Act of 1934, to the extent such records are necessary or appropriate to record such person's transactions with such registered investment company.

(d) Every investment adviser which is a majority-owned subsidiary of a registered investment company shall preserve for the periods prescribed therein such accounts, books and other documents as are required to be preserved by investment advisers by rule adopted under section 204 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

(e) Every investment adviser not a majority-owned subsidiary of a registered investment company shall preserve for a period of not less than six years such accounts, books and other documents as are required to be maintained by registered investment advisers by rule adopted under section 204 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, to the extent such records are necessary or appropriate to record such person's transactions with such registered investment company.

(f)(1) The records required to be maintained and preserved under paragraphs (a) through (d) of Rule 31a–1 and paragraphs (a) through (c) of Rule 31a–2 may be immediately produced or reproduced on photographic film or, as provided in paragraph (f)(2) of this section, on magnetic tape, disk, or other computer storage medium, and be maintained and preserved for the required time in that form. If such records are produced or reproduced by photographic film or computer storage medium by, or on behalf of, an investment company, such investment company shall:

(i) Arrange the records and index and file the films or computer storage medium in such a manner as to permit the immediate access and retrieval of any particular record;

(ii) Be ready at all times to provide, and promptly provide, any facsimile enlargement of film or computer printout or copies of the computer storage medium that the Commission, by its examiners or other representatives, or the directors of such investment company may request;

(iii) Store separately from the original one other copy of the photographic film or computer storage medium for the time required;

(iv) With respect to records stored on computer storage medium, maintain procedures for maintenance and preservation of, and access to, records so as to reasonably safeguard records from loss, alteration, or destruction; and

(v) With respect to records stored on photographic film, at all times have available for examination of its records by the Commission, pursuant to section 31 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, or by the directors of such investment company, facilities for immediate, easily readable projection of the photographic film and for producing easily readable facsimile enlargements.

(2) Under paragraph (f)(1) of this section, an investment company may maintain and preserve on computer tape, disk, or other computer storage medium records that, in the ordinary course of the investment company's business, are created by, or on behalf of, the investment company on electronic media or are received by, or on behalf of, the investment company solely on electronic media or by electronic data transmission.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section, any record, book or other document may be destroyed in accordance with a plan previously submitted to and approved by the Commission. A plan shall be deemed to have been approved by the Commission if notice to the contrary has not been received within 90 days after submission of the plan to the Commission.

[27 FR 11994, Dec. 5, 1962, as amended at 38 FR 7797, Mar. 26, 1973; 51 FR 42209, Nov. 24, 1986; 53 FR 3880, Feb. 10, 1988; 66 FR 3759, Jan. 16, 2001]

### § 270.31a–3 Records prepared or maintained by other than person required to maintain and preserve them.

(a) If the records required to be maintained and preserved pursuant to the provisions of §§ 270.31a–1 and 270.31a–2 are prepared or maintained by others on behalf of the person required to maintain and preserve such records, the person required to maintain and preserve such records shall obtain from such other person an agreement in writing to the effect that such records are the property of the person required

to maintain and preserve such records and will be surrendered promptly on request.

(b) In cases where a bank or member of a national securities exchange acts as custodian, transfer agent, or dividend disbursing agent, compliance with this section shall be considered to have been met if such bank or exchange member agrees in writing to make any records relating to such service available upon request and to preserve for the periods prescribed in § 270.31a–2 any such records as are required to be maintained by § 270.31a–1.

(Sec. 31, 54 Stat. 838; 15 U.S.C. 80a–30)

[27 FR 11994, Dec. 5, 1962]

### § 270.32a–1 Exemption of certain companies from affiliation provisions of section 32(a).

A registered investment company shall be exempt from the provisions of paragraph (1) of section 32(a) of the Act (54 Stat. 838; 15 U.S.C. 80a–31), insofar as said paragraph requires that independent public accounts for such company be selected by a majority of certain members of the board of directors, if:

(a) Such company meets the conditions of paragraphs (1) to (8), inclusive, of section 10(d) of the Act (54 Stat. 807; 15 U.S.C. 80a–10); and

(b) Such accountants are selected by a majority of all the members of the board of directors.

[Rule N–32A–1, 6 FR 6631, Dec. 23, 1941]

### § 270.32a–2 Exemption for initial period from vote of security holders on independent public accountant for certain registered separate accounts.

(a) A registered separate account shall be exempt from the requirement under paragraph (2) of section 32(a) of the Act that selection of an independent public accountant shall have been submitted for ratification or rejection at the next succeeding annual meeting of security owners, subject to the following conditions:

(1) Such registered separate account qualifies for exemption from section 14(a) of the Act pursuant to § 270.14a–2, or is exempt therefrom by order of the Commission upon application; and

(2) The selection of such accountant shall be submitted for ratification or rejection to variable annuity contract owners at their first meeting after the effective date of the registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (15 U.S.C. 77a et seq.), relating to contracts participating in such account: *Provided,* That such meeting shall take place within 1 year after such effective date, unless the time for the holding of such meeting shall be extended by the Commission upon written request showing good cause therefor.

(Sec. 6, 54 Stat. 800; 15 U.S.C. 80a–6)

[34 FR 12696, Aug. 5, 1969]

### § 270.32a–3 Exemption from provision of section 32(a)(1) regarding the time period during which a registered management investment company must select an independent public accountant.

(a) A registered management investment company (''company'') organized in a jurisdiction that does not require it to hold regular annual meetings of its stockholders, and which does not hold a regular annual stockholders' meeting in a given fiscal year, shall be exempt in that fiscal year from the requirement of section 32(a)(1) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 80a–31(a)(1)) that the independent public accountant (''accountant'') be selected at a board of directors meeting held within 30 days before or after the beginning of the fiscal year or before the annual meeting of stockholders in that year, *provided*, that such company is either:

(1) In a set of investment companies as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, if not all the members of such set have an identical fiscal year end and if such company selects an accountant at a board of directors meeting held within 90 days before or after the beginning of that fiscal year; or

(2) Not in a set of investment companies, or is in a set, each of whose members has the same fiscal year end, and if such company selects an accountant at a board of directors meeting held within 30 days before or 90 days after the beginning of that fiscal year.

(b) For purposes of this rule, ''set of investment companies'' means any two