

**Federal Reserve System**

**§ 230.4**

opened, unless the deposit is subject to an early withdrawal penalty of at least seven days' interest on amounts withdrawn.

(v) *Variable-rate account* means an account in which the interest rate may change after the account is opened, unless the institution contracts to give at least 30 calendar days advance written notice of rate decreases.

[57 FR 43376, Sept. 21, 1992, as amended at 58 FR 15081, Mar. 19, 1993; 59 FR 52658, Oct. 19, 1994]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 70 FR 29593, May 24, 2005, §230.2 was amended by revising paragraph (b), effective July 1, 2006. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

**§ 230.2 Definitions.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) *Advertisement* means a commercial message, appearing in any medium, that promotes directly or indirectly:

- (1) The availability or terms of, or a deposit in, a new account; and
- (2) For purposes of §230.8(a) and §230.11 of this part, the terms of, or a deposit in, a new or existing account.

\* \* \* \* \*

**§ 230.3 General disclosure requirements.**

(a) *Form.* Depository institutions shall make the disclosures required by §§230.4 through 230.6 and §230.10 of this part, as applicable, clearly and conspicuously, in writing, and in a form the consumer may keep. Disclosures for each account offered by an institution may be presented separately or combined with disclosures for the institution's other accounts, as long as it is clear which disclosures are applicable to the consumer's account.

(b) *General.* The disclosures shall reflect the terms of the legal obligation of the account agreement between the consumer and the depository institution. Disclosures may be made in languages other than English, provided the disclosures are available in English upon request.

(c) *Relation to Regulation E (12 CFR part 205).* Disclosures required by and provided in accordance with the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1601) and its implementing Regulation

E (12 CFR part 205) that are also required by this part may be substituted for the disclosures required by this part.

(d) *Multiple consumers.* If an account is held by more than one consumer, disclosures may be made to any one of the consumers.

(e) *Oral response to inquiries.* In an oral response to a consumer's inquiry about interest rates payable on its accounts, the depository institution shall state the annual percentage yield. The interest rate may be stated in addition to the annual percentage yield. No other rate may be stated.

(f) *Rounding and accuracy rules for rates and yields—(1) Rounding.* The annual percentage yield, the annual percentage yield earned, and the interest rate shall be rounded to the nearest one-hundredth of one percentage point (.01%) and expressed to two decimal places. For account disclosures, the interest rate may be expressed to more than two decimal places.

(2) *Accuracy.* The annual percentage yield (and the annual percentage yield earned) will be considered accurate if not more than one-twentieth of one percentage point (.05%) above or below the annual percentage yield (and the annual percentage yield earned) determined in accordance with the rules in appendix A of this part.

(g) *Electronic communication.* For rules governing the electronic delivery of disclosures, including the definition of electronic communication, see §230.10.0.

[57 FR 43376, Sept. 21, 1992, as amended by Reg. DD, 66 FR 17802, Apr. 4, 2001]

**§ 230.4 Account disclosures.**

(a) *Delivery of account disclosures—(1) Account opening.* (i) *General.* A depository institution shall provide account disclosures to a consumer before an account is opened or a service is provided, whichever is earlier. An institution is deemed to have provided a service when a fee required to be disclosed is assessed. Except as provided in paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section, if the consumer is not present at the institution when the account is opened or the service is provided and has not already

§ 230.4

12 CFR Ch. II (1-1-06 Edition)

received the disclosures, the institution shall mail or deliver the disclosures no later than 10 business days after the account is opened or the service is provided, whichever is earlier.

(ii) *Electronic communication.* If a consumer who is not present at the institution uses electronic communication (as defined in §230.10) to open an account or request a service, the disclosures required under paragraph (a)(1) of this section must be provided before an account is opened or a service is provided.

(2) *Requests.* (i) A depository institution shall provide account disclosures to a consumer upon request. If a consumer who is not present at the institution makes a request, the institution shall mail or deliver the disclosures within a reasonable time after it receives the request and may provide the disclosures in paper form, or electronically if the consumer provides an electronic mail address.

(ii) In providing disclosures upon request, the institution may:

(A) Specify an interest rate and annual percentage yield that were offered within the most recent seven calendar days; state that the rate and yield are accurate as of an identified date; and provide a telephone number consumers may call to obtain current rate information.

(B) State the maturity of a time account as a term rather than a date.

(b) *Content of account disclosures.* Account disclosures shall include the following, as applicable:

(1) *Rate information—(i) Annual percentage yield and interest rate.* The “annual percentage yield” and the “interest rate,” using those terms, and for fixed-rate accounts the period of time the interest rate will be in effect.

(ii) *Variable rates.* For variable-rate accounts:

(A) The fact that the interest rate and annual percentage yield may change;

(B) How the interest rate is determined;

(C) The frequency with which the interest rate may change; and

(D) Any limitation on the amount the interest rate may change.

(2) *Compounding and crediting—(i) Frequency.* The frequency with which interest is compounded and credited.

(ii) *Effect of closing an account.* If consumers will forfeit interest if they close the account before accrued interest is credited, a statement that interest will not be paid in such cases.

(3) *Balance information—(i) Minimum balance requirements.* Any minimum balance required to:

(A) Open the account;

(B) Avoid the imposition of a fee; or

(C) Obtain the annual percentage yield disclosed.

Except for the balance to open the account, the disclosure shall state how the balance is determined for these purposes.

(ii) *Balance computation method.* An explanation of the balance computation method specified in §230.7 of this part used to calculate interest on the account.

(iii) *When interest begins to accrue.* A statement of when interest begins to accrue on noncash deposits.

(4) *Fees.* The amount of any fee that may be imposed in connection with the account (or an explanation of how the fee will be determined) and the conditions under which the fee may be imposed.

(5) *Transaction limitations.* Any limitations on the number or dollar amount of withdrawals or deposits.

(6) *Features of time accounts.* For time accounts:

(i) *Time requirements.* The maturity date.

(ii) *Early withdrawal penalties.* A statement that a penalty will or may be imposed for early withdrawal, how it is calculated, and the conditions for its assessment.

(iii) *Withdrawal of interest prior to maturity.* If compounding occurs during the term and interest may be withdrawn prior to maturity, a statement that the annual percentage yield assumes interest remains on deposit until maturity and that a withdrawal will reduce earnings. For accounts with a stated maturity greater than one year that do not compound interest on an annual or more frequent basis, that require interest payouts at least annually, and that disclose an APY determined in accordance with section E of

## Federal Reserve System

## § 230.5

Appendix A of this part, a statement that interest cannot remain on deposit and that payout of interest is mandatory.

(iv) *Renewal policies.* A statement of whether or not the account will renew automatically at maturity. If it will, a statement of whether or not a grace period will be provided and, if so, the length of that period must be stated. If the account will not renew automatically, a statement of whether interest will be paid after maturity if the consumer does not renew the account must be stated.

(7) *Bonuses.* The amount or type of any bonus, when the bonus will be provided, and any minimum balance and time requirements to obtain the bonus.

(c) *Notice to existing account holders—*  
(1) *Notice of availability of disclosures.* Depository institutions shall provide a notice to consumers who receive periodic statements and who hold existing accounts of the type offered by the institution on June 21, 1993. The notice shall be included on or with the first periodic statement sent on or after June 21, 1993 (or on or with the first periodic statement for a statement cycle beginning on or after that date). The notice shall state that consumers may request account disclosures containing terms, fees, and rate information for their account. In responding to such a request, institutions shall provide disclosures in accordance with paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(2) *Alternative to notice.* As an alternative to the notice described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, institutions may provide account disclosures to consumers. The disclosures may be provided either with a periodic statement or separately, but must be sent no later than when the periodic statement described in paragraph (c)(1) is sent.

[57 FR 43376, Sept. 21, 1992, as amended at 58 FR 15081, Mar. 19, 1993; Reg. DD, 60 FR 5130, Jan. 26, 1995; 63 FR 40637, July 30, 1998; 66 FR 17802, Apr. 4, 2001]

### § 230.5 Subsequent disclosures.

(a) *Change in terms—*(1) *Advance notice required.* A depository institution shall give advance notice to affected consumers of any change in a term required to be disclosed under § 230.4(b) of this part if the change may reduce the

annual percentage yield or adversely affect the consumer. The notice shall include the effective date of the change. The notice shall be mailed or delivered at least 30 calendar days before the effective date of the change.

(2) *No notice required.* No notice under this section is required for:

(i) *Variable-rate changes.* Changes in the interest rate and corresponding changes in the annual percentage yield in variable-rate accounts.

(ii) *Check printing fees.* Changes in fees assessed for check printing.

(iii) *Short-term time accounts.* Changes in any term for time accounts with maturities of one month or less.

(b) *Notice before maturity for time accounts longer than one month that renew automatically.* For time accounts with a maturity longer than one month that renew automatically at maturity, institutions shall provide the disclosures described below before maturity. The disclosures shall be mailed or delivered at least 30 calendar days before maturity of the existing account. Alternatively, the disclosures may be mailed or delivered at least 20 calendar days before the end of the grace period on the existing account, provided a grace period of at least five calendar days is allowed.

(1) *Maturities of longer than one year.* If the maturity is longer than one year, the institution shall provide account disclosures set forth in § 230.4(b) of this part for the new account, along with the date the existing account matures. If the interest rate and annual percentage yield that will be paid for the new account are unknown when disclosures are provided, the institution shall state that those rates have not yet been determined, the date when they will be determined, and a telephone number consumers may call to obtain the interest rate and the annual percentage yield that will be paid for the new account.

(2) *Maturities of one year or less but longer than one month.* If the maturity is one year or less but longer than one month, the institution shall either:

(i) Provide disclosures as set forth in paragraph (b)(1) of this section; or

(ii) Disclose to the consumer: