

affect liquidity and capital adequacy. The effect on MVE is important because adverse changes in the market value of assets, liabilities, and off-balance-sheet instruments can affect the future performance and liquidity of a System institution.

C. Monitoring and Reporting

Each System institution must have adequate information systems for monitoring and reporting interest rate risk exposures. These systems should provide the board, senior management, and any risk management committee with clear, concise, and timely summaries of the institution's aggregate exposures, compare current exposure to policy limits, and allow for a determination of whether the institution holds sufficient capital in relation to the level of risk exposure. Risk reports should provide sufficient information for the board and senior management to assess exposure. The frequency of internal reporting should be determined by the board and senior management and should depend on the amount and complexity of an institution's level of risk.

D. Internal Controls and Audits

Each System institution should maintain an effective system of internal controls as part of its interest rate risk management process. Controls should include a process for identifying and evaluating risk, establishing appropriate exposure limits and approval processes, and requiring reconciliations, audits, and other mechanisms designed to provide reasonable assurance that interest rate risk is managed in a safe and sound manner. The controls should clearly define official lines of authority and the appropriate separation of duties to avoid conflicts of interest, and should ensure that personnel follow established policies and procedures.

An institution with more complex risk exposures should ensure that its interest rate risk process is audited on a regular basis. Qualified individuals who are independent of the function they are assigned to audit or external auditors should conduct the audits. The audits should test the effectiveness of controls and ensure appropriate follow-up with management where risk limits have been exceeded or deficiencies in interest rate risk management are identified. Audits of risk measurement systems and models should include assessments of the assumptions, parameters, and methodologies used. The audit results should be reported to the board and senior management.

E. Additional Guidance on the Interest Rate Risk Management Process

The interest rate risk management process will vary among System institutions in accordance with the level of interest rate risk exposure. For instance, a System bank, direct lender association, or a service corporation that is managing major sources of interest rate risk should employ comprehensive interest rate risk management techniques. Similarly, measurement practices should address all applicable elements of an effective process for interest rate risk management discussed in this policy statement. These practices should help ensure the establishment and maintenance of adequate controls over the identification, measurement, monitoring, and reporting of all sources of interest rate risk.

The formality and comprehensiveness of the risk management process will vary among System associations depending on the extent to which the funding bank centrally manages interest rate risk. For instance, a direct lender association that is managing some sources of interest rate risk locally and that has the potential for a moderate level of interest rate risk exposure should implement an interest rate risk program that includes:

- A policy that defines the board's interest rate risk tolerance arising from the sources of interest rate risk being managed locally and that sets risk limits from an earnings perspective and, if appropriate considering the sources of interest rate risk being managed, an MVE perspective. For instance, a System association should impose an MVE limit when it implements decisions regarding the duration of its equity position, such as by mismatching the repricing or maturity of its assets or liabilities either directly or through the use of a derivative instrument;
 - Procedures and practices established by senior management that adequately identify, measure, control, monitor, and report interest rate risk within the association's direct control;
 - Procedures and practices established by senior management that ensure that the board is informed of the sources and exposure levels of interest rate risk;
 - Reliable information systems and modeling capabilities that are commensurate with the nature of the interest rate risk being managed and that measure interest rate risk under various economic scenarios; and
 - Consideration of interest rate risk exposures in the capital adequacy plan as required by § 1615.5200(b)(7).
- Finally, a direct lender association that relies on its funding bank to

manage primary sources of interest rate risk and that has a minimal level of interest rate risk exposure should establish an interest rate risk management program that includes:

- A policy that establishes the board's tolerance for interest rate risk within the association's direct control;
- Procedures and practices to ensure that the board and senior management are informed of the sources and exposure levels of interest rate risk within the association's direct control and the sources of interest rate risk being managed by the funding bank;
- Consideration of interest rate risk exposures in the capital adequacy plan as required by § 1615.5200(b)(7); and
- An analysis, prepared at least annually, of potential earnings exposure to changing interest rates.

V. FCA's Capital Adequacy Determination for Interest Rate Risk

FCA examiners will assess an institution's capital adequacy for interest rate risk based on the evaluation of an institution's level of interest rate risk exposure and its risk management practices. The results of an institution's interest rate risk management process will be considered when evaluating interest rate risk exposure levels in accordance with the FCA's Financial Institution Rating System.

Dated: December 11, 1998.

Floyd Fithian,

Secretary, Farm Credit Administration Board.
[FR Doc. 98-33339 Filed 12-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6705-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission

December 8, 1998.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commissions, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection(s), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning (a)

whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Persons wishing to comment on this information collection should submit comments on or before February 16, 1999. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all comments to Les Smith, Federal Communications Commissions, Room A1804, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554 or via the Internet to lesmith@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collections contact Les Smith at (202) 418-0217 or via the Internet at lesmith@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control Number: 3060-0600.

Title: Application to Participate in an FCC Auction.

Form Numbers: FCC 175 and FCC 175-S.

Type of Review: Extension of an existing collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Governments.

Number of Respondents: 12,400.

Estimated Time per Response: 45 mins. for Form 175; 15 mins. for Form 175-S.

Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirements.

Total Annual Burden: 15,600 hours.

Total Annual Costs: \$3,120,000.

Needs and Uses: The information will be used by the Commission to determine if the applicant is legally, technically, and financially qualified to participate in an FCC auction. The rules and requirements are designed to ensure that the competitive bidding process is limited to serious qualified applicants and to deter possible abuse of the bidding and licensing process. The Commission plans to use this form for all upcoming auctions and reauctions.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-33227 Filed 12-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Ocean Freight Forwarder License Applicants

Notice is hereby given that the following applicants have filed with the Federal Maritime Commission applications for licenses as ocean freight forwarders pursuant to section 19 of the Shipping Act of 1984 (46 U.S.C. app. 1718 and 46 CFR 510).

Persons knowing of any reason why any of the following applicants should not receive a license are requested to contact the Office of Freight Forwarders, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC. 20573.

J.B.R. Marine Inc., 1930 S. Brea Canyon Road, Suite #C-240, Diamond Bar, CA 91765, Officer: Xiuji Zhang, President
Tropical Transfer Inc., 5701 Biscayne Boulevard, No. 901, Miami, FL 33137-2602, Officers: Julia Danvers, President; Alan Danvers, Treasurer
Lion Cargo Brokers, Inc., 8055 N.W. 77th Court, Suite 5, Miami, FL 33166, Officers: Gary M. Goldfarb, Vice President; Ramon A. Purtu, Vice President

Dated: December 10, 1998.

Joseph C. Polking,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-33229 Filed 12-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-M

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Public Workshop: U.S. Perspectives on Consumer Protection in the Global Electronic Marketplace

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Initial Notice Requesting Academic Papers and Public Comment and Announcing Public Workshop.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission plans to hold a public workshop to examine U.S. perspectives on consumer protection in the global electronic marketplace, and seeks academic papers and public comment to inform this examination.

DATES: Papers and written comments are requested to be submitted on or before February 26, 1999. The workshop will be held during the spring of 1999.

ADDRESSES: Six hard copies of each paper and written comment should be

submitted to: Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, Room H-159, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C., 20580. Comments should be captioned "U.S. Perspectives on Consumer Protection in the Global Electronic Marketplace—Comment, P994312."

Form and Availability of Comments:

To enable prompt review and accessibility to the public, papers and comments also should be submitted, if possible, in electronic form, on either one 5-1/4 or one 3-1/2 inch computer disk, with a disk label stating the name of the submitter and the name and version of the word processing program used to create the document. (Programs based on DOS or Windows are preferred. Files from other operating systems should be submitted in ASCII text format.)

Papers and written comments will be available for public inspection in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, and Commission regulations, 16 C.F.R. Part 4.9, on normal business days between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at Room 130, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580. The Commission will make this notice and, to the extent possible, all papers or comments received in response to this notice available to the public through the Internet at the following address: <http://www.ftc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The exact dates, location, and information about public participation in the workshop will be announced later by **Federal Register** notice. For questions about this request for academic papers and comments, contact either: Lisa Rosenthal, Legal Advisor for International Consumer Protection, Division of Planning and Information, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580, telephone 202-326-2249, e-mail lrosenthal@ftc.gov; or Jonathan Smollen, Attorney, Division of Financial Practices, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580, telephone 202-326-3457, e-mail jsmollen@ftc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The number of direct, international business-to-consumer transactions involving electronic commerce is expected to increase significantly in the future. Global networks have the potential to offer consumers substantial