

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
Amendments to 12 C.F.R. § 360.6 Treatment by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as Conservator or Receiver of Financial Assets Transferred by an Insured Depository Institution in Connection With a Securitization or Participation After September 30, 2010
OMB No. 3064-New

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) is requesting approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance of information collection requirements contained in its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Amendments to 12 C.F.R. § 360.6 Treatment by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as Conservator or Receiver of Financial Assets Transferred by an Insured Depository Institution in Connection With a Securitization or Participation After September 30, 2010, which was approved for publication in the *Federal Register* by the FDIC Board on May 11, 2010. **The proposed rule would continue the safe harbor for transferred financial assets in connection with securitizations in which the financial assets were transferred under the existing section 360.6 (the “Securitization Rule”). And the proposed rule would clarify the conditions for a safe harbor for securitizations or participations issued after September 30, 2010. In addition, the proposed rule also sets forth safe harbor protections for securitizations that do not comply with the new accounting standards for off balance sheet treatment by providing for expedited access to the financial assets that are securitized if they meet the conditions defined in the proposed rule.** The conditions contained in the proposed rule would serve to protect the Deposit Insurance Fund (“DIF”) and the FDIC’s interests as deposit insurer and receiver by aligning the conditions for the safe harbor with better and more sustainable lending practices by insured depository institutions (“IDIs”). The FDIC seeks comment for a period of 45 days after publication of the proposed rule on the scope of the Rule, the scope of the safe harbors provided and the terms and scope of the conditions included in the proposed rule.

A. JUSTIFICATION

The FDIC, as deposit insurer and receiver for failed IDIs, has a unique responsibility and interest in ensuring that residential mortgage loans and other financial assets originated by IDIs are originated for long-term sustainability. The FDIC’s responsibilities to protect insured depositors and resolve failed insured banks and thrifts and its responsibility to the DIF require it to ensure that, where it provides a safe harbor consenting to special relief from the application of its receivership powers, it must do so in a manner that fulfills these responsibilities.

It would be imprudent for the FDIC to provide consent or other clarification of its application of its receivership powers without imposing requirements designed to realign the incentives in the securitization process to avoid these devastating effects. **The FDIC’s adoption of 12 C.F.R. § 360.6 in 2000 provided clarification of “legal isolation” and facilitated legal and accounting analyses that supported securitization. In view of the accounting changes and the effects**

they have upon the application of the Securitization Rule, it is crucial that the FDIC provide clarification of the application of its receivership powers in a way that reduces the risks to the DIF by better aligning the incentives in securitization to support sustainable lending and structured finance transactions

1. Circumstances and Need

The Securitization Rule provided a “safe harbor” by confirming “legal isolation” if all other standards for off balance sheet accounting treatment, along with some additional conditions focusing on the enforceability of the transaction, were met by the transfer in connection with a securitization or a participation. Satisfaction of “legal isolation” was vital to securitization transactions because of the risk that the pool of financial assets transferred into the securitization trust could be recovered in bankruptcy or in a bank receivership. Generally, to satisfy the legal isolation condition, the transferred financial assets must have been presumptively placed beyond the reach of the transferor, its creditors, a bankruptcy trustee, or in the case of an IDI, the FDIC as conservator or receiver. Since its adoption, the Securitization Rule has been relied on by securitization participants, including rating agencies, as assurance that investors could look to securitized financial assets for payment without concern that the financial assets would be interfered with by the FDIC as conservator or receiver.

The FDIC must address the evident defects in many subprime and other mortgages originated and sold into securitizations in order to fulfill its responsibilities as deposit insurer and receiver.

The defects and misalignment of incentives in the securitization process for residential mortgages were a significant contributor to the erosion of underwriting standards throughout the mortgage finance system. While many of the troubled mortgages were originated by non-bank lenders, insured banks and thrifts also made many troubled loans as underwriting standards declined under the competitive pressures created by the returns achieved by lenders and service providers through the “originate to distribute” model.

Defects in the incentives provided by securitization through immediate gains on sale for transfers into securitization vehicles and fee income directly led to material adverse consequences for insured banks and thrifts. Among these consequences were increased repurchase demands under representations and warranties contained in securitization agreements, losses on purchased mortgage and asset-backed securities, severe declines in financial asset values and in mortgage- and asset-backed security values due to spreading market uncertainty about the value of structured finance investments, and impairments in overall financial prospects due to the accelerated decline in housing values and overall economic activity. These consequences, and the overall economic conditions, directly led to the failures of many IDIs and to significant losses to the DIF.

To ensure that IDIs are sponsoring securitizations in a responsible and sustainable manner, the proposed rule would impose certain conditions on all securitizations and additional conditions on securitizations that include residential mortgages (“RMBS”), including those that qualify as true sales, as a prerequisite for the FDIC to grant consent to the exercise of the rights and powers listed in 12 U.S.C. § 1821(e)(13)(C) with respect to such financial assets. To qualify for the safe harbor provision of the proposed rule, the conditions must be satisfied for any securitization (i)

for which transfers of financial assets were made or (ii), for revolving trusts, for which obligations were issued on or after September 30, 2010.

In the context of a conservatorship or receivership, the conditions applicable to all securitizations will improve overall transparency and clarity through disclosure and documentation requirements along with ensuring effective incentives for prudent lending by requiring that the payment of principal and interest be based primarily on the performance of the financial assets and by requiring retention of a share of the credit risk in the securitized loans.

The conditions applicable to RMBS are more detailed and explicit and require additional capital structure changes, disclosures, and documentation, the establishment of a reserve and deferral of compensation. These standards are intended to address the factors that caused significant losses in current RMBS securitization structures as demonstrated in the recent crisis. Confidence can be restored in RMBS markets only through greater transparency and other structures that support sustainable mortgage origination practices and requiring increased disclosures. These standards respond to investor demands for greater transparency and alignment of the interests of parties to the securitization. In addition, they are generally consistent with industry efforts while taking into account proposed legislative and regulatory initiatives.

2. Use of Information Collected

The conditions are designed to provide greater clarity and transparency to allow a better ongoing evaluation of the quality of lending by banks and reduce the risks to the DIF from the opaque securitization structures and the poorly underwritten loans that led to the onset of the financial crisis. In addition, these conditions are designed to address the difficulties provided by the existing model of securitization. However, greater transparency is not solely for investors but will serve to more closely tie the origination of loans to their long-term performance by requiring disclosure of that performance.

3. Use of Technology to Reduce Burden

Compliance with disclosure provisions and other requirements of the proposed rule may be facilitated by whatever technology is available.

4. Efforts to Identify Duplication

The information collection contained in the proposed rule is related to, but not duplicated by, other previously approved collections of information. It cannot be readily acquired from other sources.

5. Minimizing the Burden on Small Entities

The information is collected only from a limited group of IDIs who engage in securitization transactions. Small entities are not affected.

6. Consequences of Less Frequent Collection

The conditions are designed to provide greater clarity and transparency to allow a better ongoing evaluation of the quality of lending by banks and reduce the risks to the DIF from the opaque securitization structures and the poorly underwritten loans that led to the onset of the financial crisis. Less frequent disclosure would render the information stale and unable to be used by investors to evaluate the credit risk of a given securitization

7. Special Circumstances

None.

8. Consultation with Persons Outside the FDIC

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is to be published in the *Federal Register* for a 45-day comment period. All comments timely filed will be considered by the FDIC in adoption of any final rule.

9. Payment or Gift to Respondents

No gifts will be given to respondents.

10. Confidentiality

The FDIC recognizes that the some of the information and analysis provided will be proprietary and confidential, and is not intended for public disclosure. Information deemed confidential is exempt from public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

11. Information of a Sensitive Nature

No information of a sensitive nature is requested.

12. Estimate of Annual Burden

<u>New Paperwork Burden</u>		<u>Number of Respondents</u>	<u>Hours Per Response</u>	<u>Responses Per Year</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>
10K Annual Report – Non Reg AB Compliant	473	36	1	17,028	
10K Annual Report – Reg AB Compliant		203	6	1	1,218
8K Disclosure Form – Non Reg AB Compliant	473	6	2	5,676	
8K Disclosure Form – Reg AB Compliant		203	1		2
			406		
10D Reports – Non Reg AB Compliant		473	36	5	
	85,140				
10D Reports – Reg AB Compliant		203	36	5	
	36,540				
Total Burden					146,008 hours

13. Capital, Start-up, and Operating Costs

Some of the required information is likely to have been developed and/or reported elsewhere, and to the greatest extent possible, the FDIC expects such existing information and reports to be used to minimize the regulatory burden on the covered IDIs. Capital, start-up or operating costs associated with preparation and submission of the initial and updated analyses and plans are unknown.

14. Estimates of Annualized Cost to the Federal Government

Any incremental costs associated with reviewing information submitted by private capital investors are encompassed within the FDIC’s personnel and data processing budgets and are not separately identifiable.

15. Reason for Change in Burden

This is a new collection.

16. Publication

The information collected from covered IDIs will not be published by the FDIC.

17. Exceptions to Expiration Date Display

None.

18. Exceptions to Certification

None.