

**FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF NEW YORK**

[Circular No. **10544**]
June 5, 1992

FEDERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS EXAMINATION COUNCIL

**Uniform Policy on Advance Notification
of Changes in Reporting Requirements**

*To All Depository Institutions, and U.S. Branches and Agencies
of Foreign Banks, in the Second Federal Reserve District:*

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council:

The Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council has announced that the Federal banking agencies have adopted a uniform formal policy concerning the frequency and timing of changes to the Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income (Call Reports) filed by insured commercial banks and FDIC-supervised savings banks, the Thrift Financial Report filed by savings associations, the Report of Assets and Liabilities of U.S. Branches and Agencies of Foreign Banks filed by these branches and agencies, and the Foreign Branch Report of Condition filed by U.S. bank branches located in a foreign country, Puerto Rico, or a U.S. territory or possession. These agencies are the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve Board, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Office of Thrift Supervision.

Under this advance notification policy, subject to certain exceptions, the agencies will announce prior to the end of each year all reporting changes that will take effect in the following year. This will ensure that depository institutions have at least 90 days' notice of changes in their regulatory reporting requirements. The policy applies not only to the addition of new line items to the report forms, but also to certain instructional changes. The agencies have adopted this formal policy to promote interagency consistency and to lessen the regulatory burden that reporting changes often impose on federally supervised depository institutions.

Printed on the following pages is a copy of the uniform policy statement on this matter. Questions may be directed to our Supervision Support Department (Tel. No. 212-720-6357).

E. GERALD CORRIGAN,
President.

Policy Statement on
Changes in Regulatory Reporting Requirements

Under the auspices of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC), the four federal banking agencies (the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve Board, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Office of Thrift Supervision) are establishing a uniform formal policy concerning the frequency and timing of changes to their regulatory reports.^{1/} Effective immediately, the agencies will announce prior to the end of each year all reporting changes that will take effect in the following year. The only exceptions to this policy are deletions of items from the regulatory reports and reporting changes required by statute or regulation, necessitated by new standards issued by accounting standards setting bodies, or determined by majority vote of the members of the FFIEC to be necessary for safety and soundness, insurance assessment, or other regulatory reasons.

^{1/} These regulatory reports are the Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income (Call Reports) filed by insured commercial banks and FDIC-supervised savings banks, the Thrift Financial Report filed by savings associations, the Report of Assets and Liabilities of U.S. Branches and Agencies of Foreign Banks filed by these branches and agencies, and the Foreign Branch Report of Condition filed by U.S. bank branches located in a foreign country, Puerto Rico, or a U.S. territory or possession.

Revisions to the form and content of regulatory reports often add to the regulatory burden that these required reports impose on federally supervised depository institutions. At the same time, however, regulatory reporting requirements must address developments affecting depository institutions and anticipate the agencies' need for information in response to ongoing industry changes. Thus, the agencies' regulatory reports will of necessity remain dynamic documents.

This new formal policy supersedes an informal FFIEC policy that, in general, had sought to limit changes to the bank Call Report forms to once a year as of the March 31 report date. Under that informal policy, the agencies had only committed themselves to give at least two months advance notice of these reporting changes. The agencies now believe it is appropriate to provide for a longer advance notification period for changes to the Call Report and similar regulatory reports.

This advance notification policy applies not only to the addition of new line items to the report forms, but also to certain revisions to the instructions for the preparation of these regulatory reports. Instructional changes covered by this policy are those that have the effect of requiring all banks, thrifts, U.S. branches and agencies of foreign

banks, or foreign branches of U.S. banks to report specific types of on- or off-balance sheet items, income statement items, events, or transactions in a different line item on their report forms than in the past. Revisions to the instructions that bring them into conformity with newly adopted statutes, regulations, supervisory policies, or accounting standards, clarify existing reporting requirements, correct outdated information, or make changes of a similar nature will continue to be made as necessary.

Reporting institutions should note that several regulatory reporting changes are expected to be introduced during the remainder of 1992 in response to recent statutory changes including various provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991.