number 3038–0023, and does not increase or decrease the total information collection burden under that control number.

3. Invitation to Comment

With respect to the information collections discussed above, the CFTC invites comments on:

• Whether the proposed revision to the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have a practical use;
• The accuracy of the Commission’s estimate of the burden of the proposed revision to the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
• Ways to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
• Ways to minimize the burden of collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the further use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden Statement: As explained above, the Commission believes that the revisions to Form 8–R increase the information collection burdens associated with that Form under OMB control numbers 3038–0023 and 3038–0072. Additionally, the Commission believes that reassigning to Forms 7–R and 8–R the information collection burdens formerly associated with Commission Form 3–R reallocates the information collection burdens within OMB control number 3038–0023, and therefore does not increase or decrease the total information collection burden under that control number.

The Commission estimates the burden of this collection of information under OMB control number 3038–0023 to be: Respondents/Affected Entities: (1) Users of Form 7–R, specifically futures commission merchants, retail foreign exchange dealers, introducing brokers, commodity trading advisors, commodity pool operators, floor trader firms, and
CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Christopher Kirkpatrick, 202–418–5964.
Nate Allen,
Executive Assistant.
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BILLING CODE 6351–01–P

COMMODOITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Adoption of Revised Registration Form 8–R

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the “Commission” or “CFTC”) is revising its Form 8–R, the application form that individuals must use to register with the Commission as an associated person of a registrant, floor broker, or floor trader, or to be listed as a principal of a registrant (collectively, “applicants”).

DATES: Effective Date: The new, revised version of Form 8–R shall be effective (and the prior version shall cease to be effective) when the National Futures Association (“NFA”) makes the new, revised version of the Form 8–R available on the NFA Web site for use by individual applicants.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erik F. Remmler, Deputy Director, (202) 418–7630, eremmler@cftc.gov; Laura Gardy, Associate Director, (202) 418–7645, lgardy@cftc.gov; or August A. Imholtz III, Special Counsel, (202) 418–5140, aimholtz@cftc.gov, Division of Swap Dealer and Intermediary Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st Street NW., Washington, DC 20581.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Individuals acting in certain capacities in the markets regulated by the Commission must file a completed Form 8–R with NFA. These applicants include: Associated persons of futures commission merchants, retail foreign exchange dealers, introducing brokers, commodity trading advisors, commodity pool operators, and leverage transaction merchants; floor brokers; and floor traders. Additionally, any individual acting in the capacity as principal of a futures commission merchant, retail foreign exchange dealer, introducing broker, commodity trading advisor, commodity pool operator, swap dealer, major swap participant, floor trader or leverage transaction merchant also must file a completed Form 8–R. Lastly, individuals that enter orders for floor trader firms must file the Form 8–R as well. Individual applicants have been required to use Form 8–R since 1977.

Form 8–R requests information about the applicant that can be used to assess the applicant’s fitness to engage in business as a derivatives professional. Form 8–R is a Commission form maintained and used primarily by the NFA. NFA is currently the only registered futures association authorized by the Commission in accordance with Section 17 of the Commodity Exchange Act (“Act”). Pursuant to Section 17(o) of the Act, Regulation 3.2, and a series of orders, the Commission delegated to NFA certain registration functions including, among other things, the processing of all Form 8–R filings.

Since the first delegation to NFA in 1984, NFA has developed substantial expertise in registration matters, including reviewing and processing Form 8–R filings and, with the approval of the Commission, NFA transitioned from a paper-based registration system to an online registration system that utilizes, among other things, an electronic version of Form 8–R.

II. Form 8–R

The Form 8–R was first adopted by the Commission by order and rule in 1966. The Form 8–R requests information about the applicant that can be used to assess the applicant’s fitness to engage in business as a derivatives professional. Form 8–R is a Commission form maintained and used primarily by the NFA. NFA is currently the only registered futures association authorized by the Commission in accordance with Section 17 of the Commodity Exchange Act (“Act”). Pursuant to Section 17(o) of the Act, the Commission delegated to NFA certain registration functions including, among other things, the processing of all Form 8–R filings.

Since the first delegation to NFA in 1984, NFA has developed substantial expertise in registration matters, including reviewing and processing Form 8–R filings and, with the approval of the Commission, NFA transitioned from a paper-based registration system to an online registration system that utilizes, among other things, an electronic version of Form 8–R.

1 17 CFR 3.1(a); 3.10(a)(2); 3.11(a)(1). While “principal” is not technically a registration class and principals do not apply for registration, for purposes of this Notice, the Form 8–R filings by principals will be referred to with the other Form 8–R filings as “registration applications.”

2 17 CFR 3.11(a)(1).

3 Revision of Registration Forms and Amendment of Related Rules, 42 FR 23988 (May 11, 1977) (Form 8–R replaced Forms 2–R, 4–R and 94).


6 17 CFR 3.2.


8 10 Registration of Intermediaries, 67 FR 38869 (June 6, 2002). The transition to an online registration system has permitted greater efficiencies, including allowing individuals to update their existing Forms 8–R instead of completing a separate Form 3–R. To that end, in 2012, the Commission eliminated the requirement that registrants and individuals use Form 3–R to...