established in those rules.[13] Every depositor of a fund and every principal underwriter of a fund (other than a closed-end fund) must preserve for at least six years records required to be maintained by brokers and dealers under rules adopted under section 17 of the Exchange Act to the extent the records are necessary or appropriate to record the entity's transactions with the fund.[14] Every investment adviser that is a majority-owned subsidiary of a fund must preserve the records required to be preserved by investment advisers under rules adopted under section 204 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (the ''Investment Advisers Act'') [15] for the periods specified in those rules.[16] Every investment adviser that is not a majority-owned subsidiary of a fund must preserve for at least six years records required to be maintained by registered investment advisers under rules adopted under section 204 of the Investment Advisers Act to the extent the records are necessary or appropriate to reflect the adviser's transactions with the fund.[17] Compliance with rule 31a–2 is mandatory.

We estimate that approximately 2,741 funds are required to comply with rule 31a–2 annually. Each fund is estimated to spend 221 hours per year preserving the required books and records, at a monetized cost burden of $49,283 per fund. The total annual burden is approximately 605,761 burden hours and total annual time costs of approximately $135,084,703. The Commission estimates that funds incur about $40,602 in external cost burden each year, resulting in an aggregate external cost burden of approximately $111,290,082. 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.

Written comments are invited on: (a) whether this proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the SEC, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the SEC's estimate of the burden imposed by the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and the assumptions used; (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, electronic collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please direct your written comments on this 60-Day Collection Notice to Austin Gerig, Director/Chief Data Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Tanya Ruttenberg via email to *PaperworkReductionAct@sec.gov* by September 21, 2026. There will be a second opportunity to comment on this SEC request following the **Federal Register** publishing a 30-Day Submission Notice.

Dated: July 16, 2026.

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–14632 Filed 7–20–26; 8:45 am]

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[13] 17 CFR 270.31a2(b).

[14] 17 CFR 270.31a2(c).

[15] 15 U.S.C. 80b4.

[16] 17 CFR 270.31a2(d).

[17] 17 CFR 270.31a2(e).

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[OMB Control No. 3235–0151]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension: Rule 17Ac3–1 and Form TA–W

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

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. § 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (''SEC'' or ''Commission'') is soliciting comments on the proposed collection of information provided for in Rule 17Ac3–1(a) (17 CFR 240.17Ac3–1(a)) and Form TA–W (17 CFR 249b.101), under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et seq.*).

Section 17A of the Exchange Act [1] generally requires transfer agents performing any transfer agent function with respect to any security registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act [2] or issued by certain insurance or investment companies to register with an appropriate regulatory agency (''ARA'') as defined in Section 3(a)(34)(B) of the Exchange Act.[3] Section 17A(c)(4)(B) of the Exchange Act [4] authorizes transfer agents registered with an ARA to withdraw from registration by filing with the ARA a written notice of withdrawal and by agreeing to such terms and conditions as the ARA deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or in furtherance of the purposes of Section 17A.

In order to implement Section 17A(c)(4)(B), the Commission promulgated Rule 17Ac3–1(a) and accompanying Form TA–W (''the form'').[5] Rule 17Ac3–1(a) provides that notice of withdrawal from registration as a transfer agent with the Commission shall be filed on Form TA–W. The Commission later amended Rule 17Ac3–1(a) and accompanying Form TA–W to require that the form be filed in electronic format on EDGAR.[6] Form TA–W requires the withdrawing transfer agent to provide the Commission with certain information, including: (1) the locations where transfer agent activities are or were performed; (2) the reasons for ceasing the performance of such activities; (3) disclosure of unsatisfied judgments or liens; and (4) information regarding successor transfer agents.

From 2023 through 2025, respondents annually filed approximately 12 Forms TA–W with the Commission. The Commission therefore estimates that 12 transfer agents are expected to rely on Rule 17Ac3–1 and Form TA–W annually over the subsequent 3 years. The Commission estimates that it takes approximately 30 minutes per transfer agent to complete a Form TA–W. The estimated aggregate annual time burden is thus approximately 6 hours (12 filings $\times$ 0.5 hours), which comprises a one-time reporting burden. The estimated internal labor cost of compliance per filing is approximately $72 (0.5 hours $\times$ $144 average hourly rate for a general office clerk).[7] The estimated aggregate

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78q–1.

[2] 15 U.S.C. 78l.

[3] 15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(34)(B).

[4] 15 U.S.C. 78q–1(c)(4)(B).

[5] Exchange Act Release No. 13914 (Sep. 1, 1977), 42 FR 44983 (Sep. 8, 1977); 17 CFR 240.17Ac3–1 and 17 CFR 249b.101—Form TA–W.

[6] Exchange Act Release No. 54864 (Dec. 4, 2007), 71 FR 74698 (Dec. 12, 2006).

[7] For purposes of calculating the dollar cost burdens associated with respondents using Form TA–W, the Commission relies on the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (''OEWS'') from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (''BLS''). *See Occupational Employment and Wage Classification,* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *https://www.bls.gov/oes/; see also Standard Occupational Classification, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, https://www.bls.gov/soc/* (describing occupational classification system used by BLS); **Exec. Off. Of the President, Off. Of Mgmt.** & Budget, North American Industrial Classification System (2022), *available at https://www.census.gov/naics/reference_files_tools/2022_NAICS_Manual.pdf* (describing the industry adjusted for changes in the seasonally adjusted employment cost index for private wages and salaries between the data reference period and when the data are released by BLS. *See Employment Cost Index, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, https://www.bls.gov/eci/.* The adjusted mean hourly wage is then multiplied by a factor that accounts for nonwage costs borne by employers, such as bonuses, benefits, and overhead.

Continued

internal compliance cost per year is thus approximately $864 (12 filings × $72 per filing).

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.

Written comments are invited on: (a) whether this proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the SEC, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the SEC's estimate of the burden imposed by the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and the assumptions used; (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, electronic collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please direct your written comments on this 60-Day Collection Notice to Austin Gerig, Director/Chief Data Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Tanya Ruttenberg via email to *PaperworkReductionAct@sec.gov* by September 21, 2026.

Dated: July 16, 2026.

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–14631 Filed 7–20–26; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–105927; File No. SR–OCC–2026–006]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Options Clearing Corporation; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by The Options Clearing Corporation Concerning the Synthetic Futures Model

July 16, 2026.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Exchange Act'' or ''Act''),[1] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[2] notice is hereby given that on July 8, 2026, The Options Clearing Corporation (''OCC'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'') the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared primarily by OCC. OCC filed the proposed rule change pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)[3] of the Act and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b–4[4] thereunder, such that the proposed rule change was immediately effective upon filing with the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Clearing Agency's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

This proposed rule change would expand the use of an existing OCC margin model used to margin certain futures products that OCC clears in its capacity as a derivatives clearing organization (''DCO'') registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (''CFTC'').

OCC provided proposed changes to its STANS Methodology Description as confidential Exhibit 5 to File No. SR–OCC–2026–006. Material proposed to be added to the STANS Methodology Description as currently in effect is underlined and material proposed to be deleted is marked with strikethrough text. All capitalized terms not defined herein have the same meaning as set forth in the OCC By-Laws and Rules.

II. Clearing Agency's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, OCC included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. OCC has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of these statements.

(A) Clearing Agency's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its capacity as a DCO registered with the CFTC, OCC clears certain futures products on behalf of CFTC-registered designated contract markets (''DCMs''). In its role as a DCO, OCC guarantees the performance of its Clearing Members by becoming the buyer to every seller and the seller to every buyer, thereby guaranteeing performance of the futures contracts regardless of the potential default of one of its Clearing Members. OCC manages its financial risk exposure to its Clearing Members through financial safeguards, including the collection of margin collateral from Clearing Members designed to, among other things, address the market risk associated with a Clearing Member's positions during the period of time OCC has determined it would take to liquidate those positions.

To calculate Clearing Member margin requirements, OCC has developed models within its proprietary margin methodology, the System for Theoretical Analysis and Numerical Simulations (''STANS''). With respect to futures products, one of those models is OCC's Synthetic Futures Model, which OCC uses to model settlement prices for certain futures products. Originally developed to margin futures on Cboe's Volatility Index (''VIX''),[5] OCC has since extended the Synthetic Futures Model to other futures products cleared by OCC. The Synthetic Futures Model generates prices and correlations using risk factors that are based on observed futures prices (*i.e.,* the ''synthetic'' futures contract),[6] as opposed to using the underlying itself. Accordingly, this model is more appropriate for pricing futures products where the underlying contract is not traded and, as such, cannot be valued using the cost-of-carry relationship applied to traded contracts.[7] This approach enables the model to account for variations in futures volatility across the term structure. The Synthetic Futures component within STANS is used for futures products where it is crucial to explicitly capture the dynamics of various tenors of a product, such as futures on volatility indices, futures on interest rates, and futures on crude oil.

The Cboe Futures Exchange (''CFE'') now intends to list two new futures products on indices whose value measures the total return of the 50 best performing stocks and the 50 lowest performing stocks, respectively, included in the Cboe U.S. Large-Mid Cap 100 Equal Weighted Index (''Lead &

This factor is calculated as an average over the 10 most recently available years of data of the ratio of the Bureau of Economic Analysis's annual gross output data for the North American Industry Classification System (''NAICS) number to total annual wages across all occupations for the NAICS number in the OEWS data.

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[3] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

[4] 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f).

[5] *See* Exchange Act Release No. 85873 (May 16, 2019), 84 FR 23620 (May 22, 2019) (SR–OCC–2019–002). OCC now models VIX price returns using the Volatility Index Futures Model, implemented in 2022. *See* Exchange Act Release No. 95319 (July 19, 2022), 87 FR 44167 (July 25, 2022) (SR–OCC–2022–001).

[6] A ''synthetic'' futures time series, for the intended purposes of OCC, relates to a uniform substitute for a time series of daily settlement prices for actual futures contracts, which persists over many expiration cycles and thus can be used as a basis for econometric analysis.

[7] Exchange Act Release No. 85873, *supra* note 5, at 23621.