

Code) of the Client Plan sponsor or of the fiduciary responsible for the decision to authorize or terminate authorization for transactions described in Section I. However, if such individual is a director of the Client Plan sponsor or of the responsible fiduciary, and if he or she abstains from participation in (A) the choice of the Plan's investment manager/adviser and (B) the decision to authorize or terminate authorization for transactions described in Section I, then Section II (g)(2)(iii) shall not apply.

(3) The term "officer" means a president, any vice president in charge of a principal business unit, division or function (such as sales, administration or finance), or any other officer who performs a policy-making function for the entity.

(4) In the case of existing Client Plans in a Pooled Fund, at the time the Asset Manager provides such Client Plans with initial notice pursuant to this exemption, the Asset Manager will notify the fiduciaries of such Client Plans that they must advise the Asset Manager, in writing, if they are not independent, within the meaning of this Section II (g).

(h) The term "security" shall have the same meaning as defined in section 2(36) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the 1940 Act), as amended (15 U.S.C. 80a-2(36)(1996)). For purposes of this exemption, mortgage-backed or other asset-backed securities rated by a Rating Organization will be treated as debt securities.

(i) The term "Eligible Rule 144A Offering" shall have the same meaning as defined in SEC Rule 10f-3(a)(4) (17 CFR 270.10f-3(a)(4)) under the 1940 Act.

(j) The term "qualified institutional buyer" or "QIB" shall have the same meaning as defined in SEC Rule 144A (17 CFR 230.144A(a)(1)) under the 1933 Act.

(k) The term "Rating Organizations" means Standard & Poor's Rating Services, Moody's Investors Service, Inc., Duff & Phelps Credit Rating Co., or Fitch IBCA, Inc., or their successors.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 25th day of May, 2000.

Ivan L. Strasfeld,

*Director of Exemption Determinations,
Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration,
U.S. Department of Labor.*

[FR Doc. 00-13641 Filed 5-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-29-P

PENSION AND WELFARE BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

[Application Nos. D-10809 and D-10865]

Notice of Proposed Individual Exemption to Amend and Replace Prohibited Transaction Exemption (PTE) 99-15, Involving Salomon Smith Barney Inc., Located in New York, NY

AGENCY: Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice of proposed individual exemption to modify and replace PTEs 99-15.

SUMMARY: This document contains a notice of pendency before the Department of Labor (the Department) of a proposed and replacement individual exemption which, if granted, would amend PTE 99-15 (64 FR 1648, April 5, 1999), an exemption granted to Salomon Smith Barney. PTE 99-15 relates to the operation of the TRAK Personalized Investment Advisory Service product (the TRAK Program) and the Trust for Consulting Group Capital Markets Funds (the Trust). If granted, the proposed exemption would affect participants and beneficiaries of and fiduciaries with respect to employee benefit plans (the Plans) participating in the TRAK Program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: If granted, the proposed amendment will be effective as of April 1, 2000.

DATES: Written comments and requests for a public hearing should be received by the Department on or before July 17, 2000.

ADDRESSES: All written comments and requests for a public hearing (preferably, three copies) should be sent to the Office of Exemption Determinations, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Room N-5649, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210, Attention: Application Nos. D-10809 and D-10865. The applications pertaining to the proposed exemption and the comments received will be available for public inspection in the Public Documents Room of the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-5507, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jan D. Broady, Office of Exemption Determinations, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, telephone (202) 219-8881. (This is not a toll-free number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given of the pendency before the Department of a proposed exemption that would amend and replace PTE 99-15. PTE 99-15, provides an exemption from certain prohibited transaction restrictions of section 406 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (the Act) and from the sanctions resulting from the application of section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code), as amended, by reason of section 4975(c)(1) of the Code. Specifically, PTE 99-15 provides exemptive relief from the restrictions of section 406(a) of the Act and the sanctions resulting from the application of section 4975 of the Code, by reason of section 4975(c)(1)(A) through (D) of the Code, for the purchase or redemption of shares in the Trust by an employee benefit plan, an individual retirement account (the IRA), a retirement plan for a self-employed individual (the Keogh Plan), or an individual account pension plan that is subject to the provisions of Title I of the Act and established under section 403(b) of the Code (the Section 403(b) Plan).

PTE 99-15 also provides exemptive relief from the restrictions of section 406(b) of the Act and the sanctions resulting from the application of section 4975 of the Code, by reason of section 4975(c)(1)(E) and (F) of the Code, with respect to the provision, by the Consulting Group of Salomon Smith Barney (the Consulting Group), of (1) investment advisory services or (2) an automatic reallocation option to an independent fiduciary of a participating Plan (the Independent Plan Fiduciary) which may result in such fiduciary's selection of a portfolio (the Portfolio) in the TRAK Program for the investment of Plan assets.¹

¹ PTE 99-15 also (a) described a series of corporate mergers which changed the names of the parties identified in two prior TRAK exemptions which it superseded [i.e., PTE 94-50 (59 FR 32024, June 21, 1994) and PTE 92-77 (55 FR 45833, October 5, 1992)] and which would permit broader distribution of TRAK-related products; (b) implemented a recordkeeping reimbursement offset procedure under the TRAK Program; (c) adopted an automated reallocation option under the TRAK Program that would reduce the asset allocation (or "outside") fee paid to Salomon Smith Barney by a Plan investor; and (d) expanded the scope of the exemption to include Section 403(b) Plans.

PTE 94-50 permitted Smith, Barney Inc. (Smith Barney), Salomon Smith Barney's predecessor, to add a daily-traded collective investment fund (the GIC Fund) to the existing Fund portfolios and to describe the various entities operating the GIC Fund. PTE 94-50 also replaced references to Shearson Lehman Brothers, Inc. (Shearson Lehman) with Smith Barney and amended and replaced PTE 92-77.

Finally, PTE 92-77 permitted Shearson Lehman to make the TRAK Program available to Plans that

As of December 31, 1998, the TRAK Program held assets that were in excess of \$9.6 billion. Of those assets, approximately \$1.9 billion were held in 407 Plan accounts having cash or deferred compensation arrangements and approximately \$4.2 billion were held in more than 59,000 employee benefit plan and IRA/Keogh-type Plan accounts. At present, the Trust consists of 17 Portfolios that are managed by the Consulting Group and advised by one or more unaffiliated sub-advisers selected by Salomon Smith Barney.

Salomon Smith Barney requests a modification of PTE 99-15 and a replacement of that exemption with a new exemption for purposes of uniformity.² Specifically, Salomon Smith Barney requests that the term "affiliate," as set forth in PTE 99-15, in Section II(h) of the General Conditions and in Section III(b) of the Definitions, be amended and clarified to avoid possible misinterpretation. In this regard, Salomon Smith Barney also requests that the term "officer" be defined and incorporated into the proposed exemption, in new Section III(d), to limit the affiliate definition to persons who have a significant management role. Further, Salomon Smith Barney requests that Section II(i) of PTE 99-15 be amended to permit an independent sub-adviser (the Sub-Adviser), under certain circumstances, to exceed the current one percent limitation on the acquisition of securities that are issued by Salomon Smith Barney and/or its affiliates, notably in the Sub-Adviser's replication of a third-party index. If granted, the proposed exemption would be effective as of April 1, 2000.

The proposed exemption has been requested in an application filed on behalf of Salomon Smith Barney pursuant to section 408(a) of the Act and section 4975(c)(2) of the Code, and in accordance with the procedures set forth in 29 CFR Part 2570, Subpart B (55 FR 32836, August 10, 1990). Effective December 31, 1978, section 102 of Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1978 (43 FR 47713, October 17, 1978) transferred the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to issue exemptions of the type requested to the Secretary of Labor.

acquired shares in the former Trust for TRAK Investments and allowed the Consulting Group to provide investment advisory services to an Independent Plan Fiduciary which might result in such fiduciary's selection of a Portfolio in the TRAK Program for the investment of Plan assets.

² The Department deems PTE 94-50 as having been effectively superseded by PTE 99-15. Therefore, the proposed amendments described herein will not apply to PTE 94-50.

Accordingly, the proposed exemption is being issued solely by the Department.

I. Proposed Modification of the Term "Affiliate"

Salomon Smith Barney represents that in early December 1999, Citigroup and State Street Corporation announced an agreement to form a joint venture called CitiStreet LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the Joint Venture). The Joint Venture, which was closed on April 1, 2000, is each 50 percent owned by Keeper Holdings LLC (Citi), a wholly owned subsidiary of Citigroup, and by State Street Bank and Trust Company (State Street), a wholly owned subsidiary of State Street Corporation. Both Citigroup and State Street Corporation are publicly-held corporations.

Salomon Smith Barney explains that the formation of the Joint Venture may have resulted in the disqualification of State Street Global Advisers (SSgA), a division of State Street, from acting as a Sub-Adviser in the TRAK Program due to certain ambiguities in the meaning of the word "affiliate." Salomon Smith Barney represents that SSgA is currently a Sub-Adviser with respect to approximately \$800 million in assets in the International Equity Investments Portfolio and the Emerging Markets Equity Investments Portfolio.

A. Sections II(h) and III(b)

Section II(h) of PTE 99-15 provides that—

Any sub-adviser (the Sub-Adviser) that acts for the Trust to exercise investment discretion over a Portfolio will be independent of Salomon Smith Barney and its affiliates.

Although the term "independent" is not defined in the exemption, Salomon Smith Barney notes that this condition was added to the original Shearson Lehman exemption request when Shearson Lehman agreed not to use affiliated Sub-Advisers. Therefore, Salomon Smith Barney presumes that the term "independent" means "not an affiliate."

Salomon Smith Barney represents that Section III(b) of PTE 99-15 defines the term "affiliate" of Salomon Smith Barney to include:

(1) Any person directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controlling, controlled by, or under common control with Salomon Smith Barney. (For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "control" means the power to exercise a controlling influence over the management or policies of a person other than an individual.)

(2) Any officer, director or partner in such person, and

(3) Any corporation or partnership of which such person is an officer, director or a 5 percent partner or owner.

Salomon Smith Barney notes that problems of interpretation have arisen because subparagraphs (2) and (3) of the affiliate definition use the term "such person" rather than referring directly to Salomon Smith Barney. Salomon Smith Barney explains that when defining an "affiliate" of Salomon Smith Barney, the definition may be construed to encompass only relationships with Salomon Smith Barney that involve shared control, influence or economic interests or it could be interpreted to cover affiliates of Salomon Smith Barney's affiliates, where there is no basis for common management or identical economic interests, because subparagraphs (2) and (3) have no clear antecedents.

Salomon Smith Barney asserts that State Street is not under common corporate control with either it or any of its corporate affiliates. Instead, State Street is a subsidiary of an independently-owned and managed public company. Therefore, there is no control relationship, as contemplated in subparagraph (1) of Section III(b), between Citigroup and State Street Corporation, the respective parent companies of Salomon Smith Barney and of State Street. Salomon Smith Barney also states that the Joint Venture is not necessarily its affiliate under subparagraph (1) of the definition because Salomon Smith Barney's indirect 50 percent ownership interest in the Joint Venture is not a "controlling interest." Therefore, if the Joint Venture is not an affiliate, Salomon Smith Barney believes that State Street is not a partner of Salomon Smith Barney, nor an officer or director of Salomon Smith Barney, as contemplated in subparagraph (2) of Section III(b). Further, Salomon Smith Barney explains that State Street's exclusive ownership by State Street Corporation does not trigger the ownership provisions of subparagraph (3) of Section III(b).

In addition to the above, Salomon Smith Barney states that it will not exercise control or influence in the operation of the Joint Venture that will inure to State Street. In addition, Salomon Smith Barney represents that Citi will not exercise control of the Joint Venture because it has only a 50 percent interest. Further, since all significant corporate actions of the Joint Venture will require unanimity, Salomon Smith Barney explains that neither Citi nor State Street will be able to exercise exclusive control over the Joint Venture.

B. Proposed Amendment

Salomon Smith Barney submits that subparagraph (1) of Section III(b) does not require any clarification. However, it proposes that subparagraphs (2) and (3) of the affiliate definition be modified to cover only those persons and entities that have a significant role in the decisions made by Salomon Smith Barney or which are managed or influenced by Salomon Smith Barney. These entities or persons include individual officers, directors and partners in Salomon Smith Barney and its corporate affiliates, and corporations and partnerships in which Salomon Smith Barney and its corporate affiliates have a 10 percent or greater interest. Salomon Smith Barney believes that this tailoring of the affiliate definition will avoid future problems in determining the independence of the Sub-Advisers, including SSgA.

Thus, on the basis of the foregoing, Section III(b) of PTE 99–15 is hereby modified in this notice of proposed exemption to read as follows:

(b) An “affiliate” of Salomon Smith Barney includes—

(1) Any person directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controlling, controlled by, or under common control with Salomon Smith Barney; (For purposes of this subparagraph, the term “control” means the power to exercise a controlling influence over the management or policies of a person other than an individual.)

(2) Any individual who is an officer, director or partner in Salomon Smith Barney or a person who is described in subparagraph (b)(1);

(3) Any corporation or partnership of which Salomon Smith Barney or an affiliate described in subparagraph (b)(1), is a 10 percent or more partner or owner; and

(4) Any corporation or partnership of which any individual which is an officer or director of Salomon Smith Barney, is a 10 percent or more partner or owner.

In connection with the revised affiliate definition, Salomon Smith Barney requests that the term “officer” be defined in new subparagraph (d) of Section III to limit this portion of the affiliate definition to individuals who have a significant management role. Salomon Smith Barney points out that there are job titles at fairly modest levels of authority within it as well as in any company, and it wishes to ensure that future factual inquiries into an individual’s status as an affiliate do not require that it contact virtually every official in its corporate population in a due diligence effort. Therefore, Salomon Smith Barney proposes that Section III(d) should read as follows:

The term “officer” means a president, any vice president in charge of a principal

business unit, division or function (such as sales, administration or finance), or any other officer who performs a policy-making function for the entity.

Under the foregoing modifications, Salomon Smith Barney believes that Sections II(h) and III(b) of the proposed exemption will no longer have conflicting meanings.

II. Proposed Modification of the One Percent Limitation on Stock Issued by Salomon Smith Barney and/or Its Affiliates

Salomon Smith Barney represents that there are a number of established market indexes that have been created by parties which are unaffiliated with Citigroup, its indirect parent. For example, the S&P 500 Index is a widely-used benchmark index of domestic equity performance. This index consists of 500 stocks that have been selected by the Standard & Poor’s Company (S&P) for market capitalization, liquidity and industry group representation. The index is market-value weighted so the performance of the larger of the included companies has a greater impact on the performance of the index as a whole. Currently, the common stock (the Common Stock) of Citigroup represents 1.57 percent of the S&P 500 Index.

In addition to the S&P 500 Index, Salomon Smith Barney explains that the Russell 3000 Index is composed of the 3,000 largest United States companies, based upon total market capitalization. Salomon Smith Barney also points out that there are a number of Russell Indexes which are based on subsets of the Russell 3000 Index. These Indexes include (a) the Russell 2000 Index, which measures the performance of the smallest 2,000 United States companies in the Russell 3000 Index and therefore, excludes Citigroup; and (b) the Russell 1000 Index, which measures the performance of the 1,000 largest United States companies in the Russell 3000 Value Index and includes Citigroup. In addition, Salomon Smith Barney represents that there are further subsets of the Russell Indexes which are based upon Russell’s characterization of stock as either “Growth” or “Value.” For example, Salomon Smith Barney explains that Citigroup is included within these subsets. As of March 31, 2000, Citigroup Common Stock represented 3.8981 percent of the Russell 1000 Value Index and 3.6343 percent of the Russell 3000 Value Index.

A. Section II(i)

Based upon the foregoing descriptions of the stock indexes, Salomon Smith Barney requests that Section II(i) of PTE

99–15 be modified in order to permit an independent Sub-Adviser which manages the assets in a Portfolio to exceed the one percent investment limitation on securities issued by Salomon Smith Barney and/or its affiliates under certain circumstances. As currently drafted, Section II(i) states that—

Immediately following the acquisition by a Portfolio of any securities that are issued by Salomon Smith Barney and/or its affiliates, the percentage of that Portfolio’s net assets invested in such securities will not exceed one percent.

In other words, the exception will apply to “any higher percentage” which may result from a Sub-Adviser’s management of an index fund (the Index Fund) Portfolio which includes Citigroup Common Stock. The index will be an established third party index and the Sub-Adviser will track the index results using the “passive full replication” trading method.³

Because the Sub-Adviser will purchase and sell Citigroup Common Stock to approximate the performance of an index rather than reflect the Sub-Adviser’s evaluation of the Common Stock in its individual merits, Salomon Smith Barney states that any additional investment by a Portfolio in Citigroup Common Stock over the one percent threshold will result from the implementation of the trading method and not from the Sub-Adviser’s exercise of investment discretion.

Due to the one percent limitation of Section II(i), Salomon Smith Barney states that active Sub-Advisers for the Consulting Group may not own or trade Citigroup Common Stock and they will continue to be prohibited from trading in Citigroup Common Stock. However, Salomon Smith Barney proposes that passive or pure Index Fund Sub-Advisers be permitted to hold Citigroup Common Stock in their portfolios which exceed the one percent limitation to the extent such higher percentage is necessary to replicate the underlying index.⁴ Salomon Smith Barney points

³ According to Salomon Smith Barney, there are two forms of index trading—passive full replication (wherein each stock in the same weightings as the index is owned by a mutual fund) and sampling (in which each sector, but not necessarily all stocks in such sector, in the same weightings as the index is also owned by a mutual fund). Salomon Smith Barney notes that sampling is used most often when a portfolio is smaller and cannot efficiently replicate the entire index.

⁴ In its management of a “pure” Index Fund, the Sub-Adviser does not evaluate individual companies to identify attractive investment candidates or to eliminate underperforming investments. Instead, the Sub-Adviser attempts to mirror the composition of the relevant index as closely as possible by adjusting the Portfolio holdings daily to reflect the companies included in

out that pure index Sub-Advisers that are responsible for investing only a portion of the assets in the Consulting Group Capital Markets Large Cap Value Fund and the Large Cap Growth Consulting Group Capital Markets Fund, are currently in compliance with the one percent limitation. These Portfolios, which consist of both an actively-managed portion and a distinct, passively-managed portion, held less than one percent of the their total assets in Citigroup Common Stock.

If an index-based Sub-Adviser were to manage a greater portion or all of either of the aforementioned Portfolios, Salomon Smith Barney explains that the total Portfolio may include Citigroup Common Stock which breaches the one percent threshold. Similarly, Salomon Smith Barney notes that if the entire Portfolio, such as the Consulting Group Capital Markets S&P 500 Index Investment Fund Portfolio, has the investment objective of providing results that correspond to the price and yield performance of the S&P 500 Index, the Sub-Adviser would be expected to approximate the cited percentage of 1.57 percent for Citigroup Common Stock in the S&P 500 Index. This would also violate the one percent investment limitation.

Salomon Smith Barney states that the present one percent limitation placed on Citigroup Common Stock increases the likelihood that the performance of an Index Fund Portfolio will not replicate the applicable index. Because Citigroup is among the largest companies on the basis of capitalization in the S&P 500, Salomon Smith Barney states that Citigroup's performance can have a significant impact in index performance calculations. However, if Citigroup Common Stock is not proportionately represented, Salomon Smith Barney explains that Index Fund performance will deviate from the index whether Citigroup Common Stock does well or underperforms.

the index and their relative weightings. Because performance of the Index Fund is tied to the performance of the index that it tracks, investors are advised that this investment strategy may mean losses if the applicable index performs poorly relative to other indexes or individual stocks.

The performance of a pure Index Fund generally does not mirror the index performance exactly. The index is merely a composite performance figure, based upon an established selection of companies. It does not represent actual assets being managed so there are no expenses deducted from its performance results. In contrast, an Index Fund Portfolio represents actual assets under management and has liquidity requirements associated with Fund operation. To meet redemption requests and to pay expenses, the Index Fund must maintain a portion of its assets in cash and cash equivalents.

In any event, Salomon Smith Barney believes that the one percent limitation has the effect of depriving a Plan of the opportunity to invest in a Fund (available to non-Plan investors) that might otherwise track the applicable index more exactly. Because many Plan sponsors are anxious to have an Index Fund available through the TRAK Program, Salomon Smith Barney wishes to move quickly to accommodate the Plan market's design preferences.

For these reasons, Salomon Smith Barney requests that the current one percent restriction be lifted and allowed to be exceeded with respect to Portfolio investments that are made by passive Sub-Advisers in Citigroup Common Stock in their replication of third-party indexes. In addition, Salomon Smith Barney seeks the flexibility to have the Portfolios consist, in whole or in part, of Index Funds that are managed by passive Sub-Advisers. However, the ownership by a Portfolio of Citigroup Common Stock which is in excess of the one percent limitation would result solely from the activities of the passive Sub-Adviser in replicating an index.

B. Exemptive Safeguards

Section II(i) of the proposed exemption has been further expanded to include a number of substantive safeguards for the protection of Plans investing under the TRAK Program. In this regard, Section II(i) requires that the amount held by the Sub-Adviser in managing an Index Fund Portfolio be held in order to replicate an established third party index. In addition, Section II(i) states that the index must represent the investment performance of a specific segment of the public market for equity securities in the United States and/or foreign countries. In this regard, the organization creating the index must be (a) engaged in the business of providing financial information; (b) a publisher of financial news information; or (c) a public stock exchange or association of securities dealers. The index must also be created and maintained by an organization independent of Salomon Smith Barney and its affiliates and must be a generally-accepted standardized index of securities which is not specifically tailored for use by Salomon Smith Barney and its affiliates.

Moreover, Section II(i) requires that the acquisition or disposition of Citigroup Common Stock must not include any agreement, arrangement or understanding regarding the design or operation of the Portfolio acquiring the Citigroup Common Stock, which is intended to benefit Salomon Smith Barney or any party in which Salomon Smith Barney may have an interest.

Finally, Section II(i) requires that an Independent Plan Fiduciary authorize the investment of a Plan's assets in an Index Fund Portfolio which purchases and/or holds Citigroup Common Stock while the Sub-Adviser will be responsible for voting any shares of Citigroup Common Stock that are held by an Index Fund on any matter in which shareholders of Citigroup Common Stock are required or permitted to vote.

Notice to Interested Persons

Notice of the proposed exemption will be mailed by first class mail to the Independent Plan Fiduciary Plan of each Plan currently participating in the TRAK Program, or, in the case of a Section 404(c) Plan, to the recordholder of Trust shares. Such notice will be given within 15 days of the publication of the notice of pendency in the **Federal Register**. The notice will contain a copy of the notice of proposed exemption as published in the **Federal Register** and a supplemental statement, as required pursuant to 29 CFR 2570.43(b)(2). The supplemental statement will inform interested persons of their right to comment on and/or to request a hearing with respect to the pending exemption. Written comments and hearing requests are due within 45 days of the publication of the proposed exemption in the **Federal Register**.

General Information

The attention of interested persons is directed to the following:

(1) The fact that a transaction is the subject of an exemption under section 408(a) of the Act and section 4975(c)(2) of the Code does not relieve a fiduciary or other party in interest or disqualified person from certain other provisions of the Act and the Code, including any prohibited transaction provisions to which the exemption does not apply and the general fiduciary responsibility provisions of section 404 of the Act, which require, among other things, a fiduciary to discharge his or her duties respecting the plan solely in the interest of the participants and beneficiaries of the plan and in a prudent fashion in accordance with section 404(a)(1)(B) of the Act; nor does it affect the requirements of section 401(a) of the Code that the plan operate for the exclusive benefit of the employees of the employer maintaining the plan and their beneficiaries;

(2) The proposed exemption, if granted, will extend to transactions prohibited under section 406(b)(3) of the Act and section 4975(c)(1)(F) of the Code;

(3) Before an exemption can be granted under section 408(a) of the Act and section 4975(c)(2) of the Code, the Department must find that the exemption is administratively feasible, in the interest of the plan and of its participants and beneficiaries and protective of the rights of participants and beneficiaries of the plan;

(4) This proposed exemption, if granted, will be supplemental to, and not in derogation of, any other provisions of the Act and the Code, including statutory or administrative exemptions. Furthermore, the fact that a transaction is subject to an administrative or statutory exemption is not dispositive of whether the transaction is in fact a prohibited transaction; and

(5) This proposed exemption, if granted, is subject to the express condition that the facts and representations set forth in the notice of proposed exemption relating to PTE 99-15 and this notice, accurately describe, where relevant, the material terms of the transactions to be consummated pursuant to this exemption.

Written Comments and Hearing Requests

All interested persons are invited to submit written comments or requests for a hearing on the pending exemption to the address above, within the time frame set forth above, after the publication of this proposed exemption in the **Federal Register**. All comments will be made a part of the record. Comments received will be available for public inspection with the referenced applications at the address set forth above.

Proposed Exemption

Based on the facts and representations set forth in the application, the Department is considering granting the requested exemption under the authority of section 408(a) of the Act and section 4975(c)(2) of the Code and in accordance with the procedures set forth in 29 CFR Part 2570, Subpart B (55 FR 32836, August 10, 1990).

Section I. Covered Transactions

A. If the exemption is granted, the restrictions of section 406(a) of the Act and the sanctions resulting from the application of section 4975 of the Code, by reason of section 4975(c)(1)(A) through (D) of the Code, shall not apply, to the purchase or redemption of shares by an employee benefit plan, an individual retirement account (the IRA), a retirement plan for self-employed individuals (the Keogh Plan), or an individual account pension plan that is

subject to the provisions of Title I of the Act and established under section 403(b) of the Code (the Section 403(b) Plan; collectively, the Plans) in the Trust for Consulting Group Capital Market Funds (the Trust), established by Salomon Smith Barney, in connection with such Plans' participation in the TRAK Personalized Investment Advisory Service product (the TRAK Program).

B. If the exemption is granted, the restrictions of section 406(b) of the Act and the sanctions resulting from the application of section 4975 of the Code, by reason of section 4975(c)(1)(E) and (F) of the Code, shall not apply, to the provision, by the Consulting Group, of (1) investment advisory services or (2) an automatic reallocation option (the Automatic Reallocation Option) to an independent fiduciary of a participating Plan (the Independent Plan Fiduciary), which may result in such fiduciary's selection of a portfolio (the Portfolio) in the TRAK Program for the investment of Plan assets.

This proposed exemption is subject to the following conditions that are set forth below in Section II.

Section II. General Conditions

(a) The participation of Plans in the TRAK Program will be approved by an Independent Plan Fiduciary. For purposes of this requirement, an employee, officer or director of Salomon Smith Barney and/or its affiliates covered by an IRA not subject to Title I of the Act will be considered an Independent Plan Fiduciary with respect to such IRA.

(b) The total fees paid to the Consulting Group and its affiliates will constitute no more than reasonable compensation.

(c) No Plan will pay a fee or commission by reason of the acquisition or redemption of shares in the Trust.

(d) The terms of each purchase or redemption of Trust shares shall remain at least as favorable to an investing Plan as those obtainable in an arm's length transaction with an unrelated party.

(e) The Consulting Group will provide written documentation to an Independent Plan Fiduciary of its recommendations or evaluations based upon objective criteria.

(f) Any recommendation or evaluation made by the Consulting Group to an Independent Plan Fiduciary will be implemented only at the express direction of such Independent Plan Fiduciary, provided, however, that—

(1) If such Independent Plan Fiduciary shall have elected in writing (the Election), on a form designated by Salomon Smith Barney from time to

time for such purpose, to participate in the Automatic Reallocation Option under the TRAK Program, the affected Plan or participant account will be automatically reallocated whenever the Consulting Group modifies the particular asset allocation recommendation which the Independent Plan Fiduciary has chosen. Such Election shall continue in effect until revoked or terminated by the Independent Plan Fiduciary in writing.

(2) Except as set forth below in paragraph II(f)(3), at the time of a change in the Consulting Group's asset allocation recommendation, each account based upon the asset allocation model (the Allocation Model) affected by such change would be adjusted on the business day of the release of the new Allocation Model by the Consulting Group, except to the extent that market conditions, and order purchase and redemption procedures may delay such processing through a series of purchase and redemption transactions to shift assets among the affected Portfolios.

(3) If the change in the Consulting Group's asset allocation recommendation exceeds an increase or decrease of more than 10 percent in the absolute percentage allocated to any one investment medium (e.g., a suggested increase in a 15 percent allocation to greater than 25 percent, or a decrease of such 15 percent allocation to less than 5 percent), Salomon Smith Barney will send out a written notice (the Notice) to all Independent Plan Fiduciaries whose current investment allocation would be affected, describing the proposed reallocation and the date on which such allocation is to be instituted (the Effective Date). If the Independent Plan Fiduciary notifies Salomon Smith Barney, in writing, at any time within the period of 30 calendar days prior to the proposed Effective Date that such fiduciary does not wish to follow such revised asset allocation recommendation, the Allocation Model will remain at the current level, or at such other level as the Independent Plan Fiduciary then expressly designates, in writing. If the Independent Plan Fiduciary does not affirmatively "opt out" of the new Consulting Group recommendation, in writing, prior to the proposed Effective Date, such new recommendation will be automatically effected by a dollar-for-dollar liquidation and purchase of the required amounts in the respective account.

(4) An Independent Plan Fiduciary will receive a trade confirmation of each reallocation transaction. In this regard, for all Plan investors other than Section 404(c) Plan accounts (i.e., 401(k) Plan

accounts), Salomon Smith Barney will mail trade confirmations on the next business day after the reallocation trades are executed. In the case of Section 404(c) Plan participants, notification will depend upon the notification provisions agreed to by the Plan recordkeeper.

(g) The Consulting Group will generally give investment advice in writing to an Independent Plan Fiduciary with respect to all available Portfolios. However, in the case of a Plan providing for participant-directed investments (the Section 404(c) Plan), the Consulting Group will provide investment advice that is limited to the Portfolios made available under the Plan.

(h) Any sub-adviser (the Sub-Adviser) that acts for the Trust to exercise investment discretion over a Portfolio will be independent of Salomon Smith Barney and its affiliates.

(i) Immediately following the acquisition by a Portfolio of any securities that are issued by Salomon Smith Barney and/or its affiliates, such as Citigroup Inc. common stock (the Citigroup Common Stock), the percentage of that Portfolio's net assets invested in such securities will not exceed one percent. However, this percentage limitation may be exceeded if—

(1) The amount held by a Sub-Adviser in managing a Portfolio is held in order to replicate an established third party index.

(2) The index represents the investment performance of a specific segment of the public market for equity securities in the United States and/or foreign countries. The organization creating the index must be—

(i) Engaged in the business of providing financial information;

(ii) A publisher of financial news information; or

(iii) A public stock exchange or association of securities dealers.

The index is created and maintained by an organization independent of Salomon Smith Barney and its affiliates and is a generally-accepted standardized index of securities which is not specifically tailored for use by Salomon Smith Barney and its affiliates.

(3) The acquisition or disposition of Citigroup Common Stock does not include any agreement, arrangement or understanding regarding the design or operation of the Portfolio acquiring the Citigroup Common Stock, which is intended to benefit Salomon Smith Barney or any party in which Salomon Smith Barney may have an interest.

(4) The Independent Plan Fiduciary authorizes the investment of a Plan's

assets in an Index Fund which purchases and/or holds Citigroup Common Stock and the Sub-Adviser is responsible for voting any shares of Citigroup Common Stock that are held by an Index Fund on any matter in which shareholders of Citigroup Common Stock are required or permitted to vote.

(j) The quarterly investment advisory fee that is paid by a Plan to the Consulting Group for investment advisory services rendered to such Plan will be offset by such amount as is necessary to assure that the Consulting Group retains no more than 20 basis points from any Portfolio (with the exception of the Government Money Investments Portfolio and the GIC Fund Portfolio for which the Consulting Group and the Trust will retain no investment management fee) which contains investments attributable to the Plan investor.

(k) With respect to its participation in the TRAK Program prior to purchasing Trust shares,

(1) Each Plan will receive the following written or oral disclosures from the Consulting Group:

(A) A copy of the Prospectus for the Trust discussing the investment objectives of the Portfolios comprising the Trust, the policies employed to achieve these objectives, the corporate affiliation existing between the Consulting Group, Salomon Smith Barney and its subsidiaries and the compensation paid to such entities.⁵

(B) Upon written or oral request to Salomon Smith Barney, a Statement of Additional Information supplementing the Prospectus which describes the types of securities and other instruments in which the Portfolios may invest, the investment policies and strategies that the Portfolios may utilize and certain risks attendant to those investments, policies and strategies.

(C) A copy of the investment advisory agreement between the Consulting Group and such Plan relating to participation in the TRAK Program and, if applicable, informing Plan investors of the Automatic Reallocation Option.

(D) Upon written request of Salomon Smith Barney, a copy of the respective investment advisory agreement between the Consulting Group and the Sub-Advisers.

⁵ The fact that certain transactions and fee arrangements are the subject of an administrative exemption does not relieve the Independent Plan Fiduciary from the general fiduciary responsibility provisions of section 404 of the Act. In this regard, the Department expects the Independent Plan Fiduciary to consider carefully the totality of the fees and expenses to be paid by the Plan, including the fees paid directly to Salomon Smith Barney or to other third parties.

(E) In the case of a Section 404(c) Plan, if required by the arrangement negotiated between the Consulting Group and the Plan, an explanation by a Salomon Smith Barney Financial Consultant (the Financial Consultant) to eligible participants in such Plan, of the services offered under the TRAK Program and the operation and objectives of the Portfolios.

(F) A copy of the proposed exemption and the final exemption, if granted, pertaining to the exemptive relief described herein.

(2) If accepted as an investor in the TRAK Program, an Independent Plan Fiduciary of an IRA or Keogh Plan, is required to acknowledge, in writing, prior to purchasing Trust shares that such fiduciary has received copies of the documents described above in subparagraph (k)(1) of this Section.

(3) With respect to a Section 404(c) Plan, written acknowledgement of the receipt of such documents will be provided by the Independent Plan Fiduciary (i.e., the Plan administrator, trustee or named fiduciary, as the recordholder of Trust shares). Such Independent Plan Fiduciary will be required to represent in writing to Salomon Smith Barney that such fiduciary is (a) independent of Salomon Smith Barney and its affiliates and (b) knowledgeable with respect to the Plan in administrative matters and funding matters related thereto, and able to make an informed decision concerning participation in the TRAK Program.

(4) With respect to a Plan that is covered under Title I of the Act, where investment decisions are made by a trustee, investment manager or a named fiduciary, such Independent Plan Fiduciary is required to acknowledge, in writing, receipt of such documents and represent to Salomon Smith Barney that such fiduciary is (a) independent of Salomon Smith Barney and its affiliates, (b) capable of making an independent decision regarding the investment of Plan assets and (c) knowledgeable with respect to the Plan in administrative matters and funding matters related thereto, and able to make an informed decision concerning participation in the TRAK Program.

(l) Subsequent to its participation in the TRAK Program, each Plan receives the following written or oral disclosures with respect to its ongoing participation in the TRAK Program:

(1) The Trust's semi-annual and annual report which will include financial statement for the Trust and investment management fees paid by each Portfolio.

(2) A written quarterly monitoring statement containing an analysis and an

evaluation of a Plan investor's account to ascertain whether the Plan's investment objectives have been met and recommending, if required, changes in Portfolio allocations.

(3) If required by the arrangement negotiated between the Consulting Group and a Section 404(c) Plan, a quarterly, detailed investment performance monitoring report, in writing, provided to an Independent Plan Fiduciary of such Plan showing, Plan level asset allocations, Plan cash flow analysis and annualized risk adjusted rates of return for Plan investments. In addition, if required by such arrangement, Financial Consultants will meet periodically with Independent Plan Fiduciaries of Section 404(c) Plans to discuss the report as well as with eligible participants to review their accounts' performance.

(4) If required by the arrangement negotiated between the Consulting Group and a Section 404(c) Plan, a quarterly participant performance monitoring report provided to a Plan participant which accompanies the participant's benefit statement and describes the investment performance of the Portfolios, the investment performance of the participant's individual investment in the TRAK Program, and gives market commentary and toll-free numbers that will enable the participant to obtain more information about the TRAK Program or to amend his or her investment allocations.

(5) On a quarterly and annual basis, written disclosures to all Plans of the (a) percentage of each Portfolio's brokerage commissions that are paid to Salomon Smith Barney and its affiliates and (b) the average brokerage commission per share paid by each Portfolio to Salomon Smith Barney and its affiliates, as compared to the average brokerage commission per share paid by the Trust to brokers other than Salomon Smith Barney and its affiliates, both expressed as cents per share.

(m) Salomon Smith Barney shall maintain, for a period of six years, the records necessary to enable the persons described in paragraph (n) of this Section to determine whether the conditions of this exemption have been met, except that (1) a prohibited transaction will not be considered to have occurred if, due to circumstances beyond the control of Salomon Smith Barney and/or its affiliates, the records are lost or destroyed prior to the end of the six year period, and (2) no party in interest other than Salomon Smith Barney shall be subject to the civil penalty that may be assessed under section 502(i) of the Act, or to the taxes

imposed by section 4975(a) and (b) of the Code, if the records are not maintained, or are not available for examination as required by paragraph (n) below.

(n)(1) Except as provided in section (2) of this paragraph and notwithstanding any provisions of subparagraphs (a)(2) and (b) of section 504 of the Act, the records referred to in paragraph (m) of this Section II shall be unconditionally available at their customary location during normal business hours by:

(A) Any duly authorized employee or representative of the Department or the Service;

(B) Any fiduciary of a participating Plan or any duly authorized representative of such fiduciary;

(C) Any contributing employer to any participating Plan or any duly authorized employee representative of such employer; and

(D) Any participant or beneficiary of any participating Plan, or any duly authorized representative of such participant or beneficiary.

(2) None of the persons described above in subparagraphs (B)-(D) of this paragraph (n) shall be authorized to examine the trade secrets of Salomon Smith Barney or commercial or financial information which is privileged or confidential.

Section III. Definitions

For purposes of this proposed exemption:

(a) The term "Salomon Smith Barney" means Salomon Smith Barney Inc. and any affiliate of Salomon Smith Barney, as defined in paragraph (b) of this Section III.

(b) An "affiliate" of Salomon Smith Barney includes—

(1) Any person directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controlling, controlled by, or under common control with Salomon Smith Barney; (For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "control" means the power to exercise a controlling influence over the management or policies of a person other than an individual.)

(2) Any individual who is an officer (as defined in Section III(d) hereof), director or partner in Salomon Smith Barney or a person described in subparagraph (b)(1);

(3) Any corporation or partnership of which Salomon Smith Barney or an affiliate described in subparagraphs(b)(1), is a 10 percent or more partner or owner; and

(4) Any corporation or partnership of which any individual which is an officer or director of Salomon Smith

Barney, is a 10 percent or more partner or owner.

(c) An "Independent Plan Fiduciary" is a Plan fiduciary which is independent of Salomon Smith Barney and its affiliates and is either—

(1) A Plan administrator, sponsor, trustee or named fiduciary, as the recordholder of Trust shares under a Section 404(c) Plan;

(2) A participant in a Keogh Plan;

(3) An individual covered under (i) a self-directed IRA or (ii) a Section 403(b) Plan, which invests in Trust shares;

(4) A trustee, investment manager or named fiduciary responsible for investment decisions in the case of a Title I Plan that does not permit individual direction as contemplated by Section 404(c) of the Act; or

(5) A participant in a Plan, such as a Section 404(c) Plan, who is permitted under the terms of such Plan to direct, and who elects to direct the investment of assets of his or her account in such Plan.

(d) The term "officer" means a president, any vice president in charge of a principal business unit, division or function (such as sales, administration or finance), or any other officer who performs a policymaking function for the entity.

Section IV. Effective Dates

If granted, this proposed exemption will be effective as of April 1, 2000, with respect to the amendments to Section II(i) and Section III(b) and the inclusion of new Section III(d).

The availability of this proposed exemption is subject to the express condition that the material facts and representations contained in the application for exemption are true and complete and accurately describe all material terms of the transactions. In the case of continuing transactions, if any of the material facts or representations described in the applications change, the exemption will cease to apply as of the date of such change. In the event of any such change, an application for a new exemption must be made to the Department.

For a more complete statement of the facts and representations supporting the Department's decision to grant PTE 92-77, PTE 94-50 and PTE 99-15, refer to the proposed exemptions and the grant notices which are cited above.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 25th day of May, 2000.

Ivan L. Strasfeld,

*Director of Exemption Determinations,
Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration,
U.S. Department of Labor.*

[FR Doc. 00-13643 Filed 5-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-29-P