

## SUBCHAPTER C—SAFETY AND SOUNDNESS

### PART 1710—CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

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- 1710.20 Indemnification.
  - AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 4513(a) and 4513(b)(1).
  - SOURCE: 67 FR 38370, June 4, 2002, unless otherwise noted.

#### Subpart A—General

##### § 1710.1 Purpose.

OFHEO is responsible under the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992, 12 U.S.C. 4501 *et seq.*, for ensuring the safety and soundness of the Enterprises. In furtherance of that responsibility, this part sets forth minimum standards with respect to the corporate governance practices and procedures of the Enterprises.

##### § 1710.2 Definitions.

For purposes of this part, the term:

- (a) *Act* means the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992, Title XIII of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, Pub. L. 102-550, section 1301, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3672, 3941 through 4012 (1993) (12 U.S.C. 4501 *et seq.*).
- (b) *Board member* means a member of the board of directors.

(c) *Board of directors* means the board of directors of an Enterprise.

(d) *Chartering acts* mean the Federal National Mortgage Association Charter Act and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Act, which are codified at 12 U.S.C. 1716 through 1723i and 12 U.S.C. 1451 through 1459, respectively.

(e) *Compensation* means any payment of money or the provision of any other thing of current or potential value in connection with employment. The term “compensation” includes all direct and indirect payments of benefits, both cash and non-cash, including, but not limited to, payments and benefits derived from compensation or benefit agreements, fee arrangements, prerequisites, stock option plans, post employment benefits, or other compensatory arrangements.

(f) *Director* means the Director of OFHEO or his or her designee.

(g) *Employee* means a salaried individual, other than an executive officer, who works part-time, full-time, or temporarily for an Enterprise.

(h) *Enterprise* means the Federal National Mortgage Association or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation; and the term “Enterprises” means, collectively, the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

(i) *Executive officer* means any senior executive officer and any senior vice president of an Enterprise and any individual with similar responsibilities, without regard to title, who is in charge of a principal business unit, division, or function of an Enterprise, or who reports directly to the chairperson, vice chairperson, chief operating officer, or president of an Enterprise.

(j) *NYSE* means the New York Stock Exchange.

(k) *OFHEO* means the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

(l) *Senior executive officer* means the chairperson of the board of directors, chief executive officer, chief financial officer, chief operating officer, president, vice chairperson, any executive

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vice president of an Enterprise, and any individual, without regard to title, who has similar responsibilities.

### §§ 1710.3–1710.9 [Reserved]

### Subpart B—Corporate Practices and Procedures

#### § 1710.10 Law applicable to corporate governance.

(a) *General.* The corporate governance practices and procedures of each Enterprise shall comply with applicable chartering acts and other Federal law, rules, and regulations, and shall be consistent with the safe and sound operations of the Enterprise.

(b) *Election and designation of body of law.* (1) To the extent not inconsistent with paragraph (a) of this section, each Enterprise shall follow the corporate governance practices and procedures of the law of the jurisdiction in which the principal office of the Enterprise is located, as amended; Delaware General Corporation Law, Del. Code Ann. tit. 8, as amended; or the Revised Model Business Corporation Act, as amended.

(2) Each Enterprise shall designate in its bylaws the body of law elected for its corporate governance practices and procedures pursuant to this paragraph within 90 calendar days from August 5, 2002.

#### § 1710.11 Committees of board of directors.

(a) *General.* The board of directors may rely, in directing the Enterprise, on reports from committees of the board of directors, provided, however, that no committee of the board of directors shall have the authority of the board of directors to amend the bylaws and no committee shall operate to relieve the board of directors or any board member of a responsibility imposed by applicable law, rule, or regulation.

(b) *Audit and compensation committees.* Each Enterprise shall provide in its bylaws, within 90 calendar days from August 5, 2002, for the establishment of, however styled:

(1) An audit committee that is in compliance with the charter, independence, composition, expertise, and other requirements of the audit committee

rules of the NYSE, as from time to time amended, unless otherwise provided by OFHEO; and

(2) A compensation committee, the membership of which is to include at least three independent board members and the duties of which include, at a minimum, oversight of compensation policies and plans for executive officers and employees and approving the compensation of senior executive officers.

#### § 1710.12 Compensation of board members, executive officers, and employees.

Compensation of board members, executive officers, and employees shall not be in excess of that which is reasonable and commensurate with their duties and responsibilities and comply with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

#### § 1710.13 Quorum of board of directors; proxies not permissible.

Each Enterprise shall provide in its bylaws, within 90 calendar days from August 5, 2002, that, for the transaction of business, a quorum of the board of directors is at least a majority of the entire board of directors and that a board member may not vote by proxy.

#### § 1710.14 Conflict-of-interest standards.

Each Enterprise shall establish and administer written conflict-of-interest standards that are reasonably designed to assure the ability of board members, executive officers, and employees of the Enterprise to discharge their duties and responsibilities, on behalf of the Enterprise, in an objective and impartial manner.

#### § 1710.15 Conduct and responsibilities of board of directors.

(a) *Purpose.* The purpose of this section, and of this subpart, is to set forth minimum standards of the conduct and responsibilities of the board of directors in furtherance of the safe and sound operations of each Enterprise. The provisions of this section neither provide shareholders of an Enterprise with additional rights nor impose liability on any board member under State law.