

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Extension: Rule 17f-2(a), SEC File No. 270-34, OMB Control No. 3235-0034, Rule 17Ad-4(b) & (c), SEC File No. 270-264, OMB Control No. 3235-0341]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget request[s] for extension of the previously approved collection[s] of information discussed below.

Rule 17f-2(a) Fingerprinting Requirements for Securities Professionals, requires that securities professionals be fingerprinted. This requirements serves to identify security risk personnel, to allow an employer to make fully informed employment decisions, and to deter possible wrongdoers from seeking employment in the securities industry. Partners, directors, officers, and employees of exchanges, broker, dealers, transfer agents, and clearing agencies are included.

It is estimated that approximately 10,500 respondents will submit fingerprint cards. It is also estimated that each respondent will submit 50 fingerprint cards. The staff estimates that the average number of hours necessary to comply with the Rule 17f-2(a) is one-half hour. The total burden is 262,500 hours for respondents, based upon past submissions. The average cost per hour is approximately \$30. Therefore, the total cost of compliance for respondents is \$7,875,000.

Rule 17Ad-4(b) & (c), Notices Regarding Exempt Transfer Agent Status, is used to document when transfer agents are exempt, or no longer exempt, from the minimum performance standards and certain recordkeeping provisions of the Commission's transfer agent rules. Rule 17Ad-4(c) sets forth the conditions under which a registered transfer agent loses its exempt status. Once the conditions for exemption no longer exist, the transfer agent, to keep the appropriate regulatory authority ("ARA") apprised of its current status, must prepare, and file if the ARA for the transfer agent is the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System ("BGFRS") or the Federal Deposit

Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), a notice of loss of exempt status under paragraph (c). The transfer agent then cannot claim exempt status under Rule 17Ad-4(b) again until it remains subject to the minimum performance standards for non-exempt transfer agents for six consecutive months. The ARAs use the information contained in the notice to determine whether a registered transfer agent qualifies for the exemptions, to determine when a registered transfer agent no longer qualifies for the exemption, and to determine the extent to which that transfer agent is subject to regulation.

The BGFRS receives approximately twelve notices of exempt status and six notices of loss of exempt status annually. The FDIC receives approximately eighteen notices of exempt status and three notices of loss of exempt status annually. The Commission and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency ("OCC") do not require transfer agents to file notice of exempt status or loss of exempt status. Instead, transfer agents whose ARA is the Commission or OCC need only to prepare and maintain these notices. The Commission estimates that approximately sixteen notices of exempt status and loss of exempt status are prepared annually by transfer agents whose ARA is the Commission. Similarly, the OCC estimates that the transfer agents for which it is the ARA prepare and maintain approximately fifteen notices of exempt status and loss of exempt status annually. Thus, a total of approximately seventy notices of exempt status and loss of exempt status are prepared and maintained by transfer agents annually. Of these seventy notices, approximately forty are filed with an ARA. Any additional costs associated with filing such notices would be limited primarily to postage, which would be minimal. Since the Commission estimates that no more than one-half hour is required to prepare each notice, the total annual burden to transfer agents is approximately thirty-five hours. The average cost per hour is approximately \$30. Therefore, the total cost of compliance to the transfer agent community is \$1050.

General comments regarding the above information should be directed to the following persons: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 3208, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503; and (ii) Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information

Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: July 29, 1997.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Rel. No. IC-22773; File No. 811-3815]

Manulife Series Fund, Inc.

July 30, 1997.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission").

ACTION: Notice of application for an order under the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("1940 Act").

APPLICANT: Manulife Series Fund, Inc.

RELEVANT 1940 ACT SECTION: Order requested under Section 8(f) of the 1940 Act.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicant seeks an order declaring that it has ceased to be an investment company as defined by the 1940 Act.

FILING DATE: The application was filed on May 28, 1997.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Secretary of the SEC and serving Applicant with a copy of the request, in person or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the SEC by 5:30 p.m. on August 25, 1997, and should be accompanied by proof of service on Applicant in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the requester's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons may request notification of a hearing by writing to the Secretary of the SEC.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Applicant, Manulife Series Fund, Inc., 200 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4W 1E5.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Megan Dunphy, Attorney, or Mark Amorosi, Branch Chief, Office of Insurance Products, Division of Investment Management, at (202) 942-0670.