

cards directly from submitting organizations, Commission approval of plans from certain exchanges and national securities associations is essential to the Congressional goal of fingerprint personnel in the security industry. The filing of these plans for review assures users and their personnel that fingerprint cards will be handled responsibly and with due care for confidentiality.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: July 18, 2002.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-18838 Filed 7-24-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 25667; 812-12801]

Matrix Capital Group, Inc. and Matrix Unit Trust; Notice of Application

July 19, 2002.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission").

ACTION: Notice of application under (a) section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Act") for an exemption from sections 2(a)(32), 2(a)(35), 14(a), 19(b), 22(d) and 26(a)(2)(C) of the Act and rules 19b-1 and rule 22c-1 thereunder; and (b) sections 11(a) and 11(c) of the Act for approval of certain exchange and rollover privileges.

Applicants: Matrix Capital Group, Inc. ("Matrix") and any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with Matrix (collectively, the

"Depositor"); Matrix Unit Trust ("Matrix Trust"); any future registered unit investment trusts sponsored by the Depositor (together with the Matrix Trust, the "Trusts") and the future and existing series of each Trust (each a "Series").¹

Summary of Application: Applicants request an order to permit certain unit investment trusts ("UITs") to: (a) Impose sales charges on a deferred basis and waive the deferred sales charge in certain cases; (b) offer unitholders certain exchange and rollover options; (c) publicly offer units without requiring the Depositor to take for its own account or place with others \$100,000 worth of units; and (d) distribute capital gains resulting from the sale of portfolio securities within a reasonable time after receipt.

Filing Dates: The application was filed on March 21, 2002. Applicants have agreed to file an amendment during the notice period, the substance of which is reflected in this notice.

Hearing of Notification of Hearing: An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Commission's Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on August 13, 2002, and should be accompanied by proof of service on the applicants, in the form of an affidavit, or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Commission's Secretary.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609; Applicants, 666 Fifth Avenue, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10103.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean E. Minarick, Senior Counsel, at (202) 942-0527 or Nadya B. Roytblat, Assistant Director, at (202) 942-0564 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained for a fee at the Commission's Public Reference Branch,

450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0102 (telephone (202) 942-8090).

Applicant's Representations

1. Each Series will be a series of a Trust and each Trust will be a UIT registered under the Act.² The Depositor is registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as a broker-dealer and is the depositor of each Series. Each Series will be created by a trust indenture between the Depositor and a banking institution or trust company as trustee ("Trustee").

2. The Depositor acquires a portfolio of securities, which it deposits with the Trustee in exchange for certificates representing units of fractional undivided interest in the Series' portfolio ("Units"). The Units are offered to the public by the Depositor and dealers at a price which, during the initial offering period, is based upon the aggregate market value of the underlying securities plus a front-end sales charge. The Depositor may reduce the sales charge in compliance with rule 22d-1 under the Act in certain circumstances, which are disclosed in the prospectus.

3. The Depositor will maintain a secondary market for Units and continually offer to purchase these Units at prices based upon the market value of the underlying securities. Investors may purchase Units on the secondary market at the current public offering prices plus a front-end sales charge. If the Depositor discontinues maintaining such a market at any time for any Series, holders of the Units ("Unitholders") of that Series may redeem their Units through the Trustee.

A. Deferred Sales Charge and Waiver of Deferred Sales Charge Under Certain Circumstances

1. Applicants request an order to the extent necessary to permit one or more Series to impose a sales charge on a deferred basis ("deferred sales charge" or "DSC"). For each Series, the Depositor would set a maximum sales charge per Unit, a portion of which may be collected "up front" (*i.e.*, at the time an investor purchases the Units). The DSC would be collected subsequently in installments ("Installment Payments") as described in the application. The Depositor would not add any amount for interest or any similar or related charge to adjust for such deferral.

2. When a Unitholder redeems or sells Units, the Depositor intends to deduct any unpaid DSC from the redemption or sale proceeds. When calculating the

¹ Any future Series that relies on the requested order will comply with the terms and conditions of the application.

² All presently existing Trusts that currently intend to rely on the requested order have been named as applicants.

amount due, the Depositor will assume that Units on which the DSC has been paid in full are redeemed or sold first. With respect to Units on which the DSC has not been paid in full, the Depositor will assume that the Units held for the longest time are redeemed or sold first. Applicants represent that the DSC collected at the time of redemption or sale, together with the Installment Payments and any amount collected up front, will not exceed the maximum sales charge per Unit. Under certain circumstances, the Depositor may waive the collection of any unpaid DSC in connection with redemptions or sales of Units. These circumstances will be disclosed in the prospectus for the relevant Series and implemented in accordance with rule 22d-1 under the Act.

3. Each Series offering Units subject to a DSC will state the maximum charge per Unit in its prospectus. In addition, the prospectus for such Series will include the table required by Form N-1A (modified as appropriate to reflect the difference between UITs and open-end management investment companies) and a schedule setting forth the number and date of each Installment Payment, along with the duration of the collection period. The prospectus also will disclose that portfolio securities may be sold to pay an Installment Payment if distribution income is insufficient, and that securities will be sold *pro rata* or a specific security will be designated for sale.

B. Exchange Option and Rollover Option

1. Applicants request an order to the extent necessary to permit Unitholders of a Series to exchange their Units for Units to another Series ("Exchange Option") and Unitholders of a Series that is terminating to exchange their Units for Units for a new Series of the same type ("Rollover Option"). The Exchange Option and Rollover Option would apply to all exchanges of Units sold with a front-end sales charge or DSC.

2. A Unitholder who purchases Units under the Exchange Option or Rollover Option would pay a lower sales charge than that which would be paid for the Units by a new investor. The reduced sales charge will be reasonably related to the expenses incurred in connection with the administration of the DSC program, which may include an amount that will fairly and adequately compensate the Depositor and participating underwriters and brokers for their services in providing the DSC program.

3. Pursuant to the Exchange Option, an adjustment would be made if Units of any Series are exchanged within five months of their acquisition for Units of a Series with a higher sales charge ("Five Months Adjustment"). An adjustment also would be made if Units on which a DSC is collected are exchanged for Units of a Series that imposes a front-end sales charge and the exchange occurs before the DSC collected (plus any amount collected up front on the exchanged Units) at least equals the per Unit sales charge on the acquired Units ("DSC Front-End Exchange Adjustment"). If an exchange involves either the Five Months Adjustment or the DSC Front-End Exchange Adjustment, the Unitholder would pay the greater of the reduced sales charge or an amount which, together with the sales charge already paid on the exchanged Units, equals the normal sales charge on the acquired Units on the date of the exchange. With appropriate disclosures, the Depositor may waive such payment. Further, the Depositor would reserve the right to vary the sales charge normally applicable to a Series and the charge applicable to exchanges, as well as to modify, suspend, or terminate the Exchange Option as set forth in the conditions to the application.

Applicant's Legal Analysis

A. DSC and Waiver of DSC

1. Section 4(2) of the Act defines a "unit investment trust" as an investment company that issues only redeemable securities. Section 2(a)(32) of the Act defines a "redeemable security" as a security that, upon its presentation to the issuer, entitles the holder to receive approximately his or her proportionate share of the issuer's current net assets or the cash equivalent of those assets. Rule 22c-1 under the Act requires that the price of a redeemable security issued by a registered investment company for purposes of sale, redemption or repurchase be based on the security's current net asset value ("NAV"). Because the collection of any unpaid DSC may cause a redeeming Unitholder to receive an amount less than the NAV of the redeemed Units, applicants request relief from section 2(a)(32) and rule 22c-1.

2. Section 22(d) of the Act and rule 22d-1 under the Act require a registered investment company and its principal underwriter and dealers to sell securities only at the current public offering price described in the investment company's prospectus, with the exception of sales of redeemable

securities at prices that reflect scheduled variations in the sales load. Section 2(a)(35) of the Act defines the term "sales load" as the difference between the sales price and the portion of the proceeds invested by the depositor or trustee. Applicants request relief from section 2(a)(35) and section 22(d) to permit waivers, deferrals or other scheduled variations of the sales load.

3. Under section 6(c) of the Act, the Commission may exempt classes of transactions, if and to the extent that such exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act. Applicants state that their proposal meets the standards of section 6(c). Applicants state that the provisions of section 22(d) are intended to prevent (a) riskless trading in investment company securities due to backward pricing, (b) disruption of orderly distribution by dealers selling shares at a discount, and (c) discrimination among investors resulting from different prices charged to different investors. Applicants assert that the proposed DSC program will present none of these abuses. Applicants further state that all scheduled variations in the sales load will be disclosed in the prospectus of each Series and applied uniformly to all investors, and that applicants will comply with all the conditions set forth in rule 22d-1.

4. Section 26(a)(2)(C) of the Act, in relevant part, prohibits a trustee or custodian of a UIT from collecting from the trust as an expense any payment to the trust's depositor or principal underwriter. Because the Trustee's payment of the DSC to the Depositor may be deemed to be an expense under section 26(a)(2)(C), applicants request relief under section 6(c) from section 26(a)(2)(C) to the extent necessary to permit the Trustee to collect Installment Payments and disburse them to the Depositor. Applicants submit that the relief is appropriate because the DSC is more properly characterized as a sales load.

B. Exchange Option and Rollover Option

1. Sections 11(a) and (c) of the Act prohibit any offer of exchange by a UIT for the securities of another investment company unless the terms of the offer have been approved in advance by the Commission. Applicants request an order under sections 11(a) and 11(c) for Commission approval of the Exchange Option and the Rollover Option. Applicants state that the Five Months

Adjustment and the DSC Front-End Exchange Adjustment in certain circumstances are appropriate to maintain the equitable treatment of various investors in each Series.

C. Net Worth Requirement

1. Section 14(a) of the Act requires that a registered investment company have \$100,000 of net worth prior to making a public offering. Applicants state that each Series will comply with this requirement because the Depositor will deposit substantially more than \$100,000 of debt and/or equity securities, depending on the objective of the particular Series. Applicants assert, however, that the Commission has interpreted section 14(a) as requiring that the initial capital investment in an investment company be made without any intention to dispose of the investment. Applicants state that, under this interpretation, a Series would not satisfy section 14(a) because of the Depositor's intention to sell of the Units of the Series.

2. Rule 14a-3 under the Act exempts UITs from section 14(a) if certain conditions are met, one of which is that the UIT invest only in "eligible trust securities," as defined in the rule. Applicants state that they may not rely on rule 14a-3 because certain future Series (collectively, "Equity Series") will invest all or a portion of their assets in equity securities or registered investment company securities pursuant to an exemptive order, which do not satisfy the definition of eligible trust securities.

3. Applicants request an exemption under section 6(c) of the Act to the extent necessary to exempt the Equity Series from the net worth requirement in section 14(a). Applicants state that the Series and the Depositor will comply in all respects with the requirement of rule 14a-3, except that the Equity Series will not restrict their portfolio investment to "eligible trust securities."

D. Capital Gains Distribution

1. Section 19(b) of the Act and rule 19b-1 under the Act provide that, except under limited circumstances, no registered investment company may distribute long-term gains more than once every twelve months. Rule 19b-1(c), under certain circumstances, exempts a UIT investing in eligible trust securities (as defined in rule 14a-3) from the requirements of rule 19b-1. Because the Equity Series do not limit their investments to eligible trust securities, however, the Equity Series will not qualify for the exemption in paragraph (c) of rule 19b-1. Applicants

therefore request an exemption under section 6(c) from section 19(b) and rule 19b-1 to the extent necessary to permit capital gains earned in connection with the sale of portfolio securities to be distributed to Unitholders along with the Equity Series' regular distributions. In all other respects, applicants will comply with section 19(b) and rule 19b-1.

2. Applicants state that their proposal meets the standard of section 6(c). Applicants assert that any sale of portfolio securities would be triggered by the need to meet Series' expenses, Installment Payments, or by redemption requests, events over which the Depositor and the Equity Series do not have control. Applicants further state that, because principal distributions must be clearly indicated in accompanying reports to Unitholders as a return of principal and will be relatively small in comparison to normal dividend distributions, there is little danger of confusion from failure to differentiate among distributions.

Applicants' Conditions

Applicants agree that the order granting the requested relief will be subject to the following conditions:

A. DSC and Exchange and Rollover Options

1. Whenever the Exchange Option or the Rollover Option is to be terminated or its terms are to be amended materially, any holder of a security subject to that privilege will be given prominent notice of the impending termination or amendment at least 60 days prior to the date of termination or the effective date of the amendment, *provided that*: (a) No such notice need be given if the only material effect of an amendment is to reduce or eliminate the sales charge payable at the time of an exchange, to add one or more new Series eligible for the Exchange Option or the Rollover Option, or to delete a Series which has terminated; and (b) no notice need be given if, under extraordinary circumstances, either (i) there is a suspension of the redemption of Units of the Series under section 22(e) of the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated under that section, or (ii) a Series temporarily delays or ceases the sale of its Units because it is unable to invest amounts effectively in accordance with applicable investment objectives, policies and restrictions.

2. An investor who purchases Units under the Exchange Option or the Rollover Option will pay a lower sales charge than that which would be paid for the Units by a new investor.

3. The prospectus of each Series offering exchanges or rollovers and any sales literature or advertising that mentions the existence of the Exchange Option or Rollover Option will disclose that the Exchange Option and the Rollover Option are subject to modification, termination or suspension without notice, except in certain limited cases.

4. Any DSC imposed on a Series' Units will comply with the requirements of subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) of rule 6c-10(a) under the Act.

5. Each Series offering Units subject to a DSC will include in its prospectus the disclosure required in Form N-1A relating to deferred sales charges, modified as appropriate to reflect the differences between UITs and open-end management investment companies, and a schedule setting forth the number and date of each Installment Payment.

B. Net Worth Requirement

Applicant will comply in all respects with the requirements of rule 14a-3, except that the Equity Series will not restrict their portfolio investments to "eligible trust securities."

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-18803 Filed 7-24-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. IC-25668; 812-12798]

Matrix Unit Trust, et al.; Notice of Application

July 19, 2002.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission").

ACTION: Notice of application for an order under section 12(d)(1)(J) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Act") for an exemption from sections 12(d)(1)(A), (B), and (C) of the Act and under sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act for an exemption from section 17(a) of the Act.

Summary of Application: Applicants Matrix Capital Group, Inc. (the "Depositor"), Matrix Unit Trust ("Matrix Trust") and unit investment trusts ("UITs") organized in the future and sponsored by the Depositor (together with Matrix Trust, the "Trusts," and series of the Trusts, "Series") request an order (a) under section 12(d)(1)(J) of the Act to permit