

§81.41

time certain, to the extent the Secretary determines an extension is necessary.

(d) *Review of housing plans.* The Secretary shall review and approve or disapprove housing plans in accordance with 12 U.S.C. 4566(c)(4) and (5).

(e) *Resubmission.* If the Secretary disapproves an initial housing plan submitted by a GSE, the GSE shall submit an amended plan acceptable to the Secretary within 30 days of the Secretary disapproving the initial plan; the Secretary may extend the deadline if the Secretary determines an extension is in the public interest. If the amended plan is not acceptable to the Secretary, the Secretary may afford the GSE 15 days to submit a new plan.

Subpart C—Fair Housing

§81.41 General.

In this subpart, the Secretary: prohibits discrimination by the GSEs in their mortgage purchases because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, age, or national origin, including any consideration of the age or location of a dwelling or age of the neighborhood or census tract where the dwelling is located in a manner that has a discriminatory effect; requires that the GSEs submit information to the Secretary to assist Fair Housing Act and ECOA investigations; provides for advising the GSEs of Fair Housing Act and ECOA violations; provides for reviewing the GSEs' underwriting and appraisal guidelines to ensure compliance with the Fair Housing Act; and requires that the GSEs take actions as directed by the Secretary following Fair Housing Act and ECOA adjudications. Because FHEFSSA provides, generally, that the Director of OFHEO shall enforce violations by the GSEs of FHEFSSA and regulations in this subpart, this subpart also provides for referral of such cases to the Director.

§81.42 Prohibitions against discrimination.

Neither GSE shall discriminate in any manner in making any mortgage purchases because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, age, or national origin, including any consideration of the age or location of

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the dwelling or the age of the neighborhood or census tract where the dwelling is located in a manner that has a discriminatory effect.

§81.43 Reports; underwriting and appraisal guideline review.

(a) *Reports.* Each GSE, in the AHAR required under §81.63, shall assess underwriting standards, business practices, repurchase requirements, pricing, fees, and procedures that affect the purchase of mortgages for low- and moderate-income families, or that may yield disparate results based on the race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, age, or national origin of the borrower, including revisions thereto to promote affordable housing or fair lending.

(b) *Review of Underwriting and Appraisal Guidelines.* The Secretary shall periodically review and comment on the underwriting and appraisal guidelines of each enterprise to ensure that such guidelines are consistent with the Fair Housing Act and 12 U.S.C. 4545.

§81.44 Submission of information to the Secretary.

(a) *General.* Upon request from the Secretary, the GSEs shall submit information and data to the Secretary to assist in investigating whether any mortgage lender with which the GSE does business has failed to comply with the Fair Housing Act or ECOA.

(b) *Information requests and submissions—*(1) *Information requests by the Secretary.* The Secretary may require the GSEs to submit information to assist in Fair Housing Act or ECOA investigations of lenders. Under FHEFSSA, other Federal agencies responsible for the enforcement of ECOA must submit requests for information from the GSEs through the Secretary. For matters involving only ECOA, the Secretary will only issue requests for information upon request from the appropriate Federal agency responsible for ECOA.

(2) *Information from established data systems.* The Secretary may request that a GSE generate information or reports from its data system(s) to assist a Fair Housing Act or ECOA investigation.

(3) *GSE replies.* A GSE receiving any request(s) for information under this section shall reply in a complete and timely manner with any and all information that it is privy to and collects that is responsive to the request.

(c) *Submission to ECOA enforcers.* The Secretary shall submit any information received under paragraph (b) of this section concerning compliance with ECOA to appropriate Federal agencies responsible for ECOA enforcement, as provided in section 704 of ECOA.

§ 81.45 Obtaining and disseminating information.

(a) The Secretary shall obtain information from other regulatory and enforcement agencies of the Federal Government and State and local governments regarding violations by lenders of the Fair Housing Act, ECOA, and/or State or local fair housing/lending laws, and shall make such information available to the GSEs as the Secretary deems appropriate in accordance with applicable law regarding the confidentiality of supervisory information and the right to financial privacy, and subject to the terms of memoranda of understanding and other arrangements between the Secretary and Federal financial regulators and other agencies. In addition, the Secretary shall make information that the Secretary possesses regarding violations of the Fair Housing Act available to the GSEs.

(b) As contemplated in paragraph (a) of this section, the Secretary shall obtain information regarding violations by lenders of the Fair Housing Act or ECOA involving discrimination with respect to the availability of credit in a residential real-estate-related transaction from other Federal regulatory or enforcement agencies. The Secretary will obtain information from regulators regarding violations of ECOA by lenders only in circumstances in which there is either more than a single ECOA violation, or the ECOA violation could also be a violation of the Fair Housing Act.

§ 81.46 Remedial actions.

(a) *General.* The Secretary shall direct the GSEs to take one or more remedial actions, including suspension,

probation, reprimand or settlement, against lenders found to have engaged in discriminatory lending practices in violation of the Fair Housing Act or ECOA, pursuant to a final adjudication on the record and an opportunity for a hearing under subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) *Definitions.* For purposes of this subpart, the following definitions apply:

Indefinite suspension means that, until directed to do otherwise by the Secretary, the GSEs will refrain from purchasing mortgages from a lender.

Probation means that, for a fixed period of time specified by the Secretary, a lender that has been found to have violated the Fair Housing Act or ECOA will be subject automatically to more severe sanctions than probation, *e.g.*, suspension, if further violations are found.

Remedial action includes a reprimand, probation, temporary suspension, indefinite suspension, or settlement.

Reprimand means a written letter to a lender from a GSE, which has been directed to be sent by the Secretary, stating that the lender has violated the Fair Housing Act or ECOA and warning of the possibility that the Secretary may impose more severe remedial actions than reprimand if any further violation occurs.

Temporary Suspension means that, for a fixed period of time specified by the Secretary, the GSEs will not purchase mortgages from a lender.

(c) *Institution of remedial actions.* (1) The Secretary shall direct the GSE to take remedial action(s) against a lender charged with violating ECOA only after a final determination on the charge has been made by an appropriate United States District Court or any other court of competent jurisdiction. The Secretary shall direct the GSE to take remedial action(s) against a lender charged with violating the Fair Housing Act only after a final determination on the matter has been made by a United States Court, a HUD Administrative Law Judge, or the Secretary.

(2) Following a final determination sustaining a charge against a lender for violating the Fair Housing Act or ECOA, in accordance with paragraph