

²If the NRC determines, based on its review of available data, that a National Agency Check and Credit investigation is necessary, a fee of \$80.00 will be assessed prior to the conduct of the investigation; however, if a full field investigation is deemed necessary by the NRC, based on its review of available data, a fee of \$3,275 will be assessed prior to the conduct of the investigation.

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PART 25—ACCESS AUTHORIZATION FOR LICENSEE PERSONNEL

3. The authority citation for Part 25 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Secs. 145, 161, 68 Stat. 942, 948, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2165, 2201); sec. 201, 88 Stat. 1242, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5841); E.O. 10865, as amended, 3 CFR 1959–1963 Comp., p. 398 (50 U.S.C. 401, note); E.O. 12829, 3 CFR, 1993 Comp., p. 570; E.O. 12958, 3 CFR, 1995 Comp., p. 333; E.O. 12968, 3 CFR, 1995 Comp., p. 396.

Appendix A also issued under 96 Stat. 1051 (31 U.S.C. 9701).

4. Appendix A to Part 25 is revised to read as follows:

APPENDIX A TO PART 25—FEES FOR NRC ACCESS AUTHORIZATION

Category	Fee
Initial "L" Access Authorization	1 \$80
Reinstatement of "L" Access Authorization	1 80
Extension or Transfer of "L" Access Authorization	1 80
Initial "Q" Access Authorization	3,275
Initial "Q" Access Authorization (expedited processing)	3,800
Reinstatement of "Q" Access Authorization	2 3,275
Reinstatement of "Q" Access Authorization (expedited processing)	2 3,800
Extension or Transfer of "Q"	2 3,275
Extension or Transfer of "Q" (expedited processing)	2 3,800

¹ If the NRC determines, based on its review of available data, that a full field investigation is necessary, a fee of \$3,275 will be assessed prior to the conduct of the investigation.

² Full fee will only be charged if investigation is required.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day February, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

L. Joseph Callan,

Executive Director for Operations.

[FR Doc. 98–12180 Filed 5–6–98; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

12 CFR Ch. III

Statement of Policy on the Development and Review of Regulations

AGENCY: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

ACTION: Revision of statement of policy.

SUMMARY: The FDIC is revising its Statement of Policy entitled "Development and Review of Regulations" (Policy). The revisions streamline the Policy and focus it more sharply on the basic principles that underlie the Board's approach to regulation. The provisions of the Policy that established internal procedures or merely restated the law have been deleted. The revisions also expand the scope of the Policy to include written statements of policy adopted by the FDIC Board of Directors and revise its title accordingly.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 7, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steven F. Hanft, Assistant Executive Secretary (202/898–3907); or Nancy Schucker Recchia, Counsel (202/898–8885).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FDIC is revising its Statement of Policy entitled "Development and Review of Regulations." The existing Policy has stated the Board's commitment to basic principles of sound regulation and established internal administrative procedures for FDIC staff to follow when developing and reviewing regulations. Pursuant to section 303(a) of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (CDRI), the Policy was reviewed to streamline it and to remove inconsistencies and outmoded and duplicative provisions. As a part of this review, the FDIC has given careful consideration to the continuing need for this Policy and how its content might be presented to best inform the public with respect to the FDIC's development and review of regulations and written statements of policy. The revised Policy's reflects the Board's continuing commitment to improving the quality of its regulations and policies, to minimizing regulatory burdens on the public and the banking industry, and generally to ensuring that its regulations and policies achieve legislative goals effectively and effectively.

The revised Policy recognizes that the Board carries out its regulatory function through two separate processes of public notice: the promulgation of

regulations pursuant to the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, and the issuance of less formal written statements of policy. Like regulations, written statements of policy may affect the banking industry and the public. Because the Board believes it is important to inform all interested parties of its approach to the development of written statements of policy, the scope of the revised Policy has been augmented to include an explanation of the principles by which the FDIC develops and reviews written statements of policy, and the title of the Policy has been revised to reflect the expanded scope.

The revisions streamline the Policy and focus it more sharply on the following basic principles that underlie the Board's approach to regulation:

- Burdens imposed on the banking industry should be minimized.
- Regulations should be clearly and understandably written.
- The public should have a meaningful opportunity to participate in the rulemaking process.
- Common statutory and supervisory mandates should be implemented by Federal financial institutions regulator in a uniform way.
- Regulations and statements of policy should be reviewed periodically.

The revised Policy has been streamlined to remove those provisions that established internal procedures or merely restated the applicable provisions of law. As part of the CDRI review, the FDIC gave careful consideration to the most useful and efficient format for presenting all of the information relevant to regulation and written policy statement development and review. It was determined to separate these fundamental guiding principles from the more technical or procedural requirements. The guiding principles which the Board believes are relevant to public understanding of its process are contained in the revised Policy. The technical and procedural requirements are contained in a newly developed handbook on Development and Review of FDIC Regulations and Policy Statements. The handbook provides comprehensive guidance to FDIC managers and staff involved in developing and reviewing FDIC regulations and statements of policy and can be revised easily to reflect changes in statutory requirements and in the FDIC's organizational arrangements.

Text

The text of the revised statement of policy follows:

Development and Review of FDIC Regulations and Policies

Statement of Policy

Purpose and Scope. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation is committed to continually improving the quality of its regulations and policies, to minimizing regulatory burdens on the public and the banking industry, and generally to ensuring that its regulations and policies achieve legislative goals effectively and efficiently. The purpose of this statement of policy (Policy) is to establish basic principles which guide the FDIC's promulgation and review of regulations and written statements of policy. The scope of this Policy is limited to regulations and written statements of policy issued by the Board of Directors of the FDIC.

Principles For the Development and Review of Regulations and Statements of Policy. The following principles guide the FDIC in its development of regulations and written policies:

- Burdens imposed on the banking industry and the public should be minimized. Before issuing a regulation or written statement of policy the FDIC gives careful consideration to the need for such an issuance. Frequently a regulation is required by statute. Alternatively, the FDIC may identify a need for a supervisory tool to implement its statutory obligations, or to clarify its policy for the benefit of the banking industry or the public. Once the need for a regulation or statement of policy is determined, the FDIC seeks to minimize to the extent practicable the burdens which such issuance imposes on the banking industry and the public. New reporting and recordkeeping requirements imposed by a regulation are carefully analyzed. The effect of the regulation or statement of policy on competition within the industry is considered. Particular attention is focused on the impact that a regulation will have on small institutions and whether there are alternatives to accomplish the FDIC's goal which would minimize any burden on small institutions. Prior to issuance, the potential benefits associated with the regulation or statement of policy are weighed against the potential costs.

- Regulations and policies should be clear and understandably written. The Board seeks to make its regulations and statements of policy as clear and as understandable as possible to those persons who are affected by them. In developing or reviewing existing regulations and statements of policy, the Board considers the document's organizational structure as well as the specific language used; both are

important components to achieving a clear and useful statement.

- The public should have a meaningful opportunity to participate in the rulemaking process. The Board seeks to improve its regulations and statement of policy during the development phase. Whether a new regulation is being promulgated or an existing one revised, the Board gives careful consideration to the implications of its actions as public policy. Public participation in the rulemaking process is an opportunity for the Board to hear directly from affected members of the public with important experience and thoughtful insights related to the pertinent issues. A person or organization may petition the Board for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of any regulation or policy by submitting a written petition to the Executive Secretary of the FDIC. The petition should include a complete and concise statement of the petitioner's interest in the subject matter and the reasons why the petition should be granted.

All rulemaking is carried out in accordance with the APA, by which the Board provides the public with notices of proposed rulemaking and opportunities to submit comments on the proposals. The Board will often seek public comment on proposed statements of policy as well. All comments and proposed alternatives received during the comment period are considered prior to the issuance of a final rule or statement of policy. The Board takes final action on proposed regulations and policies as promptly as circumstances allow. If a significant period of time elapses following the publication of a proposed rule or policy without final action, the Board will consider withdrawing the proposal or republishing it for comment. If the Board decides to reconsider a proposed regulation or statement of policy that has been withdrawn, it will begin the rulemaking or policy development process anew.

- Common statutory and supervisory requirements should be implemented by the Federal financial institutions regulators in a uniform way. The FDIC has many statutory and supervisory requirements that are common to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Office of Thrift Supervision, and/or the National Credit Union Administration. The more uniform the Federal financial institutions regulators can be in their regulations, policies and approaches to supervision, the easier it will be for the industry and the public to comply with the regulators' requirements. The FDIC

is a member of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) and works with the other federal financial institutions regulators through the FFIEC to make uniform those regulations and policies that implement common statutory or supervisory policies.

- Regulations and statements of policy should be reviewed periodically. To ensure that the FDIC's regulations and written statements of policy are current, effective, efficient and continue to meet the principles set forth in this Policy, the FDIC will periodically undertake a review of each regulation and statement of policy. The Executive Secretary of the FDIC will, consistent with applicable laws and in coordination with other financial institutions regulators, establish a schedule and procedures for the reviews. Factors to be considered in determining whether a regulation or written policy should be revised or eliminated include: the continued need for the regulation or policy; opportunities to simplify or clarify the regulation or policy; the need to eliminate duplicative and inconsistent regulations and policies; and the extent to which technology, economic conditions, and other factors have changed in the area affected by the regulation or policy. The result of this review will be a specific decision for each regulation and statement of policy to either revise, rescind or retain the issuance in its then-current form. The principles of regulation and statement of policy development, as articulated at the beginning of this Policy, will apply to the periodic reviews as well.

By order of the Board of Directors.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this 28th day of April, 1998.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Robert E. Feldman,

Executive Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 97-SW-49-AD; Amendment 39-10515; AD 98-10-04]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model SA-365N1, AS-365N2, and SA-366G1 Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.