

the time the umbrella agreement is certified as a qualified trust (categorized as to value in accordance with § 2634.301(d)), shall be filed with the executed umbrella trust instrument as specified by § 2634.408(a)(1)(i) of this subpart.

(d) *Review of certification.* The Office of Government Ethics shall maintain a program to assess, on a frequent basis, the appropriateness of any trust certification which has been granted.

(e) *Revocation of certification and modification of trust instrument.* Certification of a trust may be revoked pursuant to the rules of subpart E of this part. The terms of a qualified trust may not be revoked or amended, except with the prior written approval of the Director, and upon a showing of necessity and appropriateness.

#### § 2634.406 Independent trustees.

(a) *Standards.* (1) The term *independent trustee* means any entity referred to in paragraph (a)(2) of this section which, under all the facts and circumstances, is determined by the Director of the Office of Government Ethics and in the Director's sole discretion, to be independent of any interested party with respect to a trust proposed for certification under this subpart. The term includes, unless the context indicates otherwise, in addition to the party to a trust instrument who is designated to serve as trustee, those parties who are designated to perform fiduciary duties. Approval of a proposed trustee or other designated fiduciary shall be granted only if it is established to the Director's satisfaction that the requirements of section 102 of the Act and this subpart have been met, and that approval in the case is in the public interest and consistent with the policies established by those provisions and other applicable laws and regulations.

(2) *Eligible entities.* Eligibility to serve as a trustee or other fiduciary under this section is limited to a financial institution (not a person), not more than 10 percent of which is owned or controlled by a single individual, which is:

- (i) A bank, as defined in 12 U.S.C. 1841(c); or
- (ii) An investment adviser, as defined in 15 U.S.C. 80b-2(a)(11).

NOTE: By the terms of paragraph (3)(A)(i) of section 102(f) of the Act, an individual who is an attorney, a certified public accountant, a broker, or an investment advisor is also eligible to serve as an independent trustee. However, experience of the Office of Government Ethics over the years dictates the necessity of limiting service as a trustee or other fiduciary to the financial institutions referred to in this paragraph, to maintain effective administration of trust arrangements and preserve confidence in the Federal qualified trust program. Accordingly, under its authority pursuant to paragraph (3)(D) of section 102(f) of the Act, the Office of Government Ethics will not approve proposed trustees or other fiduciaries who are not financial institutions, except in unusual cases where compelling necessity is demonstrated to the Director, in his sole discretion.

(3) *Requirements.* No eligible entity shall be determined to be an independent trustee under this section unless:

(i) That entity is independent of and unassociated with any interested party so that it cannot be controlled or influenced in the administration of the trust by any interested party; and

(ii) That entity is not and has not been affiliated with any interested party, and is not a partner of, or involved in any joint venture or other investment or business with, any interested party; and

(iii) Any director, officer, or employee of such entity:

(A) Is independent of and unassociated with any interested party so that such director, officer, or employee cannot be controlled or influenced in the administration of the trust by any interested party;

(B) Is not and has not been employed by any interested party, not served as a director, officer, or employee of any organization affiliated with any interested party, and is not and has not been a partner of, or involved in any joint venture or other investment with, any interested party; and

(C) Is not a relative of any interested party.

(b) *Approval procedures.* (1) Appropriate documentation to establish, pursuant to the requirements of paragraph (a)(3) of this section, the independence of a proposed trustee or any other person to be designated in a trust instrument to perform fiduciary duties shall

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be submitted to the Office of Government Ethics in writing, including the Certificate of Independence in the form prescribed in appendix A of this part. The existence of any other banking or client relationship between an interested party and a proposed trustee or other designated fiduciary must be disclosed in such documentation, and may be subject to discontinuance as a condition of approval.

(2) The Director shall indicate approval of a proposed trustee, and of any other person designated in the trust instrument to perform fiduciary duties, including those of an investment adviser, by reporting such approval in writing to the interested parties or to their representatives.

(c) *Review of approval.* The Office of Government Ethics shall maintain a program to assess, on a frequent basis, the appropriateness of any approval which has been granted under this section.

(d) *Revocation of approval.* Approval of a trustee or any other designated fiduciary may be revoked pursuant to the rules of subpart E of this part.

**§ 2634.407 Restrictions on fiduciaries and interested parties.**

(a) *Restrictions applicable to trustees and other fiduciaries.* Any trustee or any other designated fiduciary of a qualified trust shall not knowingly or negligently:

(1) Disclose any information to an interested party with respect to the trust that may not be disclosed under title I of the Act, the implementing regulations or the trust instrument;

(2) Acquire any holding:

(i) Directly from an interested party without the prior written approval of the Director; or

(ii) The ownership of which is prohibited by, or not in accordance with, title I of the Act, the implementing regulations, the trust instrument, or with other applicable statutes and regulations;

(3) Solicit advice from any interested party with respect to such trust, which solicitation is prohibited by title I of the Act, the implementing regulations, or the trust instrument; or

(4) Fail to file any document required by the implementing regulations or the trust instrument.

(b) *Restrictions applicable to interested parties.* An interested party to a qualified trust shall not knowingly or negligently:

(1) Solicit or receive any information about the trust that may not be disclosed under title I of the Act, the implementing regulations or the trust instrument; or

(2) Fail to file any document required by this subpart or the trust instrument.

**§ 2634.408 Special filing requirements for qualified trusts.**

(a) *The interested party.* In the case of any qualified trust, the Government employee or other interested party shall:

(1) *Execution of the trust.* Within thirty days after the trust is certified under § 2634.405 of this subpart by the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, file with the Director a copy of:

(i) The executed trust instrument of the trust (other than those provisions which relate to the testamentary disposition of the trust assets); and

(ii) A list of the assets which were transferred to the trust, categorized as to value of each asset in accordance with § 2634.301(d).

(2) *Transfer of assets.* Within thirty days of transferring an asset, other than cash, to a qualified trust, file a report with the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, which identifies and briefly describes each asset, categorized as to value in accordance with § 2634.301(d).

(3) *Dissolution of the trust.* Within thirty days of the dissolution of a qualified trust:

(i) File a report of the dissolution with the Director of the Office of Government Ethics; and

(ii) File with the Director a list of assets of the trust at the time of the dissolution, categorized as to value in accordance with § 2634.301(d).

(b) *Trustees and other designated fiduciaries.* An independent trustee of a qualified trust, and any other person designated in the trust instrument to perform fiduciary duties, shall file,