

SYSTEM NAME AND NUMBER:

SEC-12: Office of the Chief Accountant Working Files

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

Unclassified.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S):

Chief Accountant, Office of the Chief Accountant, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

15 U.S.C. 77a et seq., 78a et seq., 7201 et seq., and 17 CFR 200.22.

PURPOSE(S) OF THE SYSTEM:

1. To assist the Office of the Chief Accountant in performing the functions assigned to it by the Commission including the formulation and application of accounting or auditing policies in the case of documents required to be filed with the Commission and the determination of appropriate recommendations to the Commission relating to the disqualification of accountants to appear and practice before the Commission.
2. To respond to inquiries from Members of Congress, the press, and the public concerning accounting and auditing matters.
3. To assist investigations of possible violations of the Federal securities laws.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Accountants and persons associated with accountants and accounting firms and persons associated with SEC registrants, including individuals that submit requests for consultation

with the Office of the Chief Accountant and individuals involved with or subjects of SEC investigations; and SEC personnel assigned to work on relevant matters.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

The records contain names, mailing addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, and/or information pertaining to accounting and auditing practices, problems, issues, and opinions and information concerning the activities of individuals in connection with Commission enforcement actions or in proceedings pursuant to the Commission's rules of practice.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

The information contained in the system is derived from official SEC records, letters and inquiries from the public, SEC staff memoranda, which may include information derived from investigations, litigation, and other submissions, and professional auditing and accounting literature and information received from individuals including where practicable those to whom the records relate.

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

In addition to those disclosures generally permitted under 5 U.S.C. 552a(b) of the Privacy Act, these records or information contained therein may specifically be disclosed outside the Commission as a routine use pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552 a(b)(3) as follows:

1. To appropriate agencies, entities, and persons when (1) the SEC suspects or has confirmed that there has been a breach of the system of records; (2) the SEC has determined that as a result of the suspected or confirmed breach there is a risk of harm to individuals, the SEC (including its information systems, programs, and operations), the Federal Government, or national security; and (3) the disclosure made to such agencies, entities, and persons is

reasonably necessary to assist in connection with the SEC's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm.

2. To other federal, state, local, or foreign law enforcement agencies; securities self-regulatory organizations; and foreign financial regulatory authorities to assist in or coordinate regulatory or law enforcement activities with the SEC.

3. To national securities exchanges and national securities associations that are registered with the SEC, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board; the Securities Investor Protection Corporation; the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board; the federal banking authorities, including, but not limited to, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; state securities regulatory agencies or organizations; or regulatory authorities of a foreign government in connection with their regulatory or enforcement responsibilities.

4. By SEC personnel for purposes of investigating possible violations of, or to conduct investigations authorized by, the federal securities laws.

5. In any proceeding where the federal securities laws are in issue or in which the Commission, or past or present members of its staff, is a party or otherwise involved in an official capacity.

6. In connection with proceedings by the Commission pursuant to Rule 102(e) of its Rules of Practice, 17 CFR 201.102(e).

7. To a bar association, state accountancy board, or other federal, state, local, or foreign licensing or oversight authority; or professional association or self-regulatory authority to the extent that it performs similar functions (including the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board) for investigations or possible disciplinary action.

8. To a federal, state, local, tribal, foreign, or international agency, if necessary to obtain information relevant to the SEC's decision concerning the hiring or retention of an employee; the issuance of a security clearance; the letting of a contract; or the issuance of a license, grant, or other benefit.

9. To a federal, state, local, tribal, foreign, or international agency in response to its request for information concerning the hiring or retention of an employee; the issuance of a security clearance; the reporting of an investigation of an employee; the letting of a contract; or the issuance of a license, grant, or other benefit by the requesting agency, to the extent that the information is relevant and necessary to the requesting agency's decision on the matter.

10. To produce summary descriptive statistics and analytical studies, as a data source for management information, in support of the function for which the records are collected and maintained or for related personnel management functions or manpower studies; may also be used to respond to general requests for statistical information (without personal identification of individuals) under the Freedom of Information Act.

11. To any trustee, receiver, master, special counsel, or other individual or entity that is appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, or as a result of an agreement between the parties in connection with litigation or administrative proceedings involving allegations of violations of the federal securities laws (as defined in section 3(a)(47) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(47)) or pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 CFR 201.100 – 900 or the Commission's Rules of Fair Fund and Disgorgement Plans, 17 CFR 201.1100-1106, or otherwise, where such trustee, receiver, master, special counsel, or other individual or entity is specifically designated to perform particular functions with respect to, or as a result of, the pending action or proceeding or in connection with the

administration and enforcement by the Commission of the federal securities laws or the Commission's Rules of Practice or the Rules of Fair Fund and Disgorgement Plans.

12. To any persons during the course of any inquiry, examination, or investigation conducted by the SEC's staff, or in connection with civil litigation, if the staff has reason to believe that the person to whom the record is disclosed may have further information about the matters related therein, and those matters appeared to be relevant at the time to the subject matter of the inquiry.

13. To interns, grantees, experts, contractors, and others who have been engaged by the Commission to assist in the performance of a service related to this system of records and who need access to the records for the purpose of assisting the Commission in the efficient administration of its programs, including by performing clerical, stenographic, or data analysis functions, or by reproduction of records by electronic or other means. Recipients of these records shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 552a.

14. In reports published by the Commission pursuant to authority granted in the federal securities laws (as such term is defined in section 3(a)(47) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(47)), which authority shall include, but not be limited to, section 21(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. 78u(a).

15. To members of advisory committees that are created by the Commission or by Congress to render advice and recommendations to the Commission or to Congress, to be used solely in connection with their official designated functions.

16. To any person who is or has agreed to be subject to the Commission's Rules of Conduct, 17 CFR 200.735-1 to 200.735-18, and who assists in the investigation by the Commission of

possible violations of the federal securities laws (as such term is defined in section 3(a)(47) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(47), in the preparation or conduct of enforcement actions brought by the Commission for such violations, or otherwise in connection with the Commission's enforcement or regulatory functions under the federal securities laws.

17. To a Congressional office from the record of an individual in response to an inquiry from the Congressional office made at the request of that individual.

18. To members of Congress, the press, and the public in response to inquiries relating to particular Registrants and their activities, and other matters under the Commission's jurisdiction.

19. To prepare and publish information relating to violations of the federal securities laws as provided in 15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(47), as amended.

20. To respond to subpoenas in any litigation or other proceeding.

21. To a trustee in bankruptcy.

22. To members of Congress, the Government Accountability Office, or others charged with monitoring the work of the Commission or conducting records management inspections.

23. To another Federal agency or Federal entity, when the SEC determines that information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in (1) responding to a suspected or confirmed breach or (2) preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity (including its information systems, programs, and operations), the Federal Government, or national security, resulting from a suspected or confirmed breach.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORAGE OF RECORDS:

Records are maintained in electronic and paper format. Electronic records are stored in computerized databases, magnetic disc, tape and/or digital media. Paper records and records on computer disc are stored in locked file rooms and/or file cabinets

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETRIEVAL OF RECORDS:

Paper records are searchable by name, subject, firm, date, and/or internal file number.

Electronic records are searchable through routine word searches to include searches by name, subject, firm and /or keyword.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETENTION AND DISPOSAL OF RECORDS:

These records will be maintained until they become inactive, at which time they will be retired or destroyed in accordance with records schedules of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and as approved by the National Archives and Records Administration.

ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL, AND PHYSICAL SAFEGUARDS:

Access to SEC facilities, data centers, and information or information systems is limited to authorized personnel with official duties requiring access. SEC facilities are equipped with security cameras and 24-hour security guard service. The records are kept in limited access areas during duty hours and in locked file cabinets and/or locked offices or file rooms at all other times. Computerized records are safeguarded in a secured environment. Security protocols meet the promulgating guidance as established by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Security Standards from Access Control to Data Encryption and Security Assessment & Authorization (SA&A).

Records are maintained in a secure, password-protected electronic system that will utilize commensurate safeguards that may include: firewalls, intrusion detection and prevention systems, and role-based access controls. Additional safeguards will vary by program. All records are protected from unauthorized access through appropriate administrative, operational, and technical safeguards. These safeguards include: restricting access to authorized personnel who have a “need to know”; using locks; and password protection identification features. Contractors and other recipients providing services to the Commission shall be required to maintain equivalent safeguards.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

Persons wishing to obtain information on the procedures for gaining access to or contesting the contents of these records may contact the FOIA/PA Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-2736.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

See Record access procedures above.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:

All requests to determine whether this system of records contains a record pertaining to the requesting individual may be directed to the FOIA/PA Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-2736.

EXEMPTIONS PROMULGATED FOR THE SYSTEM:

Under 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(2), this system of records is exempted from the following provisions of the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a(c)(3), (d), (e)(1), (e)(4)(G), (H), and (I), and (f) and 17 CFR 200.303, 200.304, and 200.306, insofar as it contains investigatory

materials compiled for law enforcement purposes. This exemption is contained in 17 CFR 200.312(a)(3).

HISTORY:

This SORN was last published in full in the Federal Register at 40 FR 39253 (August 27, 1975). Subsequent notices of revision can be found at the following citations:

- 41 FR 5318 (February 5, 1976)
- 41 FR 11631 (March 19, 1976)
- 41 FR 41550 (September 22, 1976)
- 42 FR 36333 (July 14, 1977)
- 46 FR 63439 (December 31, 1981)
- 59 FR 27626 (May 27, 1994)
- 62 FR 47884 (September 11, 1997)
- 79 FR 30661 (May 28, 2014)

By the Commission.



Brent J. Fields

Secretary

Date: