

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF NEW YORK

[Circular No. 7044]
November 24, 1972]

MARGIN REQUIREMENTS INCREASED

*To All Persons Extending Securities Credit
in the Second Federal Reserve District:*

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System issued the following statement on November 22:

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System today increased the initial margin requirement for purchasing or carrying stocks from 55 per cent to 65 per cent, effective Friday, November 24.

Federal Reserve margin requirements set the minimum down payment that must be made to purchase margin securities. Under a 65 per cent margin, a purchaser is required to pay 65 per cent of the purchase price and may obtain credit for the remaining 35 per cent.

The increase in margin was adopted under authority granted to the Board in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prevent the excessive use of credit to finance securities transactions. In making the change, the Board noted that margin debt had increased sharply over the past year. Margin debt at brokers and dealers has risen about \$43 billion since November 1971, and the amount outstanding at the end of October was \$7.8 billion, a record level for margin debt of this type. At banks, loans for the purpose of purchasing or carrying margin securities increased by more than \$330 million since November 1971.

The Board also noted that recent behavior of the stock market suggested that the use of margin credit, following a levelling off in late summer, was again in process of expanding. Further rapid increases in such credit could stimulate inflationary expectations.

Today's action is applicable to new extensions of credit by brokers and dealers (Regulation T) and loans by banks and other lenders (Regulations U and G respectively) for the purpose of purchasing or carrying stocks registered on a national stock exchange or named in the Board's over-the-counter margin list.

At the same time, the Board increased the required deposit on short sales from 55 per cent to 65 per cent, also effective Friday. No change was made in the 50 per cent margin requirement for purchasing or carrying convertible bonds or in the 70 per cent "retention requirement" that applies to undermargined accounts. This latter requirement specifies the portion of the proceeds of a sale of securities that must be retained in a margin account if the equity does not match the initial margin requirement.

The initial margin requirement was last changed on December 6, 1971, when it was reduced from 65 per cent to 55 per cent.

Enclosed is a copy of the Supplements, effective November 24, 1972, to Regulations G, T, and U, giving effect to the increased margin requirements. Additional copies of the enclosure will be furnished upon request.

ALFRED HAYES,
President.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

SUPPLEMENTS TO REGULATIONS G, T, AND U

SUPPLEMENT TO REGULATION G

Effective November 24, 1972

SECTION 207.5 — SUPPLEMENT

(a) **Maximum loan value of margin securities.** For the purpose of § 207.1, the maximum loan value of any margin security, except convertible securities subject to § 207.1(d), shall be 35 per cent of its current market value, as determined by any reasonable method.

(b) **Maximum loan value of convertible debt securities subject to § 207.1(d).** For the purpose of § 207.1, the maximum loan value of any security against which credit is extended pursuant to § 207.1(d) shall be 50 per cent of its current market value, as determined by any reasonable method.

(c) **Retention requirement.** For the purpose of § 207.1, in the case of a loan which would exceed the maximum loan value of the collateral following a withdrawal of collateral, the "retention requirement" of a margin security and of a security against which credit is extended pursuant to § 207.1(d) shall be 70 per cent of its current market value, as determined by any reasonable method.

(d) **Requirements for inclusion on list of OTC margin stock.** Except as provided in subparagraph (4) of § 207.2(f), such stock shall meet the requirements that:

(1) The stock is subject to registration under § 12(g)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(1)), or if issued by an insurance company subject to § 12(g)(2)(G) (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(2)(G)) the issuer had at least \$1 million of capital and surplus,

(2) Five or more dealers stand willing to, and do in fact, make a market in such stock including making regularly published *bona*

vide bids and offers for such stock for their own accounts, or the stock is registered on a securities exchange that is exempted by the Securities and Exchange Commission from registration as a national securities exchange pursuant to section 5 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78e),

(3) There are 1,500 or more holders of record of the stock who are not officers, directors, or beneficial owners of 10 per cent or more of the stock,

(4) The issuer is organized under the laws of the United States or a State⁹ and it, or a predecessor in interest, has been in existence for at least 3 years,

(5) The stock has been publicly traded for at least 6 months, and

(6) Daily quotations for both bid and asked prices for the stock are continuously available to the general public;

and shall meet 3 of the 4 additional requirements that:

(7) There are 500,000 or more shares of such stock outstanding in addition to shares held beneficially by officers, directors, or beneficial owners of more than 10 per cent of the stock,

(8) The shares described in subparagraph (7) of this paragraph have a market value in the aggregate of at least \$10 million,

(9) The minimum average bid price of such stock, as determined by the Board in the latest month, is at least \$10 per share, and

(10) The issuer had at least \$5 million of capital, surplus, and undivided profits.

⁹ As defined in 15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(16).

(e) **Requirements for continued inclusion on list of OTC margin stock.** Except as provided in subparagraph (4) of § 207.2(f), such stock shall meet the requirements that:

(1) The stock continues to be subject to registration under section 12(g)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(1)), or if issued by an insurance company such issuer continues to be subject to section 12(g)(2)(G) (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(2)(G)) and has at least \$1 million of capital and surplus,

(2) Four or more dealers stand willing to, and do in fact, make a market in such stock including making regularly published *bona fide* bids and offers for such stock for their own accounts, or the stock is registered on a securities exchange that is exempted by the Securities and Exchange Commission from registration as a national securities exchange pursuant to section 5 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78e),

(3) There continue to be 1,000 or more holders of record of the stock who are not officers, directors, or beneficial owners of 10 per cent or more of the stock,

(4) The issuer continues to be a U.S. corporation,

(5) Daily quotations for both bid and asked prices for the stock are continuously available to the general public;

and shall meet 3 of the 4 additional requirements that:

(6) 400,000 or more shares of such stock remain outstanding in addition to shares held beneficially by officers, directors, or beneficial owners of more than 10 per cent of the stock,

(7) The shares described in subparagraph (6) of this paragraph continue to have a market value in the aggregate of at least \$5 million,

(8) The minimum average bid price of such stock, as determined by the Board, is at least \$5 per share, and

(9) The issuer continues to have at least \$2.5 million of capital, surplus, and undivided profits.

(f) **Minimum equity ratio.** The minimum equity ratio of a credit subject to § 207.1 is 40 percent.

SUPPLEMENT TO REGULATION T

Effective November 24, 1972

SECTION 220.8 — SUPPLEMENT

(a) **Maximum loan value for general accounts.** The maximum loan value of securities in a general account subject to § 220.3 shall be:

(1) of a registered non-equity security held in the account on March 11, 1968, and continuously thereafter, and of a margin equity security (except as provided in § 220.3(c) and paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section), 35 per cent of the current market value of such securities.

(2) of an exempted security held in the account on March 11, 1968, and continuously thereafter, the maximum loan value of the

security as determined by the creditor in good faith.

(b) **Maximum loan value for a special bond account.** The maximum loan value of an exempted security and of a registered non-equity security pursuant to § 220.4(i) shall be the maximum loan value of the security as determined by the creditor in good faith.

(c) **Maximum loan value for special convertible debt security account.** The maximum loan value of a margin security eligible for a special convertible security account pursuant to § 220.4(j) shall be 50 per cent of the current market value of the security.

(d) **Margin required for short sales.** The amount to be included in the adjusted debit balance of a general account, pursuant to § 220.3(d)(3), as margin required for short sales of securities (other than exempted securities) shall be 65 per cent of the current market value of each security.

(e) **Retention requirement.** In the case of an account which would have an excess of the adjusted debit balance of the account over the maximum loan value of the securities in the account following a withdrawal of cash or securities from the account, pursuant to § 220.3(b)(2):

(1) The "retention requirement" of an exempted security held in the general account on March 11, 1968, and continuously thereafter, shall be equal to its maximum loan value as determined by the creditor in good faith, and the "retention requirement" of a registered non-equity security held in such account on March 11, 1968, and continuously thereafter, and of a margin security, shall be 70 per cent of the current market value of the security.

(2) In the case of a special bond account subject to § 220.4(i), the retention requirement of an exempted security and of a registered non-equity security shall be equal to the maximum loan value of the security.

(3) In the case of a special convertible security account subject to § 220.4(j) which would have an excess of the adjusted debit balance of the account over the maximum loan value of the securities in the account following a withdrawal of cash or securities from the account, the retention requirement of a security having loan value in the account shall be 70 per cent of the current market value of the security.

(4) For the purpose of effecting a transfer from a general account to a special convertible security account subject to § 220.4(j), the retention requirement of a security described in § 220.4(j), shall be 70 per cent of its current market value.

(f) **Security having no loan value in general account.** No securities other than an exempted security or registered non-equity security held in the account on March 11, 1968, and continuously thereafter, and a margin security, shall have any loan value in a general account except that a margin security eligible for the special convertible security account pursuant to § 220.4(j) shall have loan value only if held in the account on March 11, 1968, and continuously thereafter.

(g) **Account subject to section 8(g).** For purposes of the computation described in § 220.3(b)(1)(ii),

(1) The maximum loan value of a registered non-equity security held in the account on March 11, 1968, and continuously thereafter, and of a margin equity security shall be 60 per cent of the current market value of such security, and the maximum loan value of an exempted security held in the account on March 11, 1968, and continuously thereafter shall be the maximum loan value of the security as determined by the creditor in good faith.

(2) The amount to be included in the adjusted debit balance of the account pursuant to § 220.3(d)(3) as margin required for short sales of securities (other than exempted securities) shall be 40 per cent of the current market value of each security.

(h) **Requirements for inclusion on list of OTC margin stock.** Except as provided in subparagraph (4) of § 220.2(e), OTC margin stock shall meet the requirements that:

(1) The stock is subject to registration under § 12(g)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(1)), or if issued by an insurance company subject to § 12(g)(2)(G) (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(2)(G)), the issuer had at least \$1 million of capital and surplus,

(2) Five or more dealers stand willing to, and do in fact, make a market in such stock

including making regularly published *bona fide* bids and offers for such stock for their own accounts, or the stock is registered on a securities exchange that is exempted by the Securities and Exchange Commission from registration as a national securities exchange pursuant to section 5 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78e),

(3) There are 1,500 or more holders of record of the stock who are not officers, directors, or beneficial owners of 10 per cent or more of the stock,

(4) The issuer is organized under the laws of the United States or a State⁶ and it, or a predecessor in interest, has been in existence for at least 3 years,

(5) The stock has been publicly traded for at least 6 months, and

(6) Daily quotations for both bid and asked prices for the stocks are continuously available to the general public; and shall meet 3 of the 4 additional requirements that:

(7) There are 500,000 or more shares of such stock outstanding in addition to shares held beneficially by officers, directors, or beneficial owners of more than 10 per cent of the stock,

(8) The shares described in subparagraph (7) of this paragraph have a market value in the aggregate of at least \$10 million,

(9) The minimum average bid price of such stock, as determined by the Board in the latest month, is at least \$10 per share, and

(10) The issuer had at least \$5 million of capital, surplus, and undivided profits.

(i) **Requirements for continued inclusion on list of OTC margin stock.** Except as provided in subparagraph (4) of § 220.2(e), OTC margin stock shall meet the requirements that:

(1) The stock continues to be subject to registration under section 12(g)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(1)), or if issued by an insurance company such issuer continues to be subject to section 12(g)(2)(G) (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(2)(G)) and has at least \$1 million of capital and surplus,

(2) Four or more dealers stand willing to, and do in fact, make a market in such stock including making regularly published *bona fide* bids and offers for such stock for their own accounts, or the stock is registered on a securities exchange that is exempted by the Securities and Exchange Commission from registration as a national securities exchange pursuant to section 5 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78e),

(3) There continue to be 1,000 or more holders of record of the stock who are not officers, directors, or beneficial owners of 10 per cent or more of the stock,

(4) The issuer continues to be a U.S. corporation,

(5) Daily quotations for both bid and asked prices for the stock are continuously available to the general public; and shall meet 3 of the 4 additional requirements that:

(6) 400,000 or more shares of such stock remain outstanding in addition to shares held beneficially by officers, directors, or beneficial owners of more than 10 per cent of the stock,

(7) The shares described in subparagraph (6) of this paragraph continue to have a market value in the aggregate of at least \$5 million,

(8) The minimum average bid price of such stock, as determined by the Board, is at least \$5 per share, and

(9) The issuer continues to have at least \$2.5 million of capital, surplus, and undivided profits.

⁶ As defined in 15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(16).

SUPPLEMENT TO REGULATION U

Effective November 24, 1972

SECTION 221.4 — SUPPLEMENT

(a) **Maximum loan value of stocks.** For the purpose of § 221.1, the maximum loan value of any stock, whether or not registered on a national securities exchange, shall be 35 per cent of its current market value, as determined by any reasonable method.

(b) **Maximum loan value of convertible debt securities subject to § 221.3(t).** For the purpose of § 221.3(t), the maximum loan value of any security against which credit is extended pursuant to § 221.3(t) shall be 50 per cent of its current market value, as determined by any reasonable method.

(c) **Retention requirement.** For the purpose of § 221.1, in the case of a credit which would exceed the maximum loan value of the collateral following a withdrawal of collateral, the "retention requirement" of a stock, whether or not registered on a national securities exchange, and of a convertible debt security subject to § 221.3(t), shall be 70 per cent of its current market value, as determined by any reasonable method.

(d) **Requirements for inclusion on list of OTC margin stock.** Except as provided in subparagraph (4) of § 221.3(d), OTC margin stock shall meet the requirements that:

(1) The stock is subject to registration under § 12(g)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(1)), or if issued by an insurance company subject to § 12(g)(2)(G) (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(2)(G)) the issuer had at least \$1 million of capital and surplus,

(2) Five or more dealers stand willing to, and do in fact, make a market in such stock including making regularly published *bona fide* bids and offers for such stock for their own accounts, or the stock is registered on a securities exchange that is exempted by the Securities and Exchange Commission from registration as a national securities exchange

pursuant to section 5 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78e),

(3) There are 1,500 or more holders of record of the stock who are not officers, directors, or beneficial owners of 10 per cent or more of the stock,

(4) The issuer is organized under the laws of the United States or a State⁹ and it, or a predecessor in interest, has been in existence for at least 3 years,

(5) The stock has been publicly traded for at least 6 months, and

(6) Daily quotations for both bid and asked prices for the stock are continuously available to the general public;

and shall meet 3 of the 4 additional requirements that:

(7) There are 500,000 or more shares of such stock outstanding in addition to shares held beneficially by officers, directors, or beneficial owners of more than 10 per cent of the stock,

(8) The shares described in subparagraph (7) of this paragraph have a market value in the aggregate of at least \$10 million,

(9) The minimum average bid price of such stock, as determined by the Board in the latest month, is at least \$10 per share, and

(10) The issuer had at least \$5 million of capital, surplus, and undivided profits.

(e) **Requirements for continued inclusion on list of OTC margin stock.** Except as provided in subparagraph (4) of § 221.3(d), OTC margin stock shall meet the requirements that:

(1) The stock continues to be subject to registration under section 12(g)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(1)), or if issued by an insurance company such issuer continues to be subject to section 12(g)(2)(G) (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(2)(G)) and has at least \$1 million of capital and surplus,

⁹ As defined in 15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(16).

(2) Four or more dealers stand willing to, and do in fact, make a market in such stock including making regularly published *bona fide* bids and offers for such stock for their own accounts, or the stock is registered on a securities exchange that is exempted by the Securities and Exchange Commission from registration as a national securities exchange pursuant to section 5 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78e),

(3) There continue to be 1,000 or more holders of record of the stock who are not officers, directors, or beneficial owners of 10 per cent or more of the stock,

(4) The issuer continues to be a U.S. corporation,

(5) Daily quotations for both bid and asked prices for the stock are continuously available to the general public;

and shall meet 3 of the 4 additional requirements that:

(6) 400,000 or more shares of such stock remain outstanding in addition to shares held beneficially by officers, directors, or beneficial owners of more than 10 per cent of the stock,

(7) The shares described in subparagraph (6) of this paragraph continue to have a market value in the aggregate of at least \$5 million,

(8) The minimum average bid price of such stock, as determined by the Board, is at least \$5 per share, and

(9) The issuer continues to have at least \$2.5 million of capital, surplus, and undivided profits.

(f) **Minimum equity ratio.** The minimum equity ratio of a credit subject to § 221.1 is 40 percent.