

§ 228.405

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agent, registrar, trustee under a trust indenture, or similar services;

(4) The amount involved in the transaction or a series of similar transactions does not exceed \$60,000; or

(5) The interest of the person arises solely from the ownership of securities of the small business issuer and the person receives no extra or special benefit that was not shared equally (pro rata) by all holders of securities of the class.

(c) List all parents of the small business issuer showing the basis of control and as to each parent, the percentage of voting securities owned or other basis of control by its immediate parent if any.

(d) *Transactions with promoters.* Issuers organized within the past five years shall:

(1) State the names of the promoters, the nature and amount of anything of value (including money, property, contracts, options or rights of any kind) received or to be received by each promoter, directly or indirectly, from the issuer and the nature and amount of any assets, services or other consideration therefore received or to be received by the registrant; and

(2) As to any assets acquired or to be acquired from a promoter, state the amount at which the assets were acquired or are to be acquired and the principle followed or to be followed in determining such amount and identify the persons making the determination and their relationship, if any, with the registrant or any promoter. If the assets were acquired by the promoter within two years prior to their transfer to the issuer, also state the cost thereof to the promoter.

Instructions to Item 404: 1. A person does not have a material indirect interest in a transaction within the meaning of this Item where:

(a) The interest arises only:

(1) from such person's position as a director of another corporation or organization (other than a partnership) which is a party to the transaction and/or

(2) from the total ownership (direct or indirect) by all specified persons of less than a 10% equity interest in another person (other than a partnership) which is a party to the transaction;

(b) The interest arises only from such person's position as a limited partner in a partnership in which he and all other specified

persons had an interest of less than 10 percent; or

(c) The interest of such person arises solely from holding an equity interest (but not a general partnership interest) or a creditor interest in another person that is a party to the transaction and the transaction is not material to such other person.

2. Include information for any material underwriting discounts and commissions upon the sale of securities by the small business issuer where any of the specified persons was or is to be a principal underwriter or is a controlling person or member of a firm that was or is to be a principle underwriter.

3. As to any transaction involving the purchase or sale of assets by or to the small business issuer otherwise than in the ordinary course of business, state the cost of the assets to the purchase and if acquired by the seller within two years before the transaction, the cost thereof to the seller.

§ 228.405 (Item 405) Compliance With Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act.

Every small business issuer that has a class of equity securities registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. 78j) shall:

(a) Based solely upon a review of Forms 3 and 4 (17 CFR 249.103 and 249.104 of this chapter) and amendments thereto furnished to the registrant under Rule 16a-3(e) (17 CFR 240.16a-3(e) of this chapter) during its most recent fiscal year and Forms 5 and amendments thereto (§249.105 of this chapter) furnished to the registrant with respect to its most recent fiscal year, and any written representation referred to in paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this Item:

(1) Under the caption "Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance," identify each person who, at any time during the fiscal year, was a director, officer, beneficial owner of more than ten percent of any class of equity securities of the registrant registered pursuant to section 12 ("reporting person") that failed to file on a timely basis, as disclosed in the above Forms, reports required by section 16(a) of the Exchange Act during the most recent fiscal year or prior fiscal years.

(2) For each such person, set forth the number of late reports, the number of transactions that were not reported on a timely basis, and any known failure to file a required Form. A known failure to file would include, but not be

limited to, a failure to file a Form 3, which is required of all reporting persons, and a failure to file a Form 5 in the absence of the written representation referred to in paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section, unless the registrant otherwise knows that no Form 5 is required.

NOTE: The disclosure requirement is based on a review of the forms submitted to the registrant during and with respect to its most recent fiscal year, as specified above. Accordingly, a failure to file timely need only be disclosed once. For example, if in the most recently concluded fiscal year a reporting person filed a Form 4 disclosing a transaction that took place in the prior fiscal year, and should have been reported in that year, the registrant should disclose that late filing and transaction pursuant to this Item for the most recent fiscal year, but not in material filed with respect to subsequent years.

(b) With respect to the disclosure required by paragraph (a) of this Item:

(1) A form received by the registrant within three calendar days of the required filing date may be presumed to have been filed with the Commission by the required filing date.

(2) If the registrant:

(i) receives a written representation from the reporting person that no Form 5 is required; and

(ii) maintains the representation for two years, making a copy available to the Commission or its staff upon request, the registrant need not identify such reporting person pursuant to paragraph (a) of this Item as having failed to file a Form 5 with respect to that fiscal year.

[57 FR 36449, Aug. 13, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 30391, June 14, 1996]

§ 228.406 (Item 406) Code of ethics.

(a) Disclose whether the small business issuer has adopted a code of ethics that applies to the small business issuer's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions. If the small business issuer has not adopted such a code of ethics, explain why it has not done so.

(b) For purposes of this Item 406, the term *code of ethics* means written

standards that are reasonably designed to deter wrongdoing and to promote:

(1) Honest and ethical conduct, including the ethical handling of actual or apparent conflicts of interest between personal and professional relationships;

(2) Full, fair, accurate, timely, and understandable disclosure in reports and documents that a small business issuer files with, or submits to, the Commission and in other public communications made by the small business issuer;

(3) Compliance with applicable governmental laws, rules and regulations;

(4) The prompt internal reporting of violations of the code to an appropriate person or persons identified in the code; and

(5) Accountability for adherence to the code.

(c) The small business issuer must:

(1) File with the Commission a copy of its code of ethics that applies to the small business issuer's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions, as an exhibit to its annual report;

(2) Post the text of such code of ethics on its Internet website and disclose, in its annual report, its Internet address and the fact that it has posted such code of ethics on its Internet website; or

(3) Undertake in its annual report filed with the Commission to provide to any person without charge, upon request, a copy of such code of ethics and explain the manner in which such request may be made.

(d) If the small business issuer intends to satisfy the disclosure requirement under Item 10 of Form 8-K regarding an amendment to, or a waiver from, a provision of its code of ethics that applies to the small business issuer's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions and that relates to any element of the code of ethics definition enumerated in paragraph (b) of this Item by posting such information on its Internet website, disclose the small business