

Title 210 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Chapter 81 - CUSTODIAL AGREEMENTS AND THE USE OF CLEARING CORPORATIONS

001. Authority. This Rule is promulgated by the Director of Insurance pursuant to *Neb. Rev. Stat.* §44-101.01 and §44-5154.

002. Definitions.

002.01 Agent means a national bank, state bank, trust company, or broker/dealer that maintains an account in its name in a clearing corporation or that is a member of the Federal Reserve Systems and through which a custodian participates in a clearing corporation, including the Treasury/Reserve Automated Debit Entry Securities Systems (TRADES) or Treasury Direct systems, except that with respect to securities issued by institutions organized or existing under the laws of a foreign country or securities used to meet the deposit requirements pursuant to the laws of a foreign country as a condition of doing business therein, agent may include a corporation that is organized or existing under the laws of a foreign country and that is legally qualified under those laws to accept custody of securities.

002.02 Clearing corporation means a corporation as defined in subdivision 8-102 (a) (5) of the Uniform Commercial Code that is organized for the purpose of effecting transactions in securities by computerized book-entry, except that with respect to securities issued by institutions organized or existing under the laws of a foreign country or securities used to meet deposit requirements pursuant to the laws of a foreign country as a condition of doing business therein, clearing corporation may include a corporation that is organized or existing under the laws of a foreign country and which is legally qualified under those laws to effect transactions in securities by computerized book-entry. Clearing corporation also includes Treasury/Reserve Automated Debt Entry Securities System and Treasury Direct book-entry securities systems established pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3100 *et seq.*, 12 U.S.C. pt. 391 and 5 U.S.C. pt. 301.

002.03 Custodian means:

002.03(a) A national bank, state bank or trust company that shall at all times during which it acts as a custodian pursuant to the Insurers Investment Act be no less than adequately capitalized as determined by the standards adopted by United States banking regulators and that is regulated by either state banking laws or is a member of the Federal Reserve System and that is legally qualified to accept custody of securities in accordance with the standards set forth below, except that with respect to securities issued by institutions organized or existing under the laws of a foreign country, or securities used to meet the deposit requirements pursuant to the laws of a foreign country as a condition of doing business therein, custodian may include a bank or trust company incorporated and organized under the laws of a country other than the United States that is regulated as such by that country's government or an agency thereof that shall at all times during which it acts as a custodian pursuant to this regulation be no less than adequately capitalized as determined by the standards adopted by international banking authorities and that is legally qualified to accept custody of securities; or

002.03(b) A broker/dealer that shall be registered with and subject to jurisdiction of the Securities and Exchange Commission, maintains membership in the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, and has a tangible net worth equal to or greater than two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000).

002.04 Custodied securities means securities held by the custodian or its agent or in a clearing corporation, including the Treasury/Reserve Automated Debt Equity Securities System (TRADES) or Treasury Direct systems.

002.05 Securities certificate has the same meaning as that defined in Section 8-102 (a) (16) of the Uniform Commercial Code.

002.06 Security has the same meaning as that defined in Section 8-102 (a) (15) of the Uniform Commercial Code.

002.07 Tangible net worth means shareholders equity, less intangible assets, as reported in the broker/dealer's most recent Annual or Transition Report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (S.E.C. Form 10-K) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

002.08 Treasury/Reserve Automated Debt Entry Securities System (TRADES) and Treasury Direct mean the book-entry securities systems established pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 3100 *et seq.*, 12 U.S.C. pt. 391 and 5 U.S.C. pt. 301. The operation of TRADES and Treasury Direct are subject to 31 C.F.R. pt. 357 *et seq.*

002.09 The remaining definitions of *Neb. Rev. Stat. §44-5103* apply for purposes of this chapter.

003. Custody Agreements/Requirements.

003.01 An insurance company may, by written agreement with a custodian, provide for the custody of its securities with that custodian. The securities that are the subject of the agreement may be held by the custodian or its agent or in a clearing corporation.

003.02 The agreement shall be in writing and shall be authorized by a resolution of the board of directors of the insurance company or of an authorized committee of the board. The terms of the agreement shall comply with the following:

003.02(a) Securities certificates held by the custodian shall be held separate from the securities certificates of the custodian and all of its other customers.

003.02(b) Securities held indirectly by the custodian and securities in a clearing corporation shall be separately identified on the custodian's official records as being owned by the insurance company. The records shall identify which securities are held by the custodian or by its agent and which securities are in a clearing corporation. If the securities are in a clearing corporation, the records shall also identify where the securities are and if in a clearing corporation, the name of the clearing corporation and if through an agent, the name of the agent.

003.02(c) All custodied securities that are registered shall be registered in the name of the company or in the name of a nominee of the company or in the name of the custodian or its nominee or, if in a clearing corporation, in the name of the clearing corporation or its nominee.

003.02(d) Custodied securities shall be held subject to the instructions of the insurance company and shall be withdrawable upon the demand of the insurance company.

003.02(e) The custodian shall be required to send or cause to be sent to the insurance company a confirmation of all transfers of custodied securities to or from the account of the insurance company. In addition, the custodian shall be required to furnish no less than monthly the insurance company with reports of holdings of custodied securities at times and containing information reasonably requested by the insurance company. The custodian's trust committee's annual reports of its review of the insurer's trust accounts shall also be provided to the insurer. Reports and verifications may be transmitted in electronic or paper form.

003.02(f) During the course of the custodian's regular business hours, an officer or employee of the insurance company, an independent accountant selected by the insurance company and a representative of an appropriate regulatory body shall be entitled to examine, on the premises of the custodian, the custodian's records relating to custodied securities, but only upon furnishing the custodian with written instructions to that effect from an appropriate officer of the insurance company.

003.02(g) The custodian and its agents shall be required to send to the insurance company:

003.02(g)(i) All reports which they receive from a clearing corporation on their respective systems of internal accounting control, and

003.02(g)(ii) Reports prepared by outside auditors on the custodians or its agent's internal accounting control of custodied securities that the insurance company may reasonably request.

003.02(h) The custodian shall maintain records sufficient to determine and verify information relating to custodied securities that may be reported in the insurance company's annual statement and supporting schedules and information required in an audit of the financial statements of the insurance company.

003.02(i) The custodian shall provide, upon written request from an appropriate officer of the insurance company, the appropriate affidavits, substantially in the form attached to this regulation, with respect to custodied securities.

003.02(j) A national bank, state bank or trust company shall secure and maintain insurance protection in an adequate amount covering the bank's or trust company's duties and activities as custodian for the insurer's assets, and shall state in the custody agreement that protection is in compliance with the requirements of the custodian's banking regulator. A broker/dealer shall secure and maintain insurance protection for each insurance company's custodied securities in excess of that provided by the Securities Investor Protection Corporation in an amount equal to or greater than the market value of each respective insurance company's custodied securities. The director may determine whether the type of insurance is appropriate and the amount of coverage is adequate.

003.02(k) The custodian shall be obligated to indemnify the insurance company for any loss of custodied securities, except that the custodian shall not be so obligated to the extent that the loss was caused by other than the negligence or dishonesty of the custodian.

003.02(l) In the event that there is a loss of custodied securities for which the custodian shall be obligated to indemnify the insurance company as provided in 003.02(k), the custodian shall promptly replace the securities or the value thereof and the value of any loss of rights or privileges resulting from the loss of securities.

003.02(m) The agreement may provide that the custodian will not be liable for a failure to take an action required under the agreement in the event and to the extent that the taking of the action is prevented or delayed by war (whether declared or not and including existing wars), revolution, insurrection, riot, civil commotion, act of God, accident, fire, explosion, stoppage of labor, strikes or other differences with employees, laws, regulations, orders or other acts of any governmental authority, or any other cause whatever beyond its reasonable control.

003.02(n) In the event that the custodian gains entry in a clearing corporation through an agent, there shall be an agreement between the custodian and the agent under which the agent shall be subject to the same liability for loss of custodied securities as the custodian. However, if the agent shall be subject to regulation under the laws of a jurisdiction that is different from the jurisdiction the laws of which regulate the custodian, the Commissioner or Director of Insurance of the state of domicile of the insurance company may accept a standard of liability applicable to the agent that is different from the standard of liability applicable to the custodian.

003.02(o) The custodian shall provide written notification to the insurer's domiciliary commissioner if the custodial agreement with the insurer has been terminated or if 100% of the account assets in any one custody account have been withdrawn. This notification shall be remitted to the insurance commissioner within three (3) business days of receipt by the custodian of the insurer's written notice of termination or within three (3) business days of the withdrawal of 100% of the account assets.

004. Severability provision. If any section or portion of a section of this rule or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid by a court, the remainder of the rule or the applicability of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.