

the purposes of this chapter, to prevent circumvention or evasion of the requirements of this chapter, or to facilitate compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

(4) Date of applicability

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply with respect to any depository institution before the effective date of regulations prescribed by the Board under this subsection (or by the National Credit Union Administration Board under section 4311(b)¹ of this title, in the case of any depository institution described in clause (iv) of section 461(b)(1)(A) of this title).

(b) Model forms and clauses

(1) In general

The Board shall publish model forms and clauses for common disclosures to facilitate compliance with this chapter. In devising such forms, the Board shall consider the use by depository institutions of data processing or similar automated machines.

(2) Use of forms and clauses deemed in compliance

Nothing in this chapter may be construed to require a depository institution to use any such model form or clause prescribed by the Board under this subsection. A depository institution shall be deemed to be in compliance with the disclosure provisions of this chapter if the depository institution—

(A) uses any appropriate model form or clause as published by the Board; or

(B) uses any such model form or clause and changes it by—

- (i) deleting any information which is not required by this chapter; or
- (ii) rearranging the format,

if in making such deletion or rearranging the format, the depository institution does not affect the substance, clarity, or meaningful sequence of the disclosure.

(3) Public notice and opportunity for comment

Model disclosure forms and clauses shall be adopted by the Board after duly given notice in the Federal Register and an opportunity for public comment in accordance with section 553 of title 5.

(Pub. L. 102-242, title II, § 269, Dec. 19, 1991, 105 Stat. 2338; Pub. L. 102-550, title IX, § 957(b), title XVI, § 1604(e)(2)(D)–(H), Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3897, 4084.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 4311(b) of this title, referred to in subsec. (a)(4), was in the original “section 12(b)”, probably meaning section 12(b) of Pub. L. 102-242, and was translated as meaning section 272(b) of Pub. L. 102-242, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

AMENDMENTS

1992—Pub. L. 102-550, § 1604(e)(2)(D)–(H), made technical amendment to references to “this chapter” wherever appearing to reflect correction of corresponding provision of original act.

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 102-550, § 957(b), substituted “9 months” for “6 months”.

¹ See References in Text note below.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1992 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 1604 of Pub. L. 102-550 effective as if included in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991, Pub. L. 102-242, as of Dec. 19, 1991, see section 1609(a) of Pub. L. 102-550, set out as a note under section 191 of this title.

§ 4309. Administrative enforcement

(a) In general

Compliance with the requirements imposed under this chapter shall be enforced under—

(1) section 8 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act [12 U.S.C. 1818]—

(A) by the appropriate Federal banking agency (as defined in section 3(q) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act [12 U.S.C. 1813(q)]) in the case of insured depository institutions (as defined in section 3(c)(2) of such Act [12 U.S.C. 1813(c)(2)]);

(B) by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in the case of depository institutions described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of section 19(b)(1)(A) of the Federal Reserve Act [12 U.S.C. 461(b)(1)(A)] which are not insured depository institutions (as defined in section 3(c)(2) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act [12 U.S.C. 1813(c)(2)]); and

(C) by the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision in the case of depository institutions described in clause (v) and or (vi) of section 19(b)(1)(A) of the Federal Reserve Act [12 U.S.C. 461(b)(1)(A)] which are not insured depository institutions (as defined in section 3(c)(2) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act [12 U.S.C. 1813(c)(2)]); and

(2) the Federal Credit Union Act [12 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.], by the National Credit Union Administration Board in the case of depository institutions described in clause (iv) of section 19(b)(1)(A) of the Federal Reserve Act [12 U.S.C. 461(b)(1)(A)].

(b) Additional enforcement powers

(1) Violation of this chapter treated as violation of other Acts

For purposes of the exercise by any agency referred to in subsection (a) of this section of such agency's powers under any Act referred to in such subsection, a violation of a requirement imposed under this chapter shall be deemed to be a violation of a requirement imposed under that Act.

(2) Enforcement authority under other Acts

In addition to the powers of any agency referred to in subsection (a) of this section under any provision of law specifically referred to in such subsection, each such agency may exercise, for purposes of enforcing compliance with any requirement imposed under this chapter, any other authority conferred on such agency by law.

(c) Regulations by agencies other than the Board

The authority of the Board to issue regulations under this chapter does not impair the authority of any other agency referred to in subsection (a) of this section to make rules regarding its own procedures in enforcing compliance with the requirements imposed under this chapter.

(Pub. L. 102-242, title II, §270, Dec. 19, 1991, 105 Stat. 2339; Pub. L. 102-550, title XVI, §1604(e)(2)(I)–(K), (3), (4), Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 4084.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Credit Union Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), is act June 26, 1934, ch. 750, 48 Stat. 1216, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 14 (§1751 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1751 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1992—Pub. L. 102-550 made technical amendment to references to “this chapter” wherever appearing to reflect correction of corresponding provision of original act.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1992 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 102-550 effective as if included in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991, Pub. L. 102-242, as of Dec. 19, 1991, see section 1609(a) of Pub. L. 102-550, set out as a note under section 191 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 4308, 4310 of this title.

§ 4310. Civil liability

(a) Civil liability

Except as otherwise provided in this section, any depository institution which fails to comply with any requirement imposed under this chapter or any regulation prescribed under this chapter with respect to any person who is an account holder is liable to such person in an amount equal to the sum of—

- (1) any actual damage sustained by such person as a result of the failure;
- (2)(A) in the case of an individual action, such additional amount as the court may allow, except that the liability under this subparagraph shall not be less than \$100 nor greater than \$1,000; or
- (B) in the case of a class action, such amount as the court may allow, except that—
 - (i) as to each member of the class, no minimum recovery shall be applicable; and
 - (ii) the total recovery under this subparagraph in any class action or series of class actions arising out of the same failure to comply by the same depository institution shall not be more than the lesser of \$500,000 or 1 percent of the net worth of the depository institution involved; and
- (3) in the case of any successful action to enforce any liability under paragraph (1) or (2), the costs of the action, together with a reasonable attorney’s fee as determined by the court.

(b) Class action awards

In determining the amount of any award in any class action, the court shall consider, among other relevant factors—

- (1) the amount of any actual damages awarded;
- (2) the frequency and persistence of failures of compliance;
- (3) the resources of the depository institution;

(4) the number of persons adversely affected; and

(5) the extent to which the failure of compliance was intentional.

(c) Bona fide errors

(1) General rule

A depository institution may not be held liable in any action brought under this section for a violation of this chapter if the depository institution demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that the violation was not intentional and resulted from a bona fide error, notwithstanding the maintenance of procedures reasonably adapted to avoid any such error.

(2) Examples

Examples of a bona fide error include clerical, calculation, computer malfunction and programming, and printing errors, except that an error of legal judgment with respect to a depository institution’s obligation under this chapter is not a bona fide error.

(d) No liability for overpayment

A depository institution may not be held liable in any action under this section for a violation of this chapter if the violation has resulted in—

- (1) an interest payment to the account holder in an amount greater than the amount determined under any disclosed rate of interest applicable with respect to such payment; or
- (2) a charge to the consumer in an amount less than the amount determined under the disclosed charge or fee schedule applicable with respect to such charge.

(e) Jurisdiction

Any action under this section may be brought in any United States district court, or in any other court of competent jurisdiction, within 1 year after the date of the occurrence of the violation involved.

(f) Reliance on Board rulings

No provision of this section imposing any liability shall apply to any act done or omitted in good faith in conformity with any regulation or order, or any interpretation of any regulation or order, of the Board, or in conformity with any interpretation or approval by an official or employee of the Board duly authorized by the Board to issue such interpretation or approval under procedures prescribed by the Board, notwithstanding, the fact that after such act or omission has occurred, such regulation, order, interpretation, or approval is amended, rescinded, or determined by judicial or other authority to be invalid for any reason.

(g) Notification of and adjustment for errors

A depository institution shall not be liable under this section or section 4309 of this title for any failure to comply with any requirement imposed under this chapter with respect to any account if—

- (1) before—
 - (A) the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date on which the depository institution discovered the failure to comply;
 - (B) any action is instituted against the depository institution by the account holder