

## CHAPTER 408

## UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE — INVESTMENT SECURITIES

## SHORT TITLE AND GENERAL MATTERS

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Cross-reference: See definitions in s. 401.201.

## SHORT TITLE AND GENERAL MATTERS

**408.101 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as uniform commercial code—investment securities.

**408.102 Definitions and index of definitions; applicability.** (1) In this chapter unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) A certificated security is in "bearer form" if it runs to bearer according to its terms and not by reason of any endorsement.

(b) A "certificated security" is a share, participation or other interest in property of or an enterprise of the issuer or an obligation of the issuer which is:

1. Represented by an instrument issued in bearer or registered form;
2. Of a type commonly dealt in on securities exchanges or markets or commonly recognized in any area in which it is issued or dealt in as a medium for investment; and
3. Either one of a class or series or by its terms divisible into a class or series of shares, participations, interests or obligations.

(c) A "clearing corporation" is a corporation registered as a clearing agent under the federal securities laws or a corporation:

1. At least 90% of whose capital stock is held by or for one or more organizations, none of which, other than a national securities exchange or association, holds in excess of 20% of the capital stock of the corporation, and each of which is:

- a. Subject to supervision or regulation under federal or state banking laws or state insurance laws;

- b. A broker, dealer or investment company registered under the federal securities laws; or

- c. A national securities exchange or association registered under the federal securities laws.

2. Any remaining capital stock of which is held by individuals who have purchased it at or prior to the time of their taking office

as directors of the corporation and who have purchased only so much of the capital stock as is necessary to permit them to qualify as directors.

(d) A "custodian bank" is a bank or trust company that is supervised and examined by state or federal authority having supervision over banks and is acting as custodian for a clearing corporation.

(e) A certificated security is in "registered form" if:

1. It specifies a person entitled to the security or to the rights it represents; and
2. Its transfer may be registered upon books maintained for that purpose by or on behalf of the issuer or the security so states.

(f) A "security" is either a certificated or an uncertificated security. If a security is certificated, the terms "security" and "certificated security" may mean either the intangible interest, the instrument representing that interest, or both, as the context requires. A writing that is a certificated security is governed by this chapter and not by ch. 403 even though it also meets the requirements of that chapter. This chapter does not apply to money. If a certificated security has been retained by or surrendered to the issuer or its transfer agent for reasons other than registration of transfer, other temporary purpose, payment, exchange or acquisition by the issuer, that security shall be treated as an uncertificated security for purposes of this chapter.

(g) A "subsequent purchaser" is a person who takes other than by original issue.

(h) An "uncertificated security" is a share, participation or other interest in property or an enterprise of the issuer or an obligation of the issuer which is:

1. Not represented by an instrument and the transfer of which is registered upon books maintained for that purpose by or on behalf of the issuer;
2. Of a type commonly dealt in on securities exchanges or markets; and
3. Either one of a class or series or by its terms divisible into a class or series of shares, participations, interests or obligations.

(5) Other definitions applying to this chapter or to specified sections thereof and the sections in which they appear are:

- (a) "Adverse claim" — s. 408.302.
- (b) "Bona fide purchaser" — s. 408.302.
- (c) "Broker" — s. 408.303.
- (d) "Debtor" — s. 409.105.
- (e) "Financial intermediary" — s. 408.313.
- (f) "Guarantee of the signature" — s. 408.402.
- (g) "Initial transaction statement" — s. 408.408.
- (h) "Instruction" — s. 408.308.
- (i) "Intermediary bank" — s. 404.105.
- (j) "Issuer" — s. 408.201.
- (k) "Overissue" — s. 408.104.
- (l) "Secured party" — s. 409.105.
- (m) "Security agreement" — s. 409.105.

(6) In addition ch. 401 contains general definitions and principles of construction and interpretation applicable throughout this chapter.

**History:** 1975 c. 107; 1983 a. 189; 1985 a. 237 ss 3 to 17, 119; 1987 a. 403.

Stock of closely-held corporation not traded upon securities exchange is "security" under this section. *Wamser v. Bamberger*, 101 W (2d) 637, 305 NW (2d) 158 (Ct. App. 1981).

Guarantying municipal bonds *Minge*, 1974 WLR 89.

**408.103 Issuer's lien.** A lien upon a security in favor of an issuer thereof is valid against a purchaser only if:

- (1) The security is certificated and the right of the issuer to the lien is noted conspicuously thereon; or
- (2) The security is uncertificated and a notation of the right of the issuer to the lien is contained in the initial transaction statement sent to the purchaser or, if his or her interest is transferred to him or her other than by registration of transfer, pledge or release, the initial transaction statement sent to the registered owner or the registered pledgee.

**History:** 1985 a. 237

**408.104 Effect of overissue; "overissue".** (1) The provisions of this chapter which validate a security or compel its issue or reissue do not apply to the extent that validation, issue or reissue would result in overissue, but if:

- (a) An identical security which does not constitute an overissue is reasonably available for purchase, the person entitled to issue or validation may compel the issuer to purchase the security for him or her and either to deliver a certificated security or to register the transfer of an uncertificated security to him or her, against surrender of any certificated security he or she holds; or
- (b) A security is not so available for purchase, the person entitled to issue or validation may recover from the issuer the price he or she or the last purchaser for value paid for it with interest from the date of his or her demand.

(2) "Overissue" means the issue of securities in excess of the amount the issuer has corporate power to issue.

**History:** 1985 a. 237

**408.105 Certificated securities negotiable; statements and instructions not negotiable; presumptions.**

- (1) Certificated securities governed by this chapter are negotiable instruments.
- (2) Statements (s. 408.108), notices, or the like, sent by the issuer of uncertificated securities and instructions (s. 408.308) are neither negotiable instruments nor certificated securities.
- (3) In any action on a security:
  - (a) Unless specifically denied in the manner provided in s. 891.25, each signature on a certificated security, in a necessary endorsement on an initial transaction statement, or on an instruction, is admitted.
  - (b) If the effectiveness of a signature is put in issue the burden of establishing it is on the party claiming under the signature but the signature is presumed to be genuine or authorized.

(c) If signatures on a certificated security are admitted or established production of the security entitles a holder to recover on it unless the defendant establishes a defense or a defect going to the validity of the security.

(d) If signatures on an initial transaction statement are admitted or established, the facts stated in the statement are presumed to be true as of the time of its issuance; and

(e) After it is shown that a defense or defect exists, the plaintiff has the burden of establishing that he or she or some person under whom he or she claims is a person against whom the defense or defect is ineffective (s. 408.202).

**History:** 1985 a. 237

**408.106 Applicability.** The law (including conflict of laws rules) of the jurisdiction of organization of the issuer governs the validity of a security, the effectiveness of registration by the issuer and the rights and duties of the issuer with respect to all of the following:

- (1) Registration of transfer of a certificated security.
- (2) Registration of transfer, pledge or release of an uncertificated security.
- (3) Sending of statements of uncertificated securities.

**History:** 1985 a. 237

**408.107 Securities transferable; action for price.**

(1) Unless otherwise agreed and subject to any applicable law or regulation respecting short sales, a person obligated to transfer securities may transfer any certificated security of the specified issue in bearer form or registered in the name of the transferee, or endorsed to him or her or in blank or he or she may transfer an equivalent uncertificated security to the transferee or a person designated by the transferee.

(2) If the buyer fails to pay the price as it comes due under a contract of sale the seller may recover the price of:

- (a) Certificated securities accepted by the buyer.
- (b) Uncertificated securities that have been transferred to the buyer or a person designated by the buyer.
- (c) Other securities if efforts at their resale would be unduly burdensome or if there is no readily available market for their resale.

**History:** 1985 a. 237

**408.108 Registration of pledge and release of uncertificated securities.** A security interest in an uncertificated security may be evidenced by the registration of pledge to the secured party or a person designated by him or her. There can be no more than one registered pledge of an uncertificated security at any time. The registered owner of an uncertificated security is the person in whose name the security is registered, even if the security is subject to a registered pledge. The rights of a registered pledgee of an uncertificated security under this chapter are terminated by the registration of release.

**History:** 1985 a. 237

**408.109 Relationship to other statutes on fiduciary security transfers.** If in any respect there is any inconsistency between s. 112.06 and this chapter, s. 112.06 shall control.

**History:** 1981 c. 390 s. 252; 1985 a. 237 s. 28; Stats. 1985 s. 408.109

#### ISSUE—ISSUER

**408.201 "Issuer".** (1) With respect to obligations on or defenses to a security, "issuer" includes a person who:

- (a) Places or authorizes the placing of his or her name on a certificated security (otherwise than as authenticating trustee, registrar, transfer agent or the like) to evidence that it represents a share, participation or other interest in his or her property or in an enterprise or to evidence his or her duty to perform an obligation represented by the certificated security;
- (b) Creates shares, participations or other interests in his or her property or in an enterprise or undertakes obligations, which

shares, participations, interests or obligations are uncertificated securities;

(c) Directly or indirectly creates fractional interests in his or her rights or property which fractional interests are represented by certificated securities; or

(d) Becomes responsible for or in place of any other person described as an issuer in this section.

(2) With respect to obligations on or defenses to a security, a guarantor is an issuer to the extent of his or her guaranty, whether or not his or her obligation is noted on a certificated security or on statements of uncertificated securities sent under s. 408.408.

(3) With respect to registration of transfer, pledge or release (ss. 408.401 to 408.406), "issuer" means a person on whose behalf transfer books are maintained.

History: 1985 a 237.

**408.202 Issuer's responsibility and defenses; notice of defect or defense.** (1) Even against a purchaser for value and without notice, the terms of a security include:

(a) If the security is certificated, those stated on the security;

(b) If the security is uncertificated, those contained in the initial transaction statement sent to the purchaser or, if his or her interest is transferred to him or her other than by registration of transfer, pledge or release, the initial transaction statement sent to the registered owner or registered pledgee; and

(c) Those made part of the security by reference, on the certificated security or in the initial transaction statement, to another instrument, indenture or document or to a constitution, statute, ordinance, rule, regulation, order or the like to the extent that the terms referred to do not conflict with the terms stated on the certificated security or contained in the statement. A reference under this paragraph does not of itself charge a purchaser for value with notice of a defect going to the validity of the security even though the certificated security or statement expressly states that a person accepting it admits notice.

(2) A certificated security in the hands of a purchaser for value or an uncertificated security as to which an initial transaction statement has been sent to a purchaser for value, other than a security issued by a government or governmental agency or unit, even though issued with a defect going to its validity, is valid with respect to the purchaser if he or she is without notice of the particular defect unless the defect involves a violation of constitutional provisions, in which case the security is valid with respect to a subsequent purchaser for value and without notice of the defect. This subsection applies to an issuer that is a government or governmental agency or unit only if either there has been substantial compliance with the legal requirements governing the issue or the issuer has received a substantial consideration for the issue as a whole or for the particular security and a stated purpose of the issue is one for which the issuer has power to borrow money or issue the security.

(3) Except as provided in the case of certain unauthorized signatures (s. 408.205), lack of genuineness of a certificated security or an initial transaction statement is a complete defense, even against a purchaser for value and without notice.

(4) All other defenses of the issuer of a certificated or uncertificated security, including nondelivery and conditional delivery of a certificated security, are ineffective against a purchaser for value who has taken without notice of the particular defense.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the right of a party to a "when, as and if issued" or a "when distributed" contract to cancel the contract in the event of a material change in the character of the security that is the subject of the contract or in the plan or arrangement pursuant to which the security is to be issued or distributed.

History: 1985 a 237.

Guarantying municipal bonds Minge, 1974 WLR 89.

**408.203 Staleness as notice of defects or defenses.**

(1) After an act or event creating a right to immediate perform-

ance of the principal obligation represented by a certificated security or that sets a date on or after which the security is to be presented or surrendered for redemption or exchange, a purchaser is charged with notice of any defect in its issue or defense of the issuer if:

(a) The act or event is one requiring the payment of money, the delivery of certificated securities, the registration of transfer of uncertificated securities or any of these on presentation or surrender of the certificated security, the funds or securities are available on the date set for payment or exchange and he or she takes the security more than one year after that date; and

(b) The act or event is not covered by par. (a) and he or she takes the security more than 2 years after the date set for surrender or presentation or the date on which performance became due.

(2) A call that has been revoked is not within sub. (1).

History: 1985 a 237.

**408.204 Effect of issuer's restrictions on transfer.** A restriction on transfer of a security imposed by the issuer, even though otherwise lawful, is ineffective against any person without actual knowledge of it unless:

(1) The security is certificated and the restriction is noted conspicuously thereon; or

(2) The security is uncertificated and a notation of the restriction is contained in the initial transaction statement sent to the person or, if his or her interest is transferred to him or her other than by registration of transfer, pledge or release, the initial transaction statement sent to the registered owner or the registered pledgee.

History: 1985 a 237.

**408.205 Effect of unauthorized signature on certificated security or initial transaction statement.** An unauthorized signature placed on a certificated security prior to or in the course of issue or placed on an initial transaction statement is ineffective, but the signature is effective in favor of a purchaser for value of the certificated security or a purchaser for value of an uncertificated security to whom such initial transaction statement has been sent, if the purchaser is without notice of the lack of authority and the signing has been done by:

(1) An authenticating trustee, registrar, transfer agent or other person entrusted by the issuer with the signing of the security, of similar securities, or of initial transaction statements or the immediate preparation for signing or any of them; or

(2) An employe of the issuer or of any of the foregoing entrusted with responsible handling of the security or initial transaction statement.

History: 1985 a 237.

**408.206 Completion or alteration of certificated security or initial transaction statement.** (1) If a certificated security contains the signatures necessary to its issue or transfer but is incomplete in any other respect:

(a) Any person may complete it by filling in the blanks as authorized; and

(b) Even though the blanks are incorrectly filled in, the security as completed is enforceable by a purchaser who took it for value and without notice of the incorrectness.

(2) A complete certificated security that has been improperly altered, even though fraudulently, remains enforceable but only according to its original terms.

(3) If an initial transaction statement contains the signatures necessary to its validity, but is incomplete in any other respect:

(a) Any person may complete it by filling in the blanks as authorized; and

(b) Even though the blanks are incorrectly filled in, the statement as completed is effective in favor of the person to whom it is sent if he or she purchased the security referred to therein for value and without notice of the incorrectness.

(4) A complete initial transaction statement that has been improperly altered, even though fraudulently, is effective in favor

of a purchaser to whom it has been sent, but only according to its original terms.

History: 1985 a 237.

**408.207 Rights and duties of issuer with respect to registered owners and registered pledgees.** (1) Prior to due presentment for registration of transfer of a certificated security in registered form, the issuer or indenture trustee may treat the registered owner as the person exclusively entitled to vote, to receive notifications, and otherwise to exercise all the rights and powers of an owner.

(2) Subject to subs. (3), (4) and (6), the issuer or indenture trustee may treat the registered owner of an uncertificated security as the person exclusively entitled to vote, to receive notifications, and otherwise to exercise all the rights and powers of an owner.

(3) The registered owner of an uncertificated security that is subject to a registered pledge is not entitled to registration of transfer prior to the due presentment to the issuer of a release instruction. The exercise of conversion rights with respect to a convertible uncertificated security is a transfer within the meaning of this section.

(4) Upon due presentment of a transfer instruction from the registered pledgee of an uncertificated security, the issuer shall:

(a) Register the transfer of the security to the new owner free of pledge, if the instruction specifies a new owner (who may be the registered pledgee) and does not specify a pledgee;

(b) Register the transfer of the security to the new owner subject to the interest of the existing pledgee, if the instruction specifies a new owner and the existing pledgee; or

(c) Register the release of the security from the existing pledge and register the pledge of the security to the other pledgee, if the instruction specifies the existing owner and another pledgee.

(5) Continuity of perfection of a security interest is not broken by registration of transfer under sub. (4) (b) or by registration of release and pledge under sub. (4) (c), if the security interest is assigned.

(6) If an uncertificated security is subject to a registered pledge:

(a) Any uncertificated securities issued in exchange for or distributed with respect to the pledged security shall be registered subject to the pledge;

(b) Any certificated securities issued in exchange for or distributed with respect to the pledge security shall be delivered to the registered pledgee; and

(c) Any money paid in exchange for or in redemption of part or all of the security shall be paid to the registered pledgee.

(7) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to affect the liability of the registered owner of a security for calls, assessments or the like.

History: 1985 a 237.

Owner of stock could not hold corporation liable for wrongfully redeeming stock that owner had left in possession and registered in name of owner's agent. *Kerrigan v. American Orthodontics Corp.*, 960 F.2d 605 (1992).

**408.208 Effect of signature of authenticating trustee, registrar or transfer agent.** (1) A person placing his or her signature upon a certificated security or an initial transaction statement as authenticating trustee, registrar, transfer agent, or the like, warrants to a purchaser for value of the certificated security or a purchaser for value of an uncertificated security to whom the initial transaction statement has been sent, if the purchaser is without notice of the particular defect, that:

(a) The certificated security or initial transaction statement is genuine;

(b) His or her own participation in the issue or registration of the transfer, pledge or release of the security is within his or her capacity and within the scope of the authority received by him or her from the issuer; and

(c) He or she has reasonable grounds to believe that the security is in the form and within the amount the issuer is authorized to issue.

(2) Unless otherwise agreed, a person by so placing his or her signature does not assume responsibility for the validity of the security in other respects.

History: 1985 a 237; 1991 a 316.

## PURCHASE

**408.301 Rights acquired by purchaser.** (1) Upon transfer of a security to a purchaser (s. 408.313) the purchaser acquires the rights in the security which his or her transferor had or had actual authority to convey unless the purchaser's rights are limited by s. 408.302.

(2) A transferee of a limited interest acquires rights only to the extent of the interest transferred. The creation or release of a security interest in a security is the transfer of a limited interest in that security.

History: 1985 a 237.

**408.302 "Bona fide purchaser"; "adverse claim"; title acquired by bona fide purchaser.** (1) A "bona fide purchaser" is a purchaser for value in good faith and without notice of any adverse claim:

(a) Who takes delivery of a certificated security in bearer form or in registered form, issued or endorsed to him or her or in blank;

(b) To whom the transfer, pledge or release of an uncertificated security is registered on the books of the issuer; or

(c) To whom a security is transferred under s. 408.313 (1) (c),  
(d) 1. or (g).

(2) "Adverse claim" includes a claim that a transfer was or would be wrongful or that a particular adverse person is the owner of or has an interest in the security.

(3) A bona fide purchaser in addition to acquiring the rights of a purchaser (s. 408.301) also acquires his or her interest in the security free of any adverse claim.

(4) Notwithstanding s. 408.301 (1), the transferee of a particular certificated security who has been a party to any fraud or illegality affecting the security, or who as a prior holder of that certificated security had notice of an adverse claim, cannot improve his or her position by taking from a bona fide purchaser.

History: 1985 a 237.

**408.303 "Broker".** "Broker" means a person engaged for all or part of his or her time in the business of buying and selling securities, who in the transaction concerned acts for, buys a security from, or sells a security to, a customer. Nothing in this chapter determines the capacity in which a person acts for purposes of any other statute or rule to which the person is subject.

History: 1985 a 237.

**408.304 Notice to purchaser of adverse claims.** (1) A purchaser, including a broker for the seller or buyer but excluding an intermediary bank, of a certificated security is charged with notice of adverse claims if:

(a) The security, whether in bearer or registered form, has been endorsed "for collection" or "for surrender" or for some other purpose not involving transfer; or

(b) The security is in bearer form and has on it an unambiguous statement that it is the property of a person other than the transferor. The mere writing of a name on a security is not such a statement.

(2) A purchaser, including a broker for the seller or buyer, but excluding an intermediary bank, to whom the transfer, pledge or release of an uncertificated security is registered is charged with notice of adverse claims as to which the issuer has a duty under s. 408.403 (4) at the time of registration and which are noted in the initial transaction statement sent to the purchaser or, if his or her

interest is transferred to him or her other than by registration of transfer, pledge or release, the initial transaction statement sent to the registered owner or the registered pledgee.

(3) The fact that the purchaser, including a broker for the seller or buyer, of a certificated or uncertificated security has notice that the security is held for a 3rd person or is registered in the name of or endorsed by a fiduciary does not create a duty of inquiry into the rightfulness of the transfer or constitute constructive notice of adverse claims. However, if the purchaser, excluding an intermediary bank, has knowledge that the proceeds are being used or the transaction is for the individual benefit of the fiduciary or otherwise in breach of duty, the purchaser is charged with notice of adverse claims.

History: 1985 a 237.

**408.305 Staleness as notice of adverse claims.** An act or event that creates a right to immediate performance of the principal obligation represented by a certificated security or sets a date on or after which a certificated security is to be presented or surrendered for redemption or exchange does not itself constitute any notice of adverse claims except in the case of a transfer:

(1) After one year from any date for presentment or surrender for redemption or exchange; or

(2) After 6 months from any date set for payment of money against presentation or surrender of the security if funds are available for payment on that date.

History: 1985 a 237.

**408.306 Warranties on presentment and transfer of certificated securities; warranties of originators of instructions.** (1) A person who presents a certificated security for registration of transfer or for payment or exchange warrants to the issuer that he or she is entitled to the registration, payment or exchange. But, a purchaser for value and without notice of adverse claims who receives a new, reissued or reregistered certificated security on registration of transfer or receives an initial transaction statement confirming the registration of transfer of an equivalent uncertificated security to him or her warrants only that he or she has no knowledge of any unauthorized signature (s. 408.311) in a necessary endorsement.

(2) A person by transferring a certificated security to a purchaser for value warrants only that:

(a) His or her transfer is effective and rightful;

(b) The security is genuine and has not been materially altered; and

(c) He or she knows of no fact which might impair the validity of the security.

(3) If a certificated security is delivered by an intermediary known to be entrusted with delivery of the security on behalf of another or with collection of a draft or other claim against delivery, the intermediary by delivery warrants only his or her own good faith and authority even though he or she has purchased or made advances against the claim to be collected against the delivery.

(4) A pledgee or other holder for security who redelivers a certificated security received, or after payment and on order of the debtor delivers that security to a 3rd person, makes only the warranties of an intermediary under sub. (3).

(5) A person who originates an instruction warrants to the issuer that:

(a) He or she is an appropriate person to originate the instruction; and

(b) At the time the instruction is presented to the issuer he or she will be entitled to the registration of transfer, pledge or release.

(6) A person who originates an instruction warrants to any person specially guaranteeing his or her signature (s. 408.312 (3)) that:

(a) He or she is an appropriate person to originate the instruction; and

(b) At the time the instruction is presented to the issuer:

1. He or she will be entitled to the registration of transfer, pledge or release; and

2. The transfer, pledge or release requested in the instruction will be registered by the issuer free from all liens, security interests, restrictions and claims other than those specified in the instruction.

(7) A person who originates an instruction warrants to a purchaser for value and to any person guaranteeing the instruction (s. 408.312 (6)) that:

(a) He or she is an appropriate person to originate the instruction;

(b) The uncertificated security referred to therein is valid; and

(c) At the time the instruction is presented to the issuer:

1. The transferor will be entitled to the registration of transfer, pledge or release;

2. The transfer, pledge or release requested in the instruction will be registered by the issuer free from all liens, security interests, restrictions and claims other than those specified in the instruction; and

3. The requested transfer, pledge or release will be rightful.

(8) If a secured party is the registered pledgee or the registered owner of an uncertificated security, a person who originates an instruction of release or transfer to the debtor or, after payment and on order of the debtor, a transfer instruction to a 3rd person, warrants to the debtor or the 3rd person only that he or she is an appropriate person to originate the instruction and at the time the instruction is presented to the issuer, the transferor will be entitled to the registration of release or transfer. If a transfer instruction to a 3rd person who is a purchaser for value is originated on order of the debtor, the debtor makes to the purchaser the warranties of sub. (7) (b) and (c) 2. and 3.

(9) A person who transfers an uncertificated security to a purchaser for value and does not originate an instruction in connection with the transfer warrants only that:

(a) His or her transfer is effective and rightful; and

(b) The uncertificated security is valid.

(10) A broker gives to his or her customer and to the issuer and a purchaser the applicable warranties provided in this section and has the rights and privileges of a purchaser under this section. The warranties of and in favor of the broker acting as an agent are in addition to applicable warranties given by and in favor of his or her customer.

History: 1985 a 237.

**408.307 Effect of delivery without endorsement; right to compel endorsement.** If a certificated security in registered form has been delivered to a purchaser without a necessary endorsement he or she may become a bona fide purchaser only as of the time the endorsement is supplied; but against the transferor, the transfer is complete upon delivery and the purchaser has a specifically enforceable right to have any necessary endorsement supplied.

History: 1985 a 237.

**408.308 Endorsements; instructions.** (1) An endorsement of a certificated security in registered form is made when an appropriate person signs on it or on a separate document an assignment or transfer of the security or a power to assign or transfer it or his or her signature is written without more upon the back of the security.

(2) An endorsement may be in blank or special. An endorsement in blank includes an endorsement to bearer. A special endorsement specifies to whom the security is to be transferred, or who has power to transfer it. A holder may convert a blank endorsement into a special endorsement.

(3) An endorsement purporting to be only of part of a certificated security representing units intended by the issuer to be separately transferable is effective to the extent of the endorsement.

(4) An "instruction" is an order to the issuer of an uncertificated security requesting that the transfer, pledge or release from pledge of the uncertificated security specified therein be registered.

(5) (a) An instruction originated by an appropriate person is:

1. A writing signed by an appropriate person; or
2. A communication to the issuer in any form agreed upon in a writing signed by the issuer and an appropriate person.

(b) If an instruction has been originated by an appropriate person but is incomplete in any other respect, any person may complete it as authorized and the issuer may rely on it as completed even though it has been completed incorrectly.

(6) "An appropriate person" in sub. (1) means the person specified by the certificated security or by special endorsement to be entitled to the security.

(7) "An appropriate person" in sub. (5) means:

(a) For an instruction to transfer or pledge an uncertificated security which is then not subject to a registered pledge, the registered owner; or

(b) For an instruction to transfer or release an uncertificated security which is then subject to a registered pledge, the registered pledgee.

(8) In addition to the persons designated in subs. (6) and (7), "an appropriate person" in subs. (1) and (5) includes:

(a) If the person designated is described as a fiduciary but is no longer serving in the described capacity, then either that person or his or her successor.

(b) If the persons designated are described as more than one person as fiduciaries and one or more are no longer serving in the described capacity, then the remaining fiduciary or fiduciaries, whether or not a successor has been appointed or qualified.

(c) If the person designated is an individual and is without capacity to act by virtue of death, incompetence, infancy or otherwise, then his or her executor, administrator, guardian or like fiduciary.

(d) If the persons designated are described as more than one person as tenants by the entirety or with right of survivorship and by reason of death all cannot sign, then the survivor or survivors.

(e) A person having power to sign under applicable law or controlling instrument.

(f) To the extent that the person designated or any of the foregoing persons may act through an agent, — his or her authorized agent.

(9) Unless otherwise agreed, the endorser of a certificated security or the originator of an instruction by his or her origination by his or her endorsement assumes no obligation that the security will be honored by the issuer but only the obligations provided by s. 408.306.

(10) Whether the person signing is appropriate is determined as of the date of signing and an endorsement made by or an instruction originated by him or her does not become unauthorized for the purposes of this chapter by virtue of any subsequent change of circumstances.

(11) Failure of a fiduciary to comply with a controlling instrument or with the law of the state having jurisdiction of the fiduciary relationship, including any law requiring the fiduciary to obtain court approval of the transfer, pledge or release, does not render his or her endorsement or an instruction originated by him or her unauthorized for the purposes of this chapter.

History: 1985 a 237.

**408.309 Effect of endorsement without delivery.** An endorsement of a certificated security whether special or in blank does not constitute a transfer until delivery of the certificated security on which it appears or if the endorsement is on a separate

document, until delivery of both the document and the certificated security.

History: 1985 a 237.

**408.310 Endorsement of certificated security in bearer form.** An endorsement of a certificated security in bearer form may give notice of adverse claims (s. 408.304) but does not otherwise affect any right to registration the holder possesses.

History: 1985 a 237.

**408.311 Effect of unauthorized endorsement or instruction.** Unless the owner or pledgee has ratified an unauthorized endorsement or instruction or is otherwise precluded from asserting its ineffectiveness:

(1) He or she may assert its ineffectiveness against the issuer or any purchaser other than a purchaser for value and without notice of adverse claims, who has in good faith received a new, reissued or reregistered certificated security on registration of transfer or received an initial transaction statement confirming the registration of transfer, pledge or release of an equivalent uncertificated security to him or her; and

(2) An issuer who registers the transfer of a certificated security upon the unauthorized endorsement or who registers the transfer, pledge or release of an uncertificated security upon the unauthorized instruction is subject to liability for improper registration (s. 408.404).

History: 1985 a 237.

**408.312 Effect of guaranteeing signature, endorsement or instruction.** (1) (a) Any person guaranteeing a signature of an endorser of a certificated security warrants that at the time of signing:

1. The signature was genuine;
2. The signer was an appropriate person to endorse (s. 408.308); and

3. The signer had legal capacity to sign.

(2) Any person guaranteeing a signature of the originator of an instruction warrants that at the time of signing:

(a) The signature was genuine;

(b) The signer was an appropriate person to originate the instruction (s. 408.308) if the person specified in the instruction as the registered owner or registered pledgee of the uncertificated security was, in fact, the registered owner or registered pledgee of the security, as to which fact the signature guarantor makes no warranty;

(c) The signer had legal capacity to sign; and

(d) The taxpayer identification number, if any, appearing on the instruction as that of the registered owner or registered pledgee was the taxpayer identification number of the signer or of the owner or pledgee for whom the signer was acting.

(3) Any person specially guaranteeing the signature of the originator of an instruction makes not only the warranties of a signature guarantor (sub. (2)) but also warrants that at the time the instruction is presented to the issuer:

(a) The person specified in the instruction as the registered owner or registered pledgee of the uncertificated security will be the registered owner or registered pledgee; and

(b) The transfer, pledge or release of the uncertificated security requested in the instruction will be registered by the issuer free from all liens, security interests, restrictions and claims other than those specified in the instruction.

(4) The guarantor under subs. (1) and (2) or the special guarantor under sub. (3) does not otherwise warrant the rightfulness of the particular transfer, pledge or release.

(5) Any person guaranteeing an endorsement of a certificated security makes not only the warranties of a signature guarantor under sub. (1) but also the rightfulness of the particular transfer in all respects.

(6) Any person guaranteeing an instruction requesting the transfer, pledge or release of an uncertificated security makes not

only the warranties of a special signature guarantor under sub. (3) but also warrants the rightfulness of the particular transfer, pledge or release in all respects.

(7) No issuer may require a special guarantee of signature (sub. (3)), a guarantee of endorsement (sub. (5)), or a guarantee of instruction (sub. (6)) as a condition to registration of transfer, pledge or release.

(8) The foregoing warranties are made to any person taking or dealing with the security in reliance on the guarantee and the guarantor is liable to the person for any loss resulting from breach of the warranties.

History: 1985 a. 237

**408.313 When transfer to purchaser occurs; financial intermediary as bona fide purchaser; "financial intermediary".** (1) Transfer of a security or a limited interest, including a security interest, therein to a purchaser occurs:

(a) At the time he or she or a person designated by him or her acquires possession of a certificated security;

(b) At the time the transfer, pledge or release of an uncertificated security is registered to him or her or a person designated by him or her;

(c) At the time his or her financial intermediary acquires possession of a certificated security specially endorsed to or issued in the name of the purchaser;

(d) At the time a financial intermediary, not a clearinghouse, sends him or her confirmation of the purchase and also by book entry or otherwise identifies as belonging to the purchaser:

1. A specific certificated security in the financial intermediary's possession;

2. A quantity of securities that constitute or are part of fungible bulk of certificated securities in the financial intermediary's possession or of uncertificated securities registered in the name of the financial intermediary; or

3. A quantity of securities that constitute or are part of a fungible bulk of securities shown on the account of the financial intermediary on the books of another financial intermediary;

(e) With respect to an identified certificated security to be delivered while still in the possession of a 3rd person not a financial intermediary at the time that person acknowledges that he or she holds for the purchaser; or

(f) With respect to a specific uncertificated security the pledge or transfer of which has been registered to a 3rd person, not a financial intermediary, at the time that person acknowledges that he or she holds for the purchaser;

(g) At the time appropriate entries to the account of the purchaser or a person designated by him or her on the books of a clearing corporation are made under s. 408.320;

(h) With respect to the transfer of a security interest where the debtor has signed a security agreement containing a description of the security, at the time a written notification, which, in the case of the creation of the security interest, is signed by the debtor (which may be a copy of the security agreement) or which, in the case of the release or assignment of the security interest created under this paragraph, is signed by the secured party, is received by:

1. A financial intermediary on whose books the interest of the transferor in the security appears;

2. A 3rd person, not a financial intermediary, in possession of the security, if it is certificated;

3. A 3rd person, not a financial intermediary, who is the registered owner of the security, if it is uncertificated and not subject to a registered pledge; or

4. A 3rd person, not a financial intermediary, who is the registered pledgee of the security, if it is uncertificated and subject to a registered pledge;

(i) With respect to the transfer of a security interest where the transferor has signed a security agreement containing a descrip-

tion of the security, at the time new value is given by the secured party; or

(j) With respect to the transfer of a security interest where the secured party is a financial intermediary and the security has already been transferred to the financial intermediary under par. (a), (b), (c), (d) or (g), at the time the transferor has signed a security agreement containing a description of the security and value is given by the secured party.

(2) The purchaser is the owner of a security held by a financial intermediary, but cannot be a bona fide purchaser of a security so held except in the circumstances specified in sub. (1)(c), (d) 1. and (g). If a security so held is part of a fungible bulk, as in the circumstances specified in sub. (1)(d) 2. and 3., the purchaser is the owner of a proportionate property interest in the fungible bulk.

(3) Notice of an adverse claim received by the financial intermediary or by the purchaser after the financial intermediary takes delivery of a certificated security as a holder for value or after the transfer, pledge or release of an uncertificated security has been registered free of the claim to a financial intermediary who has given value is not effective either as to the financial intermediary or as to the purchaser. However, as between the financial intermediary and the purchaser the purchaser may demand transfer of an equivalent security as to which no notice of adverse claim has been received.

(4) A "financial intermediary" is a bank, broker, clearing corporation or other person, or the nominee of any of them, which in the ordinary course of its business maintains security accounts for its customers and is acting in that capacity. A financial intermediary may have a security interest in securities held in account for its customer.

History: 1985 a. 237, 332; 1991 a. 304 s. 51

**408.314 Duty to transfer, when completed.**

(1) Unless otherwise agreed if a sale of security is made on an exchange or otherwise through brokers:

(a) The selling customer fulfills his or her duty to transfer at the time he or she:

1. Places a certificated security in the possession of the selling broker or of a person designated by the broker;

2. Causes an uncertificated security to be registered in the name of the selling broker or a person designated by the broker;

3. If requested, causes an acknowledgment to be made to the selling broker that a certificated or uncertificated security is held for the broker; or

4. Places in the possession of the selling broker or of a person designated by the broker a transfer instruction for an uncertificated security, providing the issuer does not refuse to register the requested transfer if the instruction is presented to the issuer for registration within 30 days thereafter; and

(b) The selling broker, including a correspondent broker acting for a selling customer, fulfills his or her duty to transfer at the time he or she:

1. Places a certificated security in the possession of the buying broker or a person designated by the buying broker;

2. Causes an uncertificated security to be registered in the name of the buying broker or a person designated by the buying broker;

3. Places in the possession of the buying broker or of a person designated by the buying broker a transfer instruction for an uncertificated security, providing the issuer does not refuse to register the requested transfer if the instruction is presented to the issuer for registration within 30 days thereafter; or

4. Effects clearance of the sale in accordance with the rules of the exchange on which the transaction took place.

(2) Except as provided in this section and unless otherwise agreed, a transferor's duty to transfer a security under a contract of purchase is not fulfilled until he or she:

- (a) Places a certificated security in form to be negotiated by the purchaser in the possession of the purchaser or of a person designated by the purchaser;
- (b) Causes an uncertificated security to be registered in the name of the purchaser or a person designated by the purchaser; or
- (c) If the purchaser requests, causes an acknowledgment to be made to the purchaser that a certificated or uncertificated security is held for the purchaser.

(3) Unless made on an exchange a sale to a broker purchasing for his or her own account is within sub. (2) and not within sub. (1).

**History:** 1985 a 237.

Existence of unendorsed, hence non-negotiable, securities in corporate book held by corporate attorney did not comply with (2) *Wolf v. Sachse*, 75 W (2d) 147, 248 NW (2d) 407

**408.315 Action against transferee based upon wrongful transfer.** (1) Any person against whom the transfer of a security is wrongful for any reason, including his or her incapacity, as against anyone except a bona fide purchaser, may:

- (a) Reclaim possession of the certificated security wrongfully transferred;
- (b) Obtain possession of any new certificated security constituting all or part of the same rights;
- (c) Compel the origination of an instruction to transfer to him or her or a person designated by him or her an uncertificated security constituting all or part of the same rights; or
- (d) Have damages.

(2) If the transfer is wrongful because of an unauthorized endorsement of a certificated security, the owner may also reclaim or obtain possession of the security or a new certificated security even from a bona fide purchaser if the ineffectiveness of the purported endorsement can be asserted against him or her under s. 408.311.

(3) The right to obtain or reclaim possession of a certificated security or to compel the origination of a transfer instruction may be specifically enforced and the transfer of a certificated or uncertificated security enjoined and a certificated security impounded pending the litigation.

**History:** 1985 a 237.

**408.316 Purchaser's right to requisites for registration of transfer, pledge or release on books.** Unless otherwise agreed, the transferor of a certificated security or the transferor, pledgor or pledgee of an uncertificated security on due demand must supply his or her purchaser with any proof of his or her authority to transfer pledge or release or with any other requisite necessary to obtain registration of the transfer, pledge or release of the security; but if the transfer, pledge or release is not for value a transferor need not do so unless the purchaser furnishes the necessary expenses. Failure within a reasonable time to comply with a demand made gives the purchaser the right to reject or rescind the transfer, pledge or release.

**History:** 1985 a 237.

**408.317 Creditors' rights.** (1) Subject to subs. (3) and (4), no attachment or levy upon a certificated security or any share or other interest represented thereby which is outstanding is valid until the security is actually seized by the officer making the attachment or levy but a certificated security which has been surrendered to the issuer may be reached by a creditor by legal process at the issuer's chief executive office in the United States.

(2) An uncertificated security registered in the name of the debtor may not be reached by a creditor except by legal process at the issuer's chief executive office in the United States.

(3) The interest of a debtor in a certificated security that is in the possession of a secured party not a financial intermediary or in an uncertificated security registered in the name of a secured party not a financial intermediary, or in the name of a nominee of the secured party, may be reached by a creditor by legal process upon the secured party.

(4) The interest of a debtor in a certificated security that is in the possession of or registered in the name of a financial intermediary or in an uncertificated security registered in the name of a financial intermediary may be reached by a creditor by legal process upon the financial intermediary on whose books the interest of the debtor appears.

(5) Unless otherwise provided by law, a creditor's lien upon the interest of a debtor in a security obtained under sub. (3) or (4) is not a restraint on the transfer of the security, free of the lien, to a 3rd party for new value; but in the event of a transfer, the lien applies to the proceeds of the transfer in the hands of the secured party or financial intermediary, subject to any claims having priority.

(6) A creditor whose debtor is the owner of a security is entitled to aid from courts of appropriate jurisdiction, by injunction or otherwise, in reaching the security or in satisfying the claim by means allowed at law or in equity in regard to property that cannot readily be reached by ordinary legal process.

**History:** 1985 a 237.

**408.318 No conversion by good faith conduct.** An agent or bailee who in good faith, including observance of reasonable commercial standards if he or she is in the business of buying, selling or otherwise dealing with securities, has received certificated securities and sold, pledged or delivered them or has sold or caused the transfer or pledge of uncertificated securities over which he or she had control according to the instructions of his or her principal is not liable for conversion or for participation in breach of fiduciary duty although the principal has no right so to deal with the securities.

**History:** 1985 a 237.

**408.319 Statute of frauds.** A contract for the sale of securities is not enforceable by way of action or defense unless:

(1) There is some writing signed by the party against whom enforcement is sought or by his or her authorized agent or broker sufficient to indicate that a contract has been made for sale of a stated quantity of described securities at a defined or stated price;

(2) Delivery of a certificated security or transfer instruction has been accepted or transfer of an uncertificated security has been registered and the transferee has failed to send written objection to the issuer within 10 days after receipt of the initial transaction statement confirming the registration, or payment has been made but the contract is enforceable under this provision only to the extent of the delivery, registration or payment;

(3) Within a reasonable time a writing in confirmation of the sale or purchase and sufficient against the sender under sub. (1) has been received by the party against whom enforcement is sought and that party has failed to send written objection to its contents within 10 days after its receipt; or

(4) The party against whom enforcement is sought admits in his or her pleading, testimony or otherwise in court that a contract was made for sale of a stated quantity of described securities at a defined or stated price.

**History:** 1985 a 237; 1991 a 316

When one party delivers stock and receives a check in exchange the requirements of (2) are met even though payment of the check is stopped. *Bigley v. Brandau*, 57 W (2d) 198, 203 NW (2d) 735

Oral promise that oral contract to sell securities would be binding without compliance with statute of frauds did not estop promisor from invoking statute. *Wamser v. Bamberger*, 101 W (2d) 637, 305 NW (2d) 158 (Ct. App. 1981)

Statements of defendant did not satisfy requirements of (4). *Gruen Industries, Inc. v. Biller*, 608 F (2d) 274 (1979).

**408.320 Transfer or pledge within central depository system.** (1) In addition to other methods, a transfer, pledge or release of a security or any interest therein may be effected by the making of appropriate entries on the books of a clearing corporation reducing the account of the transferor, pledgor or pledgee and increasing the account of the transferee, pledgee or pledgor by the amount of the obligation, or the number of shares or rights transferred, pledged or released, if the security is shown on the account of a transferor, pledgor or pledgee on the



books of the clearing corporation; is subject to the control of the clearing corporation; and:

(a) If certificated:

1. Is in the custody of the clearing corporation, another clearing corporation, a custodian bank or a nominee of any of them; and
2. Is in bearer form or endorsed in blank by an appropriate person or registered in the name of the clearing corporation, a custodian bank or a nominee of any of them; or

(b) If uncertificated, is registered in the name of the clearing corporation, another clearing corporation, a custodian bank or a nominee of any of them.

(2) Under this section entries may be made with respect to like securities or interests therein as a part of a fungible bulk and may refer merely to a quantity of a particular security without reference to the name of the registered owner, certificate or bond number or the like and, in appropriate cases, may be on a net basis taking into account other transfers, pledges or releases of the same security.

(3) A transfer under this section is effective (s. 408.313) and the purchaser acquires the rights of the transferor (s. 408.301). A pledge or release under this section is the transfer of a limited interest. If a pledge or the creation of a security interest is intended, the security interest is perfected at the time when both value is given by the pledgee and the appropriate entries are made (s. 408.321). A transferee or pledgee under this section may be a bona fide purchaser (s. 408.302).

(4) A transfer or pledge under this section is not a registration of transfer under ss. 408.401 to 408.406.

(5) That entries made on the books of the clearing corporation as provided in sub. (1) are not appropriate does not affect the validity or effect of the entries or the liabilities or obligations of the clearing corporation to any person adversely affected thereby.

History: 1985 a 237

**408.321 Enforceability, attachment, perfection and termination of security interests.** (1) A security interest in a security is enforceable and can attach only if it is transferred to the secured party or a person designated by him or her under s. 408.313 (1).

(2) A security interest so transferred pursuant to agreement by a transferor who has rights in the security to a transferee who has given value is a perfected security interest, but a security interest that has been transferred solely under s. 408.313 (1) (i) becomes unperfected after 21 days unless, within that time, the requirements for transfer under any other provision of s. 408.313 (1) are satisfied.

(3) (a) A security interest in a security is subject to ch. 409, but:

1. No filing is required to perfect the security interest; and
2. No written security agreement signed by the debtor is necessary to make the security interest enforceable, except as otherwise provided in s. 408.313 (1) (h), (i) or (j).

(b) The secured party has the rights and duties provided under s. 409.207, to the extent they are applicable, whether or not the security is certificated, and, if certificated, whether or not it is in his or her possession.

(4) Unless otherwise agreed, a security interest in a security is terminated by transfer to the debtor or a person designated by him or her under s. 408.313 (1). If a security is thus transferred, the security interest, if not terminated, becomes unperfected unless the security is certificated and is delivered to the debtor for the purpose of ultimate sale or exchange or presentation, collection, renewal or registration of transfer. In that case, the security interest becomes unperfected after 21 days unless, within that time, the security, or securities for which it has been exchanged, is transferred to the secured party or a person designated by him or her under s. 408.313 (1).

History: 1985 a 237

## REGISTRATION

**408.401 Duty of issuer to register transfer, pledge or release.** (1) If a certificated security in registered form is presented to the issuer with a request to register transfer or an instruction is presented to the issuer with a request to register transfer, pledge or release, the issuer shall register the transfer, pledge or release as requested if:

(a) The security is endorsed or the instruction was originated by the appropriate person or persons (s. 408.308);

(b) Reasonable assurance is given that those endorsements or instructions are genuine and effective (s. 408.402);

(c) The issuer has no duty as to adverse claims or has discharged the duty (s. 408.403);

(d) Any applicable law relating to the collection of taxes has been complied with; and

(e) The transfer, pledge or release is in fact rightful or is to a bona fide purchaser.

(2) If an issuer is under a duty to register a transfer, pledge or release of a security, the issuer is also liable to the person presenting a certificated security or an instruction for registration or his or her principal for loss resulting from any unreasonable delay in registration or from failure or refusal to register the transfer, pledge or release.

History: 1985 a 237

**408.402 Assurance that endorsements and instructions are effective.** (1) The issuer may require the following assurance that each necessary endorsement (s. 408.308) is genuine and effective:

(a) In all cases, a guarantee of the signature (s. 408.312 (1) or (2)) of the person endorsing a certificated security or originating an instruction including, in the case of an instruction, a warranty of the taxpayer identification number or, in the absence thereof, other reasonable assurance of identity;

(b) If the endorsement is made or the instruction is originated by an agent, appropriate assurance of authority to sign;

(c) If the endorsement is made or the instruction is originated by a fiduciary, appropriate evidence of appointment or incumbency;

(d) If there is more than one fiduciary, reasonable assurance that all who are required to sign have done so; and

(e) If the endorsement is made or the instruction is originated by a person not covered by any of the foregoing, assurance appropriate to the case corresponding as nearly as may be to the foregoing.

(2) A "guarantee of the signature" in sub. (1) means a guarantee signed by or on behalf of a person reasonably believed by the issuer to be responsible. The issuer may adopt standards with respect to responsibility if they are not manifestly unreasonable.

(3) "Appropriate evidence of appointment or incumbency" in sub. (1) means:

(a) In the case of a fiduciary appointed or qualified by a court, a certificate issued by or under the direction or supervision of that court or an officer thereof and dated within 60 days before the date of presentation for transfer, pledge or release; or

(b) In any other case, a copy of a document showing the appointment or a certificate issued by or on behalf of a person reasonably believed by the issuer to be responsible or, in the absence of that document or certificate, other evidence reasonably deemed by the issuer to be appropriate. The issuer may adopt standards with respect to the evidence if they are not manifestly unreasonable. The issuer is not charged with notice of the contents of any document obtained under this paragraph except to the extent that the contents relate directly to the appointment or incumbency.

(4) The issuer may elect to require reasonable assurance beyond that specified in this section, but if it does so and for a purpose other than that specified in sub. (3) (b), both requires and obtains a copy of a will, trust, indenture, articles of partnership,

bylaws, or other controlling instrument, it is charged with notice of all matters contained therein affecting the transfer, pledge or release.

History: 1985 a 237; 1993 a 490.

**408.403 Issuer's duty as to adverse claims.** (1) An issuer to whom a certificated security is presented for registration shall inquire into adverse claims if:

(a) A written notification of an adverse claim is received at a time and in a manner affording the issuer a reasonable opportunity to act on it prior to the issuance of a new, reissued or reregistered certificated security, and the notification identifies the claimant, the registered owner and the issue of which the security is a part, and provides an address for communications directed to the claimant; or

(b) The issuer is charged with notice of an adverse claim from a controlling instrument it has elected to require under s. 408.402 (4).

(2) The issuer may discharge any duty of inquiry by any reasonable means, including notifying an adverse claimant by registered or certified mail at the address furnished by the adverse claimant or if there is no such address at the adverse claimant's residence or regular place of business that the security has been presented for registration of transfer by a named person, and that the transfer will be registered unless within 30 days from the date of mailing the notification, either:

(a) An appropriate restraining order, injunction or other process issues from a court of competent jurisdiction; or

(b) There is filed with the issuer an indemnity bond sufficient in the issuer's judgment to protect the issuer and any transfer agent, registrar or other agent of the issuer involved from any loss it or they may suffer by complying with the adverse claim.

(3) Unless an issuer is charged with notice of an adverse claim from a controlling instrument which it has elected to require under s. 408.402 (4) or receives notification of an adverse claim under sub. (1), if a certificated security presented for registration is endorsed by the appropriate person or persons the issuer is under no duty to inquire into adverse claims. In particular:

(a) An issuer registering a certificated security in the name of a person who is a fiduciary or who is described as a fiduciary is not bound to inquire into the existence, extent, or correct description of the fiduciary relationship and thereafter the issuer may assume without inquiry that the newly registered owner continues to be the fiduciary until the issuer receives written notice that the fiduciary is no longer acting as such with respect to the particular security;

(b) An issuer registering transfer on an indorsement by a fiduciary is not bound to inquire whether the transfer is made in compliance with a controlling instrument or with the law of the state having jurisdiction of the fiduciary relationship, including any law requiring the fiduciary to obtain court approval of the transfer;

(c) The issuer is not charged with notice of the contents of any court record or file or other recorded or unrecorded document even though the document is in its possession and even though the transfer is made on the indorsement of a fiduciary to the fiduciary himself or herself or to his or her nominee; and

(d) An issuer registering a transfer of a security upon an indorsement by a corporation, either individually or as fiduciary in whose name the security is registered, is not bound to inquire whether the indorsement is within the authority of the indorsing officer, or to obtain any corporate resolution or supporting paper, and may assume without inquiry that the indorsement is within the authority of the indorsing officer or officers, that each person who executes the indorsement is an incumbent of the office in which capacity he or she purports to sign and that if more than one officer is required to execute the indorsement, all who must execute it have done so.

(4) An issuer is under no duty as to adverse claims with respect to an uncertificated security except:

(a) Claims embodied in a restraining order, injunction or other legal process served upon the issuer if the process was served at a time and in a manner affording the issuer a reasonable opportunity to act on it in accordance with the requirements of sub. (5).

(b) Claims of which the issuer has received a written notification from the registered owner or the registered pledgee if the notification was received at a time and in a manner affording the issuer a reasonable opportunity to act on it in accordance with the requirements of sub. (5).

(c) Claims, including restrictions on transfer not imposed by the issuer, to which the registration of transfer to the present registered owner was subject and were so noted in the initial transaction statement sent to him or her.

(d) Claims as to which an issuer is charged with notice from a controlling instrument it has elected to require under s. 408.402 (4).

(5) If the issuer of an uncertificated security is under a duty as to an adverse claim, he or she discharges that duty by:

(a) Including a notation of the claim in any statements sent with respect to the security under s. 408.408 (3), (6) and (7); and

(b) Refusing to register the transfer or pledge of the security unless the nature of the claim does not preclude transfer or pledge subject thereto.

(6) If the transfer or pledge of the security is registered subject to an adverse claim, a notation of the claim must be included in the initial transaction statement and all subsequent statements sent to the transferee and pledgee under s. 408.408.

(7) Notwithstanding subs. (4) and (5), if an uncertificated security was subject to a registered pledge at the time the issuer first came under a duty as to a particular adverse claim, the issuer has no duty as to that claim if transfer of the security is requested by the registered pledgee or an appropriate person acting for the registered pledgee unless:

(a) The claim was embodied in legal process which expressly provides otherwise.

(b) The claim was asserted in a written notification from the registered pledgee.

(c) The claim was one as to which the issuer was charged with notice from a controlling instrument it required under s. 408.402 (4) in connection with the pledgee's request for transfer.

(d) The transfer requested is to the registered owner.

History: 1977 c 434; 1985 a 237; 1991 a 316.

**408.404 Liability and nonliability for registration.**

(1) Except as provided in any law relating to the collection of taxes, the issuer is not liable to the owner, pledgee or any other person suffering loss as a result of the registration of a transfer, pledge or release of a security if:

(a) There was on or with a certificated security the necessary endorsement or the issuer had received an instruction originated by an appropriate person (s. 408.308); and

(b) The issuer had no duty as to adverse claims or has discharged the duty (s. 408.403).

(2) If an issuer has registered a transfer of a certificated security to a person not entitled to it, the issuer on demand shall deliver a like security to the true owner unless:

(a) The registration was under sub. (1);

(b) The owner is precluded from asserting any claim for registering the transfer under s. 408.405 (1); or

(c) The delivery would result in overissue, in which case the issuer's liability is governed by s. 408.104.

(3) If an issuer has improperly registered a transfer, pledge or release of an uncertificated security, the issuer on demand from the injured party shall restore the records as to the injured party to

the condition that would have obtained if the improper registration had not been made unless:

- (a) The registration was under sub. (1); or
- (b) The registration would result in overissue, in which case the issuer's liability is governed by s. 408.104.

History: 1985 a. 237.

**408.405 Lost, destroyed and stolen certificated securities.** (1) If a certificated security has been lost, apparently destroyed or wrongfully taken, and the owner fails to notify the issuer of that fact within a reasonable time after he or she has notice of it and the issuer registers a transfer of the security before receiving notification, the owner is precluded from asserting against the issuer any claim for registering the transfer under s. 408.404 or any claim to a new security under this section.

(2) If the owner of a certificated security claims that the security has been lost, destroyed or wrongfully taken, the issuer shall issue a new certificated security or, at the option of the issuer, an equivalent uncertificated security in place of the original security if the owner:

- (a) So requests before the issuer has notice that the security has been acquired by a bona fide purchaser;
- (b) Files with the issuer a sufficient indemnity bond; and
- (c) Satisfies any other reasonable requirements imposed by the issuer.

(3) If, after the issue of a new certificated or uncertificated security, a bona fide purchaser of the original certificated security presents it for registration of transfer, the issuer shall register the transfer unless registration would result in overissue, in which event the issuer's liability is governed by s. 408.104. In addition to any rights on the indemnity bond, the issuer may recover the new certificated security from the person to whom it was issued or any person taking under him or her except a bona fide purchaser or may cancel the uncertificated security unless a bona fide purchaser or any person taking under a bona fide purchaser is then the registered owner or registered pledgee thereof.

History: 1985 a. 237.

**408.406 Duty of authenticating trustee, transfer agent or registrar.** (1) If a person acts as authenticating trustee, transfer agent, registrar or other agent for an issuer in the registration of transfers of its certificated securities or in the registration of transfers, pledges and releases of its uncertificated securities, in the issue of new securities or in the cancellation of surrendered securities:

(a) That person is under a duty to the issuer to exercise good faith and due diligence in performing that person's functions; and

(b) With regard to the particular functions he or she performs, he or she has the same obligation to the holder or owner of a certificated security or to the owner or pledgee of an uncertificated security and has the same rights and privileges as the issuer has in regard to those functions.

(2) Notice to an authenticating trustee, transfer agent, registrar or other agent is notice to the issuer with respect to the functions performed by the agent.

History: 1985 a. 237; 1991 a. 316.

**408.407 Exchangeability of securities.** (1) No issuer is subject to the requirements of this section unless it regularly maintains a system for issuing the class of securities involved under which both certificated and uncertificated securities are regularly issued to the category of owners, which includes the person in whose name the new security is to be registered.

(2) Upon surrender of a certificated security with all necessary endorsements and presentation of a written request by the person surrendering the security, the issuer, if he or she has no duty as to adverse claims or has discharged the duty (s. 408.403), shall issue to the person or a person designated by him or her an equivalent uncertificated security subject to all liens, restrictions and claims that were noted on the certificated security.

(3) Upon receipt of a transfer instruction originated by an appropriate person who so requests, the issuer of an uncertificated security shall cancel the uncertificated security and issue an equivalent certificated security on which must be noted conspicuously any liens and restrictions of the issuer and any adverse claims, as to which the issuer has a duty under s. 408.403 (4), to which the uncertificated security was subject. The certificated security shall be registered in the name of and delivered to:

(a) The registered owner if the uncertificated security was not subject to a registered pledge; or

(b) The registered pledgee if the uncertificated security was subject to a registered pledge.

History: 1985 a. 237.

**408.408 Statements of uncertificated securities.**

(1) Within 2 business days after the transfer of an uncertificated security has been registered, the issuer shall send to the new registered owner and, if the security has been transferred subject to a registered pledge, to the registered pledgee a written statement containing all of the following:

(a) A description of the issue of which the uncertificated security is a part.

(b) The number of shares or units transferred.

(c) The name and address and any taxpayer identification number of the newly registered owner and, if the security has been transferred subject to a registered pledge, the name and address and any taxpayer identification number of the registered pledgee.

(d) A notation of any liens and restrictions of the issuer and any adverse claims, as to which the issuer has a duty under s. 408.403 (4), to which the uncertificated security is or may be subject at the time of registration or a statement that there are none of those liens, restrictions or adverse claims.

(e) The date the transfer was registered.

(2) Within 2 business days after the pledge of an uncertificated security has been registered, the issuer shall send to the registered owner and the registered pledgee a written statement containing all of the following:

(a) A description of the issue of which the uncertificated security is a part.

(b) The number of shares or units pledged.

(c) The name and address and any taxpayer identification number of the registered owner and the registered pledgee.

(d) A notation of any liens and restrictions of the issuer and any adverse claims, as to which the issuer has a duty under s. 408.403 (4), to which the uncertificated security is or may be subject at the time of registration or a statement that there are none of those liens, restrictions or adverse claims.

(e) The date the pledge was registered.

(3) Within 2 business days after the release from pledge of an uncertificated security has been registered, the issuer shall send to the registered owner and the pledgee whose interest was released a written statement containing all of the following:

(a) A description of the issue of which the uncertificated security is a part.

(b) The number of shares or units released from pledge.

(c) The name and address and any taxpayer identification number of the registered owner and the pledgee whose interest was released.

(d) A notation of any liens and restrictions of the issuer and any adverse claims, as to which the issuer has a duty under s. 408.403 (4), to which the uncertificated security is or may be subject at the time of registration or a statement that there are none of those liens, restrictions or adverse claims.

(e) The date the release was registered.

(4) (a) An "initial transaction statement" is the statement sent to:

1. The new registered owner and, if applicable, to the registered pledgee under sub. (1);

2. The registered pledgee under sub. (2); or
3. The registered owner under sub. (3).

(b) Each initial transaction statement shall be signed by or on behalf of the issuer and must be identified as "Initial Transaction Statement".

(5) Within 2 business days after the transfer of an uncertificated security has been registered, the issuer shall send to the former registered owner and the former registered pledgee, if any, a written statement containing all of the following:

- (a) A description of the issue of which the uncertificated security is a part.
- (b) The number of shares or units transferred.
- (c) The name and address and any taxpayer identification number of the former registered owner and of any former registered pledgee.
- (d) The date the transfer was registered.

(6) At periodic intervals no less frequent than annually and at any time upon the reasonable written request of the registered owner, the issuer shall send to the registered owner of each uncertificated security a dated written statement containing all of the following:

- (a) A description of the issue of which the uncertificated security is a part.
- (b) The name and address and any taxpayer identification number of the registered owner.
- (c) The number of shares or units of the uncertificated security registered in the name of the registered owner on the date of the statement.
- (d) The name and address and any taxpayer identification number of any registered pledgee and the number of shares or units subject to the pledge.
- (e) A notation of any liens and restrictions of the issuer and any adverse claims, as to which the issuer has a duty under s. 408.403

(4), to which the uncertificated security is or may be subject or a statement that there are none of those liens, restrictions or adverse claims.

(7) At periodic intervals no less frequent than annually and at any time upon the reasonable written request of the registered pledgee, the issuer shall send to the registered pledgee of each uncertificated security a dated written statement containing all of the following:

- (a) A description of the issue of which the uncertificated security is a part.
- (b) The name and address and any taxpayer identification number of the registered owner.
- (c) The name and address and any taxpayer identification number of the registered pledgee.
- (d) The number of shares or units subject to the pledge.

(e) A notation of any liens and restrictions of the issuer and any adverse claims, as to which the issuer has a duty under s. 408.403 (4), to which the uncertificated security is or may be subject or a statement that there are none of those liens, restrictions or adverse claims.

(8) If the issuer sends the statements described in subs. (6) and (7) at periodic intervals no less frequent than quarterly, the issuer is not obliged to send additional statements upon request unless the owner or pledgee requesting them pays to the issuer the reasonable cost of furnishing them.

(9) Each statement sent under this section must bear a conspicuous legend reading substantially as follows: "This statement is merely a record of the rights of the addressee as of the time of its issuance. Delivery of this statement, of itself, confers no rights on the recipient. This statement is neither a negotiable instrument nor a security."

History: 1985 a. 237.