Section 9-115 [55-9-115 NMSA 1978]. In order to permit clearing corporations to establish liquidity facilities where necessary to ensure completion of settlement, Subsection (c) provides a priority for secured lenders to such clearing corporations. Subsection (c) does not turn on control because the clearing corporation may be the top tier securities intermediary for the securities pledged, so that there may be no practicable method for conferring control on the lender.

"Clearing corporation" Section 8-102(a)(5) [55-8-102 NMSA 1978]

"Control" Section 8-106 [55-8-106 NMSA 1978]

"Entitlement holder" Section 8-102(a)(7)

"Financial asset" Section 8-102(a)(9)

"Securities intermediary" Section 8-102(a)(14)

"Security entitlement" Section 8-102(a)(17)

"Security interest" Section 1-201(37) [55-1-201 NMSA 1978]

"Value" Sections 1-201(44) & 8-116 [55-8-116 NMSA 1978]

ARTICLE 9
Secured Transactions

Compiler's notes. — Laws 1961, ch. 96 enacted New Mexico's version of the Uniform Commercial Code. The 1972 revision of the code, which revised primarily Article 9, was adopted by Laws 1985, ch. 193, effective January 1, 1986. The 1977 revision of the code, which revised primarily Article 8, was adopted by Laws 1987, ch. 248, effective June 19, 1987. The 1998 revision of the code, which revised primarily Article 9, was adopted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, effective July 1, 2001.

FORMER ARTICLE 9	NEW ARTICLE 9
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9-102	9-109
9-103(1)(a), (b); (c) omitted	9-301
9-103(1)(d)	9-316
9-103(2)(a), (b); (c) omitted	9-303, 9-316
9-103(2)(d)	9-337
9-103(3)(a), (b); (c) omitted	9-301
9-103(3)(d)	9-307
9-103(3)(e)	9-316

9-103(4)	9-301
9-103(5)	9-301
9-103(6)	9-304, 9-305, 9-306
9-104	9-109
9-105	9-102
9-106	9-102
9-107	9-103
9-108	Omitted as no longer needed
9-109	9-102
9-110	9-108
9-111	Deleted as unnecessary
9-112	Omitted - see 9-102(a)(28)
9-113	9-110
9-114	Omitted - see 9-103 and 9-324
9-115(1)	9-102, 9-106
9-115(2)	9-203, 9-308
9-115(3)	9-108
9-115(4)	9-309, 9-312, 9-314
9-115(5)	9-327, 9-328, 9-329
9-115(6)	9-203, 9-313
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9-203(4)	9-201
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9-301(4)	9-323
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9-302(3), (4)	9-311
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9-307(1)-(2)	9-320
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9-309	9-331
9-310	9-333
9-311	9-401
9-312(1)	9-322
9-312(2)	Omitted
9-312(3), (4)	9-324
9-312(5), (6)	9-322
9-312(7)	9-323
9-313(1)-(7)	9-334
9-313(8)	9-604
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9-315	9-336
9-316	9-339
9-317	9-402
9-318(1)	9-404
9-318(2)	9-405
9-318(3), (4)	9-406
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9-402(1)	9-502, 9-504
9-402(2)	Omitted as unnecessary
9-402(3)	9-521
9-402(4)	9-512
9-402(5), (6)	9-502
9-402(7)	9-503(a)(4), 9-507
9-402(8)	9-506
9-403(1)	9-516(a)
9-403(2)	9-515
9-403(3)	9-515, 9-522
9-403(4)	9-519
9-403(5)	9-525
9-403(6)	9-515
9-403(7)	9-519

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9-408	9-505
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9-504(1)	9-610, 9-615
9-504(2)	9-615
9-504(3)	9-610, 9-611, 9-624
9-504(4)	9-617
9-504(5)	9-618
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PART 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SUBPART 1. SHORT TITLE, DEFINITIONS, ANDGENERAL CONCEPTS

55-9-101. Short title.

Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Uniform Commercial Code-Secured Transactions".

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-101, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 1.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS

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1. **Source, Background, and History.** In 1990, the Permanent Editorial Board for the UCC with the support of its sponsors, The American Law Institute and the National

Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, established a committee to study Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) Article 9. The study committee issued its report as of December 1, 1992, recommending the creation of a drafting committee for the revision of Article 9 and also recommending numerous specific changes to Article 9. Organized in 1993, a drafting committee met fifteen times from 1993 to 1998. Extensive revisions of this Article were approved by its sponsors in 1998 (1998 Revisions). The Article was conformed to revised Article 1 in 2001 and to amendments to Article 7 in 2003. The sponsors approved amendments to selected sections of this Article in 2010.

The 1998 Revisions superseded former Article 9 (pre-1998 Article 9) and, as did their predecessor, provided a comprehensive scheme for the regulation of security interests in personal property and fixtures. For the most part the 1998 Article 9 followed the general approach and retains much of the terminology of pre-1998 Article 9. Comment 3 describes the material changes made by the 1998 Revisions. Pre-1998 Article 9 superseded the wide variety of pre-UCC security devices. Unlike the Comments to pre-1998 Article 9, however, these Comments dwell very little on the pre-UCC state of the law. For that reason, the Comments to pre-1998 Article 9 will remain of substantial historical value and interest. They also will remain useful in understanding the background and general conceptual approach of this Article.

Article 9 was again extensively revised in 2022 (2022 Article 9 Revisions) pursuant to the Uniform Commercial Code Amendments (2022) (2022 Amendments). In particular, the 2022 Article 9 Revisions conform and adapt Article 9 to Article 12, covering controllable electronic records and rights to payment that are tethered to controllable electronic records—controllable accounts and controllable payment intangibles. For a brief summary of the 2022 Article 9 Revisions, *see* Comment 4, below. Except as noted in Comments 3 and 4 below, the 1998 Article 9 remains substantially unchanged following the 2022 Article 9 Revisions.

Note also that citations to "Bankruptcy Code Section" in these Comments are to Title 11 of the United States Code as in effect on July 1, 2022.

2. **1998 Revisions: Reorganization and Renumbering; Captions; Style.** The 1998 Revisions embraced a substantial reorganization of former Article 9 and renumbering of most sections of Article 9, including a new Part 4 dealing with several aspects of third-party rights and duties that are unrelated to perfection and priority. Some of these were covered by Part 3 of pre-1998 Article 9. Also added was a new Part 5, dealing with filing (formerly covered by pre-1998 Part 4), and Part 6, dealing with default and enforcement (formerly covered by pre-1998 Part 5). The 1998 Revisions also include headings for the subsections as an aid to readers. Unlike section captions, which are part of the UCC, see Section 1-107, subsection headings are not a part of the official text itself and have not been approved by the sponsors.

3. **Summary of 1998 Revisions.** Following is a brief summary of some of the more significant features of the 1998 Revisions of Article 9.

a. **Scope of Article 9.** The 1998 Revisions expanded the scope of Article 9 in several respects.

Deposit accounts. Section 9-109 includes within this Article's scope deposit accounts as original collateral, except in consumer transactions. Pre-1998 Article 9 dealt with deposit accounts only as proceeds of other collateral.

Sales of payment intangibles and promissory notes. Section 9-109 also includes within the scope of this Article most sales of "payment intangibles" (defined in Section 9-102 as general intangibles under which an account debtor's principal obligation is monetary) and "promissory notes" (also defined in Section 9-102). Pre-1998 Article 9 included sales of accounts and chattel paper, but not sales of payment intangibles or promissory notes. In its inclusion of sales of payment intangibles and promissory notes, this Article continues the drafting convention found in pre-1998 Article 9; the sale of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles, or promissory notes creates a "security interest." The definition of "account" in Section 9-102 also was expanded to include various rights to payment that were general intangibles under pre-1998 Article 9.

Health-care-insurance receivables. Section 9-109 narrows article 9's exclusion of transfers of interests in insurance policies by carving out of the exclusion "health-care-insurance receivables" (defined in section 9-102). A health-care-insurance receivable is included within the definition of "account" in section 9-102.

Nonpossessory statutory agricultural liens. Section 9-109 also brings nonpossessory statutory agricultural liens within the scope of article 9.

Consignments. Section 9-109 added "true" consignments–bailments for the purpose of sale by the bailee to the scope of Article 9, with certain exceptions. See Section 9-102 (defining "consignment"). Under the pre-1998 UCC, many consignments were subject to Article 9's filing requirements by operation of pre-1998 Section 2-326.

Supporting obligations and property securing rights to payment. The 1998 Revisions also addressed explicitly (i) obligations, such as guaranties and letters of credit, that support payment or performance of collateral such as accounts, chattel paper, and payment intangibles, and (ii) any property (including real property) that secures a right to payment or performance that is subject to an Article 9 security interest. See Sections 9-203, 9-308.

Commercial tort claims. Section 9-109 expands the scope of Article 9 to include the assignment of commercial tort claims by narrowing the exclusion of tort claims generally. However, Article 9 continues to exclude tort claims for bodily injury and other non-business tort claims of a natural person. See Section 9-102 (defining "commercial tort claim").

Transfers by States and governmental units of States. Section 9-109 narrows the exclusion of transfers by States and their governmental units by excluding only transfers

covered by another statute (other than a statute generally applicable to security interests) to the extent the statute governs the creation, perfection, priority, or enforcement of security interests.

Nonassignable general intangibles, promissory notes, health-care-insurance receivables, and letter-of-credit rights. The 1998 Revisions enabled a security interest to attach to letter-of-credit rights, health-care-insurance receivables, promissory notes, and general intangibles, including contracts, permits, licenses, and franchises, notwithstanding a contractual or statutory prohibition against or limitation on assignment. The revised Article explicitly protects third parties against any adverse effect of the creation or attempted enforcement of the security interest. See Sections 9-408, 9-409.

Subject to sections 9-408 and 9-409 and two other exceptions (sections 9-406, concerning accounts, chattel paper, and payment intangibles, and 9-407, concerning interests in leased goods), section 9-401 establishes a baseline rule that the inclusion of transactions and collateral within the scope of article 9 has no effect on nonarticle 9 law dealing with the alienability or inalienability of property. For example, if a commercial tort claim is nonassignable under other applicable law, the fact that a security interest in the claim is within the scope of article 9 does not override the other applicable law's effective prohibition of assignment.

b. **Duties of Secured Party.** The 1998 Revisions provided for expanded duties of secured parties.

Release of control. Section 9-208 imposes upon a secured party having control of a deposit account, investment property, or a letter-of-credit right the duty to release control when there is no secured obligation and no commitment to give value. Section 9-209 contains analogous provisions when an account debtor has been notified to pay a secured party.

Information. Section 9-210 expands a secured party's duties to provide the debtor with information concerning collateral and the obligations that it secures.

Default and enforcement. Part 6 also includes some additional duties of secured parties in connection with default and enforcement. *See, e.g.*, section 9-616 (duty to explain calculation of deficiency or surplus in a consumer-goods transaction).

c. **Choice of Law.** The choice-of-law rules included in the 1998 Revisions for the law governing perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection, and priority are found in Part 3, Subpart 1 (Sections 9-301 through 9-307). See also Section 9-316.

Where to file: Location of debtor. The 1998 Revisions changed the choice-of-law rule governing perfection (i.e., where to file) for most collateral to the law of the jurisdiction where the debtor is located. See Section 9-301. Under pre-1998 Article 9, the jurisdiction of the debtor’s location governed only perfection and priority of a security

interest in accounts, general intangibles, mobile goods, and, for purposes of perfection by filing, chattel paper and investment property.

Determining debtor's location. As a baseline rule, Section 9-307 follows pre-1998 Section 9-103, under which the location of the debtor is the debtor's place of business (or chief executive office, if the debtor has more than one place of business). Section 9-307 contains three major exceptions. First, a "registered organization," such as a corporation or limited liability company, is located in the State under whose law the debtor is organized, e.g., a corporate debtor's State of incorporation. Second, an individual debtor is located at his or her principal residence. Third, there are special rules for determining the location of the United States and registered organizations organized under the law of the United States.

Location of non-U.S. debtors. If, applying the foregoing rules, a debtor is located in a jurisdiction whose law does not require public notice as a condition of perfection of a nonpossessory security interest, the entity is deemed located in the District of Columbia. *See* section 9-307. Thus, to the extent that this article applies to non-U.S. debtors, perfection could be accomplished in many cases by a domestic filing.

Priority. For tangible collateral such as goods and instruments, Section 9-301 provides that the law applicable to priority and the effect of perfection or nonperfection will remain the law of the jurisdiction where the collateral is located, as under pre-1998 Section 9-103 (but without the confusing "last event" test). For intangible collateral, such as accounts, the applicable law for priority is that of the jurisdiction in which the debtor is located.

Possessory security interests; agricultural liens. Perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection, and priority of a possessory security interest or an agricultural lien are governed by the law of the jurisdiction where the collateral subject to the security interest or lien is located. *See* sections 9-301 and 9-302.

Goods covered by certificates of title; deposit accounts; letter-of-credit rights; investment property. The 1998 Revisions to Article 9 included several refinements to the treatment of choice-of-law matters for goods covered by certificates of title. See Section 9-303. The revision also provided special choice-of-law rules, similar to those for investment property under Articles 8 and 9, for deposit accounts (Section 9-304), investment property (Section 9-305), and letter-of-credit rights (Section 9-306).

Change in applicable law. Section 9-316 addresses perfection following a change in applicable law.

d. **Perfection.** The 1998 revised rules governing perfection of security interests and agricultural liens are found in Part 3, Subpart 2 (Sections 9-308 through 9-316).

Deposit accounts; letter-of-credit rights. With certain exceptions, the 1998 Revisions provided that a security interest in a deposit account or a letter-of-credit right may be

perfected only by the secured party's acquiring "control" of the deposit account or letter-of-credit right. See Sections 9-312, 9-314. Under Section 9-104, a secured party has "control" of a deposit account when, with the consent of the debtor, the secured party obtains the depositary bank's agreement to act on the secured party's instructions (including when the secured party becomes the account holder) or when the secured party is itself the depositary bank. The control requirements are patterned on Section 8-106, which specifies the requirements for control of certain investment property. Under Section 9-107, "control" of a letter-of-credit right occurs when the issuer or nominated person consents to an assignment of proceeds under Section 5-114.

Electronic chattel paper and tangible chattel paper definitions deleted in 2022 Article 9 Revisions. Section 9-102 of the 1998 Revisions included a new defined terms: "electronic chattel paper" and "tangible chattel paper." However, the 2022 Article 9 Revisions deleted those terms and modified the definition of "chattel paper" and the rules for chattel paper evidenced by electronic records, as discussed in Comment 4 and Section 9-102, Comment 5.b.

Investment property. The 1998 Revisions left the perfection requirements for "investment property" (defined in Section 9-102), including perfection by control under Section 9-106, substantially unchanged. However, a new provision in Section 9-314 is designed to ensure that a secured party retains control in "repledge" transactions that are typical in the securities markets.

Instruments and commercial tort claims. The 1998 Revisions expanded the types of collateral in which a security interest may be perfected by filing to include instruments. See Section 9-312. Under the revised Article security interests in commercial tort claims also are perfected by filing. See Sections 9-308, 9-310.

Sales of payment intangibles and promissory notes. Although pre-1998 Article 9 covered the outright sale of accounts and chattel paper, under the revised Article sales of most other types of receivables also are financing transactions to which Article 9 should apply. Accordingly, Section 9-102 expanded the definition of "account" to include many types of receivables (including "health-care-insurance receivables," defined in Section 9-102) that pre-1998 Article 9 classified as "general intangibles." It thereby subjects to Article 9's filing system sales of more types of receivables than did pre-1998 Article 9. Certain sales of payment intangibles–primarily bank loan participation transactions–should not be subject to the Article 9 filing rules. These transactions are placed in a residual category of collateral, "payment intangibles" (general intangibles under which the account debtor's principal obligation is monetary), the sale of which is exempt from the filing requirements of Article 9. See Sections 9-102, 9-109, 9-309 (perfection upon attachment). The perfection rules for sales of promissory notes are the same as those for sales of payment intangibles.

Possessory security interests. Several provisions of 1998 Article 9 address aspects of security interests involving a secured party or a third party who is in possession of collateral. In particular, Section 9-313 resolves a number of uncertainties under pre-

1998 Section 9-305. It provides that a security interest in collateral in the possession of a third party is perfected when the third party acknowledges in a signed record that it holds for the secured party's benefit. Section 9-313 also provides that a third party need not so acknowledge and that its acknowledgment does not impose any duties on it, unless it otherwise agrees. A special rule in Section 9-313 provides that if a secured party already is in possession of collateral, its security interest remains perfected by possession if it delivers the collateral to a third party and the collateral is accompanied by instructions to hold it for the secured party or to redeliver it to the secured party. Section 9-313 also clarifies the limited circumstances under which a security interest in goods covered by a certificate of title may be perfected by the secured party's taking possession.

Automatic perfection. The 1998 Revisions added Section 9-309, which lists various types of security interests as to which no public-notice step is required for perfection (e.g., purchase-money security interests in consumer goods other than automobiles). This automatic perfection also extends to a transfer of a health-care-insurance receivable to a health-care provider. Those transfers normally will be made by natural persons who receive health-care services; there is little value in requiring filing for perfection in that context. Automatic perfection also applies to security interests created by sales of payment intangibles and promissory notes. Section 9-308 provides that a perfected security interest in collateral supported by a "supporting obligation" (such as an account supported by a guaranty) also is a perfected security interest in the supporting obligation, and that a perfected security interest in an obligation secured by a security interest or lien on property (e.g., a real-property mortgage) also is a perfected security interest in the security interest or lien.

e. **Priority; Special Rules for Banks and Deposit Accounts.** The rules governing priority of security interests and agricultural liens under the 1998 Revisions are found in Part 3, Subpart 3 (Sections 9-317 through 9-342). The revised Article includes several new priority rules and some special rules relating to banks and deposit accounts (Sections 9-340 through 9-342).

Purchase-money security interests: General; consumer-goods transactions; inventory. Section 9-103 substantially rewrites the definition of purchase-money security interest (PMSI) (although the term is not formally "defined"). The substantive changes, however, apply only to non-consumer-goods transactions. (Consumer transactions and consumer-goods transactions are discussed below in Comment 4.j.) For non-consumer-goods transactions, Section 9-103 makes clear that a security interest in collateral may be (to some extent) both a PMSI as well as a non-PMSI, in accord with the "dual status" rule applied by some courts under pre-1998 Article 9 (thereby rejecting the "transformation" rule). The revised definition provides an even broader conception of a PMSI in inventory, yielding a result that accords with private agreements entered into in response to the uncertainty under pre-1998 Article 9. It also treats consignments as purchase-money security interests in inventory. Section 9-324 clarifies the PMSI priority rules, but for the most part without material change in substance. Section 9-324 also clarifies the priority rules for competing PMSIs in the same collateral.

Purchase-money security interests in livestock; agricultural liens. Section 9-324 provides a special PMSI priority, similar to the inventory PMSI priority rule, for livestock. Section 9-322 (the baseline first-to-file-or-perfect priority rule) also recognizes special non-Article 9 priority rules for agricultural liens, which can override the baseline first-in-time rule.

Purchase-money security interests in software. Section 9-324 contains a new priority rule for a software purchase-money security interest. (Section 9-102 includes a definition of "software.") Under Section 9-103, a software PMSI includes a PMSI in software that is used in goods that are also subject to a PMSI.

Investment property. The 1998 priority rules for investment property are substantially similar to the priority rules found in pre-1998 Section 9-115, which was added in conjunction with the 1994 revisions to UCC Article 8. Under Section 9-328, if a secured party has control of investment property (Sections 8-106, 9-106), its security interest is senior to a security interest perfected in another manner (e.g., by filing). Also under Section 9-328, security interests perfected by control generally rank according to the time that control is obtained or, in the case of a security entitlement or a commodity contract carried in a commodity account, the time when the control arrangement is entered into. That was a change from pre-1998 Section 9-115, under which the security interests ranked equally. However, as between a securities intermediary's security interest in a security entitlement that it maintains for the debtor and a security interest held by another secured party, the securities intermediary's security interest is senior.

Deposit accounts. The 1998 priority rules applicable to deposit accounts are found in Section 9-327 and are patterned on and similar to those for investment property in pre-1998 Section 9-115 and Section 9-328. Under Section 9-327, if a secured party has control of a deposit account, its security interest is senior to a security interest perfected in another manner (i.e., as cash proceeds). Also under Section 9-327, security interests perfected by control rank according to the time that control is obtained, but as between a depositary bank's security interest and one held by another secured party, the depositary bank's security interest is senior. A corresponding rule in Section 9-340 makes a depositary bank's right of set-off generally senior to a security interest held by another secured party. However, if the other secured party becomes the depositary bank's customer with respect to the deposit account, then its security interest is senior to the depositary bank's security interest and right of set-off. Sections 9-327, 9-340.

Letter-of-credit rights. The 1998 priority rules for security interests in letter-of-credit rights are set out in Section 9-329. They are somewhat analogous to those for deposit accounts. A security interest perfected by control has priority over one perfected in another manner (i.e., as a supporting obligation for the collateral in which a security interest is perfected). Security interests in a letter-of-credit right perfected by control rank according to the time that control is obtained. However, the rights of a transferee beneficiary or a nominated person are independent and superior to the extent provided in Section 5-114. See Section 9-109(c)(4).

Chattel paper and instruments. Section 9-330 is the 1998 successor to pre-1998 Section 9-308. As under pre-1998 Section 9-308, under the 1998 Revisions differing priority rules apply to purchasers of chattel paper who give new value and take possession (or, in the case of electronic chattel paper, obtain control) of the collateral—depending on whether a conflicting security interest in the collateral is claimed merely as proceeds. The principal change related to the role of knowledge and the effect of an indication of a previous assignment of the collateral. 1998 Section 9-330 also afforded priority to purchasers of instruments who take possession in good faith and without knowledge that the purchase violates the rights of the competing secured party. In addition, to qualify for priority, purchasers of chattel paper, but not of instruments, must purchase in the ordinary course of business. The 2022 Article 9 Revisions eliminated the defined terms "electronic chattel paper" and "tangible chattel paper," revised the definition of "chattel paper" in Section 9-102 and modified the Section 9-330 priority rule accordingly. See Comment 4.b. and Section 9-102, Comment 5.b.

Proceeds. 1998 Section 9-322 contains new priority rules that clarify when a special priority of a security interest in collateral continues or does not continue with respect to proceeds of the collateral. Other 1998 refinements to the priority rules for proceeds are included in Sections 9-324 (purchase-money security interest priority) and 9-330 (priority of certain purchasers of chattel paper and instruments).

Miscellaneous priority provisions. The 1998 Revisions to Article 9 also included (i) clarifications of selected good-faith-purchase and similar issues (Sections 9-317, 9-331); (ii) new priority rules to deal with the "double debtor" problem arising when a debtor creates a security interest in collateral acquired by the debtor subject to a security interest created by another person (Section 9-325); (iii) new priority rules to deal with the problems created when a change in corporate structure or the like results in a new entity that has become bound by the original debtor's after-acquired property agreement (Section 9-326); (iv) a provision enabling most transferees of funds from a deposit account or money to take free of a security interest (Section 9-332); (v) substantially rewritten and refined priority rules dealing with accessions and commingled goods (Sections 9-335, 9-336); (vi) revised priority rules for security interests in goods covered by a certificate of title (Section 9-337); and (vii) provisions designed to ensure that security interests in deposit accounts will not extend to most transferees of funds on deposit or payees from deposit accounts and will not otherwise "clog" the payments system (Sections 9-341, 9-342).

Model provisions relating to production-money security interests. Appendix II to the 1998 Revisions contained model definitions and priority rules relating to "production-money security interests" held by secured parties who give new value used in the production of crops. Because no consensus emerged on the wisdom of these provisions during the drafting process, the sponsors made no recommendation on whether these model provisions should be enacted.

f. **Proceeds.** Revised Section 9-102 provides an expanded definition of "proceeds" of collateral, which includes additional rights and property that arise out of

collateral, such as distributions on account of collateral and claims arising out of the loss or nonconformity of, defects in, or damage to collateral. The revised definition of "proceeds" also includes collections on account of "supporting obligations," such as guarantees.

g. **Part 4: Additional Provisions Relating to Third-Party Rights.** The 1998 Revisions added a new Part 4 that includes several provisions relating to the relationships between certain third parties and the parties to secured transactions. It Part 4 contains new Sections 9-401 (replacing pre-1998 Section 9-311) (alienability of debtor's rights), 9-402 (replacing pre-1998 Section 9-317) (secured party not obligated on debtor's contracts), 9-403 (replacing pre-1998 Section 9-206) (agreement not to assert defenses against assignee), 9-404, 9-405, and 9-406 (replacing pre-1998 Section 9-318) (rights acquired by assignee, modification of assigned contract, discharge of account debtor, restrictions on assignment of account, chattel paper, promissory note, or payment intangible ineffective), 9-407 (replacing some provisions of pre-1998 Section 2A-303) (restrictions on creation or enforcement of security interest in leasehold interest or lessor's residual interest ineffective). New Part 4 also added new Sections 9-408 (restrictions on assignment of promissory notes, health-care-insurance receivables ineffective, and certain general intangibles ineffective) and 9-409 (restrictions on assignment of letter-of-credit rights ineffective). *See* Comment 3.a.

h. **Filing.** New Part 5 (replacing pre-1998 Part 4) of Article 9 was substantially rewritten to simplify the statutory text and to deal with numerous problems of interpretation and implementation that have arisen over the years.

Medium-neutrality. Part 5 is "medium-neutral"; that is, it makes clear that parties may file and otherwise communicate with a filing office by means of records communicated and stored in media other than on paper.

Identity of person who files a record; authorization. Part 5 also is largely indifferent as to the person who effects a filing. Instead, it addresses whose authorization is necessary for a person to file a record with a filing office. The filing scheme does not contemplate that the identity of a "filer" will be a part of the searchable records. This approach is consistent with, and a necessary aspect of, eliminating signatures or other evidence of authorization from the system (except to the extent that filing offices may choose to employ authentication procedures in connection with electronic communications). As long as the appropriate person authorizes the filing, or, in the case of a termination statement, the debtor is entitled to the termination, it is largely insignificant whether the secured party or another person files any given record.

Section 9-509 collects in one place most of the rules that determine when a record may be filed. In general, the debtor's authorization is required for the filing of an initial financing statement or an amendment that adds collateral. With one further exception, a secured party of record's authorization is required for the filing of other amendments. The exception arises if a secured party has failed to provide a termination statement that is required because there is no outstanding secured obligation or commitment to

give value. In that situation, a debtor is authorized to file a termination statement indicating that it has been filed by the debtor.

Financing statement formal requisites. The formal requisites for a financing statement under the 1998 Revisions are set out in Section 9-502. A financing statement must provide the name of the debtor and the secured party and an indication of the collateral that it covers. Sections 9-503 and 9-506 address the sufficiency of a name provided on a financing statement and clarify when a debtor's name is correct and when an incorrect name is insufficient. Section 9-504 addresses the indication of collateral covered. Under Section 9-504, a super-generic description (e.g., "all assets" or "all personal property") in a financing statement is a sufficient indication of the collateral. (Note, however, that a super-generic description is inadequate for purposes of a security agreement. See Sections 9-108, 9-203.) To facilitate electronic filing, this Article does not require that the debtor's signature or other authorization appear on a financing statement. Instead, it prohibits the filing of unauthorized financing statements and imposes liability upon those who violate the prohibition. See Sections 9-509, 9-626.

Filing-office operations. The 1998 Part 5 introduced several provisions governing filing operations. First, it prohibits the filing office from rejecting an initial financing statement or other record for a reason other than one of the few that are specified. See Sections 9-520, 9-516. Second, the filing office is obliged to link all subsequent records (e.g., assignments, continuation statements, etc.) to the initial financing statement to which they relate. See Section 9-519. Third, the filing office may delete a financing statement and related records from the files no earlier than one year after lapse (lapse normally is five years after the filing date), and then only if a continuation statement has not been filed. See Sections 9-515, 9-519, 9-522. Thus, a financing statement and related records would be discovered by a search of the files even after the filing of a termination statement. This approach helps eliminate filing-office discretion and also eases problems associated with multiple secured parties and multiple partial assignments. Fourth, Part 5 mandates performance standards for filing offices. See Sections 9-519, 9-520, 9-523. Fifth, it provides for the promulgation of filing-office rules to deal with details best left out of the statute and requires the filing office to submit periodic reports. See Sections 9-526, 9-527.

Defaulting or missing secured parties and fraudulent filings. In some areas of the country, serious problems had arisen from fraudulent financing statements filed against public officials and other persons. The 1998 Article 9 addressed the fraud problem by providing the opportunity for a debtor to file a termination statement when a secured party wrongfully refuses or fails to provide a termination statement. See Section 9-509. This opportunity also addresses the problem of secured parties that simply disappear through mergers or liquidations. In addition, Section 9-518 provides a statutory method by which a debtor who believes that a filed record is inaccurate or was wrongfully filed may indicate that fact in the files, albeit without affecting the efficacy, if any, of the challenged record.

Correction of records: Defaulting or missing secured parties and fraudulent filings. In some areas of the country, serious problems have arisen from fraudulent financing statements that are filed against public officials and other persons. This article addresses the fraud problem by providing the opportunity for a debtor to file a termination statement when a secured party wrongfully refuses or fails to provide a termination statement. *See* section 9-509. This opportunity also addresses the problem of secured parties that simply disappear through mergers or liquidations. In addition, section 9-518 affords a statutory method by which a debtor who believes that a filed record is inaccurate or was wrongfully filed may indicate that fact in the files by filing a correction statement, albeit without affecting the efficacy, if any, of the challenged record.

Extended period of effectiveness for certain financing statements. Section 9-515 contains an exception to the usual rule that financing statements are effective for five years unless a continuation statement is filed to continue the effectiveness for another five years. Under that section, an initial financing statement filed in connection with a "public-finance transaction" or a "manufactured-home transaction" (terms defined in section 9-102) is effective for 30 years.

National form of financing statement and related forms. Section 9-521 provides for uniform, national written forms of financing statements and related written records that must be accepted by a filing office that accepts written records.

i. **Default and Enforcement.** Part 6 of the 1998 Revisions to Article 9 extensively revised and replaced pre-1998 Part 5. Provisions relating to enforcement of consumer-goods transactions and consumer transactions are discussed in Comment 4.j.

Debtor, secondary obligor; waiver. Section 9-602 clarifies the identity of persons who have rights and persons to whom a secured party owes specified duties under Part 6. Under that section, the rights and duties are enjoyed by and run to the "debtor," defined in Section 9-102 to mean any person with a non-lien property interest in collateral, and to any "obligor." However, with one exception (Section 9-616, as it relates to a consumer obligor), the rights and duties concerned affect non-debtor obligors only if they are "secondary obligors." "Secondary obligor" is defined in Section 9-102 to include one who is secondarily obligated on the secured obligation, e.g., a guarantor, or one who has a right of recourse against the debtor or another obligor with respect to an obligation secured by collateral. However, under Sections 9-605 and 9-628, the secured party is relieved from any duties and liabilities to any person unless the secured party knows that the person is a debtor or obligor. (The 2022 Article 9 Revisions have modified Sections 9-605 and 9-628. See 2022 Section 9-605, Comments 2 and 3.) Resolving an issue on which courts disagreed under pre-1998 Article 9, revised Article 9 generally prohibits waiver by a secondary obligor of its rights and a secured party's duties under Part 6. See Section 9-602. However, Section 9-624 permits a secondary obligor or debtor to waive the right to notification of disposition of collateral and, in a non-consumer transaction, the right to redeem collateral, if the secondary obligor or debtor agrees to do so after default.

Rights of collection and enforcement of collateral. Section 9-607 explains in greater detail than pre-1998 Section 9-502 the rights of a secured party who seeks to collect or enforce collateral, including accounts, chattel paper, and payment intangibles. It also sets forth the enforcement rights of a depositary bank holding a security interest in a deposit account maintained with the depositary bank. Section 9-607 relates solely to the rights of a secured party vis-a-vis a debtor with respect to collections and enforcement. It does not affect the rights or duties of third parties, such as account debtors on collateral, which are addressed elsewhere (e.g., new Section 9-406). Section 9-608 clarifies the manner in which proceeds of collection or enforcement are to be applied.

Disposition of collateral: Warranties of title. Section 9-610 imposes on a secured party who disposes of collateral the warranties of title, quiet possession, and the like that are otherwise applicable under other law. It also provides rules for the exclusion or modification of those warranties.

Disposition of collateral: Notification, application of proceeds, surplus and deficiency, other effects. Section 9-611 requires a secured party to give notification of a disposition of collateral to other secured parties and lienholders who have filed financing statements against the debtor covering the collateral. (That duty was eliminated by the 1972 revisions to article 9.) However, that section relieves the secured party from that duty when the secured party undertakes a search of the records and a report of the results is unreasonably delayed. Section 9-613, which applies only to nonconsumer transactions, specifies the contents of a sufficient notification of disposition and provides that a notification sent 10 days or more before the earliest time for disposition is sent within a reasonable time. Section 9-615 addresses the application of proceeds of disposition, the entitlement of a debtor to any surplus, and the liability of an obligor for any deficiency. Section 9-619 clarifies the effects of a disposition by a secured party, including the rights of transferees of the collateral.

Rights and duties of secondary obligor. Section 9-618 provides that a secondary obligor obtains the rights and assumes the duties of a secured party if the secondary obligor receives an assignment of a secured obligation, agrees to assume the secured party's rights and duties upon a transfer to it of collateral, or becomes subrogated to the rights of the secured party with respect to the collateral. The assumption, transfer, or subrogation is not a disposition of collateral under Section 9-610, but it does relieve the former secured party of further duties. Pre-1998 Section 9-504(5) did not address whether a secured party was relieved of its duties in this situation.

Transfer of record or legal title. Section 9-619 contains a new provision making clear that a transfer of record or legal title to a secured party is not of itself a disposition under part 6. This rule applies regardless of the circumstances under which the transfer of title occurs.

Strict foreclosure. Section 9-620, unlike pre-1998 Section 9-505, permits a secured party to accept collateral in partial satisfaction, as well as full satisfaction, of the

obligations secured. This right of strict foreclosure extends to intangible as well as tangible property. Section 9-622 clarifies the effects of an acceptance of collateral on the rights of junior claimants. It rejects the approach taken by some courts–deeming a secured party to have constructively retained collateral in satisfaction of the secured obligations–in the case of a secured party's unreasonable delay in the disposition of collateral. Instead, unreasonable delay is relevant when determining whether a disposition under Section 9-610 is commercially reasonable.

Effect of noncompliance: "Rebuttable presumption" test. Section 9-626 adopts the "rebuttable presumption" test for the failure of a secured party to proceed in accordance with certain provisions of part 6. Under this approach, the deficiency claim of a noncomplying secured party is calculated by crediting the obligor with the greater of the actual net proceeds of a disposition and the amount of net proceeds that would have been realized if the disposition had been conducted in accordance with part 6 (*e.g.*, in a commercially reasonable manner). Section 9-626 rejects the "absolute bar" test that some courts have imposed; that approach bars a noncomplying secured party from recovering any deficiency, regardless of the loss (if any) the debtor suffered as a consequence of the noncompliance.

"Low-price" dispositions: Calculation of deficiency and surplus. Section 9-615(f) addresses the problem of procedurally regular dispositions that fetch a low price. Subsection (f) provides a special method for calculating a deficiency if the proceeds of a disposition of collateral to a secured party, a person related to the secured party, or a secondary obligor are "significantly below the range of proceeds that a complying disposition to a person other than the secured party, a person related to the secured party, or a secondary obligor would have brought." ("Person related to" is defined in section 9-102.) In these situations there is reason to suspect that there may be inadequate incentives to obtain a better price. Consequently, instead of calculating a deficiency (or surplus) based on the actual net proceeds, the deficiency (or surplus) would be calculated based on the proceeds that would have been received in a disposition to a person other than the secured party, a person related to the secured party, or a secondary obligor.

j. **Consumer Goods, Consumer-Goods Transactions, and Consumer Transactions.** The 1998 Revisions (including the accompanying conforming revisions (see Appendix I)) included several special rules for "consumer goods," "consumer transactions," and "consumer-goods transactions." Each term is defined in Section 9-102.

(i) Revised Sections 2-502 and 2-716 provide a buyer of consumer goods with enhanced rights to possession of the goods, thereby accelerating and enhancing the opportunity to achieve "buyer in ordinary course of business" status under Section 1-201.

(ii) Section 9-103(e) (allocation of payments for determining extent of purchase-money status), (f) (purchase-money status not affected by cross-collateralization,

refinancing, restructuring, or the like), and (g) (secured party has burden of establishing extent of purchase-money status) do not apply to consumer-goods transactions. Section 9-103 also provides that the limitation of those provisions to transactions other than consumer-goods transactions leaves to the courts the proper rules for consumer-goods transactions and prohibits the courts from drawing inferences from that limitation.

(iii) Section 9-108 provides that in a consumer transaction a description of consumer goods, a security entitlement, securities account, or commodity account "only by (UCC-defined) type of collateral" is not a sufficient collateral description in a security agreement.

(iv) Sections 9-403 and 9-404 make effective the Federal Trade Commission's antiholder-in-due-course rule (when applicable), 16 C.F.R. part 433, even in the absence of the required legend.

(v) The 10-day safe-harbor for notification of a disposition provided by section 9-612 does not apply in a consumer transaction.

(vi) Section 9-613 (contents and form of notice of disposition) does not apply to a consumer-goods transaction.

(vii) Section 9-614 contains special requirements for the contents of a notification of disposition and a safe-harbor, "plain English" form of notification, for consumer-goods transactions.

(viii) Section 9-616 requires a secured party in a consumer-goods transaction to provide a debtor with a notification of how it calculated a deficiency at the time it first undertakes to collect a deficiency.

(ix) Section 9-620 prohibits partial strict foreclosure with respect to consumer goods collateral and, unless the debtor agrees to waive the requirement in a signed record after default, in certain cases requires the secured party to dispose of consumer goods collateral which has been repossessed.

(x) Section 9-626 ("rebuttable presumption" rule) does not apply to a consumer transaction. Section 9-626 also provides that its limitation to transactions other than consumer transactions leaves to the courts the proper rules for consumer transactions and prohibits the courts from drawing inferences from that limitation.

k. **Good Faith.** The 1998 Revisions added in Section 9-102 a new definition of "good faith" that included not only "honesty in fact" but also "the observance of reasonable commercial standards of fair dealing." That definition was deleted by the conforming amendments to the 2001 revision of Article 1 as unnecessary, given the revised definition in Section 1-201(b)(20).

l. **[Reserved.]**

m. **Conforming and Related Amendments to Other UCC Articles.** Appendix I to the 1998 Revisions contained several revisions to the provisions and Comments of other UCC articles. For the most part those revisions are explained in the Comments to the 1998 Revisions.

Article 1. Revised Section 1-201 provides revisions to the definitions of "buyer in ordinary course of business," "purchaser," and "security interest."

Articles 2 and 2A. Sections 2-210, 2-326, 2-502, 2-716, 2A-303, and 2A-307 are revised to address the intersection between Articles 2 and 2A and Article 9.

Article 5. New section 5-118 is patterned on section 4-210. It provides for a security interest in documents presented under a letter of credit in favor of the issuer and a nominated person on the letter of credit.

Article 8. Revisions to Section 8-106, which deals with "control" of securities and security entitlements, conform it to Section 8-302, which deals with "delivery." Revisions to Section 8-110, which deals with a "securities intermediary's jurisdiction," conform it to the revised treatment of a "commodity intermediary's jurisdiction" in Section 9-305. Sections 8-301 and 8-302 are revised for clarification. Section 8-510 is revised to conform it to the revised priority rules of Section 9-328. Several Comments in Article 8 also are revised.

4. **Summary of 2022 Article 9 Revisions.** Following is a brief summary of some of the more significant revisions that are included in the 2022 Article 9 Revisions. The 2022 amendments to Article 9 are extensive. Many of the amendments are necessary to conform Article 9 to new Article 12, which (along with its Comments) should be read along with the Article 9 amendments and Comments. Other material amendments include those relating to chattel paper and money, among other matters.

a. **Article 12-Related Revisions.** Article 12-related amendments to Article 9 include the addition of two new kinds of collateral under Article 9: controllable account (a subset of account) and controllable payment intangible (a subset of payment intangible, which is a subset of general intangible). A controllable account or controllable payment intangible is created when the account or payment intangible is evidenced by a controllable electronic record (defined in Section 12-102(a)(1), and a subset of general intangible), which results if the account debtor obligated on the account or payment intangible has agreed to pay the person in control of the controllable electronic record. Perfection of a security interest in a controllable electronic record, controllable account, or controllable payment intangible may be by control or by filing a financing statement. Control of a controllable electronic record is determined under Section 12-105. Control of a controllable account or controllable payment intangible is achieved by obtaining control of the controllable electronic record that evidences the account or payment intangible. Section 9-107A(b). A security interest in a controllable account, controllable electronic record, or controllable payment intangible

which is perfected by control has priority over a security interest held by a secured party that does not have control. Section 9-326A.

As is the case for secured parties protected by take-free rules under other articles, the rights of a secured party that takes free of competing property interests under Section 12-104(e) or that is protected from certain actions under Section 12-104(g), as a qualifying purchaser of a controllable account, controllable electronic record, or controllable payment intangible, are respected under Article 9. Section 9-331.

The law of the controllable electronic record's jurisdiction under Section 12-107 governs perfection by control and priority of a security interest in a controllable account, controllable electronic record, or controllable payment intangible. Section 9-306B(a). The law of the jurisdiction in which a debtor is located governs perfection by filing (but not priority) for such collateral. Section 9-306B(b).

The 2022 Article 9 Revisions also contains several other Article 12-related conforming amendments to Article 9.

b. **Chattel Paper-Related Amendments.** These amendments primarily address two issues that have arisen under the pre-2022 Article 9 with respect to transactions in chattel paper.

First, the definition of "chattel paper" created uncertainty in "bundled" or "hybrid" transactions in which monetary obligations exist not only under a lease of goods but also with respect to other property and services relating to the leased goods. Frequently, the value of the non-goods aspect of a transaction is substantially greater than the value of the lessee's rights under the lease of goods. Uncertainty existed among those who finance chattel paper and other rights to payment as to whether these transactions give rise to chattel paper. The revisions resolve this issue by treating only those transactions whose predominant purpose was to give the obligor (lessee) the right to possession and use of the goods as giving rise to "chattel paper." Some similar issues arise in connection with chattel paper that includes a security interest securing specific goods. See Section 9-102, Comment 5.b.

Second, the pre-2022 statutory distinction between "tangible chattel paper" and "electronic chattel paper" caused practical problems. As to tangible chattel paper (i.e., evidenced by writings), problems arose in the case of multiple originals of writings and situations in which separate writings covered different components of chattel paper. Official comments issued in connection with the 1998 Revisions addressed, but did not entirely resolve, these issues. As to electronic chattel paper, the safe harbor for control was based on a "single authoritative copy" of the chattel paper. Moreover, in some situations tangible chattel paper is converted to electronic form and electronic chattel paper is converted to tangible form. Additional uncertainty existed when one or more records comprised one or more authoritative tangible copies of the records that evidenced the right to payment and rights in related property and one or more authoritative electronic copies of those records also existed.

The 2022 Article 9 Revisions provide a single rule, under which a security interest in chattel paper can be perfected by taking possession of the authoritative tangible copies, if any, and obtaining control of the electronic authoritative copies, if any. This single rule addresses cases where some records evidencing chattel paper are electronic and some are tangible or where a record in one medium is replaced by a record in another.

The 2022 Article 9 Revisions also define chattel paper more accurately, as the right to payment of a monetary obligation that is secured by a security interest in specific goods or owed under a lease of specific goods, if the right to payment and interest in the goods are evidenced by a record.

Finally, the 2022 Article 9 Revisions provide a new choice-of-law rule for perfection and priority of security interests in chattel paper that is evidenced by authoritative electronic copies of records or by such electronic copies and authoritative tangible copies. For such chattel paper, Section 9-306A provides that perfection by control and possession of authoritative copies and priority are governed by the law of the "chattel paper's jurisdiction," based loosely on Sections 8-110 and 9-305. For chattel paper evidenced only by authoritative tangible copies, Section 9-306A(d) provides that perfection by possession and priority are governed by the law of the location of the authoritative tangible copies. Perfection by filing continues to be governed by the law of the location of the debtor for all chattel paper.

c. **Money-Related Amendments.**

Section 1-201(b)(24) defines "money" as including "a medium of exchange currently authorized or adopted by a domestic or foreign government . . . ." There is no way of knowing how money in an intangible form might develop, but there are indications that some countries might authorize or adopt intangible tokens as a medium of exchange and others might authorize or adopt deposit accounts with a central bank as money. (These tokens or accounts sometimes are referred to as central bank digital currency or CBDC.) For many purposes, there is no need for the UCC to distinguish among types of money. For Article 9 purposes, however, distinctions must be drawn. Only tangible money is susceptible of perfection by possession. And the steps needed for perfection by control with respect to intangible tokens, such as controllable electronic records, will not work for deposit accounts with a central bank, and vice versa. For this reason, the revisions provide an Article 9 definition of "money" that is narrower than the Article 1 definition. The Article 9 definition expressly excludes deposit accounts (but not CBDC that is a token). Thus, "electronic money," defined in Section 9-102 as "money in an electronic form," would not include deposit accounts. The Article 9 definition of "money" also excludes money in an electronic form that cannot be subjected to control under Section 9-105A.

The Article 9 provisions governing "deposit accounts" would remain suitable for accounts with a central bank, even if a government has adopted these accounts as money. The revisions leave Article 9's treatment of deposit accounts largely unchanged. Under the revisions, a security interest in electronic money as original collateral can be

perfected only by control. The requirements for obtaining control of electronic money under Section 9-105A are essentially the same as those for obtaining control of a controllable electronic record under Article 12.

The 2022 Article 9 Revisions also make changes to Section 9-332, the take-free rules for transferees of money, including the addition of a new rule applicable to electronic money, and transferees of funds from deposit accounts.

d. **Transitional Rules.** Article A to the 2022 Amendments provides important transitional rules. These rules are designed to protect the expectations of parties to transactions entered into before the effective date of a state's enactment of the revisions. They also provide for an adequate period of time for parties to pre-effective date transactions to make adjustments so as to preserve certain pre-effective date priorities.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 1 repealed former 55-9-101 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-101, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former Section 55-9-101 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-101, annotations decided under former 55-9-101 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Priority between landlord's lien and Article 9 security interest. — The priority between a landlords' lien and an Article 9 security interest is not covered by the statutory provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code - Secured Transactions. In such a case, the common law doctrine of "first in time, first in right" controls the priorities between the parties. *Kuemmerle v. United N.M. Bank*, 1992-NMSC-028, 113 N.M. 677, 831 P.2d 976 (decided under former law).

Failure to comply with code precludes mortgagee from foreclosure. — Mortgagee was precluded from foreclosing on a mortgage taken on property subject to an executory sales contract of which it had actual notice, since it failed to comply with the provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code on secured transactions, including failing to comply with the filing provisions of the Code. *First Nat'l Bank v. Luce*, 1974-NMSC-098, 87 N.M. 94, 529 P.2d 760 (decided under former law).

The security assignment of a real estate contract is not subject to the perfection requirements of this article. *In re Anthony*, 1992-NMSC-038, 114 N.M. 95, 835 P.2d 811 (decided under former law).

Law reviews. — For comment on Strevell-Paterson Fin. Co. v. May, 77 N.M. 331, 422 P.2d 366 (1967), see 8 Nat. Resources J. 713 (1968).

For comment, "New Mexico's Uniform Commercial Code in Oil and Gas Transactions," see 10 Nat. Resources J. 361 (1970).

For article, "Lender Recourse in Indian Country: A Navajo Case Study," see 21 N.M.L. Rev. 275 (1991).

For note, "Commercial Law - And Then Personal Property Became Real Property: *In re Anthony*," see 23 N.M.L. Rev. 263 (1993).

For article, "Secured Transactions History: The Fraudulent Myth," see 29 N.M.L. Rev. 363 (1999).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 1 et seq.

Construction and effect of U.C.C., art. 9, dealing with secured transactions, sales of accounts, contract rights and chattel paper, 30 A.L.R.3d 9, 67 A.L.R.3d 308, 69 A.L.R.3d 1162, 76 A.L.R.3d 11, 99 A.L.R.3d 807, 99 A.L.R.3d 1080, 100 A.L.R.3d 10, 100 A.L.R.3d 940, 7 A.L.R.4th 308, 11 A.L.R.4th 241, 90 A.L.R.4th 859, 25 A.L.R.5th 696.

6A C.J.S. Assignments § 93; 8 C.J.S. Bailments § 103; 35 C.J.S. Factors §§ 46 et seq.; 53 C.J.S. Liens § 1 et seq.; 72 C.J.S. Pledges §§ 28 et seq., 40 et seq.; 79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 1 et seq.

55-9-102. Definitions and index of definitions.

(a) In Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978:

(1) "accession" means goods that are physically united with other goods in such a manner that the identity of the original goods is not lost;

(2) "account", except as used in "account for", "account statement", "account to", "commodity account" in Paragraph (14) of this subsection, "customer's account", "deposit account" in Paragraph (29) of this subsection, "on account of" and "statement of account":

(A) means a right to payment of a monetary obligation, whether or not earned by performance:

(i) for property that has been or is to be sold, leased, licensed, assigned or otherwise disposed of;

(ii) for services rendered or to be rendered;

(iii) for a policy of insurance issued or to be issued;

(iv) for a secondary obligation incurred or to be incurred;

(v) for energy provided or to be provided;

(vi) for the use or hire of a vessel under a charter or other contract;

(vii) arising out of the use of a credit or charge card or information contained on or for use with the card; or

(viii) as winnings in a lottery or other game of chance operated or sponsored by a state, governmental unit of a state or person licensed or authorized to operate the game by a state or governmental unit of a state; and

(B) includes controllable accounts and health-care-insurance receivables; but

(C) does not include:

(i) chattel paper;

(ii) commercial tort claims;

(iii) deposit accounts;

(iv) investment property;

(v) letter-of-credit rights or letters of credit;

(vi) rights to payment for money or funds advanced or sold, other than rights arising out of the use of a credit or charge card or information contained on or for use with the card; or

(vii) rights to payment evidenced by an instrument;

(3) "account debtor" means a person obligated on an account, chattel paper or general intangible. The term does not include persons obligated to pay a negotiable instrument, even if the negotiable instrument evidences chattel paper;

(4) "accounting", except as used in "accounting for", means a record:

(A) signed by a secured party;

(B) indicating the aggregate unpaid secured obligations as of a date not more than thirty-five days earlier or thirty-five days later than the date of the record; and

(C) identifying the components of the obligations in reasonable detail;

(5) "agricultural lien" means an interest in farm products:

(A) that secures payment or performance of an obligation for:

(i) goods or services furnished in connection with a debtor's farming operation; or

(ii) rent on real property leased by a debtor in connection with its farming operation;

(B) that is created by statute in favor of a person that:

(i) in the ordinary course of its business furnished goods or services to a debtor in connection with a debtor's farming operation; or

(ii) leased real property to a debtor in connection with the debtor's farming operation; and

(C) whose effectiveness does not depend on the person's possession of the personal property;

(6) "as-extracted collateral" means:

(A) oil, gas or other minerals that are subject to a security interest that:

(i) is created by a debtor having an interest in the minerals before extraction; and

(ii) attaches to the minerals as extracted; or

(B) accounts arising out of the sale at the wellhead or minehead of oil, gas or other minerals in which the debtor had an interest before extraction;

(7) [Reserved];

(7A) "assignee", except as used in "assignee for benefit of creditors", means a person:

(i) in whose favor a security interest that secures an obligation is created or provided for under a security agreement, whether or not the obligation is outstanding; or

(ii) to which an account, chattel paper, payment intangible or promissory note has been sold. The term includes a person to which a security interest has been transferred by a secured party;

(7B) "assignor" means a person that:

(i) under a security agreement, creates or provides for a security interest that secures an obligation; or

(ii) sells an account, chattel paper, payment intangible or promissory note. The term includes a secured party that has transferred a security interest to another person;

(8) "bank" means an organization that is engaged in the business of banking and includes savings banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions and trust companies;

(9) "cash proceeds" means proceeds that are money, checks, deposit accounts or the like;

(10) "certificate of title" means a certificate of title with respect to which a statute provides for the security interest in question to be indicated on the certificate as a condition or result of the security interest's obtaining priority over the rights of a lien creditor with respect to the collateral. The term includes another record maintained as an alternative to a certificate of title by the governmental unit that issues certificates of title if a statute permits the security interest in question to be indicated on the record as a condition or result of the security interest's obtaining priority over the rights of a lien creditor with respect to the collateral;

(11) "chattel paper" means:

(A) a right to payment of a monetary obligation secured by specific goods if the right to payment and security agreement are evidenced by a record; or

(B) a right to payment of a monetary obligation owed by a lessee under a lease agreement with respect to specific goods and a monetary obligation owed by the lessee in connection with the transaction giving rise to the lease, if:

(i) the right to payment and lease agreement are evidenced by a record; and

(ii) the predominant purpose of the transaction giving rise to the lease was to give the lessee the right to possession and use of the goods.

The term does not include a right to payment arising out of a charter or other contract involving the use or hire of a vessel or a right to payment arising out of the use of a credit or charge card or information contained on or for use with the card;

(12) "collateral" means the property subject to a security interest or agricultural lien and includes:

(A) proceeds to which a security interest attaches;

(B) accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles and promissory notes that have been sold; and

(C) goods that are the subject of a consignment;

(13) "commercial tort claim" means a claim arising in tort with respect to which:

(A) the claimant is an organization; or

(B) the claimant is an individual and the claim:

(i) arose in the course of the claimant's business or profession; and

(ii) does not include damages arising out of personal injury to or the death of an individual;

(14) "commodity account" means an account maintained by a commodity intermediary in which a commodity contract is carried for a commodity customer;

(15) "commodity contract" means a commodity futures contract, an option on a commodity futures contract, a commodity option or another contract if the contract or option is:

(A) traded on or subject to the rules of a board of trade that has been designated as a contract market for such a contract pursuant to federal commodities laws; or

(B) traded on a foreign commodity board of trade, exchange or market, and is carried on the books of a commodity intermediary for a commodity customer;

(16) "commodity customer" means a person for which a commodity intermediary carries a commodity contract on its books;

(17) "commodity intermediary" means a person that:

(A) is registered as a futures commission merchant under federal commodities law; or

(B) in the ordinary course of its business provides clearance or settlement services for a board of trade that has been designated as a contract market pursuant to federal commodities law;

(18) "communicate" means:

(A) to send a written or other tangible record;

(B) to transmit a record by any means agreed upon by the persons sending and receiving the record; or

(C) in the case of transmission of a record to or by a filing office, to transmit a record by any means prescribed by filing-office rule;

(19) "consignee" means a merchant to which goods are delivered in a consignment;

(20) "consignment" means a transaction, regardless of its form, in which a person delivers goods to a merchant for the purpose of sale and:

(A) the merchant:

(i) deals in goods of that kind under a name other than the name of the person making delivery;

(ii) is not an auctioneer; and

(iii) is not generally known by its creditors to be substantially engaged in selling the goods of others;

(B) with respect to each delivery, the aggregate value of the goods is one thousand dollars ($1,000) or more at the time of delivery;

(C) the goods are not consumer goods immediately before delivery; and

(D) the transaction does not create a security interest that secures an obligation;

(21) "consignor" means a person that delivers goods to a consignee in a consignment;

(22) "consumer debtor" means a debtor in a consumer transaction;

(23) "consumer goods" means goods that are used or bought for use primarily for personal, family or household purposes;

(24) "consumer-goods transaction" means a consumer transaction in which:

(A) an individual incurs an obligation primarily for personal, family or household purposes; and

(B) a security interest in consumer goods secures the obligation;

(25) "consumer obligor" means an obligor who is an individual and who incurred the obligation as part of a transaction entered into primarily for personal, family or household purposes;

(26) "consumer transaction" means a transaction in which:

(A) an individual incurs an obligation primarily for personal, family or household purposes;

(B) a security interest secures the obligation; and

(C) the collateral is held or acquired primarily for personal, family or household purposes. The term includes consumer-goods transactions;

(27) "continuation statement" means an amendment of a financing statement that:

(A) identifies, by its file number, the initial financing statement to which it relates; and

(B) indicates that it is a continuation statement for, or that it is filed to continue the effectiveness of, the identified financing statement;

(27A) "controllable account" means an account evidenced by a controllable electronic record that provides that the account debtor undertakes to pay the person that has control under Section 55-12-105 NMSA 1978 of the controllable electronic record;

(27B) "controllable payment intangible" means a payment intangible evidenced by a controllable electronic record that provides that the account debtor undertakes to pay the person that has control under Section 55-12-105 NMSA 1978 of the controllable electronic record;

(28) "debtor" means:

(A) a person having an interest, other than a security interest or other lien, in the collateral, whether or not the person is an obligor;

(B) a seller of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles or promissory notes; or

(C) a consignee;

(29) "deposit account" means a demand, time, savings, passbook or similar account maintained with a bank. The term does not include investment property or accounts evidenced by an instrument;

(30) "document" means a document of title or a receipt of the type described in Subsection (b) of Section 55-7-201 NMSA 1978;

(31) [Reserved];

(31A) "electronic money" means money in an electronic form;

(32) "encumbrance" means a right, other than an ownership interest, in real property. The term includes mortgages and other liens on real property;

(33) "equipment" means goods other than inventory, farm products or consumer goods;

(34) "farm products" means goods, other than standing timber, with respect to which the debtor is engaged in a farming operation and that are:

(A) crops grown, growing or to be grown, including:

(i) crops produced on trees, vines and bushes; and

(ii) aquatic goods produced in aquacultural operations;

(B) livestock, born or unborn, including aquatic goods produced in aquacultural operations;

(C) supplies used or produced in a farming operation; or

(D) products of crops or livestock in their unmanufactured states;

(35) "farming operation" means raising, cultivating, propagating, fattening, grazing or any other farming, livestock or aquacultural operation;

(36) "file number" means the number assigned to an initial financing statement pursuant to Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-519 NMSA 1978;

(37) "filing office" means an office designated in Section 55-9-501 NMSA 1978 as the place to file a financing statement;

(38) "filing-office rule" means a rule adopted pursuant to Section 55-9-526 NMSA 1978;

(39) "financing statement" means a record or records composed of an initial financing statement and any filed record relating to the initial financing statement;

(40) "fixture filing" means the filing of a financing statement covering goods that are or are to become fixtures and satisfying Subsections (a) and (b) of Section 55-9-502

NMSA 1978. The term includes the filing of a financing statement covering goods of a transmitting utility that are or are to become fixtures;

(41) "fixtures" means goods that have become so related to particular real property that an interest in them arises under real property law;

(42) "general intangible" means any personal property, including things in action, other than accounts, chattel paper, commercial tort claims, deposit accounts, documents, goods, instruments, investment property, letter-of-credit rights, letters of credit, money and oil, gas or other minerals before extraction. The term includes controllable electronic records, payment intangibles and software;

(43) [Reserved];

(44) "goods" means all things that are movable when a security interest attaches and:

(A) includes:

(i) fixtures;

(ii) standing timber that is to be cut and removed under a conveyance or contract for sale;

(iii) the unborn young of animals;

(iv) crops grown, growing or to be grown, even if the crops are produced on trees, vines or bushes;

(v) manufactured homes; and

(vi) a computer program embedded in goods and any supporting information provided in connection with a transaction relating to the program if the program is associated with the goods in such a manner that it customarily is considered part of the goods, or by becoming the owner of the goods, a person acquires a right to use the program in connection with the goods; but

(B) does not include:

(i) a computer program embedded in goods that consist solely of the medium in which the program is embedded; or

(ii) accounts, chattel paper, commercial tort claims, deposit accounts, documents, general intangibles, instruments, investment property, letter-of-credit rights, letters of credit, money or oil, gas or other minerals before extraction;

(45) "governmental unit" means a subdivision, agency, department, county, parish, municipality or other unit of the government of the United States, a state or a foreign country. The term includes an organization having a separate corporate existence if the organization is eligible to issue debt on which interest is exempt from income taxation under the laws of the United States;

(46) "health-care-insurance receivable" means an interest in or claim under a policy of insurance that is a right to payment of a monetary obligation for health care goods or services provided or to be provided;

(47) "instrument" means a negotiable instrument or any other writing that evidences a right to the payment of a monetary obligation, is not itself a security agreement or lease and is of a type that in ordinary course of business is transferred by delivery with any necessary indorsement or assignment. The term does not include:

(A) investment property;

(B) letters of credit;

(C) writings that evidence a right to payment arising out of the use of a credit or charge card or information contained on or for use with the card; or

(D) writings that evidence chattel paper;

(48) "inventory" means goods, other than farm products, that:

(A) are leased by a person as lessor;

(B) are held by a person for sale or lease or to be furnished under a contract of service;

(C) are furnished by a person under a contract of service; or

(D) consist of raw materials, work in process or materials used or consumed in a business;

(49) "investment property" means a security, whether certificated or uncertificated, security entitlement, securities account, commodity contract or commodity account;

(50) "jurisdiction of organization", with respect to a registered organization, means the jurisdiction under whose law the organization is formed or organized;

(51) "letter-of-credit right" means a right to payment or performance under a letter of credit, whether or not the beneficiary has demanded or is at the time entitled to

demand payment or performance. The term does not include the right of a beneficiary to demand payment or performance under a letter of credit;

(52) "lien creditor" means:

(A) a creditor that has acquired a lien on the property involved by attachment, levy or the like;

(B) an assignee for benefit of creditors from the time of assignment;

(C) a trustee in bankruptcy from the date of the filing of the petition; or

(D) a receiver in equity from the time of appointment;

(53) "manufactured home" means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which, in the traveling mode, is eight body feet or more in width or forty body feet or more in length, or, when erected on site, is three hundred twenty or more square feet, and which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities, and includes the plumbing, heating, air-conditioning and electrical systems contained therein. The term includes any structure that meets all of the requirements of this paragraph except the size requirements and with respect to which the manufacturer voluntarily files a certification required by the United States secretary of housing and urban development and complies with the standards established under 42 USCA;

(54) "manufactured-home transaction" means a secured transaction:

(A) that creates a purchase-money security interest in a manufactured home, other than a manufactured home held as inventory; or

(B) in which a manufactured home, other than a manufactured home held as inventory, is the primary collateral;

(54A) "money" has the meaning in Paragraph (24) of Subsection (b) of Section 55-1-201 NMSA 1978, but does not include: (i) a deposit account; or (ii) money in an electronic form that cannot be subjected to control under Section 55-9-105A NMSA 1978.

(55) "mortgage" means a consensual interest in real property, including fixtures, that secures payment or performance of an obligation;

(56) "new debtor" means a person that becomes bound as debtor under Subsection (d) of Section 55-9-203 NMSA 1978 by a security agreement previously entered into by another person;

(57) "new value" means:

(A) money;

(B) money's worth in property, services or new credit; or

(C) release by a transferee of an interest in property previously transferred to the transferee. The term does not include an obligation substituted for another obligation;

(58) "noncash proceeds" means proceeds other than cash proceeds;

(59) "obligor" means a person that, with respect to an obligation secured by a security interest in or an agricultural lien on the collateral:

(A) owes payment or other performance of the obligation;

(B) has provided property other than the collateral to secure payment or other performance of the obligation; or

(C) is otherwise accountable in whole or in part for payment or other performance of the obligation. The term does not include issuers or nominated persons under a letter of credit;

(60) "original debtor", except as used in Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-310 NMSA 1978, means a person that, as debtor, entered into a security agreement to which a new debtor has become bound under Subsection (d) of Section 55-9-203 NMSA 1978;

(61) "payment intangible" means a general intangible under which the account debtor's principal obligation is a monetary obligation. The term includes a controllable payment intangible;

(62) "person related to", with respect to an individual, means:

(A) the spouse of the individual;

(B) a brother, brother-in-law, sister or sister-in-law of the individual;

(C) an ancestor or lineal descendant of the individual or the individual's spouse; or

(D) any other relative, by blood or marriage, of the individual or the individual's spouse who shares the same home with the individual;

(63) "person related to", with respect to an organization, means:

(A) a person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with the organization;

(B) an officer or director of, or a person performing similar functions with respect to, the organization;

(C) an officer or director of, or a person performing similar functions with respect to, a person described in Subparagraph (A) of this paragraph;

(D) the spouse of an individual described in Subparagraph (A), (B) or (C) of this paragraph; or

(E) an individual who is related by blood or marriage to an individual described in Subparagraph (A), (B), (C) or (D) of this paragraph and shares the same home with the individual;

(64) "proceeds", except as used in Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-609 NMSA 1978, means:

(A) whatever is acquired upon the sale, lease, license, exchange or other disposition of collateral;

(B) whatever is collected on, or distributed on account of, collateral;

(C) rights arising out of collateral;

(D) to the extent of the value of collateral, claims arising out of the loss, nonconformity or interference with the use of, defects or infringement of rights in, or damage to, the collateral; or

(E) to the extent of the value of collateral and to the extent payable to the debtor or the secured party, insurance payable by reason of the loss or nonconformity of, defects or infringement of rights in, or damage to, the collateral;

(65) "promissory note" means an instrument that evidences a promise to pay a monetary obligation, does not evidence an order to pay and does not contain an acknowledgment by a bank that the bank has received for deposit a sum of money or funds;

(66) "proposal" means a record signed by a secured party, which record includes the terms on which the secured party is willing to accept collateral in full or partial satisfaction of the obligation it secures pursuant to Sections 55-9-620 through 55-9-622 NMSA 1978;

(67) "public-finance transaction" means a secured transaction in connection with which:

(A) debt securities are issued;

(B) all or a portion of the securities issued have an initial stated maturity of at least twenty years; and

(C) the debtor, obligor, secured party, account debtor or other person obligated on collateral, assignor or assignee of a secured obligation or assignor or assignee of a security interest is a state or a governmental unit of a state;

(68) "public organic record" means a record that is available to the public for inspection and is:

(A) a record consisting of the record initially filed with or issued by a state or the United States to form or organize an organization and any record filed with or issued by the state or the United States that amends or restates the initial record;

(B) an organic record of a business trust consisting of the record initially filed with a state and any record filed with the state that amends or restates the initial record if a statute of the state governing business trusts requires that the record be filed with the state; or

(C) a record consisting of legislation enacted by the legislature of a state or the congress of the United States that forms or organizes an organization; any record amending the legislation; and any record filed with or issued by the state or the United States that amends or restates the name of the organization;

(69) "pursuant to commitment", with respect to an advance made or other value given by a secured party, means pursuant to the secured party's obligation, whether or not a subsequent event of default or other event not within the secured party's control has relieved or may relieve the secured party from its obligation;

(70) "record", except as used in "for record", "of record", "record or legal title" and "record owner", means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form;

(71) "registered organization" means an organization formed or organized solely under the law of a single state or the United States by the filing of a public organic record with, the issuance of a public organic record by or the enactment of legislation by the state or the United States. The term includes a business trust that is formed or organized under the law of a single state if a statute of the state governing business trusts requires that the business trust's organic record be filed with the state;

(72) "secondary obligor" means an obligor to the extent that:

(A) the obligor's obligation is secondary; or

(B) the obligor has a right of recourse with respect to an obligation secured by collateral against the debtor, another obligor or property of either;

(73) "secured party" means:

(A) a person in whose favor a security interest is created or provided for under a security agreement, whether or not any obligation to be secured is outstanding;

(B) a person that holds an agricultural lien;

(C) a consignor;

(D) a person to which accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles or promissory notes have been sold;

(E) a trustee, indenture trustee, agent, collateral agent or other representative in whose favor a security interest or agricultural lien is created or provided for; or

(F) a person that holds a security interest arising under Section 55-2-401, Section 55-2-505, Subsection (3) of Section 55-2-711, Subsection (5) of Section 55-2A-508, Section 55-4-210 or Section 55-5-118 NMSA 1978;

(74) "security agreement" means an agreement that creates or provides for a security interest;

(75) [Reserved];

(76) "software" means a computer program and any supporting information provided in connection with a transaction relating to the program. The term does not include a computer program that is included in the definition of goods;

(77) "state" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States;

(78) "supporting obligation" means a letter-of-credit right or secondary obligation that supports the payment or performance of an account, chattel paper, a document, a general intangible, an instrument or investment property;

(79) [Reserved];

(79A) "tangible money" means money in a tangible form;

(80) "termination statement" means an amendment of a financing statement that:

(A) identifies, by its file number, the initial financing statement to which it relates; and

(B) indicates either that it is a termination statement or that the identified financing statement is no longer effective; and

(81) "transmitting utility" means an organization primarily engaged in the business of:

(A) operating a railroad, subway, street railway or trolley bus;

(B) transmitting communications electrically, electromagnetically or by light;

(C) transmitting goods by pipeline or sewer; or

(D) transmitting or producing and transmitting electricity, steam, gas or water.

(b) "Control", as provided in Section 55-7-106 NMSA 1978, and the following definitions in other articles apply to this article:

"applicant"	Section 55-5-102 NMSA 1978;
"beneficiary"	Section 55-5-102 NMSA 1978;
"broker"	Section 55-8-102 NMSA 1978;
"certificated security"	Section 55-8-102 NMSA 1978;
"check"	Section 55-3-104 NMSA 1978;
"clearing corporation".	Section 55-8-102 NMSA 1978;
"contract for sale"	Section 55-2-106 NMSA 1978;
"controllable electronic record"	Section 55-12-102 NMSA 1978
"customer"	Section 55-4-104 NMSA 1978;
"entitlement holder"	Section 55-8-102 NMSA 1978;
"financial asset"	Section 55-8-102 NMSA 1978;
"holder in due course".	Section 55-3-302 NMSA 1978;
"issuer" (with respect to a letter of credit or letter-of-credit right)	Section 55-5-102 NMSA 1978;
"issuer" (with respect to a security)	Section 55-8-201 NMSA 1978
"issuer" (with respect to documents of title)	Section 55-7-102 NMSA 1978;
"lease"	Section 55-2A-103 NMSA 1978;
"lease agreement"	Section 55-2A-103 NMSA 1978;
"lease contract"	Section 55-2A-103 NMSA 1978;
"leasehold interest"	Section 55-2A-103 NMSA 1978;
"lessee"	Section 55-2A-103 NMSA 1978;
"lessee in ordinary course of business"	Section 55-2A-103 NMSA 1978;
"lessor"	Section 55-2A-103 NMSA 1978;
"lessor's residual interest"	Section 55-2A-103 NMSA 1978;
"letter of credit"	Section 55-5-102 NMSA 1978;
"merchant"	Section 55-2-104 NMSA 1978;

"negotiable instrument"	Section 55-3-104 NMSA 1978;
"nominated person"	Section 55-5-102 NMSA 1978;
"note"	Section 55-3-104 NMSA 1978;
"proceeds of a letter of credit"	Section 55-5-114 NMSA 1978;
"protected purchaser"	Section 55-8-303 NMSA 1978;
"prove"	Section 55-3-103 NMSA 1978;
"qualifying purchaser"	Section 55-12-102 NMSA 1978;
"sale"	Section 55-2-106 NMSA 1978;
"securities account"	Section 55-8-501 NMSA 1978;
"securities intermediary"	Section 55-8-102 NMSA 1978;
"security"	Section 55-8-102 NMSA 1978;
"security certificate"	Section 55-8-102 NMSA 1978;
"security entitlement"	Section 55-8-102 NMSA 1978;
and	
"uncertificated security"	Section 55-8-102 NMSA 1978.

(c) Chapter 55, Article 1 NMSA 1978 contains general definitions and principles of construction and interpretation applicable throughout Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-102, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 2; 2005, ch. 144, § 94; 2013, ch. 137, § 3; 2021, ch. 86, § 1; 2023, ch. 142, § 43.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS

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1. **Source.** All terms that are defined in Article 9 and used in more than one section are consolidated in this section. Note that the definition of "security interest" is found in Section 1-201, not in this Article. Many of the definitions in this section derive from those in pre-1998 Section 9-105. Other definitions were added by the 1998 Revisions or modified or added by the 2022 Article 9 Revisions.

2. **Parties to Secured Transactions.**

a. **"Debtor"; "Obligor"; "Secondary Obligor."** Determining whether a person was a "debtor" under pre-1998 Section 9-105(1)(d) required a close examination of the context in which the term was used. To reduce the need for this examination, the 1998 Revisions redefined "debtor" and added new defined terms, "secondary obligor" and "obligor." In the context of Part 6 (default and enforcement), these definitions distinguish among three classes of persons: (i) those persons who may have a stake in the proper enforcement of a security interest by virtue of their non-lien property interest (typically, an ownership interest) in the collateral, (ii) those persons who may have a stake in the proper enforcement of the security interest because of their obligation to pay the secured debt, and (iii) those persons who have an obligation to pay the secured debt but have no stake in the proper enforcement of the security interest. Persons in

the first class are debtors. Persons in the second class are secondary obligors if any portion of the obligation is secondary or if the obligor has a right of recourse against the debtor or another obligor with respect to an obligation secured by collateral. One must consult the law of suretyship to determine whether an obligation is secondary. The Restatement (3d), Suretyship and Guaranty § 1 (1996), contains a useful explanation of the concept. Obligors in the third class are neither debtors nor secondary obligors. With one exception (Section 9-616, as it relates to a consumer obligor), the rights and duties provided by Part 6 affect non-debtor obligors only if they are "secondary obligors."

By including in the definition of "debtor" all persons with a property interest (other than a security interest in or other lien on collateral), the definition includes transferees of collateral, whether or not the secured party knows of the transfer or the transferee's identity. Exculpatory provisions in Part 6 protect the secured party in that circumstance. *See* Sections 9-605 and 9-628. The definition renders unnecessary pre-1998 Section 9-112, which governed situations in which collateral was not owned by the debtor. The definition also includes a "consignee," as defined in this section, as well as a seller of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles, or promissory notes.

Secured parties and other lienholders are excluded from the definition of "debtor" because the interests of those parties normally derive from and encumber a debtor's interest. However, if in a separate secured transaction a secured party grants, as debtor, a security interest in its own interest (*i.e.*, its security interest and any obligation that it secures), the secured party is a debtor in that transaction. This typically occurs when a secured party with a security interest in specific goods assigns chattel paper.

Consider the following examples:

Example 1: Behnfeldt borrows money and grants a security interest in her Miata to secure the debt. Behnfeldt is a debtor and an obligor.

Example 2: Behnfeldt borrows money and grants a security interest in her Miata to secure the debt. Bruno cosigns a negotiable note as maker. As before, Behnfeldt is the debtor and an obligor. As an accommodation party (*see* section 3-419), Bruno is a secondary obligor. Bruno has this status even if the note states that her obligation is a primary obligation and that she waives all suretyship defenses.

Example 3: Behnfeldt borrows money on an unsecured basis. Bruno cosigns the note and grants a security interest in her Honda to secure her obligation. Inasmuch as Behnfeldt does not have a property interest in the Honda, Behnfeldt is not a debtor. Having granted the security interest, Bruno is the debtor. Because Behnfeldt is a principal obligor, she is not a secondary obligor. Whatever the outcome of enforcement of the security interest against the Honda or Bruno's secondary obligation, Bruno will look to Behnfeldt for her losses. The enforcement will not affect Behnfeldt's aggregate obligations.

When the principal obligor (borrower) and the secondary obligor (surety) each has granted a security interest in different collateral, the status of each is determined by the collateral involved.

Example 4: Behnfeldt borrows money and grants a security interest in her Miata to secure the debt. Bruno cosigns the note and grants a security interest in her Honda to secure her obligation. When the secured party enforces the security interest in Behnfeldt's Miata, Behnfeldt is the debtor, and Bruno is a secondary obligor. When the secured party enforces the security interest in the Honda, Bruno is the "debtor." As in Example 3, Behnfeldt is an obligor, but not a secondary obligor.

If a security interest is granted by a protected series of a limited liability company formed, for example, under the Uniform Protected Series Act (2017), the debtor is the protected series. *See* PEB Commentary No. 23. The 2022 definition of "person" in Section 1-201(b)(27) includes a protected series.

b. **"Secured Party."** The secured party is the person in whose favor the security interest has been created, as determined by reference to the security agreement. This definition controls, among other things, which person has the duties and potential liability that part 6 imposes upon a secured party. The definition of "secured party" also includes a "consignee," a person to which accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles, or promissory notes have been sold, and the holder of an agricultural lien.

The definition of "secured party" clarifies the status of various types of representatives. Consider, for example, a multi-bank facility under which Bank A, Bank B, and Bank C are lenders and Bank A serves as the collateral agent. If the security interest is granted to the banks, then they are the secured parties. If the security interest is granted to Bank A as collateral agent, then Bank A is the secured party.

b.1. **"Assignee"; "Assignor."** Instead of referring to a "debtor," "secured party," and "security interest," all of which are defined terms, several provisions of Article 9, including Part 4, refer to the "assignment" or the "transfer" of property interests and some refer to an "assignor," "assignee," or "assigned contract." None of those terms are defined in the UCC. Some courts have read the undefined terms in an unduly narrow way. In 2020, the Permanent Editorial Board for the UCC issued a Commentary clarifying the meanings of these terms and amended the official comments accordingly. PEB Commentary No. 21. This Article generally follows common usage by using the terms "assignment" and "assign" to refer to transfers of rights to payment, claims, and liens and other security interests. It generally uses the term "transfer" to refer to other transfers of interests in property. Except when used in connection with a letter-of-credit transaction (see Section 9-107, Comment 4), no significance should be placed on the use of one term or the other. Depending on the substance of the transaction, each term as used in this Article refers to the assignment or transfer of an outright ownership interest or to the assignment or transfer of a limited interest, such as a security interest, or both.

The 2022 Article 9 Revisions added new definitions of "assignee" and "assignor." Paragraph 7A defines "assignee" as a person in whose favor a security interest securing an obligation is created or to which an account, chattel paper, a payment intangible, or a promissory note has been sold. Paragraph 7B defines "assignor" as creating a security interest securing an obligation or that sells an account, chattel paper, a payment intangible, or a promissory note. These definitions incorporate the essence of the 2020 PEB Commentary into the statutory text. The definitions also specify that an "assignor" includes a secured party that transfers a security interest to another person and an "assignee" includes a person to which a security interest has been transferred by a secured party. By their terms, the defined terms "assignee" and "assignor" contemplate assignments in particular contexts. However, several references in this article to "assigned," "assignment" and "assignee" include transfers in broader contexts than those addressed in the defined terms. See, e.g., subsection (a)(2) ("assigned," in definition of "account") and (a)(47) ("assignment," in definition of "instrument") and Sections 9-109, 9-408, 9-409, and 9-519.

Absent a contrary agreement, an assignee obtains the rights and powers of an assignor as against an account debtor on assigned collateral (e.g., under Section 9-406) and as between the assignee and the assignor (debtor) (e.g., under Section 9-607). See also Restatement (Second) of Contracts § 317(1) (1981) (emphasis added):

An assignment of a right is a manifestation of the assignor’s intention to transfer it by virtue of which the assignor’s right to performance by the obligor is extinguished in whole or in part and the assignee acquires a right to such performance.

Several provisions of this Article and its official comments also refer to the "transfer" of property interests. Although that term and its cognates are not defined, depending on the context it may include an "assignment." Moreover, a transfer of property is not limited to transactions of "purchase" and may include the transfer of a limited interest. See also Section 9-332, Comment 2A.

c. **Other Parties.** A "consumer obligor" is defined as the obligor in a consumer transaction. Definitions of "new debtor" and "original debtor" are used in the special rules found in sections 9-326 and 9-508.

3. **Definitions Relating to Creation of a Security Interest.**

a. **"Collateral."** As under pre-1998 Section 9-105, "collateral" is the property subject to a security interest and includes accounts, and chattel paper, payment intangibles, and promissory notes that have been sold. The 1998 Revisions expanded the term to include proceeds subject to a security interest and also broadened the scope of the Article to include as collateral property subject to an agricultural lien as well as payment intangibles and promissory notes that have been sold.

b. **"Security Agreement."** The definition of "security agreement" is substantially the same as under pre-1998 Section 9-105–an agreement that creates or provides for a

security interest. However, the term frequently was used colloquially in pre-1998 Article 9 to refer to the document or writing that contained a debtor's security agreement. The 1998 Article 9 eliminated that usage, reserving the term for the more precise meaning specified in the definition.

Whether an agreement creates a security interest depends not on whether the parties intend that the law characterize the transaction as a security interest but rather on whether the transaction falls within the definition of "security interest" in section 1-201. Thus, an agreement that the parties characterize as a "lease" of goods may be a "security agreement," notwithstanding the parties' stated intention that the law treat the transaction as a lease and not as a secured transaction.

4. **Goods-Related Definitions.**

a. **"Goods"; "Consumer Goods"; "Equipment"; "Farm Products"; "Farming Operation"; "Inventory."** The definition of "goods" is substantially the same as the definition in pre-1998 Section 9-105. This Article also retains the four mutually-exclusive "types" of collateral that consist of goods: "consumer goods," "equipment," "farm products," and "inventory." The revisions are primarily for clarification.

The classes of goods are mutually exclusive. For example, the same property cannot simultaneously be both equipment and inventory. In borderline cases–a physician's car or a farmer's truck that might be either consumer goods or equipment–the principal use to which the property is put is determinative. Goods can fall into different classes at different times. For example, a radio may be inventory in the hands of a dealer and consumer goods in the hands of a consumer. As under pre-1998 Article 9, goods are "equipment" if they do not fall into another category.

The definition of "consumer goods" follows pre-1998 Section 9-109. The classification turns on whether the debtor uses or bought the goods for use "primarily for personal, family, or household purposes."

Goods are inventory if they are leased by a lessor or held by a person for sale or lease. The revised definition of "inventory" makes clear that the term includes goods leased by the debtor to others as well as goods held for lease. (The same result should have obtained under the pre-1998 definition.) Goods to be furnished or furnished under a service contract, raw materials, and work in process also are inventory. Implicit in the definition is the criterion that the sales or leases are or will be in the ordinary course of business. For example, machinery used in manufacturing is equipment, not inventory, even though it is the policy of the debtor to sell machinery when it becomes obsolete or worn. Inventory also includes goods that are consumed in a business (e.g., fuel used in operations). In general, goods used in a business are equipment if they are fixed assets or have, as identifiable units, a relatively long period of use, but are inventory, even though not held for sale or lease, if they are used up or consumed in a short period of time in producing a product or providing a service.

Goods are "farm products" if the debtor is engaged in farming operations with respect to the goods. Animals in a herd of livestock are covered whether the debtor acquires them by purchase or as a result of natural increase. Products of crops or livestock remain farm products as long as they have not been subjected to a manufacturing process. The terms "crops" and "livestock" are not defined. The new definition of "farming operations" is for clarification only.

Crops, livestock, and their products cease to be "farm products" when the debtor ceases to be engaged in farming operations with respect to them. If, for example, they come into the possession of a marketing agency for sale or distribution or of a manufacturer or processor as raw materials, they become inventory. Products of crops or livestock, even though they remain in the possession of a person engaged in farming operations, lose their status as farm products if they are subjected to a manufacturing process. What is and what is not a manufacturing process is not specified in this Article. At one end of the spectrum, some processes are so closely connected with farming–such as pasteurizing milk or boiling sap to produce maple syrup or sugar–that they would not constitute manufacturing. On the other hand an extensive canning operation would be manufacturing. Once farm products have been subjected to a manufacturing process, they normally become inventory.

The revised definition of "farm products" clarifies the distinction between crops and standing timber and makes clear that aquatic goods produced in aquacultural operations may be either crops or livestock. Although aquatic goods that are vegetable in nature often would be crops and those that are animal would be livestock, this article leaves the courts free to classify the goods on a case-by-case basis. *See* section 9-324, comment 11.

The definitions of "goods" and "software" are also mutually exclusive. Computer programs usually constitute "software," and, as such, are not "goods" as this Article uses the terms. However, under the circumstances specified in the definition of "goods," computer programs embedded in goods are part of the "goods" and are not "software."

b. **"Accession"; "Manufactured Home"; "Manufactured-Home Transaction."** Other specialized definitions of goods include "accession" (see the special priority and enforcement rules in section 9-335) and "manufactured home" (*see* section 9-515, permitting a financing statement in a "manufactured-home transaction" to be effective for 30 years). The definition of "manufactured home" borrows from the federal Manufactured Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. section 5401 et seq., and is intended to have the same meaning.

c. **"As-Extracted Collateral."** Under this Article, oil, gas, and other minerals that have not been extracted from the ground are treated as real property, to which this Article does not apply. Upon extraction, minerals become personal property (goods) and eligible to be collateral under this Article. See the definition of "goods," which excludes "oil, gas, and other minerals before extraction." To take account of financing practices reflecting the shift from real to personal property, this Article contains special

rules for perfecting security interests in minerals which attach upon extraction and in accounts resulting from the sale of minerals at the wellhead or minehead. See, e.g., Sections 9-301(4) (law governing perfection and priority); 9-501 (place of filing), 9-502 (contents of financing statement), 9-519 (indexing of records). The new term, "as-extracted collateral," added by the 1998 Revisions, refers to the minerals and related accounts to which the special rules apply. The term "at the wellhead" encompasses arrangements based on a sale of the product (goods) at the moment that it issues from the ground and is measured, without technical distinctions as to whether title passes at the "Christmas tree" of a well, the far side of a gathering tank, or at some other point. The term "at . . . the minehead" is comparable.

The following examples explain the operation of these provisions.

Example 5: Debtor owns an interest in oil that is to be extracted. To secure Debtor's obligations to Lender, Debtor enters into a signed agreement granting Lender an interest in the oil. Although Lender may acquire an interest in the oil under real-property law, Lender does not acquire a security interest under this Article until the oil becomes personal property, i.e., until it is extracted and becomes "goods" to which this Article applies. Because Debtor had an interest in the oil before extraction and Lender's security interest attached to the oil as extracted, the oil is "as-extracted collateral."

Example 6: Debtor owns an interest in oil that is to be extracted and contracts to sell the oil to Buyer at the wellhead. In a signed agreement, Debtor agrees to sell to Lender the right to payment from Buyer. This right to payment is an account that constitutes "as-extracted collateral." If Lender then resells the account to Financer, Financer acquires a security interest. However, inasmuch as the debtor-seller in that transaction, Lender, had no interest in the oil before extraction, Financer's collateral (the account it owns) is not "as-extracted collateral."

Example 7: Under the facts of example 6, before extraction, Buyer grants a security interest in the oil to Bank. Although Bank's security interest attaches when the oil is extracted, Bank's security interest is not in "as-extracted collateral," inasmuch as its debtor, Buyer, did not have an interest in the oil before extraction.

5. **Receivables-related Definitions.**

a. **"Account"; "Health-Care-Insurance Receivable"; "As-Extracted Collateral."** The definition of "account" has been expanded and reformulated. It is no longer limited to rights to payment relating to goods or services. Many categories of rights to payment that were classified as general intangibles under pre-1998 Article 9 are accounts under this Article. Thus, if they are sold, a financing statement must be filed to perfect the buyer's interest in them. As used in the definition of "account," a right to payment "arising out of the use of a credit or charge card or information contained on or for use with the card" is the right of a card issuer to payment from its cardholder. A credit-card or charge-card transaction may give rise to other rights to payments; however, those other rights do not "arise out of the use" of the card or information contained on or for

use with the card. Among the types of property that are expressly excluded from the definition is "a right to payment for money or funds advanced or sold." As used in the exclusion from the definition of "account," "funds" is a broader concept than money (although the term is not defined). For example, when a bank-lender credits a borrower's deposit account for the amount of a loan, the bank's advance of funds is not a transaction giving rise to an account. The 2022 Article 9 Revisions amended the definition of "money" in Section 1-201(b)(24) and added a new, more narrow, definition of "money" in Section 9-102(a)(54A). See Comment 12A.

The definition of "health-care-insurance receivable" is new. It is a subset of the definition of "account." However, the rules generally applicable to account debtors on accounts do not apply to insurers obligated on health-care-insurance receivables. *See* Sections 9-404(e), 9-405(d), 9-406(i) [55-9-404, 55-9-405, 55-9-406 NMSA 1978, respectively].

Note that certain accounts also are "as-extracted collateral." *See* Comment 4.c., Examples 6 and 7.

The 2022 Article 9 Revisions amended the definition of "account" to reflect the 2022 revised definition of "chattel paper," discussed in Comment 5.b. The revised definition of "account" also includes some additional exceptions that accommodate the use of the term "account" in other provisions. These new exceptions were implicit in the former definition. Moreover, the exceptions for the defined terms "commodity account" and "deposit account" implicitly apply to all uses of those terms in this Article.

b. **"Chattel Paper."** "Chattel paper" consists of a monetary obligation that is either secured by specific goods or arises in connection with a lease of specific goods, in each case if the obligation and security interest or lease is evidenced by a record. The monetary obligation itself need not be related to the goods. For example, a loan secured by specific goods and evidenced by one or more records creates chattel paper regardless of the purpose of the loan.

Rights to payment arising out of charters of vessels or the use of credit or charge cards are expressly excluded from the definition of chattel paper; they are accounts. The term "charter" as used in this section includes bareboat charters, time charters, successive voyage charters, contracts of affreightment, contracts of carriage, and all other arrangements for the use of vessels.

What distinguishes chattel paper from other rights to payment is the fact that creditor has an interest in specific goods to enforce the right to payment. For example, the fact that a secured party also has an interest in other property does not prevent the right to payment from being chattel paper, provided that the specific goods are the primary collateral.

Example 8. To secure a loan, Borrower grants Lender a security interest in a specified item of equipment and a deposit account. The loan and the security interest are

evidenced by one or more records. The right to payment is chattel paper, assuming the equipment is the primary collateral.

In Example 8, the inclusion of some incidental collateral, such as a deposit account, does not prevent characterization of the right to payment as chattel paper. Another typical example would be the inclusion of after-acquired replacement parts to be installed on the specific goods. On the other hand, to be chattel paper, a right to payment must be accompanied by a security interest in specific goods or a lease of specific goods. A right to payment secured by a security interest in rotating collateral is not chattel paper.

Example 9. To secure a loan, Borrower grants Lender a security interest in all of Borrower's existing and after-acquired inventory. The loan and the security interest are evidenced by one or more records. The right to payment is not chattel paper.

Example 10. To secure a loan, Borrower grants Lender a security interest in a specifically described item of equipment, which is not the primary collateral, and also in all of Borrower's existing and after-acquired equipment. The loan and the security interest are evidenced by one or more records. The right to payment is not chattel paper.

Example 9 is the easy case because no "specific goods" are identified. As to Example 10, it is true that the monetary obligation is secured by "specific goods" and the definition of chattel paper does not specify that the obligation must be secured only by specific goods. However, if the right to payment in Example 10 were to be characterized as chattel paper, it would be possible to convert virtually any monetary obligation evidenced by records and secured by any collateral into chattel paper merely by including as collateral a specific item of goods (whether inventory, equipment, consumer goods, or farm products). The special rules for chattel paper contemplate that specific goods are the primary collateral, even if some incidental property also might be included. If additional goods or other property are included and the specific goods are not the primary collateral, then classification as chattel paper would not be appropriate. Of course, there may be close cases. In those situations, parties should take appropriate precautions.

A right to payment arising from a lease of specific goods gives rise to chattel paper only if the predominant purpose of the transaction is to provide the lessee the right to possession and use of the goods. Therefore, under paragraph (11)(B)(ii), when a lease of specific goods is combined with an obligation to provide or right to receive other property or services, the resulting right to payment will be chattel paper only if the goods aspect of the transaction predominates.

Example 11. Customer and Car Dealer enter into a transaction, evidenced by one or more records, pursuant to which, in exchange for a payment of $2,000 per month: (i) Customer is entitled to possession of a specific vehicle for 36 months; (ii) Car Dealer will provide round-the-clock monitoring of the vehicle's location and condition, and alert

authorities to provide road-side assistance in the event of a malfunction or accident; and (iii) Car Dealer will, from time to time, remotely update the vehicle's operating system. The value of the right to possess and use the vehicle is significantly greater than the value of the monitoring service and updates. Because the goods aspect of the transaction predominates, under paragraph (11)(B)(ii) Customer's monetary obligation, including the portion attributable to Car Dealer's obligation to provide monitoring and updates, constitutes chattel paper.

Example 12. Customer and Cableco enter into a transaction, evidenced by one or more records, pursuant to which, in exchange for a payment of $200 per month, Cableco will provide Customer with specified television programming and a device needed to access the programming (a "lease" of the device). If the components of the transaction were priced separately, the price for the programming would be substantially more than the price for possession and use of the device. Because the goods aspect of this transaction does not predominate, under paragraph (11)(B)(ii) Customer's monetary obligation does not constitute chattel paper.

The 2022 revision to the definition of chattel paper omits the references to "software used in the goods" and a "license of software used in the goods" as superfluous, inasmuch as there is no reason to single out software. Other types of property may secure an obligation or be included in a transaction involving a lease, as discussed above. See also Sections 2-102 (scope of Article 2); 2-106(5) (defining "hybrid transaction"); 2A-102 (scope of Article 2A); 2A-103(aa) (definition of "hybrid lease"). These references were omitted from the definition of chattel paper for clarification and did not result in any change in the scope of the definition.

The 2022 revision to the definition of "chattel paper" also changed the language from "a record or records that evidence a monetary obligation" to "a right to payment of a monetary obligation . . . evidenced by a record." This semantic change was for clarification purposes only; it does not imply a change in meaning. Chattel paper is and has always been a right to payment of a monetary obligation. Because the revised definition is based on the obligation, rather than the record, the definition no longer includes the following statement, which was included in the previous definition: "If a transaction is evidenced by records that include an instrument or series of instruments, the group of records taken together constitutes chattel paper." The omission of that statement also does not imply a change in meaning, except that writings evidencing chattel paper are excluded from the definition of "instrument" under Section 9-102(a)(47). Although the definition refers to "a record," chattel paper can be evidenced by one or more records because, under Section 1-106, unless the statutory context otherwise requires, words in the singular number include the plural.

Finally, the revised definition of "chattel paper" and the approach to perfection of a security interest by possession and control under Section 9-314A have eliminated the need to have separate definitions of "electronic chattel paper" and "tangible chattel paper" in Section 9-102. Consequently, those definitions have been deleted.

c. **"Instrument"; "Promissory Note."** The definition of "instrument" includes a negotiable instrument. As under pre-1998 Section 9-105, it also includes any other right to payment of a monetary obligation that is evidenced by a writing of a type that in ordinary course of business is transferred by delivery (and, if necessary, an indorsement or assignment). The 2022 revised definition of "instrument" explicitly excludes a writing that evidences a right to payment that is chattel paper. This revision clarifies and makes explicit the understanding before the revision that an obligation on an instrument that evidences chattel paper is to be treated (e.g., under Section 9-330) as an obligation on chattel paper and not on an instrument. With that exception, the fact that an instrument is secured by a security interest or encumbrance on property does not change the character of the instrument as such or convert the combination of the instrument and collateral into a separate classification of personal property. The definition also makes clear that rights to payment arising out of credit-card transactions are not instruments. The definition of "promissory note," added in the 1998 Revisions, was necessitated by the inclusion of sales of promissory notes within the scope of Article 9. It explicitly excludes obligations arising out of "orders" to pay (e.g., checks) as opposed to "promises" to pay. See Section 3-104. Under the 2022 Article 9 Revisions, Sections 9-406(d) and 9-408(g) adopt a modified meaning of "promissory note" as that term is used in Sections 9-406(d) and Sections 9-408(a) through (d). See Comment 5.h.; see also Sections 9-406, Comment 5; 9-408, Comment 11.

d. **"General Intangible"; "Payment Intangible."** "General intangible" is the residual category of personal property, including things in action, that is not included in the other defined types of collateral. Examples are various categories of intellectual property and the right to payment of a loan of funds that is not evidenced by chattel paper or an instrument. As used in the definition of "general intangible," "things in action" includes rights that arise under a license of intellectual property, including the right to exploit the intellectual property without liability for infringement. The definition was revised in 1998 to exclude commercial tort claims, deposit accounts, and letter-of-credit rights. Each of the three is a separate type of collateral. One important consequence of this exclusion is that tortfeasors (commercial tort claims), banks (deposit accounts), and persons obligated on letters of credit (letter-of-credit rights) are not "account debtors" having the rights and obligations set forth in Sections 9-404, 9-405, and 9-406. In particular, tortfeasors, banks, and persons obligated on letters of credit are not obligated to pay an assignee (secured party) upon receipt of the notification described in Section 9-404(a). See Comment 5.h. Another important consequence relates to the adequacy of the description in the security agreement. See Section 9-108.

"Payment intangible" is a subset of the definition of "general intangible" The sale of a payment intangible is subject to this Article. See Section 9-109(a)(3). Virtually any intangible right could give rise to a right to payment of money once one hypothesizes, for example, that the account debtor is in breach of its obligation. The term "payment intangible," however, embraces only those general intangibles "under which the account debtor’s principal obligation is a monetary obligation." (Emphasis added.) A debtor’s right to payment from another person of amounts received by the other person on the

debtor's behalf, including the right of a merchant in a credit-card, debit-card, prepaid-card, or other payment-card transaction to payment of amounts received by its bank from the card system in settlement of the transaction, is a "payment intangible." (In contrast, the right of a credit-card issuer to payment arising out of the use of a credit card is an "account.") If a bank is the obligor on a monetary obligation not evidenced by an instrument or chattel paper, the obligation or the right to payment of the obligation may be a deposit account, an account, a payment intangible, or another type of collateral depending on the facts and circumstances. Of course, the classification of a monetary obligation or a right to payment of the obligation for purposes of this Article would not necessarily affect the application of laws regulating, for example, banking, securities, commodities, money transmission, and taxation.

In classifying intangible collateral, a court should begin by identifying the particular rights that have been assigned. The account debtor (promisor) under a particular contract may owe several types of monetary obligations as well as other, nonmonetary obligations. If the promisee's right to payment of money is assigned separately, the right is an account or payment intangible, depending on how the account debtor's obligation arose. When all the promisee's rights are assigned together, an account, a payment intangible, and a general intangible all may be involved, depending on the nature of the rights.

A right to the payment of money is frequently buttressed by ancillary rights, such as rights arising from covenants in a purchase agreement, note, or mortgage requiring insurance on the collateral or forbidding removal of the collateral, rights arising from covenants to preserve the creditworthiness of the promisor, and the lessor's rights with respect to leased goods that arise upon the lessee's default (*see* Section 2A-523 [55-2A-523 NMSA 1978]). This Article does not treat these ancillary rights separately from the rights to payment to which they relate. For example, attachment and perfection of an assignment of a right to payment of a monetary obligation, whether it be an account or payment intangible, also carries these ancillary rights. Thus, an assignment of the lessor's right to payment under a lease also transfers the lessor's rights with respect to the leased goods under Section 2A-523. If, taken together, the lessor's rights to payment and with respect to the leased goods are evidenced by chattel paper, then, contrary to *In re Commercial Money Center, Inc.*, 350 B.R. 465 (Bankr. App. 9th Cir. 2006), an assignment of the lessor's right to payment constitutes an assignment of the chattel paper. Although an agreement excluding the lessor's rights with respect to the leased goods from an assignment of the lessor's right to payment may be effective between the parties, the agreement does not affect the characterization of the collateral to the prejudice of creditors of, and purchasers from, the assignor.

Every "payment intangible" is also a "general intangible." Likewise, "software" is a "general intangible" for purposes of this Article. *See* Comment 25. Accordingly, except as otherwise provided, statutory provisions applicable to general intangibles apply to payment intangibles and software.

d.1. **"Controllable Account"; "Controllable Payment Intangible."** Article 9 affords special treatment for security interests in controllable accounts and controllable payment intangibles, i.e., those accounts and payment intangibles that are evidenced by a controllable electronic record and as to which the account debtor (obligor) undertakes to pay the person having control of the controllable electronic record. Of course, a person would be an account debtor only if it were actually obligated on the account or payment intangible evidenced by the controllable electronic record. Although the definitions refer to a controllable electronic record that "provides" for an account debtor's undertaking, an account debtor's promise to pay normally would arise and be evidenced apart from the controllable electronic record itself. However, the definitions contemplate that a controllable electronic record evidencing an account or payment intangible (or an associated record) would indicate in some fashion an account debtor's obligation and that the controllable electronic record evidences the account or payment intangible. If a bank is the obligor on a monetary obligation payable to the person in control of a controllable electronic record, the obligation or the right to payment of the obligation may be a deposit account, a controllable account, a controllable payment intangible, or another type of collateral depending on the facts and circumstances. The classification of a monetary obligation or a right to payment of the obligation for purposes of this Article would not necessarily affect the application of laws regulating, for example, banking, securities, commodities, money transmission, and taxation.

An undertaking to pay the "person that has control" means an undertaking to pay the person that has control at the time payment is made. However, an undertaking to pay Smith, even though Smith happens to have control of the relevant controllable electronic record at the time the undertaking was made, is not an undertaking to pay the person that has control.

The special treatment for controllable accounts and controllable payment intangibles includes the following:

- Perfection of a security interest in a controllable account or controllable payment intangible can be achieved by filing a financing statement or by obtaining control of the controllable electronic record that evidences the controllable account or controllable payment intangible. Sections 9-312(a); 9-314(a); 9-107A(b).

- A security interest in a controllable electronic record, controllable account, or controllable payment intangible that is perfected by control has priority over a conflicting security interest that is perfected by another method. Section 9-326A.

- The benefit of the take-free and no-action rules for qualifying purchasers (including secured parties) of controllable electronic records also extends to qualifying purchasers of controllable accounts and controllable payment intangibles, whether or not the qualifying purchaser also purchases the related controllable electronic record. See Section 12-104(a) and Comments 5 through 8.

e. **"Letter-of-Credit Right."** The term "letter-of-credit right" embraces the rights to payment and performance under a letter of credit (defined in section 5-102). However, it does not include a beneficiary's right to demand payment or performance. Transfer of those rights to a transferee beneficiary is governed by article 5. *See* sections 9-107, comment 4, and 9-329, comments 3 and 4.

f. **"Supporting Obligation."** This new term covers the most common types of credit enhancements - suretyship obligations (including guarantees) and letter-of-credit rights that support one of the types of collateral specified in the definition. As explained in comment 2(a), suretyship law determines whether an obligation is "secondary" for purposes of this definition. Section 9-109 generally excludes from this article transfers of interests in insurance policies. However, the regulation of a secondary obligation as an insurance product does not necessarily mean that it is a "policy of insurance" for purposes of the exclusion in section 9-109. Thus, this article may cover a secondary obligation (as a supporting obligation), even if the obligation is issued by a regulated insurance company and the obligation is subject to regulation as an "insurance" product.

This article contains rules explicitly governing attachment, perfection, and priority of security interests in supporting obligations. *See* sections 9-203, 9-308, 9-310, and 9-322. These provisions reflect the principle that a supporting obligation is an incident of the collateral it supports.

Collections of or other distributions under a supporting obligation are "proceeds" of the supported collateral as well as "proceeds" of the supporting obligation itself. See section 9-102 (defining "proceeds") and comment 13(b). As such, the collections and distributions are subject to the priority rules applicable to proceeds generally. See ection 9-322. However, under the special rule governing security interests in a letter-of-credit right, a secured party's failure to obtain control (section 9-107) of a letter-of-credit right supporting collateral may leave its security interest exposed to a priming interest of a party who does take control. *See* Section 9-329 (security interest in a letter-of-credit right perfected by control has priority over a conflicting security interest).

g. **"Commercial Tort Claim."** A tort claim may serve as original collateral under this Article only if it is a "commercial tort claim." See Section 9-109(d). Although security interests in commercial tort claims are within its scope, this Article does not override other applicable law restricting the assignability of a tort claim. See Section 9-401. A security interest in a tort claim also may exist under this Article if the claim is proceeds of other collateral. See Section 9-204(b.1) and Comment 4A.

h. **"Account Debtor."** An "account debtor" is a person obligated on an account, chattel paper, or general intangible. The account debtor's obligation often is a monetary obligation; however, this is not always the case. For example, if a franchisee uses its rights under a franchise agreement (a general intangible) as collateral, then the franchisor is an "account debtor." As a general matter, Article 3, and not Article 9, governs obligations on negotiable instruments. Accordingly, the definition of "account

debtor" excludes obligors on negotiable instruments constituting part of chattel paper. The principal effect of this change from the definition in pre-1998 Article 9 is that the rules in Sections 9-403, 9-404, 9-405, and 9-406, dealing with the rights of an assignee and duties of an account debtor, do not apply to an assignment of chattel paper in which the obligation to pay is evidenced by a negotiable instrument. (Section 9-406(d), however, does apply to a negotiable instrument that is a "promissory note," as that term is used in the 2022 revision of subsection (d). See Comment 5.c.) Rather, the rights of an assignee of a negotiable instrument are governed by Article 3. Similarly, the duties of an obligor on a nonnegotiable instrument are governed by non-Article 9 law unless the nonnegotiable instrument is a part of chattel paper, in which case the obligor is an account debtor.

The definition of "account debtor" was revised in 2022 to add the modifier "negotiable" to the second reference to "instrument," making it clear that an obligor on a negotiable instrument is not an account debtor. This amendment (which is intended to clarify and not to change the meaning of the definition) is useful because the definition of "instrument" has been revised to exclude writings that evidence chattel paper. However, the definition of "negotiable instrument" in Section 1-201 continues to apply under Article 9. See Section 9-102(a)(47) and (b); Comment 5.c. Of course, a record or records evidencing chattel paper must evidence either a security agreement or lease agreement in addition to a right to payment of a monetary obligation.

i. **Receivables Under Government Entitlement Programs.** This article does not contain a defined term that encompasses specifically rights to payment or performance under the many and varied government entitlement programs. Depending on the nature of a right under a program, it could be an account, a payment intangible, a general intangible other than a payment intangible, or another type of collateral. The right also might be proceeds of collateral (*e.g.*, crops).

6. **Investment-Property-Related Definitions: "Commodity Account"; "Commodity Contract"; "Commodity Customer"; "Commodity Intermediary"; "Investment Property."** These definitions are substantially the same as the corresponding definitions in pre-1998 Section 9-115. "Investment property" includes securities, both certificated and uncertificated, securities accounts, security entitlements, commodity accounts, and commodity contracts. The term investment property includes a "securities account" in order to facilitate transactions in which a debtor wishes to create a security interest in all of the investment positions held through a particular account rather than in particular positions carried in the account. Pre-1998 Section 9-115 was added in conjunction with Revised Article 8 and contained a variety of rules applicable to security interests in investment property. The 1998 Revisions relocated these rules to the appropriate sections of Article 9. See, e.g., Sections 9-203 (attachment), 9-314 (perfection by control), 9-328 (priority).

The terms "security," "security entitlement," and related terms are defined in Section 8-102, and the term "securities account" is defined in Section 8-501. The terms "commodity account," "commodity contract," "commodity customer," and "commodity

intermediary" are defined in this section. Commodity contracts are not "securities" or "financial assets" under Article 8. See Section 8-103(f). Thus, the relationship between commodity intermediaries and commodity customers is not governed by the indirect-holding-system rules of Part 5 of Article 8. For securities, Article 9 contains rules on security interests, and Article 8 contains rules on the rights of transferees, including secured parties, on such matters as the rights of a transferee if the transfer was itself wrongful and gives rise to an adverse claim. For commodity contracts, Article 9 establishes rules on security interests, but questions relating to commodity contracts of the sort dealt with in Article 8 for securities are left to other law.

The indirect-holding-system rules of article 8 are sufficiently flexible to be applied to new developments in the securities and financial markets, where that is appropriate. Accordingly, the definition of "commodity contract" is narrowly drafted to ensure that it does not operate as an obstacle to the application of the article 8 indirect holding system rules to new products. The term "commodity contract" covers those contracts that are traded on or subject to the rules of a designated contract market and foreign commodity contracts that are carried on the books of American commodity intermediaries. The effect of this definition is that the category of commodity contracts that is excluded from article 8 but governed by article 9 is essentially the same as the category of contracts that falls within the exclusive regulatory jurisdiction of the federal Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Commodity contracts are different from securities or other financial assets. A person who enters into a commodity futures contract is not buying an asset having a certain value and holding it in anticipation of increase in value. Rather the person is entering into a contract to buy or sell a commodity at set price for delivery at a future time. That contract may become advantageous or disadvantageous as the price of the commodity fluctuates during the term of the contract. The rules of the commodity exchanges require that the contracts be marked to market on a daily basis; that is, the customer pays or receives any increment attributable to that day's price change. Because commodity customers may incur obligations on their contracts, they are required to provide collateral at the outset, known as "original margin," and may be required to provide additional amounts, known as "variation margin," during the term of the contract.

The most likely setting in which a person would want to take a security interest in a commodity contract is where a lender who is advancing funds to finance an inventory of a physical commodity requires the borrower to enter into a commodity contract as a hedge against the risk of decline in the value of the commodity. The lender will want to take a security interest in both the commodity itself and the hedging commodity contract. Typically, such arrangements are structured as security interests in the entire commodity account in which the borrower carries the hedging contracts, rather than in individual contracts.

One important effect of including commodity contracts and commodity accounts in article 9 is to provide a clearer legal structure for the analysis of the rights of commodity

clearing organizations against their participants and futures commission merchants against their customers. The rules and agreements of commodity clearing organizations generally provide that the clearing organization has the right to liquidate any participant's positions in order to satisfy obligations of the participant to the clearing corporation. Similarly, agreements between futures commission merchants and their customers generally provide that the futures commission merchant has the right to liquidate a customer's positions in order to satisfy obligations of the customer to the futures commission merchant.

The main property that a commodity intermediary holds as collateral for the obligations that the commodity customer may incur under its commodity contracts is not other commodity contracts carried by the customer but the other property that the customer has posted as margin. Typically, this property will be securities. The commodity intermediary's security interest in such securities is governed by the rules of this article on security interests in securities, not the rules on security interests in commodity contracts or commodity accounts.

Although there are significant analytic and regulatory differences between commodities and securities, the development of commodity contracts on financial products in the past few decades has resulted in a system in which the commodity markets and securities markets are closely linked. The rules on security interests in commodity contracts and commodity accounts provide a structure that may be essential in times of stress in the financial markets. Suppose, for example that a firm has a position in a securities market that is hedged by a position in a commodity market, so that payments that the firm is obligated to make with respect to the securities position will be covered by the receipt of funds from the commodity position. Depending upon the settlement cycles of the different markets, it is possible that the firm could find itself in a position where it is obligated to make the payment with respect to the securities position before it receives the matching funds from the commodity position. If cross-margining arrangements have not been developed between the two markets, the firm may need to borrow funds temporarily to make the earlier payment. The rules on security interests in investment property would facilitate the use of positions in one market as collateral for loans needed to cover obligations in the other market.

7. **Consumer-Related Definitions: "Consumer Debtor"; "Consumer Goods"; "Consumer-goods transaction"; "Consumer Obligor"; "Consumer Transaction."** The definition of "consumer goods" (discussed above) is substantially the same as the definition in pre-1998 Section 9-109. The 1998 Revisions added the definitions of "consumer debtor," "consumer obligor," "consumer-goods transaction," and "consumer transaction" in connection with various 1998 and pre-1998 consumer-related provisions and to designate certain provisions that are inapplicable in consumer transactions.

"Consumer-goods transaction" is a subset of "consumer transaction." Under each definition, both the obligation secured and the collateral must have a personal, family, or household purpose. However, "mixed" business and personal transactions also may be characterized as a consumer-goods transaction or consumer transaction. Subparagraph

(A) of the definition of consumer-goods transactions and clause (i) of the definition of consumer transaction are primary purposes tests. Under these tests, it is necessary to determine the primary purpose of the obligation or obligations secured. Subparagraph (B) and clause (iii) of these definitions are satisfied if any of the collateral is consumer goods, in the case of a consumer-goods transaction, or "is held or acquired primarily for personal, family, or household purposes," in the case of a consumer transaction. The fact that some of the obligations secured or some of the collateral for the obligation does not satisfy the tests (*e.g.*, some of the collateral is acquired for a business purpose) does not prevent a transaction from being a "consumer transaction" or "consumer-goods transaction."

8. **Filing-Related Definitions: "Continuation Statement"; "File Number"; "Filing Office"; "Filing-office Rule"; "Financing Statement"; "Fixture Filing"; "Manufactured-Home Transaction"; "New Debtor"; "Original Debtor"; "Public-Finance Transaction"; "Termination Statement"; "Transmitting Utility."** * * *

The definition of "transmitting utility" embraces the business of transmitting communications generally to take account of new and future types of communications technology. The term designates a special class of debtors for whom separate filing rules are provided in Part 5, thereby obviating the many local fixture filings that would be necessary under the rules of Section 9-501 for a far-flung public-utility debtor. A transmitting utility will not necessarily be regulated by or operating as such in a jurisdiction where fixtures are located. For example, a utility might own transmission lines in a jurisdiction, although the utility generates no power and has no customers in the jurisdiction. Of course, the definition applies only for purposes of this Article and not for purposes of any other law, regulation, or rule.

9. **Definitions Relating to Medium Neutrality.**

a. **"Record."** In general the term "record" replaces the term "writing" and "written." A "record" includes information that is in intangible form (e.g., electronically stored) as well as tangible form (e.g., written on paper). Section 9-102(a)(70).

Given the rapid development and commercial adoption of modern communication and storage technologies, requirements that documents or communications be "written," "in writing," or otherwise in tangible form do not necessarily reflect or aid commercial practices.

A "record" need not be permanent or indestructible, but the term does not include any oral or other communication that is not stored or preserved by any means. The information must be stored on paper or in some other medium. Information that has not been retained other than through human memory does not qualify as a record. Examples of modern technologies commercially used to communicate or store information include, but are not limited to, magnetic media, optical discs, digital voice messaging systems, electronic mail, audio tapes, and photographic media, as well as paper. "Record" is an inclusive term that includes all of these methods of storing or

communicating information. Any "writing" is a record. A record may be signed. See Comment 9.b. A record may be created without the knowledge or intent of a particular person.

Like the terms "written" or "in writing," the term "record" does not establish the purposes, permitted uses, or legal effect that a record may have under any particular provision of law. Whatever is filed in the article 9 filing system, including financing statements, continuation statements, and termination statements, whether transmitted in tangible or intangible form, would fall within the definition. However, in some instances, statutes or filing-office rules may require that a paper record be filed. In such cases, even if this article permits the filing of an electronic record, compliance with those statutes or rules is necessary. Similarly, a filer must comply with a statute or rule that requires a particular type of encoding or formatting for an electronic record.

This article sometimes uses the terms "for record," "of record," "record or legal title," and "record owner." Some of these are terms traditionally used in real property law. The definition of "record" in this article now explicitly excepts these usages from the defined term. Also, this article refers to a record that is filed or recorded in real property recording systems to record a mortgage as a "record of a mortgage." This usage recognizes that the defined term "mortgage" means an interest in real property; it does not mean the record that evidences, or is filed or recorded with respect to, the mortgage.

b. **"Sign"; "Communicate"; "Send."** The defined term "authenticate" has been deleted in the 2022 Article 9 Revisions. That term and "authenticated" were generally used in Article 9 instead of "sign" and "signed." However, the 2022 revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201 encompasses authentication of all records, not just writings. Accordingly, "sign" and "signed" are now used in Article 9. (References to signing of, e.g., an agreement, demand, or notification mean, of course, signing of a record containing an agreement, demand, or notification.) The terms "communicate" and "send" also contemplate the possibility of communication by nonwritten media. These definitions include the act of transmitting both tangible and intangible records. The 2022 Amendments deleted the definition of "send" in this section and added a corresponding definition to Section 1-201, replacing the pre-2022 definition in that section.

10. **Scope-Related Definitions.**

a. **Expanded Scope of Article: "Agricultural Lien"; "Consignment"; "Payment Intangible"; "Promissory Note."** These definitions reflect the expanded scope of 1998 Article 9, as provided in Section 9-109(a).

b. **Reduced Scope of Exclusions: "Governmental Unit"; "Health-Care-Insurance Receivable"; "Commercial Tort Claims."** These definitions reflect the reduced scope of the 1998 exclusions, provided in Section 9-109(c) and (d), of transfers by governmental debtors and assignments of interests in insurance policies and commercial tort claims.

11. **Choice-of-Law-Related Definitions: "Certificate of Title"; "Governmental Unit"; "Jurisdiction of Organization"; "Public Organic Record;" "Registered Organization"; "State."** These definitions reflect the changes in the law governing perfection and priority of security interests and agricultural liens provided in Part 3, Subpart 1 of the 1998 Revisions.

Statutes often require applicants for a certificate of title to identify all security interests on the application and require the issuing agency to indicate the identified security interests on the certificate. Some of these statutes provide that priority over the rights of a lien creditor (*i.e.*, perfection of a security interest) in goods covered by the certificate occurs upon indication of the security interest on the certificate; that is, they provide for the indication of the security interest on the certificate as a "condition" of perfection. Other statutes contemplate that perfection is achieved upon the occurrence of another act, *e.g.*, delivery of the application to the issuing agency, that "results" in the indication of the security interest on the certificate. A certificate governed by either type of statute can qualify as a "certificate of title" under this Article. The statute providing for the indication of a security interest need not expressly state the connection between the indication and perfection. For example, a certificate issued pursuant to a statute that requires applicants to identify security interests, requires the issuing agency to indicate the identified security interests on the certificate, but is silent concerning the legal consequences of the indication would be a "certificate of title" if, under a judicial interpretation of the statute, perfection of a security interest is a legal consequence of the indication. Likewise, a certificate would be a "certificate of title" if another statute provides, expressly or as interpreted, the requisite connection between the indication and perfection.

The first sentence of the definition of "certificate of title" includes certificates consisting of tangible records, of electronic records, and of combinations of tangible and electronic records.

In many States, a certificate of title covering goods that are encumbered by a security interest is delivered to the secured party by the issuing authority. To eliminate the need for the issuance of a paper certificate under these circumstances, several States have revised their certificate-of-title statutes to permit or require a State agency to maintain an electronic record that evidences ownership of the goods and in which a security interest in the goods may be noted. The second sentence of the definition provides that such a record is a "certificate of title" if it is in fact maintained as an alternative to the issuance of a paper certificate of title, regardless of whether the certificate-of-title statute provides that the record is a certificate of title and even if the statute does not expressly state that the record is maintained instead of issuing a paper certificate.

Not every organization that may provide information about itself in the public records is a "registered organization." For example, a general partnership is not a "registered organization," even if it files a statement of partnership authority under Section 303 of the Uniform Partnership Act (1994) or an assumed name ("dba") certificate. This is because such a partnership is not formed or organized by the filing of a record with, or

the issuance of a record by, a State or the United States. In contrast, corporations, limited liability companies, and limited partnerships ordinarily are "registered organizations."

Not every record concerning a registered organization that is filed with, or issued by, a State or the United States is a "public organic record." For example, a certificate of good standing issued with respect to a corporation or a published index of domestic corporations would not be a "public organic record" because its issuance or publication does not form or organize the corporations named.

When collateral is held in a trust, one must look to non-UCC law to determine whether the trust is a "registered organization." Non-UCC law typically distinguishes between statutory trusts and common-law trusts. A statutory trust is formed by the filing of a record, commonly referred to as a certificate of trust, in a public office pursuant to a statute. *See, e.g.*, Uniform Statutory Trust Entity Act § 201 (2009); Delaware Statutory Trust Act, Del. Code Ann. tit. 12, § 3801 et seq. A statutory trust is a juridical entity, separate from its trustee and beneficial owners, that may sue and be sued, own property, and transact business in its own name. Inasmuch as a statutory trust is a "legal or commercial entity," it qualifies as a "person other than an individual," and therefore as an "organization," under Section 1-201 [55-1-201 NMSA 1978]. A statutory trust that is formed by the filing of a record in a public office is a "registered organization," and the filed record is a "public organic record" of the statutory trust, if the filed record is available to the public for inspection. (The requirement that a record be "available to the public for inspection" is satisfied if a copy of the relevant record is available for public inspection.)

Unlike a statutory trust, a common-law trust—whether its purpose is donative or commercial—arises from private action without the filing of a record in a public office. *See* Uniform Trust Code § 401 (2000); Restatement (Third) of Trusts § 10 (2003). Moreover, under traditional law, a common-law trust is not itself a juridical entity and therefore must sue and be sued, own property, and transact business in the name of the trustee acting in the capacity of trustee. A common-law trust that is a "business trust," i.e., that has a business or commercial purpose, is an "organization" under Section 1-201 [55-1-201 NMSA 1978]. However, such a trust would not be a "registered organization" if, as is typically the case, the filing of a public record is not needed to form it.

In some states, however, the trustee of a common-law trust that has a commercial or business purpose is required by statute to file a record in a public office following the trust's formation. *See, e.g.*, Mass. Gen. Laws Ch. 182, § 2; Fla. Stat. Ann. § 609.02. A business trust that is required to file its organic record in a public office is a "registered organization" under the second sentence of the definition if the filed record is available to the public for inspection. Any organic record required to be filed, and filed, with respect to a common-law business trust after the trust is formed is a "public organic record" of the trust. Some statutes require a trust or other organization to file, after formation or organization, a record other than an organic record. *See, e.g.*, N.Y. Gen

Assn's Law § 18 (requiring associations doing business within New York to file a certificate designating the secretary of state as an agent upon whom process may be served). This requirement does not render the organization a "registered organization" under the second sentence of the definition, and the record is not a "public organic record."

12. **Deposit-Account-Related Definitions: "Deposit Account"; "Bank."** The 1998 revised definition of "deposit account" incorporates the definition of "bank," which is new. The new definition derives from the definitions of "bank" in Sections 4-105(1) and 4A-105(a)(2), which focus on whether the organization is "engaged in the business of banking."

Deposit accounts evidenced by Article 9 "instruments" are excluded from the term "deposit account." In contrast, pre-1998 Section 9-105 excluded from the definition "an account evidenced by a certificate of deposit." The revised definition clarifies the proper treatment of nonnegotiable or uncertificated certificates of deposit. Under the definition, an uncertificated certificate of deposit would be a deposit account (assuming there is no writing evidencing the bank's obligation to pay) whereas a nonnegotiable certificate of deposit would be a deposit account only if it is not an "instrument" as defined in this section (a question that turns on whether the nonnegotiable certificate of deposit is "of a type that in ordinary course of business is transferred by delivery with any necessary indorsement or assignment.")

A deposit account evidenced by an instrument is subject to the rules applicable to instruments generally. As a consequence, a security interest in such an instrument cannot be perfected by "control" (see Section 9-104), and the special priority rules applicable to deposit accounts (see Sections 9-327 and 9-340) do not apply. If a bank is the obligor on a monetary obligation not evidenced by an instrument or chattel paper, the obligation or the right to payment of the obligation may be a deposit account, an account, a payment intangible, or another type of collateral depending on the facts and circumstances. Of course, the classification of a monetary obligation or a right to payment of the obligation for purposes of this Article would not necessarily affect the application of laws regulating, for example, banking, securities, commodities, money transmission, and taxation.

The term "deposit account" does not include "investment property," such as securities and security entitlements. Thus, the term also does not include shares in a money-market mutual fund, even if the shares are redeemable by check.

12A. **Money-Related Definitions and Terms: "Money"; "Electronic Money"; "Tangible Money"; "Funds"; "Monetary Obligation."** The Article 9 definition of "money" in subsection (a)(54A), added by the 2022 Article 9 Revisions, is a subset of the definition of "money" as defined in Section 1-201(b)(24). It follows that cryptocurrencies, such as bitcoin, that are not "money" as defined in Section 1-201 because they were in existence and used before adoption by a government, also are not Article 9 money. An obligation to pay in such cryptocurrencies would not be an

account, chattel paper, or a payment intangible or an obligation on an instrument because the obligation would not be a "monetary obligation" or an obligation to pay money. One purpose of the Article 9 definition is to ensure that even if some deposit accounts were to become "money" as defined in Article 1, the provisions relating to perfection and priority for security interests in deposit accounts, and not those for money, will apply to that collateral. Some countries may authorize or adopt deposit accounts with a central bank as a form of "money." See Section 9-101, Comment 4.c. However, the Article 9 provisions governing "deposit accounts" would remain suitable for such accounts with a central bank, even if a government has adopted these accounts as money. The 2022 Article 9 Revisions leave Article 9's treatment of deposit accounts largely unchanged. However, for purposes of Article 9 and in the interest of clarity, the definition of "money" in Section 9-102(a)(31A) excludes deposit accounts. Under this definition, deposit accounts would not be money for Article 9 purposes even if they were to become money under the Article 1 definition. Another purpose of the Article 9 definition of "money" is to exclude from that definition money (as defined in Section 1-201(b)(24)) in an electronic form that cannot be subjected to control under Section 9-105A. Such property would be a general intangible, governed by the perfection and priority rules for that type of collateral.

Some countries may authorize or adopt intangible tokens as a medium of exchange that would be "money" as defined in both Article 1 and Article 9. See Section 9-101, Comment 4.c. Such intangible tokens would be "electronic money," as defined in Section 9-102(a)(31A). A security interest in electronic money as original collateral can be perfected only by control. Sections 9-312(b)(4); 9-314; 9-105A. The requirements for obtaining control of electronic money are essentially the same as those for obtaining control of a controllable electronic record under Article 12. Sections 9-105A; 12-105. The definition of "tangible money" in Section 9-102(a)(79A) uses the word "tangible" with its normal meaning (as something that has physical or corporeal existence, such as goods).

"Monetary obligation" as used in the Uniform Commercial Code (including in Article 9) is not a defined term. The term contemplates an obligation to pay "money" as defined in Section 1-201(b)(24). Consequently, for example, a right to payment of money in an electronic form that cannot be subjected to control, excluded from the Article 9 definition of "money" in subsection (a)(54A), would be a monetary obligation. It follows that such a right to payment could be an account, chattel paper, a payment intangible, or an instrument—including a negotiable instrument, which is defined to include a promise to pay "money" as the term is defined in Section 1-201. See Section 3-104(a) (defining "negotiable instrument"). Also, the term "funds" (like "monetary obligation," an undefined term), as used in the Uniform Commercial Code includes a right to payment of money as defined in Section 1-201(b)(24). As mentioned above, because cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin are not "money" as defined in Section 1-201 (unless they were not in existence and used before adoption by a government), a cryptocurrency or an obligation to pay in cryptocurrency would not be a "monetary obligation" or "funds."

13. **Proceeds-Related Definitions: "Cash Proceeds"; "Noncash Proceeds"; "Proceeds."** The revised definition of "proceeds" expanded the definition beyond that contained in pre-1998 Section 9-306 and resolves ambiguities in the former definition.

a. **Distributions on Account of Collateral.** The phrase "whatever is collected on, or distributed on account of, collateral," in subparagraph (B), is broad enough to cover cash or stock dividends distributed on account of securities or other investment property that is original collateral. Compare pre-1998 Section 9-306 ("Any payments or distributions made with respect to investment property collateral are proceeds."). This section rejects the holding of Hastie v. FDIC, 2 F.3d 1042 (10th Cir. 1993) (postpetition cash dividends on stock subject to a prepetition pledge are not "proceeds" under Bankruptcy Code Section 552(b)), to the extent the holding relies on the Article 9 definition of "proceeds."

b. **Distributions on Account of Supporting Obligations.** Under subparagraph (B), collections on and distributions on account of collateral consisting of various credit-support arrangements ("supporting obligations," as defined in Section 9-102) also are proceeds. Consequently, they are afforded treatment identical to proceeds collected from or distributed by the obligor on the underlying (supported) right to payment or other collateral. Proceeds of supporting obligations also are proceeds of the underlying rights to payment or other collateral.

c. **Proceeds of Proceeds.** The definition of "proceeds" no longer provides that proceeds of proceeds are themselves proceeds. That idea is expressed in the revised definition of "collateral" in section 9-102. No change in meaning is intended.

d. **Proceeds Received by Person Who Did Not Create Security Interest.** When collateral is sold subject to a security interest and the buyer then resells the collateral, a question arose under pre-1998 Article 9 concerning whether the "debtor" had "received" what the buyer received on resale and, therefore, whether those receipts were "proceeds" under pre-1998 Section 9-306(2). This Article contains no requirement that property be "received" by the debtor for the property to qualify as proceeds. It is necessary only that the property be traceable, directly or indirectly, to the original collateral.

e. **Cash Proceeds and Noncash Proceeds.** The definition of "cash proceeds" is substantially the same as the corresponding definition in pre-1998 Section 9-306. The phrase "and the like" covers property that is functionally equivalent to "money, checks, or deposit accounts," such as some money-market accounts that are securities or part of securities entitlements. Proceeds other than cash proceeds are noncash proceeds.

f. **Forks and Airdrops for Controllable Electronic Records.** Sometimes there occurs a change in the software (code) of a system (sometimes referred to as a "protocol" or "platform") in which a controllable electronic record is recorded. When such a change occurs in a blockchain platform, the blockchain may remain intact, no new blockchain may result, and the change sometimes is colloquially referred to as a "soft

fork." If, instead, such a change results in a new, separate blockchain that exists alongside the original blockchain and a new controllable electronic record is created, the change is sometimes referred to as a "hard fork." But the terms "fork," "soft fork," and "hard fork" are ambiguous and not used consistently. Even in a hard fork situation the pre-fork controllable electronic record typically would remain intact (although its value might be affected). A person in control of the original record may not automatically obtain control of a new record. Additional steps may be required for the person in control of the original record to obtain control of the new record.

Depending on the nature and structure of the fork, a new controllable electronic record arising under a hard fork may be property "distributed on account of" the original record or "rights arising out of" the original record, thereby constituting proceeds of the original record under subparagraph (B) or (C), or both, of the definition of "proceeds." If the new record is identifiable "proceeds," then the rules on attachment, perfection, priority under Sections 9-203(f), 9-315, and 9-322 would apply. If a security interest in the original record is perfected by control, the creation of the new record in connection with a hard fork typically results in the secured party obtaining control (or having the opportunity to obtain control) of the new record. If that is not the case and perfection of the security interest in the original record is only by control, however, then perfection would continue in the new record only until the 21st day after the security interest attaches to the new record, unless one of the exceptions under subsection (d) applies. Section 9-315(c), (d). For this reason, a secured party may wish also to perfect its security interest by filing so that the perfection would continue thereafter in any proceeds under Section 9-315(d)(1). A secured party that does so may, to ensure the priority of its perfected security interest, also wish to consider obtaining a release or subordination from any earlier filed secured party whose financing statement covers the same type of property. Even if that is achieved, a security interest in the record that is perfected by control (even if control is later obtained) would have priority over a security interest perfected only by filing. Section 9-326A.

New controllable electronic records also may be provided to persons in control of existing records by way of an "airdrop" that does not involve a fork in an existing blockchain. Depending on the circumstances, these new records may or may not be proceeds of the existing, original record.

If the original record were a financial asset credited to a securities account, the new record might become proceeds of a security entitlement for the reasons described above. Concerning the duties, if any, of a securities intermediary with respect to such a distribution, *see* Section 8-505, Comment 4.

This discussion focuses on forks and airdrops related to controllable electronic records in the context of blockchain technology, the prevailing relevant technology in 2022. In determining whether property may be proceeds of collateral in the contexts of other and future technologies, the principles and policies reflected in this discussion should be considered.

14. **Consignment-Related Definitions: "Consignee"; "Consignment"; "Consignor."** The definition of "consignment," added by the 1998 Revisions, excludes, in subparagraphs (B) and (C), transactions for which filing would be inappropriate or of insufficient benefit to justify the costs. A consignment excluded from the application of this Article by one of those subparagraphs may still be a true consignment; however, it is governed by non-Article 9 law. The definition also excludes, in subparagraph (D), what have been called "consignments intended for security." These "consignments" are not bailments but secured transactions. Accordingly, all of Article 9 applies to them. *See* Sections 1-201(b)(35), 9-109(a)(1). The "consignor" is the person who delivers goods to the "consignee" in a consignment.

Under clause (iii) of subparagraph (A), a transaction is not an Article 9 "consignment" if the consignee is "generally known by its creditors to be substantially engaged in selling the goods of others." Clause (iii) does not apply solely because a particular competing claimant knows that the goods are held on consignment. *See* PEB Commentary No. 20.

15. **"Accounting."** This definition describes the record and information that a debtor is entitled to request under Section 9-210. Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate term "signed" replaces the reference to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this definition.

16. **"Document."** The definition of "document" incorporates both tangible and electronic documents of title. *See* Section 1-201(b)(16) [55-1-201(b) NMSA 1978] and Comment 16.

17. **"Encumbrance"; "Mortgage."** The definitions of "encumbrance" and "mortgage" are unchanged in substance from the corresponding definitions in pre-1998 Section 9-105. They are used primarily in the special real-property-related priority and other provisions relating to crops, fixtures, and accessions.

18. **"Fixtures."** This definition is unchanged in substance from the corresponding definition in pre-1998 Section 9-313. See Section 9-334 (priority of security interests in fixtures and crops).

19. **"Good Faith."** The definition of "good faith" added by the 1998 Revisions, which incorporated the concept of "reasonable commercial standards of fair dealing," was deleted by the conforming amendments to the 2001 revision of Article 1. The definition is unnecessary given the revised definition in Section 1-201(b)(20).

20. **"Lien Creditor."** This definition is unchanged in substance from the corresponding definition in pre-1998 Section 9-301.

21. **"New Value."** The 1998 Revisions deleted pre-1998 Section 9-108. Its broad formulation of new value, which embraced the taking of after-acquired collateral for a pre-existing claim, was unnecessary, counterintuitive, and ineffective for its original purpose of sheltering after-acquired collateral from attack as a voidable preference in

bankruptcy. The new definition of "new value" derives from Bankruptcy Code Section 547(a). The term is used with respect to temporary perfection of security interests in instruments, certificated securities, or negotiable documents under Section 9-312(e) and with respect to chattel paper priority in Section 9-330.

22. **"Person Related To."** Section 9-615 provides a special method for calculating a deficiency or surplus when "the secured party, a person related to the secured party, or a secondary obligor" acquires the collateral at a foreclosure disposition. Separate definitions of the term are provided with respect to an individual secured party and with respect to a secured party that is an organization. The definitions are patterned on the corresponding definition in section 1.301(32) of the Uniform Consumer Credit Code (1974).

23. **"Proposal."** This definition describes a record that is sufficient to propose to retain collateral in full or partial satisfaction of a secured obligation. *See* Sections 9-620, 9-621, 9-622. Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the 2022 revision of the definition adopts the cognate term "signed" to replace the term "authenticated" used in the pre-2022 text.

24. **"Pursuant to Commitment."** This definition is unchanged in substance from the corresponding definition in pre-1998 Section 9-105. It is used in connection with special priority rules applicable to future advances. *See* Section 9-323.

25. **"Software."** The definition of "software" is used in connection with the priority rules applicable to purchase-money security interests. *See* Sections 9-103 and 9-324. Software, like a payment intangible, is a type of general intangible for purposes of this article. *See* comment 4.a., above, regarding the distinction between "goods" and "software."

ANNOTATIONS

Cross references. — For Farm Products Secured Interest Act, *see* Chapter 56, Article 13 NMSA 1978.

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 2 repealed former 55-9-102 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1985, ch. 193, § 6, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, defined "assignee," "assignor," "controllable account," "controllable payment intangible," "electronic money," "money," and "tangible money", revised the definitions of "account," "account debtor," "accounting," "chattel paper," "general tangible," "instrument," "payment intangible," "proposal," and "control", removed the definitions of "authenticate," "electronic chattel paper," "good faith," "send," and "tangible chattel paper", and provided exceptions to the definition of "account"; in Paragraph (a)(2), in the introductory clause, after "'account for'", added "'account statement', 'account to', 'commodity account' in Paragraph (14) of

this subsection, 'customer's account', 'deposit account' in Paragraph (29) of this subsection, 'on account of' and 'statement of account'"; in Subparagraph (a)(2)(C), in Item (i), deleted "rights to payment evidenced by", and after "chattel paper", deleted "or an instrument", and added Item (viii); in Paragraph (a)(3), added "negotiable" preceding "instrument" and after "instrument", deleted "constitutes part of" and added "evidence"; in Subparagraph (a)(4)(A), deleted "authenticated" preceding "signed"; deleted Paragraph (a)(7), which defined "authenticate"; added Paragraphs (a)(7A) and (7B); in Paragraph (a)(11), deleted "a record or records that evidence both a monetary obligation and a security interest in specific goods, a security interest in specific goods and software used in the goods, a security interest in specific goods and license of software used in the goods, a lease of specific goods or a lease of specific goods and license of software used in the goods. In this paragraph, 'monetary obligation' means a monetary obligation secured by the goods or owed under a lease of the goods and includes a monetary obligation with respect to software used in the goods. The term does not include"; deleted former Subparagraphs (a)(11)(A) and (B) and added new Subparagraphs (a)(11)(A) and (B); added Paragraphs (a)(27)(A) and (B); in Paragraph (a)(31), deleted "'electronic chattel paper' means chattel paper evidenced by a record or records consisting of information stored in an electronic medium" and added "[Reserved]"; added Paragraph (a)(31A); in Paragraph (a)(43), deleted "'good faith' means honesty in fact and the observance of reasonable commercial standards of fair dealing" and added "[Reserved]"; added Subparagraph (a)(47)(D); added Paragraph (a)(54A); in Paragraph (a)(61), added "The term includes a controllable payment intangible"; in Paragraph (a)(66), after "record", deleted "authenticated"; in Paragraph (a)(75), deleted "'send', in connection with a record or notification, means", and deleted Subparagraphs (a)(75)(A) and (B) and added "[Reserved]"; in Paragraph (a)(79), deleted "'tangible chattel paper' means chattel paper evidenced by a record or records consisting of information that is inscribed on a tangible medium" and added "[Reserved]"; and added Paragraph (a)(79)(A); and in Subsection (b), "Section 55-2-106 NMSA 1978", added "'controllable electronic record' . . . Section 55-12-102 NMSA 1978", after "Section 55-5-114 NMSA 1978", added "'protected purchaser' . . Section 55-8-303 NMSA 1978", and after "Section 55-3-103 NMSA 1978", added "'qualifying purchaser' Section 55-12-102 NMSA 1978".

The 2021 amendment, effective June 18, 2021, defined "good faith" and "public-finance transaction" for purposes of Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, and removed a reference to an article of law related to principles of construction and interpretation of statutes; in Subsection (a)(43)", added "'good faith' means honesty in fact and the observance of reasonable commercial standards of fair dealing", and added Paragraph (a)(67) and redesignated the succeeding paragraphs accordingly; and in Subsection (c), deleted "Chapter 12, Article 2A and".

The 2013 amendment, effective July 1, 2013, amended and added definitions; in Subparagraph (B) of Paragraph (7) of Subsection (a), deleted "execute or otherwise adopt a symbol, or enerypt or similarly process a record in whole or in part, with the present intent of the authenticating person to identify the person and adopt or accept a record" and added the remainder of the sentence; in Paragraph (10) of Subsection (a),

added the second sentence; added Paragraph (67) of Subsection (a); and in Paragraph (70) of Subsection (a), after "organization", added "formed or" and after "United States", deleted "and as to which the state or the United States must maintain a public record showing the organization to have been organized" and added the remainder of the sentence and the second sentence.

The 2005 amendment, effective January 1, 2006, defines an "agricultural lien" in Subsection (a)(5) to mean an interest in farm products; adds the phrase "or to be provided" at the end of Subsection (a)(46); deletes the definition of "good faith" in Subsection (a)(49); deletes the definition of "public-finance transaction" in former Subsection (a)(67); defines "control" to include the meaning of "control" as provide Section 55-7-106 NMSA 1978 in Subsection (b); and defines "issuer" with respect to document of title by reference to Section 55-7-102 NMSA 1978.

Temporary provision. — Laws 2005, ch. 144, § 112, adds a temporary provision which provides that Paragraph 5 and 46 of Subsection A of Section 55-9-102 and Section 55-9-304 NMSA 1978 as amended by Sections 94 and 99 of this act shall be construed as declaring the law as it existed prior to the enactment of this act and not as modifying it.

Decisions under former 55-9-105, 55-9-106, 55-9-109, 55-9-112, 55-9-115 and 55-9-301 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Sections 55-9-105, 55-9-106, 55-9-109, 55-9-112, 55-9-115 and 55-9-301 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-105, 55-9-106, 55-9-109, 55-9-112, 55-9-115 and 55-9-301 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Agricultural mortgagees retain special position. — By excluding "farm products" from the classifications of "equipment" and "inventory," in this section and by expressly providing in Section 55-9-307 NMSA 1978 (now Section 55-9-320 NMSA 1978) that a buyer in the ordinary course of business of farm products from a person engaged in farming operations does not take free of a security interest created by the seller, the draftsmen of the code apparently intended to retain the agricultural mortgagee in the special position he achieved under the pre-code case law. *Clovis Nat'l Bank v. Thomas*, 1967-NMSC-061, 77 N.M. 554, 425 P.2d 726 (decided under former law).

Capital retains are a general intangible and not an account because no "right to payment" exists; thus capital retains are property in which a debtor can grant a security interest. *Valley Fed. Sav. Bank v. Stahl*, 1990-NMSC-060, 110 N.M. 169, 793 P.2d 851 (decided under former law).

"Chattel mortgage" meets the definition of "security agreement" under this section. *Strevell-Paterson Fin. Co. v. May*, 1967-NMSC-004, 77 N.M. 331, 422 P.2d 366 (decided under former law).

Equipment goods. — Chapter 11 debtor's rose bushes used to produce successive crops of cut flowers periodically harvested over a life expectancy period of over seven to eight years, not being reaped as an entire crop plant; portable, prefabricated office

building the size of a double wide mobile home; and "miscellaneous" computer system used in the standard operation of the floriculturist's business, were all considered equipment goods within the meaning of Subsection (2) (now Paragraph (a)(33)), with secured creditor's interest perfected in all but the rose bushes, since these became affixed to the realty by virtue of their root system (55-9-313 NMSA 1978, now 55-9-334 NMSA 1978), and accordingly required a filing (see 55-9-401 NMSA 1978, now 55-9-501 NMSA 1978 et seq.) which plaintiff failed to execute. *Flores De N.M., Inc. v. Banda Negra Int'l, Inc.*, 151 B.R. 571 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1993) (decided under former law).

"Inventory". — The definition of inventory anticipates that the inventory will change from day to day in the normal operation of a business such as a retail store. *Kuemmerle v. United N.M. Bank*, 1992-NMSC-028, 113 N.M. 677, 831 P.2d 976 (decided under former law).

Mortgage serving as security interest. — Although a mortgage, without more, is not sufficient to automatically attach to the proceeds of a separate real estate contract, when a contract vendor offered his interest in the property as security for a loan the mortgage served as a security interest and was perfected upon filing with the county clerk's office where the property was located. *Finch v. Beneficial N.M., Inc.*, 1995-NMSC-068, 120 N.M. 658, 905 P.2d 198 (decided under former law).

"General intangibles ". — Real estate contract assignments from a debtor to a bank are "general intangibles " under this section and are perfected by filing. *Simpson v. First Nat'l Bank*, 56 B.R. 586 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1986) (decided under former law).

Remedies are accessible to all secured parties including pawnbrokers dealing in Indian pawn with Indian debtors, and they may avail themselves of the remedies provided by Subsection (2) of 55-9-505 NMSA 1978 (now 55-9-620 NMSA 1978). *Begay v. Foutz & Tanner, Inc.*, 1979-NMCA-136, 95 N.M. 106, 619 P.2d 551, *rev'd on other grounds sub nom. Reeves v. Foutz & Tanner, Inc.*, 1980-NMSC-095, 94 N.M. 760, 617 P.2d 149 (decided under former law).

Law reviews. — For comment on Graham v. Stoneham, 73 N.M. 382, 388 P.2d 389 (1963), see 4 Nat. Resources J. 175 (1964).

For note, "Fixtures, Security Interests and Filing: Problems of Title Examination in New Mexico," see 8 Nat. Resources J. 513 (1968).

For article, "The Warehouseman vs. the Secured Party: Who Prevails When the Warehouseman's Lien Covers Goods Subject to a Security Interest?" see 8 Nat. Resources J. 331 (1968).

For comment on Clovis Nat'l Bank v. Thomas, 77 N.M. 554, 425 P.2d 726 (1967), see 8 Nat. Resources J. 183 (1968).

For comment on Strevell-Paterson Fin. Co. v. May, 77 N.M. 331, 422 P.2d 366 (1967), see 8 Nat. Resources J. 713 (1968).

For comment, "New Mexico's Uniform Commercial Code in Oil and Gas Transactions," see 10 Nat. Resources J. 361 (1970).

For article, "Buyers and Sellers of Goods in Bankruptcy," see 1 N.M. L. Rev. 435 (1971).

For note, "Self-Help Repossession Under the Uniform Commercial Code: The Constitutionality of Article 9, Section 503," see 4 N.M. L. Rev. 75 (1973).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 31 et seq.

Chattel mortgage on fruit crops growing or to be grown, 54 A.L.R. 1532.

Construction and application of statutory provision respecting registration of mortgages or other liens on personal property in case of residents of other states, 10 A.L.R.2d 764.

Conflict of laws as to chattel mortgages and conditional sales of chattels, 13 A.L.R.2d 1312.

What constitutes "accounts receivable " under contract selling, assigning, pledging or reserving such items, 41 A.L.R.2d 1395.

Validity of chattel mortgage on stock of goods which mortgagor has right to sell, where mortgagee takes possession of goods before third person's rights attach, 71 A.L.R.2d 1416.

Effect of U.C.C. Article 9 upon conflict, as to funds in debtor's bank account, between secured creditor and bank claiming right of setoff, 3 A.L.R.4th 998.

Conveyance of land as including mature but unharvested crops, 51 A.L.R.4th 1263.

Security interests in liquor licenses, 56 A.L.R.4th 1131.

55-9-103. Purchase-money security interest; application of payments; burden of establishing.

(a) In this section:

(1) "purchase-money collateral" means goods or software that secures a purchase-money obligation incurred with respect to that collateral; and

(2) "purchase-money obligation" means an obligation of an obligor incurred as all or part of the price of the collateral or for value given to enable the debtor to acquire rights in or the use of the collateral if the value is in fact so used.

(b) A security interest in goods is a purchase-money security interest:

(1) to the extent that the goods are purchase-money collateral with respect to that security interest;

(2) if the security interest is in inventory that is or was purchase-money collateral, and to the extent that the security interest secures a purchase-money obligation incurred with respect to other inventory in which the secured party holds or held a purchase-money security interest; and

(3) to the extent that the security interest secures a purchase-money obligation incurred with respect to software in which the secured party holds or held a purchase-money security interest.

(c) A security interest in software is a purchase-money security interest to the extent that the security interest also secures a purchase-money obligation incurred with respect to goods in which the secured party holds or held a purchase-money security interest if:

(1) the debtor acquired its interest in the software in an integrated transaction in which it acquired an interest in the goods; and

(2) the debtor acquired its interest in the software for the principal purpose of using the software in the goods.

(d) The security interest of a consignor in goods that are the subject of a consignment is a purchase-money security interest in inventory.

(e) In a transaction other than a consumer-goods transaction, if the extent to which a security interest is a purchase-money security interest depends on the application of a payment to a particular obligation, the payment must be applied:

(1) in accordance with any reasonable method of application to which the parties agree;

(2) in the absence of the parties' agreement to a reasonable method, in accordance with any intention of the obligor manifested at or before the time of payment; or

(3) in the absence of an agreement to a reasonable method and a timely manifestation of the obligor's intention, in the following order:

(A) to obligations that are not secured; and

(B) if more than one obligation is secured, to obligations secured by purchase-money security interests in the order in which those obligations were incurred.

(f) In a transaction other than a consumer-goods transaction, a purchase-money security interest does not lose its status as such, even if:

(1) the purchase-money collateral also secures an obligation that is not a purchase-money obligation;

(2) collateral that is not purchase-money collateral also secures the purchase-money obligation; or

(3) the purchase-money obligation has been renewed, refinanced, consolidated or restructured.

(g) In a transaction other than a consumer-goods transaction, a secured party claiming a purchase-money security interest has the burden of establishing the extent to which the security interest is a purchase-money security interest.

(h) The limitation of the rules in Subsections (e), (f) and (g) of this section to transactions other than consumer-goods transactions is intended to leave to the court the determination of the proper rules in consumer-goods transactions. The court may not infer from that limitation the nature of the proper rule in consumer-goods transactions and may continue to apply established approaches.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-103, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 3.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS

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1. Source. Former section 9-107.

2. Scope of This Section. Under Section 9-309(1), a purchase-money security interest in consumer goods is perfected when it attaches. Sections 9-317 and 9-324 provide special priority rules for purchase-money security interests in a variety of contexts. This section explains when a security interest enjoys purchase-money status.

3. "Purchase-Money Collateral"; "Purchase-Money Obligation"; "Purchase-Money Security Interest." Subsection (a) defines "purchase-money collateral" and "purchase-money obligation." These terms are essential to the description of what constitutes a purchase-money security interest under subsection (b). As used in Subsection (a)(2), the definition of "purchase-money obligation," the "price" of collateral or the "value given

to enable" includes obligations for expenses incurred in connection with acquiring rights in the collateral, sales taxes, duties, finance charges, interest, freight charges, costs of storage in transit, demurrage, administrative charges, expenses of collection and enforcement, attorney's [attorney] fees, and other similar obligations.

The concept of "purchase-money security interest" requires a close nexus between the acquisition of collateral and the secured obligation. Thus, a security interest does not qualify as a purchase-money security interest if a debtor acquires property on unsecured credit and subsequently creates the security interest to secure the purchase price.

4. Cross-Collateralization of Purchase-Money Security Interests in Inventory. Subsection (b)(2) deals with the problem of cross-collateralized purchase-money security interests in inventory. Consider a simple example:

Example: Seller (S) sells an item of inventory (Item-1) to Debtor (D), retaining a security interest in Item-1 to secure Item-1's price and all other obligations, existing and future, of D to S. S then sells another item of inventory to D (Item-2), again retaining a security interest in Item-2 to secure Item-2's price as well as all other obligations of D to S. D then pays to S Item-1's price. D then sells Item-2 to a buyer in ordinary course of business, who takes Item-2 free of S's security interest.

Under subsection (b)(2), S's security interest in Item-1 securing Item-2's unpaid price would be a purchase-money security interest. This is so because S has a purchase-money security interest in Item-1, Item-1 secures the price of (a "purchase-money obligation incurred with respect to") Item-2 ("other inventory"), and Item-2 itself was subject to a purchase-money security interest. Note that, to the extent Item-1 secures the price of Item-2, S's security interest in Item-1 would not be a purchase-money security interest under Subsection (b)(1). The security interest in Item-1 is a purchase-money security interest under Subsection (b)(1) only to the extent that Item-1 is "purchase-money collateral," *i.e.*, only to the extent that Item-1 "secures a purchase-money obligation incurred with respect to that collateral" (*i.e.*, Item-1). *See* Subsection (a)(1).

5. Purchase-Money Security Interests in Goods and Software. Subsections (b) and (c) limit purchase-money security interests to security interests in goods, including fixtures, and software. Otherwise, no change in meaning from former Section 9-107 is intended. The second sentence of former Section 9-115(5)(f) made the purchase-money priority rule (former Section 9-312(4)) inapplicable to investment property. This section's limitation makes that provision unnecessary.

Subsection (c) describes the limited circumstances under which a security interest in goods may be accompanied by a purchase-money security interest in software. The software must be acquired by the debtor in a transaction integrated with the transaction in which the debtor acquired the goods, and the debtor must acquire the software for

the principal purpose of using the software in the goods. "Software" is defined in Section 9-102.

6. Consignments. Under former Section 9-114, the priority of the consignor's interest is similar to that of a purchase-money security interest. Subsection (d) achieves this result more directly, by defining the interest of a "consignor," defined in Section 9-102, to be a purchase-money security interest in inventory for purposes of this article. This drafting convention obviates any need to set forth special priority rules applicable to the interest of a consignor. Rather, the priority of the consignor's interest as against the rights of lien creditors of the consignee, competing secured parties, and purchasers of the goods from the consignee can be determined by reference to the priority rules generally applicable to inventory, such as Sections 9-317, 9-320, 9-322, and 9-324. For other purposes, including the rights and duties of the consignor and consignee as between themselves, the consignor would remain the owner of goods.

7. Provisions Applicable Only to Non-Consumer-Goods Transactions.

a. "Dual-Status" Rule. For transactions other than consumer-goods transactions, this article approves what some cases have called the "dual-status" rule, under which a security interest may be a purchase-money security interest to some extent and a nonpurchase-money security interest to some extent. (Concerning consumer-goods transactions, see Subsection (h) and comment 8.) Some courts have found this rule to be explicit or implicit in the words "to the extent," found in former Section 9-107 and continued in Subsections (b)(1) and (b)(2). The rule is made explicit in subsection (e). For nonconsumer-goods transactions, this article rejects the "transformation" rule adopted by some cases, under which any cross-collateralization, refinancing, or the like destroys the purchase-money status entirely.

Consider, for example, what happens when a $10,000 loan secured by a purchase-money security interest is refinanced by the original lender, and, as part of the transaction, the debtor borrows an additional $2,000 secured by the collateral. Subsection (f) resolves any doubt that the security interest remains a purchase-money security interest. Under Subsection (b), however, it enjoys purchase-money status only to the extent of $10,000.

b. Allocation of Payments. Continuing with the example, if the debtor makes a $1,000 payment on the $12,000 obligation, then one must determine the extent to which the security interest remains a purchase-money security interest - $9,000 or $10,000. Subsection (e)(1) expresses the overriding principle, applicable in cases other than consumer-goods transactions, for determining the extent to which a security interest is a purchase-money security interest under these circumstances: Freedom of contract, as limited by principle of reasonableness. An unconscionable method of application, for example, is not a reasonable one and so would not be given effect under Subsection (e)(1). In the absence of agreement, Subsection (e)(2) permits the obligor to determine how payments should be allocated. If the obligor fails to manifest its intention, obligations that are not secured will be paid first. (As used in this article, the concept of

"obligations that are not secured" means obligations for which the debtor has not created a security interest. This concept is different from and should not be confused with the concept of an "unsecured claim" as it appears in Bankruptcy Code section 506(a).) The obligor may prefer this approach, because unsecured debt is likely to carry a higher interest rate than secured debt. A creditor who would prefer to be secured rather than unsecured also would prefer this approach.

After the unsecured debt is paid, payments are to be applied first toward the obligations secured by purchase-money security interests. In the event that there is more than one such obligation, payments first received are to be applied to obligations first incurred. *See* Subsection (e)(3). Once these obligations are paid, there are no purchase-money security interests and no additional allocation rules are needed.

Subsection (f) buttresses the dual-status rule by making it clear that (in a transaction other than a consumer-goods transaction) cross-collateralization and renewals, refinancings, and restructurings do not cause a purchase-money security interest to lose its status as such. The statutory terms "renewed," "refinanced," and "restructured" are not defined. Whether the terms encompass a particular transaction depends upon whether, under the particular facts, the purchase-money character of the security interest fairly can be said to survive. Each term contemplates that an identifiable portion of the purchase-money obligation could be traced to the new obligation resulting from a renewal, refinancing, or restructuring.

c. Burden of Proof. As is the case when the extent of a security interest is in issue, under Subsection (g) the secured party claiming a purchase-money security interest in a transaction other than a consumer-goods transaction has the burden of establishing whether the security interest retains its purchase-money status. This is so whether the determination is to be made following a renewal, refinancing, or restructuring or otherwise.

8. Consumer-Goods Transactions; Characterization Under Other Law. Under Subsection (h), the limitation of Subsections (e), (f), and (g) to transactions other than consumer-goods transactions leaves to the court the determination of the proper rules in consumer-goods transactions. Subsection (h) also instructs the court not to draw any inference from this limitation as to the proper rules for consumer-goods transactions and leaves the court free to continue to apply established approaches to those transactions.

This section addresses only whether a security interest is a "purchase-money security interest" under this article, primarily for purposes of perfection and priority. *See, e.g.*, Sections 9-317 and 9-324. In particular, its adoption of the dual-status rule, allocation of payments rules, and burden of proof standards for non-consumer-goods transactions is not intended to affect or influence characterizations under other statutes. Whether a security interest is a "purchase-money security interest" under other law is determined by that law. For example, decisions under Bankruptcy Code section 522(f) have applied both the dual-status and the transformation rules. The Bankruptcy Code does not expressly adopt the state law definition of "purchase-money security interest." Where

federal law does not defer to this article, this article does not, and could not, determine a question of federal law.

The term "at wellhead" is intended to encompass arrangements based on sale of the product as soon as it issues from the ground and is measured, without technical distinctions as to whether title passes at the "Christmas tree" or the far side of a gathering tank or at some other point. The term "at minehead" is a comparable concept.

9. Subsection (6) of Section 9-103 [55-9-103 NMSA 1978] specifies choice of law rules for perfection of security interests in investment property. Paragraph (b) covers security interests in certificated securities. Paragraph (c) covers security interests in uncertificated securities. Paragraph (d) covers security interests in security entitlements and securities accounts. Paragraph (e) covers security interests in commodity contracts and commodity accounts. The approach of each of these paragraphs is essentially the same. They identify the jurisdiction's law that governs questions of perfection and priority on the basis of the same principles that are used in Article 8 to determine other questions concerning that form of investment property. Thus, for certificated securities, the law of the jurisdiction where the certificate is located governs. Cf. Section 8-110(c) [55-8-110 NMSA 1978]. For uncertificated securities, the law of the issuer's jurisdiction governs. Cf. Section 8-110(a). For security entitlements and securities accounts, the law of the securities intermediary's jurisdiction governs. Cf. Section 8-110(b). For commodity contracts and commodity accounts, the law of the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction governs. Since commodity contracts and commodity accounts are not governed by Article 8, paragraph (e) contains rules that specify the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction. These are analogous to the rules in Section 8-110(e) specifying a securities intermediary's jurisdiction.

Under this subsection, if litigation about perfection or priority arises in this State, the relevant choice of law rule of paragraphs (b) through (e) may point to the law of this State or to the law of another State. If the litigation were in a tribunal of a jurisdiction that has not enacted this section, it would follow its own choice of law rules. The choice of law rules prescribed here by statute conform to generally accepted principles of choice of law. The simplicity and clarity in the choice of law rules, coupled with the explicit recognition that the parties to some securities transactions may agree on a governing law, are intended to assure that there will be one clear choice of law regardless of forum.

Paragraph (f) adapts the general choice of law principles of this subsection to cases where a secured party claims perfection on the basis of filing, or by virtue of the automatic perfection rules in Section 9-115(4)(c) [55-9-115 NMSA 1978] and (d). In such a case, the law of the debtor's jurisdiction determines whether the requirements for that form of perfection have been satisfied. The rules in Section 9-103(3) [55-9-103 NMSA 1978] on the debtor's location and effect of change of location apply to cases governed by paragraph (f)*. The main reason for the paragraph (f) rule is to specify the proper filing office. Under the substantive rules of this Act, a security interest in investment property perfected only by filing is enforceable against the debtor or lien

creditors, but not against most other claimants. See Sections 9-115(5) and (6), 8-105(e) [55-8-105 NMSA 1978], 8-303 [55-8-303 NMSA 1978], and 8-502 [55-8-502 NMSA 1978]. Because the choice of law rules in this section may, in some circumstances, have the effect of directing a court in a jurisdiction that has adopted this Act to look to the law of another jurisdiction, it is possible that the jurisdiction so specified will be one that has not adopted rules concerning the effect of filing as a method of perfection for investment property. In such cases, or other circumstances where the governing substantive law is not this Act, the effect of filing on the rights of other parties should be interpreted in light of the role of that form of perfection under this Act; that is, the rights of a secured party in investment property as determined under this Act perfected only by filing against another secured party or any other person who purchases or otherwise deals with the investment property should be interpreted to be no greater than the rights of that secured party under this Act. *Amendments in italics approved by the Permanent Editorial Board for Uniform Commercial Code November 4, 1995.

The following examples illustrate these rules:

Example 1. A customer residing in New Jersey maintains a securities account with Able & Co. The agreement between the customer and Able specifies that it is governed by Pennsylvania law. Through the account the customer holds securities of a Massachusetts corporation, which Able holds through a clearing corporation located in New York. The customer obtains a margin loan from Able. Subsection (6)(d) provides that Pennsylvania law -- the law of the securities intermediary's jurisdiction -- governs perfection and priority of the security interest.

Example 2. A customer residing in New Jersey maintains a securities account with Able & Co. The agreement between the customer and Able specifies that it is governed by Pennsylvania law. Through the account the customer holds securities of a Massachusetts corporation, which Able holds through a clearing corporation located in New York. The customer obtains a loan from a lender located in Illinois. The lender takes a security interest and perfects by obtaining an agreement among the debtor, itself, and Able, which satisfies the requirement of Section 8-106(d)(2) [55-8-106 NMSA 1978] to give the lender control. Subsection (6)(d) provides that Pennsylvania law -- the law of the securities intermediary's jurisdiction -- governs perfection and priority of the security interest.

Example 3. A customer residing in New Jersey maintains a securities account with Able & Co. The agreement between the customer and Able specifies that it is governed by Pennsylvania law. Through the account, the customer holds securities of a Massachusetts corporation, which Able holds through a clearing corporation located in New York. The customer borrows from SP1, and SP1 files a financing statement in New Jersey. Later, the customer obtains a loan from SP2. SP2 takes a security interest and perfects by obtaining an agreement among the debtor, itself, and Able, which satisfies the requirement of Section 8-106(d)(2) [55-8-106 NMSA 1978] to give the SP2 control. Subsection (6)(f) provides that perfection of SP1's security interest by filing is governed by the location of the debtor, so the filing in New Jersey was appropriate -- assuming

New Jersey has adopted the revisions of Article 9 permitting perfection of security interests in investment property by filing. Subsection (6)(d), however, provides that Pennsylvania law -- the law of the securities intermediary's jurisdiction -- governs all other questions of perfection and priority. Thus, Pennsylvania law governs perfection of SP2's security interest, and Pennsylvania law also governs the priority of the security interests of SP1 and SP2.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 3 repealed former 55-9-103 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1997, ch. 75, § 20, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former Sections 55-9-107 and 55-9-114 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Sections 55-9-107 and 55-9-114 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Sections 55-9-107 and 55-9-114 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Timing of attachment of purchase money security interest. — When defendant agreed to buy equipment from pump company, company agreed to furnish the equipment, and lessee of the equipment agreed that defendant would have an interest in the equipment, security interest attached immediately, not upon actual payment by defendant of purchase price. Therefore, whatever interest lessee acquired in the equipment came impressed with defendant's purchase money security interest therein. *Honea v. Laco Auto Leasing, Inc.*, 1969-NMCA-025, 80 N.M. 300, 454 P.2d 782.

Law reviews. — For comment on Graham v. Stoneham, 73 N.M. 382, 388 P.2d 389 (1963), see 4 Nat. Resources J. 175 (1964).

For article, "The Warehouseman vs. the Secured Party: Who Prevails When the Warehouseman's Lien Covers Goods Subject to a Security Interest?" see 8 Nat. Resources J. 331 (1968).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Construction and effect of UCC article 9, dealing with secured transactions, etc., 30 A.L.R.3d 9, 67 A.L.R.3d 308, 69 A.L.R.3d 1162, 76 A.L.R.3d 11, 99 A.L.R. 3d 807, 99 A.L.R.3d 1080, 100 A.L.R.3d 10, 100 A.L.R.3d 940, 7 A.L.R.4th 308, 11 A.L.R.4th 241, 90 A.L.R.4th 859, 25 A.L.R.5th 696.

55-9-104. Control of deposit account.

(a) A secured party has control of a deposit account if:

(1) the secured party is the bank with which the deposit account is maintained;

(2) the debtor, secured party and bank have agreed in a signed record that the bank will comply with instructions originated by the secured party directing disposition of the funds in the deposit account without further consent by the debtor;

(3) the secured party becomes the bank's customer with respect to the deposit account; or

(4) another person, other than the debtor:

(A) has control of the deposit account and acknowledges that it has control on behalf of the secured party; or

(B) obtains control of the deposit account after having acknowledged that it will obtain control of the deposit account on behalf of the secured party.

(b) A secured party that has satisfied Subsection (a) of this section has control, even if the debtor retains the right to direct the disposition of funds from the deposit account.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-104, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 4; 2023, ch. 142, § 44.

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1. **Source.** Derived from Section 8-106.

2. **Why "Control" Matters.** This section explains the concept of "control" of a deposit account. "Control" under this section may serve two functions. First, "control . . . pursuant to the debtor's agreement" may substitute for a signed security agreement as an element of attachment. *See* Section 9-203(b)(3)(D) [55-9-203 NMSA 1978]. Second, when a deposit account is taken as original collateral, the only method of perfection is obtaining control under this section. *See* Section 9-312(b)(1) [55-9-312 NMSA 1978].

3. **Requirements for "Control: In General."** This section derives from Section 8-106 [55-8-106 NMSA 1978] of Revised Article 8, which defines "control" of securities and certain other investment property. Under Subsection (a)(1), the bank with which the deposit account is maintained has control. The effect of this provision is to afford the bank automatic perfection. No other form of public notice is necessary; all actual and potential creditors of the debtor are always on notice that the bank with which the debtor's deposit account is maintained may assert a claim against the deposit account.

Example: D maintains a deposit account with Bank A. To secure a loan from Banks X, Y, and Z, D creates a security interest in the deposit account in favor of Bank A, as

agent for Banks X, Y, and Z. Because Bank A is a "secured party" as defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978], the security interest is perfected by control under Subsection (a)(1).

Under Subsection (a)(2), a secured party may obtain control by obtaining the bank's signed agreement that it will comply with the secured party's instructions without further consent by the debtor. The analogous provision in Section 8-106 [55-8-106 NMSA 1978] does not require that the agreement be signed. An agreement to comply with the secured party's instructions suffices for "control" of a deposit account under this section even if the bank's agreement is subject to specified conditions, e.g., that the secured party's instructions are accompanied by a certification that the debtor is in default. (Of course, if the condition is the debtor's further consent, the statute explicitly provides that the agreement would not confer control.) See Section 8-106, Comment 7.

Under Subsection (a)(3), a secured party may obtain control by becoming the bank's "customer," as defined in Section 4-104 [55-4-104 NMSA 1978]. As the customer, the secured party would enjoy the right (but not necessarily the exclusive right) to withdraw funds from, or close, the deposit account. *See* Sections 4-401(a), 4-403(a) [55-4-401(a), [55-4-403(a) NMSA 1978].

As is the case with possession under Section 9-313 [55-9-313 NMSA 1978], in determining whether a particular person has control under Subsection (a), the principles of agency apply. *See* Section 1-103 [55-1-103 NMSA 1978] and Restatement (3d), Agency § 8.12, Comment b.

4. **Control on behalf of another person.** Subsection (a)(4) provides for a secured party to obtain control of a deposit account by virtue of the acknowledgment by another person, other than the debtor, in control of the deposit account. It generally follows revisions to the corresponding provisions for control of electronic documents of title (Section 7-106(g)) [55-7-106 NMSA 1978], control of a security entitlement (8-106(d)) [55-8-106 NMSA 1978], control of an electronic copy of a record evidencing chattel paper (Section 9-105(g)), control of electronic money (Section 9-105A(e)) [55-9-105 NMSA 1978], and control of controllable electronic records (Section 12-105(e)) [55-12-105 NMSA 1978]. For a brief discussion, see Section 12-105, Comments 8 and 9.

An acknowledgment by a person in control under Subsection (a)(4) would not impose any duties on the bank with which the deposit account is maintained. Indeed, the bank may have no knowledge or involvement whatsoever with a control person's acknowledgment under that subsection. On the other hand, Subsection (a)(4) should not be construed to permit the bank with which the deposit account is maintained to short-circuit Subsection (a)(2), which provides for control through a control agreement among the debtor, the bank, and the control person. However, it would be possible for the bank, acting in a capacity other than as the depositary bank (for example, as a secured party) to acknowledge that it has control on behalf of another purchaser under Subsection (a)(4).

Section 9-107B(a) [55-9-107 NMSA 1978] makes clear that a person that has control under this section has no duty to acknowledge that it has or will obtain control on behalf of another person. Arrangements for a person to acknowledge that it has or will obtain control on behalf of another person are not standardized. Accordingly, Section 9-107B(b) leaves to the agreement of the parties and to any other applicable law any duties of a person that does acknowledge that it has or will obtain control on behalf of another person and provides that a person making an acknowledgment is not required to confirm the acknowledgment to another person.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 4 repealed former 55-9-104 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1997, ch. 75, § 21, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, provided an additional factor to determine whether a secured party has control of a deposit account; in Paragraph (a)(2), after "agreed in", deleted "an authenticated" and added "a signed"; and added Paragraph (a)(4).

55-9-105. Control of electronic copy of record evidencing chattel paper.

(a) A purchaser has control of an authoritative electronic copy of a record evidencing chattel paper if a system employed for evidencing the assignment of interests in the chattel paper reliably establishes the purchaser as the person to which the authoritative electronic copy was assigned.

(b) A system satisfies Subsection (a) of this section if the record or records evidencing the chattel paper are created, stored and assigned in a manner that:

(1) a single authoritative copy of the record or records exists that is unique, identifiable and, except as otherwise provided in Paragraphs (4), (5) and (6) of this subsection, unalterable;

(2) the authoritative copy identifies the purchaser as the assignee of the record or records;

(3) the authoritative copy is communicated to and maintained by the purchaser or its designated custodian;

(4) copies or amendments that add or change an identified assignee of the authoritative copy can be made only with the consent of the purchaser;

(5) each copy of the authoritative copy and any copy of a copy is readily identifiable as a copy that is not the authoritative copy; and

(6) any amendment of the authoritative copy is readily identifiable as authorized or unauthorized.

(c) A system satisfies Subsection (a) of this section, and a purchaser has control of an authoritative electronic copy of a record evidencing chattel paper, if the electronic copy, a record attached to or logically associated with the electronic copy or a system in which the electronic copy is recorded:

(1) enables the purchaser readily to identify each electronic copy as either an authoritative copy or a nonauthoritative copy;

(2) enables the purchaser readily to identify itself in any way, including by name, identifying number, cryptographic key, office or account number, as the assignee of the authoritative electronic copy; and

(3) gives the purchaser exclusive power, subject to Subsection (d) of this section, to:

(A) prevent others from adding or changing an identified assignee of the authoritative electronic copy; and

(B) transfer control of the authoritative electronic copy.

(d) Subject to Subsection (e) of this section, a power is exclusive under Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of Paragraph (3) of Subsection (c) of this section even if:

(1) the authoritative electronic copy, a record attached to or logically associated with the authoritative electronic copy or a system in which the authoritative electronic copy is recorded limits the use of the authoritative electronic copy or has a protocol programmed to cause a change, including a transfer or loss of control; or

(2) the power is shared with another person.

(e) A power of a purchaser is not shared with another person under Paragraph (2) of Subsection (d) of this section and the purchaser's power is not exclusive if:

(1) the purchaser can exercise the power only if the power also is exercised by the other person; and

(2) the other person:

(A) can exercise the power without exercise of the power by the purchaser; or

(B) is the transferor to the purchaser of an interest in the chattel paper.

(f) If a purchaser has the powers specified in Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of Paragraph (3) of Subsection (c) of this section, the powers are presumed to be exclusive.

(g) A purchaser has control of an authoritative electronic copy of a record evidencing chattel paper if another person, other than the transferor to the purchaser of an interest in the chattel paper:

(1) has control of the authoritative electronic copy and acknowledges that it has control on behalf of the purchaser; or

(2) obtains control of the authoritative electronic copy after having acknowledged that it will obtain control of the electronic copy on behalf of the purchaser.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-105, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 5; 2013, ch. 137, § 4; repealed and reenacted by Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 45.

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1. **The Functions of Control.** A secured party can perfect a security interest in chattel paper by filing. *See* Section 9-312(a) [55-9-312 NMSA 1978]. Alternatively, a secured party can perfect a security interest in chattel paper by taking possession of all authoritative tangible copies of the record evidencing the chattel paper and obtaining control of all authoritative electronic copies of the record evidencing chattel paper. Section 9-314A [55-9-314 NMSA 1978]. Possession and control also are conditions for achieving priority under Section 9-330(a) [55-9-330 NMSA 1978], (b), and (c). A secured party's possession or control of chattel paper also may substitute for a signed security agreement for purposes of attachment under Section 9-203 [55-9-203 NMSA 1978].

2. **Conditions for Obtaining Control: In General.** This section provides the requirements for obtaining control of chattel paper. As explained in the comment to the definition of "chattel paper," the definitions of "electronic chattel paper" and "tangible chattel paper" have been deleted as unnecessary. *See* Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978], Comment 5.b.

Subsections (a) and (b) are substantially unchanged under the 2022 Article 9 Revisions. Subsection (a), which derives from Section 16 of the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, sets forth the general test for control. (The amendments to subsection (a) primarily reflect the changes to the definition of chattel paper in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978]). Subsections (b) and (c) set forth safe harbor tests that, if satisfied, establish control under the general test in Subsection (a). It is important to note that compliance with the conditions for control in Subsection (c) would satisfy the conditions provided in

Subsection (b). However, Subsection (b) has been retained out of an abundance of caution and to provide assurances of the continuing viability of pre-2022 systems for control of chattel paper evidenced by electronic records.

3. **Development of Control Systems and Application of Subsection (b).** This Article leaves to the marketplace the development of systems and procedures, through a combination of suitable technologies and business practices, for dealing with control of chattel paper in a commercial context. As under UETA and under the general standard for control under Subsection (a), for control under Subsection (b), as supplemented by Subsection (g), a system must be shown to reliably establish that the secured party is the assignee of the chattel paper. Reliability is a high standard and encompasses the general principle of identifiability of an assignee of an authoritative copy as found in Subsection (b), but without setting forth specific guidelines as to how compliance with this principle must be achieved. Under Subsection (b), at any point in time, a party should be able to identify the single authoritative copy of the record or records evidencing the chattel paper which is unique and identifiable as the authoritative copy. This does not mean that once created the authoritative copy need be static and never moved or copied from its original location. To the extent that backup systems exist which result in multiple copies, the key to this idea is that at any point in time, the one authoritative copy needs to be unique and identifiable. However, the standards applied to determine whether a party is in control of chattel paper should not be more stringent than the pre-2022 standards applied to determine whether a party is in possession of tangible chattel paper. For example, just as a secured party does not lose possession of tangible chattel paper merely by virtue of the possibility that a person acting on its behalf could wrongfully redeliver the chattel paper to the debtor, so control of chattel paper evidenced by an electronic copy of a record or records would not be defeated by the possibility that the secured party's control could be subverted by the wrongful conduct of a person (such as a custodian) acting on its behalf.

4. **Subsection (c) Safe Harbor: In General.** The Subsection (c) "safe harbor" generally follows Section 12-105 [55-12-105 NMSA 1978] for control of controllable electronic records. *See generally* Section 12-105 and Comments. It differs from Subsection (b), which (as explained above) is based on a "single authoritative copy" of an electronic record or records. Subsection (b) would be inapplicable when the relevant record is maintained on a blockchain or another distributed ledger. The utility of distributed ledger technology depends on there being multiple authoritative copies of a record. However, as with Subsection (b), control under Subsection (c) also meets the high standard of reliability under Subsection (a) as to the identifiability of an assignee of authoritative copies. The conditions for "control" in subsection (c) are meant to reflect the functions that possession serves with respect to writings, but in a more accurate and technologically flexible way than does the definition in Subsection (b).

Subsection (c), as supplemented by subsections (d) through (g), sets forth the requirements for a purchaser to have "control of an authoritative electronic copy of a record evidencing chattel paper." However, for purposes of perfection of a security interest in the chattel paper under Section 9-314A [55-9-314 NMSA 1978] and

qualification for non-temporal priority under Section 9-330 [55-9-330 NMSA 1978], the purchaser must obtain control of each authoritative electronic copy (i.e., all of the copies) of a record evidencing the chattel paper and take possession of each tangible copy (if any) of the record evidencing the chattel paper.

5. **Control of Electronic Copy of Record Evidencing Chattel Paper under Subsection (c).** Under Subsection (c), to obtain control of an electronic copy of a record evidencing chattel paper a purchaser must be able to identify each electronic copy as authoritative or nonauthoritative and identify itself as the assignee of the authoritative copy. As to the means of identification, *see* Section 12-105 [55-12-105 NMSA 1978], Comment 7. In addition, the purchaser must have the exclusive power to prevent others from adding or changing an identified assignee and to transfer control of the authoritative copy. However, once it is established that a person has received those powers, Subsection (f) provides a presumption of exclusivity. Consequently, a person asserting control need not prove exclusivity in order to make out a prima facie case. Application of the presumption will be governed also by Section 1-206 [55-1-206 NMSA 1978] (effects of a presumption under the UCC) and applicable non-UCC law (including rules of procedure and evidence). *See generally* Section 12-105 [55-12-105 NMSA 1978], Comment 5. Subsection (d) contains two qualifications of the term "exclusive" as used in Subsection (c)(3). A power can be "exclusive" under Subsection (c)(3) even if one or both of these qualifications apply.

Subsection (e) provides that in certain circumstances a power is not shared within the meaning of Subsection (d)(2), the relaxation of the exclusivity requirement provided by Subsection (d)(2) does not apply, and, consequently, a purchaser's power is not exclusive. Subsection (e) provides that a purchaser does not share an exclusive power with another person if the purchaser can exercise the power only with the other person's cooperation (Subsection (e)(1)) but the other person either (i) can exercise the power without the purchaser's cooperation (Subsection (e)(2)(A)) or (ii) is the transferor to the purchaser of an interest in the chattel paper (Subsection (e)(2)(B)). It follows that a purchaser to which Subsection (e) applies does not have control based on its exclusive powers (although it might have control through another person under Subsection (g), discussed below, or if another person having control is acting as the person's agent). As to the rationale for disqualifying a purchaser (which includes a secured party in a secured transaction) from sharing powers with a transferor to the purchaser, as provided in Subsection (e)(2)(B), and from the benefit of shared control under Subsection (d)(2), and for examples of the operation of Subsection (e) (in the context of the similar provision in Section 12-105 [55-12-105 NMSA 1978]), *see* Section 12-105, Comments 5 and 9.

6. **Control Through Another Person.** Subsection (g) provides for a purchaser to obtain control of an electronic copy by virtue of the acknowledgment by another person in control of the electronic copy. It follows revisions to the corresponding provisions for control of electronic documents of title (Section 7-106(g)) [55-7-106 NMSA 1978], control of a security entitlement (Section 8-106(d)(3)) [55-8-106 NMSA 1978], control of deposit accounts (Section 9-104(a)(4)) [55-9-104 NMSA 1978], control of electronic

money (Section 9-105A(e)) [55-9-105 NMSA 1978], and control of controllable electronic records (Section 12-105(e)) [55-12-105 NMSA 1978]. For a brief discussion, see Section 12-105, Comment 8. For an acknowledgment by another person to be effective to confer control on a purchaser under Subsection (g), the other person making the acknowledgment must be one "other than the transferor to the purchaser of an interest in the chattel paper." The rationale for this limitation is discussed in Section 12-105, Comment 9.

Section 9-107B(a) [55-9-107 NMSA 1978] makes clear that a person that has control under this section has no duty to acknowledge that it has or will obtain control on behalf of another person. Arrangements for a person to acknowledge that it has or will obtain control on behalf of another person are not standardized. Accordingly, Section 9-107B(b) leaves to the agreement of the parties and to any other applicable law any duties of a person that does acknowledge that it has or will obtain control on behalf of another person and provides that a person making an acknowledgment is not required to confirm the acknowledgment to another person. For example, Subsection (g) would apply to give control to a person, Alpha, when another person, Beta, has control of each authoritative electronic copy of a record evidencing chattel paper and acknowledges that it has control on behalf of Alpha. However, under Section 9-107B(a), Beta is not required to so acknowledge. And under Section 9-107B(b), even if Beta does so acknowledge, Beta owes no duty to Alpha unless Beta agrees or other law so provides and Beta is not required to confirm its acknowledgment to any other person.

7. **References to "Secured Party" Changed to "Purchaser."** References to a "secured party" in the pre-2022 text of this section have been changed to refer to a "purchaser." This change aligns the text with the priority rules of Section 9-330(a), (b), and (c) [55-9-330 NMSA 1978].

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 45 repealed former 55-9-105 NMSA 1978 and enacted a new section, effective January 1, 2024.

Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 5 repealed former 55-9-105 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1997, ch. 75, § 22, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2013 amendment, effective July 1, 2013, clarified when a secured party has control of electronic chattel paper; in Subsection (a), after "chattel paper if", added the remainder of the sentence; in Subsection (b), in the introductory sentence, added "A system satisfies Subsection (a) of this section if"; in Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a), after "as otherwise provided in", deleted "Subsections (d) through (f) of this section" and added "Paragraphs (4) through (6) of this subsection"; in Paragraph (4) of Subsection (a), after "copies or", deleted "revisions" and added "amendments" and after "only with the", deleted "participation" and added "consent"; and in Paragraph (6) of Subsection (a), after "any", deleted "revision" and added "amendment" and after "unauthorized", deleted "revision".

55-9-105A. Control of electronic money.

(a) A person has control of electronic money if:

(1) the electronic money, a record attached to or logically associated with the electronic money or a system in which the electronic money is recorded gives the person:

(A) power to avail itself of substantially all the benefit from the electronic money; and

(B) exclusive power, subject to Subsection (b) of this section, to:

(i) prevent others from availing themselves of substantially all the benefit from the electronic money; and

(ii) transfer control of the electronic money to another person or cause another person to obtain control of other electronic money as a result of the transfer of the electronic money; and

(2) the electronic money, a record attached to or logically associated with the electronic money or a system in which the electronic money is recorded enables the person readily to identify itself in any way, including by name, identifying number, cryptographic key, office or account number, as having the powers under Paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(b) Subject to Subsection (c) of this section, a power is exclusive under Items (i) and (ii) of Subparagraph (B) of Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a) of this section even if:

(1) the electronic money, a record attached to or logically associated with the electronic money or a system in which the electronic money is recorded limits the use of the electronic money or has a protocol programmed to cause a change, including a transfer or loss of control; or

(2) the power is shared with another person.

(c) A power of a person is not shared with another person under Paragraph (2) of Subsection (b) of this section and the person's power is not exclusive if:

(1) the person can exercise the power only if the power is also exercised by the other person; and

(2) the other person:

(A) can exercise the power without exercise of the power by the person; or

(B) is the transferor to the person of an interest in the electronic money.

(d) If a person has the powers specified in Items (i) and (ii) of Subparagraph (B) of Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a) of this section, the powers are presumed to be exclusive.

(e) A person has control of electronic money if another person, other than the transferor to the person of an interest in the electronic money:

(1) has control of the electronic money and acknowledges that it has control on behalf of the person; or

(2) obtains control of the electronic money after having acknowledged that it will obtain control of the electronic money on behalf of the person.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-105A, enacted by Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 46.

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1. **"Control" of Electronic Money: In General.** A security interest in electronic money as original collateral may be perfected only by control pursuant to this section. Section 9-312(b)(4) [55-9-312 NMSA 1978]. These requirements for obtaining control generally track those in Section 12-105 [55-12-105 NMSA 1978] for controllable electronic records. See generally Section 12-105, Comments.

2. **Control on Behalf of Another Person.** Subsection (e) provides for a person to obtain control of electronic money by virtue of the acknowledgment by another person in control of the electronic money. It follows revisions to the corresponding provisions for control of electronic documents of title (Section 7-106(g))[55-7-106 NMSA 1978], control of a security entitlement (Section 8-106(d)(3)), control of deposit accounts (Section 9-104(a)(4)) [55-9-104 NMSA 1978], control of an electronic copy of a record evidencing chattel paper (Section 9-105(g)) [55-9-105 NMSA 1978], and control of controllable electronic records (Section 12-105(e)). For a brief discussion, see Section 12-105 [55-12-105 NMSA 1978], Comment 8.

Section 9-107B(a) [55-9-107 NMSA 1978] makes clear that a person that has control under this section has no duty to acknowledge that it has or will obtain control on behalf of another person. Arrangements for a person to acknowledge that it has or will obtain control on behalf of another person are not standardized. Accordingly, Section 9-107B(b) leaves to the agreement of the parties and to any other applicable law any duties of a person that does acknowledge that it has or will obtain control on behalf of another person and provides that a person making an acknowledgment is not required to confirm the acknowledgment to another person.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 112 made Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 46 effective January 1, 2024.

55-9-106. Control of investment property.

(a) A person has control of a certificated security, uncertificated security or security entitlement as provided in Section 55-8-106 NMSA 1978.

(b) A secured party has control of a commodity contract if:

(1) the secured party is the commodity intermediary with which the commodity contract is carried; or

(2) the commodity customer, secured party and commodity intermediary have agreed that the commodity intermediary will apply any value distributed on account of the commodity contract as directed by the secured party without further consent by the commodity customer.

(c) A secured party having control of all security entitlements or commodity contracts carried in a securities account or commodity account has control over the securities account or commodity account.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-106, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 6.

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1. Source. Former section 9-115(e).

2. "Control" Under Article 8. For an explanation of "control" of securities and certain other investment property, *see* Section 8-106, comments 4 and 7.

3. "Control" of Commodity Contracts. This section, as did former Section 9-115(1)(e), contains provisions relating to control of commodity contracts which are analogous to those in Section 8-106 for other types of investment property.

4. Securities Accounts and Commodity Accounts. For drafting convenience, control with respect to a securities account or commodity account is defined in terms of obtaining control over the security entitlements or commodity contracts. Of course, an agreement that provides that (without further consent of the debtor) the securities intermediary or commodity intermediary will honor instructions from the secured party concerning a securities account or commodity account described as such is sufficient.

Such an agreement necessarily implies that the intermediary will honor instructions concerning all security entitlements or commodity contracts carried in the account and thus affords the secured party control of all the security entitlements or commodity contracts.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 6 repealed former 55-9-106 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1997, ch. 75, § 23, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-107. Control of letter-of-credit right.

A secured party has control of a letter-of-credit right to the extent of any right to payment or performance by the issuer or any nominated person if the issuer or nominated person has consented to an assignment of proceeds of the letter of credit under Subsection (c) of Section 55-5-114 NMSA 1978 or otherwise applicable law or practice.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-107, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 7.

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1. Source. New.

2. "Control" of Letter-of-Credit Right. Whether a secured party has control of a letter-of-credit right may determine the secured party's priority as against competing secured parties. *See* Section 9-329. This section provides that a secured party acquires control of a letter-of-credit right by receiving an assignment if the secured party obtains the consent of the issuer or any nominated person, such as a confirmer or negotiating bank, under Section 5-114 or other applicable law or practice. Because both issuers and nominated persons may give or be obligated to give value under a letter of credit, this section contemplates that a secured party obtains control of a letter-of-credit right with respect to the issuer or a particular nominated person only to the extent that the issuer or that nominated person consents to the assignment. For example, if a secured party obtains control to the extent of an issuer's obligation but fails to obtain the consent of a nominated person, the secured party does not have control to the extent that the nominated person gives value. In many cases the person or persons who will give value under a letter of credit will be clear from its terms. In other cases, prudence may suggest obtaining consent from more than one person. The details of the consenting issuer's or nominated person's duties to pay or otherwise render performance to the secured party are left to the agreement of the parties.

3. "Proceeds of a Letter of Credit." Section 5-114 follows traditional banking terminology by referring to a letter of credit beneficiary's assignment of its right to receive payment thereunder as an assignment of the "proceeds of a letter of credit." However, as the seller of goods can assign its right to receive payment (an "account") before it has been earned by delivering the goods to the buyer, so the beneficiary of a letter of credit can assign its contingent right to payment before the letter of credit has been honored. *See* Section 5-114(b). If the assignment creates a security interest, the security interest can be perfected at the time it is created. An assignment of, including the creation of a security interest in, a letter-of-credit right is an assignment of a present interest.

4. "Transfer" vs. "Assignment." Letter-of-credit law and practice distinguish the "transfer" of a letter of credit from an "assignment." Under a transfer, the transferee itself becomes the beneficiary and acquires the right to draw. Whether a new, substitute credit is issued or the issuer advises the transferee of its status as such, the transfer constitutes a novation under which the transferee is the new, substituted beneficiary (but only to the extent of the transfer, in the case of a partial transfer).

Section 5-114(e) provides that the rights of a transferee beneficiary or nominated person are independent of the beneficiary's assignment of the proceeds of a letter of credit and are superior to the assignee's right to the proceeds. For this reason, transfer does not appear in this article as a means of control or perfection. Section 9-109(c)(4) recognizes the independent and superior rights of a transferee beneficiary under Section 5-114(e); this article does not apply to the rights of a transferee beneficiary or nominated person to the extent that those rights are independent and superior under Section 5-114.

5. Supporting Obligation: Automatic Attachment and Perfection. A letter-of-credit right is a type of "supporting obligation," as defined in Section 9-102. Under Sections 9-203 and 9-308, a security interest in a letter-of-credit right automatically attaches and is automatically perfected if the security interest in the supported obligation is a perfected security interest. However, unless the secured party has control of the letter-of-credit right or itself becomes a transferee beneficiary, it cannot obtain any rights against the issuer or a nominated person under article 5. Consequently, as a practical matter, the secured party's rights would be limited to its ability to locate and identify proceeds distributed by the issuer or nominated person under the letter of credit.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 7 repealed former 55-9-107 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-107, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-107A. Control of controllable electronic record, account or controllable payment intangible.

(a) A secured party has control of a controllable electronic record as provided in Section 55-12-105 NMSA 1978.

(b) A secured party has control of a controllable account or controllable payment intangible if the secured party has control of the controllable electronic record that evidences the controllable account or controllable payment intangible.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-107A, enacted by Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 47.

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1. **Perfection by Control or Filing and Priority for Controllable Electronic Records.** Perfection by filing and perfection by control are alternative methods of perfection for a controllable electronic record. See Sections 9-312, 9-314. Under this section, a secured party has control of a controllable electronic record as provided in Section 12-105. Under Section 9-326A, a security interest in a controllable electronic record that is perfected by control has priority over a security interest perfected by another method.

2. **Perfection by Control or Filing and Priority for Controllable Account or Controllable Payment Intangible.** Perfection by filing and perfection by control also are alternative methods of perfection for a controllable account or controllable payment intangible. See Sections 9-312, 9-314. Under this section, a secured party would obtain control of a controllable account or controllable payment intangible by obtaining control of the controllable electronic record that evidences the controllable account or controllable payment intangible. Under Section 9-326A, a security interest in a controllable account or controllable payment intangible that is perfected by control has priority over a security interest perfected by another method.

By definition, a controllable account would be an Article 9 "account," and a controllable payment intangible would be an Article 9 "payment intangible." Section 9-102. The fact that an account or payment intangible is a controllable account or controllable payment intangible does not affect a secured party’s alternative of perfection by filing. Moreover, that fact does not affect the applicability of other provisions of Article 9, including the provisions governing an account debtor’s agreement not to assert defenses (Section 9-403) and the statutory overrides of legal and contractual restrictions on the assignability of accounts and payment intangibles (Sections 9-406 and 9-408).

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 112 made Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 47 effective January 1, 2024.

55-9-107B. No requirement to acknowledge or confirm; no duties.

(a) A person that has control under Section 55-9-104, 55-9-105 or 55-9-105A NMSA 1978 is not required to acknowledge that it has control on behalf of another person.

(b) If a person acknowledges that it has or will obtain control on behalf of another person, unless the person otherwise agrees or law other than this article otherwise provides, the person does not owe any duty to the other person and is not required to confirm the acknowledgment to any other person.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-107B, enacted by Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 48.

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1. **Source.** Section 9-107B derives from Sections 8-106(g) and 9-313(f) and (g).

2. **Purpose.** Subsection (a) makes clear that a person that has control under the specified sections has no duty to acknowledge that it has or will obtain control on behalf of another person. Arrangements for a person to acknowledge that it has control on behalf of another person are not standardized. Accordingly, Subsection (b) leaves to the agreement of the parties and to any other applicable law any duties of a person that does acknowledge that it has or will obtain control on behalf of any other person.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 112 made Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 48 effective January 1, 2024.

55-9-108. Sufficiency of description.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsections (c), (d) and (e) of this section, a description of personal or real property is sufficient, whether or not it is specific, if it reasonably identifies what is described.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (d) of this section, a description of collateral reasonably identifies the collateral if it identifies the collateral by:

(1) specific listing;

(2) category;

(3) except as otherwise provided in Subsection (e) of this section, a type of collateral defined in the Uniform Commercial Code [Chapter 55 NMSA 1978];

(4) quantity;

(5) computational or allocational formula or procedure; or

(6) except as otherwise provided in Subsection (c) of this section, any other method, if the identity of the collateral is objectively determinable.

(c) A description of collateral as "all the debtor's assets" or "all the debtor's personal property" or using words of similar import does not reasonably identify the collateral.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (e) of this section, a description of a security entitlement, securities account or commodity account is sufficient if it describes:

(1) the collateral by those terms or as investment property; or

(2) the underlying financial asset or commodity contract.

(e) A description only by type of collateral defined in the Uniform Commercial Code is an insufficient description of:

(1) a commercial tort claim; or

(2) in a consumer transaction, consumer goods, a security entitlement, a securities account or a commodity account.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-108, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 8.

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1. **Source.** Former Sections 9-110 [55-9-110 NMSA 1978] and 9-115(3) [55-9-115 NMSA 1978].

2. **General Rules.** Subsection (a) retains substantially the same formulation as former Section 9-110. Subsection (b) expands upon Subsection (a) by indicating a variety of ways in which a description might reasonably identify collateral. Whereas a provision similar to Subsection (b) was applicable only to investment property under former Section 9-115(3), subsection (b) applies to all types of collateral, subject to the limitation in subsection (d). Subsection (b) is subject to Subsection (c), which follows prevailing case law and adopts the view that an "all assets" or "all personal property" description for purposes of a security agreement is not sufficient. Note, however, that under Section 9-504 [55-9-504 NMSA 1978], a financing statement sufficiently indicates the collateral if it "covers all assets or all personal property."

The purpose of requiring a description of collateral in a security agreement under Section 9-203 [55-9-203 NMSA 1978] is evidentiary. The test of sufficiency of a description under this section, as under former Section 9-110 [55-9-110 NMSA 1978], is that the description do the job assigned to it: Make possible the identification of the collateral described. This section rejects any requirement that a description is insufficient unless it is exact and detailed (the so-called "serial number" test).

3. **After-Acquired Collateral.** Much litigation has arisen over whether a description in a security agreement is sufficient to include after-acquired collateral if the agreement does not explicitly so provide. This question is one of contract interpretation and is not susceptible to a statutory rule (other than a rule to the effect that it is a question of contract interpretation). Accordingly, this section contains no reference to descriptions of after-acquired collateral.

4. **Investment Property.** Under Subsection (d)(2), the use of the wrong Article 8 or commodities terminology does not render a description invalid (*e.g.*, a security agreement intended to cover a debtor's "security entitlements" is sufficient if it refers to the debtor's "securities"); nor does Subsection (d) require the use of the terms "security entitlement," "securities account," "commodity account," or "investment property" if the collateral description is otherwise sufficient under Subsection (a). *See* PEB Commentary No. 28, dated January 16, 2024. The commentary is available at https://www.ali.org/peb-ucc. Note also that given the broad definition of "securities account" in Section 8-501 [55-8-501 NMSA 1978], a security interest in a securities account also includes all other rights of the debtor against the securities intermediary arising out of the securities account. For example, a security interest in a securities account would include credit balances due to the debtor from the securities intermediary, whether or not they are proceeds of a security entitlement. Moreover, describing collateral as a securities account is a simple way of describing all of the security entitlements carried in the account.

5. **Consumer Investment Property; Commercial Tort Claims.** Subsection (e) requires greater specificity of description in order to prevent debtors from inadvertently encumbering certain property. Subsection (e) provides that a description by defined "type" of collateral alone of a commercial tort claim or, in a consumer transaction, of a security entitlement, securities account, or commodity account, is not sufficient. For example, "all existing and after-acquired investment property" or "all existing and after-acquired security entitlements," without more, would be insufficient in a consumer transaction to describe a security entitlement, securities account, or commodity account. The reference to "only by type" in subsection (e) means that a description is sufficient if it satisfies Subsection (a) and also contains a descriptive component beyond the "type" alone. For example, a description such as "all goods now or hereafter sold by secured party to debtor" would suffice, but note that Section 9-204(b)(1) [55-9-204 NMSA 1978] would apply except in the case of a purchase-money security interest. *See* Section 9-204, Comment 3. Moreover, if the collateral consists of a securities account or commodity account, a description of the account is sufficient to cover all existing and

future security entitlements or commodity contracts carried in the account. *See* Section 9-203(h), (i) [55-9-203 NMSA 1978].

Under Section 9-204 [55-9-204 NMSA 1978], an after-acquired collateral clause in a security agreement will not reach future commercial tort claims. It follows that when an effective security agreement (or amendment) covering a commercial tort claim as original collateral is entered into the claim already will exist. Subsection (e) does not require a description to be specific, so long as it extends beyond the "type." For example, a description such as "all tort claims arising out of the explosion of debtor's factory" would suffice, even if the exact amount of the claim, the theory on which it may be based, and the identity of the tortfeasor(s) are not described. (Indeed, those facts may not be known at the time.)

The enhanced specificity (beyond the "type") that subsection (e) requires does not apply to the attachment of security interests in commercial tort claims or collateral in consumer transactions that are identifiable proceeds of other collateral. A security interest automatically attaches to such property under Sections 9-203(f) [55-9-203 NMSA 1978] and 9-315(a)(2) [55-9-315 NMSA 1978]. This point is confirmed by Section 9-204(b.1) [55-9-204 NMSA 1978].

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 8 repealed former 55-9-108 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-108, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former 55-9-110 and 55-9-115 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Sections 55-9-110 and 55-9-115 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-110 and 55-9-115 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Filing of instrument with accurate description safeguards lien. — Since under former law the legislature provided that the filing of a chattel mortgage, assignment thereof, or affidavit in lieu of an assignment, would have the force and effect given by law to the recording of instruments affecting real estate, and since when an instrument with an accurate description of realty is filed in the county wherein the realty is situate, all persons are placed on constructive notice where the personal property subject to the chattel mortgage was accurately and completely described in the recorded instruments, and the filing of a copy of the instrument in the county into which the property was moved safeguarded the mortgage lien. *Reconstruction Fin. Corp. v. Stephens*, 118 F. Supp. 565 (D.N.M. 1954) (decided under former law).

Description in security agreement may prevail over contrary financing statement. — In a conflict between the unsigned financing statement and the language of the security agreement the latter prevails for the reason that no security interest can exist in the absence of a security agreement, and therefore a financing statement which goes

beyond the scope of the agreement has no effect to that extent. *Jones & Laughlin Supply v. Dugan Prod. Corp.*, 1973-NMCA-050, 85 N.M. 51, 508 P.2d 1348 (decided under former law).

Security agreement on mobile home did not secure appliances installed therein. — A security agreement which listed the year, model name and number and serial number of a mobile home in the description of collateral did not create a security interest in a washer, dryer and refrigerator installed in that mobile home. *State v. Woodward*, 1983-NMCA-153, 100 N.M. 708, 675 P.2d 1007 (decided under former law).

Agreement that did not describe collateral was inadequate. — A security agreement between a floor plan financier and a used car dealer which left blank a space therein for describing collateral was inadequate to perfect an interest in automobiles obtained by the dealer for resale from another dealer which retained possession of the certificates of title until it was paid. *Avlin Inc. v. Manis*, 1998-NMCA-011, 124 N.M. 544, 953 P.2d 309 (decided under former law).

"Inventory," "equipment" and "supplies" sufficient to describe collateral. — The terms "inventory," "equipment" and "supplies" are sufficient to meet the requirement that collateral must be described in general language reasonably describing the items. *Waterfield v. Burnett (In re Burnett)*, 21 B.R. 752 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1982) (decided under former law).

Language in financing statement fails to satisfy section. — The words "all assets . . . regardless of type or description now owned . . . or to be bought in the future . . ." in a financing statement fail to satisfy the requirements of this section. The language is too general and vague to fulfill the demand that the financing statement at least reveal "the type" of collateral. The language is misleading and does not give subsequent secured parties adequate notice of a security interest in inventory and accounts receivable. *Mogul Enters., Inc. v. Commercial Credit Bus. Loans, Inc.*, 1978-NMSC-081, 92 N.M. 215, 585 P.2d 1096 (decided under former law).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Sufficiency of description of property in conditional sales contract, 65 A.L.R. 714.

Sufficiency of description of property in mortgage on animals, 124 A.L.R. 944.

Defect in written record as ground for avoiding sale of contractual rights, 10 A.L.R.2d 728.

Sufficiency of description of property, as against third persons, in chattel mortgage on farm equipment, machinery, implements and the like, 32 A.L.R.2d 929.

Sufficiency of description in chattel mortgage as covering all property of a particular kind, 2 A.L.R.3d 839, 30 A.L.R.3d 9.

Sufficiency of description of collateral in financing statement under UCC §§ 9-110 and 9-402, 100 A.L.R.3d 10.

Sufficiency of description of collateral in security agreement under UCC §§ 9-110 and 9-203, 100 A.L.R.3d 940.

SUBPART 2. APPLICABILITY OF ARTICLE

55-9-109. Scope.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsections (c) and (d) of this section, Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 applies to:

(1) a transaction, regardless of its form, that creates a security interest in personal property or fixtures by contract;

(2) an agricultural lien;

(3) a sale of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles or promissory notes;

(4) a consignment;

(5) a security interest arising under Section 55-2-401, 55-2-505, Subsection (3) of Section 55-2-711 or Subsection (5) of Section 55-2A-508 NMSA 1978, as provided in Section 55-9-110 NMSA 1978; and

(6) a security interest arising under Section 55-4-210 or 55-5-118 NMSA 1978.

(b) The application of Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 to a security interest in a secured obligation is not affected by the fact that the obligation is itself secured by a transaction or interest to which this article does not apply.

(c) Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 does not apply to the extent that:

(1) a statute, regulation or treaty of the United States preempts the article;

(2) another statute of this state expressly governs the creation, perfection, priority or enforcement of a security interest created by this state or a governmental unit of this state;

(3) a statute of another state, a foreign country or a governmental unit of another state or a foreign country, other than a statute generally applicable to security interests, expressly governs creation, perfection, priority or enforcement of a security interest created by the state, country or governmental unit; or

(4) the rights of a transferee beneficiary or nominated person under a letter of credit are independent and superior under Section 55-5-114 NMSA 1978.

(d) Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 does not apply to:

(1) a landlord's lien, other than an agricultural lien;

(2) a lien, other than an agricultural lien, given by statute or other rule of law for services or materials, but Section 55-9-333 NMSA 1978 applies with respect to priority of the lien;

(3) an assignment of a claim for wages, salary or other compensation of an employee;

(4) a sale of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles or promissory notes as part of a sale of the business out of which they arose;

(5) an assignment of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles or promissory notes which is for the purpose of collection only;

(6) an assignment of a right to payment under a contract to an assignee that is also obligated to perform under the contract;

(7) an assignment of a single account, payment intangible or promissory note to an assignee in full or partial satisfaction of a preexisting indebtedness;

(8) a transfer of an interest in or an assignment of a claim under a policy of insurance, other than an assignment by or to a health-care provider of a health-care-insurance receivable and any subsequent assignment of the right to payment, but Sections 55-9-315 and 55-9-322 NMSA 1978 apply with respect to proceeds and priorities in proceeds;

(9) an assignment of a right represented by a judgment, other than a judgment taken on a right to payment that was collateral;

(10) a right of recoupment or set-off, but:

(A) Section 55-9-340 NMSA 1978 applies with respect to the effectiveness of rights of recoupment or set-off against deposit accounts; and

(B) Section 55-9-404 NMSA 1978 applies with respect to defenses or claims of an account debtor;

(11) the creation or transfer of an interest in or lien on real property, including a lease or rents thereunder, except to the extent that provision is made for:

(A) liens on real property in Sections 55-9-203 and 55-9-308 NMSA 1978;

(B) fixtures in Section 55-9-334 NMSA 1978;

(C) fixture filings in Sections 55-9-501, 55-9-502, 55-9-512, 55-9-516 and 55-9-519 NMSA 1978; and

(D) security agreements covering personal and real property in Section 55-9-604 NMSA 1978;

(12) an assignment of a claim arising in tort, other than a commercial tort claim, but Sections 55-9-315 and 55-9-322 NMSA 1978 apply with respect to proceeds and priorities in proceeds;

(13) an assignment of a deposit account in a consumer transaction, but Sections 55-9-315 and 55-9-322 NMSA 1978 apply with respect to proceeds and priorities in proceeds; or

(14) a transfer by this state or a governmental unit of this state other than a security interest created pursuant to the Industrial Revenue Bond Act [Chapter 3, Article 32 NMSA 1978], County Industrial Revenue Bond Act [Chapter 4, Article 59 NMSA 1978], Redevelopment Bonding Law [3-60A-26 to 3-60A-46 NMSA 1978], Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act [3-59-1 to 3-59-14 NMSA 1978], County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act [4-60-1 to 4-60-15 NMSA 1978] or Hospital Equipment Loan Act [Chapter 58, Article 23 NMSA 1978].

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-109, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 9; 2021, ch. 86, § 2; 2023, ch. 142, § 49.

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1. **Source.** Former sections 9-102 and 9-104.

2. **Basic Scope Provision.** Subsection (a)(1) derives from former Section 9-102(1) and (2) [55-9-102 NMSA 1978]. These subsections have been combined and shortened. No change in meaning is intended. Under Subsection (a)(1), all consensual security interests in personal property and fixtures are covered by this Article, except for transactions excluded by Subsections (c) and (d). As to which transactions give rise to a "security interest," the definition of that term in Section 1-201 [55-1-201 NMSA 1978] must be consulted. When a security interest is created, this Article applies regardless of the form of the transaction or the name that parties have given to it. Likewise, the subjective intention of the parties with respect to the legal characterization of their

transaction is irrelevant to whether this Article applies, as it was to the application of former Article 9 under the proper interpretation of former Section 9-102.

3. **Agricultural Liens.** Subsection (a)(2) is new. It expands the scope of this article to cover agricultural liens, as defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978].

4. **Sales of Accounts, Chattel Paper, Payment Intangibles, Promissory Notes, and Other Receivables.** Under Subsection (a)(3), as under former Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978], this article applies to sales of accounts and chattel paper. This approach generally has been successful in avoiding difficult problems of distinguishing between transactions in which a receivable secures an obligation and those in which the receivable has been sold outright. In many commercial financing transactions the distinction is blurred.

Subsection (a)(3), added by the 1998 Revisions, expanded the scope of this Article by including the sale of a "payment intangible" (defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978] as "a general intangible under which the account debtor's principal obligation is a monetary obligation") and a "promissory note" (also defined in Section 9-102). To a considerable extent, this Article affords these transactions treatment identical to that given sales of accounts and chattel paper. In some respects, however, sales of payment intangibles and promissory notes are treated differently from sales of other receivables. *See, e.g.*, Sections 9-309 [55-9-309 NMSA 1978] (automatic perfection upon attachment), 9-408 [55-9-408 NMSA 1978] (effect of restrictions on assignment). By virtue of the 1998 expanded definition of "account" (defined in Section 9-102), this Article covers sales of (and other security interests in) "health-care-insurance receivables" (also defined in Section 9-102). Although this Article occasionally distinguishes between outright sales of receivables and sales that secure an obligation, neither this Article nor the definition of "security interest" (Section 1-201(b)(35) [55-1-201 NMSA 1978]) delineates how a particular transaction is to be classified. That issue is left to the courts.

5. **Transfer of Ownership in Sales of Receivables.** A "sale" of an account, chattel paper, a promissory note, or a payment intangible includes a sale of a right in the receivable, such as a sale of a participation interest. The term also includes the sale of an enforcement right. For example, a "(p)erson entitled to enforce" a negotiable promissory note (Section 3-301) [55-3-301 NMSA 1978] may sell its ownership rights in the instrument. *See* Section 3-203 [55-3-203 NMSA 1978], comment 1 ("Ownership rights in instruments may be determined by principles of the law of property, independent of article 3, which do not depend upon whether the instrument was transferred under Section 3-203."). Also, the right under Section 3-309 to enforce a lost, destroyed, or stolen negotiable promissory note may be sold to a purchaser who could enforce that right by causing the seller to provide the proof required under that section. This article rejects decisions reaching a contrary result, *e.g., Dennis Joslin Co. v. Robinson Broadcasting*, 977 F. Supp. 491 (D.D.C. 1997).

Nothing in this section or any other provision of article 9 prevents the transfer of full and complete ownership of an account, chattel paper, an instrument, or a payment intangible in a transaction of sale. However, as mentioned in comment 4, neither this article nor the definition of "security interest" in Section 1-201 [55-1-201 NMSA 1978] provides rules for distinguishing sales transactions from those that create a security interest securing an obligation. This article applies to both types of transactions. The principal effect of this coverage is to apply this article's perfection and priority rules to these sales transactions. Use of terminology such as "security interest," "debtor," and "collateral" is merely a drafting convention adopted to reach this end, and its use has no relevance to distinguishing sales from other transactions. *See* PEB Commentary No. 14.

Following a debtor's outright sale and transfer of ownership of a receivable, the debtor-seller retains no legal or equitable rights in the receivable that has been sold. *See* Section 9-318(a) [55-9-318 NMSA 1978]. This is so whether or not the buyer's security interest is perfected. (A security interest arising from the sale of a promissory note or payment intangible is perfected upon attachment without further action. *See* Section 9-309. [55-9-309 NMSA 1978]) However, if the buyer's interest in accounts or chattel paper is unperfected, a subsequent lien creditor, perfected secured party, or qualified buyer can reach the sold receivable and achieve priority over (or take free of) the buyer's unperfected security interest under Section 9-317 [55-9-317 NMSA 1978]. This is so not because the seller of a receivable retains rights in the property sold; it does not. Nor is this so because the seller of a receivable is a "debtor" and the buyer of a receivable is a "secured party" under this article (they are). It is so for the simple reason that sections 9-317, 9-318(b), and 9-322 [55-9-322 NMSA 1978] make it so, as did former Sections 9-301 [55-9-301 NMSA 1978] and 9-312 [55-9-312 NMSA 1978]. Because the buyer's security interest is unperfected, for purposes of determining the rights of creditors of and purchasers for value from the debtor-seller, under Section 9-318(b) [55-9-318 NMSA 1978] the debtor-seller is deemed to have the rights and title it sold. Section 9-317 subjects the buyer's unperfected interest in accounts and chattel paper to that of the debtor-seller's lien creditor and other persons who qualify under that section.

6. **Consignments.** Subsection (a)(4) was added by the 1998 Revisions. This article applies to every "consignment." The term, defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978], includes many but not all "true" consignments (*i.e.*, bailments for the purpose of sale). If a transaction is a "sale or return," as defined in revised Section 2-326 [55-2-326 NMSA 1978], it is not a "consignment." In a "sale or return" transaction, the buyer becomes the owner of the goods, and the seller may obtain an enforceable security interest in the goods only by satisfying the requirements of Section 9-203 [55-9-203 NMSA 1978].

Under common law, creditors of a bailee were unable to reach the interest of the bailor (in the case of a consignment, the consignor-owner). Like former Section 2-326 [55-2-326 NMSA 1978] and former article 9, this article changes the common law result; however, it does so in a different manner. For purposes of determining the rights and

interests of third-party creditors of, and purchasers of the goods from, the consignee, but not for other purposes, such as remedies of the consignor, the consignee is deemed to acquire under this article whatever rights and title the consignor had or had power to transfer. *See* Section 9-319 [55-9-319 NMSA 1978]. The interest of a consignor is defined to be a security interest under revised Section 1-201(37), more specifically, a purchase-money security interest in the consignee's inventory. *See* Section 9-103(d) [55-9-103 NMSA 1978]. Thus, the rules pertaining to lien creditors, buyers, and attachment, perfection, and priority of competing security interests apply to consigned goods. The relationship between the consignor and consignee is left to other law. Consignors also have no duties under part 6. *See* Section 9-601(g) [55-9-601 NMSA 1978].

Sometimes parties characterize transactions that secure an obligation (other than the bailee's obligation to return bailed goods) as "consignments." These transactions are not "consignments" as contemplated by Section 9-109(a)(4) [55-9-109 NMSA 1978]. *See* Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978]. This Article applies also to these transactions, by virtue of Section 9-109(a)(1). They create a security interest within the meaning of the first sentence of Section 1-201(b)(35) [55-1-201 NMSA 1978].

This article does not apply to bailments for sale that fall outside the definition of "consignment" in Section 9-102 and that do not create a security interest that secures an obligation.

7. **Security Interest in Obligation Secured by Nonarticle 9 Transaction.** Subsection (b) is unchanged in substance from former section 9-102(3). The following example provides an illustration.

Example 1: O borrows $10,000 from M and secures its repayment obligation, evidenced by a promissory note, by granting to M a mortgage on O's land. This article does not apply to the creation of the real property mortgage. However, if M sells the promissory note to X or gives a security interest in the note to secure M's own obligation to X, this article applies to the security interest thereby created in favor of X. The security interest in the promissory note is covered by this article even though the note is secured by a real property mortgage. Also, X's security interest in the note gives X an attached security interest in the mortgage lien that secures the note and, if the security interest in the note is perfected, the security interest in the mortgage lien likewise is perfected. *See* sections 9-203 and 9-308.

It also follows from subsection (b) that an attempt to obtain or perfect a security interest in a secured obligation by complying with nonarticle 9 law, as by an assignment of record of a real property mortgage, would be ineffective. Finally, it is implicit from subsection (b) that one cannot obtain a security interest in a lien, such as a mortgage on real property, that is not also coupled with an equally effective security interest in the secured obligation. This article rejects cases such as *In re Maryville Savings & Loan Corp.*, 743 F.2d 413 (6th Cir. 1984), clarified on reconsideration, 760 F.2d 119 (1985).

8. **Federal Preemption.** Former section 9-104(a) excluded from article 9 "a security interest subject to any statute of the United States, to the extent that such statute governs the rights of parties to and third parties affected by transactions in particular types of property." Some (erroneously) read the former section to suggest that article 9 sometimes deferred to federal law even when federal law did not preempt article 9. Subsection (c)(1) recognizes explicitly that this article defers to federal law only when and to the extent that it must - *i.e.*, when federal law preempts it.

9. **Governmental Debtors.** Former Section 9-104(e) excluded transfers by governmental debtors. It has been revised and replaced by the exclusions in new paragraphs (2) and (3) of Subsection (c). These paragraphs reflect the view that article 9 should apply to security interests created by a state, foreign country, or a "governmental unit" (defined in Section 9-102) of either except to the extent that another statute governs the issue in question. Under paragraph (2), this article defers to all statutes of the forum state. (A forum cannot determine whether it should consult the choice of law rules in the forum's UCC unless it first determines that its UCC applies to the transaction before it.) Paragraph (3) defers to statutes of another state or a foreign country only to the extent that those statutes contain rules applicable specifically to security interests created by the governmental unit in question.

Example 2: A New Jersey state commission creates a security interest in favor of a New York bank. The validity of the security interest is litigated in New York. The relevant security agreement provides that it is governed by New York law. To the extent that a New Jersey statute contains rules peculiar to creation of security interests by governmental units generally, to creation of security interests by state commissions, or to creation of security interests by this particular state commission, then that law will govern. On the other hand, to the extent that New Jersey law provides that security interests created by governmental units, state commissions, or this state commission are governed by the law generally applicable to secured transactions (i.e., New Jersey's article 9), then New York's article 9 will govern.

Example 3: An airline that is an instrumentality of a foreign country creates a security interest in favor of a New York bank. The analysis used in the previous example would apply here. That is, if the matter is litigated in New York, New York law would govern except to the extent that the foreign country enacted a statute applicable to security interests created by governmental units generally or by the airline specifically.

The fact that New York law applies does not necessarily mean that perfection is accomplished by filing in New York. Rather, it means that the court should apply New York's article 9, including its choice of law provisions. Under New York's Section 9-301, perfection is governed by the law of the jurisdiction in which the debtor is located. Section 9-307 determines the debtor's location for choice of law purposes.

If a transaction does not bear an appropriate relation to the forum state, then that state's article 9 will not apply, regardless of whether the transaction would be excluded by paragraph (3).

Example 4: A Belgian governmental unit grants a security interest in its equipment to a Swiss secured party. The equipment is located in Belgium. A dispute arises and, for some reason, an action is brought in a New Mexico state court. Inasmuch as the transaction bears no "appropriate relation" to New Mexico, New Mexico's UCC, including its article 9, is inapplicable. *See* Section 1-105(1). New Mexico's Section 9-109(c) on excluded transactions should not come into play. Even if the parties agreed that New Mexico law would govern, the parties' agreement would not be effective because the transaction does not bear a "reasonable relation" to New Mexico. *See* Section 1-105(1).

Conversely, article 9 will come into play only if the litigation arises in a UCC jurisdiction or if a foreign choice of law rule leads a foreign court to apply the law of a UCC jurisdiction. For example, if issues concerning a security interest granted by a foreign airline to a New York bank are litigated overseas, the court may be bound to apply the law of the debtor's jurisdiction and not New York's article 9.

10. **Certain Statutory and Common-Law Liens; Interests in Real Property.** With few exceptions (nonconsensual agricultural liens being one), this article applies only to consensual security interests in personal property. Following former Section 9-104(b) and (j), paragraphs (1) and (11) of Subsection (d) exclude landlord's liens and leases and most other interests in or liens on real property. These exclusions generally reiterate the limitations on coverage (i.e., "by contract," "in personal property and fixtures") made explicit in Subsection (a)(1). Similarly, most jurisdictions provide special liens to suppliers of many types of services and materials, either by statute or by common law. With the exception of agricultural liens, it is not necessary for this article to provide general codification of this lien structure, which is determined in large part by local conditions and which is far removed from ordinary commercial financing. As under former Section 9-104(c), Subsection (d)(2) excludes these suppliers' liens (other than agricultural liens) from this article. However, Section 9-333 provides a rule for determining priorities between certain possessory suppliers' liens and security interests covered by this article.

11. **Wage and Similar Claims.** As under former Section 9-104(d), Subsection (d)(3) excludes assignments of claims for wages and the like from this article. These assignments present important social issues that other law addresses. The Federal Trade Commission has ruled that, with some exceptions, the taking of an assignment of wages or other earnings is an unfair act or practice under the Federal Trade Commission Act. *See* 16 C.F.R. part 444. State statutes also may regulate such assignments.

12. **Certain Sales and Assignments of Receivables; Judgments.** In general this article covers security interests in (including sales of) accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles, and promissory notes. Paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) of subsection (d) exclude from the article certain sales and assignments of receivables that, by their nature, do not concern commercial financing transactions. These paragraphs add to the exclusions in former Section 9-104(f) analogous sales and assignments of payment

intangibles and promissory notes. For similar reasons, Subsection (d)(9) retains the exclusion of assignments of judgments under former Section 9-104(h) (other than judgments taken on a right to payment that itself was collateral under this article).

13. **Insurance.** Subsection (d)(8) narrows somewhat the broad exclusion of interests in insurance policies under former Section 9-104(g). This article now covers assignments by or to a health-care provider of "health-care-insurance receivables" (defined in section 9-102).

14. **Set-Off.** Subsection (d)(10) adds two exceptions to the general exclusion of set-off rights from article 9 under former Section 9-104(i). The first takes account of new Section 9-340, which regulates the effectiveness of a set-off against a deposit account that stands as collateral. The second recognizes Section 9-404, which affords the obligor on an account, chattel paper, or general intangible the right to raise claims and defenses against an assignee (secured party).

15. **Tort Claims.** Subsection (d)(12) narrows somewhat the broad exclusion of transfers of tort claims under former Section 9-104(k). This article now applies to assignments of "commercial tort claims" (defined in Section 9-102) as well as to security interests in tort claims that constitute proceeds of other collateral (e.g., a right to payment for negligent destruction of the debtor's inventory). Note that once a claim arising in tort has been settled and reduced to a contractual obligation to pay, the right to payment becomes a payment intangible and ceases to be a claim arising in tort.

This article contains two special rules governing creation of a security interest in tort claims. First, a description of collateral in a security agreement as "all tort claims" is insufficient to meet the requirement for attachment. *See* Section 9-108(e). Second, no security interest attaches under an after-acquired property clause to a tort claim. *See* Section 9-204(b). In addition, this article does not determine whom the tortfeasor must pay to discharge its obligation. Inasmuch as a tortfeasor is not an "account debtor," the rules governing waiver of defenses and discharge of an obligation by an obligor (Sections 9-403, 9-404, 9-405, and 9-406) are inapplicable to tort claim collateral.

16. **Deposit Accounts.** Except in consumer transactions, deposit accounts may be taken as original collateral under this article. Under former Section 9-104(l), deposit accounts were excluded as original collateral, leaving security interests in deposit accounts to be governed by the common law. The common law is nonuniform, often difficult to discover and comprehend, and frequently costly to implement. As a consequence, debtors who wished to use deposit accounts as collateral sometimes were precluded from doing so as a practical matter. By excluding deposit accounts from the article's scope as original collateral in consumer transactions, Subsection (d)(13) leaves those transactions to law other than this article. However, in both consumer and nonconsumer transactions, Sections 9-315 and 9-322 apply to deposit accounts as proceeds and with respect to priorities in proceeds.

This article contains several safeguards to protect debtors against inadvertently encumbering deposit accounts and to reduce the likelihood that a secured party will realize a windfall from a debtor's deposit accounts. For example, because "deposit account" is a separate type of collateral, a security agreement covering general intangibles will not adequately describe deposit accounts. Rather, a security agreement must reasonably identify the deposit accounts that are the subject of a security interest, e.g., by using the term "deposit accounts." *See* Section 9-108. To perfect a security interest in a deposit account as original collateral, a secured party (other than the bank with which the deposit account is maintained) must obtain "control" of the account either by obtaining the bank's signed agreement or by becoming the bank's customer with respect to the deposit account. *See* Sections 9-312(b)(1) [55-9-312 NMSA 1978], 9-104 [55-9-104 NMSA 1978]. Either of these steps requires the debtor's consent.

This article also contains new rules that determine which state's law governs perfection and priority of a security interest in a deposit account (Section 9-304), priority of conflicting security interests in and set-off rights against a deposit account (Sections 9-327 and 9-340), the rights of transferees of funds from an encumbered deposit account (Section 9-332), the obligations of the bank (Section 9-341), enforcement of security interests in a deposit account (Section 9-607(c)), and the duty of a secured party to terminate control of a deposit account (Section 9-208(b)).

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 9 repealed former 55-9-109 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-109, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Cross references. — For acknowledgements for wage and salary assignments, *see* 14-13-11 NMSA 1978.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, in Paragraph (d)(14), deleted "public-finance transaction or other transfer by a state or a governmental unit of a state" and added "transfer by this state or a governmental unit of this state other than a security interest created pursuant to the Industrial Revenue Bond Act, County Industrial Revenue Bond Act, Redevelopment Bonding Law, Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act, County Pollution Control Revenue Bond Act or Hospital Equipment Loan Act".

The 2021 amendment, effective June 18, 2021, amended the existing provision related to the application of Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, to include a public-finance transaction or other transfer by a state or a governmental unit of a state; and in Subsection (d), Paragraph (d)(14), after the first occurrence of "a", added "public-finance transaction or other", after "transfer by", deleted "this state or a governmental unit of this state" and added "a state or a governmental unit of a state".

Decisions under former 55-9-102 and 55-9-104 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Sections 55-9-102 and 55-9-104 NMSA 1978,

annotations decided under former 55-9-102 and 55-9-104 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Use of conditional sale device or method gave to seller a security interest in ski lifts in accordance with this section. *Riblet Tramway Co. v. Monte Verde Corp.*, 453 F.2d 313 (10th Cir. 1972) (decided under former law).

Sales of accounts are secured transactions governed by the UCC. *GMA, Inc. v. Boerner*, 70 B.R. 77 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1987) (decided under former law).

Under former version of Section 55-9-104 NMSA 1978, annuity payments flowing from an annuity purchased pursuant to the terms of a structured settlement agreement between an alleged tortfeasor and its tort victim are not payment intangibles subject to Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code but are payments arising out of tort and an interest in an insurance policy which are excluded from Article 9 and an anti-assignment clause in the annuity is enforceable against a lender who took a security interest in the payments as security for a loan. *Espinosa v. United of Omaha Life Ins. Co.*, 2006-NMCA-075, 139 N.M. 691, 137 P.3d 631, cert. denied, 2006-NMCERT-006, 140 N.M. 224, 141 P.3d 1278.

Action by Indian for violation of tribal law in repossessing pickup truck. *Tempest Recovery Servs. v. Belone*, 2003-NMSC-019, 134 N.M. 133, 74 P.3d 67, expressly *overruling GMAC v. Chischilly*, 1981-NMSC-038, 96 N.M. 113, 628 P.2d 683.

The security assignment of a real estate contract is not subject to the perfection requirements of this article. *In re Anthony*, 1992-NMSC-038, 114 N.M. 95, 835 P.2d 811 (decided under former law).

Land contract and its assignment. — The legislature intended that both a land contract and the assignment thereof be similarly excluded by subsection (j), now paragraph (d)(11). *In re Anthony*, 1992-NMSC-038, 114 N.M. 95, 835 P.2d 811 (decided under former law).

Validity of an assignment of commercial tort claims. — In an interlocutory appeal, where defendant sought to resolve the validity of an assignment of claims arising from an agreement to procure general liability insurance by a property owner, the district court did not err in denying defendant's motion for summary judgment on all claims due to unassignability, because the claims at issue are not personal injury claims as argued by defendant, but are commercial in nature, which are assignable and were validly assigned by the property owner to plaintiff, who was injured on the insured's property. plaintiff, therefore, is not barred from asserting his contract and commercial tort claims against defendant. *Wilson v. Berger Briggs Real Est. & Ins.*, 2021-NMCA-054, cert. denied.

Law reviews. — For note, "Fixtures, Security Interests and Filing: Problems of Title Examination in New Mexico, " see 8 Nat. Resources J. 513 (1968).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Title and rights incident to trust receipts generally, 168 A.L.R. 366.

What amounts to conditional sale, 175 A.L.R. 1367.

Constitutionality, construction and application of statute respecting sale, assignment or transfer of retail installment contracts, 10 A.L.R.2d 447.

Carrier's certificate of convenience and necessity, franchise or permit as subject to transfer or encumbrance, 15 A.L.R.2d 883.

Bill of sale, absolute on its face, as a chattel mortgage, 33 A.L.R.2d 364.

Lease of real estate for term of years as subject of chattel mortgage, 33 A.L.R.2d 1277.

Necessity that mortgage covering oil and gas lease be recorded as real estate mortgage, and/or filed or recorded as chattel mortgage, 34 A.L.R.2d 902.

Effectiveness, as pledge, of transfer of nonnegotiable instruments which represent obligation, 53 A.L.R.2d 1396.

Liability of pawnbroker or pledgee for theft by third person of pawned or pledged property, 68 A.L.R.2d 1259.

Validity of chattel mortgage on stock of goods which mortgagor has right to sell, where mortgagee takes possession of goods before third person's rights attacked, 71 A.L.R.2d 1416.

Relative rights as between assignee of conditional seller and a subsequent buyer from the conditional seller after repossession or the like, 72 A.L.R.2d 342.

Priority as between seller or conditional seller of personalty and claimant under after acquired property clause of mortgage or other instrument, 86 A.L.R.2d 1152.

Construction and effect of U.C.C. art. 9, dealing with secured transactions, sales of accounts, contract rights and chattel paper, 30 A.L.R.3d 9, 67 A.L.R.3d 308, 69 A.L.R.3d 1162, 76 A.L.R.3d 11, 99 A.L.R. 3d 807, 99 A.L.R.3d 1080, 100 A.L.R.3d 10, 100 A.L.R.3d 940, 7 A.L.R.4th 308, 11 A.L.R.4th 241, 90 A.L.R.4th 859, 25 A.L.R.5th 696.

Priority as between statutory landlord's lien and security interest perfected in accordance with Uniform Commercial Code, 99 A.L.R.3d 1006.

Effectiveness of original financing statement under U.C.C. Article 9 after change in debtor's name, identity, or business structure, 99 A.L.R.3d 1194.

Effect of U.C.C. Article 9 upon conflict, as to funds in debtor's bank account, between secured creditor and bank claiming right of setoff, 3 A.L.R.4th 998.

Applicability of Article 9 of Uniform Commercial Code to assignment of rights under real-estate sales contract, lease agreement, or mortgage as collateral for separate transaction, 76 A.L.R.4th 765.

55-9-110. Security interests arising under Chapter 55, Article 2 or 2A NMSA 1978.

A security interest arising under Section 55-2-401, 55-2-505, Subsection (3) of Section 55-2-711 or Subsection (5) of Section 55-2A-508 NMSA 1978 is subject to Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978. However, until the debtor obtains possession of the goods:

(1) the security interest is enforceable, even if Paragraph (3) of Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-203 NMSA 1978 has not been satisfied;

(2) filing is not required to perfect the security interest;

(3) the rights of the secured party after default by the debtor are governed by Chapter 55, Article 2 or 2A NMSA 1978; and

(4) the security interest has priority over a conflicting security interest created by the debtor.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-110, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 10.

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1. Source. Former section 9-113.

2. Background. Former Section 9-113, from which this section derives, referred generally to security interests "arising solely under the Article on Sales (Article 2) or the Article on Leases (Article 2A)." Views differed as to the precise scope of that section. In contrast, Section 9-110 specifies the security interests to which it applies.

3. Security Interests Under Articles 2 and 2A. Section 2-505 explains how a seller of goods may reserve a security interest in them. Section 2-401 indicates that a reservation of title by the seller of goods, despite delivery to the buyer, is limited to reservation of a security interest. As did former article 9, this article governs a security interest arising solely under one of those sections; however, until the buyer obtains possession of the goods, the security interest is enforceable even in the absence of a

security agreement, filing is not necessary to perfect the security interest, and the seller-secured party's rights on the buyer's default are governed by article 2.

Sections 2-711(3) and 2A-508(5) create a security interest in favor of a buyer or lessee in possession of goods that were rightfully rejected or as to which acceptance was justifiably revoked. As did former article 9, this article governs a security interest arising solely under one of those sections; however, until the seller or lessor obtains possession of the goods, the security interest is enforceable even in the absence of a security agreement, filing is not necessary to perfect the security interest, and the secured party's (buyer's or lessee's) rights on the debtor's (seller's or lessor's) default are governed by article 2 or 2A, as the case may be.

4. Priority. This section adds to former Section 9-113 a priority rule. Until the debtor obtains possession of the goods, a security interest arising under one of the specified sections of article 2 or 2A has priority over conflicting security interests created by the debtor. Thus, a security interest arising under Section 2-401 or 2-505 has priority over a conflicting security interest in the buyer's after-acquired goods, even if the goods in question are inventory. Arguably, the same result would obtain under Section 9-322, but even if it would not, a purchase-money-like priority is appropriate. Similarly, a security interest under Section 2-711(3) or 2A-508(5) has priority over security interests claimed by the seller's or lessor's secured lender. This result is appropriate, inasmuch as the payments giving rise to the debt secured by the article 2 or 2A security interest are likely to be included among the lender's proceeds.

Example: Seller owns equipment subject to a security interest created by Seller in favor of Lender. Buyer pays for the equipment, accepts the goods, and then justifiably revokes acceptance. As long as Seller does not recover possession of the equipment, Buyer's security interest under Section 2-711(3) is senior to that of Lender.

In the event that a security interest referred to in this section conflicts with a security interest that is created by a person other than the debtor, Section 9-325 applies. Thus, if Lender's security interest in the example was created not by Seller but by the person from whom Seller acquired the goods, Section 9-325 would govern.

5. Relationship to Other Rights and Remedies Under Articles 2 and 2A. This article does not specifically address the conflict between (i) a security interest created by a buyer or lessee and (ii) the seller's or lessor's right to withhold delivery under Section 2-702(1), 2-703(a), or 2A-525, the seller's or lessor's right to stop delivery under Section 2-705 or 2A-526, or the seller's right to reclaim under Section 2-507(2) or 2-702(2). These conflicts are governed by the first sentence of Section 2-403(1), under which the buyer's secured party obtains no greater rights in the goods than the buyer had or had power to convey, or Section 2A-307(1), under which creditors of the lessee take subject to the lease contract.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 10 repealed former 55-9-110 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1985, ch. 193, § 11, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former 55-9-113 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-113 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-113 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Oral title-retention contract. — Cattle seller's alleged oral title-retention contract with a buyer did not create a security interest within the provisions of this section, since it was not evidenced by a written agreement and filed so that it could take priority over a bank's perfected security interest. *O'Brien v. Chandler*, 1988-NMSC-094, 107 N.M. 797, 765 P.2d 1165 (decided under former law).

Law reviews. — For article, "Buyers and Sellers of Goods in Bankruptcy," see 1 N.M. L. Rev. 435 (1971).

For article, "Essential Attributes of Commercial Paper - Part I," see 1 N.M. L. Rev. 479 (1971).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Bill of sale, absolute on its face, as a chattel mortgage, 33 A.L.R.2d 364.

55-9-111. Repealed.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals. — Laws 1992, ch. 114, § 237C repeals 55-9-111 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-111, relating to consignment, effective July 1, 1992. For provisions of former section, *see* the 1991 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com*.

55-9-112. Superseded.

ANNOTATIONS

Compiler's notes. — Several sections of former Article 9 were not repealed, however, it appears that this may have been an oversight as these sections appear to have been superseded. The Official Comments to Section 9-102 (55-9-102 NMSA 1978) states that the definition of "debtor" found in 9-102(a)(28) renders unnecessary former Section 9-112 (55-9-112 NMSA 1978).

55-9-113. Superseded.

ANNOTATIONS

Compiler's notes. — Several sections of former Article 9 were not repealed, however, it appears that this may have been an oversight as these sections appear to have been superseded. The Official Comments to Section 9-110 (55-9-110 NMSA 1978) states that the source of Section 9-110 (55-9-110 NMSA 1978) is "former Section 9-113 (55-9-113)".

55-9-114. Superseded.

ANNOTATIONS

Compiler's notes. — Several sections of former Article 9 were not repealed, however, it appears that this may have been an oversight as these sections appear to have been superseded. The Official Comments to Section 9-110 (55-9-110 NMSA 1978) states that the source of Section 9-110 (55-9-110 NMSA 1978) is "former Section 9-113 (55-9-113)".

55-9-115. Superseded.

ANNOTATIONS

Compiler's notes. — Several sections of former Article 9 were not repealed, however, it appears that this may have been an oversight as these sections appear to have been superseded. Subsection (1) of this section has been superseded by Section 9-102 (55-9-102 NMSA 1978) and 9-106 (55-9-106 NMSA 1978). Subsection (2) of this section has been superseded by Section 9-203 (55-9-203 NMSA 1978) and 55-9-308 (55-9-308 NMSA 1978). Subsection (3) of this section has been superseded by Section 9-108 (55-9-108 NMSA 1978). Subsection (4) has been superseded by Section 9-309 (55-9-309 NMSA 1978) and 9-314 (55-9-314 NMSA 1978). Subsection (5) has been superseded by Section 9-327 (55-9-327 NMSA 1978), 9-328 (55-9-328 NMSA 1978) and 9-329 (55-9-329 NMSA 1978). Subsection (6) of this section has been superseded by Section 9-203 (55-9-203 NMSA 1978) and 9-313 (55-9-313 NMSA 1978). See the Official Comments following each of those sections.

55-9-116. Superseded.

ANNOTATIONS

Compiler's notes. — Several sections of former Article 9 were not repealed, however, it appears that this may have been an oversight as these sections appear to have been superseded. This section has been superseded by Section 9-206 (55-9-206 NMSA 1978) and 9-309 (55-9-309 NMSA 1978). The Official Comments state that the source of Section 9-206 (55-9-206 NMSA 1978) is "former Section 9-206 (55-9-206)" and "former Section 9-309 (55-9-309)".

PART 2
EFFECTIVENESS OF SECURITY AGREEMENT; ATTACHMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST; RIGHTS OF PARTIES TO SECURITY AGREEMENT

SUBPART 1. EFFECTIVENESS AND ATTACHMENT

55-9-201. General effectiveness of security agreement.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in the Uniform Commercial Code [Chapter 55, NMSA 1978], a security agreement is effective according to its terms between the parties, against purchasers of the collateral and against creditors.

(b) A transaction subject to Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 is subject to any applicable rule of law which establishes a different rule for consumers, and to the provisions of the Oil and Gas Products Lien Act [48-9-1 to 48-9-8 NMSA 1978]; Chapter 56, Article 1 NMSA 1978; the Artists' Consignment Act [56-11-1 to 56-11-3 NMSA 1978]; the Pawnbrokers Act [56-12-1 to 56-12-16 NMSA 1978]; the New Mexico Bank Installment Loan Act of 1959 [58-7-1 NMSA 1978]; the New Mexico Small Loan Act of 1955 [Chapter 58, Article 15 NMSA 1978]; the Motor Vehicle Sales Finance Act [58-19-1 NMSA 1978]; and to rules adopted under those statutes.

(c) In case of conflict between Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 and a rule of law, statute or rule described in Subsection (b) of this section, the rule of law, statute or rule controls. Failure to comply with a statute or rule described in Subsection (b) of this section has only the effect the statute or rule specifies.

(d) Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 does not:

(1) validate any rate, charge, agreement or practice that violates a rule of law, statute or rule described in Subsection (b) of this section; or

(2) extend the application of the rule of law, statute or rule to a transaction not otherwise subject to it.

(e) The filing provisions set forth in the Farm Products Secured Interest Act [56-13-1 to 56-13-14 NMSA 1978] and in the Public Utility Act [62-13-1 NMSA 1978] are in addition to the filing provisions set forth in Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978. Failure to comply with the filing provisions in those acts has only the effect specified in those acts.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-201, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 11.

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1. Source. Former Sections 9-201 and 9-203(4).

2. Effectiveness of Security Agreement. Subsection (a) provides that a security agreement is generally effective. With certain exceptions, a security agreement is effective between the debtor and secured party and is likewise effective against third parties. Note that "security agreement" is used here (and elsewhere in this article) as it is defined in Section 9-102: "(A)n agreement that creates or provides for a security interest." It follows that subsection (a) does not provide that every term or provision contained in a record that contains a security agreement or that is so labeled is effective. Properly read, former Section 9-201 was to the same effect. Exceptions to the general rule of Subsection (a) arise where there is an overriding provision in this article or any other article of the UCC. For example, Section 9-317 subordinates unperfected security interests to lien creditors and certain buyers, and several provisions in part 3 subordinate some security interests to other security interests and interests of purchasers.

3. Law, Statutes, and Regulations Applicable to Certain Transactions. Subsection (b) makes clear that certain transactions, although subject to this article, also are subject to other applicable laws relating to consumers or specified in that subsection. Subsection (c) provides that the other law is controlling in the event of a conflict, and that a violation of other law does not ipso facto constitute a violation of this article. Subsection (d) provides that this article does not validate violations under or extend the application of the other applicable laws.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 11 repealed former 55-9-201 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-201, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former 55-9-201 and 55-9-203 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Sections 55-9-201 and 55-9-203 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-201 and 55-9-203 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Use of traditional security agreements may continue. — The traditional forms of security agreements in use before the enactment of this section may continue to be used after its enactment. *Strevell-Paterson Fin. Co. v. May*, 1967-NMSC-004, 77 N.M. 331, 422 P.2d 366.

Parol evidence cannot be offered to establish a valid security agreement. *First Nat'l Bank v. Niccum (In re Permian Anchor Servs.)*, 649 F.2d 763 (10th Cir. 1981).

Law reviews. — For comment, "New Mexico's Uniform Commercial Code in Oil and Gas Transactions," see 10 Nat. Resources J. 361 (1970).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 155 et seq.

Violation of statute as to form of, or terms to be included in, conditional sales contract as invalidating entire transaction or merely its effect to reserve title in vendor, 144 A.L.R. 1103.

Validity and nature of trust receipts, 168 A.L.R. 359.

Rights of seller of motor vehicle with respect to purchase price or security on failure to comply with law governing transfer of title, 58 A.L.R.2d 1351.

Attorney's liability for negligence in preparing or recording security document, 87 A.L.R.2d 991.

"Unconscionability" as ground for refusing enforcement of contract for sale of goods or agreement collateral thereto, 18 A.L.R.3d 1305.

Leaving part of loan on deposit with lender as usury, 92 A.L.R.3d 769.

55-9-202. Title to collateral immaterial.

Except as otherwise provided with respect to consignments or sales of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles or promissory notes, the provisions of Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 with regard to rights and obligations apply whether title to collateral is in the secured party or the debtor.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-202, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 12.

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1. Source. Former section 9-202.

2. Title Immaterial. The rights and duties of parties to a secured transaction and affected third parties are provided in this article without reference to the location of "title" to the collateral. For example, the characteristics of a security interest that secures the purchase price of goods are the same whether the secured party appears to have retained title or the debtor appears to have obtained title and then conveyed title or a lien to the secured party.

3. When Title Matters.

a. Under This Article. This section explicitly acknowledges two circumstances in which the effect of certain article 9 provisions turns on ownership (title). First, in some respects sales of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles, and promissory notes receive special treatment. *See, e.g.*, sections 9-207(a), 9-210(b), and 9-615(e). Buyers of receivables under former article 9 were treated specially, as well. *See, e.g.*, former section 9-502(2). Second, the remedies of a consignor under a true consignment and, for the most part, the remedies of a buyer of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles, or promissory notes are determined by other law and not by part 6. *See* section 9-601(g).

b. Under Other Law. This article does not determine which line of interpretation (*e.g.*, title theory or lien theory, retained title or conveyed title) should be followed in cases in which the applicability of another rule of law depends upon who has title. If, for example, a revenue law imposes a tax on the "legal" owner of goods or if a corporation law makes a vote of the stockholders prerequisite to a corporation "giving" a security interest but not if it acquires property "subject" to a security interest, this article does not attempt to define whether the secured party is a "legal" owner or whether the transaction "gives" a security interest for the purpose of such laws. Other rules of law or the agreement of the parties determines the location and source of title for those purposes.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 12 repealed former 55-9-202 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-202, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Law reviews. — For comment on *Graham v. Stoneham*, 73 N.M. 382, 388 P.2d 389 (1963), see 4 Nat. Resources J. 175 (1964).

For article, "Buyers and Sellers of Goods in Bankruptcy," see 1 N.M. L. Rev. 435 (1971).

55-9-203. Attachment and enforceability of security interest; proceeds; supporting obligations; formal requisites.

(a) A security interest attaches to collateral when it becomes enforceable against the debtor with respect to the collateral, unless an agreement expressly postpones the time of attachment.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsections (c) through (i) of this section, a security interest is enforceable against the debtor and third parties with respect to the collateral only if:

(1) value has been given;

(2) the debtor has rights in the collateral or the power to transfer rights in the collateral to a secured party; and

(3) one of the following conditions is met:

(A) the debtor has signed a security agreement that provides a description of the collateral and, if the security interest covers timber to be cut, a description of the land concerned;

(B) the collateral is not a certificated security and is in the possession of the secured party under Section 55-9-313 NMSA 1978 pursuant to the debtor's security agreement;

(C) the collateral is a certificated security in registered form and the security certificate has been delivered to the secured party under Section 55-8-301 NMSA 1978 pursuant to the debtor's security agreement;

(D) the collateral is controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles, deposit accounts, electronic documents, electronic money, investment property or letter-of-credit rights, and the secured party has control under Section 55-7-106, 55-9-104, 55-9-105A, 55-9-106, 55-9-107 or 55-9-107A NMSA 1978 pursuant to the debtor's security agreement; or

(E) the collateral is chattel paper and the secured party has possession and control under Section 55-9-314A NMSA 1978 pursuant to the debtor's security agreement.

(c) Subsection (b) of this section is subject to Section 55-4-210 NMSA 1978 on the security interest of a collecting bank, Section 55-5-118 NMSA 1978 on the security interest of a letter-of-credit issuer or nominated person, Section 55-9-110 NMSA 1978 on a security interest arising under Chapter 55, Article 2 or 2A NMSA 1978 and Section 55-9-206 NMSA 1978 on security interests in investment property.

(d) A person becomes bound as debtor by a security agreement entered into by another person if, by operation of law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 or by contract:

(1) the security agreement becomes effective to create a security interest in the person's property; or

(2) the person becomes generally obligated for the obligations of the other person, including the obligation secured under the security agreement, and acquires or succeeds to all or substantially all of the assets of the other person.

(e) If a new debtor becomes bound as debtor by a security agreement entered into by another person:

(1) the agreement satisfies Paragraph (3) of Subsection (b) of this section with respect to existing or after-acquired property of the new debtor to the extent the property is described in the agreement; and

(2) another agreement is not necessary to make a security interest in the property enforceable.

(f) The attachment of a security interest in collateral gives the secured party the rights to proceeds provided by Section 55-9-315 NMSA 1978 and is also attachment of a security interest in a supporting obligation for the collateral.

(g) The attachment of a security interest in a right to payment or performance secured by a security interest or other lien on personal or real property is also attachment of a security interest in the security interest, mortgage or other lien.

(h) The attachment of a security interest in a securities account is also attachment of a security interest in the security entitlements carried in the securities account.

(i) The attachment of a security interest in a commodity account is also attachment of a security interest in the commodity contracts carried in the commodity account.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-203, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 13; 2005, ch. 144, § 95; 2023, ch. 142, § 50.

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1. **Source.** Former Sections 9-115(2), (6) and 9-203 [55-9-115, 55-9-203 NMSA 1978, respectively].

2. **Creation, Attachment, and Enforceability.** Subsection (a) states the general rule that a security interest attaches to collateral only when it becomes enforceable against the debtor. Subsection (b) specifies the circumstances under which a security interest becomes enforceable. Subsection (b) states three basic prerequisites to the existence of a security interest: Value (paragraph (1)), rights or power to transfer rights in collateral (paragraph (2)), and agreement plus satisfaction of an evidentiary requirement (paragraph (3)). When all of these elements exist, a security interest becomes enforceable between the parties and attaches under Subsection (a). Subsection (c) identifies certain exceptions to the general rule of Subsection (b).

3. **Security Agreement; Signed.** Under Subsection (b)(3), enforceability requires the debtor's security agreement and compliance with an evidentiary requirement in the nature of a Statute of Frauds. Paragraph (3)(A) represents the most basic of the evidentiary alternatives, under which the debtor must sign a security agreement that provides a description of the collateral. Under Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978], a "security agreement" is "an agreement that creates or provides for a security interest." Neither that definition nor the requirement of paragraph (3)(A) rejects the deeply rooted doctrine that a bill of sale, although absolute in form, may be shown in fact to have been given as security. Under this Article, as under prior law, a debtor may show by parol evidence that a transfer purporting to be absolute was in fact for security. Similarly, a self-styled "lease" may serve as a security agreement if the agreement creates a security interest. *See* Section 1-203 [55-1-203 NMSA 1978] (distinguishing security interest from lease). Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201 [55-1-201 NMSA 1978], the cognate terms "signed" and "signing" replace the references to "authenticated" and "authentication" in the pre-2022 text of this Section.

4. **Possession, Delivery, or Control Pursuant to Security Agreement.** The other alternatives in Subsection (b)(3) dispense with the requirement of a signed security agreement and provide alternative evidentiary tests. Under paragraph (3)(B), the secured party's possession substitutes for the debtor's signed security agreement under paragraph (3)(A) if the secured party's possession is "pursuant to the debtor's security agreement." That phrase refers to the debtor's agreement to the secured party's possession in connection with the creation of a security interest. The phrase should not be confused with the phrase "debtor has signed a security agreement," used in paragraph (3)(A), which contemplates the debtor's signing of a record. In the unlikely event that possession is obtained without the debtor's agreement, possession would not suffice as a substitute for a signed security agreement. However, once the security interest has become enforceable and has attached, it is not impaired by the fact that the secured party's possession is maintained without the agreement of a subsequent debtor (e.g., a transferee). Possession as contemplated by Section 9-313 [55-9-313 NMSA 1978] is possession for purposes of Subsection (b)(3)(B), even though it may not constitute possession "pursuant to the debtor's agreement" and consequently might not serve as a substitute for a signed security agreement under Subsection (b)(3)(A). Subsection (b)(3)(C) provides that delivery of a certificated security to the secured party under Section 8-301 pursuant to the debtor's security agreement is sufficient as a substitute for a signed security agreement. Similarly, under Subsection (b)(3)(D), control of controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles, deposit accounts, electronic documents, electronic money, investment property, or a letter-of-credit rights satisfies the evidentiary test if control is pursuant to the debtor's security agreement, and under Subsection (b)(3)(E), possession and control of chattel paper under Section 9-314A [55-9-314 NMSA 1978] satisfies the evidentiary test if pursuant to the debtor's security agreement.

5. **Collateral Covered by Other Statute or Treaty.** One evidentiary purpose of the formal requisites stated in subsection (b) is to minimize the possibility of future disputes as to the terms of a security agreement (*e.g.*, as to the property that stands as collateral

for the obligation secured). One should distinguish the evidentiary functions of the formal requisites of attachment and enforceability (such as the requirement that a security agreement contain a description of the collateral) from the more limited goals of "notice filing" for financing statements under part 5, explained in Section 9-502, comment 2. When perfection is achieved by compliance with the requirements of a statute or treaty described in Section 9-311(a), such as a federal recording act or a certificate-of-title statute, the manner of describing the collateral in a registry imposed by the statute or treaty may or may not be adequate for purposes of this section and Section 9-108. However, the description contained in the security agreement, not the description in a public registry or on a certificate of title, controls for purposes of this section.

6. **Debtor's Rights; Debtor's Power to Transfer Rights.** Subsection (b)(2) conditions attachment on the debtor's having "rights in the collateral or the power to transfer rights in the collateral to a secured party." A debtor's limited rights in collateral, short of full ownership, are sufficient for a security interest to attach. However, in accordance with basic personal property conveyancing principles, the baseline rule is that a security interest attaches only to whatever rights a debtor may have, broad or limited as those rights may be.

Certain exceptions to the baseline rule enable a debtor to transfer, and a security interest to attach to, greater rights than the debtor has. See part 3, subpart 3 (priority rules). The phrase, "or the power to transfer rights in the collateral to a secured party," accommodates those exceptions. In some cases, a debtor may have power to transfer another person's rights only to a class of transferees that excludes secured parties. *See, e.g.*, section 2-403(2) (giving certain merchants power to transfer an entruster's rights to a buyer in ordinary course of business). Under those circumstances, the debtor would not have the power to create a security interest in the other person's rights, and the condition in subsection (b)(2) would not be satisfied.

7. **New Debtors.** Subsection (e) makes clear that the enforceability requirements of subsection (b)(3) are met when a new debtor becomes bound under an original debtor's security agreement. If a new debtor becomes bound as debtor by a security agreement entered into by another person, the security agreement satisfies the requirement of subsection (b)(3) as to the existing and after-acquired property of the new debtor to the extent the property is described in the agreement.

Subsection (d) explains when a new debtor becomes bound. Persons who become bound under paragraph (2) are limited to those who both become primarily liable for the original debtor's obligations and succeed to (or acquire) its assets. Thus, the paragraph excludes sureties and other secondary obligors as well as persons who become obligated through veil piercing and other nonsuccessorship doctrines. In many cases, paragraph (2) will exclude successors to the assets and liabilities of a division of a debtor. *See also* section 9-508, comment 3.

8. **Proceeds and Supporting Obligations.** Under Subsection (f), attachment of a security interest in original collateral also is attachment of a security interest in identifiable proceeds as provided in Section 9-315(a)(2) [55-9-315 NMSA 1978]. It is not necessary for a security agreement to mention "proceeds" or otherwise to describe collateral consisting of proceeds. *See also* Section 9-108 [55-9-108 NMSA 1978], Comment 5. Also under subsection (f), a security interest in a "supporting obligation" (defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978]) automatically follows from a security interest in the underlying, supported collateral. This result was implicit under pre-1998 Article 9. Implicit in Subsection (f) is the principle that the secured party's interest in a supporting obligation extends to the supporting obligation only to the extent that it supports the collateral in which the secured party has a security interest. Complex issues may arise, however, if a supporting obligation supports many separate obligations of a particular account debtor and if the supported obligations are separately assigned as security to several secured parties. The problems may be exacerbated if a supporting obligation is limited to an aggregate amount that is less than the aggregate amount of the obligations it supports. This Article does not contain provisions dealing with competing claims to a limited supporting obligation. As under pre-1998 Article 9, other law, including the law of suretyship, and the agreements of the parties will control.

9. **Collateral Follows Right to Payment or Performance.** Subsection (g) codifies the common law rule that a transfer of an obligation secured by a security interest or other lien on personal or real property also transfers the security interest or lien. See Restatement (3d), Property (Mortgages) section 5.4(a) (1997). *See also* Section 9-308(e) (analogous rule for perfection).

10. **Investment Property.** Subsections (h) and (i) [(j)] make clear that attachment of a security interest in a securities account or commodity account is also attachment in security entitlements or commodity contracts carried in the accounts.

ANNOTATIONS

Cross references. — For description of collateral, *see* 55-9-108 NMSA 1978.

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 13 repealed former 55-9-203 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1996, ch. 47, § 61, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, revised certain conditions related to the enforceability of a security interest against the debtor and third parties with respect to the collateral; in Subparagraph (b)(3)(A), after "debtor has", deleted "authenticated" and added "signed"; in Subparagraph (b)(3)(D), after "collateral is", added "controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles", after "deposit accounts", deleted "electronic chattel paper" and added "electronic documents, electronic money", after "letter-of-credit rights", deleted "or electronic documents", after "55-9-104", deleted "55-9-105" and added "55-9-105A", and after "55-9-107", added "or 55-9-107A"; and added Subparagraph (b)(3)(E).

The 2005 amendment, effective January 1, 2006, provides in Subsection (b)(3)(D) that collateral may include electronic documents and adds Section 55-7-107 NMSA 1978 as a section under which the secured party has control.

Decisions under former Sections 55-9-115 and 55-9-203 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-115 and 55-9-203 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-115 and 55-9-203 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Use of traditional security agreements may continue. — The traditional forms of security agreements in use before the enactment of this section may continue to be used after its enactment. *Strevell-Paterson Fin. Co. v. May*, 1967-NMSC-004, 77 N.M. 331, 422 P.2d 366 (decided under former law).

Security interest not enforceable until debtor signs written agreement. — Purchase money security interest of defendant was not enforceable under this section until after the written security agreements had been signed by owner of equipment paid for by defendant. *Honea v. Laco Auto Leasing, Inc.*, 1969-NMCA-025, 80 N.M. 300, 454 P.2d 782 (decided under former law).

Agreement effective only as to collateral described therein. — A security interest is not effective against third parties unless the debtor has signed a security agreement which contains a description of the collateral, and the disputed items cannot be included within the security agreement by the "outside evidence" relied on by plaintiff because the disputed items are not described in the security agreement. *Jones & Laughlin Supply v. Dugan Prod. Corp.*, 1973-NMCA-050, 85 N.M. 51, 508 P.2d 1348 (decided under former law).

Agreement that did not describe collateral was inadequate. — A security agreement between a floor plan financier and a used car dealer which left blank a space therein for describing collateral was inadequate to perfect an interest in automobiles obtained by the dealer for resale from another dealer which retained possession of the certificates of title until it was paid. *Avlin Inc. v. Manis*, 1998-NMCA-011, 124 N.M. 544, 953 P.2d 309 (decided under former law).

A mortgage securing the repayment of a promissory note follows the note. — In a residential foreclosure action, where plaintiff bank filed a complaint to enforce defendant's promissory note and foreclose his mortgage, and where defendant claimed that plaintiff had no right to foreclose his mortgage as a result of an unrecorded assignment of mortgage from the original lender, wells fargo bank, to another entity before wells fargo bank later assigned the same mortgage to plaintiff, claiming that the unrecorded assignment created a genuine issue of fact regarding plaintiff's ownership of the mortgage, the district court did not err in granting plaintiff's motion for summary judgment because the unrecorded assignment was a legal nullity, and it is a long-standing principle that a mortgage securing the repayment of a promissory note follows the note, and thus only the rightful owner of the note has the right to enforce the

mortgage. In the present case, plaintiff established that it was in possession of the promissory note at the time of filing by presenting the original note indorsed in blank with its complaint, and under New Mexico law, when the promissory note indorsed in blank was transferred to plaintiff prior to filing, the mortgage followed the note into plaintiff's possession. *HSBC Bank USA v. Wiles*, 2020-NMCA-035, cert. denied.

Omission of collateral from security agreement creates no security interest. — Where the collateral is described on a financing statement but omitted from the security agreement, there is no enforceable security interest. *First Nat'l Bank v. Niccum (In re Permian Anchor Servs.)*, 649 F.2d 763 (10th Cir. 1981) (decided under former law).

Parol evidence cannot be offered to establish a valid security agreement. *First Nat'l Bank v. Niccum (In re Permian Anchor Servs.)*, 649 F.2d 763 (10th Cir. 1981) (decided under former law).

Possession for purpose of attachment not established. — There was no attachment of an interest in vehicles by way of possession as required under this section, where the debtor delivered the vehicles to an auction house that was acting, at least in part, as debtor's agent. *Parker v. Elkins Welding & Constr., Inc.*, 258 Bankr. 216 (Bankr. D.N.M. 2001) (decided under former law).

Law reviews. — For article, "Essential Attributes of Commercial Paper - Part I," see 1 N.M. L. Rev. 479 (1971).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Sufficiency of debtor's signature on security agreement or financing statement under UCC §§ 9-203 and 9-402, 3 A.L.R.4th 502.

Right of secured creditor to have set aside fraudulent transfer of other property by his debtor, 8 A.L.R.4th 1123.

Conveyance of land as including mature but unharvested crops, 51 A.L.R.4th 1263.

Avoidance under 11 USCS § 522(f)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code of 1978 of nonpossessory, nonpurchase-money security interest in debtor's exempt personal property, 55 A.L.R. Fed. 353.

55-9-204. After-acquired property; future advances.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (b) of this section, a security agreement may create or provide for a security interest in after-acquired collateral.

(b) Subject to Subsection (b.1) of this section, security interest does not attach under a term constituting an after-acquired property clause to:

(1) consumer goods, other than an accession when given as additional security, unless the debtor acquires rights in them within ten days after the secured party gives value; or

(2) a commercial tort claim.

(b.1) Subsection (b) of this section does not prevent a security interest from attaching:

(1) to consumer goods as proceeds under Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-315 NMSA 1978 or commingled goods under Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-336 NMSA 1978;

(2) to a commercial tort claim as proceeds under Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-315 NMSA 1978; or

(3) under an after-acquired property clause to property that is proceeds of consumer goods or a commercial tort claim.

(c) A security agreement may provide that collateral secures, or that accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles or promissory notes are sold in connection with, future advances or other value, whether or not the advances or value are given pursuant to commitment.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-204, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 14; 2023, ch. 142, § 51.

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1. **Source.** Former Section 9-204 [55-9-204 NMSA 1978].

2. **After-Acquired Property; Continuing General Lien.** Subsection (a) makes clear that a security interest arising by virtue of an after-acquired property clause is no less valid than a security interest in collateral in which the debtor has rights at the time value is given. A security interest in after-acquired property is not merely an "equitable" interest; no further action by the secured party - such as a supplemental agreement covering the new collateral - is required. This section adopts the principle of a "continuing general lien" or "floating lien." It validates a security interest in the debtor's existing and (upon acquisition) future assets, even though the debtor has liberty to use or dispose of collateral without being required to account for proceeds or substitute new collateral. *See* Section 9-205 [55-9-205 NSMA 1978]. Subsection (a), together with subsection (c), also validates "cross-collateral" clauses under which collateral acquired at any time secures advances whenever made.

3. **After-Acquired Consumer Goods.** Subsection (b)(1) makes ineffective an after-acquired property clause covering consumer goods (defined in Section 9-102(a)(23)) [55-9-102 NMSA 1978], except as accessions (*see* Section 9-335 [55-9-335 NMSA 1978]), acquired more than 10 days after the secured party gives value. Subsection (b)(1) is unchanged in substance from the corresponding provision in pre-1998 Section 9-204(2) [55-9-204 NMSA 1978]. However, a term granting a security interest in consumer goods that will be purchase-money collateral in the transaction is not "a term constituting an after-acquired property clause." Consequently, Subsection (b)(1) does not prevent the security interest from attaching to the purchase-money collateral even if the collateral is not an accession and the debtor acquires rights in the collateral more than 10 days after the secured party gives value.

4. **Commercial Tort Claims.** Subsection (b)(2) provides that an after-acquired property clause in a security agreement does not reach future commercial tort claims. In order for a security interest in a tort claim as original collateral to attach, the claim must be in existence when the security agreement is signed. In addition, the security agreement must describe the tort claim with greater specificity than simply "all tort claims." *See* Section 9-108(e).

4A. **Proceeds and Commingled Goods.** Subsection (b.1) clarifies and makes explicit what is implicit in the pre-2022 text of Subsection (b). Subsection (b) does not prevent a security interest from attaching to consumer goods as proceeds or as commingled goods, to commercial tort claims as proceeds, or under an after-acquired property clause to proceeds of consumer goods or commercial tort claims. This clarification corrects and rejects the erroneous holdings of several cases addressing commercial tort claims that are proceeds. As to proceeds, this result also follows from Section 9-203(f) [55-9-203 NMSA 1978].

5. **Future Advances; Obligations Secured.** Under Subsection (c) collateral may secure future as well as past or present advances if the security agreement so provides. This is in line with the policy of this article toward security interests in after-acquired property under subsection (a). Indeed, the parties are free to agree that a security interest secures any obligation whatsoever. Determining the obligations secured by collateral is solely a matter of construing the parties' agreement under applicable law. This article rejects the holdings of cases decided under former Article 9 that applied other tests, such as whether a future advance or other subsequently incurred obligation was of the same or a similar type or class as earlier advances and obligations secured by the collateral.

6. **Sales of Receivables.** Subsections (a) and (c) expressly validate after-acquired property and future advance clauses not only when the transaction is for security purposes but also when the transaction is the sale of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles, or promissory notes. This result was implicit under former Article 9.

7. **Financing Statements.** The effect of after-acquired property and future advance clauses as components of a security agreement should not be confused with the

requirements applicable to financing statements under this article's system of perfection by notice filing. The references to after-acquired property clauses and future advance clauses in this section are limited to security agreements. There is no need to refer to after-acquired property or future advances or other obligations secured in a financing statement. *See* section 9-502, comment 2.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 14 repealed former 55-9-204 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1985, ch. 193, § 14, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, added a provision related creating or providing a security interest in after-acquired collateral; in Subsection (b), added "Subject to Subsection (b.1) of this section"; and added Subsection (b.1).

Decisions under former 55-9-204 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-204 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-204 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.

Steps necessary to create security interest may be taken in any order. — If a financing statement is filed, value is extended, and a security agreement is executed, then there is a security interest in the described collateral. These steps can be taken in any order and priority is given to the security interest which is filed first, even if that security interest has not attached at the time of filing. *Waterfield v. Burnett (In re Burnett)*, 21 B.R. 752 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1982) (decided under former law).

Effect of security agreement is to immediately transfer property interest in collateral. *Hernandez v. S.I.C. Fin. Co.*, 1968-NMSC-192, 79 N.M. 673, 448 P.2d 474 (decided under former law).

Description of collateral in financing statement. — The description of collateral in the financing statement as the "entire inventory of merchandise together with all proceeds derived therefrom" is sufficient to give another creditor notice of the security interest in after-acquired inventory. *Kuemmerle v. United N.M. Bank*, 1992-NMSC-028, 113 N.M. 677, 831 P.2d 976 (decided under former law).

Effect of future advance clause with respect to third persons. — With respect to third persons, future advances do not come within the protection of the future advance clause of the security agreement unless the future advance is of the same general class of debt as the original debt and was within the contemplation of the parties where the security agreement was made. *AG-Chem Farm Servs., Inc. v. Coberly*, 1987-NMCA-009, 105 N.M. 384, 733 P.2d 15 (decided under former law).

Debt consolidation loan did not cause lapse of prior security agreement. — A loan consolidating a debtor's preceding debts was, in effect, a renewal of his previous loans, including a 1979 loan covered by a security agreement, so that the security agreement did not lapse as a result of the consolidation, since the security agreement provided that the agreement would secure "the payment of all extensions and renewals," and it was the parties' intent that the agreement secure the amount owing under the 1979 loan as well as future advances. *Bond Enters., Inc. v. W. Bank*, 54 B.R. 366 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1985) (decided under former law).

Failure to disclose time limit for acquisition of after-acquired property. — The Consumer Credit Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. §1601, et seq. was not violated where a loan agreement disclosed that the agreement covered after-acquired property, but failed to disclose the provision of New Mexico law that a security interest in after-acquired property covers only property acquired by the borrower within ten days after the lender gives value. *Montoya v. Postal Credit Union*, 630 F.2d 745 (10th Cir. 1980).

II. AGREEMENT TO ATTACH.

Agreement not payment key to attachment. — When defendant agreed to buy equipment from pump company, company agreed to furnish the equipment, and lessee of the equipment agreed that defendant would have an interest in the equipment, security interest attached immediately, not upon actual payment by defendant of purchase price. *Honea v. Laco Auto Leasing, Inc.*, 1969-NMCA-025, 80 N.M. 300, 454 P.2d 782 (decided under former law).

No security interest created if collateral omitted from security agreement. — If the collateral is described on a financing statement but omitted from the security agreement, there is no enforceable security interest. *First Nat'l Bank v. Niccum (In re Permian Anchor Servs.)*, 649 F.2d 763 (10th Cir. 1981) (decided under former law).

III. VALUE GIVEN.

Value previously given. — Having previously given value for security interest, secured party acquired this interest (the security interest attached) by the equipment lease agreement. *Transamerica Leasing Corp. v. Bureau of Revenue*, 1969-NMCA-011, 80 N.M. 48, 450 P.2d 934 (decided under former law).

Binding commitment to extend credit deemed sufficient value. — The fact that equipment leases were not signed until after the installation of the equipment, and thus not enforceable at the time of the installations, did not prevent the attachment of defendant's security interest at the time of installation where defendant gave a binding commitment to extend credit, and this commitment was acted upon. *Honea v. Laco Auto Leasing, Inc.*, 1969-NMCA-025, 80 N.M. 300, 454 P.2d 782 (decided under former law).

IV. DEBTOR RIGHTS IN COLLATERAL.

Rights acquired and security interests attach upon delivery to debtor. — Where vendor from whom business owner purchased inventory provided delivery of the items in its own trucks and at its own risk, and all sales were for cash on delivery, business owner acquired rights in the collateral when it was delivered, and the bank's security interest in his inventory "now owned or hereafter acquired" attached at that point and was perfected. *National Inv. Trust v. First Nat'l Bank*, 1975-NMSC-065, 88 N.M. 514, 543 P.2d 482 (decided under former law).

Law reviews. — For comment, "New Mexico's Uniform Commercial Code in Oil and Gas Transactions," see 10 Nat. Resources J. 361 (1970).

For article, "Buyers and Sellers of Goods in Bankruptcy," see 1 N.M. L. Rev. 435 (1971).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Term "increase" in description in chattel mortgage on animals, as including increase other than by generation, 1 A.L.R. 554.

Chattel mortgage on livestock as including increase, 39 A.L.R. 153.

Chattel mortgage on fruit crops growing or to be grown, 54 A.L.R. 1532.

Filing of chattel mortgage on crops as constructive notice, 77 A.L.R. 572.

Chattel mortgage on livestock as covering animals subsequently acquired by means other than increase of generation, 129 A.L.R. 899.

Chattel mortgage lien attaching to subsequently born offspring as surviving period of suitable nurture, 144 A.L.R. 330.

Priority as between seller or conditional seller of personalty and claimant under after acquired property clause of mortgage or other instrument, 86 A.L.R.2d 1152.

Construction and effect of "future advances" clauses under UCC Article 9, 90 A.L.R.4th 859.

Avoidance under 11 USCS § 522(f)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code of 1978 of nonpossessory, nonpurchase-money security interest in debtor's exempt personal property, 55 A.L.R. Fed. 353.

55-9-205. Use or disposition of collateral permissible.

(a) A security interest is not invalid or fraudulent against creditors solely because:

(1) the debtor has the right or ability to:

(A) use, commingle or dispose of all or part of the collateral, including returned or repossessed goods;

(B) collect, compromise, enforce or otherwise deal with collateral;

(C) accept the return of collateral or make repossessions; or

(D) use, commingle or dispose of proceeds; or

(2) the secured party fails to require the debtor to account for proceeds or replace collateral.

(b) This section does not relax the requirements of possession if attachment, perfection or enforcement of a security interest depends upon possession of the collateral by the secured party.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-205, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 15.

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1. Source. Former section 9-205.

2. Validity of Unrestricted "Floating Lien." This article expressly validates the "floating lien" on shifting collateral. *See* sections 9-201, 9-204, and comment 2. This section provides that a security interest is not invalid or fraudulent by reason of the debtor's liberty to dispose of the collateral without being required to account to the secured party for proceeds or substitute new collateral. As did former section 9-205, this section repeals the rule of *Benedict v. Ratner*, 268 U.S. 353 (1925), and other cases which held such arrangements void as a matter of law because the debtor was given unfettered dominion or control over collateral. The Benedict rule did not effectively discourage or eliminate security transactions in inventory and receivables. Instead, it forced financing arrangements to be self-liquidating. Although this section repeals Benedict, the filing and other perfection requirements (*see* part 3, subpart 2, and part 5) provide for public notice that overcomes any potential misleading effects of a debtor's use and control of collateral. Moreover, nothing in this section prevents the debtor and secured party from agreeing to procedures by which the secured party polices or monitors collateral or to restrictions on the debtor's dominion. However, this article leaves these matters to agreement based on business considerations, not on legal requirements.

3. Possessory Security Interests. Subsection (b) makes clear that this section does not relax the requirements for perfection by possession under section 9-315. If a

secured party allows the debtor access to and control over collateral its security interest may be or become unperfected.

4. Permissible Freedom for Debtor to Enforce Collateral. Former section 9-205 referred to a debtor's "liberty . . to collect or compromise accounts or chattel paper." This section recognizes the broader rights of a debtor to "enforce," as well as to "collect" and "compromise" collateral. This section's reference to collecting, compromising, and enforcing "collateral" instead of "accounts or chattel paper" contemplates the many other types of collateral that a debtor may wish to "collect, compromise, or enforce": *E.g.*, deposit accounts, documents, general intangibles, instruments, investment property, and letter-of-credit rights.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 15 repealed former 55-9-205 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1985, ch. 193, § 15, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Law reviews. — For article, "Attachment in New Mexico - Part I," see 1 Nat. Resources J. 303 (1961).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Forfeiture by innocent vendor of articles sold conditionally and used by vendee in violation of law, 2 A.L.R. 1596.

Statutes relating specifically to selling personal property previously sold under conditional sale, 33 A.L.R. 853, 56 A.L.R. 1217.

Validity of chattel mortgage where mortgagor is given right to sell, 73 A.L.R. 236.

Chattel mortgagee's consent to sale of mortgaged property as waiver of lien, 97 A.L.R. 646.

Recovery by conditional seller or buyer, or person standing in his shoes, against third person for damage or destruction of property, 67 A.L.R.2d 582.

55-9-206. Security interest arising in purchase or delivery of financial asset.

(a) A security interest in favor of a securities intermediary attaches to a person's security entitlement if:

(1) the person buys a financial asset through the securities intermediary in a transaction in which the person is obligated to pay the purchase price to the securities intermediary at the time of the purchase; and

(2) the securities intermediary credits the financial asset to the buyer's securities account before the buyer pays the securities intermediary.

(b) The security interest described in Subsection (a) of this section secures the person's obligation to pay for the financial asset.

(c) A security interest in favor of a person that delivers a certificated security or other financial asset represented by a writing attaches to the security or other financial asset if:

(1) the security or other financial asset:

(A) in the ordinary course of business is transferred by delivery with any necessary indorsement or assignment; and

(B) is delivered under an agreement between persons in the business of dealing with such securities or financial assets; and

(2) the agreement calls for delivery against payment.

(d) The security interest described in Subsection (c) of this section secures the obligation to make payment for the delivery.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-206, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 16.

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1. Source. Former section 9-116.

2. Codification of "Broker's Lien." Depending upon a securities intermediary's arrangements with its entitlement holders, the securities intermediary may treat the entitlement holder as entitled to financial assets before the entitlement holder has actually made payment for them. For example, many brokers permit retail customers to pay for financial assets by check. The broker may not receive final payment of the check until several days after the broker has credited the customer's securities account for the financial assets. Thus, the customer will have acquired a security entitlement prior to payment. Subsection (a) provides that, in such circumstances, the securities intermediary has a security interest in the entitlement holder's security entitlement. Under subsection (b) the security interest secures the customer's obligation to pay for the financial asset in question. Subsections (a) and (b) codify and adapt to the indirect holding system the so-called "broker's lien," which has long been recognized. *See* Restatement, Security section 12.

3. Financial Assets Delivered Against Payment. Subsection (c) creates a security interest in favor of persons who deliver certificated securities or other financial assets in physical form, such as money market instruments, if the agreed payment is not received. In some arrangements for settlement of transactions in physical financial assets, the seller's securities custodian will deliver physical certificates to the buyer's securities custodian and receive a time-stamped delivery receipt. The buyer's securities custodian will examine the certificate to ensure that it is in good order, and that the delivery matches a trade in which the buyer has instructed the seller to deliver to that custodian. If all is in order, the receiving custodian will settle with the delivering custodian through whatever funds settlement system has been agreed upon or is used by custom and usage in that market. The understanding of the trade, however, is that the delivery is conditioned upon payment, so that if payment is not made for any reason, the security will be returned to the deliverer. Subsection (c) clarifies the rights of persons making deliveries in such circumstances. It provides the person making delivery with a security interest in the securities or other financial assets; under subsection (d), the security interest secures the seller's right to receive payment for the delivery. Section 8-301 specifies when delivery of a certificated security occurs; that section should be applied as well to other financial assets as well for purposes of this section.

4. Automatic Attachment and Perfection. Subsections (a) and (c) refer to attachment of a security interest. Attachment under this section has the same incidents (enforceability, right to proceeds, etc.) as attachment under section 9-203. This section overrides the general attachment rules in section 9-203. *See* section 9-203(c). A securities intermediary's security interest under subsection (a) is perfected by control without further action. *See* sections 8-106 (control) and 9-314 (perfection). Security interests arising under subsection (c) are automatically perfected. *See* section 9-309(9).

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 16 repealed former 55-9-206 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1993, ch. 214, § 6, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

SUBPART 2. RIGHTS AND DUTIES

55-9-207. Rights and duties of secured party having possession or control of collateral.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (d) of this section, a secured party shall use reasonable care in the custody and preservation of collateral in the secured party's possession. In the case of chattel paper or an instrument, reasonable care includes taking necessary steps to preserve rights against prior parties unless otherwise agreed.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (d) of this section, if a secured party has possession of collateral:

(1) reasonable expenses, including the cost of insurance and payment of taxes or other charges, incurred in the custody, preservation, use or operation of the collateral are chargeable to the debtor and are secured by the collateral;

(2) the risk of accidental loss or damage is on the debtor to the extent of a deficiency in any effective insurance coverage;

(3) the secured party shall keep the collateral identifiable, but fungible collateral may be commingled; and

(4) the secured party may use or operate the collateral:

(A) for the purpose of preserving the collateral or its value;

(B) as permitted by an order of a court having competent jurisdiction; or

(C) except in the case of consumer goods, in the manner and to the extent agreed by the debtor.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (d) of this section, a secured party having possession of collateral or control of collateral under Section 55-7-106, 55-9-104, 55-9-105, 55-9-105A, 55-9-106, 55-9-107 or 55-9-107A NMSA 1978:

(1) may hold as additional security any proceeds, except money or funds, received from the collateral;

(2) shall apply money or funds received from the collateral to reduce the secured obligation, unless remitted to the debtor; and

(3) may create a security interest in the collateral.

(d) If the secured party is a buyer of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles or promissory notes or is a consignor:

(1) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply unless the secured party is entitled under an agreement:

(A) to charge back uncollected collateral; or

(B) otherwise to full or limited recourse against the debtor or a secondary obligor based on the nonpayment or other default of an account debtor or other obligor on the collateral; and

(2) Subsections (b) and (c) of this section do not apply.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-207, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 17; 2005, ch. 144, § 96; 2023, ch. 142, § 52.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-207.

2. **Duty of Care for Collateral in Secured Party's Possession.** Like former Section 9-207 [55-9-207 NMSA 1978], Subsection (a) imposes a duty of care, similar to that imposed on a pledgee at common law, on a secured party in possession of collateral. *See* Restatement, Security §§ 17, 18. In many cases a secured party in possession of collateral may satisfy this duty by notifying the debtor of action that should be taken and allowing the debtor to take the action itself. If the secured party itself takes action, its reasonable expenses may be added to the secured obligation. The revised definitions of "collateral," "debtor," and "secured party" in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978] make this section applicable to collateral subject to an agricultural lien if the collateral is in the lienholder's possession. Under Section 1-302 [55-1-302 NMSA 1978] the duty to exercise reasonable care may not be disclaimed by agreement, although under that section the parties remain free to determine by agreement standards that are not manifestly unreasonable as to what constitutes reasonable care. Unless otherwise agreed, for a secured party in possession of chattel paper or an instrument, reasonable care includes the preservation of rights against prior parties. The secured party's right to have instruments or documents indorsed or transferred to it or its order is dealt with in the relevant sections of Articles 3, 7, and 8. *See* Sections 3-203(c), 7-506, 8-304(d) [55-3-203(c), 55-7-506, 55-8-304(d) NMSA 1978, respectively].

3. **Specific Rules When Secured Party in Possession or Control of Collateral.** Subsections (b) and (c) provide rules following common law precedents which apply unless the parties otherwise agree. The rules in subsection (b) apply to typical issues that may arise while a secured party is in possession of collateral, including expenses, insurance, and taxes, risk of loss or damage, identifiable and fungible collateral, and use or operation of collateral. Subsection (c) contains rules that apply in certain circumstances that may arise when a secured party is in either possession or control of collateral. These circumstances include the secured party's receiving proceeds from the collateral and the secured party's creation of a security interest in the collateral.

4. **Applicability Following Default.** This section applies when the secured party has possession of collateral either before or after default. *See* sections 9-601(b) and 9-609. Subsection (b)(4)(C) limits agreements concerning the use or operation of collateral to collateral other than consumer goods. Under section 9-602(1), a debtor cannot waive or vary that limitation.

5. **"Repledges" and Right of Redemption.** Subsection (c)(3) eliminates the qualification in former section 9-207 to the effect that the terms of a "repledge" may not "impair" a debtor's "right to redeem" collateral. The change is primarily for clarification. There is no basis on which to draw from subsection (c)(3) any inference concerning the debtor's right to redeem the collateral. The debtor enjoys that right under section 9-623; this section need not address it. For example, if the collateral is a negotiable note that the secured party (SP-1) repledges to SP-2, nothing in this section suggests that the debtor (D) does not retain the right to redeem the note upon payment to SP-1 of all obligations secured by the note. But, as explained below, the debtor's unimpaired right to redeem as against the debtor's original secured party nevertheless may not be enforceable as against the new secured party.

In resolving questions that arise from the creation of a security interest by SP-1, one must take care to distinguish D's rights against SP-1 from D's rights against SP-2. Once D discharges the secured obligation, D becomes entitled to the note; SP-1 has no legal basis upon which to withhold it. If, as a practical matter, SP-1 is unable to return the note because SP-2 holds it as collateral for SP-1's unpaid debt, then SP-1 is liable to D under the law of conversion.

Whether SP-2 would be liable to D depends on the relative priority of SP-2's security interest and D's interest. By permitting SP-1 to create a security interest in the collateral (repledge), subsection (c)(3) provides a statutory power for SP-1 to give SP-2 a security interest (subject, of course, to any agreement by SP-1 not to give a security interest). In the vast majority of cases where repledge rights are significant, the security interest of the second secured party, SP-2 in the example, will be senior to the debtor's interest. By virtue of the debtor's consent or applicable legal rules, SP-2 typically would cut off D's rights in investment property or be immune from D's claims. See sections 3-306 and 9-331 (holder in due course), 8-303 (protected purchaser), 8-502 (acquisition of a security entitlement), and 8-503(e) (action by entitlement holder). Moreover, the expectations and business practices in some markets, such as the securities markets, are such that D's consent to SP-2's taking free of D's rights inheres in D's creation of SP-1's security interest which gives rise to SP-1's power under this section. In these situations, D would have no right to recover the collateral or recover damages from SP-2. Nevertheless, D would have a damage claim against SP-1 if SP-1 had given a security interest to SP-2 in breach of its agreement with D. Moreover, if SP-2's security interest secures an amount that is less than the amount secured by SP-1's security interest (granted by D), then D's exercise of its right to redeem would provide value sufficient to discharge SP-1's obligations to SP-2.

For the most part this section does not change the law under former section 9-207, although eliminating the reference to the debtor's right of redemption may alter the secured party's right to repledge in one respect. Former section 9-207 could have been read to limit the secured party's statutory right to repledge collateral to repledge transactions in which the collateral did not secure a greater obligation than that of the original debtor. Inasmuch as this is a matter normally dealt with by agreement between the debtor and secured party, any change would appear to have little practical effect.

6. **"Repledges" of Investment Property.** The following example will aid the discussion of "repledges" of investment property.

Example: Debtor grants Alpha Bank a security interest in a security entitlement that includes 1000 shares of XYZ Co. stock that Debtor holds through an account with Able & Co. Alpha does not have an account with Able. Alpha uses Beta Bank as its securities custodian. Debtor instructs Able to transfer the shares to Beta, for the account of Alpha, and Able does so. Beta then credits Alpha's account. Alpha has control of the security entitlement for the 1000 shares under section 8-106(d). (These are the facts of Example 2, section 8-106, comment 4.) Although, as between Debtor and Alpha, Debtor may have become the beneficial owner of the new securities entitlement with Beta, Beta has agreed to act on Alpha's entitlement orders because, as between Beta and Alpha, Alpha has become the entitlement holder.

Next, Alpha grants Gamma Bank a security interest in the security entitlement with Beta that includes the 1000 shares of XYZ Co. stock. In order to afford Gamma control of the entitlement, Alpha instructs Beta to transfer the stock to Gamma's custodian, Delta Bank, which credits Gamma's account for 1000 shares. At this point Gamma holds its securities entitlement for its benefit as well as that of its debtor, Alpha. Alpha's derivative rights also are for the benefit of Debtor.

In many, probably most, situations and at any particular point in time, it will be impossible for Debtor or Alpha to "trace" Alpha's "repledge" to any particular securities entitlement or financial asset of Gamma or anyone else. Debtor would retain, of course, a right to redeem the collateral from Alpha upon satisfaction of the secured obligation. However, in the absence of a traceable interest, Debtor would retain only a personal claim against Alpha in the event Alpha failed to restore the security entitlement to Debtor. Moreover, even in the unlikely event that Debtor could trace a property interest, in the context of the financial markets, normally the operation of this section, Debtor's explicit agreement to permit Alpha to create a senior security interest, or legal rules permitting Gamma to cut off Debtor's rights or become immune from Debtor's claims would effectively subordinate Debtor's interest to the holder of a security interest created by Alpha. And, under the shelter principle, all subsequent transferees would obtain interests to which Debtor's interest also would be subordinate.

7. **Buyers of Chattel Paper and Other Receivables; Consignors.** This section has been revised to reflect the fact that a seller of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles, or promissory notes retains no interest in the collateral and so is not disadvantaged by the secured party's noncompliance with the requirements of this section. Accordingly, subsection (d) provides that subsection (a) applies only to security interests that secure an obligation and to sales of receivables in which the buyer has recourse against the debtor. (Of course, a buyer of accounts or payment intangibles could not have "possession" of original collateral, but might have possession of proceeds, such as promissory notes or checks.) The meaning of "recourse" in this respect is limited to recourse arising out of the account debtor's failure to pay or other default.

Subsection (d) makes subsections (b) and (c) inapplicable to buyers of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles, or promissory notes and consignors. Of course, there is no reason to believe that a buyer of receivables or a consignor could not, for example, create a security interest or otherwise transfer an interest in the collateral, regardless of who has possession of the collateral. However, this section leaves the rights of those owners to law other than article 9.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 17 repealed former 55-9-207 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-207, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, added certain statutory references to a provision related to the rights and duties of a secured party having possession of collateral or control of collateral; and in Subsection (c), added "55-9-105A", and "or 55-9-107A".

The 2005 amendment, effective January 1, 2006, adds the reference to Section 55-7-106 NMSA 1978 in Subsection (c).

Decisions under former 55-9-207 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-207 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-207 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Proof of claim of loss. — In order to establish a right to claim any loss under this section, a debtor must show: (1) that he suffered a loss; and (2) that he was willing and able to make a tender, thereby regaining a possessory interest in the collateral. *Cordova v. Lee Galles Oldsmobile, Inc.*, 1983-NMCA-088, 100 N.M. 204, 668 P.2d 320 (decided under former law).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 524 et seq.

Effect of repledge by one who at time holds property under tentative agreement for pledge which is subsequently consummated, 24 A.L.R. 433.

Right of pledgee to allowance for expenses in connection with pledge, 40 A.L.R. 258.

Junior chattel mortgagee's liability to senior chattel mortgagee for conversion, 43 A.L.R. 388.

Personal liability of mortgagor as affected by chattel mortgagee's failure to pursue proper course after taking possession, 47 A.L.R. 582.

Sale of mortgaged chattels for unduly low price as conversion, 73 A.L.R. 839.

Duty of stockbroker, in performance of obligation to deliver, security of stock or other security, to tender identical certificate or security, 75 A.L.R. 746.

Extinguishment of pledgor's entire indebtedness to pledgee by conversion by pledgee of subject of pledge, 87 A.L.R. 586.

Interest on damages for pledgee's refusal to return pledge property, 96 A.L.R. 18, 36 A.L.R.2d 337.

Bailee's express agreement to return property, or to return it in specified condition, as enlarging his common-law liability; where property is pledged or given as security, 150 A.L.R. 269.

Purchase by pledgee as subject of pledge, 37 A.L.R.2d 1381.

Punitive or exemplary damages for conversion of personalty by one other than chattel mortgagee or conditional seller, 54 A.L.R.2d 1361.

Liability of pawnbroker or pledgee for theft by third person of pawned or pledged property, 68 A.L.R.2d 1259.

Secured party's duty under UCC § 9-207(2)(c) to reduce secured obligation by increase or profits received from collateral, 45 A.L.R.4th 394.

55-9-208. Additional duties of secured party having control of collateral.

(a) This section applies to cases in which there is no outstanding secured obligation and the secured party is not committed to make advances, incur obligations or otherwise give value.

(b) Within ten days after receiving a signed demand by the debtor:

(1) a secured party having control of a deposit account under Paragraph (2) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-104 NMSA 1978 shall send to the bank with which the deposit account is maintained a signed document that releases the bank from any further obligation to comply with instructions originated by the secured party;

(2) a secured party having control of a deposit account under Paragraph (3) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-104 NMSA 1978 shall:

(A) pay the debtor the balance on deposit in the deposit account; or

(B) transfer the balance on deposit into a deposit account in the debtor's name;

(3) a secured party, other than a buyer, having control under Section 55-9-105 NMSA 1978 of an authoritative electronic copy of a record evidencing chattel paper shall transfer control of the electronic copy to the debtor or a person designated by the debtor;

(4) a secured party having control of investment property under Paragraph (2) of Subsection (d) of Section 55-8-106 NMSA 1978 or Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-106 NMSA 1978 shall send to the securities intermediary or commodity intermediary with which the security entitlement or commodity contract is maintained a signed record that releases the securities intermediary or commodity intermediary from any further obligation to comply with entitlement orders or directions originated by the secured party;

(5) a secured party having control of a letter-of-credit right under Section 55-9-107 NMSA 1978 shall send to each person having an unfulfilled obligation to pay or deliver proceeds of the letter of credit to the secured party a signed release from any further obligation to pay or deliver proceeds of the letter of credit to the secured party;

(6) a secured party having control under Section 55-7-106 NMSA 1978 of an authoritative electronic copy of an electronic document of title shall transfer control of the electronic copy to the debtor or a person designated by the debtor;

(7) a secured party having control under Section 55-9-105A NMSA 1978 of electronic money shall transfer control of the electronic money to the debtor or a person designated by the debtor; and

(8) a secured party having control under Section 55-12-105 NMSA 1978 of a controllable electronic record, other than a buyer of a controllable account or controllable payment intangible evidenced by the controllable electronic record, shall transfer control of the controllable electronic record to the debtor or a person designated by the debtor.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-208, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 18; 2005, ch. 144, § 97; 2023, ch. 142, § 53.

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1. **Source.** New.

2. **Scope and Purpose.** This section imposes duties on a secured party who has control of a deposit account, an electronic copy of a record evidencing chattel paper, investment property, a letter-of-credit right, an electronic document of title, electronic money, or a controllable electronic record. The duty to terminate the secured party's

control is analogous to the duty to file a termination statement, imposed by Section 9-513 [55-9-513 NMSA 1978]. Under Subsection (a), it applies only when there is no outstanding secured obligation and the secured party is not committed to give value. The requirements of this section can be varied by agreement under Section 1-102(3) [55-1-102 NMSA 1978]. For example, a debtor could by contract agree that the secured party may comply with subsection (b) by releasing control more than 10 days after demand. Also, duties under this section should not be read to conflict with the terms of the collateral itself. For example, if the collateral is a time deposit account, Subsection (b)(2) should not require a secured party with control to make an early withdrawal of the funds (assuming that were possible) in order to pay them over to the debtor or put them in an account in the debtor's name.

Note that Subsection (b)(8) addresses secured parties that have control of a controllable electronic record. That control may have been obtained for the purpose of perfecting a security interest in a controllable account or controllable payment intangible evidenced by the controllable electronic record, even if the secured party did not have a security interest in the controllable electronic record itself.

This section does not explicitly impose duties on a secured party whose control is based on the acknowledgment under Section 7-106(g) [55-7-106 NMSA 1978], 9-104(a)(4) [55-9-104 NMSA 1978], or 9-105A(e) [55-9-105 NMSA 1978] or under 9-107A [55-9-107 NMSA 1978] and 12-105(e) [55-12-105 NMSA 1978]by another person having control. Such a secured party would have control only while the other, acknowledging person retains control. This result necessarily follows because such a secured party's control derives solely from the other person's continued control. *See, e.g.*, Section 9-314 [55-9-314 NMSA 1978], Comment 2. Upon compliance with this section by an acknowledging person having control, the control of a person having control through such person's acknowledgment would cease.

3. **Remedy for Failure to Relinquish Control.** If a secured party fails to comply with the requirements of subsection (b), the debtor has the remedy set forth in Section 9-625(e) [55-9-625 NMSA 1978]. This remedy is identical to that applicable to failure to provide or file a termination statement under Section 9-513 [55-9-513 NMSA 1978].

4. **Duty to Relinquish Possession.** Although Section 9-207 [55-9-207 NMSA 1978] addresses directly the duties of a secured party in possession of collateral, that section does not require the secured party to relinquish possession when the secured party ceases to hold a security interest. Under common law, absent agreement to the contrary, the failure to relinquish possession of collateral upon satisfaction of the secured obligation would constitute a conversion. Inasmuch as problems apparently have not surfaced in the absence of statutory duties under former Article 9 and the common law duty appears to have been sufficient, this article does not impose a statutory duty to relinquish possession.

5. **"Signed" Replaces "Authenticated."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201 [55-1-201 NMSA 1978], the cognate term "signed" replaces references to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 18 repealed former 55-9-208 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-208, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, revised certain provisions related to the duties of secured parties having control of collateral, and clarified certain language in the section; in Subsection (b), in the introductory clause, after "receiving", deleted "an authenticated" and added "a signed"; in Paragraph (b)(1), after "maintained", deleted "an authenticated statement" and added "a signed document"; deleted former Paragraph (b)(3) and added a new Paragraph (b)(3); in Paragraph (b)(4), after "maintained", deleted "an authenticated" and added "a signed"; in Paragraph (b)(5), after "secured party", deleted "an authenticated" and added "a signed"; and deleted former Paragraph (b)(6) and added new Paragraphs (b)(6) through (b)8).

The 2005 amendment, effective January 1, 2006, adds Subsection (b)(6) to provide that a secured party who has control of an electronic document shall give control of the document to the persons specified in Subsections (b)(6)(A) through (C).

55-9-209. Duties of secured party if account debtor has been notified of assignment.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (c) of this section, this section applies if:

(1) there is no outstanding secured obligation; and

(2) the secured party is not committed to make advances, incur obligations or otherwise give value.

(b) Within ten days after receiving a signed demand by the debtor, a secured party shall send to an account debtor that has received notification under Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-406 NMSA 1978 or Subsection (b) of Section 55-12-106 NMSA 1978 of an assignment to the secured party as assignee a signed record that releases the account debtor from any further obligation to the secured party.

(c) This section does not apply to an assignment constituting the sale of an account, chattel paper or payment intangible.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-209, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 19; 2023, ch. 142, § 54.

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1. **Source.** New.

2. **Scope and Purpose.** Like Sections 9-208 [55-9-208 NMSA 1978] and 9-513 [55-9-513 NMSA 1978], which require a secured party to relinquish control of collateral and to file or provide a termination statement for a financing statement, this section requires a secured party to free up collateral when there no longer is any outstanding secured obligation or any commitment to give value in the future. This section addresses the case in which account debtors have been notified to pay a secured party to whom the receivables have been assigned. It requires the secured party (assignee) to inform the account debtors that they no longer are obligated to make payment to the secured party. *See* Subsection (b). It does not apply to account debtors whose obligations on an account, chattel paper, or payment intangible have been sold. *See* Subsection (c).

3. **"Signed" Replaces "Authenticated."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201 [55-1-201 NMSA 1978], the cognate term "signed" replaces references to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, revised certain provisions related to the duties of secured parties; and in Subsection (b), after "receiving", deleted "an authenticated" and added "a signed", after "notification", added "under Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-406 NMSA 1978 or Subsection (b) of Section 55-12-106 NMSA 1978", and after "assignee", deleted "under Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-406 NMSA 1978 an authenticated" and added "a signed".

55-9-210. Request for accounting; request regarding list of collateral or statement of account.

(a) In this section:

(1) "request" means a record of a type described in Paragraph (2), (3) or (4) of this subsection;

(2) "request for an accounting" means a record signed by a debtor requesting that the recipient provide an accounting of the unpaid obligations secured by collateral and reasonably identifying the transaction or relationship that is the subject of the request;

(3) "request regarding a list of collateral" means a record signed by a debtor requesting that the recipient approve or correct a list of what the debtor believes to be

the collateral securing an obligation and reasonably identifying the transaction or relationship that is the subject of the request; and

(4) "request regarding a statement of account" means a record signed by a debtor requesting that the recipient approve or correct a statement indicating what the debtor believes to be the aggregate amount of unpaid obligations secured by collateral as of a specified date and reasonably identifying the transaction or relationship that is the subject of the request.

(b) Subject to Subsections (c), (d), (e) and (f) of this section, a secured party, other than a buyer of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles or promissory notes or a consignor, shall comply with a request within fourteen days after receipt:

(1) in the case of a request for an accounting, by signing and sending to the debtor an accounting; and

(2) in the case of a request regarding a list of collateral or a request regarding a statement of account, by signing and sending to the debtor an approval or correction.

(c) A secured party that claims a security interest in all of a particular type of collateral owned by the debtor may comply with a request regarding a list of collateral by sending to the debtor a signed record, including a statement to that effect, within fourteen days after receipt.

(d) A person that receives a request regarding a list of collateral, claims no interest in the collateral when it receives the request and claimed an interest in the collateral at an earlier time shall comply with the request within fourteen days after receipt by sending to the debtor a signed record:

(1) disclaiming any interest in the collateral; and

(2) if known to the recipient, providing the name and mailing address of any assignee of or successor to the recipient's interest in the collateral.

(e) A person that receives a request for an accounting or a request regarding a statement of account, claims no interest in the obligations when it receives the request and claimed an interest in the obligations at an earlier time shall comply with the request within fourteen days after receipt by sending to the debtor a signed record:

(1) disclaiming any interest in the obligations; and

(2) if known to the recipient, providing the name and mailing address of any assignee of or successor to the recipient's interest in the obligations.

(f) A debtor is entitled without charge to one response to a request under this section during any six-month period. The secured party may require payment of a charge not exceeding twenty-five dollars ($25.00) for each additional response.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-210, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 20; 2023, ch. 142, § 55.

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1. **Source.** Former Section 9-208 [55-9-208 NMSA 1978].

2. **Scope and Purpose.** This section provides a procedure whereby a debtor may obtain from a secured party information about the secured obligation and the collateral in which the secured party may claim a security interest. It clarifies and resolves some of the issues that arose under former Section 9-208 and makes information concerning the secured indebtedness readily available to debtors, both before and after default. It applies to agricultural lien transactions (see the definitions of "debtor," "secured party," and "collateral" in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978]), but generally not to sales of receivables. *See* Subsection (b).

3. **Requests by Debtors Only.** A financing statement filed under part 5 may disclose only that a secured party may have a security interest in specified types of collateral. In most cases the financing statement will contain no indication of the obligation (if any) secured, whether any security interest actually exists, or the particular property subject to a security interest. Because creditors of and prospective purchasers from a debtor may have legitimate needs for more detailed information, it is necessary to provide a procedure under which the secured party will be required to provide information. On the other hand, the secured party should not be under a duty to disclose any details of the debtor's financial affairs to any casual inquirer or competitor who may inquire. For this reason, this section gives the right to request information to the debtor only. The debtor may submit a request in connection with negotiations with subsequent creditors and purchasers, as well as for the purpose of determining the status of its credit relationship or demonstrating which of its assets are free of a security interest.

4. **Permitted Types of Requests for Information.** Subsection (a) contemplates that a debtor may request three types of information by submitting three types of "requests" to the secured party. First, the debtor may request the secured party to prepare and send an "accounting" (defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978]). Second, the debtor may submit to the secured party a list of collateral for the secured party's approval or correction. Third, the debtor may submit to the secured party for its approval or correction a statement of the aggregate amount of unpaid secured obligations. Inasmuch as a secured party may have numerous transactions and relationships with a debtor, each request must identify the relevant transactions or

relationships. Subsections (b) and (c) require the secured party to respond to a request within 14 days following receipt of the request.

5. **Recipients Claiming No Interest in the Transaction.** A debtor may be unaware that a creditor with whom it has dealt has assigned its security interest or the secured obligation. Subsections (d) and (e) impose upon recipients of requests under this section the duty to inform the debtor that they claim no interest in the collateral or secured obligation, respectively, and to inform the debtor of the name and mailing address of any known assignee or successor. As under Subsections (b) and (c), a response to a request under Subsection (d) or (e) is due 14 days following receipt.

6. **Waiver; Remedy for Failure to Comply.** The debtor's rights under this section may not be waived or varied. *See* Section 9-602(2) [55-9-602 NMSA 1978]. Section 9-625 [55-9-625 NMSA 1978] sets forth the remedies for noncompliance with the requirements of this section.

7. **Limitation on Free Responses to Requests.** Under Subsection (f), during a six-month period a debtor is entitled to receive from the secured party one free response to a request. The debtor is not entitled to a free response to each type of request (*i.e.*, three free responses) during a six-month period.

8. **"Signed" and "Signing" replaces "Authenticated" and "Authenticating."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201 [55-1-201 NMSA 1978], the cognate terms "signed" and "signing" replace references to "authenticated" and "authenticating" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, substituted each occurrence of "authenticated" with "signed" and each occurrence of "authenticating" with "signing" throughout the section.

PART 3
PERFECTION AND PRIORITY

SUBPART 1. LAW GOVERNING PERFECTION ANDPRIORITY

55-9-301. Law governing perfection and priority of security interests.

Except as otherwise provided in Sections 55-9-303 through 55-9-306B NMSA 1978, the following rules determine the law governing perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a security interest in collateral:

(1) except as otherwise provided in this section, while a debtor is located in a jurisdiction, the local law of that jurisdiction governs perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a security interest in collateral;

(2) while collateral is located in a jurisdiction, the local law of that jurisdiction governs perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a possessory security interest in that collateral;

(3) except as otherwise provided in Subsection (4) of this section, while tangible negotiable tangible documents, goods, instruments or tangible money is located in a jurisdiction, the local law of that jurisdiction governs:

(A) perfection of a security interest in the goods by filing a fixture filing;

(B) perfection of a security interest in timber to be cut; and

(C) the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a nonpossessory security interest in the collateral; and

(4) the local law of the jurisdiction in which the wellhead or minehead is located governs perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a security interest in as-extracted collateral.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-301, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 21; 2005, ch. 144, § 98; 2023, ch. 142, § 56.

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1. **Source.** Former sections 9-103(1)(a) and (b), 9-103(3)(a) and (b), and 9-103(5), substantially modified.

2. **Scope of This Subpart.** Part 3, Subpart 1 (Sections 9-301 through 9-307) contains choice-of-law rules similar to those of former Section 9-103. Former Section 9-103 generally addresses which State's law governs "perfection and the effect of perfection or non-perfection of" security interests. *See, e.g.*, former Section 9-103(1)(b). This Article follows the broader and more precise formulation in former Section 9-103(6)(b), which was revised in connection with the promulgation of Revised Article 8 in 1994: "perfection, the effect of perfection or non-perfection, and the priority of" security interests. Priority, in this context, subsumes all of the rules in Part 3, including "cut off" or "take free" rules such as Sections 9-317(b), (c), and (d), 9-320(a), (b), and (d), and 9-332. This subpart does not address choice of law for other purposes. For example, the law applicable to issues such as attachment, validity, characterization (e.g., true lease or security interest), and enforcement is governed by the rules in Section 1-105(1)

(Revised Section 1-301(a) and (b)); that governing law typically is specified in the same agreement that contains the security agreement. In transactions to which the Hague Securities Convention applies, the requirements for foreclosure and the like, the characterization of a transfer as being outright or by way of security, and certain other issues will generally be governed by the law specified in the account agreement. See PEB Commentary No. 19. And, another jurisdiction's law may govern other third-party matters addressed in this Article. *See* Section 9-401, Comment 3.

3. **Scope of Referral.** In designating the jurisdiction whose law governs, this article directs the court to apply only the substantive ("local") law of a particular jurisdiction and not its choice of law rules.

Example 1: Litigation over the priority of a security interest in accounts arises in State X. State X has adopted the official text of this article, which provides that priority is determined by the local law of the jurisdiction in which the debtor is located. See section 9-301(1). The debtor is located in State Y. Even if State Y has retained former article 9 or enacted a nonuniform choice of law rule (*e.g.*, one that provides that perfection is governed by the law of State Z), a State X court should look only to the substantive law of State Y and disregard State Y's choice of law rule. State Y's substantive law (*e.g.*, its section 9-501) provides that financing statements should be filed in a filing office in State Y. Note, however, that if the identical perfection issue were to be litigated in State Y, the court would look to State Y's former section 9-103 or nonuniform section 9-301 and conclude that a filing in State Y is ineffective.

Example 2: In the preceding example, assume that State X has adopted the official text of this article, and State Y has adopted a nonuniform section 9-301(1) under which perfection is governed by the whole law of State X, including its choice of law rules. If litigation occurs in State X, the court should look to the substantive law of State Y, which provides that financing statements are to be filed in a filing office in State Y. If litigation occurs in State Y, the court should look to the law of State X, whose choice of law rule requires that the court apply the substantive law of State Y. Thus, regardless of the jurisdiction in which the litigation arises, the financing statement should be filed in State Y.

4. Law Governing Perfection: General Rule. Paragraph (1) contains the general rule: The law governing perfection of security interests in both tangible and intangible collateral, whether perfected by filing or automatically, is the law of the jurisdiction of the debtor's location, as determined under section 9-307.

Paragraph (1) substantially simplifies the choice of law rules. Former section 9-103 contained different choice of law rules for different types of collateral. Under section 9-301(1), the law of a single jurisdiction governs perfection with respect to most types of collateral, both tangible and intangible. Paragraph (1) eliminates the need for former section 9-103(1)(c), which concerned purchase-money security interests in tangible collateral that is intended to move from one jurisdiction to the other. It is likely to reduce the frequency of cases in which the governing law changes after a financing statement

is properly filed. (Presumably, debtors change their own location less frequently than they change the location of their collateral.) The approach taken in paragraph (1) also eliminates some difficult priority issues and the need to distinguish between "mobile" and "ordinary" goods, and it reduces the number of filing offices in which secured parties must file or search when collateral is located in several jurisdictions.

5. **Law Governing Perfection: Exceptions.** The general rule is subject to several exceptions. It does not apply to goods covered by a certificate of title (*see* Section 9-303), deposit accounts (*see* Section 9-304), investment property (*see* Section 9-305), or letter-of-credit rights (*see* Section 9-306), chattel paper (*see* Section 9-306A), or controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, or controllable payment intangibles (*see* Section 9-306B). Nor does it apply to possessory security interests, i.e., security interests that the secured party has perfected by taking possession of the collateral (*see* paragraph (2)), security interests perfected by filing a fixture filing (see subparagraph (3)(A)), security interests in timber to be cut (subparagraph (3)(B)), or security interests in as-extracted collateral (*see* paragraph (4)). No exception is made for electronic money and the general rule applies (unless preempted by federal law).

a. **Possessory Security Interests.** Paragraph (2) applies to possessory security interests and provides that perfection and priority is governed by the local law of the jurisdiction in which the collateral is located. This is the rule of pre-1998 Section 9-103(1)(b), except paragraph (2) eliminates the troublesome "last event" test of former law.

The distinction between nonpossessory and possessory security interests creates the potential for the same jurisdiction to apply two different choice of law rules to determine perfection in the same collateral. For example, were a secured party in possession of an instrument or document to relinquish possession in reliance on temporary perfection, the applicable law immediately would change from that of the location of the collateral to that of the location of the debtor. The applicability of two different choice of law rules for perfection is unlikely to lead to any material practical problems. The perfection rules of one article 9 jurisdiction are likely to be identical to those of another. Moreover, under paragraph (3), the relative priority of competing security interests in tangible collateral is resolved by reference to the law of the jurisdiction in which the collateral is located, regardless of how the security interests are perfected.

b. **Fixture Filings.** Under the general rule in paragraph (1), a security interest in fixtures may be perfected by filing in the office specified by Section 9-501(a) [55-9-501 NMSA 1978] as enacted in the jurisdiction in which the debtor is located. However, application of this rule to perfection of a security interest by filing a fixture filing could yield strange results. For example, perfection of a security interest in fixtures located in Arizona and owned by a Delaware corporation would be governed by the law of Delaware. Although Delaware law would send one to a filing office in Arizona for the place to file a financing statement as a fixture filing, *see* Section 9-501, Delaware law would not take account of local, nonuniform, real-property filing and recording requirements that Arizona law might impose. For this reason, paragraph (3)(A) contains

a special rule for security interests perfected by a fixture filing; the law of the jurisdiction in which the fixtures are located governs perfection, including the formal requisites of a fixture filing. Under paragraph (3)(C), the same law governs priority. Fixtures are "goods" as defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978].

The filing of a financing statement to perfect a security interest in collateral of a transmitting utility constitutes a fixture filing with respect to goods that are or become fixtures. *See* Section 9-501(b) [55-9-501(b) NMSA 1978]. Accordingly, to perfect a security interest in goods of this kind by a fixture filing, a financing statement must be filed in the office specified by Section 9-501(b) as enacted in the jurisdiction in which the goods are located. If the fixtures collateral is located in more than one State, filing in all of those States will be necessary to perfect a security interest in all the fixtures collateral by a fixture filing. Of course, a security interest in nearly all types of collateral (including fixtures) of a transmitting utility may be perfected by filing in the office specified by Section 9-501(b) as enacted in the jurisdiction in which the transmitting utility is located. However, such a filing will not be effective as a fixture filing except with respect to goods that are located in that jurisdiction.

c. **Timber to Be Cut.** Application of the general rule in paragraph (1) to perfection of a security interest in timber to be cut would yield undesirable results analogous to those described with respect to fixtures. Paragraph (3)(B) adopts a similar solution: Perfection is governed by the law of the jurisdiction in which the timber is located. As with fixtures, under paragraph (3)(C), the same law governs priority. Timber to be cut also is "goods" as defined in section 9-102.

Paragraph (3)(B) applies only to "timber to be cut," not to timber that has been cut. Consequently, once the timber is cut, the general choice of law rule in paragraph (1) becomes applicable. To ensure continued perfection, a secured party should file in both the jurisdiction in which the timber to be cut is located and in the state where the debtor is located. The former filing would be with the office in which a real property mortgage would be filed, and the latter would be a central filing. *See* section 9-501.

d. **As-Extracted Collateral.** Paragraph (4) adopts the rule of former section 9-103(5) with respect to certain security interests in minerals and related accounts. Like security interests in fixtures perfected by filing a fixture filing, security interests in minerals that are as-extracted collateral are perfected by filing in the office designated for the filing or recording of a mortgage on the real property. For the same reasons, the law governing perfection and priority is the law of the jurisdiction in which the wellhead or minehead is located.

6. **Change in Law Governing Perfection.** When the debtor changes its location to another jurisdiction, the jurisdiction whose law governs perfection under paragraph (1) changes, as well. Similarly, the law governing perfection of a possessory security interest in collateral under paragraph (2) changes when the collateral is removed to another jurisdiction. Nevertheless, these changes will not result in an immediate loss of perfection. *See* section 9-316(a) and (b).

7. **Law Governing Effect of Perfection and Priority: Goods, Documents, Instruments, Money, Negotiable Documents, and Tangible Chattel Paper.** Under former section 9-103, the law of a single jurisdiction governed both questions of perfection and those of priority. This article generally adopts that approach. *See* paragraph (1). But the approach may create problems if the debtor and collateral are located in different jurisdictions. For example, assume a security interest in equipment located in Pennsylvania is perfected by filing in Illinois, where the debtor is located. If the law of the jurisdiction in which the debtor is located were to govern priority, then the priority of an execution lien on goods located in Pennsylvania would be governed by rules enacted by the Illinois legislature.

To address this problem, paragraph (3)(C) divorces questions of perfection from questions of "the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a security interest." Under paragraph (3)(C), the rights of competing claimants to tangible collateral are resolved by reference to the law of the jurisdiction in which the collateral is located. A similar bifurcation applied to security interests in investment property under former section 9-103(6). See section 9-305.

Paragraph (3)(C) applies the law of the situs to determine priority only with respect to goods (including fixtures), instruments, money, negotiable documents, and tangible chattel paper. Compare former section 9-103(1), which applied the law of the location of the collateral to documents, instruments, and "ordinary" (as opposed to "mobile") goods. This article does not distinguish among types of goods. The ordinary obile goods distinction appears to address concerns about where to file and search, rather than concerns about priority. There is no reason to preserve this distinction under the bifurcated approach.

Particularly serious confusion may arise when the choice of law rules of a given jurisdiction result in each of two competing security interests in the same collateral being governed by a different priority rule. The potential for this confusion existed under former section 9-103(4) with respect to chattel paper: Perfection by possession was governed by the law of the location of the paper, whereas perfection by filing was governed by the law of the location of the debtor. Consider the mess that would have been created if the language or interpretation of former section 9-308 were to differ in the two relevant states, or if one of the relevant jurisdictions (*e.g.*, a foreign country) had not adopted article 9. The potential for confusion could have been exacerbated when a secured party perfected both by taking possession in the state where the collateral is located (State A) and by filing in the state where the debtor is located (State B) - a common practice for some chattel paper financers. By providing that the law of the jurisdiction in which the collateral is located governs priority, paragraph (3) substantially diminishes this problem.

8. **Non-U.S. Debtors.** This article applies the same choice of law rules to all debtors, foreign and domestic. For example, it adopts the bifurcated approach for determining the law applicable to security interests in goods and other tangible collateral. See comment 5(a), above. The article contains a new rule specifying the

location of non-U.S. debtors for purposes of this part. The rule appears in section 9-307 and is explained in the Reporters' Comments following that section. Former section 9-103(3)(c), which contained a special choice of law rule governing security interests created by debtors located in a non-U.S. jurisdiction, proved unsatisfactory and was deleted.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 21 repealed former 55-9-301 NMSA 1978, as amended Laws by 1996, ch. 47, § 62, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, in the introductory clause, after "through", deleted "55-9-306" and added "55-9-306B"; and in Subsection (3), in the introductory clause, after "negotiable", added "tangible", after "instruments", added "or tangible", and after "money", deleted "or tangible chattel paper".

The 2005 amendment, effective January 1, 2006, changes the phrase "negotiable documents" to "tangible negotiable documents" in Subsection (3).

Law reviews. — For article, "The Warehouseman vs. the Secured Party: Who Prevails When the Warehouseman's Lien Covers Goods Subject to a Security Interest? " see 8 Nat. Resources J. 331 (1968).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 288 et seq.

Construction and application of statutory provision respecting registration of mortgages or other liens on personal property in case of residents of other states, 10 A.L.R.2d 764.

Conflict of laws as to chattel mortgages and conditional sales of chattels, 13 A.L.R.2d 1312.

55-9-302. Law governing perfection and priority of agricultural liens.

While farm products are located in a jurisdiction, the local law of that jurisdiction governs perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of an agricultural lien on the farm products.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-302, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 22.

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1. Source. New.

2. Agricultural Liens. This section provides choice-of-law rules for agricultural liens on farm products. Perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection, and priority all are governed by the law of the jurisdiction in which the farm products are located. Other choice-of-law rules, including Section 1-301 [55-1-301 NMSA 1978], determine which jurisdiction's law governs other matters, such as the secured party's rights on default. *See* Section 9-301 [55-9-301 NMSA 1978], Comment 2. Inasmuch as no agricultural lien on proceeds arises under this Article, this section does not expressly apply to proceeds of agricultural liens. However, if another statute creates an agricultural lien on proceeds, it may be appropriate for courts to apply the choice-of-law rule in this section to determine priority in the proceeds.

ANNOTATIONS

Cross references. — For Farm Products Secured Interest Act, see 56-13-1 NMSA 1958.

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 22 repealed former 55-9-302 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1996, ch. 47, § 63, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-303. Law governing perfection and priority of security interests in goods covered by a certificate of title.

(a) This section applies to goods covered by a certificate of title, even if there is no other relationship between the jurisdiction under whose certificate of title the goods are covered and the goods or the debtor.

(b) Goods become covered by a certificate of title when a valid application for the certificate of title and the applicable fee are delivered to the appropriate authority. Goods cease to be covered by a certificate of title at the earlier of the time the certificate of title ceases to be effective under the law of the issuing jurisdiction or the time the goods become covered subsequently by a certificate of title issued by another jurisdiction.

(c) The local law of the jurisdiction under whose certificate of title the goods are covered governs perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a security interest in goods covered by a certificate of title from the time the goods become covered by the certificate of title until the goods cease to be covered by the certificate of title.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-303, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 23.

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1. Source. Former section 9-103(2)(a) and (b), substantially revised.

2. Scope of This Section. This section applies to "goods covered by a certificate of title." The new definition of "certificate of title" in section 9-102 makes clear that this section applies not only to certificate-of-title statutes under which perfection occurs upon notation of the security interest on the certificate but also to those that contemplate notation but provide that perfection is achieved by another method, *e.g.*, delivery of designated documents to an official. Subsection (a), which is new, makes clear that this section applies to certificates of a jurisdiction having no other contacts with the goods or the debtor. This result comports with most of the reported cases on the subject and with contemporary business practices in the trucking industry.

3. Law Governing Perfection and Priority. Subsection (c) is the basic choice of law rule for goods covered by a certificate of title. Perfection and priority of a security interest are governed by the law of the jurisdiction under whose certificate of title the goods are covered from the time the goods become covered by the certificate of title until the goods cease to be covered by the certificate of title.

Normally, under the law of the relevant jurisdiction, the perfection step would consist of compliance with that jurisdiction's certificate-of-title statute and a resulting notation of the security interest on the certificate of title. *See* section 9-311(b). In the typical case of an automobile or over-the-road truck, a person who wishes to take a security interest in the vehicle can ascertain whether it is subject to any security interests by looking at the certificate of title. But certificates of title cover certain types of goods in some states but not in others. A secured party who does not realize this may extend credit and attempt to perfect by filing in the jurisdiction in which the debtor is located. If the goods had been titled in another jurisdiction, the lender would be unperfected.

Subsection (b) explains when goods become covered by a certificate of title and when they cease to be covered. Goods may become covered by a certificate of title, even though no certificate of title has issued. Former section 9-103(2)(b) provided that the law of the jurisdiction issuing the certificate ceases to apply upon "surrender" of the certificate. This article eliminates the concept of "surrender." However, if the certificate is surrendered in conjunction with an appropriate application for a certificate to be issued by another jurisdiction, the law of the original jurisdiction ceases to apply because the goods became covered subsequently by a certificate of title from another jurisdiction. Alternatively, the law of the original jurisdiction ceases to apply when the certificate "ceases to be effective" under the law of that jurisdiction. Given the diversity in certificate-of-title statutes, the term "effective" is not defined.

4. Continued Perfection. The fact that the law of one state ceases to apply under subsection (b) does not mean that a security interest perfected under that law becomes unperfected automatically. In most cases, the security interest will remain perfected.

See section 9-316(d) and (e). Moreover, a perfected security interest may be subject to defeat by certain buyers and secured parties. *See* section 9-337.

5. Inventory. Compliance with a certificate-of-title statute generally is not the method of perfecting security interests in inventory. Section 9-311(d) provides that a security interest created in inventory held by a person in the business of selling goods of that kind is subject to the normal filing rules; compliance with a certificate-of-title statute is not necessary or effective to perfect the security interest. Most certificate-of-title statutes are in accord.

The following example explains the subtle relationship between this rule and the choice of law rules in section 9-303 and former section 9-103(2):

Example: Goods are located in State A and covered by a certificate of title issued under the law of State A. The State A certificate of title is "clean"; it does not reflect a security interest. Owner takes the goods to State B and sells (trades in) the goods to Dealer, who is in the business of selling goods of that kind and is located (within the meaning of section 9-307) in State B. As is customary, Dealer retains the duly assigned State A certificate of title pending resale of the goods. Dealer's inventory financer, SP, obtains a security interest in the goods under its after-acquired property clause.

Under section 9-311(d) of both State A and State B, Dealer's inventory financer, SP, must perfect by filing instead of complying with a certificate-of-title statute. If section 9-303 were read to provide that the law applicable to perfection of SP's security interest is that of State A, because the goods are covered by a State A certificate, then SP would be required to file in State A under State A's section 9-501. That result would be anomalous, to say the least, since the principle underlying section 9-311(d) is that the inventory should be treated as ordinary goods.

Section 9-303 (and former section 9-103(2)) should be read as providing that the law of State B, not State A, applies. A court looking to the forum's section 9-303(a) would find that section 9-303 applies only if two conditions are met: (i) The goods are covered by the certificate as explained in section 9-303(b), *i.e.*, application had been made for a State (here, State A) to issue a certificate of title covering the goods and (ii) the certificate is a "certificate of title" as defined in section 9-102, *i.e.*, "a statute provides for the security interest in question to be indicated on the certificate as a condition or result of the security interest's obtaining priority over the rights of a lien creditor." Stated otherwise, section 9-303 applies only when compliance with a certificate-of-title statute, and not filing, is the appropriate method of perfection. Under the law of State A, for purposes of perfecting SP's security interest in the dealer's inventory, the proper method of perfection is filing - not compliance with State A's certificate-of-title statute. For that reason, the goods are not covered by a "certificate of title," and the second condition is not met. Thus, section 9-303 does not apply to the goods. Instead, section 9-301 applies, and the applicable law is that of State B, where the debtor (dealer) is located.

6. External Constraints on This Section. The need to coordinate article 9 with a variety of nonuniform certificate-of-title statutes, the need to provide rules to take account of situations in which multiple certificates of title are outstanding with respect to particular goods, and the need to govern the transition from perfection by filing in one jurisdiction to perfection by notation in another all create pressure for a detailed and complex set of rules. In an effort to minimize complexity, this article does not attempt to coordinate article 9 with the entire array of certificate-of-title statutes. In particular, sections 9-303, 9-311, and 9-316(d) and (e) assume that the certificate-of-title statutes to which they apply do not have relation-back provisions (i.e., provisions under which perfection is deemed to occur at a time earlier than when the perfection steps actually are taken). A legislative note to section 9-311 recommends the elimination of relation-back provisions in certificate-of-title statutes affecting perfection of security interests.

Ideally, at any given time, only one certificate of title is outstanding with respect to particular goods. In fact, however, sometimes more than one jurisdiction issues more than one certificate of title with respect to the same goods. This situation results from defects in certificate-of-title laws and the interstate coordination of those laws, not from deficiencies in this article. As long as the possibility of multiple certificates of title remains, the potential for innocent parties to suffer losses will continue. At best, this article can identify clearly which innocent parties will bear the losses in familiar fact patterns.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 23 repealed former 55-9-303 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-303, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-304. Law governing perfection and priority of security interests in deposit accounts.

(a) The local law of a bank's jurisdiction governs perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a security interest in a deposit account maintained with that bank even if the transaction does not bear any relation to the bank's jurisdiction.

(b) The following rules determine a bank's jurisdiction for purposes of Sections 55-9-301 through 55-9-342 NMSA 1978:

(1) if an agreement between the bank and its customer governing the deposit account expressly provides that a particular jurisdiction is the bank's jurisdiction for purposes of the Uniform Commercial Code, that jurisdiction is the bank's jurisdiction;

(2) if Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply and an agreement between the bank and its customer governing the deposit account expressly provides

that the agreement is governed by the law of a particular jurisdiction, that jurisdiction is the bank's jurisdiction;

(3) if neither Paragraph (1) nor Paragraph (2) of this subsection applies and an agreement between the bank and its customer governing the deposit account expressly provides that the deposit account is maintained at an office in a particular jurisdiction, that jurisdiction is the bank's jurisdiction;

(4) if none of the preceding paragraphs applies, the bank's jurisdiction is the jurisdiction in which the office identified in an account statement as the office serving the customer's account is located; and

(5) if none of the preceding paragraphs applies, the bank's jurisdiction is the jurisdiction in which the chief executive office of the bank is located.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-304, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 24; 2005, ch. 144, § 99; 2023, ch. 142, § 57.

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1. **Source.** New; derived from Section 8-110(e) [55-8-110 NMSA 1978] and former Section 9-103(6) [55-9-103 NMSA 1978].

2. **Deposit Accounts.** Under this section, the law of the "bank's jurisdiction" governs perfection and priority of a security interest in deposit accounts. Subsection (b) contains rules for determining the "bank's jurisdiction." The substance of these rules is substantially similar to that of the rules determining the "security intermediary's jurisdiction" under former Section 8-110(e), except that subsection (b)(1) provides more flexibility than the analogous provision in former Section 8-110(e)(1). Subsection (b)(1) permits the parties to choose the law of one jurisdiction to govern perfection and priority of security interests and a different governing law for other purposes. The parties' choice is effective, even if the jurisdiction whose law is chosen bears no relationship to the parties or the transaction. Section 8-110(e)(1) has been conformed to Subsection (b)(1) of this section, and Section 9-305(b)(1) [55-9-305 NMSA 1978], concerning a commodity intermediary's jurisdiction, makes a similar departure from former Section 9-103(6)(e)(i).

3. **Change in Law Governing Perfection.** When the bank's jurisdiction changes, the jurisdiction whose law governs perfection under Subsection (a) changes, as well. Nevertheless, the change will not result in an immediate loss of perfection. *See* section 9-316(f) and (g) [55-9-316 NMSA 1978].

4. **No Relation to Bank's Jurisdiction Required.** As to the final clause of Subsection (a), *see* Section 8-110, Comment 5A.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 24 repealed former 55-9-304 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1997, ch. 75, § 24, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, clarified a provision related to the law governing perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a security interest in a deposit account; and in Subsection (a), after "with that bank", added "even if the transaction does not bear any relation to the bank's jurisdiction".

The 2005 amendment, effective January 1, 2006, changes "debtor" to "customer" in Subsection (b)(1).

Compiler's note. — Although Laws 2005, ch. 144, § 112, added a temporary provision which provided that Paragraphs 5 and 46 of Subsection A of Section 55-9-102 and Section 55-9-304 NMSA 1978, as amended by Sections 94 and 99 of this act, shall be construed as declaring the law as it existed prior to the enactment of this act and not as modifying it, Section 55-9-102 NMSA 1978 as amended by Section 99 does not contain a Paragraph 46 or a Paragraph 5 of Subsection A.

55-9-305. Law governing perfection and priority of security interests in investment property.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (c) of this section, the following rules apply:

(1) while a security certificate is located in a jurisdiction, the local law of that jurisdiction governs perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a security interest in the certificated security represented thereby;

(2) the local law of the issuer's jurisdiction as specified in Subsection (d) of Section 55-8-110 NMSA 1978 governs perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a security interest in an uncertificated security;

(3) the local law of the securities intermediary's jurisdiction as specified in Subsection (e) of Section 55-8-110 NMSA 1978 governs perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a security interest in a security entitlement or securities account;

(4) the local law of the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction governs perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a security interest in a commodity contract or commodity account; and

(5) Paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) of this subsection apply even if the transaction does not bear any relation to the jurisdiction.

(b) The following rules determine a commodity intermediary's jurisdiction for purposes of Sections 55-9-301 through 55-9-342 NMSA 1978:

(1) if an agreement between the commodity intermediary and commodity customer governing the commodity account expressly provides that a particular jurisdiction is the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction for purposes of the Uniform Commercial Code, that jurisdiction is the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction;

(2) if Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply and an agreement between the commodity intermediary and commodity customer governing the commodity account expressly provides that the agreement is governed by the law of a particular jurisdiction, that jurisdiction is the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction;

(3) if neither Paragraph (1) nor Paragraph (2) of this subsection applies and an agreement between the commodity intermediary and commodity customer governing the commodity account expressly provides that the commodity account is maintained at an office in a particular jurisdiction, that jurisdiction is the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction;

(4) if none of the preceding paragraphs applies, the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction is the jurisdiction in which the office identified in an account statement as the office serving the commodity customer's account is located; and

(5) if none of the preceding paragraphs applies, the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction is the jurisdiction in which the chief executive office of the commodity intermediary is located.

(c) The local law of the jurisdiction in which the debtor is located governs:

(1) perfection of a security interest in investment property by filing;

(2) automatic perfection of a security interest in investment property created by a broker or securities intermediary; and

(3) automatic perfection of a security interest in a commodity contract or commodity account created by a commodity intermediary.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-305, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 25; 2023, ch. 142, § 58.

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1. **Source.** Former Section 9-103(6) [55-9-103 NMSA 1978].

2. **Investment Property: General Rules.** This section specifies choice-of-law rules for perfection and priority of security interests in investment property. Subsection (a)(1) covers security interests in certificated securities. Subsection (a)(2) covers security interests in uncertificated securities. Subsection (a)(3) covers security interests in security entitlements and securities accounts, and where the Hague Securities Convention applies it may in occasional instances modify Subsection (a)(3)'s results as discussed in Comments 3, 5 and 6 to Section 8-110 [55-8-110 NMSA 1978]. Subsection (a)(4) covers security interests in commodity contracts and commodity accounts. The approach of each of these paragraphs is essentially the same. They identify the jurisdiction's law that governs questions of perfection and priority by using the same principles that Article 8 uses to determine other questions concerning that form of investment property. Thus, for certificated securities, the law of the jurisdiction in which the certificate is located governs. *Cf.* Section 8-110(c). For uncertificated securities, the law of the issuer's jurisdiction governs. *Cf.* Section 8-110(a). For security entitlements and securities accounts, the law designated by the agreement between the securities intermediary and the entitlement holder governing the securities account generally governs. *Cf.* Section 8-110(b), (e)(1) and (2) and Convention Article 4(1).

For commodity contracts and commodity accounts, the law of the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction governs, though if particular assets of this type qualify as securities held with an intermediary within the meaning of the Convention, the Convention would also apply. Commodity contracts and commodity accounts are not governed by Article 8, and for this reason Subsection (b) contains rules that specify the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction that are analogous to the rules in Section 8-110(e) specifying a securities intermediary's jurisdiction. Subsection (b)(1) affords the parties greater flexibility than did former Section 9-103(6)(3). *See also* Section 9-304(b) [55-9-304 NMSA 1978] (bank's jurisdiction); Revised Section 8-110(e)(1) and (2) (securities intermediary's jurisdiction).

3. **Investment Property: Exceptions.** Subsection (c) establishes an exception to the general rules discussed in the preceding Comment. It provides that perfection of a security interest by filing, automatic perfection of a security interest in investment property created by a debtor who is a broker or securities intermediary (see Section 9-309(10)) [55-9-309 NMSA 1978], and automatic perfection of a security interest in a commodity contract or commodity account of a debtor who is a commodity intermediary (*see* Section 9-309(11)) are governed by the law of the jurisdiction in which the debtor is located, as determined under Section 9-307 [55-9-307 NMSA 1978].

The Hague Securities Convention generally preserves these rules for perfection by filing. However, if the debtor is located in a non-U.S. jurisdiction, or if the account agreement designates the law of a non-U.S. jurisdiction, then filing may be appropriate

only in a different jurisdiction or altogether unavailable. *See* Convention Articles 12(2)(b) and 4(1), respectively, and PEB Commentary No. 19, particularly footnote 25.

4. **Examples:** The following examples illustrate the rules in this section:

Example 1: A customer residing in New Jersey maintains a securities account with Able & Co. The agreement between the customer and Able specifies that it is governed by Pennsylvania law but expressly provides that California is Able's jurisdiction for purposes of the Uniform Commercial Code. Through the account the customer holds securities of a Massachusetts corporation, which Able holds through a clearing corporation located in New York. The customer obtains a margin loan from Able. Subsection (a)(3) provides that California law—the law of the securities intermediary's jurisdiction—governs perfection and priority of the security interest, even if California has no other relationship to the parties or the transaction. Even if other facts cause the Hague Securities Convention to apply (*see* Comment 1 to Section 8-110 [55-8-110 NMSA 1978]), the Convention does not change this result, provided that the account agreement either was entered into before the Convention's effectiveness in the United States or expressly specifies that the law of California is applicable to all issues specified in Convention Article 2(1), and also provided that at the time of the agreement Able had an office in the United States engaged in a regular activity of maintaining securities accounts.

Example 2: A customer residing in New Jersey maintains a securities account with Able & Co. The agreement between the customer and Able specifies that it is governed by Pennsylvania law. Through the account the customer holds securities of a Massachusetts corporation, which Able holds through a clearing corporation located in New York. The customer obtains a loan from a lender located in Illinois. The lender takes a security interest and perfects by obtaining an agreement among the debtor, itself, and Able, which satisfies the requirement of Section 8-106(d)(2) [55-8-106 NMSA 1978] to give the lender control. Subsection (a)(3) provides that Pennsylvania law - the law of the securities intermediary's jurisdiction - governs perfection and priority of the security interest, even if Pennsylvania has no other relationship to the parties or the transaction. Even if other facts cause the Hague Securities Convention to apply, the Convention does not change this result, provided that at the time of the agreement between the customer and Able, Able had an office in the United States engaged in a regular activity of maintaining securities accounts.

Example 3: A customer residing in New Jersey maintains a securities account with Able & Co. The agreement between the customer and Able specifies that it is governed by Pennsylvania law. Through the account, the customer holds securities of a Massachusetts corporation, which Able holds through a clearing corporation located in New York. The customer borrows from SP-1, and SP-1 files a financing statement in New Jersey. Later, the customer obtains a loan from SP-2. SP-2 takes a security interest and perfects by obtaining an agreement among the debtor, itself, and Able, which satisfies the requirement of Section 8-106(d)(2) to give SP-2 control. Subsection (c)(1) provides that perfection of SP-1's security interest by filing is governed by the

location of the debtor, so the filing in New Jersey was appropriate. Even if other facts cause the Hague Securities Convention to apply, Convention article 12(2)(b) preserves this result. Subsection (a)(3), however, provides that Pennsylvania law—the law designated by the agreement between the customer and Able—governs all other questions of perfection and priority, and the Convention preserves this result, provided that at the time of the agreement between the customer and Able, Able had an office in the United States engaged in a regular activity of maintaining securities accounts. Thus, Pennsylvania law governs perfection of SP-2's security interest, and Pennsylvania law also governs the priority of the security interests of SP-1 and SP-2.

Example 4: A customer maintains a securities account with Able & Co. The customer is an Ontario, Canada corporation with its chief executive office in Toronto. The agreement between the customer and Able specifies that it is governed by New York law, and at the time of the agreement Able had an office in the United States engaged in a regular activity of maintaining securities accounts. The customer obtains a loan secured by the securities account, and the lender wishes to perfect by filing. Subsection (c)(1) provides that perfection of the security interest by filing is generally governed by the law of the location of the debtor (in this case Ontario, assuming that it has a filing system described by Section 9-307(c)) [55-9-307 NMSA 1978]; however, Convention Article 12(2)(b) recognizes Article 9's place-of-filing rules only when they designate a U.S. jurisdiction for the filing. As a result, Subsection (c)(1) does not govern filing for this transaction, and perfection of the security interest is governed by the substantive law of the jurisdiction designated by the account agreement (in this case New York).

Example 5: A customer maintains a securities account with Able & Co. The customer is a Texas corporation. The agreement between the customer and Able specifies that it is governed by English law, and at the time of the agreement Able had an office in England engaged in a regular activity of maintaining securities accounts. The customer obtains a loan secured by the securities account, and the lender wishes to perfect by filing. Subsection (c)(1), if it applied, would provide that perfection of the security interest by filing is governed by the law of the location of the debtor (in this case Texas); however, under Convention Article 4(1), perfection of the security interest is governed by the law of the jurisdiction designated by the account agreement (in this case England), rather than by the law of any UCC jurisdiction.

5. **Change in Law Governing Perfection.** When the issuer's jurisdiction, the securities intermediary's jurisdiction, or commodity intermediary's jurisdiction changes, the jurisdiction whose law governs perfection under Subsection (a) changes, as well. Similarly, the law governing perfection of a possessory security interest in a certificated security changes when the collateral is removed to another jurisdiction, see Subsection (a)(1), and the law governing perfection by filing changes when the debtor changes its location. *See* Subsection (c). Nevertheless, under the UCC these changes will not result in an immediate loss of perfection. *See* Section 9-316(f), (g) [55-9-316 NMSA 1978]. Along generally similar lines in cases to which the Hague Securities Convention applies, Article 7 provides that when the account agreement is amended to designate a new jurisdiction's law under Article 4(1), the new law governs perfection, except that the old

law continues to govern the perfection of security or other property interests that arose before the amendment and a limited number of other issues affecting such interests, without limitation as to time.

6. **No Relation of Transaction to Issuer's, Securities intermediary's, or Commodity Intermediary Jurisdiction Required.** As to Subsection (a)(5), *see* Section 8-110 [55-8-110 NMSA 1978], Comment 5A.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 25 repealed former 55-9-305 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1997, ch. 75, § 25, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, clarified a provision related to the law governing perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a security interest in a commodity contract or commodity account; and in Subsection (a), added Paragraph (a)(5).

55-9-306. Law governing perfection and priority of security interests in letter-of-credit rights.

(a) Subject to Subsection (c) of this section, the local law of the issuer's jurisdiction or a nominated person's jurisdiction governs perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a security interest in a letter-of-credit right if the issuer's jurisdiction or nominated person's jurisdiction is a state.

(b) For purposes of Sections 55-9-301 through 55-9-342 NMSA 1978, an issuer's jurisdiction or nominated person's jurisdiction is the jurisdiction whose law governs the liability of the issuer or nominated person with respect to the letter-of-credit right as provided in Section 55-5-116 NMSA 1978.

(c) This section does not apply to a security interest that is perfected only under Subsection (d) of Section 55-9-308 NMSA 1978.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-306, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 26.

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1. Source. New; derived in part from section 8-110(e) and former section 9-103(6).

2. Sui Generis Treatment. This section governs the applicable law for perfection and priority of security interests in letter-of-credit rights, other than a security interest

perfected only under section 9-308(d) (*i.e.*, as a supporting obligation). The treatment differs substantially from that provided in section 9-304 for deposit accounts. The basic rule is that the law of the issuer's or nominated person's (*e.g.*, confirmer's) jurisdiction, derived from the terms of the letter of credit itself, controls perfection and priority, but only if the issuer's or nominated person's jurisdiction is a state, as defined in section 9-102. If the issuer's or nominated person's jurisdiction is not a state, the baseline rule of section 9-301 applies - perfection and priority are governed by the law of the debtor's location, determined under section 9-307. Export transactions typically involve a foreign issuer and a domestic nominated person, such as a confirmer, located in a state. The principal goal of this section is to reduce the likelihood that perfection and priority would be governed by the law of a foreign jurisdiction in a transaction that is essentially domestic from the standpoint of the debtor-beneficiary, its creditors, and a domestic nominated person.

3. Issuer's or Nominated Person's Jurisdiction. Subsection (b) defers to the rules established under section 5-116 for determination of an issuer's or nominated person's jurisdiction.

Example: An Italian bank issues a letter of credit that is confirmed by a New York bank. The beneficiary is a Connecticut corporation. The letter of credit provides that the issuer's liability is governed by Italian law, and the confirmation provides that the confirmer's liability is governed by the law of New York. Under sections 5-116(a) and 9-306(b), Italy is the issuer's jurisdiction and New York is the confirmer's (nominated person's) jurisdiction. Because the confirmer's jurisdiction is a state, the law of New York governs perfection and priority of a security interest in the beneficiary's letter-of-credit right against the confirmer. *See* section 9-306(a). However, because the issuer's jurisdiction is not a state, the law of that jurisdiction does not govern. See section 9-306(a). Rather, the choice-of-law rule in section 9-301(1) applies to perfection and priority of a security interest in the beneficiary's letter-of-credit right against the issuer. Under that section, perfection and priority are governed by the law of the jurisdiction in which the debtor (beneficiary) is located. That jurisdiction is Connecticut. *See* section 9-307.

4. Scope of this section. This section specifies only the law governing perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection, and priority of security interests. Section 5-116 specifies the law governing the liability of, and article 5 (or other applicable law) deals with the rights and duties of, an issuer or nominated person. Perfection, nonperfection, and priority have no effect on those rights and duties.

5. Change in Law Governing Perfection. When the issuer's jurisdiction, or nominated person's jurisdiction changes, the jurisdiction whose law governs perfection under subsection (a) changes, as well. Nevertheless, this change will not result in an immediate loss of perfection. *See* section 9-316(f) and (g).

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 26 repealed former 55-9-306 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1996, ch. 47, § 66, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-306A. Law governing perfection and priority of security interests in chattel paper.

(a) Except as provided in Subsection (d) of this section, if chattel paper is evidenced only by an authoritative electronic copy of the chattel paper or is evidenced by an authoritative electronic copy and an authoritative tangible copy, the local law of the chattel paper's jurisdiction governs perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a security interest in the chattel paper, even if the transaction does not bear any relation to the chattel paper's jurisdiction.

(b) The following rules determine the chattel paper's jurisdiction under this section:

(1) if the authoritative electronic copy of the record evidencing chattel paper, or a record attached to or logically associated with the electronic copy and readily available for review, expressly provides that a particular jurisdiction is the chattel paper's jurisdiction for purposes of this part or the Uniform Commercial Code, that jurisdiction is the chattel paper's jurisdiction;

(2) if Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply and the rules of the system in which the authoritative electronic copy is recorded are readily available for review and expressly provide that a particular jurisdiction is the chattel paper's jurisdiction for purposes of this part or the Uniform Commercial Code, that jurisdiction is the chattel paper's jurisdiction;

(3) if Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this section do not apply and the authoritative electronic copy, or a record attached to or logically associated with the electronic copy and readily available for review, expressly provides that the chattel paper is governed by the law of a particular jurisdiction, that jurisdiction is the chattel paper's jurisdiction;

(4) if Paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) of this subsection do not apply and the rules of the system in which the authoritative electronic copy is recorded are readily available for review and expressly provide that the chattel paper or the system is governed by the law of a particular jurisdiction, that jurisdiction is the chattel paper's jurisdiction; and

(5) if Paragraphs (1) through (4) of this subsection do not apply, the chattel paper's jurisdiction is the jurisdiction in which the debtor is located.

(c) If an authoritative tangible copy of a record evidences chattel paper and the chattel paper is not evidenced by an authoritative electronic copy, while the authoritative tangible copy of the record evidencing chattel paper is located in a jurisdiction, the local law of that jurisdiction governs:

(1) perfection of a security interest in the chattel paper by possession under Section 55-9-314A NMSA 1978; and

(2) the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a security interest in the chattel paper.

(d) The local law of the jurisdiction in which the debtor is located governs perfection of a security interest in chattel paper by filing.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-306A, enacted by Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 59.

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1. **Source.** Section 9-306A(a) and (b) [55-9-306 NMSA 1978] derive from Sections 8-110(e) [55-8-110 NMSA 1978] and 9-305 [55-9-305 NMSA 1978] on law governing perfection and priority of security interests in investment property (as do Sections 9-306B and 12-107 [55-12-107 NMSA 1978]).

2. **Applicability of this Section.** This section determines the law governing perfection and priority of security interests in chattel paper. Subsections (a) and (b) apply to chattel paper that is evidenced only by an authoritative electronic copy of the chattel paper or by an authoritative electronic copy and an authoritative tangible copy. Subsection (c) applies to chattel paper that is evidenced by an authoritative tangible copy but not evidenced by an authoritative electronic copy. Subsection (d) applies to perfection by filing for all chattel paper.

3. **Authoritative Electronic Copy: Chattel Paper's Jurisdiction.** Subsection (a) specifies the law governing perfection and priority of security interests in chattel paper evidenced by an authoritative electronic copy of the chattel paper, even if it is also evidenced by an authoritative tangible copy. Subject to subsection (d) on perfection by filing, the law governing perfection and priority is the local law of the chattel paper's jurisdiction. Drawing on Sections 8-110 and 9-305 [55-8-110, 55-9-305 NMSA 1978, respectively], it is the authoritative electronic copy itself, records attached thereto or associated therewith, or the system in which the authoritative electronic copy is recorded that determines the chattel paper's jurisdiction and, therefore, the governing law. Subsection (b) provides a "waterfall" of rules based on provisions that identify a particular jurisdiction as the chattel paper's jurisdiction or alternatively that provide the governing law of the chattel paper or of the system in which the electronic copy is recorded. When no such identification or provision is made, it is the debtor's location, determined under Section 9-307 [55-9-307 NMSA 1978], that is the chattel paper's jurisdiction. As to the final clause of subsection (a), see Section 8-110, Comment 5A.

4. **Rationale for Subsection (a).** A buyer of, or secured lender against, chattel paper may arrange for authoritative electronic copies of chattel paper that it wishes to have assigned to it to be originated in or submitted into a system for the control and assignment of the chattel paper. The secured parties and lessors that will be assigning the chattel paper may be located in many different jurisdictions. As to assignments of the chattel paper by these secured parties and lessors (assignor-debtors), but for this section perfection and priority would be governed by the law of each assignor-debtor's location under Section 9-301(1) [55-9-301 NMSA 1978]. Under this section, however, the law of a single jurisdiction—the chattel paper's jurisdiction—could govern perfection and priority with respect to all of the assignments. By avoiding the application of the laws of multiple jurisdictions to perfection and priority, this rule could substantially reduce transaction costs.

5. **Authoritative tangible copy.** Subsection (c) ties the choice-of-law rules to the location of the authoritative tangible copy when no authoritative electronic copy exists. In that circumstance, the local law of the jurisdiction where the authoritative tangible copy is physically located governs perfection of a security interest in the chattel paper by possession, under Section 9-314A [55-9-314A NMSA 1978], and priority. Like its predecessor, subsection (c) assumes that all the authoritative tangible copies are located in the same jurisdiction. However, assuming the secured party is in possession of all the tangible copies, even if the copies are located in more than one jurisdiction the situation is unlikely to be problematic.

6. **Perfection by filing.** Subsection (d) provides that the local law of the jurisdiction where the debtor is located governs perfection by filing for all chattel paper.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 112 made Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 59 effective January 1, 2024.

55-9-306B. Law governing perfection and priority of security interests in controllable accounts, controllable electronic records and controllable payment intangibles.

(a) Except as provided in Subsection (b) of this section, the local law of the controllable electronic record's jurisdiction specified in Subsections (c) and (d) of Section 55-12-107 NMSA 1978 governs perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection and the priority of a security interest in a controllable electronic record and a security interest in a controllable account or controllable payment intangible evidenced by the controllable electronic record.

(b) The local law of the jurisdiction in which the debtor is located governs:

(1) perfection of a security interest in a controllable account, controllable electronic record or controllable payment intangible by filing; and

(2) automatic perfection of a security interest in a controllable payment intangible created by a sale of the controllable payment intangible.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-306B, enacted by Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 60.

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1. **Perfection by control and priority.** Subsection (a) deals with perfection of a security interest in a controllable account, controllable electronic record, or controllable payment intangible other than by filing—i.e., perfection by control under Section 12-105 [55-12-105 NMSA 1978]—and priority. For these purposes the governing law is that of the controllable electronic record's jurisdiction under Section 12-107(c) and (d) [55-12-107 NMSA 1978].

2. **Perfection by filing.** Under Subsection (b) the local law of the jurisdiction of the debtor's location governs perfection of a security interest in a controllable account, controllable electronic record, or controllable payment intangible by filing (but not priority, as to which Subsection (a) would apply). Because controllable electronic records are general intangibles and controllable accounts and controllable payment intangibles are subsets of accounts and payment intangibles, this provision does not change prior law.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 112 made Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 60 effective January 1, 2024.

55-9-307. Location of debtor.

(a) In this section, "place of business" means a place where a debtor conducts its affairs.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the following rules determine a debtor's location:

(1) a debtor who is an individual is located at the individual's principal residence;

(2) a debtor that is an organization and has only one place of business is located at its place of business; and

(3) a debtor that is an organization and has more than one place of business is located at its chief executive office.

(c) Subsection (b) of this section applies only if a debtor's residence, place of business or chief executive office, as applicable, is located in a jurisdiction whose law generally requires information concerning the existence of a nonpossessory security interest to be made generally available in a filing, recording or registration system as a condition or result of the security interest's obtaining priority over the rights of a lien creditor with respect to the collateral. If Subsection (b) of this section does not apply, the debtor is located in the District of Columbia.

(d) A person that ceases to exist, have a residence or have a place of business continues to be located in the jurisdiction specified by Subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

(e) A registered organization that is organized under the law of a state is located in that state.

(f) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (i) of this section, a registered organization that is organized under the law of the United States and a branch or agency of a bank that is not organized under the law of the United States or a state are located:

(1) in the state that the law of the United States designates if the law designates a state of location;

(2) in the state that the registered organization, branch or agency designates if the law of the United States authorizes the registered organization, branch or agency to designate its state of location, including by designating its main office, home office or other comparable office; or

(3) in the District of Columbia if neither Paragraph (1) nor Paragraph (2) of this subsection applies.

(g) A registered organization continues to be located in the jurisdiction specified by Subsection (e) or (f) of this section notwithstanding:

(1) the suspension, revocation, forfeiture or lapse of the registered organization's status as such in its jurisdiction of organization; or

(2) the dissolution, winding up or cancellation of the existence of the registered organization.

(h) The United States is located in the District of Columbia.

(i) A branch or agency of a bank that is not organized under the law of the United States or a state is located in the state in which the branch or agency is licensed if all branches and agencies of the bank are licensed in only one state.

(j) A foreign air carrier under the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended, is located at the designated office of the agent upon which service of process may be made on behalf of the carrier.

(k) This section applies only for purposes of Sections 55-9-301 through 55-9-342 NMSA 1978.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-307, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 27; 2013, ch. 137, § 5.

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1. Source. Former section 9-103(3)(d), substantially revised.

2. General Rules. As a general matter, the location of the debtor determines the jurisdiction whose law governs perfection of a security interest. *See* Sections 9-301(1), 9-305(c) [55-9-301(1), 55-9-305(c) NMSA 1978]. It also governs priority of a security interest in certain types of intangible collateral, such as accounts, electronic chattel paper, and general intangibles. This section determines the location of the debtor for choice-of-law purposes, but not for other purposes. *See* Subsection (k).

Subsection (b) states the general rules: An individual debtor is deemed to be located at the individual's principal residence with respect to both personal and business assets. Any other debtor is deemed to be located at its place of business if it has only one, or at its chief executive office if it has more than one place of business.

As used in this section, a "place of business" means a place where the debtor conducts its affairs. *See* Subsection (a). Thus, every organization, even eleemosynary institutions and other organizations that do not conduct "for profit" business activities, has a "place of business." Under Subsection (d), a person who ceases to exist, have a residence, or have a place of business continues to be located in the jurisdiction determined by Subsection (b).

The term "chief executive office" is not defined in this section or elsewhere in the Uniform Commercial Code. "Chief executive office" means the place from which the debtor manages the main part of its business operations or other affairs. This is the place where persons dealing with the debtor would normally look for credit information, and is the appropriate place for filing. With respect to most multi-state debtors, it will be simple to determine which of the debtor's offices is the "chief executive office." Even when a doubt arises, it would be rare that there could be more than two possibilities. A secured party in such a case may protect itself by perfecting under the law of each possible jurisdiction.

Similarly, the term "principal residence" is not defined. If the security interest in question is a purchase-money security interest in consumer goods which is perfected upon attachment, *see* Section 9-309(1) [55-9-309(1) NMSA 1978], the choice of law may make no difference. In other cases, when a doubt arises, prudence may dictate perfecting under the law of each jurisdiction that might be the debtor's "principal residence."

Questions sometimes arise about the location of the debtor with respect to collateral held in a common-law trust. A typical common-law trust is not itself a juridical entity capable of owning property and so would not be a "debtor" as defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978]. Rather, the debtor with respect to property held in a common-law trust typically is the trustee of the trust acting in the capacity of trustee. (The beneficiary would be a "debtor" with respect to its beneficial interest in the trust, but not with respect to the property held in the trust.) If a common-law trust has multiple trustees located in different jurisdictions, a secured party who perfects by filing would be well advised to file a financing statement in each jurisdiction in which a trustee is located, as determined under Section 9-307 [55-9-307 NMSA 1978]. Filing in all relevant jurisdictions would insure perfection and minimize any priority complications that otherwise might arise.

The general rules are subject to several exceptions, each of which is discussed below.

3. Non-U.S. Debtors. Under the general rules of this section, a non-U.S. debtor often would be located in a foreign jurisdiction and, as a consequence, foreign law would govern perfection. When foreign law affords no public notice of security interests, the general rule yields unacceptable results.

Accordingly, subsection (c) provides that the normal rules for determining the location of a debtor (*i.e.*, the rules in subsection (b)) apply only if they yield a location that is "a jurisdiction whose law generally requires information concerning the existence of a nonpossessory security interest to be made generally available in a filing, recording, or registration system as a condition or result of the security interest's obtaining priority over the rights of a lien creditor with respect to the collateral." The phrase "generally requires" is meant to include legal regimes that generally require notice in a filing or recording system as a condition of perfecting nonpossessory security interests, but which permit perfection by another method (*e.g.*, control, automatic perfection, temporary perfection) in limited circumstances. A jurisdiction that has adopted this Article or an earlier version of this Article is such a jurisdiction. If the rules in subsection (b) yield a jurisdiction whose law does not generally require notice in a filing or registration system and none of the special rules in subsections (e), (f), (i), and (j) applies, the debtor is located in the District of Columbia.

4. Registered Organizations Organized Under Law of a State. Under subsection (e), a "registered organization" (defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978] so as to ordinarily include corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, and statutory trusts) organized under the law of a "State" (defined in Section 9-102) is

located in its State of organization. The term "registered organization" includes a business trust described in the second sentence of the term's definition. *See* Section 9-102. The trust's public organic record, typically the trust agreement, usually will indicate the jurisdiction under whose law the trust is organized. A protected series formed under the Uniform Protected Series Act (2017) is a registered organization. See PEB Commentary No. 23, dated February 24, 2021. The Commentary is available at https://www.ali.org/peb-ucc.

Subsection (g) makes clear that events affecting the status of a registered organization, such as the dissolution of a corporation or revocation of its charter, do not affect its location for purposes of subsection (e). However, certain of these events may result in, or be accompanied by, a transfer of collateral from the registered organization to another debtor. This section does not determine whether a transfer occurs, nor does it determine the legal consequences of any transfer.

Determining the registered organization-debtor's location by reference to the jurisdiction of organization could provide some important side benefits for the filing systems. A jurisdiction could structure its filing system so that it would be impossible to make a mistake in a registered organization-debtor's name on a financing statement. For example, a filer would be informed if a filed record designated an incorrect corporate name for the debtor. Linking filing to the jurisdiction of organization also could reduce pressure on the system imposed by transactions in which registered organizations cease to exist–as a consequence of merger or consolidation, for example. The jurisdiction of organization might prohibit such transactions unless steps were taken to ensure that existing filings were refiled against a successor or terminated by the secured party.

5. Registered Organizations Organized Under Law of United States; Branches and Agencies of Banks Not Organized Under Law of United States. Subsection (f) specifies the location of a debtor that is a registered organization organized under the law of the United States. It defers to the law of the United States, to the extent that that law determines, or authorizes the debtor to determine, the debtor's location. Thus, if the law of the United States designates a particular State as the debtor's location, that State is the debtor's location for purposes of this Article's choice-of-law rules. Similarly, if the law of the United States authorizes the registered organization to designate its State of location, the State that the registered organization designates is the State in which it is located for purposes of this Article's choice-of-law rules. In other cases, the debtor is located in the District of Columbia.

In some cases, the law of the United States authorizes the registered organization to designate a main office, home office, or other comparable office. *See, e.g.*, 12 U.S.C. Sections 22 and 1464(a); 12 C.F.R. Section 552.3. Designation of such an office constitutes the designation of the State of location for purposes of Section 9-307(f)(2) [55-9-307(f)(2) NMSA 1978].

Subsection (f) also specifies the location of a branch or agency in the United States of a foreign bank that has one or more branches or agencies in the United States. The law of the United States authorizes a foreign bank (or, on behalf of the bank, a federal agency) to designate a single home state for all of the foreign bank's branches and agencies in the United States. *See* 12 U.S.C. Section 3103(c) and 12 C.F.R. Section 211.22. As authorized, the designation constitutes the State of location for the branch or agency for purposes of Section 9-307(f) [55-9-307(f) NMSA 1978], unless all of a foreign bank's branches or agencies that are in the United States are licensed in only one State, in which case the branches and agencies are located in that State. *See* subsection (i).

In cases not governed by subsection (f) or (i), the location of a foreign bank is determined by subsections (b) and (c).

6. United States. To the extent that Article 9 governs (*see* Sections 1-301, 9-109(c) [55-1-301, 55-9-109(c) NMSA 1978]), the United States is located in the District of Columbia for purposes of this Article's choice-of-law rules. *See* Subsection (h).

7. Foreign Air Carriers. Subsection (j) [(k)] follows former section 9-103(3)(d). To the extent that it is applicable, the Convention on the International Recognition of Rights in Aircraft (Geneva Convention) supersedes state legislation on this subject, as set forth in section 9-311(b), but some nations are not parties to that convention.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 27 repealed former 55-9-307 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1987, ch. 177, § 15, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2013 amendment, effective July 1, 2013, permitted a registered organization to designate its location by designating its main office, home office or other comparable office; and in Paragraph (2) of Subsection (f), after "its state of location", added the remainder of the sentence.

Federal Aviation Act of 1958. — The Federal Aviation Act of 1958, referred to in Subsection (j), was codified primarily as 49 U.S.C. § 1301 et seq. Those provisions have subsequently been revised or repealed, and present comparable provisions appear as 49 U.S.C. § 40101 et seq.

SUBPART 2. PERFECTION

55-9-308. When security interest or agricultural lien is perfected; continuity of perfection.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section and Section 55-9-309 NMSA 1978, a security interest is perfected if it has attached and all of the applicable requirements

for perfection in Sections 55-9-310 through 55-9-316 NMSA 1978 have been satisfied. A security interest is perfected when it attaches if the applicable requirements are satisfied before the security interest attaches.

(b) An agricultural lien is perfected if it has become effective and all of the applicable requirements for perfection in Section 55-9-310 NMSA 1978 have been satisfied. An agricultural lien is perfected when it becomes effective if the applicable requirements are satisfied before the agricultural lien becomes effective.

(c) A security interest or agricultural lien is perfected continuously if it is originally perfected by one method under Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 and is later perfected by another method under that article, without an intermediate period when it was unperfected.

(d) Perfection of a security interest in collateral also perfects a security interest in a supporting obligation for the collateral.

(e) Perfection of a security interest in a right to payment or performance also perfects a security interest in a security interest, mortgage or other lien on personal or real property securing the right.

(f) Perfection of a security interest in a securities account also perfects a security interest in the security entitlements carried in the securities account.

(g) Perfection of a security interest in a commodity account also perfects a security interest in the commodity contracts carried in the commodity account.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-308, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 28.

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1. Source. Former sections 9-115(2) and 9-303.

2. General Rule. This article uses the term "attach" to describe the point at which property becomes subject to a security interest. The requisites for attachment are stated in section 9-203. When it attaches, a security interest may be either perfected or unperfected. "Perfected" means that the security interest has attached and the secured party has taken all the steps required by this article as specified in sections 9-310 through 9-316. A perfected security interest may still be or become subordinate to other interests. *See, e.g.*, sections 9-320 and 9-322. However, in general, after perfection the secured party is protected against creditors and transferees of the debtor and, in particular, against any representative of creditors in insolvency proceedings instituted by or against the debtor. *See, e.g.*, section 9-317.

Subsection (a) explains that the time of perfection is when the security interest has attached and any necessary steps for perfection, such as taking possession or filing, have been taken. The "except" clause refers to the perfection-upon-attachment rules appearing in section 9-309. It also reflects that other subsections of this section, *e.g.*, subsection (d), contain automatic perfection rules. If the steps for perfection have been taken in advance, as when the secured party files a financing statement before giving value or before the debtor acquires rights in the collateral, then the security interest is perfected when it attaches.

3. Agricultural Liens. Subsection (b) is new. It describes the elements of perfection of an agricultural lien.

4. Continuous Perfection. The following example illustrates the operation of subsection (c):

Example 1: Debtor, an importer, creates a security interest in goods that it imports and the documents of title that cover the goods. The secured party, Bank, takes possession of a negotiable bill of lading covering certain imported goods and thereby perfects its security interest in the bill of lading and the goods. *See* sections 9-312(c)(1) and 9-313(a). Bank releases the bill of lading to the debtor for the purpose of procuring the goods from the carrier and selling them. Under section 9-312(f), Bank continues to have a perfected security interest in the document and goods for 20 days. Bank files a financing statement covering the collateral before the expiration of the 20-day period. Its security interest now continues perfected for as long as the filing is good.

If the successive stages of Bank's security interest succeed each other without an intervening gap, the security interest is "perfected continuously," and the date of perfection is when the security interest first became perfected (*i.e.*, when Bank received possession of the bill of lading). If, however, there is a gap between stages - for example, if Bank does not file until after the expiration of the 20-day period specified in section 9-312(f) and leaves the collateral in the debtor's possession - then, the chain being broken, the perfection is no longer continuous. The date of perfection would now be the date of filing (after expiration of the 20-day period). Bank's security interest would be vulnerable to any interests arising during the gap period which under section 9-317 take priority over an unperfected security interest.

5. Supporting Obligations. Subsection (d) is new. It provides for automatic perfection of a security interest in a supporting obligation for collateral if the security interest in the collateral is perfected. This is unlikely to effect any change in the law prior to adoption of this article.

Example 2: Buyer is obligated to pay Debtor for goods sold. Buyer's president guarantees the obligation. Debtor creates a security interest in the right to payment (account) in favor of Lender. Under section 9-203(f), the security interest attaches to Debtor's rights under the guarantee (supporting obligation). Under subsection (d),

perfection of the security interest in the account constitutes perfection of the security interest in Debtor's rights under the guarantee.

6. Rights to Payment Secured by Lien. Subsection (e) is new. It deals with the situation in which a security interest is created in a right to payment that is secured by a security interest, mortgage, or other lien.

Example 3: Owner gives to Mortgagee a mortgage on Blackacre to secure a loan. Owner's obligation to pay is evidenced by a promissory note. In need of working capital, Mortgagee borrows from Financer and creates a security interest in the note in favor of Financer. Section 9-203(g) adopts the traditional view that the mortgage follows the note; *i.e.*, the transferee of the note acquires the mortgage, as well. This subsection adopts a similar principle: Perfection of a security interest in the right to payment constitutes perfection of a security interest in the mortgage securing it.

An important consequence of the rules in section 9-203(g) and subsection (e) is that, by acquiring a perfected security interest in a mortgage (or other secured) note, the secured party acquires a security interest in the mortgage (or other lien) that is senior to the rights of a person who becomes a lien creditor of the mortgagee (article 9 debtor). See section 9-317(a)(2). This result helps prevent the separation of the mortgage (or other lien) from the note.

Under this article, attachment and perfection of a security interest in a secured right to payment do not of themselves affect the obligation to pay. For example, if the obligation is evidenced by a negotiable note, then article 3 dictates the person whom the maker must pay to discharge the note and any lien securing it. *See* section 3-602. If the right to payment is a payment intangible, then section 9-406 determines whom the account debtor must pay.

Similarly, this article does not determine who has the power to release a mortgage of record. That issue is determined by real property law.

7. Investment Property. Subsections (f) and (g) follow former section 9-115(2).

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 28 repealed former 55-9-308 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1985, ch. 193, § 22, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former 55-9-115 and 55-9-303 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-115 and 55-9-303 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-115 and 55-9-303 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Steps required for perfection may be taken in any order. — If a financing statement is filed, value is extended, and a security agreement is executed, then there is a security interest in the described collateral. These steps can be taken in any order and priority is given to the security interest which is filed first, even if that security interest has not attached at the time of filing. *Waterfield v. Burnett (In re Burnett)*, 21 B.R. 752 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1982) (decided under former law).

Attachment and perfection upon delivery of goods to debtor. — Since vendor from whom business owner purchased inventory provided delivery of the items in its own trucks and at its own risk, and all sales were for cash on delivery, business owner acquired rights in the collateral when it was delivered, and the bank's security interest in his inventory "now owned or hereafter acquired" attached at that point and was perfected. *National Inv. Trust v. First Nat'l Bank*, 1975-NMSC-065, 88 N.M. 514, 543 P.2d 482 (decided under former law).

Law reviews. — For article, "Buyers and Sellers of Goods in Bankruptcy," see 1 N.M. L. Rev. 435 (1971).

55-9-309. Security interest perfected upon attachment.

The following security interests are perfected when they attach:

(1) a purchase-money security interest in consumer goods, except as otherwise provided in Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-311 NMSA 1978 with respect to consumer goods that are subject to a statute or treaty described in Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-311 NMSA 1978;

(2) an assignment of accounts or payment intangibles which does not by itself or in conjunction with other assignments to the same assignee transfer a significant part of the assignor's outstanding accounts or payment intangibles;

(3) a sale of a payment intangible;

(4) a sale of a promissory note;

(5) a security interest created by the assignment of a health-care-insurance receivable to the provider of the health care goods or services;

(6) a security interest arising under Section 55-2-401, 55-2-505, Subsection (3) of Section 55-2-711 or Subsection (5) of Section 55-2A-508 NMSA 1978, until the debtor obtains possession of the collateral;

(7) a security interest of a collecting bank arising under Section 55-4-210 NMSA 1978;

(8) a security interest of an issuer or nominated person arising under Section 55-5-118 NMSA 1978;

(9) a security interest arising in the delivery of a financial asset under Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-206 NMSA 1978;

(10) a security interest in investment property created by a broker or securities intermediary;

(11) a security interest in a commodity contract or a commodity account created by a commodity intermediary;

(12) an assignment for the benefit of all creditors of the transferor and subsequent transfers by the assignee thereunder;

(13) a security interest created by an assignment of a beneficial interest in a decedent's estate; and

(14) a sale by an individual of an account that is a right to payment of winnings in a lottery or other game of chance.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-309, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 29; 2005, ch. 144, § 100.

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1. Source. Derived from former sections 9-115(4)(c) and (d), 9-116, and 9-302(1).

2. Automatic Perfection. This section contains the perfection-upon-attachment rules previously located in former sections 9-115(4)(c) and (d), 9-116, and 9-302(1). Rather than continue to state the rule by indirection, this section explicitly provides for perfection upon attachment.

3. Purchase-Money Security Interest in Consumer Goods. Former section 9-302(1)(d) has been revised and appears here as paragraph (1). No filing or other step is required to perfect a purchase-money security interest in consumer goods, other than goods, such as automobiles, that are subject to a statute or treaty described in section 9-311(a). However, filing is required to perfect a non-purchase-money security interest in consumer goods and is necessary to prevent a buyer of consumer goods from taking free of a security interest under section 9-320(b). A fixture filing is required for priority over conflicting interests in fixtures to the extent provided in section 9-334.

4. Rights to Payment. Paragraph (2) expands upon former section 9-302(1)(e) by affording automatic perfection to certain assignments of payment intangibles as well as accounts. The purpose of paragraph (2) is to save from ex post facto invalidation casual or isolated assignments - assignments which no one would think of filing. Any person who regularly takes assignments of any debtor's accounts or payment intangibles should file. In this connection section 9-109(d)(4) through (7), which excludes certain transfers of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles, and promissory notes from this article, should be consulted.

Paragraphs (3) and (4), which are new, afford automatic perfection to sales of payment intangibles and promissory notes, respectively. They reflect the practice under former article 9. Under that article, filing a financing statement did not affect the rights of a buyer of payment intangibles or promissory notes, inasmuch as the former article did not cover those sales. To the extent that the exception in paragraph (2) covers outright sales of payment intangibles, which automatically are perfected under paragraph (3), the exception is redundant.

5. Health-Care-Insurance Receivables. Paragraph (5) extends automatic perfection to assignments of health-care-insurance receivables if the assignment is made to the health-care provider that provided the health-care goods or services. The primary effect is that, when an individual assigns a right to payment under an insurance policy to the person who provided health-care goods or services, the provider has no need to file a financing statement against the individual. The normal filing requirements apply to other assignments of health-care-insurance receivables covered by this article, *e.g.*, assignments from the health-care provider to a financer.

6. Investment Property. Paragraph (9) replaces the last clause of former section 9-116(2), concerning security interests that arise in the delivery of a financial asset.

Paragraphs (10) and (11) replace former section 9-115(4)(c) and (d), concerning secured financing of securities and commodity firms and clearing corporations. The former sections indicated that, with respect to certain security interests created by a securities intermediary or commodity intermediary, "(t)he filing of a financing statement . . . has no effect for purposes of perfection or priority with respect to that security interest." No change in meaning is intended by the deletion of the quoted phrase.

Secured financing arrangements for securities firms are currently implemented in various ways. In some circumstances, lenders may require that the transactions be structured as "hard pledges," where the securities are transferred on the books of a clearing corporation from the debtor's account to the lender's account or to a special pledge account for the lender where they cannot be disposed of without the specific consent of the lender. In other circumstances, lenders are content with so-called "agreement to pledge" or "agreement to deliver" arrangements, where the debtor retains the positions in its own account, but reflects on its books that the positions have been hypothecated and promises that the securities will be transferred to the secured party's account on demand.

The perfection and priority rules of this article are designed to facilitate current secured financing arrangements for securities firms as well as to provide sufficient flexibility to accommodate new arrangements that develop in the future. Hard pledge arrangements are covered by the concept of control. See sections 8-106, 9-106, and 9-314. Noncontrol secured financing arrangements for securities firms are covered by the automatic perfection rule of paragraph (10). Before the 1994 revision of articles 8 and 9, agreement to pledge arrangements could be implemented under a provision that a security interest in securities given for new value under a written security agreement was perfected without filing or possession for a period of 21 days. Although the security interests were temporary in legal theory, the financing arrangements could, in practice, be continued indefinitely by rolling over the loans at least every 21 days. Accordingly, a knowledgeable creditor of a securities firm realizes that the firm's securities may be subject to security interests that are not discoverable from any public records. The automatic-perfection rule of paragraph (10) makes it unnecessary to engage in the purely formal practice of rolling over these arrangements every 21 days.

In some circumstances, a clearing corporation may be the debtor in a secured financing arrangement. For example, a clearing corporation that settles delivery-versus-payment transactions among its participants on a net, same-day basis relies on timely payments from all participants with net obligations due to the system. If a participant that is a net debtor were to default on its payment obligation, the clearing corporation would not receive some of the funds needed to settle with participants that are net creditors to the system. To complete end-of-day settlement after a payment default by a participant, a clearing corporation that settles on a net, same-day basis may need to draw on credit lines and pledge securities of the defaulting participant or other securities pledged by participants in the clearing corporation to secure such drawings. The clearing corporation may be the top-tier securities intermediary for the securities pledged, so that it would not be practical for the lender to obtain control. Even where the clearing corporation holds some types of securities through other intermediaries, however, the clearing corporation is unlikely to be able to complete the arrangements necessary to convey "control" over the securities to be pledged in time to complete settlement in a timely manner. However, the term "securities intermediary" is defined in section 8-102(a)(14) to include clearing corporations. Thus, the perfection rule of paragraph (10) applies to security interests in investment property granted by clearing corporations.

7. Beneficial Interests in Trusts. Under former section 9-302(1)(c), filing was not required to perfect a security interest created by an assignment of a beneficial interest in a trust. Because beneficial interests in trusts are now used as collateral with greater frequency in commercial transactions, under this article filing is required to perfect a security interest in a beneficial interest.

8. Assignments for Benefit of Creditors. No filing or other action is required to perfect an assignment for the benefit of creditors. These assignments are not financing transactions, and the debtor ordinarily will not be engaging in further credit transactions.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 29 repealed former 55-9-309 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1996, ch. 47, § 67, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2005 amendment, effective January 1, 2006, adds Subsection (14) to provide that a security interest in a sale by an individual of an account that is a right to payment of winnings in a lottery or other game of chance are perfected when it attaches.

Applicability. — Laws 2005, ch. 144, § 114 provides that Laws 2005, ch. 144, § 100 applies to a sale of an account described in Subsection (14) of Section 55-9-309 NMSA 1978 even if the sale was entered into before that subsection took effect. However, if the relative priorities of conflicting claims to the account were established before that subsection took effect, Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 as in effect immediately prior to the date that subsection took effect determines priority.

Law reviews. — For article, "The Warehouseman vs. the Secured Party: Who Prevails When the Warehouseman's Lien Covers Goods Subject to a Security Interest?" see 8 Nat. Resources J. 331 (1968).

For article, "Buyers and Sellers of Goods in Bankruptcy," see 1 N.M. L. Rev. 435 (1971).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Construction and effect of UCC article 9, dealing with secured transactions, etc., 30 A.L.R.3d 9, 67 A.L.R.3d 308, 69 A.L.R.3d 1162, 76 A.L.R.3d 11, 99 A.L.R. 3d 807, 99 A.L.R.3d 1080, 100 A.L.R.3d 10, 100 A.L.R.3d 940, 7 A.L.R.4th 308, 11 A.L.R.4th 241, 90 A.L.R.4th 859, 25 A.L.R.5th 696.

55-9-310. When filing required to perfect security interest or agricultural lien; security interests and agricultural liens to which filing provisions do not apply.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (b) of this section and in Section 55-9-312 NMSA 1978, a financing statement must be filed to perfect all security interests and agricultural liens.

(b) The filing of a financing statement is not necessary to perfect a security interest:

(1) that is perfected under Subsection (d), (e), (f) or (g) of Section 55-9-308 NMSA 1978;

(2) that is perfected under Section 55-9-309 NMSA 1978 when it attaches;

(3) in property subject to a statute, regulation or treaty described in Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-311 NMSA 1978;

(4) in goods in possession of a bailee that is perfected under Paragraph (1) or (2) of Subsection (d) of Section 55-9-312 NMSA 1978;

(5) in certificated securities, documents, goods or instruments that is perfected without filing, control or possession under Subsection (e), (f) or (g) of Section 55-9-312 NMSA 1978;

(6) in collateral in the secured party's possession under Section 55-9-313 NMSA 1978;

(7) in a certificated security that is perfected by delivery of the security certificate to the secured party under Section 55-9-313 NMSA 1978;

(8) in controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles, deposit accounts, electronic documents, investment property or letter-of-credit rights that is perfected by control under Section 55-9-314 NMSA 1978;

(9) in proceeds that is perfected under Section 55-9-315 NMSA 1978; or

(10) that is perfected under Section 55-9-316 NMSA 1978.

(c) If a secured party assigns a perfected security interest or agricultural lien, a filing under Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 is not required to continue the perfected status of the security interest against creditors of and transferees from the original debtor.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-310, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 30; 2005, ch. 144, § 101; 2023, ch. 142, § 61.

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1. **Source.** Former Section 9-302(1), (2).

2. **General Rule.** Subsection (a) establishes a central Article 9 principle: Filing a financing statement is necessary for perfection of security interests and agricultural liens. However, filing is not necessary to perfect a security interest that is perfected by another permissible method, *see* Subsection (b), nor does filing ordinarily perfect a security interest in a deposit account, letter-of-credit right, or money. *See* Section 9-312(b) [55-9-312 NMSA 1978]. Part 5 of the article deals with the office in which to file, mechanics of filing, and operations of the filing office.

3. **Exemptions from Filing.** Subsection (b) lists the security interests for which filing is not required as a condition of perfection, because they are perfected automatically upon attachment (Subsections (b)(2) and (b)(9)) or upon the occurrence

of another event (Subsections (b)(1), (b)(5), and (b)(9)), because they are perfected under the law of another jurisdiction (Subsection (b)(10)), or because they are perfected by another method, such as by the secured party's taking possession or control (Subsections (b)(3), (b)(4), (b)(5), (b)(6), (b)(7), (b)(8), and (b)(8.1)).

4. **Assignments of Perfected Security Interests.** Subsection (c) concerns assignment of a perfected security interest or agricultural lien. It provides that no filing is necessary in connection with an assignment by a secured party to an assignee in order to maintain perfection as against creditors of and transferees from the original debtor.

Example 1: Buyer buys goods from Seller, who retains a security interest in them. After Seller perfects the security interest by filing, Seller assigns the perfected security interest to X. The security interest, in X's hands and without further steps on X's part, continues perfected against Buyer's transferees and creditors.

Example 2: Dealer creates a security interest in specific equipment in favor of Lender. After Lender perfects the security interest in the equipment by filing, Lender assigns the chattel paper (which includes the perfected security interest in Dealer's equipment) to X. The security interest in the equipment, in X's hands and without further steps on X's part, continues perfected against Dealer's transferees and creditors. However, regardless of whether Lender made the assignment to secure Lender's obligation to X or whether the assignment was an outright sale of the chattel paper, the assignment creates a security interest in the chattel paper in favor of X. Accordingly, X must take whatever steps may be required for perfection in order to be protected against Lender's transferees and creditors with respect to the chattel paper.

Subsection (c) applies not only to an assignment of a security interest perfected by filing but also to an assignment of a security interest perfected by a method other than by filing, such as by control or by possession. Although Subsection (c) addresses explicitly only the absence of an additional filing requirement, the same result normally will follow in the case of an assignment of a security interest perfected by a method other than by filing. For example, as long as possession of collateral is maintained by an assignee or by the assignor or another person on behalf of the assignee, no further perfection steps need be taken on account of the assignment to continue perfection as against creditors and transferees of the original debtor. Of course, additional action may be required for perfection of the assignee's interest as against creditors and transferees of the assignor.

Similarly, Subsection (c) applies to the assignment of a security interest perfected by compliance with a statute, regulation, or treaty under Section 9-311(b) [55-9-311 NMSA 1978], such as a certificate-of-title statute. Unless the statute expressly provides to the contrary, the security interest will remain perfected against creditors of and transferees from the original debtor, even if the assignee takes no action to cause the certificate of title to reflect the assignment or to cause its name to appear on the certificate of title. *See* PEB Commentary No. 12, which discusses this issue under former Section 9-302(3) [55-9-302 NMSA 1978]. Compliance with the statute is "equivalent to filing" under Section 9-311(b) [55-9-311 NMSA 1978].

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 30 repealed former 55-9-310 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-310, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, provided that the filing of a financing statement is not necessary to perfect a security interest in controllable accounts, controllable electronic records or controllable payment intangibles; and in Paragraph (b)(8), after "in", added "controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles".

The 2005 amendment, effective January 1, 2006, provides that the filing of a financing statement is not necessary to perfect a security interest in an instrument that is perfected without filing, control or possession in Subsection (b)(5) and in electronic documents in Subsection (b)(8).

Decisions under former 55-9-113 and 55-9-302 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-113 and 55-9-302 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-113 and 55-9-302 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Purpose to inform others of lien on property. — Generally, to have constructive notice in regard to personalty or realty, it is essential that the persons against whom such notice is operative, had they wished to have inquired, could readily have learned that another possessed a lien on the property of interest. *Reconstruction Fin. Corp. v. Stephens*, 118 F. Supp. 565 (D.N.M. 1954) (decided under former law).

Effect of failure to record. — Failure to acknowledge and record conditional sales contract renders it void as to subsequent mortgagees in good faith and purchasers for value without notice. *Loomis Mach. Co. v. Proctor*, 1936-NMSC-062, 41 N.M. 519, 71 P.2d 1029 (decided under former law).

Sufficiency of description. — The description "contract rights arising from the sale or other disposition of dairy products" was sufficient to put a third party on inquiry notice about a prior encumbrance on a property interest in capital retains arising from the sale of dairy products. *Valley Fed. Sav. Bank v. Stahl*, 1990-NMSC-060, 110 N.M. 169, 793 P.2d 851 (decided under former law).

Acknowledgement not required for filing. — In keeping with the declared purpose of the code to simplify, clarify and modernize the law governing commercial transactions, and the rule of construction that the code shall be liberally construed and applied so as to promote its underlying purposes and policies, such instruments as are filed pursuant to the provisions of the code are not required to be acknowledged as a prerequisite to being filed with the county clerks. 1962 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 62-01 (rendered under prior law).

Law reviews. — For article, "The Warehouseman vs. the Secured Party: Who Prevails When the Warehouseman's Lien Covers Goods Subject to a Security Interest?" see 8 Nat. Resources J. 331 (1968).

For note, "Fixtures, Security Interests and Filing: Problems of Title Examination in New Mexico," see 8 Nat. Resources J. 513 (1968).

For article, "Buyers and Sellers of Goods in Bankruptcy," see 1 N.M. L. Rev. 435 (1971).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Creditor levying upon subject of unfiled conditional sales contract under prior judgment, 55 A.L.R. 1137.

Right of receiver of conditional vendee to avail himself of defects in filing contract, 61 A.L.R. 975.

Refiling when goods are removed from district where contract is filed, 68 A.L.R. 554.

Trust receipts as conditional sale within filing statute, 168 A.L.R. 379.

Registration of mortgages or other liens on personal property in case of residents of other states, 10 A.L.R.2d 764.

Necessity that mortgage covering oil and gas lease be recorded as real estate mortgage, and/or filed or recorded as chattel mortgage, 34 A.L.R.2d 902.

Construction and effect of UCC article 9, dealing with secured transactions, etc., 30 A.L.R.3d 9, 67 A.L.R.3d 308, 69 A.L.R.3d 1162, 76 A.L.R.3d 11, 99 A.L.R. 3d 807, 99 A.L.R.3d 1080, 100 A.L.R.3d 10, 100 A.L.R.3d 940, 7 A.L.R.4th 308, 11 A.L.R.4th 241, 90 A.L.R.4th 859, 25 A.L.R.5th 696.

55-9-311. Perfection of security interests in property subject to certain statutes, regulations and treaties.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (d) of this section, the filing of a financing statement is not necessary or effective to perfect a security interest in property subject to:

(1) a statute, regulation or treaty of the United States whose requirements for a security interest's obtaining priority over the rights of a lien creditor with respect to the property preempt Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-310 NMSA 1978;

(2) the provisions of Chapter 66 NMSA 1978; or

(3) a statute of another jurisdiction that provides for a security interest to be indicated on a certificate of title as a condition or result of the security interest's obtaining priority over the rights of a lien creditor with respect to the property.

(b) Compliance with the requirements of a statute, regulation or treaty described in Subsection (a) of this section for obtaining priority over the rights of a lien creditor is equivalent to the filing of a financing statement under Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978. Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (d) of this section and in Section 55-9-313 and Subsections (d) and (e) of Section 55-9-316 NMSA 1978 for goods covered by a certificate of title, a security interest in property subject to a statute, regulation or treaty described in Subsection (a) of this section may be perfected only by compliance with those requirements, and a security interest so perfected remains perfected notwithstanding a change in the use or transfer of possession of the collateral.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (d) of this section and Subsections (d) and (e) of Section 55-9-316 NMSA 1978, duration and renewal of perfection of a security interest perfected by compliance with the requirements prescribed by a statute, regulation or treaty described in Subsection (a) of this section are governed by the statute, regulation or treaty. In other respects, the security interest is subject to Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978.

(d) During any period in which collateral subject to a statute specified in Paragraph (2) of Subsection (a) of this section is inventory held for sale or lease by a person or leased by that person as lessor and that person is in the business of selling goods of that kind, this section does not apply to a security interest in that collateral created by that person.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-311, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 31; 2013, ch. 137, § 6.

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1. Source. Former section 9-302(3), (4).

2. Federal Statutes, Regulations, and Treaties. Subsection (a)(1) exempts from the filing provisions of this article transactions as to which a system of filing - state or federal - has been established under federal law. Subsection (b) makes clear that when such a system exists, perfection of a relevant security interest can be achieved only through compliance with that system (*i.e.*, filing under this article is not a permissible alternative).

An example of the type of federal statute referred to in subsection (a)(1) is 49 U.S.C. sections 44107-11, for civil aircraft of the United States. The Assignment of Claims Act

of 1940, as amended, provides for notice to contracting and disbursing officers and to sureties on bonds but does not establish a national filing system and therefore is not within the scope of subsection (a)(1). An assignee of a claim against the United States may benefit from compliance with the Assignment of Claims Act. But regardless of whether the assignee complies with that act, the assignee must file under this article in order to perfect its security interest against creditors and transferees of its assignor.

Subsection (a)(1) provides explicitly that the filing requirement of this article defers only to federal statutes, regulations, or treaties whose requirements for a security interest's obtaining priority over the rights of a lien creditor preempt section 9-310(a). The provision eschews reference to the term "perfection," inasmuch as section 9-308 specifies the meaning of that term and a preemptive rule may use other terminology.

3. State Statutes. Subsections (a)(2) and (3) exempt from the filing requirements of this article transactions covered by state certificate-of-title statutes covering motor vehicles and the like. The description of certificate-of-title statutes in subsections (a)(2) and (a)(3) tracks the language of the definition of "certificate of title" in section 9-102. For a discussion of the operation of state certificate-of-title statutes in interstate contexts, see the comments to section 9-303.

Some states have enacted central filing statutes with respect to secured transactions in kinds of property that are of special importance in the local economy. Subsection (a)(2) defers to these statutes with respect to filing for that property.

4. Inventory Covered by Certificate of Title. Under subsection (d), perfection of a security interest in the inventory of a person in the business of selling goods of that kind is governed by the normal perfection rules, even if the inventory is subject to a certificate-of-title statute. Compliance with a certificate-of-title statute is both unnecessary and ineffective to perfect a security interest in inventory to which this subsection applies. Thus, a secured party who finances an automobile dealer that is in the business of selling and leasing its inventory of automobiles can perfect a security interest in all the automobiles by filing a financing statement but not by compliance with a certificate-of-title statute.

Subsection (d), and thus the filing and other perfection provisions of this article, does not apply to inventory that is subject to a certificate-of-title statute and is of a kind that the debtor is not in the business of selling. For example, if goods are subject to a certificate-of-title statute and the debtor is in the business of leasing but not of selling goods of that kind, the other subsections of this section govern perfection of a security interest in the goods. The fact that the debtor eventually sells the goods does not, of itself, mean that the debtor "is in the business of selling goods of that kind."

The filing and other perfection provisions of this article apply to goods subject to a certificate-of-title statute only "during any period in which collateral is inventory held for sale or lease or leased." If the debtor takes goods of this kind out of inventory and uses

them, say, as equipment, a filed financing statement would not remain effective to perfect a security interest.

5. Compliance with Perfection Requirements of Other Statute. Subsection (b) makes clear that compliance with the perfection requirements (i.e., the requirements for obtaining priority over a lien creditor), but not other requirements, of a statute, regulation, or treaty described in subsection (a) is sufficient for perfection under this Article. Perfection of a security interest under such a statute, regulation, or treaty has all the consequences of perfection under this Article.

The interplay of this section with certain certificate-of-title statutes may create confusion and uncertainty. For example, statutes under which perfection does not occur until a certificate of title is issued will create a gap between the time that the goods are covered by the certificate under Section 9-303 [55-9-303 NMSA 1978] and the time of perfection. If the gap is long enough, it may result in turning some unobjectionable transactions into avoidable preferences under Bankruptcy Code Section 547. (The preference risk arises if more than 30 days passes between the time a security interest attaches (or the debtor receives possession of the collateral, in the case of a purchase-money security interest) and the time it is perfected.) Accordingly, the Legislative Note to this section instructs the legislature to amend the applicable certificate-of-title statute to provide that perfection occurs upon receipt by the appropriate State official of a properly tendered application for a certificate of title on which the security interest is to be indicated.

Under some certificate-of-title statutes, including the Uniform Motor Vehicle Certificate of Title and Anti-Theft Act, perfection generally occurs upon delivery of specified documents to a state official but may, under certain circumstances, relate back to the time of attachment. This relation-back feature can create great difficulties for the application of the rules in Sections 9-303 and 9-311(b) [55-9-303 and 55-9-311(b) NMSA 1978]. Accordingly, the Legislative Note also recommends to legislatures that they remove any relation-back provisions from certificate-of-title statutes affecting security interests.

6. Compliance with Perfection Requirements of Other Statute as Equivalent to Filing. Under subsection (b), compliance with the perfection requirements (*i.e.*, the requirements for obtaining priority over a lien creditor) of a statute, regulation, or treaty described in subsection (a) "is equivalent to the filing of a financing statement."

The quoted phrase appeared in former section 9-302(3). Its meaning was unclear, and many questions arose concerning the extent to which and manner in which article 9 rules referring to "filing" were applicable to perfection by compliance with a certificate-of-title statute. This article takes a variety of approaches for applying article 9's filing rules to compliance with other statutes and treaties. First, as discussed above in comment 5, it leaves the determination of some rules, such as the rule establishing time of perfection (section 9-516(a)), to the other statutes themselves. Second, this article explicitly applies some article 9 filing rules to perfection under other statutes or treaties. *See, e.g.*, section 9-505. Third, this article makes other article 9 rules applicable to

security interests perfected by compliance with another statute through the "equivalent to . . . filing" provision in the first sentence of section 9-311(b). The third approach is reflected for the most part in occasional comments explaining how particular rules apply when perfection is accomplished under section 9-311(b). *See, e.g.*, section 9-310, comment 4; section 9-315, comment 6; and section 9-317, comment 8. The absence of a comment indicating that a particular filing provision applies to perfection pursuant to section 9-311(b) does not mean the provision is inapplicable.

7. Perfection by Possession of Goods Covered by Certificate-of-Title Statute. A secured party who holds a security interest perfected under the law of State A in goods that subsequently are covered by a State B certificate of title may face a predicament. Ordinarily, the secured party will have four months under State B's section 9-316(c) and (d) in which to (re)perfect as against a purchaser of the goods by having its security interest noted on a State B certificate. This procedure is likely to require the cooperation of the debtor and any competing secured party whose security interest has been noted on the certificate. Comment 4(e) to former section 9-103 observed that "that cooperation is not likely to be forthcoming from an owner who wrongfully procured the issuance of a new certificate not showing the out-of-state security interest, or from a local secured party finding himself in a priority contest with the out-of-state secured party." According to that comment, "(t)he only solution for the out-of-state secured party under present certificate of title statutes seems to be to reperfect by possession, i.e., by repossessing the goods." But the "solution" may not have worked: Former section 9-302(4) provided that a security interest in property subject to a certificate-of-title statute "can be perfected only by compliance therewith."

Sections 9-311(c), 9-313(b), and 9-316(d) and (e) of this article resolve the conflict by providing that a security interest that remains perfected solely by virtue of section 9-316(e) can be (re)perfected by the secured party's taking possession of the collateral. These sections contemplate only that taking possession of goods covered by a certificate of title will work as a method of perfection. None of these sections creates a right to take possession. Section 9-609 and the agreement of the parties define the secured party's right to take possession.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 31 repealed former 55-9-311 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-311, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2013 amendment, effective July 1, 2013, provided that the filing of a financing statement is not necessary if a statute provides for a security interest to be indicated on a certificate of title; and in Paragraph (3) of Subsection (a), at the beginning of the sentence, after "a", deleted "certificate-of-title" and after "indicated on a certificate", added "of title".

Decisions under former 55-9-302 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-302 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-302 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

When filing not necessary to perfect security interest. — Under the wording of this section, it is not necessary to file a financing statement pursuant to the code in order to perfect a security interest in a motor vehicle required to be registered and having a certificate of title issued by this state. 1962 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 62-30 (rendered under prior law).

Law reviews. — For article, "Buyers and Sellers of Goods in Bankruptcy," see 1 N.M. L. Rev. 435 (1971).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Registration of mortgages or other liens on personal property in case of residents of other states, 10 A.L.R.2d 764.

55-9-312. Perfection of security interests in chattel paper, controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles, deposit accounts, documents, goods covered by documents, instruments, investment property, letter-of-credit rights and money; perfection by permissive filing; temporary perfection without filing or transfer of possession.

(a) A security interest in chattel paper, controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles, instruments, investment property or negotiable documents may be perfected by filing.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsections (c) and (d) of Section 55-9-315 NMSA 1978 for proceeds:

(1) a security interest in a deposit account may be perfected only by control under Section 55-9-314 NMSA 1978;

(2) and except as otherwise provided in Subsection (d) of Section 55-9-308 NMSA 1978, a security interest in a letter-of-credit right may be perfected only by control under Section 55-9-314 NMSA 1978;

(3) a security interest in tangible money may be perfected only by the secured party's taking possession under Section 55-9-313 NMSA 1978; and

(4) a security interest in electronic money may be perfected only by control under Section 55-9-314 NMSA 1978.

(c) While goods are in the possession of a bailee that has issued a negotiable document covering the goods:

(1) a security interest in the goods may be perfected by perfecting a security interest in the document; and

(2) a security interest perfected in the document has priority over any security interest that becomes perfected in the goods by another method during that time.

(d) While goods are in the possession of a bailee that has issued a nonnegotiable document covering the goods, a security interest in the goods may be perfected by:

(1) issuance of a document in the name of the secured party;

(2) the bailee's receipt of notification of the secured party's interest; or

(3) filing as to the goods.

(e) A security interest in certificated securities, negotiable documents or instruments is perfected without filing or the taking of possession or control for a period of twenty days from the time it attaches to the extent that it arises for new value given under a signed security agreement.

(f) A perfected security interest in a negotiable document or goods in possession of a bailee, other than one that has issued a negotiable document for the goods, remains perfected for twenty days without filing if the secured party makes available to the debtor the goods or documents representing the goods for the purpose of:

(1) ultimate sale or exchange; or

(2) loading, unloading, storing, shipping, transshipping, manufacturing, processing or otherwise dealing with them in a manner preliminary to their sale or exchange.

(g) A perfected security interest in a certificated security or instrument remains perfected for twenty days without filing if the secured party delivers the security certificate or instrument to the debtor for the purpose of:

(1) ultimate sale or exchange; or

(2) presentation, collection, enforcement, renewal or registration of transfer.

(h) After the twenty-day period specified in Subsection (e), (f) or (g) of this section expires, perfection depends upon compliance with Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-312, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 32; 2005, ch. 144, § 102; 2023, ch. 142, § 62.

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1. **Source.** Former Section 9-304 [55-9-304 NMSA 1978], with additions and some changes.

2. **Instruments.** Under Subsection (a), a security interest in instruments may be perfected by filing. This rule represents an important change from former Article 9, under which the secured party's taking possession of an instrument was the only method of achieving long-term perfection. The rule is likely to be particularly useful in transactions involving a large number of notes that a debtor uses as collateral but continues to collect from the makers. A security interest perfected by filing is subject to defeat by certain subsequent purchasers (including secured parties). Under Section 9-330(d) [55-9-330 NMSA 1978], purchasers for value who take possession of an instrument without knowledge that the purchase violates the rights of the secured party generally would achieve priority over a security interest in the instrument perfected by filing. In addition, Section 9-331 [55-9-3331 NMSA 1978] provides that filing a financing statement does not constitute notice that would preclude a subsequent purchaser from becoming a holder in due course and taking free of all claims under Section 3-306 [55-9-306 NMSA 1978].

3. **Chattel Paper; Negotiable Documents.** Subsection (a) further provides that filing is available as a method of perfection for security interests in chattel paper and negotiable documents. Tangible chattel paper is sometimes delivered to the assignee, and sometimes left in the hands of the assignor for collection. Subsection (a) allows the assignee to perfect its security interest by filing in the latter case. Alternatively, the assignee may perfect by taking possession. *See* Section 9-313(a) [55-9-313 NMSA 1978]. An assignee of electronic chattel paper may perfect by taking control. *See* Sections 9-105 and 9-314(a) [55-9-105, 55-9-314 NMSA 1978, respectively]. The security interest of an assignee who takes possession or control may qualify for priority over a competing security interest perfected by filing. *See* Section 9-330 [55-9-330 NMSA 1978].

Negotiable documents may be, and usually are, delivered to the secured party. The secured party's taking possession will suffice as a perfection step. *See* Section 9-313(a). However, as is the case with chattel paper, a security interest in a negotiable document may be perfected by filing.

4. **Investment Property.** A security interest in investment property, including certificated securities, uncertificated securities, security entitlements, and securities accounts, may be perfected by filing. However, security interests created by brokers, securities intermediaries, or commodity intermediaries are automatically perfected; filing is of no effect. *See* Section 9-309(10) and (11) [55-9-309 NMSA 1978]. A security interest in all kinds of investment property also may be perfected by control, *see* Sections 9-105 and 9-314, and a security interest in a certificated security also may be perfected by the secured party's taking delivery under Section 8-301. *See* Section 9-

313(a). A security interest perfected only by filing is subordinate to a conflicting security interest perfected by control or delivery. *See* Section 9-328(1) and (5) [55-9-328 NMSA 1978]. Thus, although filing is a permissible method of perfection, a secured party who perfects by filing takes the risk that the debtor has granted or will grant a security interest in the same collateral to another party who obtains control. Also, perfection by filing would not give the secured party protection against other types of adverse claims, since the Article 8 adverse claim cut-off rules require control. *See* Section 8-510 [55-8-510 NMSA 1978].

4A. **Controllable Accounts, Controllable Electronic Records, and Controllable Payment Intangibles.** Consistent with the treatment of chattel paper, instruments, investment property, and negotiable documents, under Subsection (a) a security interest in controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, and controllable payment intangibles may be perfected by filing. A security interest in that collateral also may be perfected by control. Section 9-314.

5. **Deposit Accounts.** Under new Subsection (b)(1), the only method of perfecting a security interest in a deposit account as original collateral is by control. Filing is ineffective, except as provided in Section 9-315 [55-9-315 NMSA 1978] with respect to proceeds. As explained in Section 9-104 [55-9-104 NMSA 1978], "control" can arise as a result of an agreement among the secured party, debtor, and bank, whereby the bank agrees to comply with instructions of the secured party with respect to disposition of the funds on deposit, even though the debtor retains the right to direct disposition of the funds. Thus, Subsection (b)(1) takes an intermediate position between certain non-UCC law, which conditions the effectiveness of a security interest on the secured party's enjoyment of such dominion and control over the deposit account that the debtor is unable to dispose of the funds, and the approach this article takes to securities accounts, under which a secured party who is unable to reach the collateral without resort to judicial process may perfect by filing. By conditioning perfection on "control," rather than requiring the secured party to enjoy absolute dominion to the exclusion of the debtor, Subsection (b)(1) permits perfection in a wide variety of transactions, including those in which the secured party actually relies on the deposit account in extending credit and maintains some meaningful dominion over it, but does not wish to deprive the debtor of access to the funds altogether.

6. **Letter-of-Credit Rights.** Letter-of-credit rights commonly are "supporting obligations," as defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978]. Perfection as to the related account, chattel paper, document, general intangible, instrument, or investment property will perfect as to the letter-of-credit rights. *See* Section 9-308(d) [55-9-308 NMSA 1978]. Subsection (b)(2) provides that, in other cases, a security interest in a letter-of-credit right may be perfected only by control. "Control," for these purposes, is explained in Section 9-107 [55-9-107 NMSA 1978].

6A. **Money.** Under Subsection (b)(3), a security interest in tangible money may be perfected only by possession under Section 9-313 [55-9-313 NMSA 1978]. Similarly,

under Subsection (b)(4), a security interest in electronic money may be perfected only by control under Section 9-314 [55-9-314 NMSA 1978].

7. **Goods Covered by Document of Title.** Subsection (c) applies to goods in the possession of a bailee who has issued a negotiable document covering the goods. Subsection (d) applies to goods in the possession of a bailee who has issued a nonnegotiable document of title, including a document of title that is "non-negotiable" under Section 7-104 [55-7-104 NMSA 1978]. Section 9-313 governs perfection of a security interest in goods in the possession of a bailee who has not issued a document of title.

Subsection (c) clarifies the perfection and priority rules in former Section 9-304(2) [55-9-304 NMSA 1978]. Consistently with the provisions of Article 7, Subsection (c) takes the position that, as long as a negotiable document covering goods is outstanding, title to the goods is, so to say, locked up in the document. Accordingly, a security interest in goods covered by a negotiable document may be perfected by perfecting a security interest in the document. The security interest also may be perfected by another method, *e.g.*, by filing. The priority rule in Subsection (c) governs only priority between (i) a security interest in goods which is perfected by perfecting in the document and (ii) a security interest in the goods which becomes perfected by another method while the goods are covered by the document.

Example 1: While wheat is in a grain elevator and covered by a negotiable warehouse receipt, Debtor creates a security interest in the wheat in favor of SP-1 and SP-2. SP-1 perfects by filing a financing statement covering "wheat." Thereafter, SP-2 perfects by filing a financing statement describing the warehouse receipt. Subsection (c)(1) provides that SP-2's security interest is perfected. Subsection (c)(2) provides that SP-2's security interest is senior to SP-1's.

Example 2: The facts are as in Example 1, but SP-1's security interest attached and was perfected before the goods were delivered to the grain elevator. Subsection (c)(2) does not apply, because SP-1's security interest did not become perfected during the time that the wheat was in the possession of a bailee. Rather, the first-to-file-or-perfect priority rule applies. *See* Section 9-322 [55-9-322 NMSA 1978].

A secured party may become "a holder to whom a negotiable document of title has been duly negotiated" under Section 7-501 [55-7-501 NMSA 1978]. If so, the secured party acquires the rights specified by article 7. Article 9 does not limit those rights, which may include the right to priority over an earlier-perfected security interest. *See* Section 9-331(a) [55-9-331 NMSA 1978].

Subsection (d) takes a different approach to the problem of goods covered by a nonnegotiable document. Here, title to the goods is not looked on as being locked up in the document. For example, a transferee that takes delivery of a nonnegotiable document receives, under Section 7-504(a) [55-7-504 NMSA 1978], "the title and rights" of the transferor, but the transferee would not thereby become a "person entitled under

the document" with a right to receive delivery of the goods from the bailee. The secured party may perfect its security interest directly in the goods by filing as to them. The subsection provides two other methods of perfection: issuance of the document in the secured party's name (as consignee of a straight bill of lading or the person to whom delivery would be made under a non-negotiable warehouse receipt) and receipt of notification of the secured party's interest by the bailee. Issuance (or reissuance) of the nonnegotiable document in the secured party's name would allow the secured party to become a "person entitled under the document." However, the bailee's receipt of notification would not confer on the secured party the status of a person entitled unless the notification resulted from an instruction under the document. *See* Section 7-102(a)(9) [55-7-102 NMSA 1978] (defining "person entitled under the document") and Comment 6. Perfection under Subsection (d) occurs when the bailee receives notification of the secured party's interest in the goods, regardless of who sends the notification. Receipt of notification is effective to perfect, regardless of whether the bailee responds. Unlike pre-1998 Section 9-304(3) [55-9-304 NMSA 1978], from which it derives, Subsection (d) does not apply to goods in the possession of a bailee who has not issued a document of title. Section 9-313(c) [55-9-313 NMSA 1978] covers that case and provides that perfection by possession as to goods not covered by a document requires the bailee's acknowledgment.

Subsection (a) makes clear that a security interest in negotiable documents (and other collateral mentioned there) may be perfected by filing, but it makes no mention of nonnegotiable documents. However, under the general rule of Section 9-310 [55-9-310 NMSA 1978], a security interest in a nonnegotiable document can be perfected by filing. A security interest in an electronic document, negotiable or nonnegotiable, can be perfected by control under Section 7-106 [55-7-106 NMSA 1978]. Section 9-314(a) [55-9-314 NMSA 1978]. But a security interest in a nonnegotiable tangible document cannot be perfected by possession. Section 9-313(a) [55-9-313 NMSA 1978]. Although a perfected security interest in a nonnegotiable document might provide useful benefits for the secured party, it would not perfect a security interest in the goods. And by perfecting a security interest in the nonnegotiable document the secured party would not thereby become a "person entitled under the document." Indeed, unless the secured party also took delivery of the document (i.e., possession or control under Section 1-201(b)(15)) [55-1-201 NMSA 1978], it would not obtain the rights of a transferee under Section 7-504(a) [55-7-504 NMSA 1978].

8. **Temporary Perfection Without Having First Otherwise Perfected.** Subsection (e) follows pre-1998 Section 9-304(4) [55-9-304 NMSA 1978] in giving perfected status to security interests in certificated securities, instruments, and negotiable documents for a short period (reduced from 21 to 20 days, which is the time period generally applicable in this Article), although there has been no filing and the collateral is in the debtor's possession or control. The 20-day temporary perfection runs from the date of attachment. There is no limitation on the purpose for which the debtor is in possession, but the secured party must have given "new value" (defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978]) under a signed security agreement.

9. **Maintaining Perfection After Surrendering Possession.** There are a variety of legitimate reasons - many of them are described in Subsections (f) and (g) - why certain types of collateral must be released temporarily to a debtor. No useful purpose would be served by cluttering the files with records of such exceedingly short term transactions.

Subsection (f) affords the possibility of 20-day perfection in negotiable documents and goods in the possession of a bailee but not covered by a negotiable document. Subsection (g) provides for 20-day perfection in certificated securities and instruments. These subsections derive from former Section 9-305(5) [55-9-305 NMSA 1978]. However, the period of temporary perfection has been reduced from 21 to 20 days, which is the time period generally applicable in this article, and "enforcement" has been added in Subsection (g) as one of the special and limited purposes for which a secured party can release an instrument or certificated security to the debtor and still remain perfected. The period of temporary perfection runs from the date a secured party who already has a perfected security interest turns over the collateral to the debtor. There is no new value requirement, but the turnover must be for one or more of the purposes stated in Subsection (f) or (g). The 20-day period may be extended by perfecting as to the collateral by another method before the period expires. However, if the security interest is not perfected by another method until after the 20-day period expires, there will be a gap during which the security interest is unperfected.

Temporary perfection extends only to the negotiable document or goods under Subsection (f) and only to the certificated security or instrument under Subsection (g). It does not extend to proceeds. If the collateral is sold, the security interest will continue in the proceeds for the period specified in Section 9-315 [55-9-315 NMSA 1978].

Subsections (f) and (g) deal only with perfection. Other Sections of this article govern the priority of a security interest in goods after surrender of the document covering them. In the case of a purchase-money security interest in inventory, priority may be conditioned upon giving notification to a prior inventory financer. *See* Section 9-324 [55-9-324 NMSA 1978].

10. **"Signed" Replaces "Authenticated."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201 [55-1-201 NMSA 1978], the cognate term "signed" replaces the reference to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 32 repealed former 55-9-312 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1996, ch. 47, § 68, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, added "controllable accounts," "controllable electronic records" and "controllable payment intangibles" to existing provisions related to perfecting security interests, provided that a security interest in electronic money may be perfected only by control under Section 55-9-314 NMSA 1978;

in the section heading, added "controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles"; in Subsection (a), after "chattel paper", deleted "negotiable documents" and added "controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles"; added Paragraph (b)(4); and in Subsection (e), after "given under", deleted "an authenticated" and added "a signed".

The 2005 amendment, effective January 1, 2006, provides in Subsection (e) that a security interest in documents is perfected without taking control for a period of twenty days after it attaches.

55-9-313. When possession by or delivery to secured party perfects security interest without filing.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (b) of this section, a secured party may perfect a security interest in goods, instruments, negotiable tangible documents or tangible money by taking possession of the collateral. A secured party may perfect a security interest in certificated securities by taking delivery of the certificated securities under Section 55-8-301 NMSA 1978.

(b) With respect to goods covered by a certificate of title issued by this state, a secured party may perfect a security interest in the goods by taking possession of the goods only in the circumstances described in Subsection (d) of Section 55-9-316 NMSA 1978.

(c) With respect to collateral other than certificated securities and goods covered by a document, a secured party takes possession of collateral in the possession of a person other than the debtor, the secured party or a lessee of the collateral from the debtor in the ordinary course of the debtor's business when:

(1) the person in possession signs a record acknowledging that it holds possession of the collateral for the secured party's benefit; or

(2) the person takes possession of the collateral after having signed a record acknowledging that it will hold possession of the collateral for the secured party's benefit.

(d) If perfection of a security interest depends upon possession of the collateral by a secured party, perfection occurs not earlier than the time the secured party takes possession and continues only while the secured party retains possession.

(e) A security interest in a certificated security in registered form is perfected by delivery when delivery of the certificated security occurs under Section 55-8-301 NMSA 1978 and remains perfected by delivery until the debtor obtains possession of the security certificate.

(f) A person in possession of collateral is not required to acknowledge that it holds possession for a secured party's benefit.

(g) If a person acknowledges that it holds possession for the secured party's benefit:

(1) the acknowledgment is effective under Subsection (c) of this section or Subsection (a) of Section 55-8-301 NMSA 1978, even if the acknowledgment violates the rights of a debtor; and

(2) unless the person otherwise agrees or law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 otherwise provides, the person does not owe any duty to the secured party and is not required to confirm the acknowledgment to another person.

(h) A secured party having possession of collateral does not relinquish possession by delivering the collateral to a person other than the debtor or a lessee of the collateral from the debtor in the ordinary course of the debtor's business if the person was instructed before the delivery or is instructed contemporaneously with the delivery:

(1) to hold possession of the collateral for the secured party's benefit; or

(2) to redeliver the collateral to the secured party.

(i) A secured party does not relinquish possession, even if a delivery under Subsection (h) of this section violates the rights of a debtor. A person to which collateral is delivered under Subsection (h) of this section does not owe any duty to the secured party and is not required to confirm the delivery to another person unless the person otherwise agrees or law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 otherwise provides.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-313, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 33; 2005, ch. 144, § 103; 2023, ch. 142, § 63.

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1. **Source.** Former Sections 9-115(6) and 9-305.

2. **Perfection by Possession.** As under the common law of pledge, no filing is required by this article to perfect a security interest if the secured party takes possession of the collateral. *See* Section 9-310(b)(6).

This section permits a security interest to be perfected by the taking of possession only when the collateral is goods, instruments, negotiable tangible documents, or tangible money. Accounts, commercial tort claims, deposit accounts, investment property, letter-

of-credit rights, letters of credit, and oil, gas, or other minerals before extraction are excluded. (But *see* Comment 6, below, regarding certificated securities.) A security interest in accounts and payment intangibles–property not ordinarily represented by any writing whose delivery operates to transfer the right to payment–may under this Article be perfected only by filing. This rule would not be affected by the fact that a security agreement or other record described the assignment of such collateral as a "pledge." Section 9-309(2) exempts from filing certain assignments of accounts or payment intangibles which are out of the ordinary course of financing. These exempted assignments are perfected when they attach. Similarly, under Section 9-309(3), sales of payment intangibles are automatically perfected.

Perfection by possession of chattel paper evidenced by an authoritative tangible record (formerly defined as "tangible chattel paper") has been removed from this section. Instead, perfection by possession and control of chattel paper is governed by Section 9-314A.

3. **"Possession."** This section does not define "possession." It adopts the general concept as it developed under former Article 9. As under former Article 9, in determining whether a particular person has possession, the principles of agency apply. For example, if the collateral is in possession of an agent of the secured party for the purposes of possessing on behalf of the secured party, and if the agent is not also an agent of the debtor, the secured party has taken actual possession, and subsection (c) does not apply. Sometimes a person holds collateral both as an agent of the secured party and as an agent of the debtor. The fact of dual agency is not of itself inconsistent with the secured party's having taken possession (and thereby having rendered subsection (c) inapplicable). The debtor cannot qualify as an agent for the secured party for purposes of the secured party's taking possession. And, under appropriate circumstances, a court may determine that a person in possession is so closely connected to or controlled by the debtor that the debtor has retained effective possession, even though the person may have agreed to take possession on behalf of the secured party. If so, the person's taking possession would not constitute the secured party's taking possession and would not be sufficient for perfection. *See also* Section 9-205(b). In a typical escrow arrangement, where the escrowee has possession of collateral as agent for both the secured party and the debtor, the debtor's relationship to the escrowee is not such as to constitute retention of possession by the debtor.

4. **Goods in Possession of Third Party: Perfection.** Former Section 9-305 permitted perfection of a security interest by notification to a bailee in possession of collateral. This article distinguishes between goods in the possession of a bailee who has issued a document of title covering the goods and goods in the possession of a third party who has not issued a document. Section 9-312(c) or (d) applies to the former, depending on whether the document is negotiable. Section 9-313(c) applies to the latter. It provides a method of perfection by possession when the collateral is possessed by a third person who is not the secured party's agent.

Notification of a third person does not suffice to perfect under Section 9-313(c). Rather, perfection does not occur unless the third person signs an acknowledgment that it holds possession of the collateral for the secured party's benefit. Compare Section 9-312(d), under which receipt of notification of the security party's interest by a bailee holding goods covered by a nonnegotiable document is sufficient to perfect, even if the bailee does not acknowledge receipt of the notification. A third person may acknowledge that it will hold for the secured party's benefit goods to be received in the future. Under these circumstances, perfection by possession occurs when the third person obtains possession of the goods.

Under Subsection (c), acknowledgment of notification by a "lessee . . . in . . . ordinary course of . . . business" (defined in section 2A-103) does not suffice for possession. The section thus rejects the reasoning of *In re Atlantic Systems, Inc.*, 135 B.R. 463 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1992) (holding that notification to debtor-lessor's lessee sufficed to perfect security interest in leased goods). *See* Steven O. Weise, Perfection by Possession: The Need for an Objective Test, 29 Idaho Law Rev. 705 (1992-93) (arguing that lessee's possession in ordinary course of debtor-lessor's business does not provide adequate public notice of possible security interest in leased goods). Inclusion of a per se rule concerning lessees is not meant to preclude a court, under appropriate circumstances, from determining that a third person is so closely connected to or controlled by the debtor that the debtor has retained effective possession. If so, the third person's acknowledgment would not be sufficient for perfection.

In some cases, it may be uncertain whether a person who has possession of collateral is an agent of the secured party or a nonagent bailee. Under those circumstances, prudence might suggest that the secured party obtain the person's acknowledgment to avoid litigation and ensure perfection by possession regardless of how the relationship between the secured party and the person is characterized.

5. **No Relation Back; time of perfection and continuation of perfection.** Former Section 9-305 provided that a security interest is perfected by possession from the time possession is taken "without a relation back." As the Comment to pre-1998 Section 9-305 observed, the relation-back theory, under which the taking of possession was deemed to relate back to the date of the original security agreement, has had little vitality since the 1938 revision of the Federal Bankruptcy Act. The theory is inconsistent with pre-1998 Article 9 and with this Article. *See* Section 9-313(d). Accordingly, this Article deletes the quoted phrase as unnecessary. Under Subsection (d), where a pledge (perfection by possession) transaction is contemplated, perfection dates only from the time possession is taken. The only exceptions to this rule are the short, 20-day periods of perfection provided in Section 9-312(e), (f), and (g), during which a debtor may have possession of specified collateral in which there is a perfected security interest. Also under subsection (d), perfection continues only while the secured party retains possession. However, if a secured party's possession is based on an acknowledgment under Section 9-313(c) by another person in possession, the secured party remains perfected by possession only while the other person retains possession.

This result necessarily follows because such a secured party's possession derives solely from the other person's continued possession.

6. **Certificated Securities.** The second sentence of Subsection (a) reflects the traditional rule for perfection of a security interest in certificated securities. *Compare* Sections 8-313(1)(a) and 8-321 (1978 Official Text); Section 9-115(6) (1994 Official Text); and Section 9-305 (1972 Official Text). It has been modified to refer to "delivery" under Section 8-301. Corresponding changes appear in Section 9-203(b).

Subsections (e), (f), and (g), which are new, apply to a person in possession of security certificates or holding security certificates for the secured party's benefit under Section 8-301. For delivery to occur when a person other than a secured party holds possession for the secured party, the person may not be a securities intermediary.

Under Subsection (e), a possessory security interest in a certificated security remains perfected until the debtor obtains possession of the security certificate. This rule is analogous to that of Section 9-314(c), which deals with perfection of security interests in investment property by control. *See* Section 9-314, Comment 3.

7. **Goods Covered by Certificate of Title.** Subsection (b) is necessary to effect changes to the choice-of-law rules governing goods covered by a certificate of title. These changes are described in the comments to Section 9-311. Subsection (b), like subsection (a), does not create a right to take possession. Rather, it indicates the circumstances under which the secured party's taking possession of goods covered by a certificate of title is effective to perfect a security interest in the goods: The goods become covered by a certificate of title issued by this state at a time when the security interest is perfected by any method under the law of another jurisdiction.

8. **Goods in Possession of Third Party: No Duty to Acknowledge; Consequences of Acknowledgment.** Subsections (f) and (g) are new and address matters as to which former Article 9 was silent. They derive in part from Section 8-106(g). Subsection (f) provides that a person in possession of collateral is not required to acknowledge that it holds for a secured party. Subsection (g)(1) provides that an acknowledgment is effective even if wrongful as to the debtor. Subsection (g)(2) makes clear that an acknowledgment does not give rise to any duties or responsibilities under this article. Arrangements involving the possession of goods are hardly standardized. They include bailments for services to be performed on the goods (such as repair or processing), for use (leases), as security (pledges), for carriage, and for storage. This article leaves to the agreement of the parties and to any other applicable law the imposition of duties and responsibilities upon a person who acknowledges under Subsection (c). For example, by acknowledging, a third party does not become obliged to act on the secured party's direction or to remain in possession of the collateral unless it agrees to do so or other law so provides.

9. **Delivery to Third Party by Secured Party.** Subsections (h) and (i) address the practice of mortgage warehouse lenders. These lenders typically send mortgage notes

to prospective purchasers under cover of letters advising the prospective purchasers that the lenders hold security interests in the notes. These lenders relied on notification to maintain perfection under pre-1998 9-305. Requiring them to obtain signed acknowledgments from each prospective purchaser under Subsection (c) could be unduly burdensome and disruptive of established practices. Under subsection (h), when a secured party in possession itself delivers the collateral to a third party, instructions to the third party would be sufficient to maintain perfection by possession; an acknowledgment would not be necessary. Under Subsection (i), the secured party does not relinquish possession by making a delivery under Subsection (h), even if the delivery violates the rights of the debtor. That subsection also makes clear that a person to whom collateral is delivered under Subsection (h) does not owe any duty to the secured party and is not required to confirm the delivery to another person unless the person otherwise agrees or law other than this Article provides otherwise.

10. **"Signs" and "Signed" replaces "Authenticates" and "Authenticated."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate terms "signs" and "signed" replace the references to "authenticates" and "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 33 repealed former 55-9-313 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1985, ch. 193, § 24, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, revised provisions related to perfecting a security interest by taking possession of certain collateral; in Subsection (a), after "security interest in", deleted "tangible negotiable documents", after "instruments", added "negotiable tangible documents or tangible", and after "money", deleted "or tangible chattel paper"; and in Paragraph (c)(1), after "possession", deleted "authenticates" and added "signs", and in Paragraph (c)(2), after "having", deleted "authenticated" and added "signed".

The 2005 amendment, effective January 1, 2006, changes the phrase "negotiable documents" to "tangible negotiable documents" in Subsection (a).

Law reviews. — For article, "The Warehouseman vs. the Secured Party: Who Prevails When the Warehouseman's Lien Covers Goods Subject to a Security Interest?" see 8 Nat. Resources J. 331 (1968).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 444 et seq.

Priority, as between holder of unfiled or unrecorded chattel mortgage who secures possession of goods or chattels, and subsequent purchaser or encumbrancer, 53 A.L.R.2d 936.

55-9-314. Perfection by control.

(a) A security interest in controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles, deposit accounts, electronic documents, electronic money, investment property or letter-of-credit rights may be perfected by control of the collateral under Section 55-7-106, 55-9-104, 55-9-105A, 55-9-106, 55-9-107 or 55-9-107A NMSA 1978.

(b) A security interest in controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles, deposit accounts, electronic documents, electronic money or letter-of-credit rights is perfected by control under Section 55-7-106, 55-9-104, 55-9-105A, 55-9-107 or 55-9-107A NMSA 1978 when the secured party obtains control and remains perfected by control only while the secured party retains control.

(c) A security interest in investment property is perfected by control under Section 55-9-106 NMSA 1978 not earlier than the time the secured party obtains control and remains perfected by control until:

(1) the secured party does not have control; and

(2) one of the following occurs:

(A) if the collateral is a certificated security, the debtor has or acquires possession of the security certificate;

(B) if the collateral is an uncertificated security, the issuer has registered or registers the debtor as the registered owner; or

(C) if the collateral is a security entitlement, the debtor is or becomes the entitlement holder.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-314, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 34; 2005, ch. 144, § 104; 2023, ch. 142, § 64.

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1. **Source.** Substantially new; derived in part from former Section 9-115(4).

2. **Control.** This section provides for perfection by control with respect to controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles, deposit accounts, electronic documents, electronic money, investment property, and letter-of-credit rights. Concerning how a secured party takes control of these types of collateral, *see* Sections 7-106, 9-104, 9-105A, 9-107, and 9-107A, [55-7-106, 55-9-104,

55-9-105A, 55-9-107, 55-9-107A NMSA 1978, respectively] and Comments. Subsection (b) explains when a security interest is perfected by control and how long a security interest remains perfected by control. Like Section 9-313(d) [55-9-313 NMSA 1978] and for the same reasons, subsection (b) makes no reference to the doctrine of "relation back." *See* Section 9-313, Comment 5. As to an electronic document that is reissued in a tangible medium, (*see* Section 7-105 [55-7-105 NMSA 1978]), a secured party that is perfected by control in the electronic document should file as to the document before relinquishing control in order to maintain continuous perfection in the document. *See* Section 9-308 [55-9-308 NMSA 1978]. If a secured party's control is based on an acknowledgment under Section 7-106(g), 9-104(a)(4), or 9-105A(e) or under 9-107A and 12-105(e) [55-12-105 NMSA 1978] by another person having control, the secured party remains perfected by control only while the other person retains control. This result necessarily follows because such a secured party's control derives solely from the other person's continued control.

Perfection by control of chattel paper evidenced by an authoritative electronic record (formerly defined as "electronic chattel paper") has been removed from this section. Instead, perfection by possession and control of chattel paper is governed by Section 9-314A [55-9-314 NMSA 1978].

3. **Investment Property.** Subsection (c) provides a special rule for investment property. Once a secured party has control, its security interest remains perfected by control until the secured party ceases to have control and the debtor receives possession of collateral that is a certificated security, becomes the registered owner of collateral that is an uncertificated security, or becomes the entitlement holder of collateral that is a security entitlement. The result is particularly important in the "repledge" context. *See* Section 9-207 [55-9-207 NMSA 1978], Comment 5. In a transaction in which a secured party who has control grants a security interest in investment property or sells outright the investment property, by virtue of the debtor's consent or applicable legal rules, a purchaser from the secured party typically will cut off the debtor's rights in the investment property or be immune from the debtor's claims. *See* Section 9-207, Comments 5 and 6. If the investment property is a security, the debtor normally would retain no interest in the security following the purchase from the secured party, and a claim of the debtor against the secured party for redemption (Section 9-623 [55-9-623 NMSA 1978]) or otherwise with respect to the security would be a purely personal claim.

If the investment property transferred by the secured party is a financial asset in which the debtor had a security entitlement credited to a securities account maintained with the secured party as a securities intermediary, the debtor's claim against the secured party could arise as a part of its securities account notwithstanding its personal nature. (This claim would be analogous to a "credit balance" in the securities account, which is a component of the securities account even though it is a personal claim against the intermediary.) In the case in which the debtor may retain an interest in investment property notwithstanding a repledge or sale by the secured party, subsection (c) makes clear that the security interest will remain perfected.by control. Notwithstanding

subsection (c), if a secured party's control is based on an acknowledgment under Section 8-106(d)(3) [55-8-106 NMSA 1978] by another person having control, the secured party remains perfected by control only while the other person retains control. This result necessarily follows because such a secured party's control derives solely from the other person's continued control. Although Section 8-106(d)(3) was amended by the 2022 Article 9 Revisions, this result also applied to a secured party in control under pre-2022 Subsection (d)(3).

3A. **Shared control between debtor and secured party (and other transferor and transferee) and control through another person.** Sections 7-106 (control of electronic documents), 9-105 (control of authoritative electronic records evidencing chattel paper), 9-105A (control of electronic money), and 12-105 (control of controllable electronic records, on which control of controllable accounts and controllable payment intangibles under Section 9-107A depends) contemplate the possibility that both a debtor and a secured party may have control of the relevant collateral by sharing an exclusive power. Such shared control between a debtor and secured party does not necessarily impair perfection of a security interest under this section or Section 9-314A [55-9-314A NMSA 1978]. On shared exclusive powers, *see generally* Section 12-105, Comment 5. However, if a secured party can exercise a power only if the power is exercised also by the debtor, the power would not be shared and, consequently, the secured party would not have control based on the exclusive power. This result follows from Section 12-105(c) and corresponding subsections in the other provisions on control cited above. Under Section 12-105(c), because a debtor would be a "transferor of an interest" in a controllable electronic record or a controllable account or payment intangible evidenced by the record, the debtor's "blocking power" (*i.e.*, the secured party can exercise the power only if the debtor also exercises the power) with respect to the secured party's exercise of the power would disqualify the secured party from sharing (and, consequently, enjoying) the exclusive power and perfection by control based on exclusive powers. Similarly, a purchaser in that situation would be disqualified from having control and thereby from enjoying the status and benefits of a qualifying purchaser (Section 12-102(a)(2)) under Section 12-104(e) and (g) if the purchaser takes from a transferor of an interest and the transferor has such a blocking power (whether or not the transferor is a debtor).

Section 12-105(e) contains a similar limitation in connection with control through another person. An acknowledging person must be one "other than the transferor of an interest in the electronic record." The same or a similar limitation is found in the other provisions relating to control through another person. *See* Sections 7-106(g) (control of electronic document of title); 8-106(d)(3) (control of a security entitlement); 9-104(a)(4) (control of deposit accounts); 9-105(g) (control of authoritative electronic copy of record evidencing chattel paper); 9-105A)(e) (control of electronic money).

For a discussion of the rationale for these limitations on sharing exclusive control and control through another person, *see* Section 12-105, Comment 9.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 34 repealed former 55-9-314 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-314, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, revised provisions related to perfecting a security interest by control, and updated certain language in the section; in Subsection (a), deleted "investment property, deposit accounts, letter-of-credit rights, electronic chattel paper or electronic documents" and added "controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles, deposit accounts, electronic documents, electronic money, investment property or letter-of-credit rights", and after "55-9-104", deleted "55-9-105" and added "55-9-105A", and after "55-9-107", added "or 55-9-107A"; in Subsection (b), deleted "deposit accounts, electronic chattel paper, letter-of-credit rights or electronic documents" and added "controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles, deposit accounts, electronic documents, electronic money or letter-of-credit rights", and after "55-9-104", deleted "55-9-105" and added "55-9-105A", and after "55-9-107", added "or 55-9-107A"; and in Subsection (c), after "55-9-106 NMSA 1978", deleted "from" and added "not earlier than".

The 2005 amendment, effective January 1, 2006, provides in Subsection (a) that a security interest in electronic documents may perfected by control. And in Subsection (b) that a security interest in electronic documents is perfected by control under the listed statutory references and adds Section 55-7-106 NMSA 1978 as a statutory reference.

55-9-314A. Perfection by possession and control of chattel paper.

(a) A secured party may perfect a security interest in chattel paper by taking possession of each authoritative tangible copy of the record evidencing the chattel paper and obtaining control of each authoritative electronic copy of the electronic record evidencing the chattel paper.

(b) A security interest is perfected under Subsection (a) of this section not earlier than the time the secured party takes possession and obtains control and remains perfected under that subsection only while the secured party retains possession and control.

(c) Subsections (c) and (f) through (i) of Section 55-9-313 NMSA 1978 apply to perfection by possession of an authoritative tangible copy of a record evidencing chattel paper.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-314A, enacted by Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 65.

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1. **"Authoritative copy."** To perfect a security interest in chattel paper other than by filing, this section provides that a secured party must obtain control of all authoritative electronic copies and take possession of all authoritative tangible copies.

Like the pre-2022 text, Section 9-105(b) [55-9-105 NMSA 1978] distinguishes between authoritative and nonauthoritative copies of electronic chattel paper and refers to copies that are "authoritative." And, like its predecessor, Section 9-105(b) does not define the term "authoritative." However, it also applies this concept to tangible records that evidence chattel paper.

To show that it has possession of all authoritative tangible copies of a record evidencing chattel paper and all authoritative electronic copies of a record evidencing chattel paper, a purchaser can produce the tangible copies in its possession and prove control of the electronic copies and provide evidence that these are authoritative copies. The purchaser need not prove a negative—i.e., that no other tangible or electronic authoritative copies exist—to make a prima facie case. The purchaser's possession of the authoritative tangible copies and control of the authoritative electronic copies gives the purchaser the power to prevent others from taking possession or control of the copies and the power to transfer possession and control of the copies.

Perfection of a security interest in chattel paper by taking possession of the collateral generally has been understood to mean taking possession of the wet-ink "original." Experience has shown that the concept of an original breaks down when one allows for the possibility of the same monetary obligation being evidenced by different media over time, such as where electronic records evidencing the chattel paper are "papered out" (replaced with tangible records evidencing the same chattel paper) or tangible records are "converted" to electronic records.

Whether an electronic or tangible copy of a record evidencing chattel paper is authoritative depends on the facts and circumstances. The determination should turn on whether the copy provides reasonable notice to third parties that it is one that must be subject to control or possession for purposes of perfection and priority. To accommodate current practices and future technology, parties are allowed considerable flexibility in determining the method used to establish whether a particular copy is authoritative, provided that third parties are able to reasonably identify the authoritative copies that must be possessed or controlled to achieve perfection. For example, the parties could develop a system or protocol where each tangible or electronic copy is "watermarked" as authoritative or nonauthoritative or where the terms of the records themselves describe how to determine which copies are authoritative and which are not.

2. **Time of perfection; continuation of perfection.** Subsection (b) is modeled on Sections 9-313(d) and 9-314(b) [55-9-313, 55-9-314 NMSA 1978, respectively]. If a secured party's possession or control is based on the acknowledgment under Section 9-

313(c) or 9-105(g) by another person in possession or control, the secured party remains perfected by possession or control only while the other person retains possession or control. This result necessarily follows because such a secured party's possession or control derives solely from the other person's continued possession or control.

3. **Applicability of Section 9-313.** Subsection (c) makes specified subsections of Section 9-313 applicable to possession of authoritative tangible copies of records evidencing chattel paper.

4. **Shared control.** As to the sharing of powers over an authoritative electronic copy of a record evidencing chattel paper (see Section 9-105(c)(2)) by a debtor and a secured party (or by another transferor and transferee) and control through another person (see Section 9-105(g)), see Sections 9-314, Comment 3A; 12-105 [55-12-105 NMSA 1978], Comment 9.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 112 made Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 65 effective January 1, 2024.

55-9-315. Secured party's rights on disposition of collateral and in proceeds.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, the Farm Products Secured Interest Act [56-13-1 to 56-13-14 NMSA 1978] and in Subsection (2) of Section 55-2-403 NMSA 1978:

(1) a security interest or agricultural lien continues in collateral notwithstanding sale, lease, license, exchange or other disposition thereof unless the secured party authorized the disposition free of the security interest or agricultural lien; and

(2) a security interest attaches to any identifiable proceeds of collateral.

(b) Proceeds that are commingled with other property are identifiable proceeds:

(1) if the proceeds are goods, to the extent provided by Section 55-9-336 NMSA 1978; and

(2) if the proceeds are not goods, to the extent that the secured party identifies the proceeds by a method of tracing, including application of equitable principles, that is permitted under law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 with respect to commingled property of the type involved.

(c) A security interest in proceeds is a perfected security interest if the security interest in the original collateral was perfected.

(d) A perfected security interest in proceeds becomes unperfected on the twenty-first day after the security interest attaches to the proceeds unless:

(1) the following conditions are satisfied:

(A) a filed financing statement covers the original collateral;

(B) the proceeds are collateral in which a security interest may be perfected by filing in the office in which the financing statement has been filed; and

(C) the proceeds are not acquired with cash proceeds;

(2) the proceeds are identifiable cash proceeds; or

(3) the security interest in the proceeds is perfected other than under Subsection (c) of this section when the security interest attaches to the proceeds or within twenty days thereafter.

(e) If a filed financing statement covers the original collateral, a security interest in proceeds which remains perfected under Paragraph (1) of Subsection (d) of this section becomes unperfected at the later of:

(1) when the effectiveness of the filed financing statement lapses under Section 55-9-515 NMSA 1978 or is terminated under Section 55-9-513 NMSA 1978; or

(2) the twenty-first day after the security interest attaches to the proceeds.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-315, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 35.

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1. Source. Former section 9-306.

2. Continuation of Security Interest or Agricultural Lien Following Disposition of Collateral. Subsection (a)(1)(A), which derives from former section 9-306(2), contains the general rule that a security interest survives disposition of the collateral. In these cases, the secured party may repossess the collateral from the transferee or, in an appropriate case, maintain an action for conversion. The secured party may claim both any proceeds and the original collateral but, of course, may have only one satisfaction.

In many cases, a purchaser or other transferee of collateral will take free of a security interest, and the secured party's only right will be to proceeds. For example, the general rule does not apply, and a security interest does not continue in collateral, if the secured party authorized the disposition, in the agreement that contains the security agreement or otherwise. Subsection (a)(1)(A) adopts the view of PEB Commentary No. 3 and makes explicit that the authorized disposition to which it refers is an authorized disposition "free of" the security interest or agricultural lien. The secured party's right to proceeds under this section or under the express terms of an agreement does not in itself constitute an authorization of disposition. The change in language from former section 9-306(2) is not intended to address the frequently litigated situation in which the effectiveness of the secured party's consent to a disposition is conditioned upon the secured party's receipt of the proceeds. In that situation, subsection (a) leaves the determination of authorization to the courts, as under former article 9.

This article contains several provisions under which a transferee takes free of a security interest or agricultural lien. For example, section 9-317 states when transferees take free of unperfected security interests; sections 9-320 and 9-321 on goods, 9-321 on general intangibles, 9-330 on chattel paper and instruments, and 9-331 on negotiable instruments, negotiable documents, and securities state when purchasers of such collateral take free of a security interest, even though perfected and even though the disposition was not authorized. Section 9-332 enables most transferees (including nonpurchasers) of funds from a deposit account and most transferees of money to take free of a perfected security interest in the deposit account or money.

Likewise, the general rule that a security interest survives disposition does not apply if the secured party entrusts goods collateral to a merchant who deals in goods of that kind and the merchant sells the collateral to a buyer in ordinary course of business. Section 2-403(2) gives the merchant the power to transfer all the secured party's rights to the buyer, even if the sale is wrongful as against the secured party. Thus, under subsection (a)(1)(A), an entrusting secured party runs the same risk as any other entruster.

3. Secured Party's Right to Identifiable Proceeds. Under subsection (a)(1)(B), which derives from former section 9-306(2), a security interest attaches to any identifiable "proceeds," as defined in section 9-102. *See also* section 9-203(f). Subsection (b) is new. It indicates when proceeds commingled with other property are identifiable proceeds and permits the use of whatever methods of tracing other law permits with respect to the type of property involved. Among the "equitable principles" whose use other law may permit is the "lowest intermediate balance rule." *See* Restatement (2d), Trusts section 202.

4. Automatic Perfection in Proceeds: General Rule. Under subsection (c), a security interest in proceeds is a perfected security interest if the security interest in the original collateral was perfected. This article extends the period of automatic perfection in proceeds from 10 days to 20 days. Generally, a security interest in proceeds becomes unperfected on the 21st day after the security interest attaches to the proceeds. See

subsection (d). The loss of perfected status under subsection (d) is prospective only. *Compare, e.g.*, section 9-515(c) (deeming security interest unperfected retroactively).

5. Automatic Perfection in Proceeds: Proceeds Acquired with Cash Proceeds. Subsection (d)(1) derives from former section 9-306(3)(a). It carries forward the basic rule that a security interest in proceeds remains perfected beyond the period of automatic perfection if a filed financing statement covers the original collateral (*e.g.*, inventory) and the proceeds are collateral in which a security interest may be perfected by filing in the office where the financing statement has been filed (*e.g.*, equipment). A different rule applies if the proceeds are acquired with cash proceeds, as is the case if the original collateral (inventory) is sold for cash (cash proceeds) that is used to purchase equipment (proceeds). Under these circumstances, the security interest in the equipment proceeds remains perfected only if the description in the filed financing statement indicates the type of property constituting the proceeds (*e.g.*, "equipment").

This section reaches the same result but takes a different approach. It recognizes that the treatment of proceeds acquired with cash proceeds under former section 9-306(3)(a) essentially was superfluous. In the example, had the filing covered "equipment" as well as "inventory," the security interest in the proceeds would have been perfected under the usual rules governing after-acquired equipment (*see* former sections 9-302 and 9-303); paragraph (3)(a) added only an exception to the general rule. Subsection (d)(1)(C) of this section takes a more direct approach. It makes the general rule of continued perfection inapplicable to proceeds acquired with cash proceeds, leaving perfection of a security interest in those proceeds to the generally applicable perfection rules under subsection (d)(3).

Example 1: Lender perfects a security interest in Debtor's inventory by filing a financing statement covering "inventory." Debtor sells the inventory and deposits the buyer's check into a deposit account. Debtor draws a check on the deposit account and uses it to pay for equipment. Under the "lowest intermediate balance rule," which is a permitted method of tracing in the relevant jurisdiction, see comment 3, the funds used to pay for the equipment were identifiable proceeds of the inventory. Because the proceeds (equipment) were acquired with cash proceeds (deposit account), subsection (d)(1) does not extend perfection beyond the 20-day automatic period.

Example 2: Lender perfects a security interest in Debtor's inventory by filing a financing statement covering "all debtor's property." As in Example 1, Debtor sells the inventory, deposits the buyer's check into a deposit account, draws a check on the deposit account, and uses the check to pay for equipment. Under the "lowest intermediate balance rule," which is a permitted method of tracing in the relevant jurisdiction, see comment 3, the funds used to pay for the equipment were identifiable proceeds of the inventory. Because the proceeds (equipment) were acquired with cash proceeds (deposit account), subsection (d)(1) does not extend perfection beyond the 20-day automatic period. However, because the financing statement is sufficient to perfect a security interest in debtor's equipment, under subsection (d)(3) the security interest in the equipment proceeds remains perfected beyond the 20-day period.

6. Automatic Perfection in Proceeds: Lapse or Termination of Financing Statement During 20-Day Period; Perfection Under Other Statute or Treaty. Subsection (e) provides that a security interest in proceeds perfected under subsection (d)(1) ceases to be perfected when the financing statement covering the original collateral lapses or is terminated. If the lapse or termination occurs before the 21st day after the security interest attaches, however, the security interest in the proceeds remains perfected until the 21st day. Section 9-311(b) provides that compliance with the perfection requirements of a statute or treaty described in section 9-311(a) "is equivalent to the filing of a financing statement." It follows that collateral subject to a security interest perfected by such compliance under section 9-311(b) is covered by a "filed financing statement" within the meaning of section 9-315(d) and (e).

7. Automatic Perfection in Proceeds: Continuation of Perfection in Cash Proceeds. Former section 9-306(3)(b) provided that if a filed financing statement covered original collateral, a security interest in identifiable cash proceeds of the collateral remained perfected beyond the ten-day period of automatic perfection. Former section 9-306(3)(c) contained a similar rule with respect to identifiable cash proceeds of investment property. Subsection (d)(2) extends the benefits of former sections 9-306(3)(b) and (3)(c) to identifiable cash proceeds of all types of original collateral in which a security interest is perfected by any method. Under subsection (d)(2), if the security interest in the original collateral was perfected, a security interest in identifiable cash proceeds will remain perfected indefinitely, regardless of whether the security interest in the original collateral remains perfected. In many cases, however, a purchaser or other transferee of the cash proceeds will take free of the perfected security interest. *See, e.g.*, sections 9-330(d) (purchaser of check), 9-331 (holder in due course of check), and 9-332 (transferee of money or funds from a deposit account).

8. Insolvency Proceedings; Returned and Repossessed Goods. This article deletes former section 9-306(4), which dealt with proceeds in insolvency proceedings. Except as otherwise provided by the Bankruptcy Code, the debtor's entering into bankruptcy does not affect a secured party's right to proceeds.

This article also deletes former section 9-306(5), which dealt with returned and repossessed goods. Section 9-330, comments 9 to 11, explain and clarify the application of priority rules to returned and repossessed goods as proceeds of chattel paper.

9. Proceeds of Collateral Subject to Agricultural Lien. This article does not determine whether a lien extends to proceeds of farm products encumbered by an agricultural lien. If, however, the proceeds are themselves farm products on which an "agricultural lien" (defined in section 9-102) arises under other law, then the agricultural-lien provisions of this article apply to the agricultural lien on the proceeds in the same way in which they would apply had the farm products not been proceeds.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 35 repealed former 55-9-315 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-315, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former 55-9-306 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-306 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-306 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.

Purpose of filing requirements. — The underlying purpose of filing financing statements is to provide an opportunity for the debtor's other creditors and transferees to independently ascertain whether the property they will rely on as backup for the payment of claims against the debtor is subject to prior claims. *Case Credit Corp. v. Portales Nat'l Bank*, 1998-NMSC-035, 126 N.M. 89, 966 P.2d 1172 (decided under former law).

Federal law applicable when federal government holds security interest. — Federal law applies instead of state law to determine whether a defendant is liable for conversion of livestock in which the government holds a perfected security interest and whether the government has an interest in the proceeds. A uniform federal rule is essential to protect the security interests of the United States and to prevent such interests from being detrimentally affected through the uncertainty that would arise from the application of disparate state rules. *United States v. Bunker Livestock Comm'n, Inc.*, 437 F. Supp. 1079 (D.N.M. 1977) (decided under former law).

II. CONTINUITY OF SECURITY INTEREST IN COLLATERAL AND PROCEEDS.

Ability to transfer collateral does not destroy perfected security interest. — The fact that collateral may be transferred voluntarily or involuntarily does not destroy or adversely affect a prior perfected security interest. *Brummund v. First Nat'l Bank*, 1983-NMSC-002, 99 N.M. 221, 656 P.2d 884 (decided under former law).

When new financing statement not necessary after transfer of property. — Since creditor had no notice or knowledge of a transfer of the property covered by the security agreement by the debtor to the debtor's corporation, it was not necessary for creditor to file a new financing statement, showing the transferee as a new debtor, to preserve their lien under the security agreement. *Ryan v. Rolland*, 434 F.2d 353 (10th Cir. 1970) (decided under former law).

Identifiable proceeds might be goods purchased with money received from sale of original collateral. *Clovis Nat'l Bank v. Thomas*, 1967-NMSC-061, 77 N.M. 554, 425 P.2d 726 (decided under former law).

Bank's disbursement of proceeds constituted conversion. — Actions of payee bank, which also held a junior lien on debtor's tractor, in disbursing to debtor the

proceeds of an unauthorized sale of the tractor, constituted unlawful conversion as against petitioner, which held a prior security interest in the tractor. *Case Credit Corp. v. Portales Nat'l Bank*, 1998-NMSC-035, 126 N.M. 89, 966 P.2d 1172 (decided under former law).

Law reviews. — For comment, "New Mexico's Uniform Commercial Code in Oil and Gas Transactions," see 10 Nat. Resources J. 361 (1970).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Validity as to creditors of the buyer or consignee of reservation of title to goods delivered under implied or express authority to resell, 63 A.L.R. 355.

Liability of mortgagor as affected by transaction between chattel mortgagee and purchaser of mortgaged chattel, 93 A.L.R. 1203.

Chattel mortgagee's consent to sale of mortgaged property as waiver of lien, 97 A.L.R. 646.

Personal liability of purchaser of property subject to chattel mortgage, to the mortgagee, 100 A.L.R. 1038.

Rights in proceeds of vehicle collision policy, under "loss-payable" clause, of conditional seller, chattel mortgagee, or the like, of vehicle where there has been improper repossession or foreclosure after damage, 46 A.L.R.2d 992.

Effectiveness of original financing statement under UCC Article 9 after change in debtor's name, identity, or business structure, 99 A.L.R.3d 1194.

Effect of UCC Article 9 upon conflict, as to funds in debtor's bank account, between secured creditor and bank claiming right of setoff, 3 A.L.R.4th 998.

What constitutes secured party's authorization to transfer collateral free of lien under U.C.C. § 9-306(2), 37 A.L.R.4th 787.

Construction and effect of UCC § 9-311 giving debtor right to transfer his interest in collateral, 45 A.L.R.4th 411.

Secured transactions: government agricultural program payments as "proceeds" of agricultural products under UCC § 9-306, 79 A.L.R.4th 903.

55-9-316. Effect of change in governing law.

(a) A security interest perfected pursuant to the law of the jurisdiction designated in Subsection (1) of Section 55-9-301, Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-305, Subsection (d)

of Section 55-9-306A or Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-306B NMSA 1978 remains perfected until the earliest of:

(1) the time perfection would have ceased under the law of that jurisdiction;

(2) the expiration of four months after a change of the debtor's location to another jurisdiction; or

(3) the expiration of one year after a transfer of collateral to a person that thereby becomes a debtor and is located in another jurisdiction.

(b) If a security interest described in Subsection (a) of this section becomes perfected under the law of the other jurisdiction before the earliest time or event described in that subsection, it remains perfected thereafter. If the security interest does not become perfected under the law of the other jurisdiction before the earliest time or event, it becomes unperfected and is deemed never to have been perfected as against a purchaser of the collateral for value.

(c) A possessory security interest in collateral, other than goods covered by a certificate of title and as-extracted collateral consisting of goods, remains continuously perfected if:

(1) the collateral is located in one jurisdiction and subject to a security interest perfected under the law of that jurisdiction;

(2) thereafter the collateral is brought into another jurisdiction; and

(3) upon entry into the other jurisdiction, the security interest is perfected under the law of the other jurisdiction.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (e) of this section, a security interest in goods covered by a certificate of title that is perfected by any method under the law of another jurisdiction when the goods become covered by a certificate of title from this state remains perfected until the security interest would have become unperfected under the law of the other jurisdiction had the goods not become so covered.

(e) A security interest described in Subsection (d) of this section becomes unperfected as against a purchaser of the goods for value and is deemed never to have been perfected as against a purchaser of the goods for value if the applicable requirements for perfection under Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-311 or Section 55-9-313 NMSA 1978 are not satisfied before the earlier of:

(1) the time the security interest would have become unperfected under the law of the other jurisdiction had the goods not become covered by a certificate of title from this state; or

(2) the expiration of four months after the goods had become so covered.

(f) A security interest in chattel paper, controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles, deposit accounts, letter-of-credit rights or investment property that is perfected under the law of the chattel paper's jurisdiction, the controllable electronic record's jurisdiction, the bank's jurisdiction, the issuer's jurisdiction, a nominated person's jurisdiction, the securities intermediary's jurisdiction or the commodity intermediary's jurisdiction, as applicable, remains perfected until the earlier of:

(1) the time the security interest would have become unperfected under the law of that jurisdiction; or

(2) the expiration of four months after a change of the applicable jurisdiction to another jurisdiction.

(g) If a security interest described in Subsection (f) of this section becomes perfected under the law of the other jurisdiction before the earlier of the time or the end of the period described in that subsection, it remains perfected thereafter. If the security interest does not become perfected under the law of the other jurisdiction before the earlier of that time or the end of that period, it becomes unperfected and is deemed never to have been perfected as against a purchaser of the collateral for value.

(h) The following rules apply to collateral to which a security interest attaches within four months after the debtor changes its location to another jurisdiction:

(1) a financing statement filed before the change pursuant to the law of the jurisdiction designated in Paragraph (1) of Section 55-9-301 or Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-305 NMSA 1978 is effective to perfect a security interest in the collateral if the financing statement would have been effective to perfect a security interest in the collateral had the debtor not changed its location; and

(2) if a security interest perfected by a financing statement that is effective under Paragraph (1) of this subsection becomes perfected under the law of the other jurisdiction before the earlier of the time the financing statement would have become ineffective under the law of the jurisdiction designated in Subsection (1) of Section 55-9-301 or Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-305 NMSA 1978 or the expiration of the four-month period, it remains perfected thereafter. If the security interest does not become perfected under the law of the other jurisdiction before the earlier time or event, it becomes unperfected and is deemed never to have been perfected as against a purchaser of the collateral for value.

(i) If a financing statement naming an original debtor is filed pursuant to the law of the jurisdiction designated in Subsection (1) of Section 55-9-301 or Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-305 NMSA 1978 and the new debtor is located in another jurisdiction, the following rules apply:

(1) the financing statement is effective to perfect a security interest in collateral acquired by the new debtor before, and within four months after, the new debtor becomes bound under Subsection (d) of Section 55-9-203 NMSA 1978 if the financing statement would have been effective to perfect a security interest in the collateral had the collateral been acquired by the original debtor; and

(2) a security interest perfected by the financing statement that becomes perfected under the law of the other jurisdiction before the earlier of the time the financing statement would have become ineffective under the law of the jurisdiction designated in Subsection (1) of Section 55-9-301 or Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-305 NMSA 1978 or the expiration of the four-month period remains perfected thereafter. A security interest that is perfected by the financing statement but that does not become perfected under the law of the other jurisdiction before the earlier time or event becomes unperfected and is deemed never to have been perfected as against a purchaser of the collateral for value.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-316, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 36; 2013, ch. 137, § 7; 2023, ch. 142, § 66.

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1. **Source.** Former Section 9-103(1)(d), (2)(b), (3)(e), [55-9-103(1)(d), (2)(b), (3)(e) NMSA 1978] as modified.

2. **Continued Perfection.** Subsections (a) through (g) deal with continued perfection of security interests that have been perfected under the law of another jurisdiction. The fact that the law of a particular jurisdiction ceases to govern perfection under Sections 9-301 [55-9-301 NMSA 1978] through 9-307 [55-9-307 NMSA 1978] does not necessarily mean that a security interest perfected under that law automatically becomes unperfected. To the contrary: This section generally provides that a security interest perfected under the law of one jurisdiction remains perfected for a fixed period of time (four months or one year, depending on the circumstances), even though the jurisdiction whose law governs perfection changes. However, cessation of perfection under the law of the original jurisdiction cuts short the fixed period. The four-month and one-year periods are long enough for a secured party to discover in most cases that the law of a different jurisdiction governs perfection and to reperfect (typically by filing) under the law of that jurisdiction. If a secured party properly reperfects a security interest before it becomes unperfected under subsection (a), then the security interest remains perfected continuously thereafter. *See* Subsection (b).

Example 1: Debtor is a general partnership whose chief executive office is in Pennsylvania. Lender perfects a security interest in Debtor's equipment by filing in Pennsylvania on May 15, 2002. On April 1, 2005, without Lender's knowledge, Debtor

moves its chief executive office to New Jersey. Lender's security interest remains perfected for four months after the move. *See* Subsection (a)(2).

Example 2: Debtor is a general partnership whose chief executive office is in Pennsylvania. Lender perfects a security interest in Debtor's equipment by filing in Pennsylvania on May 15, 2002. On April 1, 2007, without Lender's knowledge, Debtor moves its chief executive office to New Jersey. Lender's security interest remains perfected only through May 14, 2007, when the effectiveness of the filed financing statement lapses. *See* Subsection (a)(1). Although, under these facts, Lender would have only a short period of time to discover that Debtor had relocated and to reperfect under New Jersey law, Lender could have protected itself by filing a continuation statement in Pennsylvania before Debtor relocated. By doing so, Lender would have prevented lapse and allowed itself the full four months to discover Debtor's new location and refile there or, if Debtor is in default, to perfect by taking possession of the equipment.

Example 3: Under the facts of Example 2, Lender files a financing statement in New Jersey before the effectiveness of the Pennsylvania financing statement lapses. Under Subsection (b), Lender's security interest is continuously perfected beyond May 14, 2007, for a period determined by New Jersey's Article 9.

Subsection (a)(3) allows a one-year period in which to reperfect. The longer period is necessary, because, even with the exercise of due diligence, the secured party may be unable to discover that the collateral has been transferred to a person located in another jurisdiction. In any event, the period is cut short if the financing statement becomes ineffective under the law of the jurisdiction in which it is filed.

Example 4: Debtor is a Pennsylvania corporation. On January 1, Lender perfects a security interest in Debtor's equipment by filing in Pennsylvania. Debtor's shareholders decide to "reincorporate" in Delaware. On March 1, they form a Delaware corporation (Newcorp) into which they merge Debtor. The merger effectuates a transfer of the collateral from Debtor to Newcorp, which thereby becomes a debtor and is located in another jurisdiction. Under subsection (a)(3), the security interest remains perfected for one year after the merger. If a financing statement is filed in Delaware against Newcorp within the year following the merger, then the security interest remains perfected thereafter for a period determined by Delaware's Article 9.

Note that although Newcorp is a "new debtor" as defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978], the application of Subsection (a)(3) is not limited to transferees who are new debtors. Note also that, under Section 9-507 [55-9-507 NMSA 1978], the financing statement naming Debtor remains effective even though Newcorp has become the debtor.

Subsection (a) addresses security interests that are perfected (*i.e.*, that have attached and as to which any required perfection step has been taken) before the debtor

changes its location. Subsection (h) applies to security interests that have not attached before the location changes. *See* Comment 7.

3. **Retroactive Unperfection.** Subsection (b) sets forth the consequences of the failure to reperfect before perfection ceases under subsection (a): the security interest becomes unperfected prospectively and, as against purchasers for value, including buyers and secured parties, but not as against donees or lien creditors, retroactively. The rule applies to agricultural liens, as well. *See also* Section 9-515 [55-9-515 NMSA 1978] (taking the same approach with respect to lapse). Although this approach creates the potential for circular priorities, the alternative–retroactive unperfection against lien creditors–would create substantial and unjustifiable preference risks.

Example 5: Under the facts of Example 4, six months after the merger, Buyer bought from Newcorp some equipment formerly owned by Debtor. At the time of the purchase, Buyer took subject to Lender's perfected security interest, of which Buyer was unaware. *See* Section 9-315(a)(1) [55-9-315(a)(1) NMSA 1978]. However, Subsection (b) provides that if Lender fails to reperfect in Delaware within a year after the merger, its security interest becomes unperfected and is deemed never to have been perfected against Buyer. Having given value and received delivery of the equipment without knowledge of the security interest and before it was perfected, Buyer would take free of the security interest. *See* Section 9-317(b) [55-9-317(b) NMSA 1978].

Example 6: Under the facts of Example 4, one month before the merger, Debtor created a security interest in certain equipment in favor of Financer, who perfected by filing in Pennsylvania. At that time, Financer's security interest is subordinate to Lender's. *See* Section 9-322(a)(1) [55-9-322(a)(1) NMSA 1978]. Financer reperfects by filing in Delaware within a year after the merger, but Lender fails to do so. Under Subsection (b), Lender's security interest is deemed never to have been perfected against Financer, a purchaser for value. Consequently, under Section 9-322(a)(2) [55-9-322(a)(2) NMSA 1978], Financer's security interest is now senior.

Of course, the expiration of the time period specified in subsection (a) does not of itself prevent the secured party from later reperfecting under the law of the new jurisdiction. If the secured party does so, however, there will be a gap in perfection, and the secured party may lose priority as a result. Thus, in Example 6, if Lender perfects by filing in Delaware more than one year under the merger, it will have a new date of filing and perfection for purposes of Section 9-322(a)(1) [55-9-322(a)(1) NMSA 1978]. Financer's security interest, whose perfection dates back to the filing in Pennsylvania under Subsection (b), will remain senior.

4. **Possessory Security Interests.** Subsection (c) deals with continued perfection of possessory security interests. It applies not only to security interests perfected solely by the secured party's having taken possession of the collateral. It also applies to security interests perfected by a method that includes as an element of perfection the secured party's having taken possession, such as perfection by taking delivery of a certificated security in registered form, *see* Section 9-313(a), perfection by obtaining

control over a certificated security, *see* Section 9-314(a), and perfection by taking possession of and control over authoritative copies of records evidencing chattel paper, *see* Section 9-314A(a).

5. **Goods Covered by Certificate of Title.** Subsections (d) and (e) address continued perfection of a security interest in goods covered by a certificate of title. The following examples explain the operation of those subsections.

Example 7: Debtor's automobile is covered by a certificate of title issued by Illinois. Lender perfects a security interest in the automobile by complying with Illinois' certificate-of-title statute. Thereafter, Debtor applies for a certificate of title in Indiana. Six months thereafter, Creditor acquires a judicial lien on the automobile. Under Section 9-303(b) [55-9-303 NMSA 1978], Illinois law ceases to govern perfection; rather, once Debtor delivers the application and applicable fee to the appropriate Indiana authority, Indiana law governs. Nevertheless, under Indiana's Section 9-316(d) [55-9-316 NMSA 1978], Lender's security interest remains perfected until it would become unperfected under Illinois law had no certificate of title been issued by Indiana. (For example, Illinois' certificate-of-title statute may provide that the surrender of an Illinois certificate of title in connection with the issuance of a certificate of title by another jurisdiction causes a security interest noted thereon to become unperfected.) If Lender's security interest remains perfected, it is senior to Creditor's judicial lien.

Example 8: Under the facts in Example 7, five months after Debtor applies for an Indiana certificate of title, Debtor sells the automobile to Buyer. Under Subsection (e)(2), because Lender did not reperfect within the four months after the goods became covered by the Indiana certificate of title, Lender's security interest is deemed never to have been perfected against Buyer. Under Section 9-317(b) [55-9-317(b) NMSA 1978], Buyer is likely to take free of the security interest. Lender could have protected itself by perfecting its security interest either under Indiana's certificate-of-title statute, *see* Section 9-311 [55-9-311 NMSA 1978], or, if it had a right to do so under an agreement or Section 9-609 [55-9-609 NMSA 1978], by taking possession of the automobile. See Section 9-313(b) [55-9-313(b) NMSA 1978].

The results in Examples 7 and 8 do not depend on the fact that the original perfection was achieved by notation on a certificate of title. Subsection (d) applies regardless of the method by which a security interest is perfected under the law of another jurisdiction when the goods became covered by a certificate of title from this State.

Section 9-337 [55-9-337 NMSA 1978] affords protection to a limited class of persons buying or acquiring a security interest in the goods while a security interest is perfected under the law of another jurisdiction but after this State has issued a clean certificate of title.

6. **Controllable Accounts, Controllable Electronic Records, Controllable Payment Intangibles, Chattel Paper, Deposit Accounts, Letter-of-Credit Rights, and Investment Property.** Subsections (f) and (g) address changes in the jurisdiction

of a bank, controllable electronic record, chattel paper, issuer of an uncertificated security, issuer of or nominated person under a letter of credit, securities intermediary, and commodity intermediary. The provisions are analogous to those of Subsections (a) and (b).

7. **Security Interests that Attach after Debtor Changes Location.** In contrast to Subsections (a) and (b), which address security interests that are perfected (*i.e.*, that have attached and as to which any required perfection step has been taken) before the debtor changes its location, Subsection (h) addresses security interests that attach within four months after the debtor changes its location. Under subsection (h), a filed financing statement that would have been effective to perfect a security interest in the collateral if the debtor had not changed its location is effective to perfect a security interest in collateral acquired within four months after the relocation.

Example 9: Debtor, an individual whose principal residence is in Pennsylvania, grants to Lender a security interest in Debtor's existing and after-acquired inventory. Lender perfects the security interest by filing a proper financing statement in Pennsylvania on January 2, 2014. On March 31, 2014, Debtor's principal residence is relocated to New Jersey. Upon the relocation, New Jersey law governs perfection of a security interest in Debtor's inventory. *See* Sections 9-301, 9-307 [55-9-301, 55-9-307 NMSA 1978]. Under New Jersey's Section 9-316(a), Lender's security interest in Debtor's inventory on hand at the time of the relocation remains perfected for four months thereafter. Had Debtor not relocated, the financing statement filed in Pennsylvania would have been effective to perfect Lender's security interest in inventory acquired by Debtor after March 31, 2014. Accordingly, under subsection (h), the financing statement is effective to perfect Lender's security interest in inventory that Debtor acquires within the four months after Debtor's location changed.

In Example 9, Lender's security interest in the inventory acquired within the four months after Debtor's relocation will be perfected when it attaches. It will remain perfected if, before the expiration of the four-month period, the security interest is perfected under the law of New Jersey. Otherwise, the security interest will become unperfected at the end of the four-month period and will be deemed never to have been perfected as against a purchaser for value. *See* Subsection (h)(2).

8. **Collateral Acquired by New Debtor.** Subsection (i) is similar to Subsection (h). Whereas subsection (h) addresses security interests that attach within four months after a debtor changes its location, Subsection (i) addresses security interests that attach within four months after a new debtor becomes bound as debtor by a security agreement entered into by another person. Subsection (i) also addresses collateral acquired by the new debtor before it becomes bound.

Example 10: Debtor, a Pennsylvania corporation, grants to Lender a security interest in Debtor's existing and after-acquired inventory. Lender perfects the security interest by filing a proper financing statement in Pennsylvania on January 2, 2014. On March 31, 2014, Debtor merges into Survivor, a Delaware corporation. Because Survivor is

located in Delaware, Delaware law governs perfection of a security interest in Survivor's inventory. *See* Sections 9-301, 9-307 [55-9-301, 55-9-307 NMSA 1978]. Under Delaware's Section 9-316(a), Lender's security interest in the inventory that Survivor acquired from Debtor remains perfected for one year after the transfer. *See* Comment 2. By virtue of the merger, Survivor becomes bound as debtor by Debtor's security agreement. *See* Section 9-203(d) [55-9-203(d) NMSA 1978]. As a consequence, Lender's security interest attaches to all of Survivor's inventory under Section 9-203, and Lender's collateral now includes inventory in which Debtor never had an interest. The financing statement filed in Pennsylvania against Debtor is effective under Delaware's Section 9-316(i) to perfect Lender's security interest in inventory that Survivor acquired before, and within the four months after, becoming bound as debtor by Debtor's security agreement. This is because the financing statement filed in Pennsylvania would have been effective to perfect Lender's security interest in this collateral had Debtor, rather than Survivor, acquired it.

If the financing statement is effective, Lender's security interest in the collateral that Survivor acquired before, and within four months after, Survivor became bound as debtor will be perfected upon attachment. It will remain perfected if, before the expiration of the four-month period, the security interest is perfected under Delaware law. Otherwise, the security interest will become unperfected at the end of the four-month period and will be deemed never to have been perfected as against a purchaser for value.

Section 9-325 [55-9-325 NMSA 1978] contains special rules governing the priority of competing security interests in collateral that is transferred, by merger or otherwise, to a new debtor or other person who becomes a debtor with respect to the collateral. Section 9-326 [55-9-326 NMSA 1978] contains special rules governing the priority of competing security interests in collateral acquired by a new debtor other than by transfer from the original debtor.

9. **Agricultural Liens.** This section does not apply to agricultural liens.

Example 11: Supplier holds an agricultural lien on corn. The lien arises under an Iowa statute. Supplier perfects by filing a financing statement in Iowa, where the corn is located. *See* Section 9-302 [55-9-302 NMSA 1978]. Debtor stores the corn in Missouri. Assume the Iowa agricultural lien survives or an agricultural lien arises under Missouri law (matters that this Article does not govern). Once the corn is located in Missouri, Missouri becomes the jurisdiction whose law governs perfection. *See* Section 9-302. Thus, the agricultural lien will not be perfected unless Supplier files a financing statement in Missouri.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 36 repealed former 55-9-316 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-316, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, added references to certain applicable statutes, and revised provisions related to the governing law's effect on a perfected security interest; in Subsection (a), added "Subsection (d) of Section 55-9-306A or Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-306B"; and in Subsection (f), after "A security interest in", added "chattel paper, controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payments intangibles", and after "perfected under the law of the", added "chattel paper's jurisdiction, the controllable electronic record's jurisdiction, the".

The 2013 amendment, effective July 1, 2013, clarified the effect on financing statements by a change in the governing law; in the title, deleted "Continued perfection of security interest following" and added "effect of"; and added Subsections (h) and (i).

SUBPART 3. PRIORITY

55-9-317. Interests that take priority over or take free of security interest or agricultural lien.

(a) A security interest or agricultural lien is subordinate to the rights of:

(1) a person entitled to priority under Section 55-9-322 NMSA 1978; and

(2) except as otherwise provided in Subsection (e) of this section, a person that becomes a lien creditor before the earlier of the time:

(A) the security interest or agricultural lien is perfected; or

(B) one of the conditions specified in Paragraph (3) of Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-203 NMSA 1978 is met and a financing statement covering the collateral is filed.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (e) of this section, a buyer, other than a secured party, of goods, instruments, tangible documents or a security certificate takes free of a security interest or agricultural lien if the buyer gives value and receives delivery of the collateral without knowledge of the security interest or agricultural lien and before it is perfected.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (e) of this section, a lessee of goods takes free of a security interest or agricultural lien if the lessee gives value and receives delivery of the collateral without knowledge of the security interest or agricultural lien and before it is perfected.

(d) Subject to Subsections (f) through (i) of this section, a licensee of a general intangible or a buyer, other than a secured party, of collateral other than electronic money, goods, instruments, tangible documents or a certificated security takes free of a security interest if the licensee or buyer gives value without knowledge of the security interest and before it is perfected.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in Sections 55-9-320 and 55-9-321 NMSA 1978, if a person files a financing statement with respect to a purchase-money security interest before or within twenty days after the debtor receives delivery of the collateral, the security interest takes priority over the rights of a buyer, lessee or lien creditor that arise between the time the security interest attaches and the time of filing.

(f) A buyer, other than a secured party, of chattel paper takes free of a security interest if, without knowledge of the security interest and before it is perfected, the buyer gives value and:

(1) receives delivery of each authoritative tangible copy of the record evidencing the chattel paper; and

(2) if each authoritative electronic copy of the record evidencing the chattel paper can be subjected to control under Section 55-9-105 NMSA 1978, obtains control of each authoritative electronic copy.

(g) A buyer of an electronic document takes free of a security interest if, without knowledge of the security interest and before it is perfected, the buyer gives value and, if each authoritative electronic copy of the document can be subjected to control under Section 55-7-106 NMSA 1978, obtains control of each authoritative electronic copy.

(h) A buyer of a controllable electronic record takes free of a security interest if, without knowledge of the security interest and before it is perfected, the buyer gives value and obtains control of the controllable electronic record.

(i) A buyer, other than a secured party, of a controllable account or a controllable payment intangible takes free of a security interest if, without knowledge of the security interest and before it is perfected, the buyer gives value and obtains control of the controllable account or controllable payment intangible.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-317, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 37; 2005, ch. 144, § 105; 2013, ch. 137, § 8; 2023, ch. 142, § 67.

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1. **Source.** Former Sections 2A-307(2) and 9-301 [55-2A-307, 55-9-301 NMSA 1978, respectively].

2. **Scope of This Section.** As did former section 9-301, this section lists the classes of persons who take priority over, or take free of, an unperfected security interest. Section 9-308 [55-9-308 NMSA 1978] explains when a security interest or agricultural lien is "perfected." A security interest that has attached (*see* Section 9-203)

but as to which a required perfection step has not been taken is "unperfected." Certain provisions have been moved from former Section 9-301. The definition of "lien creditor" now appears in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978], and the rules governing priority in future advances are found in Section 9-323 [55-9-323 NMSA 1978].

3. **Competing Security Interests.** Section 9-322 [55-9-322 NMSA 1978] states general rules for determining priority among conflicting security interests and refers to other sections that state special rules of priority in a variety of situations. The security interests given priority under Section 9-322 and the other sections to which it refers take priority in general even over a perfected security interest. A fortiori they take priority over an unperfected security interest.

4. **Filed but Unattached Security Interest vs. Lien Creditor.** Under former Section 9-301(1)(b), a lien creditor's rights had priority over an unperfected security interest. Perfection required attachment (former Section 9-303 [55-9-303 NMSA 1978]) and attachment required the giving of value (former Section 9-203). It followed that, if a secured party had filed a financing statement, but the debtor had not entered into a security agreement and value had not yet been given, an intervening lien creditor whose lien arose after filing but before attachment of the security interest acquired rights that are senior to those of the secured party who later gives value. This result comported with the nemo dat concept: When the security interest attached, the collateral was already subject to the judicial lien.

On the other hand, this approach treated the first secured advance differently from all other advances, even in circumstances in which a security agreement covering the collateral had been entered into before the judicial lien attached. The special rule for future advances in former Section 9-301(4) (substantially reproduced in Section 9-323(b)) afforded priority to a discretionary advance made by a secured party within 45 days after the lien creditor's rights arose as long as the secured party was "perfected" when the lien creditor's lien arose - *i.e.*, as long as the advance was not the first one and an earlier advance had been made.

Subsection (a)(2) revises former Section 9-301(1)(b) and treats, in appropriate cases, the first advance the same as subsequent advances. More specifically, a judicial lien that arises after a financing statement is filed, but before the security agreement condition of Section 9-203(b) is satisfied and the security interest attaches and becomes perfected, is subordinate to all advances secured by the security interest, even the first advance, except as otherwise provided in Section 9-323(b). However, if the security interest becomes unperfected (*e.g.*, because the effectiveness of the filed financing statement lapses) before the judicial lien arises, the security interest is subordinate. If a financing statement is filed but a security interest does not attach, then no priority contest arises. The lien creditor has the only enforceable claim to the property.

5. **Security Interest of Consignor or Receivables Buyer vs. Lien Creditor.** Section 1-201(b)(35) [55-1-201NMSA 1978] defines "security interest" to include the interest of most true consignors of goods and the interest of most buyers of certain

receivables (accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles, and promissory notes). A consignee of goods or a seller of accounts or chattel paper each is deemed to have rights in the collateral which a lien creditor may reach, as long as the competing security interest of the consignor or buyer is unperfected. This is so even though, as between the consignor and the debtor-consignee, the latter has only limited rights, and, as between the buyer and debtor-seller, the latter does not have any rights in the collateral. *See* Sections 9-318 [55-9-318 NMSA 1978] (seller), 9-319 [55-9-319 NMSA 1978] (consignee). Security interests arising from sales of payment intangibles and promissory notes are automatically perfected. *See* Section 9-309 [55-9-309 NMSA 1978]. Accordingly, a subsequent judicial lien always would be subordinate to the rights of a buyer of those types of receivables.

6. **Purchasers Other Than Secured Parties.** Subsections (b), (c), (d), and (f) through (i) afford priority over an unperfected security interest to certain buyers (other than secured parties) of collateral. They derive in part from pre-1998 Sections 9-301(1)(c), 2A-307(2), and 9-301(d). Pre-1998 Section 9-301(1)(c) and (1)(d) provided that unperfected security interests are "subordinate" to the rights of certain purchasers. But, as pre-1998 Comment 9 suggested, the practical effect of subordination in this context is that the purchaser takes free of the security interest. To avoid any possible misinterpretation these subsections now use the phrase "takes free."

Subsection (b) governs goods, as well as intangibles of the type whose transfer is effected by physical delivery of the representative piece of paper (tangible documents, instruments, and security certificates). To obtain priority, a buyer must both give value and receive delivery of the collateral without knowledge of the existing security interest and before perfection. Even if the buyer gave value without knowledge and before perfection, the buyer would take subject to the security interest if perfection occurred before physical delivery of the collateral to the buyer. Subsection (c) contains a similar rule with respect to lessees of goods. Note that a lessee of goods in ordinary course of business takes free of all security interests created by the lessor, even if perfected. *See* Section 9-321.

Normally, there will be no question when a buyer of chattel paper, documents, instruments, or security certificates "receives delivery" of the property. *See* Section 1-201 (defining "delivery"). However, sometimes a buyer or lessee of goods, such as complex machinery, takes delivery of the goods in stages and completes assembly at its own location. Under those circumstances, the buyer or lessee "receives delivery" within the meaning of Subsections (b) and (c) when, after an inspection of the portion of the goods remaining with the seller or lessor, it would be apparent to a potential lender to the seller or lessor that another person might have an interest in the goods.

Subsection (b) no longer applies to chattel paper. The take-free rule in Subsection (f) for buyers of chattel paper reflects the corresponding 2022 changes in the definition of chattel paper and in the methods of perfection. *See* Sections 9-102(a)(11) [55-9-102 NMSA 1978] (defining "chattel paper"); 9-314A (perfection by possession and control). Note that subsection (f) applies only to a buyer of chattel paper "other than a secured

party" and most buyers of chattel paper are secured parties. *See* Sections 9-102(a)(73) (defining "secured party" as including a person to which chattel paper has been sold); 9-109(a)(3) (Article 9 applies to a sale of chattel paper); 1-201(b)(35) (defining "security interest" to include the interest of a buyer of chattel paper). However, Article 9 does not apply to "a sale of . . . chattel paper . . . as part of a sale of the business out of which . . . [the chattel paper] arose" and, accordingly, subsection (f) could apply to a buyer of chattel paper in such a sale-of-business transaction. Subsection (f) provides that such a buyer of chattel paper takes free of a security interest if, without knowledge of the security interest and before it is perfected, the buyer gives value and receives delivery of each authoritative tangible copy of the record evidencing the chattel paper and, if the chattel paper can be subjected to control, the buyer obtains control of each authoritative electronic copy.

Although chattel paper has been removed from subsection (b), the phrase "other than a secured party" has been retained because buyers of instruments that are promissory notes, but not buyers of other instruments, are secured parties. *See* Sections 9-109(a)(3) (Article 9 applies to a sale of a promissory note); 1-201(b)(35) (defining "security interest" to include the interest of a buyer of a promissory note).

The rule of Subsection (b) obviously is not appropriate where the collateral consists of intangibles and there is no representative piece of paper whose physical delivery is the only or the customary method of transfer or no means of taking control of the collateral as a functional equivalent of a delivery. Therefore, with respect to such intangibles (including accounts other than controllable accounts, electronic documents not subject to control, general intangibles other than controllable payment intangibles, and investment property other than certificated securities), Subsection (d) gives priority to any buyer who gives value without knowledge, and before perfection, of the security interest. Buyers of electronic money also are excluded from the application of Subsection (d) because transferees of electronic money which obtain control take free of security interests under Section 9-332(c) [55-9-332 NMSA 1978], which provides a standard more generous to transferees than Subsection (d). A licensee of a general intangible takes free of an unperfected security interest in the general intangible under the same circumstances (to the extent of the licensee’s rights under the license). Note that a licensee of a general intangible in ordinary course of business takes rights under a nonexclusive license free of security interests created by the licensor, even if perfected. *See* Section 9-321 [55-9-321 NMSA 1978].

Unless Section 9-109 excludes the transaction from this Article, a buyer of accounts, payment intangibles, or promissory notes is a "secured party" (defined in Section 9-102), and Subsection (d) does not determine priority of the security interest created by the sale. Rather, the priority rules generally applicable to competing security interests apply. *See, e.g.*, Section 9-322.

6A. **Buyers of Electronic Documents, Controllable Electronic Records, Controllable Accounts, and Controllable Payment Intangibles.** Subsection (g) provides a take-free rule for electronic documents, Subsection (h) so provides for

controllable electronic records, and Subsection (i) so provides for controllable accounts and controllable payment intangibles. Subsection (g) conditions the take-free rule on the buyer obtaining control of authoritative electronic copies of the document only if the authoritative electronic copies can be subjected to control. Subsection (h) conditions the take-free rule for a buyer of a controllable electronic record on the buyer's obtaining control of the electronic record. Similarly, under Subsection (i), the take-free rule for a buyer, other than a secured party, of a controllable account or controllable payment intangible is conditioned on the buyer's obtaining control of the account or payment intangible. Although in general a buyer of an account or a payment intangible is a secured party, there are limited exceptions. *See* Sections 1-201(b)(35) ("security interest" includes interest of buyer of accounts or payment intangibles); 9-109(d)(4) (inapplicability of Article 9 to sale of accounts or payment intangibles as a part of the sale of a business).

7. **Agricultural Liens.** Subsections (a), (b), and (c) subordinate unperfected agricultural liens in the same manner in which they subordinate unperfected security interests.

8. **Purchase-Money Security Interests.** Subsection (e) derives from former Section 9-301(2). It provides that, if a purchase-money security interest is perfected by filing no later than 20 days after the debtor receives delivery of the collateral, the security interest takes priority over the rights of buyers, lessees, or lien creditors which arise between the time the security interest attaches and the time of filing. Subsection (e) differs from former Section 9-301(2) in two significant respects. First, Subsection (e) protects a purchase-money security interest against all buyers and lessees, not just against transferees in bulk. Second, subsection (e) conditions this protection on filing within 20, as opposed to ten, days after delivery.

Section 9-311(b) provides that compliance with the perfection requirements of a statute or treaty described in Section 9-311(a) "is equivalent to the filing of a financing statement." It follows that a person who perfects a security interest in goods covered by a certificate of title by complying with the perfection requirements of an applicable certificate-of-title statute "files a financing statement" within the meaning of Subsection (e).

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 37 repealed former 55-9-317 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-317, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, revised provisions related to interests that take priority over or take free of security interests; in Subsection (b), after "secured party, of", deleted "tangible chattel paper, tangible documents", and after "instruments", added "tangible documents"; in Subsection (d), added "Subject to Subsections (f) through (i) of this section", after "collateral other than", deleted "tangible chattel paper,

tangible documents" and added "electric money", and after "instruments", added "tangible documents"; and added Subsections (f) through (i).

The 2013 amendment, effective July 1, 2013, changed the type of collateral that a buyer takes free of a security interest; and in Subsection (d), after "other than a secured party, of" deleted "accounts, electronic chattel paper, electronic documents, general intangibles or investment property" and added "collateral" and after "collateral other than", added "tangible chattel paper, tangible documents, goods, instruments or".

The 2005 amendment, effective January 1, 2006, changes the phrase "negotiable documents" to "tangible negotiable documents" in Subsection (b) and provides in Subsection (d) that a licensee of electronic documents takes free of a security interest if the licensee gives value without knowledge of the security interest before it is perfected.

Law reviews. — For article, "The Warehouseman vs. the Secured Party: Who Prevails When the Warehouseman's Lien Covers Goods Subject to a Security Interest?" see 8 Nat. Resources J. 331 (1968).

For article, "Buyers and Sellers of Goods in Bankruptcy," see 1 N.M. L. Rev. 435 (1971).

For note, "Commercial Law - And Then Personal Property Became Real Property: In re Anthony," see 23 N.M.L. Rev. 263 (1993).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Constructive notice by record, 63 A.L.R. 1456.

Conditional sale contract as affected by seller's acceptance of a chattel mortgage from the buyer covering the same property, priorities, 95 A.L.R. 350.

Constitutionality, construction and application of statute respecting sale, assignment or transfer of retail installment contracts, 10 A.L.R.2d 447.

Coverage of "nonrecording" or "nonfiling" insurance against loss from failure to record chattel mortgage, conditional sale or other security instrument, 51 A.L.R.2d 325.

Priority, as between holder of unfiled or unrecorded chattel mortgage who secures possession of goods or chattels, and subsequent purchaser or encumbrancer, 53 A.L.R.2d 936.

Priority as between mechanic's lien and purchase money mortgage, 73 A.L.R.2d 1407.

Priority as between seller or conditional seller of personalty and claimant under after-acquired property clause of mortgage or other instrument, 86 A.L.R.2d 1152.

Priority between attorney's lien for fees against a judgment and lien of creditor against same judgment, 34 A.L.R.4th 665.

Equitable estoppel of secured party's right to assert prior, perfected security interest against other secured creditor or subsequent purchaser under Article 9 of Uniform Commercial Code, 9 A.L.R.5th 708.

55-9-318. No interest retained in right to payment that is sold; rights and title of seller of account or chattel paper with respect to creditors and purchasers.

(a) A debtor that has sold an account, chattel paper, payment intangible or promissory note does not retain a legal or equitable interest in the collateral sold.

(b) For purposes of determining the rights of creditors of, and purchasers for value of an account or chattel paper from, a debtor that has sold an account or chattel paper, while the buyer's security interest is unperfected, the debtor is deemed to have rights and title to the account or chattel paper identical to those the debtor sold.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-318, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 38.

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1. Source. New.

2. Sellers of Accounts, Chattel Paper, Payment Intangibles, and Promissory Notes. Section 1-201(b)(35) [55-1-201 NMSA 1978] defines "security interest" to include the interest of a buyer of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles, or promissory notes. *See also* Section 9-109(a) [55-9-109(a) NMSA 1978] and Comment 5. Subsection (a) makes explicit what was implicit, but perfectly obvious, under former Article 9: The fact that a sale of an account or chattel paper gives rise to a "security interest" does not imply that the seller retains an interest in the property that has been sold. To the contrary, a seller of an account or chattel paper retains no interest whatsoever in the property to the extent that it has been sold. Subsection (a) also applies to sales of payment intangibles and promissory notes, transactions that were not covered by former Article 9. Neither this Article nor the definition of "security interest" in Section 1-201 [55-1-201 NMSA 1978] provides rules for distinguishing sales transactions from those that create a security interest securing an obligation.

3. Buyers of Accounts and Chattel Paper. Another aspect of sales of accounts and chattel paper also was implicit, and equally obvious, under former article 9: If the buyer's security interest is unperfected, then for purposes of determining the rights of certain third parties, the seller (debtor) is deemed to have all rights and title that the seller sold.

The seller is deemed to have these rights even though, as between the parties, it has sold all its rights to the buyer. Subsection (b) makes this explicit. As a consequence of subsection (b), if the buyer's security interest is unperfected, the seller can transfer, and the creditors of the seller can reach, the account or chattel paper as if it had not been sold.

Example: Debtor sells accounts or chattel paper to Buyer-1 and retains no interest in them. Buyer-1 does not file a financing statement. Debtor then sells the same receivables to Buyer-2. Buyer-2 files a proper financing statement. Having sold the receivables to Buyer-1, Debtor would not have any rights in the collateral so as to permit Buyer-2's security (ownership) interest to attach. Nevertheless, under this section, for purposes of determining the rights of purchasers for value from Debtor, Debtor is deemed to have the rights that Debtor sold. Accordingly, Buyer-2's security interest attaches, is perfected by the filing, and, under section 9-322, is senior to Buyer-1's interest.

4. Effect of Perfection. If the security interest of a buyer of accounts or chattel paper is perfected the usual result would take effect: Transferees from and creditors of the seller could not acquire an interest in the sold accounts or chattel paper. The same result would occur if payment intangibles or promissory notes were sold, inasmuch as the buyer's security interest is automatically perfected under section 9-309.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 38 repealed former 55-9-318 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1985, ch. 193, § 25, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-319. Rights and title of consignee with respect to creditors and purchasers.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (b) of this section, for purposes of determining the rights of creditors of, and purchasers for value of goods from, a consignee, while the goods are in the possession of the consignee, the consignee is deemed to have rights and title to the goods identical to those the consignor had or had power to transfer.

(b) For purposes of determining the rights of a creditor of a consignee, law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 determines the rights and title of a consignee while goods are in the consignee's possession if, under Sections 55-9-301 through 55-9-342 NMSA 1978, a perfected security interest held by the consignor would have priority over the rights of the creditor.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-319, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 39.

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1. Source. New.

2. Consignments. This section takes an approach to consignments similar to that taken by Section 9-318 [55-9-318 NMSA 1978] with respect to buyers of accounts and chattel paper. Revised Section 1-201(b)(35) [55-1-201(b)(35) NMSA 1978] defines "security interest" to include the interest of a consignor of goods under many true consignments. Section 9-319(a) [55-9-319(a) NMSA 1978] provides that, for purposes of determining the rights of certain third parties, the consignee is deemed to acquire all rights and title that the consignor had, if the consignor's security interest is unperfected. The consignee acquires these rights even though, as between the parties, it purchases a limited interest in the goods (as would be the case in a true consignment, under which the consignee acquires only the interest of a bailee). As a consequence of this section, creditors of the consignee can acquire judicial liens and security interests in the goods.

Insofar as creditors of the consignee are concerned, this article to a considerable extent reformulates the former law, which appeared in former sections 2-326 and 9-114, without changing the results. However, neither article 2 nor former article 9 specifically addresses the rights of nonordinary course buyers from the consignee. Former section 9-114 contained priority rules applicable to security interests in consigned goods. Under this article, the priority rules for purchase-money security interests in inventory apply to consignments. *See* section 9-103(d). Accordingly, a special section containing priority rules for consignments no longer is needed. Section 9-317 determines whether the rights of a judicial lien creditor are senior to the interest of the consignor, sections 9-322 and 9-324 govern competing security interests in consigned goods, and sections 9-315, 9-317, and 9-320 determine whether a buyer takes free of the consignor's interest.

The following example explains the operation of this section:

Example 1: SP-1 delivers goods to Debtor in a transaction constituting a "consignment" as defined in section 9-102. SP-1 does not file a financing statement. Debtor then grants a security interest in the goods to SP-2. SP-2 files a proper financing statement. Assuming Debtor is a mere bailee, as in a "true" consignment, Debtor would not have any rights in the collateral (beyond those of a bailee) so as to permit SP-2's security interest to attach to any greater rights. Nevertheless, under this section, for purposes of determining the rights of Debtor's creditors, Debtor is deemed to acquire SP-1's rights. Accordingly, SP-2's security interest attaches, is perfected by the filing, and, under section 9-322, is senior to SP-1's interest.

3. Effect of Perfection. Subsection (b) contains a special rule with respect to consignments that are perfected. If application of this article would result in the consignor having priority over a competing creditor, then other law determines the rights and title of the consignee.

Example 2: SP-1 delivers goods to Debtor in a transaction constituting a "consignment" as defined in section 9-102. SP-1 files a proper financing statement. Debtor then grants a security interest in the goods to SP-2. Under section 9-322, SP-1's security interest is senior to SP-2's. Subsection (b) indicates that, for purposes of determining SP-2's rights, other law determines the rights and title of the consignee. If, for example, a consignee obtains only the special property of a bailee, then SP-2's security interest would attach only to that special property.

Example 3: SP-1 obtains a security interest in all Debtor's existing and after-acquired inventory. SP-1 perfects its security interest with a proper filing. Then SP-2 delivers goods to Debtor in a transaction constituting a "consignment" as defined in section 9-102. SP-2 files a proper financing statement but does not send notification to SP-1 under section 9-324(b). Accordingly, SP-2's security interest is junior to SP-1's under section 9-322(a). Under section 9-319(a), Debtor is deemed to have the consignor's rights and title, so that SP-1's security interest attaches to SP-2's ownership interest in the goods. Thereafter, Debtor grants a security interest in the goods to SP-3, and SP-3 perfects by filing. Because SP-2's perfected security interest is senior to SP-3's under section 9-322(a), section 9-319(b) applies: Other law determines Debtor's rights and title to the goods insofar as SP-3 is concerned, and SP-3's security interest attaches to those rights.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-320. Buyer of goods.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (e) of this section or in the Farm Products Secured Interest Act [56-13-1 to 56-13-14 NMSA 1978], a buyer in ordinary course of business, other than a person buying farm products from a person engaged in farming operations, takes free of a security interest created by the buyer's seller, even if the security interest is perfected and the buyer knows of its existence.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (e) of this section, a buyer of goods from a person who used or bought the goods for use primarily for personal, family or household purposes takes free of a security interest, even if perfected, if the buyer buys:

(1) without knowledge of the security interest;

(2) for value;

(3) primarily for the buyer's personal, family or household purposes; and

(4) before the filing of a financing statement covering the goods.

(c) To the extent that it affects the priority of a security interest over a buyer of goods under Subsection (b) of this section, the period of effectiveness of a filing made in the jurisdiction in which the seller is located is governed by Subsections (a) and (b) of Section 55-9-316 NMSA 1978.

(d) A buyer in ordinary course of business buying oil, gas or other minerals at the wellhead or minehead or after extraction takes free of an interest arising out of an encumbrance.

(e) Subsections (a) and (b) of this section do not affect a security interest in goods in the possession of the secured party under Section 55-9-313 NMSA 1978.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-320, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 40.

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1. Source. Former section 9-307.

2. Scope of This Section. This section states when buyers of goods take free of a security interest even though perfected. Of course, a buyer who takes free of a perfected security interest takes free of an unperfected one. Section 9-317 should be consulted to determine what purchasers, in addition to the buyers covered in this section, take free of an unperfected security interest. Article 2 states general rules on purchase of goods from a seller with defective or voidable title (section 2-403).

3. Buyers in Ordinary Course. Subsection (a) derives from former section 9-307(1). The definition of "buyer in ordinary course of business" in section 1-201 restricts its application to buyers "from a person, other than a pawnbroker, in the business of selling goods of that kind." Thus subsection (a) applies primarily to inventory collateral. The subsection further excludes from its operation buyers of "farm products" (defined in section 9-102) from a person engaged in farming operations. The buyer in ordinary course of business is defined as one who buys goods "in good faith, without knowledge that the sale violates the rights of another person and in the ordinary course." Subsection (a) provides that such a buyer takes free of a security interest, even though perfected, and even though the buyer knows the security interest exists. Reading the definition together with the rule of law results in the buyer's taking free if the buyer merely knows that a security interest covers the goods but taking subject if the buyer knows, in addition, that the sale violates a term in an agreement with the secured party.

As did former section 9-307(1), subsection (a) applies only to security interests created by the seller of the goods to the buyer in ordinary course. However, under certain circumstances a buyer in ordinary course who buys goods that were encumbered with a

security interest created by a person other than the seller may take free of the security interest, as Example 2 explains. *See also* comment 6, below.

Example 1: Manufacturer, who is in the business of manufacturing appliances, owns manufacturing equipment subject to a perfected security interest in favor of Lender. Manufacturer sells the equipment to Dealer, who is in the business of buying and selling used equipment. Buyer buys the equipment from Dealer. Even if Buyer qualifies as a buyer in the ordinary course of business, Buyer does not take free of Lender's security interest under subsection (a), because Dealer did not create the security interest; Manufacturer did.

Example 2: Manufacturer, who is in the business of manufacturing appliances, owns manufacturing equipment subject to a perfected security interest in favor of Lender. Manufacturer sells the equipment to Dealer, who is in the business of buying and selling used equipment. Lender learns of the sale but does nothing to assert its security interest. Buyer buys the equipment from Dealer. Inasmuch as Lender's acquiescence constitutes an "entrusting" of the goods to Dealer within the meaning of section 2-403(3) Buyer takes free of Lender's security interest under section 2-403(2) if Buyer qualifies as a buyer in ordinary course of business.

4. Buyers of Farm Products. This section does not enable a buyer of farm products to take free of a security interest created by the seller, even if the buyer is a buyer in ordinary course of business. However, a buyer of farm products may take free of a security interest under section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. section 1631.

5. Buyers of Consumer Goods. Subsection (b), which derives from former section 9-307(2), deals with buyers of collateral that the debtor-seller holds as "consumer goods" (defined in section 9-102). Under section 9-309(1), a purchase-money interest in consumer goods, except goods that are subject to a statute or treaty described in section 9-311(a) (such as automobiles that are subject to a certificate-of-title statute), is perfected automatically upon attachment. There is no need to file to perfect. Under subsection (b) a buyer of consumer goods takes free of a security interest, even though perfected, if the buyer buys (1) without knowledge of the security interest, (2) for value, (3) primarily for the buyer's own personal, family, or household purposes, and (4) before a financing statement is filed.

As to purchase money-security interests which are perfected without filing under section 9-309(1): A secured party may file a financing statement, although filing is not required for perfection. If the secured party does file, all buyers take subject to the security interest. If the secured party does not file, a buyer who meets the qualifications stated in the preceding paragraph takes free of the security interest.

As to security interests for which a perfection step is required: This category includes all non-purchase-money security interests, and all security interests, whether or not purchase-money, in goods subject to a statute or treaty described in section 9-311(a),

such as automobiles covered by a certificate-of-title statute. As long as the required perfection step has not been taken and the security interest remains unperfected, not only the buyers described in subsection (b) but also the purchasers described in section 9-317 will take free of the security interest. After a financing statement has been filed or the perfection requirements of the applicable certificate-of-title statute have been complied with (compliance is the equivalent of filing a financing statement; see section 9-311(b)), all subsequent buyers, under the rule of subsection (b), are subject to the security interest.

The rights of a buyer under subsection (b) turn on whether a financing statement has been filed against consumer goods. Occasionally, a debtor changes his or her location after a filing is made. Subsection (c), which derives from former section 9-103(1)(d)(iii), deals with the continued effectiveness of the filing under those circumstances. It adopts the rules of section 9-316(a) and (b). These rules are explained in the comments to that section.

6. Authorized Dispositions. The limitations that subsections (a) and (b) impose on the persons who may take free of a security interest apply of course only to unauthorized sales by the debtor. If the secured party authorized the sale in an express agreement or otherwise, the buyer takes free under section 9-315(a)(1) without regard to the limitations of this section. (That section also states the right of a secured party to the proceeds of a sale, authorized or unauthorized.) Moreover, the buyer also takes free if the secured party waived or otherwise is precluded from asserting its security interest against the buyer. *See* section 1-103.

7. Oil, Gas, and Other Minerals. Under subsection (d), a buyer in ordinary course of business of minerals at the wellhead or minehead or after extraction takes free of a security interest created by the seller. Specifically, it provides that qualified buyers take free not only of article 9 security interests but also of interests "arising out of an encumbrance." As defined in section 9-102, the term "encumbrance" means "a right, other than an ownership interest, in real property." Thus, to the extent that a mortgage encumbers minerals not only before but also after extraction, subsection (d) enables a buyer in ordinary course of the minerals to take free of the mortgage. This subsection does not, however, enable these buyers to take free of interests arising out of ownership interests in the real property. This issue is significant only in a minority of states. Several of them have adopted special statutes and nonuniform amendments to article 9 to provide special protections to mineral owners, whose interests often are highly fractionalized in the case of oil and gas. *See* Terry I. Cross, Oil and Gas Product Liens - Statutory Security Interests for Producers and Royalty Owners Under the Statutes of Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming, 50 Consumer Fin. L. Q. Rep. 418 (1996). Inasmuch as a complete resolution of the issue would require the addition of complex provisions to this article, and there are good reasons to believe that a uniform solution would not be feasible, this article leaves its resolution to other legislation.

8. Possessory Security Interests. Subsection (e) is new. It rejects the holding of *Tanbro Fabrics Corp. v. Deering Milliken, Inc.*, 350 N.E.2d 590 (N.Y. 1976) and, together with section 9-317(b), prevents a buyer of goods collateral from taking free of a security interest if the collateral is in the possession of the secured party. "The secured party" referred in subsection (e) is the holder of the security interest referred to in subsection (a) or (b). Section 9-313 determines whether a secured party is in possession for purposes of this section. Under some circumstances, section 9-313 provides that a secured party is in possession of collateral even if the collateral is in the physical possession of a third party.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former 55-9-307 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-307 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-307 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Agricultural mortgagees retain special position. — By excluding "farm products" from the classifications of "equipment" and "inventory," in Section 55-9-103 NMSA 1978 (now Section 55-9-102 NMSA 1978), and by expressly providing in this section that a buyer in the ordinary course of business of farm products from a person engaged in farming operations does not take free of a security interest created by the seller, the draftsmen of the code apparently intended to retain the agricultural mortgagee in the special position he achieved under the pre-code case law. *Clovis Nat'l Bank v. Thomas*, 1967-NMSC-061, 77 N.M. 554, 425 P.2d 726 (decided under former law).

Law reviews. — For comment on Clovis Nat'l Bank v. Thomas, 77 N.M. 554, 425 P.2d 726 (1967), see 8 Nat. Resources J. 183 (1968).

For note, "Fixtures, Security Interests and Filing: Problems of Title Examination in New Mexico," see 8 Nat. Resources J. 513 (1968).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Rights of holder of "trust receipt" and purchaser of goods from one who gave it, 31 A.L.R. 937.

Validity as to creditors of reservation of title to goods delivered under implied or express authority to resell, 63 A.L.R. 355.

Right of conditional vendor against one to whom property has been transferred by an infant, 63 A.L.R. 1371.

Liability for conversion of one claiming under purchaser under conditional sale contract, 73 A.L.R. 799.

Effect of recording right of purchaser from party to conditional sale as affected by actual or apparent authority in party to sell property, 88 A.L.R. 112.

Personal liability of purchaser of property subject to chattel mortgage to the mortgagee, 100 A.L.R. 1038.

Trust receipts, rights and liabilities with respect to purchasers from receiptor or other parties, 101 A.L.R. 460, 168 A.L.R. 359.

Purchaser's right to protection under factor's act where transaction involves exchange of goods, 132 A.L.R. 525.

Construction and effect of UCC § 9-311 giving debtor right to transfer his interest in collateral, 45 A.L.R.4th 411.

Avoidance under 11 USCS § 522(f)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code of 1978 of nonpossessory, nonpurchase-money security interest in debtor's exempt personal property, 55 A.L.R. Fed. 353.

55-9-321. Licensee of general intangible and lessee of goods in ordinary course of business.

(a) In this section, "licensee in ordinary course of business" means a person that becomes a licensee of a general intangible in good faith, without knowledge that the license violates the rights of another person in the general intangible, and in the ordinary course from a person in the business of licensing general intangibles of that kind. A person becomes a licensee in the ordinary course if the license to the person comports with the usual or customary practices in the kind of business in which the licensor is engaged or with the licensor's own usual or customary practices.

(b) A licensee in ordinary course of business takes its rights under a nonexclusive license free of a security interest in the general intangible created by the licensor, even if the security interest is perfected and the licensee knows of its existence.

(c) A lessee in ordinary course of business takes its leasehold interest free of a security interest in the goods created by the lessor, even if the security interest is perfected and the lessee knows of its existence.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-321, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 41.

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1. Source. Derived from sections 2A-103(1)(o) and 2A-307(3).

2. Licensee in Ordinary Course. Like the analogous rules in section 9-320(a) with respect to buyers in ordinary course and subsection (c) with respect to lessees in ordinary course, the new rule in subsection (b) reflects the expectations of the parties and the marketplace: A licensee under a nonexclusive license takes subject to a security interest unless the secured party authorizes the license free of the security interest or other, controlling law such as that of this section (protecting ordinary-course licensees) dictates a contrary result. *See* sections 9-201 and 9-315. The definition of "licensee in ordinary course of business" in subsection (a) is modeled upon that of "buyer in ordinary course of business."

3. Lessee in Ordinary Course. Subsection (c) contains the rule formerly found in section 2A-307(3). The rule works in the same way as that of section 9-320(a).

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-322. Priorities among conflicting security interests in and agricultural liens on same collateral.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, priority among conflicting security interests and agricultural liens in the same collateral is determined according to the following rules:

(1) Conflicting perfected security interests and agricultural liens rank according to priority in time of filing or perfection. Priority dates from the earlier of the time a filing covering the collateral is first made or the security interest or agricultural lien is first perfected, if there is no period thereafter when there is neither filing nor perfection.

(2) A perfected security interest or agricultural lien has priority over a conflicting unperfected security interest or agricultural lien.

(3) The first security interest or agricultural lien to attach or become effective has priority if conflicting security interests and agricultural liens are unperfected.

(b) For the purposes of Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a) of this section:

(1) the time of filing or perfection as to a security interest in collateral is also the time of filing or perfection as to a security interest in proceeds; and

(2) the time of filing or perfection as to a security interest in collateral supported by a supporting obligation is also the time of filing or perfection as to a security interest in the supporting obligation.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (f) of this section, a security interest in collateral which qualifies for priority over a conflicting security interest under Section 55-9-327, 55-9-328, 55-9-329, 55-9-330 or 55-9-331 NMSA 1978 also has priority over a conflicting security interest in:

(1) any supporting obligation for the collateral; and

(2) proceeds of the collateral if:

(A) the security interest in proceeds is perfected;

(B) the proceeds are cash proceeds or of the same type as the collateral; and

(C) in the case of proceeds that are proceeds of proceeds, all intervening proceeds are cash proceeds, proceeds of the same type as the collateral or an account relating to the collateral.

(d) Subject to Subsection (e) of this section and except as otherwise provided in Subsection (f) of this section, if a security interest in chattel paper, deposit accounts, negotiable documents, instruments, investment property or letter-of-credit rights is perfected by a method other than filing, conflicting perfected security interests in proceeds of the collateral rank according to priority in time of filing.

(e) Subsection (d) of this section applies only if the proceeds of the collateral are not cash proceeds, chattel paper, negotiable documents, instruments, investment property or letter-of-credit rights.

(f) Subsections (a) through (e) of this section are subject to:

(1) Subsection (g) of this section and the other provisions of Sections 55-9-301 through 55-9-342 NMSA 1978;

(2) Section 55-4-210 NMSA 1978 with respect to a security interest of a collecting bank;

(3) Section 55-5-118 NMSA 1978 with respect to a security interest of an issuer or nominated person; and

(4) Section 55-9-110 NMSA 1978 with respect to a security interest arising under Chapter 55, Article 2 or 2A NMSA 1978.

(g) A perfected agricultural lien on collateral has priority over a conflicting security interest in or agricultural lien on the same collateral if the statute creating the agricultural lien so provides. If a statute other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 creates an agricultural lien, and the other statute does not specify the priority of the agricultural lien relative to an agricultural lien or security interest in the same collateral created pursuant

to Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, then Subsection (a) (1) of this section shall govern the priority of the agricultural liens and security interests.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-322, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 42.

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1. **Source**. Former section 9-312(5), (6).

2. **Scope of This Section.** In a variety of situations, two or more people may claim a security interest in the same collateral. This section states general rules of priority among conflicting security interests. As subsection (f) provides, the general rules in subsections (a) through (e) are subject to the rule in subsection (g) governing perfected agricultural liens and to the other rules in this part of this article. Rules that override this section include those applicable to purchase-money security interests (Section 9-324) and those qualifying for special priority in particular types of collateral. *See, e.g.*, Section 9-327 (deposit accounts); Section 9-328 (investment property); Section 9-329 (letter-of-credit rights); Section 9-330 (chattel paper and instruments); and Section 9-334 (fixtures). In addition, the general rules of Sections (a) through (e) are subject to priority rules governing security interests arising under Articles 2, 2A, 4, and 5.

3. **General Rules.** Subsection (a) contains three general rules. Subsection (a)(1) governs the priority of competing perfected security interests. Subsection (a)(2) governs the priority of competing security interests if one is perfected and the other is not. Subsection (a)(3) governs the priority of competing unperfected security interests. The rules may be regarded as adaptations of the idea, deeply rooted at common law, of a race of diligence among creditors. The first two rules are based on precedence in the time as of which the competing secured parties either filed their financing statements or obtained perfected security interests. Under Subsection (a)(1), the first secured party who files or perfects has priority. Under Subsection (a)(2), which is new, a perfected security interest has priority over an unperfected one. Under Subsection (a)(3), if both security interests are unperfected, the first to attach has priority. Note that Section 9-709(b) may affect the application of Subsection (a) to a filing that occurred before the effective date of this article (July 1, 2001) and which would be ineffective to perfect a security interest under former Article 9 but effective under this article.

4. **Competing Perfected Security Interests.** When there is more than one perfected security interest, the security interests rank according to priority in time of filing or perfection. "Filing," of course, refers to the filing of an effective financing statement. "Perfection" refers to the acquisition of a perfected security interest, *i.e.*, one that has attached and as to which any required perfection step has been taken. *See* Sections 9-308 and 9-309 [55-9-308, 55-9-309 NMSA 1978].

Example 1: On February 1, A files a financing statement covering a certain item of Debtor's equipment. On March 1, B files a financing statement covering the same equipment. On April 1, B makes a loan to Debtor and obtains a security interest in the equipment. On May 1, A makes a loan to Debtor and obtains a security interest in the same collateral. A has priority even though B's loan was made earlier and was perfected when made. It makes no difference whether A knew of B's security interest when A made its advance.

The problem stated in Example 1 is peculiar to a notice-filing system under which filing may occur before the security interest attaches (*see* Section 9-502 [55-9-502 NMSA 1978]). The justification for determining priority by order of filing lies in the necessity of protecting the filing system–that is, of allowing the first secured party who has filed to make subsequent advances without each time having to check for subsequent filings as a condition of protection. Note, however, that this first-to-file protection is not absolute. For example, Section 9-324 [55-9-324 NMSA 1978] affords priority to certain purchase-money security interests, even if a competing secured party was the first to file or perfect.

Under a notice-filing system, a filed financing statement indicates to third parties that a person may have a security interest in the collateral indicated. With further inquiry, they may discover the complete state of affairs. When a financing statement that is ineffective when filed becomes effective thereafter, the policy underlying the notice-filing system determines the "time of filing" for purposes of Subsection (a)(1). For example, the unauthorized filing of an otherwise sufficient initial financing statement becomes authorized, and the financing statement becomes effective, upon the debtor's post-filing authorization or ratification of the filing. *See* Section 9-509 [55-9-509 NMSA 1978], Comment 3. Because the notice value of the financing statement is independent of the timing of authorization or ratification, the time of the unauthorized filing is the "time of filing" for purposes of Subsection (a)(1). The same policy applies to the other priority rules in this part.

Example 2: A and B make non-purchase-money advances secured by the same collateral. The collateral is in Debtor's possession, and neither security interest is perfected when the second advance is made. Whichever secured party first perfects its security interest (by taking possession of the collateral or by filing) takes priority. It makes no difference whether that secured party knows of the other security interest at the time it perfects its own.

The rule of Subsection (a)(1), affording priority to the first to file or perfect, applies to security interests that are perfected by any method, including temporarily (Section 9-312 [55-9-312 NMSA 1978]) or upon attachment (Section 9-309 [55-9-309 NMSA 1978]), even though there may be no notice to creditors or subsequent purchasers and notwithstanding any common-law rule to the contrary. The form of the claim to priority, *i.e.*, filing or perfection, may shift from time to time, and the rank will be based on the first filing or perfection as long as there is no intervening period without filing or perfection. *See* Section 9-308(c) [55-9-308(c) NMSA 1978].

Example 3: On October 1, A acquires a temporarily perfected (20-day) security interest, unfiled, in a negotiable document in the debtor's possession under Section 9-312(e) [55-9-312(e) NMSA 1978]. On October 5, B files and thereby perfects a security interest that previously had attached to the same document. On October 10, A files. A has priority, even after the 20-day period expires, regardless of whether A knows of B's security interest when A files. A was the first to perfect and maintained continuous perfection or filing since the start of the 20-day period. However, the perfection of A's security interest extends only "to the extent it arises for new value given." To the extent A's security interest secures advances made by A beyond the 20-day period, its security interest would be subordinate to B's, inasmuch as B was the first to file.

In general, the rule in Subsection (a)(1) does not distinguish among various advances made by a secured party. The priority of every advance dates from the earlier of filing or perfection. However, in rare instances, the priority of an advance dates from the time the advance is made. *See* Example 3 and Section 9-323 [55-9-323 NMSA 1978].

5. **Priority in After-Acquired Property.** The application of the priority rules to after-acquired property must be considered separately for each item of collateral. Priority does not depend only on time of perfection but may also be based on priority in filing before perfection.

Example 4: On February 1, A makes advances to Debtor under a security agreement covering "all Debtor's machinery, both existing and after-acquired." A promptly files a financing statement. On April 1, B takes a security interest in all Debtor's machinery, existing and after-acquired, to secure an outstanding loan. The following day, B files a financing statement. On May 1, Debtor acquires a new machine. When Debtor acquires rights in the new machine, both A and B acquire security interests in the machine simultaneously. Both security interests are perfected simultaneously. However, A has priority because A filed before B.

When after-acquired collateral is encumbered by more than one security interest, one of the security interests often is a purchase-money security interest that is entitled to special priority under Section 9-324.

6. **Priority in Proceeds: General Rule.** Subsection (b)(1) follows former Section 9-312(6). It provides that the baseline rules of Subsection (a) apply generally to priority conflicts in proceeds except where otherwise provided (*e.g.*, as in Subsections (c) through (e)). Under Section 9-203, attachment cannot occur (and therefore, under Section 9-308, perfection cannot occur) as to particular collateral until the collateral itself comes into existence and the debtor has rights in it. Thus, a security interest in proceeds of original collateral does not attach and is not perfected until the proceeds come into existence and the debtor acquires rights in them.

Example 5: On April 1, Debtor signs a security agreement granting to A a security interest in all Debtor's existing and after-acquired inventory. The same day, A files a financing statement covering inventory. On May 1, Debtor signs a security agreement

granting B a security interest in all Debtor's existing and future accounts. The same day, B files a financing statement covering accounts. On June 1, Debtor sells inventory to a customer on 30-day unsecured credit. When Debtor acquires the account, B's security interest attaches to it and is perfected by B's financing statement. At the very same time, A's security interest attaches to the account as proceeds of the inventory and is automatically perfected. *See* Section 9-315. Under Subsection (b) of this section, for purposes of determining A's priority in the account, the time of filing as to the original collateral (April 1, as to inventory) is also the time of filing as to proceeds (account). Accordingly, A's security interest in the account has priority over B's. Of course, had B filed its financing statement before A filed (e.g., on March 1), then B would have priority in the accounts.

Section 9-324 governs the extent to which a special purchase-money priority in goods or software carries over into the proceeds of the original collateral.

7. **Priority in Proceeds: Special Rules.** Subsections (c), (d), and (e), which are new, provide additional priority rules for proceeds of collateral in situations where the temporal (first-in-time) rules of Subsection (a)(1) are not appropriate. These new provisions distinguish what these comments refer to as "non-filing collateral" from what they call "filing collateral." As used in these comments, non-filing collateral is collateral of a type for which perfection may be achieved by a method other than filing (possession or control, mainly) and for which secured parties who so perfect generally do not expect or need to conduct a filing search. More specifically, non-filing collateral is chattel paper, deposit accounts, negotiable documents, instruments, investment property, and letter-of-credit rights. Other collateral - accounts, commercial tort claims, general intangibles, goods, nonnegotiable documents, and payment intangibles - is filing collateral.

8. **Proceeds of Non-Filing Collateral: Non-Temporal Priority.** Subsection (c)(2) provides a baseline priority rule for proceeds of non-filing collateral which applies if the secured party has taken the steps required for non-temporal priority over a conflicting security interest in non-filing collateral (e.g., control, in the case of deposit accounts, letter-of-credit rights, investment property, and in some cases, electronic negotiable documents, Section 9-331 [55-9-331 NMSA 1978]). This rule determines priority in proceeds of non-filing collateral whether or not there exists an actual conflicting security interest in the original non-filing collateral. Under Subsection (c)(2), the priority in the original collateral continues in proceeds if the security interest in proceeds is perfected and the proceeds are cash proceeds or non-filing proceeds "of the same type" as the original collateral. As used in Subsection (c)(2), "type" means a type of collateral defined in the Uniform Commercial Code and should be read broadly. For example, a security is "of the same type" as a security entitlement (*i.e.*, investment property), and a promissory note is "of the same type" as a draft (*i.e.*, an instrument).

Example 6: SP-1 perfects its security interest in investment property by filing. SP-2 perfects subsequently by taking control of a certificated security. Debtor receives cash proceeds of the security (*e.g.*, dividends deposited into Debtor's deposit account). If the

first-to-file-or-perfect rule of Subsection (a)(1) were applied, SP-1's security interest in the cash proceeds would be senior, although SP-2's security interest continues perfected under Section 9-315 beyond the 20-day period of automatic perfection. This was the result under former Article 9. Under Subsection (c), however, SP-2's security interest is senior.

Note that a different result would obtain in Example 6 (*i.e.*, SP-1's security interest would be senior) if SP-1 were to obtain control of the deposit-account proceeds. This is so because Subsection (c) is subject to subsection (f), which in turn provides that the priority rules under subsections (a) through (e) are subject to "the other provisions of this part." One of those "other provisions" is Section 9-327, which affords priority to a security interest perfected by control. *See* section 9-327(1).

Example 7: SP-1 perfects its security interest in investment property by filing. SP-2 perfects subsequently by taking control of a certificated security. Debtor receives proceeds of the security consisting of a new certificated security issued as a stock dividend on the original collateral. Although the new security is of the same type as the original collateral (*i.e.*, investment property), once the 20-day period of automatic perfection expires (*see* Section 9-315(d)), SP-2's security interest is unperfected. (SP-2 has not filed or taken delivery or control, and no temporary-perfection rule applies.) Consequently, once the 20-day period expires, subsection (c) does not confer priority, and, under subsection (a)(2), SP-1's security interest in the security is senior. This was the result under former Article 9.

Example 8: SP-1 perfects its security interest in investment property by filing. SP-2 perfects subsequently by taking control of a certificated security and also by filing against investment property. Debtor receives proceeds of the security consisting of a new certificated security issued as a stock dividend of the collateral. Because the new security is of the same type as the original collateral (*i.e.*, investment property) and (unlike example 7) SP-2's security interest is perfected by filing, SP-2's security interest is senior under Subsection (c). If the new security were redeemed by the issuer upon surrender and yet another security were received by Debtor, SP-2's security interest would continue to enjoy priority under Subsection (c). The new security would be proceeds of proceeds.

Example 9: SP-1 perfects its security interest in investment property by filing. SP-2 subsequently perfects its security interest in investment property by taking control of a certificated security and also by filing against investment property. Debtor receives proceeds of the security consisting of a dividend check that it deposits to a deposit account. Because the check and the deposit account are cash proceeds, SP-1's and SP-2's security interests in the cash proceeds are perfected under section 9-315 beyond the 20-day period of automatic perfection. However, SP-2's security interest is senior under subsection (c).

Example 10: SP-1 perfects its security interest in investment property by filing. SP-2 perfects subsequently by taking control of a certificated security and also by filing

against investment property. Debtor receives an instrument as proceeds of the security. (Assume that the instrument is not cash proceeds.) Because the instrument is not of the same type as the original collateral (*i.e.*, investment property), SP-2's security interest, although perfected by filing, does not achieve priority under Subsection (c). Under the first-to-file-or-perfect rule of Subsection (a)(1), SP-1's security interest in the proceeds is senior.

The proceeds of proceeds are themselves proceeds. *See* Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978] (defining "proceeds" and "collateral"). Sometimes competing security interests arise in proceeds that are several generations removed from the original collateral. As the following example explains, the applicability of Subsection (c) may turn on the nature of the intervening proceeds.

Example 11: SP-1 perfects its security interest in Debtor's deposit account by obtaining control. Thereafter, SP-2 files against inventory, (presumably) searches, finds no indication of a conflicting security interest, and advances against Debtor's existing and after-acquired inventory. Debtor uses funds from the deposit account to purchase inventory, which SP-1 can trace as identifiable proceeds of its security interest in Debtor's deposit account, and which SP-2 claims as original collateral. The inventory is sold and the proceeds deposited into another deposit account, as to which SP-1 has not obtained control. Subsection (c) does not govern priority in this other deposit account. This deposit account is cash proceeds and is also the same type of collateral as SP-1's original collateral, as required by Subsections (c)(2)(A) and (B). However, SP-1's security interest does not satisfy Subsection (c)(2)(C) because the inventory proceeds, which intervened between the original deposit account and the deposit account constituting the proceeds at issue, are not cash proceeds, proceeds of the same type as the collateral (original deposit account), or an account relating to the collateral. Stated otherwise, once proceeds other than cash proceeds, proceeds of the same type as the original collateral, or an account relating to the original collateral intervene in the chain of proceeds, priority under Subsection (c) is thereafter unavailable. The special priority rule in Subsection (d) also is inapplicable to this case. *See* Comment 9, Example 13, below. Instead, the general first-to-file-or-perfect rule of subsections (a) and (b) apply. Under that rule, SP-1 has priority unless its security interest in the inventory proceeds became unperfected under Section 9-315(d) [55-9-315(d) NMSA 1978]. Had SP-2 filed against inventory before SP-1 obtained control of the original deposit account, then SP-2 would have had priority even if SP-1's security interest in the inventory proceeds remained perfected.

If two security interests in the same original collateral are entitled to priority in an item of proceeds under Subsection (c)(2), the security interest having priority in the original collateral has priority in the proceeds.

9. **Proceeds of Nonfiling Collateral: Special Temporal Priority.** Under Subsections (d) and (e), if a security interest in nonfiling collateral is perfected by a method other than filing (*e.g.*, control or possession), it does not retain its priority over a conflicting security interest in proceeds that are filing collateral. Moreover, it is not

entitled to priority in proceeds under the first-to-file-or-perfect rule of Subsections (a)(1) and (b). Instead, under Subsection (d), priority is determined by a new first-to-file rule.

Example 12: SP-1 perfects its security interest in Debtor's deposit account by obtaining control. Thereafter, SP-2 files against equipment, (presumably) searches, finds no indication of a conflicting security interest, and advances against Debtor's equipment. SP-1 then files against Debtor's equipment. Debtor uses funds from the deposit account to purchase equipment, which SP-1 can trace as proceeds of its security interest in Debtor's deposit account. If the first-to-file-or-perfect rule were applied, SP-1's security interest would be senior under Subsections (a)(1) and (b), because it was the first to perfect in the original collateral and there was no period during which its security interest was unperfected. Under Subsection (d), however, SP-2's security interest would be senior because it filed first. This corresponds with the likely expectations of the parties.

Note that under Subsection (e), the first-to-file rule of Subsection (d) applies only if the proceeds in question are other than nonfiling collateral (*i.e.*, if the proceeds are filing collateral). If the proceeds are nonfiling collateral, either the first-to-file-or-perfect rule under Subsections (a) and (b) or the nontemporal priority rule in Subsection (c) would apply, depending on the facts.

Example 13: SP-1 perfects its security interest in Debtor's deposit account by obtaining control. Thereafter, SP-2 files against inventory, (presumably) searches, finds no indication of a conflicting security interest, and advances against Debtor's existing and after-acquired inventory. Debtor uses funds from the deposit account to purchase inventory, which SP-1 can trace as identifiable proceeds of its security interest in Debtor's deposit account, and which SP-2 claims as original collateral. The inventory is sold and the proceeds deposited into another deposit account, as to which SP-1 has not obtained control. As discussed above in Comment 8, example 11, subsection (c) does not govern priority in this deposit account. Subsection (d) also does not govern, because the proceeds at issue (the deposit account) are cash proceeds. *See* Subsection (e). Rather, the general rules of Subsections (a) and (b) govern.

10. **Priority in Supporting Obligations.** Under subsections (b)(2) and (c)(1), a security interest having priority in collateral also has priority in a supporting obligation for that collateral. However, the rules in these subsections are subject to the special rule in Section 9-329 governing the priority of security interests in a letter-of-credit right. *See* Subsection (f). Under Section 9-329, a secured party's failure to obtain control (Section 9-107) of a letter-of-credit right that serves as supporting collateral leaves its security interest exposed to a priming interest of a party who does take control.

11. **Unperfected Security Interests.** Under Subsection (a)(3), if conflicting security interests are unperfected, the first to attach has priority. This rule may be of merely theoretical interest, inasmuch as it is hard to imagine a situation where the case would come into litigation without either secured party's having perfected its security interest. If neither security interest had been perfected at the time of the filing of a petition in

bankruptcy, ordinarily neither would be good against the trustee in bankruptcy under the Bankruptcy Code.

12. **Agricultural Liens.** Statutes other than this article may purport to grant priority to an agricultural lien as against a conflicting security interest or agricultural lien. Under Subsection (g), if another statute grants priority to an agricultural lien, the agricultural lien has priority only if the same statute creates the agricultural lien and the agricultural lien is perfected. Otherwise, subsection (a) applies the same priority rules to an agricultural lien as to a security interest, regardless of whether the agricultural lien conflicts with another agricultural lien or with a security interest.

Inasmuch as no agricultural lien on proceeds arises under this article, Subsections (b) through (e) do not apply to proceeds of agricultural liens. However, if an agricultural lien has priority under Subsection (g) and the statute creating the agricultural lien gives the secured party a lien on proceeds of the collateral subject to the lien, a court should apply the principle of Subsection (g) and award priority in the proceeds to the holder of the perfected agricultural lien.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

Cross references. — For Farm Products Secured Interest Act, see Chapter 56, Article 13 NMSA 1978.

Decisions under former 55-9-312 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-312 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-312 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Continuity of financing statement. — The assignee of a security interest was entitled to the priority of the original financing statement since there was no lapse in sequence of filings of amendments, assignments, and continuations, and the assignee was lawfully entitled to all rights in the financing statement. *NationsCredit Com. Corp. v. Camp Town, Inc.*, 197 B.R. 139 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1996) (decided under former law).

Priority between landlord's lien and perfected security interest not covered. — Since there is no statutory provision to cover the priority between a statutory landlord's lien and a perfected security interest, the court must rely on existing New Mexico case law to determine the priority between the interests. *National Inv. Trust v. First Nat'l Bank*, 1975-NMSC-065, 88 N.M. 514, 543 P.2d 482 (decided under former law).

A purchase money security interest that is perfected before any interest claimed by a landlord under a landlord's lien arises is superior to that landlord's lien. *Security Pac. Fin. Servs. v. Signfilled Corp.*, 1998-NMCA-046, 125 N.M. 38, 956 P.2d 837 (decided under former law).

Law reviews. — For article, "The Warehouseman vs. the Secured Party: Who Prevails When the Warehouseman's Lien Covers Goods Subject to a Security Interest?" see 8 Nat. Resources J. 331 (1968).

For note, "Fixtures, Security Interests and Filing: Problems of Title Examination in New Mexico," see 8 Nat. Resources J. 513 (1968).

For article, "Buyers and Sellers of Goods in Bankruptcy," see 1 N.M. L. Rev. 435 (1971).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Rights and liabilities of junior chattel mortgagee with respect to mortgaged property, 43 A.L.R. 388.

Priority between attorney's lien for fees against a judgment and lien of creditor against same judgment, 34 A.L.R.4th 665.

55-9-323. Future advances.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (c) of this section, for purposes of determining the priority of a perfected security interest under Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-322 NMSA 1978, perfection of the security interest dates from the time an advance is made to the extent that the security interest secures an advance that:

(1) is made while the security interest is perfected only:

(A) under Section 55-9-309 NMSA 1978 when it attaches; or

(B) temporarily under Subsection (e), (f) or (g) of Section 55-9-312 NMSA 1978; and

(2) is not made pursuant to a commitment entered into before or while the security interest is perfected by a method other than under Section 55-9-309 or Subsection (e), (f) or (g) of Section 55-9-312 NMSA 1978.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (c) of this section, a security interest is subordinate to the rights of a person that becomes a lien creditor to the extent that the security interest secures an advance made more than forty-five days after the person becomes a lien creditor unless the advance is made:

(1) without knowledge of the lien; or

(2) pursuant to a commitment entered into without knowledge of the lien.

(c) Subsections (a) and (b) of this section do not apply to a security interest held by a secured party that is a buyer of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles or promissory notes or a consignor.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (e) of this section, a buyer of goods takes free of a security interest to the extent that it secures advances made after the earlier of:

(1) the time the secured party acquires knowledge of the buyer's purchase; or

(2) forty-five days after the purchase.

(e) Subsection (d) of this section does not apply if the advance is made pursuant to a commitment entered into without knowledge of the buyer's purchase and before the expiration of the forty-five-day period.

(f) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (g) of this section, a lessee of goods, other than a lessee in ordinary course of business, takes the leasehold interest free of a security interest to the extent that it secures advances made after the earlier of:

(1) the time the secured party acquires knowledge of the lease; or

(2) forty-five days after the lease contract becomes enforceable.

(g) Subsection (f) of this section does not apply if the advance is made pursuant to a commitment entered into without knowledge of the lease and before the expiration of the forty-five-day period.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-323, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 43; 2023, ch. 142, § 68.

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1. **Source.** Former Sections 2A-307(4), 9-301(4), 9-307(3), and 9-312(7).

2. **Scope of This Section.** A security agreement may provide that collateral secures future advances. *See* Section 9-204(c). This section collects all of the special rules dealing with the priority of advances made by a secured party after a third party acquires an interest in the collateral. Subsection (a) applies when the third party is a competing secured party. It replaces and clarifies former section 9-312(7). Subsection (b) deals with lien creditors and replaces former Section 9-301(4). Subsections (d) and (e) deal with buyers and replace former Section 9-307(3). Subsections (f) and (g) deal with lessees and replace former Section 2A-307(4).

3. **Competing Security Interests.** Under a proper reading of the first-to-file-or-perfect rule of Section 9-322(a)(1) (and former section 9-312(5)), it is abundantly clear that the time when an advance is made plays no role in determining priorities among conflicting security interests except when a financing statement was not filed and the advance is the giving of value as the last step for attachment and perfection. Thus, a secured party takes subject to all advances secured by a competing security interest having priority under Section 9-322(a)(1). This result generally obtains regardless of how the competing security interest is perfected and regardless of whether the advances are made "pursuant to commitment" (section 9-102). Subsection (a) of this section states the only other instance when the time of an advance figures in the priority scheme in Section 9-322: When the security interest is perfected only automatically under Section 9-309 or temporarily under Section 9-312(e), (f), or (g), and the advance is not made pursuant to a commitment entered into while the security interest was perfected by another method. Thus, an advance has priority from the date it is made only in the rare case in which it is made without commitment and while the security interest is perfected only temporarily under Section 9-312.

The new formulation in Subsection (a) clarifies the result when the initial advance is paid and a new ("future") advance is made subsequently. Under former Section 9-312(7), the priority of the new advance turned on whether it was "made while a security interest is perfected." This section resolves any ambiguity by omitting the quoted phrase.

Example 1: On February 1, A makes an advance secured by machinery in the debtor's possession and files a financing statement. On March 1, B makes an advance secured by the same machinery and files a financing statement. On April 1, A makes a further advance, under the original security agreement, against the same machinery. A was the first to file and so, under the first-to-file-or-perfect rule of Section 9-322(a)(1), A's security interest has priority over B's, both as to the February 1 and as to the April 1 advance. It makes no difference whether A knows of B's intervening advance when A makes the second advance. Note that, as long as A was the first to file or perfect, A would have priority with respect to both advances if either A or B had perfected by taking possession of the collateral. Likewise, A would have priority if A's April 1 advance was not made under the original agreement with the debtor, but was under a new agreement.

Example 2: On October 1, A acquires a temporarily perfected (20-day) security interest, unfiled, in a negotiable document in the debtor's possession under section 9-312(e) or (f). The security interest secures an advance made on that day as well as future advances. On October 5, B files and thereby perfects a security interest that previously had attached to the same document. On October 8, A makes an additional advance. On October 10, A files. Under Section 9-322(a)(1), because A was the first to perfect and maintained continuous perfection or filing since the start of the 20-day period, A has priority, even after the 20-day period expires. *See* Section 9-322, comment 4, example 3. However, under this section, for purposes of Section 9-322(a)(1), to the extent A's security interest secures the October 8 advance, the security interest was perfected on

October 8. Inasmuch as B perfected on October 5, B has priority over the October 8 advance.

The rule in Subsection (a) is more liberal toward the priority of future advances than the corresponding rules applicable to intervening lien creditors (Subsection (b)), buyers (Subsections (d) and (e)), and lessees (subsections (f) and (g)).

4. **Competing Lien Creditors.** Subsection (b) replaces former Section 9-301(4) and addresses the rights of a "lien creditor," as defined in Section 9-102. Under Section 9-317(a)(2), a security interest is senior to the rights of a person who becomes a lien creditor, unless the person becomes a lien creditor before the security interest is perfected and before a financing statement covering the collateral is filed and Section 9-203(b)(3) is satisfied. Subsection (b) of this section provides that a security interest is subordinate to those rights to the extent that the specified circumstances occur. Subsection (b) does not elevate the priority of a security interest that is subordinate to the rights of a lien creditor under Section 9-317(a)(2); it only subordinates.

As under former Section 9-301(4), a secured party's knowledge does not cut short the 45-day period during which future advances can achieve priority over an intervening lien creditor's interest. Rather, because of the impact of the rule in Subsection (b) on the question whether the security interest for future advances is "protected" under Section 6323(c)(2) and (d) of the Internal Revenue Code as amended by the Federal Tax Lien Act of 1966, the priority of the security interest for future advances over a lien creditor is made absolute for 45 days regardless of knowledge of the secured party concerning the lien. If, however, the advance is made after the 45 days, the advance will not have priority unless it was made or committed without knowledge of the lien.

5. **Sales of Receivables; Consignments.** Subsections (a) and (b) do not apply to outright sales of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles, or promissory notes, nor do they apply to consignments.

6. **Competing Buyers and Lessees.** Under Subsections (d) and (e), a buyer will not take subject to a security interest to the extent it secures advances made after the secured party has knowledge that the buyer has purchased the collateral or more than 45 days after the purchase unless the advances were made pursuant to a commitment entered into before the expiration of the 45-day period and without knowledge of the purchase. Subsections (f) and (g) provide an analogous rule for lessees. Subsections (d) and (e) replace pre-1998 Section 9-307(3), and subsections (f) and (g) replace pre-1998 Section 2A-307(4). No change in meaning is intended.

Of course, a buyer in ordinary course who takes free of the security interest under Section 9-320 and a lessee in ordinary course who takes free under Section 9-321 are not subject to any future advances. However, the exceptions for a buyer in ordinary course of business and a lessee in ordinary course of business in the 1998 text of subsections (d) and (f) have been deleted. Even if such a buyer or lessee does not meet the requirements under Section 9-320 or 9-321 to take free of a security interest, it

should be entitled to the benefits of those subsections, which apply to buyers generally. This change is consistent with the intended result under the 1998 text.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, in Subsection (d), after "buyer of goods", deleted "other than a buyer in ordinary course of business".

55-9-324. Priority of purchase-money security interests.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (g) of this section, a perfected purchase-money security interest in goods other than inventory or livestock has priority over a conflicting security interest in the same goods, and, except as otherwise provided in Section 55-9-327 NMSA 1978, a perfected security interest in its identifiable proceeds also has priority if the purchase-money security interest is perfected when the debtor receives possession of the collateral or within twenty days thereafter.

(b) Subject to Subsection (c) of this section and except as otherwise provided in Subsection (g) of this section, a perfected purchase-money security interest in inventory has priority over a conflicting security interest in the same inventory, has priority over a conflicting security interest in chattel paper or an instrument constituting proceeds of the inventory and in proceeds of the chattel paper, if so provided in Section 55-9-330 NMSA 1978, and, except as otherwise provided in Section 55-9-327 NMSA 1978, also has priority in identifiable cash proceeds of the inventory to the extent the identifiable cash proceeds are received on or before the delivery of the inventory to a buyer, if:

(1) the purchase-money security interest is perfected when the debtor receives possession of the inventory;

(2) the purchase-money secured party sends a signed notification to the holder of the conflicting security interest;

(3) the holder of the conflicting security interest receives the notification within five years before the debtor receives possession of the inventory; and

(4) the notification states that the person sending the notification has or expects to acquire a purchase-money security interest in inventory of the debtor and describes the inventory.

(c) Paragraphs (2) through (4) of Subsection (b) of this section apply only if the holder of the conflicting security interest had filed a financing statement covering the same types of inventory:

(1) if the purchase-money security interest is perfected by filing, before the date of the filing; or

(2) if the purchase-money security interest is temporarily perfected without filing or possession under Subsection (f) of Section 55-9-312 NMSA 1978, before the beginning of the twenty-day period thereunder.

(d) Subject to Subsection (e) of this section and except as otherwise provided in Subsection (g) of this section, a perfected purchase-money security interest in livestock that are farm products has priority over a conflicting security interest in the same livestock, and, except as otherwise provided in Section 55-9-327 NMSA 1978, a perfected security interest in their identifiable proceeds and identifiable products in their unmanufactured states also has priority, if:

(1) the purchase-money security interest is perfected when the debtor receives possession of the livestock;

(2) the purchase-money secured party sends a signed notification to the holder of the conflicting security interest;

(3) the holder of the conflicting security interest receives the notification within six months before the debtor receives possession of the livestock; and

(4) the notification states that the person sending the notification has or expects to acquire a purchase-money security interest in livestock of the debtor and describes the livestock.

(e) Paragraphs (2) through (4) of Subsection (d) of this section apply only if the holder of the conflicting security interest had filed a financing statement covering the same types of livestock:

(1) if the purchase-money security interest is perfected by filing, before the date of the filing; or

(2) if the purchase-money security interest is temporarily perfected without filing or possession under Subsection (f) of Section 55-9-312 NMSA 1978, before the beginning of the twenty-day period thereunder.

(f) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (g) of this section, a perfected purchase-money security interest in software has priority over a conflicting security interest in the same collateral, and, except as otherwise provided in Section 55-9-327 NMSA 1978, a perfected security interest in its identifiable proceeds also has priority, to the extent that the purchase-money security interest in the goods in which the software was acquired for use has priority in the goods and proceeds of the goods under this section.

(g) If more than one security interest qualifies for priority in the same collateral under Subsection (a), (b), (d) or (f) of this section:

(1) a security interest securing an obligation incurred as all or part of the price of the collateral has priority over a security interest securing an obligation incurred for value given to enable the debtor to acquire rights in or the use of collateral; and

(2) in all other cases, Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-322 NMSA 1978 applies to the qualifying security interests.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-324, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 44; 2023, ch. 142, § 69.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-312(3) and (4).

2. **Priority of Purchase-Money Security Interests.** This section contains the priority rules applicable to purchase-money security interests, as defined in section 9-103. It affords a special, nontemporal priority to those purchase-money security interests that satisfy the statutory conditions. In most cases, priority will be over a security interest asserted under an after-acquired property clause. *See* section 9-204 on the extent to which security interests in after-acquired property are validated.

A purchase-money security interest can be created only in goods and software. *See* section 9-103. Section 9-324(a), which follows former section 9-312(4), contains the general rule for purchase-money security interests in goods. It is subject to subsections (b) and (c), which derive from former section 9-312(3) and apply to purchase-money security interests in inventory, and subsections (d) and (e), which apply to purchase-money security interests in livestock that are farm products. Subsection (f) applies to purchase-money security interests in software. Subsection (g) deals with the relatively unusual case in which a debtor creates two purchase-money security interests in the same collateral and both security interests qualify for special priority under one of the other subsections.

Former section 9-312(2) contained a rule affording special priority to those who provided secured credit that enabled a debtor to produce crops. This rule proved unworkable and has been eliminated from this article. Instead, model section 9-324A contains a revised production-money priority rule. That section is a model, not uniform, provision. The sponsors of the UCC have taken no position as to whether it should be enacted, instead leaving the matter for state legislatures to consider if they are so inclined.

3. **Purchase-Money Priority in Goods Other Than Inventory and Livestock.** Subsection (a) states a general rule applicable to all types of goods except inventory and farm-products livestock: The purchase-money interest takes priority if it is perfected

when the debtor receives possession of the collateral or within 20 days thereafter. (As to the 20-day "grace period," compare section 9-317(e). Former sections 9-301(2) and 9-312(4) contained a 10-day grace period.) The perfection requirement means that the purchase-money secured party either has filed a financing statement before that time or has a temporarily perfected security interest in goods covered by documents under section 9-312(e) and (f) which is continued in a perfected status by filing before the expiration of the 20-day period specified in that section. A purchase-money security interest qualifies for priority under subsection (a), even if the purchase-money secured party knows that a conflicting security interest has been created and/or that the holder of the conflicting interest has filed a financing statement covering the collateral.

Normally, there will be no question when "the debtor receives possession of the collateral" for purposes of subsection (a). However, sometimes a debtor buys goods and takes possession of them in stages, and then assembly and testing are completed (by the seller or debtor-buyer) at the debtor's location. Under those circumstances, the buyer "takes possession" within the meaning of subsection (a) when, after an inspection of the portion of the goods in the debtor's possession, it would be apparent to a potential lender to the debtor that the debtor has acquired an interest in the goods taken as a whole.

A similar issue concerning the time when "the debtor receives possession" arises when a person acquires possession of goods under a transaction that is not governed by this article and then later agrees to buy the goods on secured credit. For example, a person may take possession of goods as lessee under a lease contract and then exercise an option to purchase the goods from the lessor on secured credit. Under section 2A-307(1), creditors of the lessee generally take subject to the lease contract; filing a financing statement against the lessee is unnecessary to protect the lessor's leasehold or residual interest. Once the lease is converted to a security interest, filing a financing statement is necessary to protect the seller's (former lessor's) security interest. Accordingly, the 20-day period in subsection (a) does not commence until the goods become "collateral" (defined in section 9-102), *i.e.*, until they are subject to a security interest.

4. **Purchase-Money Security Interests in Inventory.** Subsections (b) and (c) afford a means by which a purchase-money security interest in inventory can achieve priority over an earlier-filed security interest in the same collateral. To achieve priority, the purchase-money security interest must be perfected when the debtor receives possession of the inventory. For a discussion of when "the debtor receives possession," *see* comment 3, above. The 20-day grace period of subsection (a) does not apply.

The arrangement between an inventory secured party and its debtor typically requires the secured party to make periodic advances against incoming inventory or periodic releases of old inventory as new inventory is received. A fraudulent debtor may apply to the secured party for advances even though it has already given a purchase-money security interest in the inventory to another secured party. For this reason, subsections (b)(2) through (4) and (c) impose a second condition for the purchase-money security

interest's achieving priority: The purchase-money secured party must give notification to the holder of a conflicting security interest who filed against the same item or type of inventory before the purchase-money secured party filed or its security interest became perfected temporarily under section 9-312(e) or (f). The notification requirement protects the non-purchase-money inventory secured party in such a situation: If the inventory secured party has received notification, it presumably will not make an advance; if it has not received notification (or if the other security interest does not qualify as purchase-money), any advance the inventory secured party may make ordinarily will have priority under section 9-322. Inasmuch as an arrangement for periodic advances against incoming goods is unusual outside the inventory field, subsection (a) does not contain a notification requirement.

5. **Notification to Conflicting Inventory Secured Party: Timing.** Under subsection (b)(3), the perfected purchase-money security interest achieves priority over a conflicting security interest only if the holder of the conflicting security interest receives a notification within five years before the debtor receives possession of the purchase-money collateral. If the debtor never receives possession, the five-year period never begins, and the purchase-money security interest has priority, even if notification is not given. However, where the purchase-money inventory financing began by the purchase-money secured party's possession of a negotiable document of title, to retain priority the secured party must give the notification required by subsection (b) at or before the usual time, *i.e.*, when the debtor gets possession of the inventory, even though the security interest remains perfected for 20 days under section 9-312(e) or (f).

Some people have mistakenly read former section 9-312(3)(b) to require, as a condition of purchase-money priority in inventory, that the purchase-money secured party give the notification before it files a financing statement. Read correctly, the "before" clauses compare (i) the time when the holder of the conflicting security interest filed a financing statement with (ii) the time when the purchase-money security interest becomes perfected by filing or automatically perfected temporarily. Only if (i) occurs before (ii) must notification be given to the holder of the conflicting security interest. Subsection (c) has been rewritten to clarify this point.

6. **Notification to Conflicting Inventory Secured Party: Address.** Inasmuch as the address provided as that of the secured party on a filed financing statement is an "address that is reasonable under the circumstances," the holder of a purchase-money security interest may satisfy the requirement to "send" notification to the holder of a conflicting security interest in inventory by sending a notification to that address, even if the address is or becomes incorrect. *See* Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978] (definition of "send"). Similarly, because the address is "held out by [the holder of the conflicting security interest] as the place for receipt of such communications [i.e., communications relating to security interests]," the holder is deemed to have "received" a notification delivered to that address. *See* Section 1-202(e) [55-1-202(e) NMSA 1978].

7. **Consignments.** Subsections (b) and (c) also determine the priority of a consignor's interest in consigned goods as against a security interest in the goods

created by the consignee. Inasmuch as a consignment subject to this article is defined to be a purchase-money security interest, *see* section 9-103(d), no inference concerning the nature of the transaction should be drawn from the fact that a consignor uses the term "security interest" in its notice under subsection (b)(4). Similarly, a notice stating that the consignor has delivered or expects to deliver goods, properly described, "on consignment" meets the requirements of subsection (b)(4), even if it does not contain the term "security interest," and even if the transaction subsequently is determined to be a security interest. *Cf.* section 9-505 (use of "consignor" and "consignee" in financing statement).

8. **Priority in Proceeds: General.** When the purchase-money secured party has priority over another secured party, the question arises whether this priority extends to the proceeds of the original collateral. Subsections (a), (d), and (f) give an affirmative answer, but only as to proceeds in which the security interest is perfected (see section 9-315). Although this qualification did not appear in former section 9-312(4), it was implicit in that provision.

In the case of inventory collateral under subsection (b), where financing frequently is based on the resulting accounts, chattel paper, or other proceeds, the special priority of the purchase-money secured interest carries over into only certain types of proceeds. As under former section 9-312(3), the purchase-money priority in inventory under subsection (b) carries over into identifiable cash proceeds (defined in section 9-102) received on or before the delivery of the inventory to a buyer.

As a general matter, also like former section 9-312(3), the purchase-money priority in inventory does not carry over into proceeds consisting of accounts or chattel paper. Many parties financing inventory are quite content to protect their first-priority security interest in the inventory itself. They realize that when the inventory is sold, someone else will be financing the resulting receivables (accounts or chattel paper), and the priority for inventory will not run forward to the receivables constituting the proceeds. Indeed, the cash supplied by the receivables financer often will be used to pay the inventory financing. In some situations, the party financing the inventory on a purchase-money basis makes contractual arrangements that the proceeds of receivables financing by another be devoted to paying off the inventory security interest.

However, the purchase-money priority in inventory does carry over to proceeds consisting of chattel paper and its proceeds (and also to instruments) to the extent provided in section 9-330. Under section 9-330(e), the holder of a purchase-money security interest in inventory is deemed to give new value for proceeds consisting of chattel paper. Taken together, sections 9-324(b) and 9-330(e) enable a purchase-money inventory secured party to obtain priority in chattel paper constituting proceeds of the inventory, even if the secured party does not actually give new value for the chattel paper, provided the purchase-money secured party satisfies the other conditions for achieving priority.

When the proceeds of original collateral (goods or software) consist of a deposit account, section 9-327 governs priority to the extent it conflicts with the priority rules of this section.

9. **Priority in Accounts Constituting Proceeds of Inventory.** The application of the priority rules in subsection (b) is shown by the following examples:

Example 1: Debtor creates a security interest in its existing and after-acquired inventory in favor of SP-1, who files a financing statement covering inventory. SP-2 subsequently takes a purchase-money security interest in certain inventory and, under subsection (b), achieves priority in this inventory over SP-1. This inventory is then sold, producing accounts. Accounts are not cash proceeds, and so the special purchase-money priority in the inventory does not control the priority in the accounts. Rather, the first-to-file-or-perfect rule of section 9-322(a)(1) applies. The time of SP-1's filing as to the inventory is also the time of filing as to the accounts under section 9-322(b). Assuming that each security interest in the accounts proceeds remains perfected under section 9-315, SP-1 has priority as to the accounts.

Example 2: In Example 1, if SP-2 had filed directly against accounts, the date of that filing as to accounts would be compared with the date of SP-1's filing as to the inventory. The first filed would prevail under section 9-322(a)(1).

Example 3: If SP-3 had filed against accounts in Example 1 before either SP-1 or SP-2 filed against inventory, SP-3's filing against accounts would have priority over the filings of SP-1 and SP-2. This result obtains even though the filings against inventory are effective to continue the perfected status of SP-1's and SP-2's security interest in the accounts beyond the 20-day period of automatic perfection. See section 9-315. SP-1's and SP-2's position as to the inventory does not give them a claim to accounts (as proceeds of the inventory) which is senior to someone who has filed earlier against accounts. If, on the other hand, either SP-1's or SP-2's filing against the inventory preceded SP-3's filing against accounts, SP-1 or SP-2 would outrank SP-3 as to the accounts.

10. **Purchase-Money Security Interests in Livestock.** New subsections (d) and (e) provide a purchase-money priority rule for farm-products livestock. They are patterned on the purchase-money priority rule for inventory found in subsections (b) and (c) and include a requirement that the purchase-money secured party notify earlier-filed parties. Two differences between subsections (b) and (d) are noteworthy. First, unlike the purchase-money inventory lender, the purchase-money livestock lender enjoys priority in all proceeds of the collateral. Thus, under subsection (d), the purchase-money secured party takes priority in accounts over an earlier-filed accounts financer. Second, subsection (d) affords priority in certain products of the collateral as well as proceeds.

11. **Purchase-Money Security Interests in Aquatic Farm Products.** Aquatic goods produced in aquacultural operations (e.g., catfish raised on a catfish farm) are farm products. See section 9-102 (definition of "farm products"). The definition does not

indicate whether aquatic goods are "crops," as to which the model production money security interest priority in section 9-324A applies, or "livestock," as to which the purchase-money priority in subsection (d) of this section applies. This article leaves courts free to determine the classification of particular aquatic goods on a case-by-case basis, applying whichever priority rule makes more sense in the overall context of the debtor's business.

12. **Purchase-Money Security Interests in Software.** Subsection (f) governs the priority of purchase-money security interests in software. Under section 9-103(c), a purchase-money security interest arises in software only if the debtor acquires its interest in the software for the principal purpose of using the software in goods subject to a purchase-money security interest. Under subsection (f), a purchase-money security interest in software has the same priority as the purchase-money security interest in the goods in which the software was acquired for use. This priority is determined under subsections (b) and (c) (for inventory) or (a) (for other goods).

13. **Multiple Purchase-Money Security Interests.** New subsection (g) governs priority among multiple purchase-money security interests in the same collateral. It grants priority to purchase-money security interests securing the price of collateral (i.e., created in favor of the seller) over purchase-money security interests that secure enabling loans. Section 7.2(c) of the Restatement (3d) of the Law of Property (Mortgages) (1997) adopts this rule with respect to real property mortgages. As comment d to that section explains:

the equities favor the vendor. Not only does the vendor part with specific real estate rather than money, but the vendor would never relinquish it at all except on the understanding that the vendor will be able to use it to satisfy the obligation to pay the price. This is the case even though the vendor may know that the mortgagor is going to finance the transaction in part by borrowing from a third party and giving a mortgage to secure that obligation. In the final analysis, the law is more sympathetic to the vendor's hazard of losing real estate previously owned than to the third party lender's risk of being unable to collect from an interest in real estate that never previously belonged to it.

The first-to-file-or-perfect rule of section 9-322 applies to multiple purchase-money security interests securing enabling loans.

14. **"Signed" Replaces "Authenticated."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate term "signed" replaces the references to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, in Paragraphs (b)(2) and (d)(2), after "party sends", deleted "an authenticated" and added "a signed".

Decisions under former 55-9-114 and 55-9-312 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Sections 55-9-114 and 55-9-312 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-114 and 55-9-312 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Continuity of financing statement. — The assignee of a security interest was entitled to the priority of the original financing statement since there was no lapse in sequence of filings of amendments, assignments, and continuations, and the assignee was lawfully entitled to all rights in the financing statement. *NationsCredit Com. Corp. v. Camp Town, Inc.*, 197 B.R. 139 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1996) (decided under former law).

Priority between landlord's lien and perfected security interest not covered. — Since there is no statutory provision to cover the priority between a statutory landlord's lien and a perfected security interest, the court must rely on existing New Mexico case law to determine the priority between the interests. *National Inv. Trust v. First Nat'l Bank*, 1975-NMSC-065, 88 N.M. 514, 543 P.2d 482 (decided under former law).

A purchase money security interest that is perfected before any interest claimed by a landlord under a landlord's lien arises is superior to that landlord's lien. *Security Pac. Fin. Servs. v. Signfilled Corp.*, 1998-NMCA-046, 125 N.M. 38, 956 P.2d 837 (decided under former law).

55-9-325. Priority of security interests in transferred collateral.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (b) of this section, a security interest created by a debtor is subordinate to a security interest in the same collateral created by another person if:

(1) the debtor acquired the collateral subject to the security interest created by the other person;

(2) the security interest created by the other person was perfected when the debtor acquired the collateral; and

(3) there is no period thereafter when the security interest is unperfected.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section subordinates a security interest only if the security interest:

(1) otherwise would have priority solely under Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-322 NMSA 1978 or under Section 55-9-324 NMSA 1978; or

(2) arose solely under Subsection (3) of Section 55-2-711 or Subsection (5) of Section 55-2A-508 NMSA 1978.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-325, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 45.

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1. Source. New.

2. "Double Debtor" Problem. This section addresses the "double debtor" problem, which arises when a debtor acquires property that is subject to a security interest created by another debtor.

3. Taking Subject to Perfected Security Interest. Consider the following scenario:

Example 1: A owns an item of equipment subject to a perfected security interest in favor of SP-A. A sells the equipment to B, not in the ordinary course of business. B acquires its interest subject to SP-A's security interest. *See* sections 9-201 and 9-315(a)(1)(A). Under this section, if B creates a security interest in the equipment in favor of SP-B, SP-B's security interest is subordinate to SP-A's security interest, even if SP-B filed against B before SP-A filed against A, and even if SP-B took a purchase-money security interest. Normally, SP-B could have investigated the source of the equipment and discovered SP-A's filing before making an advance against the equipment, whereas SP-A had no reason to search the filings against someone other than its debtor, A.

4. Taking Subject to Unperfected Security Interest. This section applies only if the security interest in the transferred collateral was perfected when the transferee acquired the collateral. *See* subsection (a)(2). If this condition is not met, then the normal priority rules apply.

Example 2: A owns an item of equipment subject to an unperfected security interest in favor of SP-A. A sells the equipment to B, who gives value and takes delivery of the equipment without knowledge of the security interest. B takes free of the security interest. *See* section 9-317(b). If B then creates a security interest in favor of SP-B, no priority issue arises; SP-B has the only security interest in the equipment.

Example 3: The facts are as in Example 2, except that B knows of SP-A's security interest and therefore takes the equipment subject to it. If B creates a security interest in the equipment in favor of SP-B, this section does not determine the relative priority of the security interests. Rather, the normal priority rules govern. If SP-B perfects its security interest, then, under section 9-322(a)(2), SP-A's unperfected security interest will be junior to SP-B's perfected security interest. The award of priority to SP-B is premised on the belief that SP-A's failure to file could have misled SP-B.

5. Taking Subject to Perfected Security Interest that Becomes Unperfected. This section applies only if the security interest in the transferred collateral did not become unperfected at any time after the transferee acquired the collateral. See subsection (a)(3). If this condition is not met, then the normal priority rules apply.

Example 4: As in Example 1, A owns an item of equipment subject to a perfected security interest in favor of SP-A. A sells the equipment to B, not in the ordinary course of business. B acquires its interest subject to SP-A's security interest. See sections 9-201 and 9-315(a)(1)(A). B creates a security interest in favor of SP-B, and SP-B perfects its security interest. This section provides that SP-A's security interest is senior to SP-B's. However, if SP-A's financing statement lapses while SP-B's security interest is perfected, then the normal priority rules would apply, and SP-B's security interest would become senior to SP-A's security interest. See sections 9-322(a)(2) and 9-515(c).

6. Unusual Situations. The appropriateness of the rule of subsection (a) is most apparent when it works to subordinate security interests having priority under the basic priority rules of section 9-322(a) or the purchase-money priority rules of section 9-324. The rule also works properly when applied to the security interest of a buyer under section 2-711(3) or a lessee under section 2A-508(5). However, subsection (a) may provide an inappropriate resolution of the "double debtor" problem in some of the wide variety of other contexts in which the problem may arise. Although subsection (b) limits the application of subsection (a) to those cases in which subordination is known to be appropriate, courts should apply the rule in other settings, if necessary to promote the underlying purposes and policies of the Uniform Commercial Code. *See* section 1-102(1).

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-326. Priority of security interests created by new debtor.

(a) Subject to Subsection (b) of this section, a security interest that is created by a new debtor in collateral in which the new debtor has or acquires rights and is perfected solely by a filed financing statement that would be ineffective to perfect the security interest but for the application of Paragraph (1) of Subsection (i) of Section 55-9-316 or Section 55-9-508 NMSA 1978 is subordinate to a security interest in the same collateral that is perfected other than by such a filed financing statement.

(b) The other provisions of Sections 55-9-301 through 55-9-342 NMSA 1978 determine the priority among conflicting security interests in the same collateral perfected by filed financing statements described in Subsection (a) of this section. However, if the security agreements to which a new debtor became bound as debtor were not entered into by the same original debtor, the conflicting security interests rank according to priority in time of the new debtor having become bound.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-326, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 46; 2013, ch. 137, § 9.

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1. Source. New.

2. Subordination of Security Interests Created by New Debtor. This section addresses the priority contests that may arise when a new debtor becomes bound by the security agreement of an original debtor and each debtor has a secured creditor.

Subsection (a) subordinates the original debtor's secured party's security interest perfected against the new debtor by a filed financing statement that would be ineffective to perfect the security interest but for Section 9-508 [55-9-508 NMSA 1978] or, if the original debtor and new debtor are located in different jurisdictions, Section 9-316(i)(1) [55-9-316(i)(1) NMSA 1978]. The security interest is subordinated to security interests in the same collateral perfected by another method, *e.g.*, by filing against the new debtor. This section does not subordinate a security interest perfected by a new initial financing statement providing the name of the new debtor, even if the initial financing statement is filed to maintain the effectiveness of a financing statement under the circumstances described in Section 9-508(b) [55-9-508(b) NMSA 1978]. Nor does it subordinate a security interest perfected by a financing statement filed against the original debtor which remains effective against collateral transferred by the original debtor to the new debtor. *See* Section 9-508(c) [55-9-508(c) NMSA 1978]. Concerning priority contests involving transferred collateral, *see* Sections 9-325 and 9-507 [55-9-325 and 55-9-507 NMSA 1978].

Example 1: SP-X holds a perfected-by-filing security interest in X Corp's existing and after-acquired inventory, and SP-Z holds a perfected-by-possession security interest in an item of Z Corp's inventory. Both X Corp and Z Corp are located in the same jurisdiction under Section 9-307 [55-9-307 NMSA 1978]. Z Corp becomes bound as debtor by X Corp's security agreement (*e.g.*, Z Corp buys X Corp's assets and assumes its security agreement). *See* Section 9-203(d) [55-9-203(d) NMSA 1978]. But for Section 9-508 [55-9-508 NMSA 1978], SP-X's financing statement would be ineffective to perfect a security interest in the item of inventory in which Z Corp has rights. However, subsection (a) provides that SP-X's perfected security interest is subordinate to SP-Z's, regardless of whether SP-X's financing statement was filed before SP-Z perfected its security interest.

Example 2: SP-X holds a perfected-by-filing security interest in X Corp's existing and after-acquired inventory, and SP-Z holds a perfected-by-filing security interest in Z Corp's existing and after-acquired inventory. Both X Corp and Z Corp are located in the same jurisdiction under Section 9-307 [55-9-307 NMSA 1978]. Z Corp becomes bound as debtor by X Corp's security agreement. Immediately thereafter, and before the effectiveness of SP-X's financing statement lapses, Z Corp acquires a new item of inventory. But for Section 9-508 [55-9-508 NMSA 1978], SP-X's financing statement would be ineffective to perfect a security interest in the new item of inventory in which Z Corp has rights. However, because SP-Z's security interest was perfected by a filing

whose effectiveness does not depend on Section 9-316(i)(1) [55-9-316(i)(1) NMSA 1978] or 9-508 [55-9-508 NMSA 1978], subsection (a) subordinates SP-X's perfected security interest to SP-Z's. This would be the case even if SP-Z filed after Z Corp became bound by X Corp's security agreement, and regardless of which financing statement was filed first.

The same result would obtain if X Corp and Z Corp were located in different jurisdictions. SP-X's security interest would be perfected by a financing statement that would be ineffective but for Section 9-316(i)(1) [55-9-316(i)(1) NMSA 1978], whereas the effectiveness of SP-Z's filing does not depend on Section 9-316(i)(1) or 9-508 [55-9-508 NMSA 1978].

3. Other Priority Rules. Subsection (b) addresses the priority among security interests created by the original debtor (X Corp). By invoking the other priority rules of this subpart, as applicable, subsection (b) preserves the relative priority of security interests created by the original debtor.

Example 3: Under the facts of Example 2, SP-Y also holds a perfected-by-filing security interest in X Corp's existing and after-acquired inventory. SP-Y filed after SP-X. Inasmuch as both SP-X's and SP-Y's security interests in inventory acquired by Z Corp after it became bound would be unperfected but for the application of Section 9-508 [55-9-508 NMSA 1978], the normal priority rules determine their relative priorities. Under the "first-to-file-or-perfect" rule of Section 9-322(a)(1) [55-9-322(a)(1) NMSA 1978], SP-X has priority over SP-Y.

Example 4: Under the facts of Example 3, after Z Corp became bound by X Corp's security agreement, SP-Y promptly filed a new initial financing statement against Z Corp. SP-X's security interest remains perfected only by virtue of its original filing against X Corp which "would be ineffective to perfect the security interest but for the application of Section 9-508 [55-9-508 NMSA 1978]." Because SP-Y's security interest is perfected by the filing of a financing statement whose effectiveness does not depend on Section 9-508 or 9-316(i)(1) [55-9-316(i)(1) NMSA 1978], subsection (a) subordinates SP-X's security interest to SP-Y's. If both SP-X and SP-Y file a new initial financing statement against Z Corp, then the "first-to-file-or-perfect" rule of Section 9-322(a)(1) [55-9-322(a)(1) NMSA 1978] governs their priority inter se as well as their priority against SP-Z.

The second sentence of subsection (b) effectively limits the applicability of the first sentence to situations in which a new debtor has become bound by more than one security agreement entered into by the same original debtor. When the new debtor has become bound by security agreements entered into by different original debtors, the second sentence provides that priority is based on priority in time of the new debtor's becoming bound.

Example 5: Under the facts of Example 2, SP-W holds a perfected-by-filing security interest in W Corp's existing and after-acquired inventory. After Z Corp became bound

by X Corp's security agreement in favor of SP-X, Z Corp became bound by W Corp's security agreement. Under subsection (b), SP-W's security interest in inventory acquired by Z Corp is subordinate to that of SP-X, because Z Corp became bound under SP-X's security agreement before it became bound under SP-W's security agreement. This is the result regardless of which financing statement (SP-X's or SP-W's) was filed first.

The second sentence of subsection (b) reflects the generally accepted view that priority based on the first-to-file rule is inappropriate for resolving priority disputes when the filings were made against different debtors. Like subsection (a) and the first sentence of subsection (b), however, the second sentence of subsection (b) relates only to priority conflicts among security interests that would be unperfected but for the application of Section 9-316(i)(1) or 9-508 [55-9-316(i)(1) or 55-9-508 NMSA 1978].

Example 6: Under the facts of Example 5, after Z Corp became bound by W Corp's security agreement, SP-W promptly filed a new initial financing statement against Z Corp. At that time, SP-X's security interest was perfected only pursuant to its original filing against X Corp which "would be ineffective to perfect the security interest but for the application of Section 9-508 [55-9-508 NMSA 1978]." Because SP-W's security interest is perfected by the filing of a financing statement whose effectiveness does not depend on Section 9-316(i)(1) [55-9-316(i)(1) NMSA 1978] or 9-508, subsection (a) subordinates SP-X's security interest to SP-W's. If both SP-X and SP-W file a new initial financing statement against Z Corp, then the "first-to-file-or-perfect" rule of Section 9-322(a)(1) [55-9-322(a)(1) NMSA 1978] governs their priority inter se as well as their priority against SP-Z.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2013 amendment, effective July 1, 2013, provided for the subordination of a new debtor's security interest; in Subsection (a), after "Subsection (b) of this section, a security interest", added "that is", after "created by a new debtor", deleted "which is" and added "in collateral in which the new debtor has or acquires rights and is", after "acquires rights and is perfected", added "solely", after "filed financing statement that", deleted "is effective solely under Section 55-9-508 NMSA 1978 in collateral in which a new debtor has or acquires rights" and added "would be ineffective to perfect the security interest but for the application of Paragraph (1) of Subsection (i) of Section 55-9-316 or Section 55-9-508 NMSA 1978", and after "filed financing statement", deleted "that is effective solely under Section 55-9-508 NMSA 1987"; and in Subsection (b), after "perfected by filed financing statements", deleted "that are effective solely under Section 55-9-508 NMSA 1978" and added "described in Subsection (a) of this section".

55-9-326A. Priority of security interest in controllable account, controllable electronic record and controllable payment intangible.

A security interest in a controllable account, controllable electronic record or controllable payment intangible held by a secured party having control of the account,

electronic record or payment intangible has priority over a conflicting security interest held by a secured party that does not have control.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-326A, enacted by Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 70.

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1. **Control priority.** This section adopts an approach to priority in controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, and controllable payment intangibles that is similar to the approach of Sections 9-327 (deposit accounts) and 9-328 (investment property): A security interest perfected by control has priority over conflicting security interests that are not perfected by control.

2. **Multiple persons having control.** This section does not apply if more than one secured party has control of a controllable account, controllable electronic record, or controllable payment intangible, which may occur through shared control or a person in control acknowledging that it has control on behalf of another person. See Section 12-105(b)(2) (shared control), (e) (control through another person). In those situations, the residual first-to-file-or-perfect rule of Section 9-322(a)(1) would apply. However, affected persons may believe that the application of that first-in-time rule is not appropriate in some circumstances.

Example: A person (A) has a security interest in a controllable electronic record perfected by control (other than through an acknowledgment by another person under Section 12-105(e)) and A acknowledges that it has control on behalf of another person (B). B has a security interest perfected by a financing statement filed before A obtained control. Under Section 9-322(a) (the first-to-file-or-perfect rule), by obtaining control through A's acknowledgment B's security interest would have priority over A's previously senior security interest. To avoid that result, A might insist on B's subordination as a condition to A's acknowledgment. See Section 9-339 (subordination by agreement). In cases of multiple persons having control, it will be important for interested persons to adjust priorities by agreement, when appropriate. See also Section 12-105, Comment 5.

A secured party that relies on perfection by control resulting from the acknowledgment of another person under Section 12-105(e) need not prove a formal agency relationship with the acknowledging person. This is a principal rationale underlying the various provisions in Articles 7, 8, 9, and 12 which provide for a person to obtain control through another person's control and acknowledgment. However, a person obtaining control through an acknowledgment necessarily must rely on the integrity of the acknowledging person. In the case of perfection by control in the Example, the acknowledging person presumably also has control for the benefit of the debtor. The secured party's (B 's) control, and perfection, depends on the acknowledging person's (A's) continued control.

The secured party's (B's) perfection would be lost if the acknowledging person (A) were to lose or give up control, as by transferring control to the debtor or any other person. See, e.g., Section 9-314, Comment 2.

An acknowledging person also might serially acknowledge over time that it holds for the benefit of multiple purchasers (secured parties or buyers). Putting aside perfection by filing as in the Example, secured parties so perfected would have priority based on priority of timing of control under Section 9-322(a). However, a transfer of control by the acknowledging person to a qualifying purchaser, or an acknowledgment by that the person that it has control on behalf of a buyer or secured party that is a qualifying purchaser, would allow the qualifying purchaser to take free of (or have priority over) earlier security interests or other interests. It follows that a first-to-control priority rule for security interests would not protect a secured party having control through another person's acknowledgment from having its interest cut off or subordinated by a later-in-time qualifying purchaser. Such a "first-to-control" priority rule would be illusory inasmuch as purchasers relying on control through another person's acknowledgment would have no reliable method of determining priority over subsequent transferees other than reliance on the acknowledging person's integrity.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 112 made Laws 2023, ch. 142, § 70 effective January 1, 2024.

55-9-327. Priority of security interests in deposit account.

The following rules govern priority among conflicting security interests in the same deposit account:

(1) A security interest held by a secured party having control of the deposit account under Section 55-9-104 NMSA 1978 has priority over a conflicting security interest held by a secured party that does not have control.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in Subsections (3) and (4) of this section, security interests perfected by control under Section 55-9-314 NMSA 1978 rank according to priority in time of obtaining control.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (4) of this section, a security interest held by the bank with which the deposit account is maintained has priority over a conflicting security interest held by another secured party.

(4) A security interest perfected by control under Paragraph (3) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-104 NMSA 1978 has priority over a security interest held by the bank with which the deposit account is maintained.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-327, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 47.

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1. Source. New; derived from former section 9-115(5).

2. Scope of This Section. This section contains the rules governing the priority of conflicting security interests in deposit accounts. It overrides conflicting priority rules. *See* sections 9-322(f)(1) and 9-324(a), (b), (d), and (f). This section does not apply to accounts evidenced by an instrument (e.g., certain certificates of deposit), which by definition are not "deposit accounts."

3. Control. Under paragraph (1), security interests perfected by control (sections 9-104 and 9-314) take priority over those perfected otherwise, *e.g.*, as identifiable cash proceeds under section 9-315. Secured parties for whom the deposit account is an integral part of the credit decision will, at a minimum, insist upon the right to immediate access to the deposit account upon the debtor's default (*i.e.*, control). Those secured parties for whom the deposit account is less essential will not take control, thereby running the risk that the debtor will dispose of funds on deposit (either outright or for collateral purposes) after default but before the account can be frozen by court order or the secured party can obtain control.

Paragraph (2) governs the case (expected to be very rare) in which a bank enters into a section 9-104(a)(2) control agreement with more than one secured party. It provides that the security interests rank according to time of obtaining control. If the bank is solvent and the control agreements are well drafted, the bank will be liable to each secured party, and the priority rule will have no practical effect.

4. Priority of Bank. Under paragraph (3), the security interest of the bank with which the deposit account is maintained normally takes priority over all other conflicting security interests in the deposit account, regardless of whether the deposit account constitutes the competing secured party's original collateral or its proceeds. A rule of this kind enables banks to extend credit to their depositors without the need to examine either the public record or their own records to determine whether another party might have a security interest in the deposit account.

A secured party who takes a security interest in the deposit account as original collateral can protect itself against the results of this rule in one of two ways. It can take control of the deposit account by becoming the bank's customer. Under paragraph (4), this arrangement operates to subordinate the bank's security interest. Alternatively, the secured party can obtain a subordination agreement from the bank. *See* section 9-339.

A secured party who claims the deposit account as proceeds of other collateral can reduce the risk of becoming junior by obtaining the debtor's agreement to deposit proceeds into a specific cash-collateral account and obtaining the agreement of that

bank to subordinate all its claims to those of the secured party. But if the debtor violates its agreement and deposits funds into a deposit account other than the cash-collateral account, the secured party risks being subordinated.

5. Priority in Proceeds of, and Funds Transferred from, Deposit Account. The priority afforded by this section does not extend to proceeds of a deposit account. Rather, section 9-322(c) through (e) and the provisions referred to in section 9-322(f) govern priorities in proceeds of a deposit account. Section 9-315(d) addresses continuation of perfection in proceeds of deposit accounts. As to funds transferred from a deposit account that serves as collateral, *see* section 9-332.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-328. Priority of security interests in investment property.

The following rules govern priority among conflicting security interests in the same investment property:

(1) A security interest held by a secured party having control of investment property under Section 55-9-106 NMSA 1978 has priority over a security interest held by a secured party that does not have control of the investment property.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in Subsections (3) and (4) of this section, conflicting security interests held by secured parties, each of which has control under Section 55-9-106 NMSA 1978, rank according to priority in time of:

(A) if the collateral is a security, obtaining control;

(B) if the collateral is a security entitlement carried in a securities account and:

(i) if the secured party obtained control under Paragraph (1) of Subsection (d) of Section 55-8-106 NMSA 1978, the secured party's becoming the person for which the securities account is maintained;

(ii) if the secured party obtained control under Paragraph (2) of Subsection (d) of Section 55-8-106 NMSA 1978, the securities intermediary's agreement to comply with the secured party's entitlement orders with respect to security entitlements carried or to be carried in the securities account; or

(iii) if the secured party obtained control through another person under Paragraph (3) of Subsection (d) of Section 55-8-106 NMSA 1978, the time on which priority would be based under this paragraph if the other person were the secured party; or

(C) if the collateral is a commodity contract carried with a commodity intermediary, the satisfaction of the requirement for control specified in Paragraph (2) of Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-106 NMSA 1978 with respect to commodity contracts carried or to be carried with the commodity intermediary.

(3) A security interest held by a securities intermediary in a security entitlement or a securities account maintained with the securities intermediary has priority over a conflicting security interest held by another secured party.

(4) A security interest held by a commodity intermediary in a commodity contract or a commodity account maintained with the commodity intermediary has priority over a conflicting security interest held by another secured party.

(5) A security interest in a certificated security in registered form which is perfected by taking delivery under Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-313 NMSA 1978 and not by control under Section 55-9-314 NMSA 1978 has priority over a conflicting security interest perfected by a method other than control.

(6) Conflicting security interests created by a broker, securities intermediary or commodity intermediary which are perfected without control under Section 55-9-106 NMSA 1978 rank equally.

(7) In all other cases, priority among conflicting security interests in investment property is governed by Sections 55-9-322 and 55-9-323 NMSA 1978.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-328, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 48.

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1. Source. Former section 9-115(5).

2. Scope of This Section. This section contains the rules governing the priority of conflicting security interests in investment property. Paragraph (1) states the most important general rule - that a secured party who obtains control has priority over a secured party who does not obtain control. Paragraphs (2) through (4) deal with conflicting security interests each of which is perfected by control. Paragraph (5) addresses the priority of a security interest in a certificated security which is perfected by delivery but not control. Paragraph (6) deals with the relatively unusual circumstance in which a broker, securities intermediary, or commodity intermediary has created conflicting security interests none of which is perfected by control. Paragraph (7) provides that the general priority rules of sections 9-322 and 9-323 apply to cases not covered by the specific rules in this section. The principal application of this residual rule is that the usual first in time of filing rule applies to conflicting security interests that are

perfected only by filing. Because the control priority rule of paragraph (1) provides for the ordinary cases in which persons purchase securities on margin credit from their brokers, there is no need for special rules for purchase-money security interests. *See also* section 9-103 (limiting purchase-money collateral to goods and software).

3. General Rule: Priority of Security Interest Perfected by Control. Under paragraph (1), a secured party who obtains control has priority over a secured party who does not obtain control. The control priority rule does not turn on either temporal sequence or awareness of conflicting security interests. Rather, it is a structural rule, based on the principle that a lender should be able to rely on the collateral without question if the lender has taken the necessary steps to assure itself that it is in a position where it can foreclose on the collateral without further action by the debtor. The control priority rule is necessary because the perfection rules provide considerable flexibility in structuring secured financing arrangements. For example, at the "retail" level, a secured lender to an investor who wants the full measure of protection can obtain control, but the creditor may be willing to accept the greater measure of risk that follows from perfection by filing. Similarly, at the "wholesale" level, a lender to securities firms can leave the collateral with the debtor and obtain a perfected security interest under the automatic perfection rule of section 9-309(10), but a lender who wants to be entirely sure of its position will want to obtain control. The control priority rule of paragraph (1) is an essential part of this system of flexibility. It is feasible to provide more than one method of perfecting security interests only if the rules ensure that those who take the necessary steps to obtain the full measure of protection do not run the risk of subordination to those who have not taken such steps. A secured party who is unwilling to run the risk that the debtor has granted or will grant a conflicting control security interest should not make a loan without obtaining control of the collateral.

As applied to the retail level, the control priority rule means that a secured party who obtains control has priority over a conflicting security interest perfected by filing without regard to inquiry into whether the control secured party was aware of the filed security interest. Prior to the 1994 revisions to articles 8 and 9, article 9 did not permit perfection of security interests in securities by filing. Accordingly, parties who deal in securities never developed a practice of searching the UCC files before conducting securities transactions. Although filing is now a permissible method of perfection, in order to avoid disruption of existing practices in this business it is necessary to give perfection by filing a different and more limited effect for securities than for some other forms of collateral. The priority rules are not based on the assumption that parties who perfect by the usual method of obtaining control will search the files. Quite the contrary, the control priority rule is intended to ensure that, with respect to investment property, secured parties who do obtain control are entirely unaffected by filings. To state the point another way, perfection by filing is intended to affect only general creditors or other secured creditors who rely on filing. The rule that a security interest perfected by filing can be primed by a control security interest, without regard to awareness, is a consequence of the system of perfection and priority rules for investment property. These rules are designed to take account of the circumstances of the securities markets, where filing is not given the same effect as for some other forms of property. No implication is made about the effect

of filing with respect to security interests in other forms of property, nor about other article 9 rules, *e.g.*, section 9-330, which govern the circumstances in which security interests in other forms of property perfected by filing can be primed by subsequent perfected security interests.

The following examples illustrate the application of the priority rule in paragraph (1):

Example 1: Debtor borrows from Alpha and grants Alpha a security interest in a variety of collateral, including all of Debtor's investment property. At that time Debtor owns 1000 shares of XYZ Co. stock for which Debtor has a certificate. Alpha perfects by filing. Later, Debtor borrows from Beta and grants Beta a security interest in the 1000 shares of XYZ Co. stock. Debtor delivers the certificate, properly indorsed, to Beta. Alpha and Beta both have perfected security interests in the XYZ Co. stock. Beta has control, *see* section 8-106(b)(1), and hence has priority over Alpha.

Example 2: Debtor borrows from Alpha and grants Alpha a security interest in a variety of collateral, including all of Debtor's investment property. At that time Debtor owns 1000 shares of XYZ Co. stock, held through a securities account with Able & Co. Alpha perfects by filing. Later, Debtor borrows from Beta and grants Beta a security interest in the 1000 shares of XYZ Co. stock. Debtor instructs Able to have the 1000 shares transferred through the clearing corporation to Custodian Bank, to be credited to Beta's account with Custodian Bank. Alpha and Beta both have perfected security interests in the XYZ Co. stock. Beta has control, *see* section 8-106(d)(1), and hence has priority over Alpha.

Example 3: Debtor borrows from Alpha and grants Alpha a security interest in a variety of collateral, including all of Debtor's investment property. At that time Debtor owns 1000 shares of XYZ Co. stock, which is held through a securities account with Able & Co. Alpha perfects by filing. Later, Debtor borrows from Beta and grants Beta a security interest in the 1000 shares of XYZ Co. stock. Debtor, Able, and Beta enter into an agreement under which Debtor will continue to receive dividends and distributions, and will continue to have the right to direct dispositions, but Beta will also have the right to direct dispositions and receive the proceeds. Alpha and Beta both have perfected security interests in the XYZ Co. stock (more precisely, in the Debtor's security entitlement to the financial asset consisting of the XYZ Co. stock). Beta has control, *see* section 8-106(d)(2), and hence has priority over Alpha.

Example 4: Debtor borrows from Alpha and grants Alpha a security interest in a variety of collateral, including all of Debtor's investment property. At that time Debtor owns 1000 shares of XYZ Co. stock, held through a securities account with Able & Co. Alpha perfects by filing. Debtor's agreement with Able & Co. provides that Able has a security interest in all securities carried in the account as security for any obligations of Debtor to Able. Debtor incurs obligations to Able and later defaults on the obligations to Alpha and Able. Able has control by virtue of the rule of section 8-106(e) that if a customer grants a security interest to its own intermediary, the intermediary has control. Since Alpha does

not have control, Able has priority over Alpha under the general control priority rule of paragraph (1).

4. Conflicting Security Interests Perfected by Control: Priority of Securities Intermediary or Commodity Intermediary. Paragraphs (2) through (4) govern the priority of conflicting security interests each of which is perfected by control. The following example explains the application of the rules in paragraphs (3) and (4):

Example 5: Debtor holds securities through a securities account with Able & Co. Debtor's agreement with Able & Co. provides that Able has a security interest in all securities carried in the account as security for any obligations of Debtor to Able. Debtor borrows from Beta and grants Beta a security interest in 1000 shares of XYZ Co. stock carried in the account. Debtor, Able, and Beta enter into an agreement under which Debtor will continue to receive dividends and distributions and will continue to have the right to direct dispositions, but Beta will also have the right to direct dispositions and receive the proceeds. Debtor incurs obligations to Able and later defaults on the obligations to Beta and Able. Both Beta and Able have control, so the general control priority rule of paragraph (1) does not apply. Compare Example 4. Paragraph (3) provides that a security interest held by a securities intermediary in positions of its own customer has priority over a conflicting security interest of an external lender, so Able has priority over Beta. (Paragraph (4) contains a parallel rule for commodity intermediaries.) The agreement among Able, Beta, and Debtor could, of course, determine the relative priority of the security interests of Able and Beta, see section 9-339, but the fact that the intermediary has agreed to act on the instructions of a secured party such as Beta does not itself imply any agreement by the intermediary to subordinate.

5. Conflicting Security Interests Perfected by Control: Temporal Priority. Former section 9-115 introduced into article 9 the concept of conflicting security interests that rank equally. Paragraph (2) of this section governs priority in those circumstances in which more than one secured party (other than a broker, securities intermediary, or commodity intermediary) has control. It replaces the equal-priority rule for conflicting security interests in investment property with a temporal rule. For securities, both certificated and uncertificated, under paragraph (2)(A) priority is based on the time that control is obtained. For security entitlements carried in securities accounts, the treatment is more complex. Paragraph (2)(B) bases priority on the timing of the steps taken to achieve control. The following example illustrates the application of paragraph (2).

Example 6: Debtor borrows from Alpha and grants Alpha a security interest in a variety of collateral, including all of Debtor's investment property. At that time Debtor owns a security entitlement that includes 1000 shares of XYZ Co. stock that Debtor holds through a securities account with Able & Co. Debtor, Able, and Alpha enter into an agreement under which Debtor will continue to receive dividends and distributions, and will continue to have the right to direct dispositions, but Alpha will also have the right to direct dispositions and receive the proceeds. Later, Debtor borrows from Beta and

grants Beta a security interest in all its investment property, existing and after-acquired. Debtor, Able, and Beta enter into an agreement under which Debtor will continue to receive dividends and distributions, and will continue to have the right to direct dispositions, but Beta will also have the right to direct dispositions and receive the proceeds. Alpha and Beta both have perfected-by-control security interests in the security entitlement to the XYZ Co. stock by virtue of their agreements with Able. *See* sections 8-106(d)(2), 9-106(a), and 9-314(a). Under paragraph (2)(B)(ii), the priority of each security interest dates from the time of the secured party's agreement with Able. Because Alpha's agreement was first in time, Alpha has priority. This priority applies equally to security entitlements to financial assets credited to the account after the agreement was entered into.

The priority rule is analogous to "first-to-file" priority under section 9-322 with respect to after-acquired collateral. Paragraphs (2)(B)(i) and (2)(B)(iii) provide similar rules for security entitlements as to which control is obtained by other methods, and paragraph (2)(C) provides a similar rule for commodity contracts carried in a commodity account. Section 8-510 also has been revised to provide a temporal priority conforming to paragraph (2)(B).

6. Certificated Securities. A long-standing practice has developed whereby secured parties whose collateral consists of a security evidenced by a security certificate take possession of the security certificate. If the security certificate is in bearer form, the secured party's acquisition of possession constitutes "delivery" under section 8-301(a)(1), and the delivery constitutes "control" under section 8-106(a). Comment 5 discusses the priority of security interests perfected by control of investment property.

If the security certificate is in registered form, the secured party will not achieve control over the security unless the security certificate contains an appropriate indorsement or is (re)registered in the secured party's name. *See* section 8-106(b). However, the secured party's acquisition of possession constitutes "delivery" of the security certificate under section 8-301 and serves to perfect the security interest under section 9-313(a), even if the security certificate has not been appropriately indorsed and has not been (re)registered in the secured party's name. A security interest perfected by this method has priority over a security interest perfected other than by control (e.g., by filing). *See* paragraph (5).

The priority rule stated in paragraph (5) may seem anomalous, in that it can afford less favorable treatment to purchasers who buy collateral outright than to those who take a security interest in it. For example, a buyer of a security certificate would cut off a security interest perfected by filing only if the buyer achieves the status of a protected purchaser under section 8-303. The buyer would not be a protected purchaser, for example, if it does not obtain "control" under section 8-106 (*e.g.*, if it fails to obtain a proper indorsement of the certificate) or if it had notice of an adverse claim under section 8-105. The apparent anomaly disappears, however, when one understands the priority rule not as one intended to protect careless or guilty parties, but as one that

eliminates the need to conduct a search of the public records only insofar as necessary to serve the needs of the securities markets.

7. Secured Financing of Securities Firms. Priority questions concerning security interests granted by brokers and securities intermediaries are governed by the general control-beats-non-control priority rule of paragraph (1), as supplemented by the special rules set out in paragraphs (2) (temporal priority - first to control), (3) (special priority for securities intermediary), and (6) (equal priority for noncontrol). The following examples illustrate the priority rules as applied to this setting. (In all cases it is assumed that the debtor retains sufficient other securities to satisfy all customers' claims. This section deals with the relative rights of secured lenders to a securities firm. Disputes between a secured lender and the firm's own customers are governed by section 8-511.)

Example 7: Able & Co., a securities dealer, enters into financing arrangements with two lenders, Alpha Bank and Beta Bank. In each case the agreements provide that the lender will have a security interest in the securities identified on lists provided to the lender on a daily basis, that the debtor will deliver the securities to the lender on demand, and that the debtor will not list as collateral any securities which the debtor has pledged to any other lender. Upon Able's insolvency it is discovered that Able has listed the same securities on the collateral lists provided to both Alpha and Beta. Alpha and Beta both have perfected security interests under the automatic-perfection rule of section 9-309(10). Neither Alpha nor Beta has control. Paragraph (6) provides that the security interests of Alpha and Beta rank equally, because each of them has a noncontrol security interest granted by a securities firm. They share pro-rata.

Example 8: Able enters into financing arrangements, with Alpha Bank and Beta Bank as in Example 7. At some point, however, Beta decides that it is unwilling to continue to provide financing on a noncontrol basis. Able directs the clearing corporation where it holds its principal inventory of securities to move specified securities into Beta's account. Upon Able's insolvency it is discovered that a list of collateral provided to Alpha includes securities that had been moved to Beta's account. Both Alpha and Beta have perfected security interests; Alpha under the automatic-perfection rule of section 9-309(10), and Beta under that rule and also the perfection-by-control rule in section 9-314(a). Beta has control but Alpha does not. Beta has priority over Alpha under paragraph (1).

Example 9: Able & Co. carries its principal inventory of securities through Clearing Corporation, which offers a "shared control" facility whereby a participant securities firm can enter into an arrangement with a lender under which the securities firm will retain the power to trade and otherwise direct dispositions of securities carried in its account, but Clearing Corporation agrees that, at any time the lender so directs, Clearing Corporation will transfer any securities from the firm's account to the lender's account or otherwise dispose of them as directed by the lender. Able enters into financing arrangements with two lenders, Alpha and Beta, each of which obtains such a control agreement from Clearing Corporation. The agreement with each lender provides that Able will designate specific securities as collateral on lists provided to the lender on a

daily or other periodic basis, and that it will not pledge the same securities to different lenders. Upon Able's insolvency, it is discovered that Able has listed the same securities on the collateral lists provided to both Alpha and Beta. Both Alpha and Beta have control over the disputed securities. Paragraph (2) awards priority to whichever secured party first entered into the agreement with Clearing Corporation.

8. Relation to Other Law. Section 1-103 provides that "unless displaced by particular provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code, the principles of law and equity . . . shall supplement its provisions." There may be circumstances in which a secured party's action in acquiring a security interest that has priority under this section constitutes conduct that is wrongful under other law. Though the possibility of such resort to other law may provide an appropriate "escape valve" for cases of egregious conduct, care must be taken to ensure that this does not impair the certainty and predictability of the priority rules. Whether a court may appropriately look to other law to impose liability upon or estop a secured party from asserting its article 9 priority depends on an assessment of the secured party's conduct under the standards established by such other law as well as a determination of whether the particular application of such other law is displaced by the UCC.

Some circumstances in which other law is clearly displaced by the UCC rules are readily identifiable. Common law "first in time, first in right" principles, or correlative tort liability rules such as common law conversion principles under which a purchaser may incur liability to a person with a prior property interest without regard to awareness of that claim, are necessarily displaced by the priority rules set out in this section since these rules determine the relative ranking of security interests in investment property. So too, article 8 provides protections against adverse claims to certain purchasers of interests in investment property. In circumstances where a secured party not only has priority under section 9-328, but also qualifies for protection against adverse claims under section 8-303, 8-502, or 8-510, resort to other law would be precluded.

In determining whether it is appropriate in a particular case to look to other law, account must also be taken of the policies that underlie the commercial law rules on securities markets and security interests in securities. A principal objective of the 1994 revision of article 8 and the provisions of article 9 governing investment property was to ensure that secured financing transactions can be implemented on a simple, timely, and certain basis. One of the circumstances that led to the revision was the concern that uncertainty in the application of the rules on secured transactions involving securities and other financial assets could contribute to systemic risk by impairing the ability of financial institutions to provide liquidity to the markets in times of stress. The control priority rule is designed to provide a clear and certain rule to ensure that lenders who have taken the necessary steps to establish control do not face a risk of subordination to other lenders who have not done so.

The control priority rule does not turn on an inquiry into the state of a secured party's awareness of potential conflicting claims because a rule under which a person's rights depended on that sort of after-the-fact inquiry could introduce an unacceptable measure

of uncertainty. If an inquiry into awareness could provide a complete and satisfactory resolution of the problem in all cases, the priority rules of this section would have incorporated that test. The fact that they do not necessarily means that resort to other law based solely on that factor is precluded, though the question whether a control secured party induced or encouraged its financing arrangement with actual knowledge that the debtor would be violating the rights of another secured party may, in some circumstances, appropriately be treated as a factor in determining whether the control party's action is the kind of egregious conduct for which resort to other law is appropriate.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-329. Priority of security interests in letter-of-credit right.

The following rules govern priority among conflicting security interests in the same letter-of-credit right:

(1) A security interest held by a secured party having control of the letter-of-credit right under Section 55-9-107 NMSA 1978 has priority to the extent of its control over a conflicting security interest held by a secured party that does not have control.

(2) Security interests perfected by control under Section 55-9-314 NMSA 1978 rank according to priority in time of obtaining control.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-329, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 49.

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1. Source. New; loosely modeled after former section 9-115(5).

2. General Rule. Paragraph (1) awards priority to a secured party who perfects a security interest directly in letter-of-credit rights (*i.e.*, one that takes an assignment of proceeds and obtains consent of the issuer or any nominated person under section 5-114(c)) over another conflicting security interest (*i.e.*, one that is perfected automatically in the letter-of-credit rights as supporting obligations under section 9-308(d)). This is consistent with international letter-of-credit practice and provides finality to payments made to recognized assignees of letter-of-credit proceeds. If an issuer or nominated person recognizes multiple security interests in a letter-of-credit right, resulting in multiple parties having control (section 9-107), under paragraph (2) the security interests rank according to the time of obtaining control.

3. Drawing Rights; Transferee Beneficiaries. Drawing under a letter of credit is personal to the beneficiary and requires the beneficiary to perform the conditions for drawing under the letter of credit. Accordingly, a beneficiary's grant of a security interest in a letter of credit includes the beneficiary's "letter-of-credit right" as defined in section 9-102 and the right to "proceeds of (the) letter of credit" as defined in section 5-114(a), but does not include the right to demand payment under the letter of credit.

Section 5-114(e) provides that the "(r)ights of a transferee beneficiary or nominated person are independent of the beneficiary's assignment of the proceeds of a letter of credit and are superior to the assignee's right to the proceeds." To the extent the rights of a transferee beneficiary or nominated person are independent and superior, this article does not apply. *See* section 9-109(c).

Under article 5, there is in effect a novation upon the transfer with the issuer becoming bound on a new, independent obligation to the transferee. The rights of nominated persons and transferee beneficiaries under a letter of credit include the right to demand payment from the issuer. Under section 5-114(e), their rights to payment are independent of their obligations to the beneficiary (or original beneficiary) and superior to the rights of assignees of letter-of-credit proceeds (section 5-114(c)) and others claiming a security interest in the beneficiary's (or original beneficiary's) letter-of-credit rights.

A transfer of drawing rights under a transferable letter of credit establishes independent article 5 rights in the transferee and does not create or perfect an article 9 security interest in the transferred drawing rights. The definition of "letter-of-credit right" in section 9-102 excludes a beneficiary's drawing rights. The exercise of drawing rights by a transferee beneficiary may breach a contractual obligation of the transferee to the original beneficiary concerning when and how much the transferee may draw or how it may use the funds received under the letter of credit. If, for example, drawing rights are transferred to support a sale or loan from the transferee to the original beneficiary, then the transferee would be obligated to the original beneficiary under the sale or loan agreement to account for any drawing and for the use of any funds received. The transferee's obligation would be governed by the applicable law of contracts or restitution.

4. Secured Party-Transferee Beneficiaries. As described in comment 3, drawing rights under letters of credit are transferred in many commercial contexts in which the transferee is not a secured party claiming a security interest in an underlying receivable supported by the letter of credit. Consequently, a transfer of a letter of credit is not a method of "perfection" of a security interest. The transferee's independent right to draw under the letter of credit and to receive and retain the value thereunder (in effect, priority) is not based on article 9 but on letter-of-credit law and the terms of the letter of credit. Assume, however, that a secured party does hold a security interest in a receivable that is owned by a beneficiary-debtor and supported by a transferable letter of credit. Assume further that the beneficiary-debtor causes the letter of credit to be transferred to the secured party, the secured party draws under the letter of credit, and,

upon the issuer's payment to the secured party-transferee, the underlying account debtor's obligation to the original beneficiary-debtor is satisfied. In this situation, the payment to the secured party-transferee is proceeds of the receivable collected by the secured party-transferee. Consequently, the secured party-transferee would have certain duties to the debtor and third parties under article 9. For example, it would be obliged to collect under the letter of credit in a commercially reasonable manner and to remit any surplus pursuant to sections 9-607 and 9-608.

This scenario is problematic under letter-of-credit law and practice, inasmuch as a transferee beneficiary collects in its own right arising from its own performance. Accordingly, under section 5-114, the independent and superior rights of a transferee control over any inconsistent duties under article 9. A transferee beneficiary may take a transfer of drawing rights to avoid reliance on the original beneficiary's credit and collateral, and it may consider any article 9 rights superseded by its article 5 rights. Moreover, it will not always be clear (i) whether a transferee beneficiary has a security interest in the underlying collateral, (ii) whether any security interest is senior to the rights of others, or (iii) whether the transferee beneficiary is aware that it holds a security interest. There will be clear cases in which the role of a transferee beneficiary as such is merely incidental to a conventional secured financing. There also will be cases in which the existence of a security interest may have little to do with the position of a transferee beneficiary as such. In dealing with these cases and less clear cases involving the possible application of article 9 to a nominated person or a transferee beneficiary, the right to demand payment under a letter of credit should be distinguished from letter-of-credit rights. The courts also should give appropriate consideration to the policies and provisions of article 5 and letter-of-credit practice as well as article 9.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-330. Priority of purchaser of chattel paper or instrument.

(a) A purchaser of chattel paper has priority over a security interest in the chattel paper which is claimed merely as proceeds of inventory subject to a security interest if:

(1) in good faith and in the ordinary course of the purchaser's business, the purchaser gives new value, takes possession of each authoritative tangible copy of the record evidencing the chattel paper and obtains control under Section 55-9-105 NMSA 1978 of each authoritative electronic copy of the record evidencing the chattel paper; and

(2) the authoritative copies of the record evidencing the chattel paper do not indicate that the chattel paper has been assigned to an identified assignee other than the purchaser.

(b) A purchaser of chattel paper has priority over a security interest in the chattel paper which is claimed other than merely as proceeds of inventory subject to a security interest if the purchaser gives new value, takes possession of each authoritative tangible copy of the record evidencing the chattel paper and obtains control under Section 55-9-105 NMSA 1978 of each authoritative electronic copy of the record evidencing the chattel paper in good faith, in the ordinary course of the purchaser's business and without knowledge that the purchase violates the rights of the secured party.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in Section 55-9-327 NMSA 1978, a purchaser having priority in chattel paper under Subsection (a) or (b) of this section also has priority in proceeds of the chattel paper to the extent that:

(1) Section 55-9-322 NMSA 1978 provides for priority in the proceeds; or

(2) the proceeds consist of the specific goods covered by the chattel paper or cash proceeds of the specific goods, even if the purchaser's security interest in the proceeds is unperfected.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-331 NMSA 1978, a purchaser of an instrument has priority over a security interest in the instrument perfected by a method other than possession if the purchaser gives value and takes possession of the instrument in good faith and without knowledge that the purchase violates the rights of the secured party.

(e) For purposes of Subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the holder of a purchase-money security interest in inventory gives new value for chattel paper constituting proceeds of the inventory.

(f) For purposes of Subsections (b) and (d) of this section, if the authoritative copies of the record evidencing chattel paper or an instrument indicate that the chattel paper or instrument has been assigned to an identified secured party other than the purchaser, a purchaser of the chattel paper or instrument has knowledge that the purchase violates the rights of the secured party.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-330, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 50; 2023, ch. 142, § 71.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-308.

2. **Non-Temporal Priority.** This Article permits a security interest to be perfected in chattel paper either by filing or by the secured party's possession and control under Section 9-314A and in or instruments either by filing or by the secured party's taking possession under Sections 9-312 and 9-313. This section enables secured parties and other purchasers of chattel paper (both evidenced by either or both authoritative electronic and tangible records) and instruments to obtain priority over earlier-perfected security interests, thereby promoting the negotiability of these types of receivables.

3. **Chattel Paper.** Subsections (a) and (b) follow former Section 9-308 in distinguishing between earlier-perfected security interests in chattel paper that is claimed merely as proceeds of inventory subject to a security interest and chattel paper that is claimed other than merely as proceeds. Like former Section 9-308, this section does not elaborate upon the phrase "merely as proceeds." For an elaboration, *see* PEB Commentary No. 8.

This section makes explicit the "good faith" requirement and retains the pre-1998 requirements of "the ordinary course of the purchaser's business" and the giving of "new value" as conditions for priority. Concerning the last, this Article deletes pre-1998 Section 9-108 and adds to Section 9-102 a completely different definition of the term "new value." *See* Section 9-102, Comment 21 (discussing "new value"). Under Subsection (e), the holder of a purchase-money security interest in inventory is deemed to give "new value" for chattel paper constituting the proceeds of the inventory. Accordingly, the purchase-money secured party may qualify for priority in the chattel paper under Subsection (a) or (b), whichever is applicable, even if it does not make an additional advance against the chattel paper.

If a security interest in chattel paper that is perfected by possession and control under Section 9-314A does not qualify for priority under this section, it may be subordinate to a perfected-by-filing security interest under Section 9-322(a)(1).

4. **Possession and Control.** To qualify for priority under subsection (a) or (b), a purchaser must "take possession of each authoritative tangible copy of the record evidencing the chattel paper or and obtain control under Section 9-105 of each authoritative electronic copy of the record evidencing the chattel paper." Note that possession and control are methods of perfection under Section 9-314A. In determining which of several related records constitutes chattel paper and thus is relevant to possession or control, the form of the records is irrelevant. Rather, the possession-and-control requirement is based on the premise that it affords public notice. For example, because possession or control of an amendment extending the term of a lease would not afford the contemplated public notice, the amendment would not constitute a record evidencing chattel paper regardless of whether the amendment is in tangible form and the lease is in electronic form, the amendment is electronic and the lease is tangible, the amendment and lease are both tangible, or the amendment and lease are both electronic.

Two common practices have raised particular concerns with respect to the possession requirement. First, in some cases the parties create more than one copy or counterpart of chattel paper evidencing a single secured obligation or lease. This practice raises questions as to which counterpart is the "original" and whether it is necessary for a purchaser to take possession of all counterparts in order to "take possession" of the chattel paper. Second, parties sometimes enter into a single "master" agreement. The master agreement contemplates that the parties will enter into separate "schedules" from time to time, each evidencing chattel paper. Must a purchaser of an obligation or lease evidenced by a single schedule also take possession of the record evidencing the master agreement as well as the record evidencing the schedule in order to "take possession" of each authoritative tangible copy of the record evidencing the chattel paper"?

The problem raised by the first practice is easily solved. The parties may in the terms of their agreement and by designation on the chattel paper identify only one counterpart as the original, authoritative tangible copy of the chattel paper for purposes of the possession requirement. Concerns about the second practice also are easily solved by careful drafting. Each schedule should provide that it incorporates the terms of the master agreement, not the other way around. This will make it clear that each schedule is a "stand alone" document.

A secured party may wish to convert chattel paper evidenced by authoritative tangible copies to chattel paper evidenced by electronic copies and vice versa. The priority of a security interest in chattel paper under subsection (a) or (b) may be preserved, even if the form of the chattel paper changes. The principle implied in the preceding paragraph, i.e., that not every copy of chattel paper is relevant, applies to "control" as well as to "possession." When there are multiple copies of chattel paper, a secured party may take "possession" or obtain "control" of the chattel paper if it acts with respect to the copy or copies that are reliably identified as the authoritative copy or copies. Concerning the identification of copies as authoritative or nonauthoritative, *see* Section 9-105(c) and Comment 3.

5. **Chattel Paper Claimed Merely as Proceeds.** Under Subsection (a), a purchaser who meets the possession-and-control, good faith, ordinary course, and new value requirements takes priority over a competing security interest claimed merely as proceeds of inventory unless the authoritative copies of the record evidencing the chattel paper indicate that it has been assigned to an identified assignee other than the purchaser. Thus subsection (a) recognizes the common practice of placing a "legend" on chattel paper to indicate that it has been assigned. This approach, under which the chattel paper purchaser who gives new value in ordinary course can rely on possession and control of unlegended chattel paper without any concern for other facts that it may know, comports with the expectations of both inventory and chattel paper financers.

6. **Chattel Paper Claimed Other Than Merely as Proceeds.** Under Subsection (b), a purchaser who meets the possession-and-control, good faith, ordinary course, and new value requirements takes priority over a competing security interest claimed

other than merely as proceeds of inventory if it takes "without knowledge that the purchase violates the rights of the secured party." This standard derives from the definition of "buyer in ordinary course of business" in Section 1-201(b)(9). The source of the purchaser's knowledge is irrelevant. Note, however, that "knowledge" means "actual knowledge." Section 1-202(b).

In contrast to a junior secured party in accounts, who may be required in some special circumstances to undertake a search under the "good faith" requirement, *see* Comment 5 to Section 9-331, a purchaser of chattel paper under this section is not required as a matter of good faith to make a search in order to determine the existence of prior security interests. There may be circumstances where the purchaser undertakes a search nevertheless, either on its own volition or because other considerations make it advisable to do so, e.g., where the purchaser also is purchasing accounts. Without more, a purchaser of chattel paper who has seen a financing statement covering the chattel paper or who knows that the chattel paper is encumbered with a security interest, does not have knowledge that its purchase violates the secured party's rights. However, if a purchaser sees a statement in a financing statement to the effect that a purchase of chattel paper from the debtor would violate the rights of the filed secured party, the purchaser would have such knowledge. Likewise, under Subsection (f), if the authoritative copies of the chattel paper indicate that it had been assigned to an identified secured party other than the purchaser, the purchaser would have wrongful knowledge for purposes of Subsection (b), thereby preventing the purchaser from qualifying for priority under that subsection, even if the purchaser did not have actual knowledge. In the case of authoritative tangible copies of a record evidencing chattel paper, the indication normally would consist of a written legend on the copies. In the case of authoritative electronic copies of the record evidencing chattel paper, this Article leaves to developing market and technological practices the manner in which the copies would indicate an assignment.

Subsections (a) and (f) each refer to the possibility that authoritative copies of records evidencing chattel paper may indicate that the chattel paper has been assigned to an identified assignee. Those subsections should be read and interpreted in a manner consistent with Section 9-105 on control of authoritative electronic copies of records evidencing chattel paper. Accordingly, references in Subsections (a) and (f) to an indication in a record evidencing chattel paper also embrace, for authoritative electronic copies of such records, records attached to or logically associated with the authoritative electronic copies and systems in which the authoritative electronic copies are recorded. *See* Section 9-105(c) and (d)(1).

7. **Instruments.** Subsection (d) contains a special priority rule for instruments. Under this subsection, a purchaser of an instrument has priority over a security interest perfected by a method other than possession (*e.g.*, by filing, temporarily under section 9-312(e) or (g), as proceeds under section 9-315(d), or automatically upon attachment under section 9-309(4) if the security interest arises out of a sale of the instrument) if the purchaser gives value and takes possession of the instrument in good faith and without knowledge that the purchase violates the rights of the secured party. Generally, to the

extent subsection (d) conflicts with section 3-306, subsection (d) governs. *See* section 3-102(b). For example, notice of a conflicting security interest precludes a purchaser from becoming a holder in due course under section 3-302 and thereby taking free of all claims to the instrument under section 3-306. However, a purchaser who takes even with knowledge of the security interest qualifies for priority under subsection (d) if it takes without knowledge that the purchase violates the rights of the holder of the security interest. Likewise, a purchaser qualifies for priority under subsection (d) if it takes for "value" as defined in section 1-201, even if it does not take for "value" as defined in section 3-303.

Subsection (d) is subject to section 9-331(a), which provides that article 9 does not limit the rights of a holder in due course under article 3. Thus, in the rare case in which the purchaser of an instrument qualifies for priority under subsection (d), but another person has the rights of a holder in due course of the instrument, the other person takes free of the purchaser's claim. *See* section 3-306.

The rule in Subsection (d) is similar to the rules in subsections (a) and (b), which govern priority in chattel paper. The observations in Comment 6 concerning the requirement of good faith and the phrase "without knowledge that the purchase violates the rights of the secured party," including the operation of subsection (f) if an instrument indicates that it has been assigned to an identified secured party, apply equally to purchasers of instruments. However, unlike a purchaser of chattel paper, to qualify for priority under subsection (d) a purchaser of an instrument need only give "value" as defined in Section 1-204; it need not give "new value." Also, the purchaser need not purchase the instrument in the ordinary course of its business.

Subsection (d) applies to checks as well as notes. For example, to collect and retain checks that are proceeds (collections) of accounts free of a senior secured party's claim to the same checks, a junior secured party must satisfy the good-faith requirement (honesty in fact and the observance of reasonable commercial standards of fair dealing) of this subsection. This is the same good-faith requirement applicable to holders in due course. *See* section 9-331, comment 5.

8. **Priority in Proceeds of Chattel Paper.** Subsection (c) sets forth the two circumstances under which the priority afforded to a purchaser of chattel paper under subsection (a) or (b) extends also to proceeds of the chattel paper. The first is if the purchaser would have priority under the normal priority rules applicable to proceeds. The second, which the following comments discuss in greater detail, is if the proceeds consist of the specific goods covered by the chattel paper. Former article 9 generally was silent as to the priority of a security interest in proceeds when a purchaser qualifies for priority under section 9-308 (but *see* former section 9-306(5)(b), concerning returned and repossessed goods).

9. **Priority in Returned and Repossessed Goods.** Returned and repossessed goods may constitute proceeds of chattel paper. The following comments explain the treatment of returned and repossessed goods as proceeds of chattel paper. The

analysis is consistent with that of PEB Commentary No. 5, which these comments replace, and is based upon the following example:

Example: SP-1 has a security interest in all the inventory of a dealer in goods (Dealer); SP-1's security interest is perfected by filing. Dealer sells some of its inventory to a buyer in the ordinary course of business (BIOCOB) pursuant to a conditional sales contract (chattel paper) that does not indicate that it has been assigned to SP-1. SP-2 purchases the chattel paper from Dealer and takes possession of the paper in good faith, in the ordinary course of business, and without knowledge that the purchase violates the rights of SP-1. Subsequently, BIOCOB returns the goods to Dealer because they are defective. Alternatively, Dealer acquires possession of the goods following BIOCOB's default.

10. **Assignment of Nonlease Chattel Paper.**

a. **Loan by SP-2 to Dealer Secured by Chattel Paper (or Functional Equivalent Pursuant to Recourse Arrangement)**.

(1) Returned Goods. If BIOCOB returns the goods to Dealer for repairs, Dealer is merely a bailee and acquires thereby no meaningful rights in the goods to which SP-1's security interest could attach. (Although SP-1's security interest could attach to Dealer's interest as a bailee, that interest is not likely to be of any particular value to SP-1.) Dealer is the owner of the chattel paper (*i.e.*, the owner of a right to payment secured by a security interest in the goods); SP-2 has a security interest in the chattel paper, as does SP-1 (as proceeds of the goods under section 9-315). Under section 9-330, SP-2's security interest in the chattel paper is senior to that of SP-1. SP-2 enjoys this priority regardless of whether, or when, SP-2 filed a financing statement covering the chattel paper. Because chattel paper and goods represent different types of collateral, Dealer does not have any meaningful interest in goods to which either SP-1's or SP-2's security interest could attach in order to secure Dealer's obligations to either creditor. *See* section 9-102 (defining "chattel paper" and "goods").

Now assume that BIOCOB returns the goods to Dealer under circumstances whereby Dealer once again becomes the owner of the goods. This would be the case, for example, if the goods were defective and BIOCOB was entitled to reject or revoke acceptance of the goods. See sections 2-602 (rejection), and 2-608 (revocation of acceptance). Unless BIOCOB has waived its defenses as against assignees of the chattel paper, SP-1's and SP-2's rights against BIOCOB would be subject to BIOCOB's claims and defenses. *See* sections 9-403 and 9-404. SP-1's security interest would attach again because the returned goods would be proceeds of the chattel paper. Dealer's acquisition of the goods easily can be characterized as "proceeds" consisting of an "in kind" collection on or distribution on account of the chattel paper. *See* section 9-102 (definition of "proceeds"). Assuming that SP-1's security interest is perfected by filing against the goods and that the filing is made in the same office where a filing would be made against the chattel paper, SP-1's security interest in the goods would

remain perfected beyond the 20-day period of automatic perfection. *See* section 9-315(d).

Because Dealer's newly reacquired interest in the goods is proceeds of the chattel paper, SP-2's security interest also would attach in the goods as proceeds. If SP-2 had perfected its security interest in the chattel paper by filing (again, assuming that filing against the chattel paper was made in the same office where a filing would be made against the goods), SP-2's security interest in the reacquired goods would be perfected beyond 20 days. *See* section 9-315(d). However, if SP-2 had relied only on its possession of the chattel paper for perfection and had not filed against the chattel paper or the goods, SP-2's security interest would be unperfected after the 20-day period. See section 9-315(d). Nevertheless, SP-2's unperfected security interest in the goods would be senior to SP-1's security interest under section 9-330(c). The result in this priority contest is not affected by SP-2's acquiescence or non-acquiescence in the return of the goods to Dealer.

(2) Repossessed Goods. As explained above, Dealer owns the chattel paper covering the goods, subject to security interests in favor of SP-1 and SP-2. In article 9 parlance, Dealer has an interest in chattel paper, not goods. If Dealer, SP-1, or SP-2 repossesses the goods upon BIOCOB's default, whether the repossession is rightful or wrongful as among Dealer, SP-1, or SP-2, Dealer's interest will not change. The location of goods and the party who possesses them does not affect the fact that Dealer's interest is in chattel paper, not goods. The goods continue to be owned by BIOCOB. SP-1's security interest in the goods does not attach until such time as Dealer reacquires an interest (other than a bare possessory interest) in the goods. For example, Dealer might buy the goods at a foreclosure sale from SP-2 (whose security interest in the chattel paper is senior to that of SP-1); that disposition would cut off BIOCOB's rights in the goods. Section 9-617.

In many cases the matter would end upon sale of the goods to Dealer at a foreclosure sale and there would be no priority contest between SP-1 and SP-2; Dealer would be unlikely to buy the goods under circumstances whereby SP-2 would retain its security interest. There can be exceptions, however. For example, Dealer may be obliged to purchase the goods from SP-2 and SP-2 may be obliged to convey the goods to Dealer, but Dealer may fail to pay SP-2. Or, one could imagine that SP-2, like SP-1, has a general security interest in the inventory of Dealer. In the latter case, SP-2 should not receive the benefit of any special priority rule, since its interest in no way derives from priority under section 9-330. In the former case, SP-2's security interest in the goods reacquired by Dealer is senior to SP-1's security interest under section 9-330.

b. **Dealer’s Outright Sale of Chattel Paper to SP-2.** Article 9 also applies to a transaction whereby SP-2 buys the chattel paper in an outright sale transaction without recourse against Dealer. Sections 1-201(b)(35), 9-109(a). Although Dealer does not, in such a transaction, retain any residual ownership interest in the chattel paper, the chattel paper constitutes proceeds of the goods to which SP-1’s security interest will attach and continue following the sale of the goods. Section 9-315(a). Even though

Dealer has not retained any interest in the chattel paper, as discussed above BIOCOB subsequently may return the goods to Dealer under circumstances whereby Dealer reacquires an interest in the goods. The priority contest between SP-1 and SP-2 will be resolved as discussed above; Section 9-330 makes no distinction among purchasers of chattel paper on the basis of whether the purchaser is an outright buyer of chattel paper or one whose security interest secures an obligation of Dealer.

11. **Assignment of Lease Chattel Paper.** As defined in Section 9-102, "chattel paper" includes not only rights to payment secured by specific goods but also rights to payment owed by a lessee under a true lease of goods.

The analysis with respect to lease chattel paper is similar to that set forth above with respect to nonlease chattel paper. It is complicated, however, by the fact that, unlike the case of chattel paper arising out of a sale, Dealer retains a residual interest in the goods. *See* section 2A-103(1)(q) (defining "lessor's residual interest"); In re Leasing Consultants, Inc., 486 F.2d 367 (2d Cir. 1973) (lessor's residual interest under true lease is an interest in goods and is a separate type of collateral from lessor's interest in the lease). If Dealer leases goods to a "lessee in ordinary course of business" (LIOCOB), then LIOCOB takes its interest under the lease (i.e., its "leasehold interest") free of the security interest of SP-1. See section 2A-103(1)(m) (defining "leasehold interest") and (1)(o) (defining "lessee in ordinary course of business") and section 2A-307(3). SP-1 would, however, retain its security interest in the residual interest. In addition, SP-1 would acquire an interest in the lease chattel paper as proceeds. If Dealer then assigns the lease chattel paper to SP-2, section 9-330 gives SP-2 priority over SP-1 with respect to the chattel paper, but not with respect to the residual interest in the goods. Consequently, assignees of lease chattel paper typically take a security interest in and file against the lessor's residual interest in goods, expecting their priority in the goods to be governed by the first-to-file-or-perfect rule of section 9-322.

If the goods are returned to Dealer, other than upon expiration of the lease term, then the security interests of both SP-1 and SP-2 normally would attach to the goods as proceeds of the chattel paper. (If the goods are returned to Dealer at the expiration of the lease term and the lessee has made all payments due under the lease, however, then Dealer no longer has any rights under the chattel paper. Dealer's interest in the goods consists solely of its residual interest, as to which SP-2 has no claim.) This would be the case, for example, when the lessee rescinds the lease or when the lessor recovers possession in the exercise of its remedies under article 2A. *See, e.g.*, section 2A-525. If SP-2 enjoyed priority in the chattel paper under section 9-330, then SP-2 likewise would enjoy priority in the returned goods as proceeds. This does not mean that SP-2 necessarily is entitled to the entire value of the returned goods. The value of the goods represents the sum of the present value of (i) the value of their use for the term of the lease and (ii) the value of the residual interest. SP-2 has priority in the former, but SP-1 ordinarily would have priority in the latter. Thus, an allocation of a portion of the value of the goods to each component may be necessary. Where, as here, one secured party has a security interest in the lessor's residual interest and another has a priority security interest in the chattel paper, it may be advisable for the

conflicting secured parties to establish a method for making such an allocation and otherwise to determine their relative rights in returned goods by agreement.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, revised provisions related to the priority of a purchaser of chattel paper or instrument; in Paragraph (a)(1), after "takes possession of", added "each authoritative tangible copy of the record evidencing", and added "under Section 55-9-105 NMSA 1978 of each authoritative electronic copy of the record evidencing", and after "chattel paper", deleted "under Section 55-9-105 NMSA 1978"; in Paragraph (a)(2), deleted "chattel paper does" and added "authoritative copies of the record evidencing the chattel paper do", and after "indicate that", and added "the chattel paper"; in Subsection (b), after "takes possession of", added "each authoritative tangible copy of the record evidencing", after "obtains control", added "under Section 55-9-105 NMSA 1978 of each authoritative electronic copy of the record evidencing", and after "chattel paper", deleted "under Section 55-9-105 NMSA 1978"; and in Subsection (f), after "this section, if", added "the authoritative copies of the record evidencing", and after "indicate that", added "the chattel paper or instrument".

Decisions under former 55-9-308 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-308 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-308 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Notice sufficient to make account debtor liable to assignee. — Here the assignment said that all right, title and interest of contractor to funds due from account debtor were to be assigned to bank, and this assignment was accepted by agent of account debtor. This was not a case of indirect collection. The account debtor could readily determine that assignee had purchased assignor's right, title and interest in the proceeds. There was no need for the assignee to instruct the account debtor not to pay the assignor. The unconditional language of the assignment was sufficient notice that the assignee was to be paid. *First Nat'l Bank v. Mountain States Tel. & Tel. Co.*, 1977-NMSC-089, 91 N.M. 126, 571 P.2d 118 (decided under former law).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Bona fides of purchaser of bill or note on an executory consideration, cases where bills or notes are executed on conditional agreements, 3 A.L.R. 987, 100 A.L.R. 1357.

Constitutionality, construction and application of statute respecting sale, assignment or transfer of retail installment contracts, 10 A.L.R.2d 447.

Transferee of commercial paper given by purchaser of chattel and secured by conditional sale, retention of title or chattel mortgage, as subject to defenses which chattel purchaser could assert against seller, 44 A.L.R.2d 8, 39 A.L.R.3d 518.

55-9-331. Priority of rights of purchasers of controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles,

documents, instruments and securities under other articles; priority of interests in financial assets and security entitlements and protection against assertion of claim under Chapter 55, Articles 8 and 9 NMSA 1978.

(a) Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 does not limit the rights of a holder in due course of a negotiable instrument, a holder to which a negotiable document of title has been duly negotiated or a protected purchaser of a security or a qualifying purchaser of a controllable account, controllable electronic record or controllable payment intangible. These holders or purchasers take priority over an earlier security interest, even if perfected, to the extent provided in Chapter 55, Articles 3, 7, 8 and 12 NMSA 1978.

(b) Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 does not limit the rights of or impose liability on a person to the extent that the person is protected against the assertion of a claim under Chapter 55, Articles 8 and 12 NMSA 1978.

(c) Filing under Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 does not constitute notice of a claim or defense to the holders, or purchasers, or persons described in Subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-331, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 51; 2015, ch. 54, § 4; 2023, ch. 142, § 72.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-309.

2. **"Priority."** In some provisions, this article distinguishes between claimants that take collateral free of a security interest (in the sense that the security interest no longer encumbers the collateral) and those that take an interest in the collateral that is senior to a surviving security interest. *See, e.g.*, section 9-317. Whether a holder or purchaser referred to in this section takes free or is senior to a security interest depends on whether the purchaser is a buyer of the collateral or takes a security interest in it. The term "priority" is meant to encompass both scenarios, as it does in section 9-330.

3. **Rights Acquired by Purchasers.** The rights to which this section refers are set forth in sections 3-305 and 3-306 (holder in due course), 7-502 (holder to whom a negotiable document of title has been duly negotiated), and 8-303 (protected purchaser). The holders and purchasers referred to in this section do not always take priority over a security interest. *See, e.g.*, section 7-503 (affording paramount rights to certain owners and secured parties as against holder to whom a negotiable document

of title has been duly negotiated). Accordingly, this section adds the clause, "to the extent provided in articles 3, 7, and 8" to former section 9-309.

The state-law Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (UETA) and the federal Electronic Signature in Global and National Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 7001 et seq. (E-SIGN), provide certain rules for records referred to and defined as "transferable records." See UETA Section 16 and E-SIGN, 15 U.S.C. § 7021. When certain conditions have been met, those acts confer on a person the status of a "holder" (as defined in 1-201(b)(21), formerly Section 1-201(20)) of an "equivalent record" under pre-1998 Section 9-308 (now, in part, Section 9-330) and the rights and defenses of a "purchaser" under that section, among other effects. E-SIGN also refers to the rights and defenses of a purchaser under Section 9-330. As a matter of the application of the Uniform Commercial Code, those are not the only sections of the Uniform Commercial Code that would logically be affected by UETA and E-SIGN. For example, the rights of a holder in due course under Section 9-331(a) would also be covered by the application of those acts, when the conditions for applicability have been satisfied.

4. **Financial Assets and Security Entitlements.** New subsection (b) provides explicit protection for those who deal with financial assets and security entitlements and who are immunized from liability under article 8. *See, e.g.*, sections 8-502, 8-503(e), 8-510, and 8-511. The new subsection makes explicit in article 9 what is implicit in former article 9 and explicit in several provisions of article 8. It does not change the law.

5. **Collections by Junior Secured Party.** Under this section, a secured party with a junior security interest in receivables (accounts, chattel paper, promissory notes, or payment intangibles) may collect and retain the proceeds of those receivables free of the claim of a senior secured party to the same receivables, if the junior secured party is a holder in due course of the proceeds. In order to qualify as a holder in due course, the junior must satisfy the requirements of section 3-302, which include taking in "good faith." This means that the junior not only must act "honestly" but also must observe "reasonable commercial standards of fair dealing" under the particular circumstances. *See* section 9-102(a). Although "good faith" does not impose a general duty of inquiry, *e.g.*, a search of the records in filing offices, there may be circumstances in which "reasonable commercial standards of fair dealing" would require such a search.

Consider, for example, a junior secured party in the business of financing or buying accounts who fails to undertake a search to determine the existence of prior security interests. Because a search, under the usages of trade of that business, would enable it to know or learn upon reasonable inquiry that collecting the accounts violated the rights of a senior secured party, the junior may fail to meet the good-faith standard. *See Utility Contractors Financial Services, Inc. v. Amsouth Bank, NA*, 985 F.2d 1554 (11th Cir. 1993). Likewise, a junior secured party who collects accounts when it knows or should know under the particular circumstances that doing so would violate the rights of a senior secured party, because the debtor had agreed not to grant a junior security interest in, or sell, the accounts, may not meet the good-faith test. Thus, if a junior secured party conducted or should have conducted a search and a financing statement

filed on behalf of the senior secured party states such a restriction, the junior's collection would not meet the good-faith standard. On the other hand, if there was a course of performance between the senior secured party and the debtor which placed no such restrictions on the debtor and allowed the debtor to collect and use the proceeds without any restrictions, the junior secured party may then satisfy the requirements for being a holder in due course. This would be more likely in those circumstances where the junior secured party was providing additional financing to the debtor on an on-going basis by lending against or buying the accounts and had no notice of any restrictions against doing so. Generally, the senior secured party would not be prejudiced because the practical effect of such payment to the junior secured party is little different than if the debtor itself had made the collections and subsequently paid the secured party from the debtor's general funds. Absent collusion, the junior secured party would take the funds free of the senior security interests. *See* section 9-332. In contrast, the senior secured party is likely to be prejudiced if the debtor is going out of business and the junior secured party collects the accounts by notifying the account debtors to make payments directly to the junior. Those collections may not be consistent with "reasonable commercial standards of fair dealing."

Whether the junior secured party qualifies as a holder in due course is fact-sensitive and should be decided on a case-by-case basis in the light of those circumstances. Decisions such as *Financial Management Services Inc. v. Familian*, 905 P.2d 506 (Ariz. App. Div. 1995) (finding holder in due course status) could be determined differently under this application of the good-faith requirement.

The concepts addressed in this comment are also applicable to junior secured parties as purchasers of instruments under section 9-330(d). *See* section 9-330, comment 7.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, added certain instruments to an existing provision related to the priority of rights of purchasers of these instruments; in the section heading, added "controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, controllable payment intangibles", and "and protection against assertion of claim", and changed "Article 8" to "Articles 8 and 9"; in Subsection (a), added "or a qualifying purchaser of a controllable account, controllable electronic record or controllable payment intangible", and after "Chapter 55, Article 3, 7, 8", added "and 12"; and in Subsection (b), changed "Article 8" to "Articles 8 and 12".

The 2015 amendment, effective July 1, 2015, amended the Uniform Commercial Code, as enacted by New Mexico, to make it uniform; and in Subsection (b), after "assertion of", deleted "an adverse" and added "a".

55-9-332. Transfer of money; transfer of funds from deposit account.

(a) A transferee of tangible money takes the money free of a security interest if the transferee receives possession of the money without acting in collusion with the debtor in violating the rights of the secured party.

(b) A transferee of funds from a deposit account takes the funds free of a security interest in the deposit account if the transferee receives the funds without acting in collusion with the debtor in violating the rights of the secured party.

(c) A transferee of electronic money takes the money free of a security interest if the transferee obtains control of the money without acting in collusion with the debtor in violating the rights of the secured party.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-332, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 5; 2023, ch. 142, § 73.

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1. **Source.** New.

2. **Scope of This Section.** This section affords broad protection for transferees of money and of funds from a deposit account to take free of a security interest. The term "transferee" is not defined; however, the debtor itself is not a transferee. Thus this section does not cover the case in which a debtor withdraws money (currency) from its deposit account or the case in which a bank debits an encumbered account and credits another account it maintains for the debtor.

A transfer of funds from a deposit account, to which Subsection (b) applies, normally will be made by check, by funds transfer, or by debiting the debtor's deposit account and crediting another depositor's account.

2A. **Meaning of "Transfer."** The term "transferee" is not defined; however, the debtor itself is not a transferee. Thus this section does not cover the case in which a debtor withdraws money (currency) from its deposit account or the case in which a bank debits an encumbered account and credits another account it maintains for the debtor.

A "transfer" of property occurs when the transferee has obtained a property interest in the relevant property. *See* Section 9-102, Comment 2.b.1 ("Several provisions of this Article and its official comments also refer to the ‘transfer’ of *property* interests." (emphasis added)). Other law determines when the transferee has acquired a property interest. *See* Section 9-408, Comment 3 ("Other law determines whether a debtor has a property interest (‘rights in the collateral’) and the nature of that interest."). Although the terms "transfer" and "transferee" are not defined in the UCC, the term "transfer" is broader in scope than "purchase," which requires taking in a "voluntary transaction

creating an interest in property." Section 1-201(b)(29). For example, "transfer" includes an involuntary transfer such as the acquisition of a judicial lien by a lien creditor. *See* Section 9-102(a)(52) (defining "lien creditor"). However, many references to a "transfer" in the UCC and official comments relate to a voluntary transfer to a purchaser, as indicated by the context.

2B. **Transferees of Tangible Money.** Subsection (a) conditions the take-free rule on the transferee's receipt of possession of tangible money. This reflects what had always been assumed under the pre-2022 text—that a transfer of an interest in tangible money which is not accompanied by a physical transfer of possession would not impair the rights of third parties.

2C. **Transferees of Funds from Deposit Account.** Subsection (b) reflects the corresponding change for a transfer of funds from a deposit account. To qualify for the take-free protection under subsection (b), the transferee must "receive[] the funds without acting in collusion . . ." The amendments to subsections (a) and (b) clarify what was implicit under the original text. Although "funds" is not defined in the UCC, if deposit accounts with a central bank or another bank were to become money, as defined in Section 1-201(b)(24), transfers from such deposit accounts would be covered by subsection (b) and not subsection (c) (discussed in Comment 2.D.). *See* Section 9-102(a)(54A) (defining "money," for purposes of Article 9, to exclude deposit accounts).

Example 1: Debtor maintains a deposit account with Bank A. The deposit account is subject to a perfected security interest in favor of Lender. Debtor draws a check on the account, payable to Payee. Inasmuch as the check is not the proceeds of the deposit account (it is an order to pay funds from the deposit account), Lender's security interest in the deposit account does not give rise to a security interest in the check. Payee deposits the check into its own deposit account, and Bank A pays it. Unless Payee acted in collusion with Debtor in violating Lender's rights, Payee takes the funds (the credits running in favor of Payee) free of Lender's security interest. This is true regardless of whether Payee is a holder in due course of the check and even if Payee gave no value for the check.

Example 2: Debtor maintains a deposit account with Bank A. The deposit account is subject to a perfected security interest in favor of Lender. At Bank B's suggestion, Debtor moves the funds from the account at Bank A to Debtor's deposit account with Bank B. Unless Bank B acted in collusion with Debtor in violating Lender's rights, Bank B takes the funds (the credits running in favor of Bank B) free from Lender's security interest. *See* subsection (b). However, inasmuch as the deposit account maintained with Bank B constitutes the proceeds of the deposit account at Bank A, Lender's security interest would attach to that account as proceeds. *See* Section 9-315.

Subsection (b) also would apply if, in these examples, Bank A debited Debtor's deposit account in exchange for the issuance of Bank A's cashier's check. Lender's security interest would attach to the cashier's check as proceeds of the deposit account, and the

rules applicable to instruments would govern any competing claims to the cashier's check. See, e.g., Sections 3-306, 9-322, 9-330, 9-331.

If Debtor withdraws funds from an encumbered deposit account, receives the funds in the form of tangible money, and transfers the money to a third party, then subsection (a), to the extent not displaced by federal law relating to money, applies to the transfer. It contains substantially the same rule as subsection (b).

Subsection (b) applies to *transfers of funds from* a deposit account; it does not apply to *transfers of the deposit account* itself or of an interest therein. Because a deposit account is a monetary obligation (debt) of the depositary bank to its depositor, a transfer of the deposit account itself does not transfer the funds credited to the deposit account. For example, this section does not apply to the creation of a security interest in a deposit account. Competing claims to the deposit account itself are dealt with by other Article 9 priority rules. *See* Sections 9-317(a), 9-327, 9-340, 9-341. Similarly, a corporate merger normally would not result in a transfer of funds from a deposit account. Rather, it might result in a transfer of the deposit account itself. If so, the normal rules applicable to transferred collateral would apply; this section would not.

The depositor's creditors (whether secured parties or lien creditors) do not have any interest in any *funds* (or any other assets of the depositary bank) as a result of having an interest in the deposit account (the right to payment of the bank's obligation). Consequently, a transferee of funds that takes free of a security interest under Subsection (b) does so whether the security interest in the deposit account from which the funds were transferred arises as original collateral or as proceeds.

A transferee of *an interest in the deposit account*, such as a garnishing lien creditor, does not take free of a security interest in a deposit account under Subsection (b). A transferee takes free under subsection (b) only upon the actual receipt of *funds* from the deposit account. The proper construction of Subsection (b) rejects cases that treat garnishment of a deposit account as an immediate transfer of funds or an interest in funds credited to the deposit account.

The last event that provides a recovery for a creditor in a garnishment action virtually always would be a transfer of funds from a deposit account. However, this does not mean that a perfected security interest will always be cut off by a garnishing creditor. By intervening in the garnishment proceeding to assert its senior security interest before funds are disbursed, the secured party might assert and retain its priority. However, the relevant procedural law may not provide the secured party with adequate advance notice. In some cases, a control agreement that perfects a security interest in the deposit account may require the garnished bank to provide prompt notice to the secured party. But not all control agreements will so provide. Moreover, the secured party's priority is not absolute. *See, e.g.*, Section 9-401, Comment 6 (explaining that the equitable doctrine of marshaling may be appropriate in the case of a lien creditor's interest in collateral when a senior secured party is oversecured).

2D. **Transferees of Electronic Money.** Because "electronic money" is new, no pattern of past practices or understandings exists. However, subsection (c) provides a take-free rule for electronic money that complements subsection (a) by conditioning the take-free rule on the transferee's obtaining control.

2E. **Temporal Aspect of Collusion Test.** For a transferee to take free of a security interest under this section the transferee must receive delivery of tangible money, receive funds from a deposit account, or obtain control of electronic money without acting in collusion. Whether the transferee is acting without collusion is determined as of the time of delivery to the transferee or receipt of funds or obtaining control by the transferee.

3. **Policy.** Broad protection for transferees helps to ensure that security interests in deposit accounts do not impair the free flow of funds. It also minimizes the likelihood that a secured party will enjoy a claim to whatever the transferee purchases with the funds. Rules concerning recovery of payments traditionally have placed a high value on finality. The opportunity to upset a completed transaction, or even to place a completed transaction in jeopardy by bringing suit against the transferee of funds, should be severely limited. Although the giving of value usually is a prerequisite for receiving the ability to take free from third-party claims, where payments are concerned the law is even more protective. Thus, section 3-418(c) provides that, even where the law of restitution otherwise would permit recovery of funds paid by mistake, no recovery may be had from a person "who in good faith changed position in reliance on the payment." Rather than adopt this standard, this section eliminates all reliance requirements whatsoever. Payments made by mistake are relatively rare, but payments of funds from encumbered deposit accounts (*e.g.*, deposit accounts containing collections from accounts receivable) occur with great regularity. In most cases, unlike payment by mistake, no one would object to these payments. In the vast proportion of cases, the transferee probably would be able to show a change of position in reliance on the payment. This section does not put the transferee to the burden of having to make this proof.

4. **"Bad Actors."** To deal with the question of the "bad actor," this section borrows "collusion" language from Article 8. *See, e.g.*, Sections 8-115, 8-503(e). This is the most protective (i.e., least stringent) of the various standards now found in the UCC. *Compare, e.g.*, Section 1-201(b)(9) ("without knowledge that the sale violates the rights of another person," in the definition of "buyer in ordinary course of business"); Section 1-201(b)(20) (defining "good faith" as "honesty in fact and the observance of reasonable commercial standards of fair dealing"); Section 3-302(a)(2)(v) ("without notice of any claim").

5. **Transferee Who Does Not Take Free.** This section sets forth the circumstances under which certain transferees of money or funds take free of security interests. It does not determine the rights of a transferee who does not take free of a security interest.

Example 3: The facts are as in Example 2, but, in wrongfully moving the funds from the deposit account at Bank A to Debtor's deposit account with Bank B, Debtor acts in collusion with Bank B. Bank B does not take the funds free of Lender's security interest under this section. If Debtor grants a security interest to Bank B, section 9-327 governs the relative priorities of Lender and Bank B. Under section 9-327(3), Bank B's security interest in the Bank B deposit account is senior to Lender's security interest in the deposit account as proceeds. However, Bank B's senior security interest does not protect Bank B against any liability to Lender that might arise from Bank B's wrongful conduct.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, provided that a transferee of electronic money takes the money free of a security interest if the transferee obtains control of the money without acting in collusion with the debtor in violating the rights of the secured party; in Subsection (a), after "security interest", deleted "unless the transferee acts" and added "if the transferee receives possession of the money without acting"; in Subsection (b), after "deposit account", deleted "unless the transferee acts" and added "if the transferee receives the funds without acting"; and added Subsection (c).

55-9-333. Priority of certain liens arising by operation of law.

(a) In this section, "possessory lien" means an interest, other than a security interest or an agricultural lien:

(1) that secures payment or performance of an obligation for services or materials furnished with respect to goods by a person in the ordinary course of the person's business;

(2) that is created by statute or rule of law in favor of the person; and

(3) whose effectiveness depends on the person's possession of the goods.

(b) A possessory lien on goods has priority over a security interest in the goods unless the lien is created by a statute that expressly provides otherwise.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-333, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 53.

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1. Source. Former section 9-310.

2. "Possessory Liens." This section governs the relative priority of security interests arising under this article and "possessory liens," i.e., common-law and statutory liens whose effectiveness depends on the lienor's possession of goods with respect to which the lienor provided services or furnished materials in the ordinary course of its business. As under former section 9-310, the possessory lien has priority over a security interest unless the possessory lien is created by a statute that expressly provides otherwise. If the statute creating the possessory lien is silent as to its priority relative to a security interest, this section provides a rule of interpretation that the possessory lien takes priority, even if the statute has been construed judicially to make the possessory lien subordinate.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

Cross references. — For liens on personal property, see Chapter 48, Article 3 NMSA 1978.

Law reviews. — For article, "The Warehouseman vs. the Secured Party: Who Prevails When the Warehouseman's Lien Covers Goods Subject to a Security Interest?" see 8 Nat. Resources J. 331 (1968).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Lien for repairs to or services in connection with automobile, 62 A.L.R. 1485.

Priority of statutory lien for storage or repairs as against rights of purchasers, attaching creditors or trustees in bankruptcy which arose while car was in possession of owner after accrual of storage or completion of repairs, 100 A.L.R. 80.

Priority as between lien for repairs and the like, and right of seller under conditional sales contract, 36 A.L.R.2d 198.

Priority as between artisan's lien and chattel mortgage, 36 A.L.R.2d 229.

Lien for storage of motor vehicle, 48 A.L.R.2d 894, 85 A.L.R.3d 199.

Priority as between mechanic's lien and purchase money mortgage, 73 A.L.R.2d 1407.

55-9-334. Priority of security interests in fixtures.

(a) A security interest under Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 may be created in goods that are fixtures or may continue in goods that become fixtures. A security interest does not exist under this article in ordinary building materials incorporated into an improvement on land.

(b) Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 does not prevent creation of an encumbrance upon fixtures under real property law.

(c) In cases not governed by Subsections (d) through (h) of this section, a security interest in fixtures is subordinate to a conflicting interest of an encumbrancer or owner of the related real property other than the debtor.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (h) of this section, a perfected security interest in fixtures has priority over a conflicting interest of an encumbrancer or owner of the real property if the debtor has an interest of record in or is in possession of the real property and:

(1) the security interest is a purchase-money security interest;

(2) the interest of the encumbrancer or owner arises before the goods become fixtures; and

(3) the security interest is perfected by a fixture filing before the goods become fixtures or within twenty days thereafter.

(e) A perfected security interest in fixtures has priority over a conflicting interest of an encumbrancer or owner of the real property if:

(1) the debtor has an interest of record in the real property or is in possession of the real property and the security interest:

(A) is perfected by a fixture filing before the interest of the encumbrancer or owner is of record; and

(B) has priority over any conflicting interest of a predecessor in title of the encumbrancer or owner;

(2) before the goods become fixtures, the security interest is perfected by any method permitted by Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, and the fixtures are readily removable:

(A) factory or office machines;

(B) equipment that is not primarily used or leased for use in the operation of the real property; or

(C) replacements of domestic appliances that are consumer goods;

(3) the conflicting interest is a lien on the real property obtained by legal or equitable proceedings after the security interest was perfected by any method permitted by this article; or

(4) the security interest is:

(A) created in a manufactured home in a manufactured-home transaction; and

(B) perfected pursuant to a statute described in Paragraph (2) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-311 NMSA 1978.

(f) A security interest in fixtures, whether or not perfected, has priority over a conflicting interest of an encumbrancer or owner of the real property if:

(1) the encumbrancer or owner has, in a signed record, consented to the security interest or disclaimed an interest in the goods as fixtures; or

(2) the debtor has a right to remove the goods as against the encumbrancer or owner.

(g) The priority of the security interest under Paragraph (2) of Subsection (f) of this section continues for a reasonable time if the debtor's right to remove the goods as against the encumbrancer or owner terminates.

(h) A mortgage is a construction mortgage to the extent that it secures an obligation incurred for the construction of an improvement on land, including the acquisition cost of the land, if a recorded record of the mortgage so indicates. Except as otherwise provided in Subsections (e) and (f) of this section, a security interest in fixtures is subordinate to a construction mortgage if a record of the mortgage is recorded before the goods become fixtures and the goods become fixtures before the completion of the construction. A mortgage has this priority to the same extent as a construction mortgage to the extent that it is given to refinance a construction mortgage.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-334, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 54; 2023, ch. 142, § 74.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-313.

2. **Scope of This Section.** This section contains rules governing the priority of security interests in fixtures and crops as against persons who claim an interest in real property. Priority contests with other article 9 security interests are governed by the other priority rules of this article. The provisions with respect to fixtures follow those of former section 9-313. However, they have been rewritten to conform to section 2A-309 and to prevailing style conventions. Subsections (i) and (j) [(j) and (k)], which apply to crops, are new.

3. **Security Interests in Fixtures.** Certain goods that are the subject of personal-property (chattel) financing become so affixed or otherwise so related to real property that they become part of the real property. These goods are called "fixtures." *See* section 9-102 (definition of "fixtures"). Some fixtures retain their personal property nature: A security interest under this article may be created in fixtures and may continue in goods that become fixtures. *See* subsection (a). However, if the goods are ordinary building materials incorporated into an improvement on land, no security interest in them exists. Rather, the priority of claims to the building materials are determined by the law governing claims to real property. (Of course, the fact that no security interest exists in ordinary building materials incorporated into an improvement on land does not prejudice any rights the secured party may have against the debtor or any other person who violated the secured party's rights by wrongfully incorporating the goods into real property.)

Thus, this section recognizes three categories of goods: (1) Those that retain their chattel character entirely and are not part of the real property; (2) ordinary building materials that have become an integral part of the real property and cannot retain their chattel character for purposes of finance; and (3) an intermediate class that has become real property for certain purposes, but as to which chattel financing may be preserved.

To achieve priority under certain provisions of this section, a security interest must be perfected by making a "fixture filing" (defined in section 9-102) in the real property records. Because the question whether goods have become fixtures often is a difficult one under applicable real property law, a secured party may make a fixture filing as a precaution. Courts should not infer from a fixture filing that the secured party concedes that the goods are or will become fixtures.

4. **Priority in Fixtures: General.** In considering priority problems under this section, one must first determine whether real property claimants per se have an interest in the crops or fixtures as part of real property. If not, it is immaterial, so far as concerns real property parties as such, whether a security interest arising under this article is perfected or unperfected. In no event does a real property claimant (*e.g.*, owner or mortgagee) acquire an interest in a "pure" chattel just because a security interest therein is unperfected. If on the other hand real property law gives real property parties an interest in the goods, a conflict arises and this section states the priorities.

5. **Priority in Fixtures: Residual Rule.** Subsection (c) states the residual priority rule, which applies only if one of the other rules does not: A security interest in fixtures is subordinate to a conflicting interest of an encumbrancer or owner of the related real property other than the debtor.

6. **Priority in Fixtures: First to File or Record.** Subsection (e)(1), which follows former section 9-313(4)(b), contains the usual priority rule of conveyancing, that is, the first to file or record prevails. In order to achieve priority under this rule, however, the security interest must be perfected by a "fixture filing" (defined in section 9-102), *i.e.*, a filing for record in the real property records and indexed therein, so that it will be found

in a real property search. The condition in subsection (e)(1)(B), that the security interest must have had priority over any conflicting interest of a predecessor in title of the conflicting encumbrancer or owner, appears to limit to the first-in-time principle. However, this apparent limitation is nothing other than an expression of the usual rule that a person must be entitled to transfer what he or she has. Thus, if the fixture security interest is subordinate to a mortgage, it is subordinate to an interest of an assignee of the mortgage, even though the assignment is a later recorded instrument. Similarly if the fixture security interest is subordinate to the rights of an owner, it is subordinate to a subsequent grantee of the owner and likewise subordinate to a subsequent mortgagee of the owner.

7. **Priority in Fixtures: Purchase-Money Security Interests.** Subsection (d), which follows former section 9-313(4)(a), contains the principal exception to the first-to-file-or-record rule of subsection (e)(1). It affords priority to purchase-money security interests in fixtures as against prior recorded real property interests, provided that the purchase-money security interest is filed as a fixture filing in the real property records before the goods become fixtures or within 20 days thereafter. This priority corresponds to the purchase-money priority under section 9-324(a). (Like other 10-day periods in former article 9, the 10-day period in this section has been changed to 20 days.)

It should be emphasized that this purchase-money priority with the 20-day grace period for filing is limited to rights against real property interests that arise before the goods become fixtures. There is no such priority with the 20-day grace period as against real property interests that arise subsequently. The fixture security interest can defeat subsequent real property interests only if it is filed first and prevails under the usual conveyancing rule in subsection (e)(1) or one of the other rules in this section.

8. **Priority in Fixtures: Readily Removable Goods.** Subsection (e)(2), which derives from section 2A-309 and former section 9-313(4)(d), contains another exception to the usual first-to-file-or-perfect rule. It affords priority to the holders of security interests in certain types of readily removable goods - factory and office machines, equipment that is not primarily used or leased for use in the operation of the real property, and (as discussed below) certain replacements of domestic appliances. This rule is made necessary by the confusion in the law as to whether certain machinery, equipment, and appliances become fixtures. It protects a secured party who, perhaps in the mistaken belief that the readily removable goods will not become fixtures, makes a UCC filing (or otherwise perfects under this article) rather than making a fixture filing.

Frequently, under applicable law, goods of the type described in subsection (e)(2) will not be considered to have become part of the real property. In those cases, the fixture security interest does not conflict with a real property interest, and resort to this section is unnecessary. However, if the goods have become part of the real property, subsection (e)(2) enables a fixture secured party to take priority over a conflicting real-property interest if the fixture security interest is perfected by a fixture filing or by any other method permitted by this article. If perfection is by fixture filing, the fixture security interest would have priority over subsequently recorded real property interests under

subsection (e)(1) and, if the fixture security interest is a purchase-money security interest (a likely scenario), it would also have priority over most real property interests under the purchase-money priority of subsection (d). Note, however, that unlike the purchase-money priority rule in subsection (d), the priority rules in subsection (e) override the priority given to a construction mortgage under subsection (h).

The rule in subsection (e)(2) is limited to readily removable replacements of domestic appliances. It does not apply to original installations. Moreover, it is limited to appliances that are "consumer goods" (defined in section 9-102) in the hands of the debtor. The principal effect of the rule is to make clear that a secured party financing occasional replacements of domestic appliances in noncommercial, owner-occupied contexts need not concern itself with real-property descriptions or records; indeed, for a purchase-money replacement of consumer goods, perfection without any filing will be possible. *See* section 9-309(1).

9. **Priority in Fixtures: Judicial Liens.** Subsection (e)(3), which follows former section 9-313(4)(d), adopts a first-in-time rule applicable to conflicts between a fixture security interest and a lien on the real property obtained by legal or equitable proceedings. Such a lien is subordinate to an earlier-perfected security interest, regardless of the method by which the security interest was perfected. Judgment creditors generally are not reliance creditors who search real property records. Accordingly, a perfected fixture security interest takes priority over a subsequent judgment lien or other lien obtained by legal or equitable proceedings, even if no evidence of the security interest appears in the relevant real property records. Subsection (e)(3) thus protects a perfected fixture security interest from avoidance by a trustee in bankruptcy under Bankruptcy Code section 544(a), regardless of the method of perfection.

10. **Priority in Fixtures: Manufactured Homes.** A manufactured home may become a fixture. New subsection (e)(4) contains a special rule granting priority to certain security interests created in a "manufactured home" as part of a "manufactured-home transaction" (both defined in section 9-102). Under this rule, a security interest in a manufactured home that becomes a fixture has priority over a conflicting interest of an encumbrancer or owner of the real property if the security interest is perfected under a certificate of title statute (see section 9-311). Subsection (e)(4) is only one of the priority rules applicable to security interests in a manufactured home that becomes a fixture. Thus, a security interest in a manufactured home which does not qualify for priority under this subsection may qualify under another.

11. **Priority in Fixtures: Construction Mortgages.** The purchase-money priority presents a difficult problem in relation to construction mortgages. The latter ordinarily will have been recorded even before the commencement of delivery of materials to the job, and therefore would take priority over fixture security interests were it not for the purchase-money priority. However, having recorded first, the holder of a construction mortgage reasonably expects to have first priority in the improvement built using the mortgagee's advances. Subsection (g) expressly gives priority to the construction

mortgage recorded before the filing of the purchase-money security interest in fixtures. A refinancing of a construction mortgage has the same priority as the construction mortgage itself. The phrase "an obligation incurred for the construction of an improvement" covers both optional advances and advances pursuant to commitment. Both types of advances have the same priority under subsection (g).

The priority under this subsection applies only to goods that become fixtures during the construction period leading to the completion of the improvement. The construction priority will not apply to additions to the building made long after completion of the improvement, even if the additions are financed by the real property mortgagee under an open-end clause of the construction mortgage. In such case, subsections (d), (e), and (f) govern.

Although this subsection affords a construction mortgage priority over a purchase-money security interest that otherwise would have priority under subsection (d), the subsection is subject to the priority rules in subsections (e) and (f). Thus, a construction mortgage may be junior to a fixture security interest perfected by a fixture filing before the construction mortgage was recorded. *See* subsection (e)(1).

12. **Crops.** Growing crops are "goods" in which a security interest may be created and perfected under this article. In some jurisdictions, a mortgage of real property may cover crops, as well. In the event that crops are encumbered by both a mortgage and an article 9 security interest, subsection (i) [(j)]provides that the security interest has priority. States whose real property law provides otherwise should either amend that law directly or override it by enacting subsection (j) [(k)].

13. **"Signed" Replaces "Authenticated."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate term "signed" replaces the reference to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, in Subsection (f), after "owner has, in", deleted "an authenticated" and added "a signed".

Decisions under former 55-9-313 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-313 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-313 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Policy of this section is consistent with the majority rule under precode law, in that it gives priority to the fixture security interest over an antecedent interest in the real estate. *Honea v. Laco Auto Leasing, Inc.*, 1969-NMCA-025, 80 N.M. 300, 454 P.2d 782 (decided under former law).

When secured party may remove fixtures. — Where defendant's purchase money security interests in pumping equipment installed by tenant on property leased by

plaintiff attached before the equipment became fixtures on the property, such interest was given priority over plaintiff's antecedent interest in the property, and defendant was therefore justified in removing equipment from land when tenant was evicted from property by plaintiff for failure to pay rent. *Honea v. Laco Auto Leasing, Inc.*, 1969-NMCA-025, 80 N.M. 300, 454 P.2d 782 (decided under former law).

Perfection of lien on mobile home. A bankruptcy trustee, in the position of a subsequent judgment lien creditor or good faith purchaser, could not avoid a creditor's lien on a mobile home that was perfected by notation on the certificate of title, even though the home had become a fixture and the creditor had not made a fixture filing. *Lucero v. Green Tree Fin. Servicing Corp.*, 203 B.R. 322 (B.A.P. 10th Cir. 1996) (decided under former law).

Rose bushes as "fixtures". — Where the evidence showed that Chapter 11 debtor's rose bushes were planted directly into the earth, secured by root systems extending three or four feet and that the bushes were intended to produce successive crops for over a period of seven to eight years, the rose bushes had become so attached to the real estate interest that they became fixtures within the meaning of this section, and creditor's failure to file according to Section 55-9-401 NMSA 1978 rendered his interest unperfected. *Flores De N.M., Inc. v. Banda Negra Int'l, Inc.*, 151 B.R. 571 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1993) (decided under former law).

Law reviews. — For article, "Fixtures and the Uniform Commercial Code in New Mexico," see 4 Nat. Resources J. 109 (1964).

For article, "The Warehouseman vs. the Secured Party: Who Prevails When the Warehouseman's Lien Covers Goods Subject to a Security Interest?" see 8 Nat. Resources J. 331 (1968).

For note, "Fixtures, Security Interests and Filing: Problems of Title Examination in New Mexico," see 8 Nat. Resources J. 513 (1968).

For comment, "New Mexico's Uniform Commercial Code in Oil and Gas Transactions," see 10 Nat. Resources J. 361 (1970).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Right of conditional seller of chattels attached to realty to claim lien on the realty, 58 A.L.R. 1121.

Heating plant as a fixture, or as a part of or attached to realty as between mortgagor and mortgagee and their privies; as between conditional vendor and owner of realty, or purchasers or encumbrancers thereof, 126 A.L.R. 600.

Rights of seller of fixtures retaining title thereto, or a lien thereon, as against purchasers or encumbrancers of the realty, 141 A.L.R. 1283.

Refrigerator or refrigerating plant as fixture, 169 A.L.R. 478.

Sprinkler system as fixture, 19 A.L.R.2d 1300.

Amusement apparatus or device as fixture, 41 A.L.R.2d 664.

Appliances, accessories, pipes or other articles connected with plumbing as fixtures, 52 A.L.R.2d 222.

Electric range as fixture as between mortgagor and mortgagee or successor in interest, 57 A.L.R.2d 1103.

Air conditioning appliance, equipment, apparatus or as fixture, 69 A.L.R.4th 359.

55-9-335. Accessions.

(a) A security interest may be created in an accession and continues in collateral that becomes an accession.

(b) If a security interest is perfected when the collateral becomes an accession, the security interest remains perfected in the collateral.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (d) of this section, the other provisions of this part determine the priority of a security interest in an accession.

(d) A security interest in an accession is subordinate to a security interest in the whole which is perfected by compliance with the requirements of a certificate-of-title statute under Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-311 NMSA 1978.

(e) After default, subject to Sections 55-9-601 through 55-9-628 NMSA 1978, a secured party may remove an accession from other goods if the security interest in the accession has priority over the claims of every person having an interest in the whole.

(f) A secured party that removes an accession from other goods under Subsection (e) of this section shall promptly reimburse any holder of a security interest or other lien on, or owner of, the whole or of the other goods, other than the debtor, for the cost of repair of any physical injury to the whole or the other goods. The secured party need not reimburse the holder or owner for any diminution in value of the whole or the other goods caused by the absence of the accession removed or by any necessity for replacing it. A person entitled to reimbursement may refuse permission to remove until the secured party gives adequate assurance for the performance of the obligation to reimburse.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-335, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 55.

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1. Source. Former section 9-314.

2. "Accession." This section applies to an "accession," as defined in section 9-102, regardless of the cost or difficulty of removing the accession from the other goods, and regardless of whether the original goods have come to form an integral part of the other goods. This section does not apply to goods whose identity has been lost. Goods of that kind are "commingled goods" governed by section 9-336. Neither this section nor the following one addresses the case of collateral that changes form without the addition of other goods.

3. "Accession" vs. "Other Goods." This section distinguishes among the "accession," the "other goods," and the "whole." The last term refers to the combination of the "accession" and the "other goods." If one person's collateral becomes physically united with another person's collateral, each is an "accession."

Example 1: SP-1 holds a security interest in the debtor's tractors (which are not subject to a certificate of title statute), and SP-2 holds a security interest in a particular tractor engine. The engine is installed in a tractor. From the perspective of SP-1, the tractor becomes an "accession" and the engine is the "other goods." From the perspective of SP-2, the engine is the "accession" and the tractor is the "other goods." The completed tractor - tractor cum engine - constitutes the "whole."

4. Scope. This section governs only a few issues concerning accessions. Subsection (a) contains rules governing continuation of a security interest in an accession. Subsection (b) contains a rule governing continued perfection of a security interest in goods that become an accession. Subsection (d) contains a special priority rule governing accessions that become part of a whole covered by a certificate of title. Subsections (e) and (f) govern enforcement of a security interest in an accession.

5. Matters Left to Other Provisions of This Article: Attachment and Perfection. Other provisions of this article often govern accession-related issues. For example, this section does not address whether a secured party acquires a security interest in the whole if its collateral becomes an accession. Normally this will turn on the description of the collateral in the security agreement.

Example 2: Debtor owns a computer subject to a perfected security interest in favor of SP-1. Debtor acquires memory and installs it in the computer. Whether SP-1's security interest attaches to the memory depends on whether the security agreement covers it.

Similarly, this section does not determine whether perfection against collateral that becomes an accession is effective to perfect a security interest in the whole. Other provisions of this article, including the requirements for indicating the collateral covered by a financing statement, resolve that question.

6. Matters Left to Other Provisions of This Article: Priority. With one exception, concerning goods covered by a certificate of title (see subsection (d)), the other provisions of this part, including the rules governing purchase-money security interests, determine the priority of most security interests in an accession, including the relative priority of a security interest in an accession and a security interest in the whole. See subsection (c).

Example 3: Debtor owns an office computer subject to a security interest in favor of SP-1. Debtor acquires memory and grants a perfected security interest in the memory to SP-2. Debtor installs the memory in the computer, at which time (one assumes) SP-1's security interest attaches to the memory. The first-to-file-or-perfect rule of section 9-322 governs priority in the memory. If, however, SP-2's security interest is a purchase-money security interest, section 9-324(a) would afford priority in the memory to SP-2, regardless of which security interest was perfected first.

7. Goods Covered by Certificate of Title. This section does govern the priority of a security interest in an accession that is or becomes part of a whole that is subject to a security interest perfected by compliance with a certificate of title statute. Subsection (d) provides that a security interest in the whole, perfected by compliance with a certificate of title statute, takes priority over a security interest in the accession. It enables a secured party to rely upon a certificate of title without having to check the UCC files to determine whether any components of the collateral may be encumbered. The subsection imposes a corresponding risk upon those who finance goods that may become part of goods covered by a certificate of title. In doing so, it reverses the priority that appeared reasonable to most pre-UCC courts.

Example 4: Debtor owns an automobile subject to a security interest in favor of SP-1. The security interest is perfected by notation on the certificate of title. Debtor buys tires subject to a perfected-by-filing purchase-money security interest in favor of SP-2 and mounts the tires on the automobile's wheels. If the security interest in the automobile attaches to the tires, then SP-1 acquires priority over SP-2. The same result would obtain if SP-1's security interest attached to the automobile and was perfected after the tires had been mounted on the wheels.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Accession to property which is the subject of a conditional sale or chattel mortgage, 68 A.L.R. 1242.

Reservation of title by conditional sale of material to manufacturer as affecting articles fabricated or in process of fabrication from the material, 111 A.L.R. 682.

Accession to motor vehicle, 43 A.L.R.2d 813.

55-9-336. Commingled goods.

(a) In this section, "commingled goods" means goods that are physically united with other goods in such a manner that their identity is lost in a product or mass.

(b) A security interest does not exist in commingled goods as such. However, a security interest may attach to a product or mass that results when goods become commingled goods.

(c) If collateral becomes commingled goods, a security interest attaches to the product or mass.

(d) If a security interest in collateral is perfected before the collateral becomes commingled goods, the security interest that attaches to the product or mass under Subsection (c) of this section is perfected.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (f) of this section, the other provisions of Sections 55-9-301 through 55-9-342 NMSA 1978 determine the priority of a security interest that attaches to the product or mass under Subsection (c) of this section.

(f) If more than one security interest attaches to the product or mass under Subsection (c) of this section, the following rules determine priority:

(1) a security interest that is perfected under Subsection (d) of this section has priority over a security interest that is unperfected at the time the collateral becomes commingled goods; or

(2) if more than one security interest is perfected under Subsection (d) of this section, the security interests rank equally in proportion to the value of the collateral at the time it became commingled goods.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-336, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 56.

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1. Source. Former section 9-315.

2. "Commingled Goods." Subsection (a) defines "commingled goods." It is meant to include not only goods whose identity is lost through manufacturing or production (e.g., flour that has become part of baked goods) but also goods whose identity is lost by commingling with other goods from which they cannot be distinguished (e.g., ball bearings).

3. Consequences of Becoming "Commingled Goods." By definition, the identity of the original collateral cannot be determined once the original collateral becomes commingled goods. Consequently, the security interest in the specific original collateral alone is lost once the collateral becomes commingled goods, and no security interest in the original collateral can be created thereafter except as a part of the resulting product or mass. *See* subsection (b).

Once collateral becomes commingled goods, the secured party's security interest is transferred from the original collateral to the product or mass. *See* subsection (c). If the security interest in the original collateral was perfected, the security interest in the product or mass is a perfected security interest. *See* subsection (d). This perfection continues until lapse.

4. Priority of Perfected Security Interests That Attach Under This Section. This section governs the priority of competing security interests in a product or mass only when both security interests arise under this section. In that case, if both security interests are perfected by operation of this section (*see* subsections (c) and (d)), then the security interests rank equally, in proportion to the value of the collateral at the time it became commingled goods. *See* subsection (f)(2).

Example 1: SP-1 has a perfected security interest in Debtor's eggs, which have a value of $300 and secure a debt of $400, and SP-2 has a perfected security interest in Debtor's flour, which has a value of $500 and secures a debt of $600. Debtor uses the flour and eggs to make cakes, which have a value of $1000. The two security interests rank equally and share in the ratio of 3:5. Applying this ratio to the entire value of the product, SP-1 would be entitled to $375 (i.e., 3/8 x $1000), and SP-2 would be entitled to $625 (i.e., 5/8 x $1000).

Example 2: Assume the facts of Example 1, except that SP-1's collateral, worth $300, secures a debt of $200. Recall that, if the cake is worth $1000, then applying the ratio of 3:5 would entitle SP-1 to $375 and SP-2 to $625. However, SP-1 is not entitled to collect from the product more than it is owed. Accordingly, SP-1's share would be only $200, SP-2 would receive the remaining value, up to the amount it is owed ($600).

Example 3: Assume that the cakes in the previous examples have a value of only $600. Again, the parties share in the ratio of 3:5. If, as in Example 1, SP-1 is owed $400, then SP-1 is entitled to $225 (i.e., 3/8 x $600), and SP-2 is entitled to $375 (i.e., 5/8 x $600). Debtor receives nothing. If, however, as in Example 2, SP-1 is owed only $200, then SP-2 receives $400.

The results in the foregoing examples remain the same, regardless of whether SP-1 or SP-2 (or each) has a purchase-money security interest.

5. Perfection: Unperfected Security Interests. The rule explained in the preceding comment applies only when both security interests in original collateral are perfected when the goods become commingled goods. If a security interest in original collateral is

unperfected at the time the collateral becomes commingled goods, subsection (f)(1) applies.

Example 4: SP-1 has a perfected security interest in the debtor's eggs, and SP-2 has an unperfected security interest in the debtor's flour. Debtor uses the flour and eggs to make cakes. Under subsection (c), both security interests attach to the cakes. But since SP-1's security interest was perfected at the time of commingling and SP-2's was not, only SP-1's security interest in the cakes is perfected. *See* subsection (d). Under subsection (f)(1) and section 9-322(a)(2), SP-1's perfected security interest has priority over SP-2's unperfected security interest.

If both security interests are unperfected, the rule of section 9-322(a)(3) would apply.

6. Multiple Security Interests. On occasion, a single input may be encumbered by more than one security interest. In those cases, the multiple secured parties should be treated like a single secured party for purposes of determining their collective share under subsection (f)(2). The normal priority rules would determine how that share would be allocated between them. Consider the following example, which is a variation on Example 1 above:

Example 5: SP-1A has a perfected, first-priority security interest in Debtor's eggs. SP-1B has a perfected, second-priority security interest in the same collateral. The eggs have a value of $300. Debtor owes $200 to SP-1A and $200 to SP-1B. SP-2 has a perfected security interest in Debtor's flour, which has a value of $500 and secures a debt of $600. Debtor uses the flour and eggs to make cakes, which have a value of $1000.

For purposes of subsection (f)(2), SP-1A and SP-1B should be treated like a single secured party. The collective security interest would rank equally with that of SP-2. Thus, the secured parties would share in the ratio of 3 (for SP-1A and SP-1B combined) to 5 (for SP-2). Applying this ratio to the entire value of the product, SP-1A and SP-1B in the aggregate would be entitled to $375 (i.e., 3/8 x $1000), and SP-2 would be entitled to $625 (i.e., 5/8 x $1000).

SP-1A and SP-1B would share the $375 in accordance with their priority, as established under other rules. Inasmuch as SP-1A has first priority, it would receive $200, and SP-1B would receive $175.

7. Priority of Security Interests That Attach Other Than by Operation of This Section. Under subsection (e), the normal priority rules determine the priority of a security interest that attaches to the product or mass other than by operation of this section. For example, assume that SP-1 has a perfected security interest in Debtor's existing and after-acquired baked goods, and SP-2 has a perfected security interest in Debtor's flour. When the flour is processed into cakes, subsections (c) and (d) provide that SP-2 acquires a perfected security interest in the cakes. If SP-1 filed against the baked goods before SP-2 filed against the flour, then SP-1 will enjoy priority in the

cakes. *See* section 9-322 (first-to-file-or-perfect). But if SP-2 filed against the flour before SP-1 filed against the baked goods, then SP-2 will enjoy priority in the cakes to the extent of its security interest.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Replevin for an undivided share of the mixed mass in case of confusion of goods, 26 A.L.R. 1015.

Commingling of goods subject to trust receipt, 101 A.L.R. 465, 168 A.L.R. 359.

Confusion of goods by accident, mistake or act of a third person, 39 A.L.R.2d 555.

55-9-337. Priority of security interests in goods covered by certificate of title.

If, while a security interest in goods is perfected by any method under the law of another jurisdiction, this state issues a certificate of title that does not show that the goods are subject to the security interest or contain a statement that they may be subject to security interests not shown on the certificate:

(1) a buyer of the goods, other than a person in the business of selling goods of that kind, takes free of the security interest if the buyer gives value and receives delivery of the goods after issuance of the certificate and without knowledge of the security interest; and

(2) the security interest is subordinate to a conflicting security interest in the goods that attaches, and is perfected under Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-311 NMSA 1978, after issuance of the certificate and without the conflicting secured party's knowledge of the security interest.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-337, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 57.

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1. Source. Derived from former section 9-103(2)(d).

2. Protection for Buyers and Secured Parties. This section affords protection to certain good-faith purchasers for value who are likely to have relied on a "clean" certificate of title, i.e., one that neither shows that the goods are subject to a particular security interest nor contains a statement that they may be subject to security interests

not shown on the certificate. Under this section, a buyer can take free of, and the holder of a conflicting security interest can acquire priority over, a security interest that is perfected by any method under the law of another jurisdiction. The fact that the security interest has been reperfected by possession under section 9-313 does not of itself disqualify the holder of a conflicting security interest from protection under paragraph (2).

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-338. Priority of security interest or agricultural lien perfected by filed financing statement providing certain incorrect information.

If a security interest or agricultural lien is perfected by a filed financing statement providing information described in Paragraph (5) of Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-516 NMSA 1978 that is incorrect at the time the financing statement is filed:

(1) the security interest or agricultural lien is subordinate to a conflicting perfected security interest in the collateral to the extent that the holder of the conflicting security interest gives value in reasonable reliance upon the incorrect information; and

(2) a purchaser, other than a secured party, of the collateral takes free of the security interest or agricultural lien to the extent that, in reasonable reliance upon the incorrect information, the purchaser gives value and, in the case of tangible chattel paper, tangible documents, goods, instruments or a security certificate, receives delivery of the collateral.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-338, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 58; 2005, ch. 144, § 106.

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1. Source. New.

2. Effect of Incorrect Information in Financing Statement. Section 9-520(a) requires the filing office to reject financing statements that do not contain information concerning the debtor as specified in section 9-516(b)(5). An error in this information does not render the financing statement ineffective. On rare occasions, a subsequent purchaser of the collateral (i.e., a buyer or secured party) may rely on the misinformation to its detriment. This section subordinates a security interest or agricultural lien perfected by an effective, but flawed, financing statement to the rights of a buyer or holder of a perfected security interest to the extent that, in reasonable reliance on the incorrect

information, the purchaser gives value and, in the case of tangible collateral, receives delivery of the collateral. A purchaser who has not made itself aware of the information in the filing office with respect to the debtor cannot act in "reasonable reliance" upon incorrect information.

3. Relationship to Section 9-507 [55-9-507 NMSA 1978]. This section applies to financing statements that contain information that is incorrect at the time of filing and imposes a small risk of subordination on the filer. In contrast, Section 9-507 deals with financing statements containing information that is correct at the time of filing but which becomes incorrect later. Except as provided in Section 9-507 with respect to changes in the name that is sufficient as the name of the debtor under Section 9-503(a) [55-9-503(a) NMSA 1978], an otherwise effective financing statement does not become ineffective if the information contained in it becomes inaccurate.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

The 2005 amendment, effective January 1, 2006, changes the phrase "chattel paper" to "tangible chattel paper" and the word "documents" to "tangible documents" in Subsection (2).

55-9-339. Priority subject to subordination.

Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 does not preclude subordination by agreement by a person entitled to priority.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-339, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 59.

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1. Source. Former section 9-316.

2. Subordination by Agreement. The preceding sections deal elaborately with questions of priority. This section makes it entirely clear that a person entitled to priority may effectively agree to subordinate its claim. Only the person entitled to priority may make such an agreement: A person's rights cannot be adversely affected by an agreement to which the person is not a party.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former 55-9-316 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-316 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-316 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

A subordination agreement by implication is not recognized; it must be expressed. *Western Bank v. Matherly*, 1987-NMSC-052, 106 N.M. 31, 738 P.2d 903 (decided under former law).

SUBPART 4. RIGHTS OF BANK

55-9-340. Effectiveness of right of recoupment or set-off against deposit account.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (c) of this section, a bank with which a deposit account is maintained may exercise any right of recoupment or set-off against a secured party that holds a security interest in the deposit account.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (c) of this section, the application of Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 to a security interest in a deposit account does not affect a right of recoupment or set-off of the secured party as to a deposit account maintained with the secured party.

(c) The exercise by a bank of a set-off against a deposit account is ineffective against a secured party that holds a security interest in the deposit account which is perfected by control under Paragraph (3) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-104 NMSA 1978, if the set-off is based on a claim against the debtor.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-340, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 60.

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1. Source. New; subsection (b) is based on a nonuniform Illinois amendment.

2. Set-off vs. Security Interest. This section resolves the conflict between a security interest in a deposit account and the bank's rights of recoupment and set-off.

Subsection (a) states the general rule and provides that the bank may effectively exercise rights of recoupment and set-off against the secured party. Subsection (c) contains an exception: If the secured party has control under section 9-104(a)(3) (i.e., if it has become the bank's customer), then any set-off exercised by the bank against a debt owed by the debtor (as opposed to a debt owed to the bank by the secured party) is ineffective. The bank may, however, exercise its recoupment rights effectively. This result is consistent with the priority rule in section 9-327(4), under which the security

interest of a bank in a deposit account is subordinate to that of a secured party who has control under section 9-104(a)(3).

This section deals with rights of set-off and recoupment that a bank may have under other law. It does not create a right of set-off or recoupment, nor is it intended to override any limitations or restrictions that other law imposes on the exercise of those rights.

3. Preservation of Set-Off Right. Subsection (b) makes clear that a bank may hold both a right of set-off against, and an article 9 security interest in, the same deposit account. By holding a security interest in a deposit account, a bank does not impair any right of set-off it would otherwise enjoy. This subsection does not pertain to accounts evidenced by an instrument (e.g., certain certificates of deposit), which are excluded from the definition of "deposit accounts."

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-341. Bank's rights and duties with respect to deposit account.

Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-340 NMSA 1978, and unless the bank otherwise agrees in a signed record, a bank's rights and duties with respect to a deposit account maintained with the bank are not terminated, suspended or modified by:

(1) the creation, attachment or perfection of a security interest in the deposit account;

(2) the bank's knowledge of the security interest; or

(3) the bank's receipt of instructions from the secured party.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-341, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 61; 2023, ch. 142, § 75.

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1. **Source.** New.

2. **Free Flow of Funds.** This section is designed to prevent security interests in deposit accounts from impeding the free flow of funds through the payment system. Subject to two exceptions, it leaves the bank's rights and duties with respect to the

deposit account and the funds on deposit unaffected by the creation or perfection of a security interest or by the bank's knowledge of the security interest. In addition, the section permits the bank to ignore the instructions of the secured party unless it had agreed to honor them or unless other law provides to the contrary. A secured party who wishes to deprive the debtor of access to funds on deposit or to appropriate those funds for itself needs to obtain the agreement of the bank, utilize the judicial process, or comply with procedures set forth in other law. Section 4-303(a), concerning the effect of notice on a bank's right and duty to pay items, is not to the contrary. That section addresses only whether an otherwise effective notice comes too late; it does not determine whether a timely notice is otherwise effective.

3. **Operation of Rule.** The general rule of this section is subject to section 9-340(c), under which a bank's right of set-off may not be exercised against a deposit account in the secured party's name if the right is based on a claim against the debtor. This result reflects current law in many jurisdictions and does not appear to have unduly disrupted banking practices or the payments system. The more important function of this section, which is not impaired by section 9-340, is the bank's right to follow the debtor's (customer's) instructions (e.g., by honoring checks, permitting withdrawals, etc.) until such time as the depository institution is served with judicial process or receives instructions with respect to the funds on deposit from a secured party who has control over the deposit account.

4. **Liability of Bank.** This article does not determine whether a bank that pays out funds from an encumbered deposit is liable to the holder of a security interest. Although the fact that a secured party has control over the deposit account and the manner by which control was achieved may be relevant to the imposition of liability, whatever rule applies generally when a bank pays out funds in which a third party has an interest would determine liability to a secured party. Often, this rule is found in a non-UCC adverse claim statute.

5. **Certificates of Deposit.** This section does not address the obligations of banks that issue instruments evidencing deposits (e.g., certain certificates of deposit).

6. **"Signed" Replaces "Authenticated."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate term "signed" replaces the reference to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, in the introductory clause, after "otherwise agrees in", deleted "an authenticated" and added "a signed".

55-9-342. Bank's right to refuse to enter into or disclose existence of control agreement.

Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 does not require a bank to enter into an agreement of the kind described in Paragraph (2) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-104 NMSA 1978, even if its customer so requests or directs. A bank that has entered into such an agreement is not required to confirm the existence of the agreement to another person unless requested to do so by its customer.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-342, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 62.

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1. Source. New; derived from section 8-106(g).

2. Protection for Bank. This section protects banks from the need to enter into agreements against their will and from the need to respond to inquiries from persons other than their customers.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

PART 4
RIGHTS OF THIRD PARTIES

55-9-401. Alienability of debtor's rights.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (b) of this section and Sections 55-9-406 through 55-9-409 NMSA 1978, whether a debtor's rights in collateral may be voluntarily or involuntarily transferred is governed by law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978.

(b) An agreement between the debtor and secured party which prohibits a transfer of the debtor's rights in collateral or makes the transfer a default does not prevent the transfer from taking effect.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-401, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 63.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-311.

2. **Scope of This Part.** This part deals with several issues affecting third parties (i.e., parties other than the debtor and the secured party). These issues are not addressed in part 3, subpart 3, which deals with priorities. This part primarily addresses the rights and duties of account debtors and other persons obligated on collateral who are not, themselves, parties to a secured transaction.

3. **Governing Law.** There was some uncertainty under former Article 9 as to which jurisdiction's law (usually, which jurisdiction's version of Article 9) applied to the matters that this Part addresses. Part 3, Subpart 1, does not determine the law governing these matters because they do not relate to perfection, the effect of perfection or nonperfection, or priority. However, it might be inappropriate for a designation of applicable law by a debtor and secured party under Section 1-301 [55-1-301 NMSA 1978] to control the law applicable to an independent transaction or relationship between the debtor and an account debtor.

Consider an example under section 9-408:

Example 1: State X has adopted this article; former article 9 is the law of State Y. A general intangible (e.g., a franchise agreement) between a debtor-franchisee, D, and an account debtor-franchisor, AD, is governed by the law of State Y. D grants to SP a security interest in its rights under the franchise agreement. The franchise agreement contains a term prohibiting D's assignment of its rights under the agreement. D and SP agree that their secured transaction is governed by the law of State X. Under State X's section 9-408, the restriction on D's assignment is ineffective to prevent the creation, attachment, or perfection of SP's security interest. State Y's former section 9-318(4), however, does not address restrictions on the creation of security interests in general intangibles other than general intangibles for money due or to become due. Accordingly, it does not address restrictions on the assignment to SP of D's rights under the franchise agreement. The non-article-9 law of State Y, which does address restrictions, provides that the prohibition on assignment is effective.

This article does not provide a specific answer to the question of which State's law applies to the restriction on assignment in the example. However, assuming that under non-UCC choice-of-law principles the effectiveness of the restriction would be governed by the law of State Y, which governs the franchise agreement, the fact that State X's article 9 governs the secured transaction between SP and D would not override the otherwise applicable law governing the agreement. Of course, to the extent that jurisdictions eventually adopt identical versions of this article and courts interpret it consistently, the inability to identify the applicable law in circumstances such as those in the example may be inconsequential.

4. **Inalienability Under Other Law.** Subsection (a) addresses the question whether property necessarily is transferable by virtue of its inclusion (i.e., its eligibility as collateral) within the scope of article 9. It gives a negative answer, subject to the identified exceptions. The substance of subsection (a) was implicit under former article 9.

5. **Negative Pledge Covenant.** Subsection (b) is an exception to the general rule in subsection (a). It makes clear that in secured transactions under this article the debtor has rights in collateral (whether legal title or equitable) which it can transfer and which its creditors can reach. It is best explained with an example:

Example 2: A debtor, D, grants to SP a security interest to secure a debt in excess of the value of the collateral. D agrees with SP that it will not create a subsequent security interest in the collateral and that any security interest purportedly granted in violation of the agreement will be void. Subsequently, in violation of its agreement with SP, D purports to grant a security interest in the same collateral to another secured party.

Subsection (b) validates D's creation of the subsequent (prohibited) security interest, which might even achieve priority over the earlier security interest. *See* comment 7. However, unlike some other provisions of this part, such as section 9-406, subsection (b) does not provide that the agreement restricting assignment itself is "ineffective." Consequently, the debtor's breach may create a default.

6. **Rights of Lien Creditors.** Difficult problems may arise with respect to attachment, levy, and other judicial procedures under which a debtor's creditors may reach collateral subject to a security interest. For example, an obligation may be secured by collateral worth many times the amount of the obligation. If a lien creditor has caused all or a portion of the collateral to be seized under judicial process, it may be difficult to determine the amount of the debtor's "equity" in the collateral that has been seized. The section leaves resolution of this problem to the courts. The doctrine of marshaling may be appropriate.

7. **Sale of Receivables.** If a debtor sells an account, chattel paper, payment intangible, or promissory note outright, as against the buyer the debtor has no remaining rights to transfer. If, however, the buyer fails to perfect its interest, then solely insofar as the rights of certain third parties are concerned, the debtor is deemed to retain its rights and title. See section 9-318. The debtor has the power to convey these rights to a subsequent purchaser. If the subsequent purchaser (buyer or secured lender) perfects its interest, it will achieve priority over the earlier, unperfected purchaser. *See* section 9-322(a)(1).

8. **Use of the Term "Assignment."** The term "assignment," as used in this Article, refers to both an outright transfer of ownership and a transfer of an interest to secure an obligation. *See* Section 9-102, Comment 26 2.b.1; PEB Commentary No. 21.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 63 repealed former 55-9-401 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1985, ch. 193, § 26, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former Section 55-9-311 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-311 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Section 55-9-311 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Debtor may transfer property covered by the security agreement without notifying the creditor or securing his or its consent to such a transfer. *Ryan v. Rolland*, 434 F.2d 353 (10th Cir. 1970) (decided under former law).

Ability to transfer collateral does not affect security interest. — The fact that collateral may be transferred voluntarily or involuntarily does not destroy or adversely affect a prior perfected security interest. *Brummund v. First Nat'l Bank*, 1983-NMSC-002, 99 N.M. 221, 656 P.2d 884 (decided under former law).

Security agreement may make transfer an event of default. — A provision in a security agreement may forbid transfer of collateral without prior consent or make such a transfer a default. Once the parties have agreed to such a security agreement provision, and that a violation thereof constitutes a default, the security agreement provision will be enforced to the extent that it makes a transfer an event of default. *Brummond v. First Nat'l Bank*, 1983-NMSC-002, 99 N.M. 221, 656 P.2d 884 (decided under former law).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 510 et seq.

Interest of vendee under conditional sales contract as subject to attachment, garnishment or execution, 61 A.L.R. 781.

Interest of mortgagor or pledgor in property in possession of mortgagee or pledgee as subject of garnishment, 83 A.L.R. 1383.

Validity of anti-assignment clause in contract, 37 A.L.R.2d 1251.

Construction and effect of UCC § 9-311 giving debtor right to transfer his interest in collateral, 45 A.L.R.4th 411.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 115 et seq.

55-9-402. Secured party not obligated on contract of debtor or in tort.

The existence of a security interest, agricultural lien or authority given to a debtor to dispose of or use collateral, without more, does not subject a secured party to liability in contract or tort for the debtor's acts or omissions.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-402, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 64.

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1. Source. Former section 9-317.

2. Nonliability of Secured Party. This section, like former section 9-317, rejects theories on which a secured party might be held liable on a debtor's contracts or in tort merely because a security interest exists or because the debtor is entitled to dispose of or use collateral. This section expands former section 9-317 to cover agricultural liens.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 64 repealed former 55-9-402 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1985, ch. 193, § 27, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 554.

Liability of one financing importation of goods for reimbursement of third person who pays charges or duties, 27 A.L.R. 1526.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 125.

55-9-403. Agreement not to assert defenses against assignee.

(a) In this section, "value" has the meaning provided in Subsection (a) of Section 55-3-303 NMSA 1978.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an agreement between an account debtor and an assignor not to assert against an assignee any claim or defense that the account debtor may have against the assignor is enforceable by an assignee that takes an assignment:

(1) for value;

(2) in good faith;

(3) without notice of a claim of a property or possessory right to the property assigned; and

(4) without notice of a defense or claim in recoupment of the type that may be asserted against a person entitled to enforce a negotiable instrument under Subsection (a) of Section 55-3-305 NMSA 1978.

(c) Subsection (b) of this section does not apply to defenses of a type that may be asserted against a holder in due course of a negotiable instrument under Subsection (b) of Section 55-3-305 NMSA 1978.

(d) In a consumer transaction, if a record evidences the account debtor's obligation, law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 requires that the record include a statement to the effect that the rights of an assignee are subject to claims or defenses that the account debtor could assert against the original obligee, and if the record does not include such a statement:

(1) the record has the same effect as if the record included such a statement; and

(2) the account debtor may assert against an assignee those claims and defenses that would have been available if the record included such a statement.

(e) This section is subject to law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 which establishes a different rule for an account debtor who is an individual and who incurred the obligation primarily for personal, family or household purposes.

(f) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (d) of this section, this section does not displace law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 which gives effect to an agreement by an account debtor not to assert a claim or defense against an assignee.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-403, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 65.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-206.

2. **Scope and Purpose.** Subsection (b), like former section 9-206, generally validates an agreement between an account debtor and an assignor that the account debtor will not assert against an assignee claims and defenses that it may have against the assignor. These agreements are typical in installment sale agreements and leases. However, this section expands former section 9-206 to apply to all account debtors; it is not limited to account debtors that have bought or leased goods. This section applies only to the obligations of an "account debtor," as defined in section 9-102. Thus, it does not determine the circumstances under which and the extent to which a person who is obligated on a negotiable instrument is disabled from asserting claims and defenses. Rather, article 3 must be consulted. *See, e.g.*, sections 3-305 and 3-306. Article 3 governs even when the negotiable instrument constitutes part of chattel paper. *See* section 9-102 (an obligor on a negotiable instrument constituting part of chattel paper is not an "account debtor").

3. **Conditions of Validation; Relationship to Article 3.** Subsection (b) validates an account debtor's agreement only if the assignee takes an assignment for value, in good faith, and without notice of conflicting claims to the property assigned or of certain claims or defenses of the account debtor. Like pre-1998 Section 9-206, this section is designed to put the assignee in a position that is no better and no worse than that of a holder in due course of a negotiable instrument under Article 3. However, pre-1998 Section 9-206 left open certain issues, e.g., whether the section incorporated the special Article 3 definition of "value" in Section 3-303 or the generally applicable definition in Article 1 (Section 1-204). Subsection (a) addresses this question; it provides that "value" has the meaning specified in Section 3-303(a). Similarly, subsection (c) provides that subsection (b) does not validate an agreement with respect to defenses that could be asserted against a holder in due course under Section 3-305(b) (the so-called "real" defenses). In 1990, the definition of "holder in due course" (Section 3-302) and the articulation of the rights of a holder in due course (Sections 3-305 and 3-306) were revised substantially. This section tracks more closely the rules of Sections 3-302, 3-305, and 3-306.

4. **Relationship to Terms of Assigned Property.** Former section 9-206(2), concerning warranties accompanying the sale of goods, has been deleted as unnecessary. This article does not regulate the terms of the account, chattel paper, or general intangible that is assigned, except insofar as the account, chattel paper, or general intangible itself creates a security interest (as often is the case with chattel paper). Thus, article 2, and not this article, determines whether a seller of goods makes or effectively disclaims warranties, even if the sale is secured. Similarly, other law, and not this article, determines the effectiveness of an account debtor's undertaking to pay notwithstanding, and not to assert, any defenses or claims against an assignor - *e.g.*, a "hell-or-high-water" provision in the underlying agreement that is assigned. If other law gives effect to this undertaking, then, under principles of nemo dat, the undertaking would be enforceable by the assignee (secured party). If other law prevents the assignor from enforcing the undertaking, this section nevertheless might permit the assignee to do so. The right of the assignee to enforce would depend upon whether, under the particular facts, the account debtor's undertaking fairly could be construed as an agreement that falls within the scope of this section and whether the assignee meets the requirements of this section.

5. **Relationship to Federal Trade Commission Rule.** Subsection (d) is new. It applies to rights evidenced by a record that is required to contain, but does not contain, the notice set forth in Federal Trade Commission Rule 433, 16 C.F.R. part 433 (the "Holder-in-Due-Course Regulations"). Under this subsection, an assignee of such a record takes subject to the consumer account debtor's claims and defenses to the same extent as it would have if the writing had contained the required notice. Thus, subsection (d) effectively renders waiver-of-defense clauses ineffective in the transactions with consumers to which it applies.

6. **Relationship to Other Law.** Like former section 9-206(1), this section takes no position on the enforceability of waivers of claims and defenses by consumer account

debtors, leaving that question to other law. However, the reference to "law other than this article" in subsection (e) encompasses administrative rules and regulations; the reference in former section 9-206(1) that it replaces ("statute or decision") arguably did not.

This section does not displace other law that gives effect to a nonconsumer account debtor's agreement not to assert defenses against an assignee, even if the agreement would not qualify under subsection (b). *See* subsection (f). It validates, but does not invalidate, agreements made by a nonconsumer account debtor. This section also does not displace other law to the extent that the other law permits an assignee, who takes an assignment with notice of a claim of a property or possessory right, a defense, or a claim in recoupment, to enforce an account debtor's agreement not to assert claims and defenses against the assignor (e.g., a "hell-or-high-water" agreement). *See* comment 4. It also does not displace an assignee's right to assert that an account debtor is estopped from asserting a claim or defense. Nor does this section displace other law with respect to waivers of potential future claims and defenses that are the subject of an agreement between the account debtor and the assignee. Finally, it does not displace section 1-107, concerning waiver of a breach that allegedly already has occurred.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 65 repealed former 55-9-403 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1986, ch. 36, § 1, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former Section 55-9-206 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-206 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-206 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Public policy encourages freedom between competent parties of the right to contract, and requires the enforcement of contracts, unless they clearly contravene some positive law or rule of public morals. *GECC v. Tidenberg*, 1967-NMSC-126, 78 N.M. 59, 428 P.2d 33, 40 A.L.R.3d 1151 (1967).

Legislature allows limitations on claims against assignees of sellers. — By adopting this section, the New Mexico legislature has established a policy favoring the validity of an agreement not to assert against an assignee any claim or defense which the buyer may have against the seller, and especially when the transaction involves both a negotiable note and a security agreement, so long as the assignee takes for value, in good faith and without notice of a claim or defense, except as to defenses of a type which may be asserted against a holder in due course of a negotiable instrument. *GECC v. Tidenberg*, 1967-NMSC-126, 78 N.M. 59, 428 P.2d 33, 40 A.L.R.3d 1151 (1967).

Law reviews. — For comment, "Assignments - Maker's Defenses Cut Off - Uniform Commercial Code § 9-206," see 5 Nat. Resources J. 408 (1965).

For article, "Essential Attributes of Commercial Paper - Part I," see 1 N.M. L. Rev. 479 (1971).

For note, "Self-Help Repossession Under the Uniform Commercial Code: The Constitutionality of Article 9, Section 503," see 4 N.M. L. Rev. 75 (1973).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Conditional buyer's right to maintain action for conversion and damages recoverable as affected by defendant's recognition of conditional seller's title or rights, 116 A.L.R. 904.

Rights of parties to conditional sale as affected by breach of warranty, 130 A.L.R. 753.

Warranty of title by seller, 132 A.L.R. 338.

Construction and application of provision in conditional sale contract regarding implied warranties, 139 A.L.R. 1276.

Constitutionality, construction and application of statute respecting sale, assignment or transfer of retail installment contracts, 10 A.L.R.2d 447.

Estoppel of obligor to assert against transferee of conditional sales contract, installment improvement or repair contract or related commercial paper, defenses or equities available against transferor, 44 A.L.R.2d 196.

Validity, in contract for installment sale of consumer goods, or commercial paper given in connection therewith, of provision waiving, as against assignee, defenses good against seller, 39 A.L.R.3d 518.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions, § 140.

55-9-404. Rights acquired by assignee; claims and defenses against assignee.

(a) Unless an account debtor has made an enforceable agreement not to assert defenses or claims, and subject to Subsections (b) through (e) of this section, the rights of an assignee are subject to:

(1) all terms of the agreement between the account debtor and assignor and any defense or claim in recoupment arising from the transaction that gave rise to the contract; and

(2) any other defense or claim of the account debtor against the assignor which accrues before the account debtor receives a notification of the assignment signed by the assignor or the assignee.

(b) Subject to Subsection (c) of this section and except as otherwise provided in Subsection (d) of this section, the claim of an account debtor against an assignor may be asserted against an assignee under Subsection (a) of this section only to reduce the amount the account debtor owes.

(c) This section is subject to law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 which establishes a different rule for an account debtor who is an individual and who incurred the obligation primarily for personal, family or household purposes.

(d) In a consumer transaction, if a record evidences the account debtor's obligation, law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 requires that the record include a statement to the effect that the account debtor's recovery against an assignee with respect to claims and defenses against the assignor may not exceed amounts paid by the account debtor under the record, and if the record does not include such a statement, the extent to which a claim of an account debtor against the assignor may be asserted against an assignee is determined as if the record included such a statement.

(e) This section does not apply to an assignment of a health-care-insurance receivable.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-404, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 66; 2023, ch. 142, § 76.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-318(1).

2. **Purpose; Rights of Assignee in General.** Subsection (a), like former section 9-318(1), provides that an assignee generally takes an assignment subject to defenses and claims of an account debtor. Under subsection (a)(1), if the account debtor's defenses on an assigned claim arise from the transaction that gave rise to the contract with the assignor, it makes no difference whether the defense or claim accrues before or after the account debtor is notified of the assignment. Under subsection (a)(2), the assignee takes subject to other defenses or claims only if they accrue before the account debtor has been notified of the assignment. Of course, an account debtor may waive its right to assert defenses or claims against an assignee under section 9-403 or other applicable law. Subsection (a) tracks section 3-305(a)(3) more closely than its predecessor.

3. **Limitation on Affirmative Claims.** Subsection (b) is new. It limits the claim that the account debtor may assert against an assignee. Borrowing from section 3-305(a)(3) and cases construing former section 9-318, subsection (b) generally does not afford the account debtor the right to an affirmative recovery from an assignee.

4. **Consumer Account Debtors; Relationship to Federal Trade Commission Rule.** Subsections (c) and (d) also are new. Subsection (c) makes clear that the rules of this section are subject to other law establishing special rules for consumer account debtors. An "account debtor who is an individual" as used in subsection (c) includes individuals who are jointly or jointly and severally obligated. Subsection (d) applies to rights evidenced by a record that is required to contain, but does not contain, the notice set forth in Federal Trade Commission Rule 433, 16 C.F.R. part 433 (the "Holder-in-Due-Course Regulations"). Under subsection (d), a consumer account debtor has the same right to an affirmative recovery from an assignee of such a record as the consumer would have had against the assignee had the record contained the required notice.

5. **Scope; Application to "Account Debtor."** This section deals only with the rights and duties of "account debtors" - and for the most part only with account debtors on accounts, chattel paper, and payment intangibles. Subsection (e) provides that the obligation of an insurer with respect to a health care insurance receivable is governed by other law. References in this section to an "account debtor" include account debtors on collateral that is proceeds. Neither this section nor any other provision of this article, including sections 9-408 and 9-409, provides analogous regulation of the rights and duties of other obligors on collateral, such as the maker of a negotiable instrument (governed by article 3), the issuer of or nominated person under a letter of credit (governed by article 5), or the issuer of a security (governed by article 8). Article 9 leaves those rights and duties untouched; however, section 9-409 deals with the special case of letters of credit. When chattel paper is composed in part of a negotiable instrument, the obligor on the instrument is not an "account debtor," and article 3 governs the rights of the assignee of the chattel paper with respect to the issues that this section addresses. *See, e.g.*, section 3-601 (dealing with discharge of an obligation to pay a negotiable instrument).

6. **"Signed" Replaces "Authenticated."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate term "signed" replaces the reference to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 66 repealed former 55-9-404 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1986, ch. 36, § 2, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, in Paragraph (a)(2), after "assignment", deleted "authenticated" and added "signed".

Decisions under former Section 55-9-318 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-318 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-318 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Debtor may raise defenses against assignee of chose in action. — An assignee of a chose in action acquires by virtue of his assignment nothing more than the assignor had, and all equities and defense which could have been raised by the debtor against the assignor are available to the debtor against the assignee. *Associates Loan Co. v. Walker*, 1966-NMSC-137, 76 N.M. 520, 416 P.2d 529 (decided under former law).

Payment to materialman based on defenses against assignee. — A material supplier on a public construction project was entitled to funds interpled by a subcontractor as against the claim of a financing company, not on the basis of a public policy preference for materialmen, but because defenses to payment to the finance company were available to the subcontractor under Subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) (now Paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2)) of this section. *Hasse Contracting Co. v. KBK Fin., Inc.*, 1999-NMSC-023, 127 N.M. 316, 980 P.2d 641 (decided under former law).

Materialman's implied lien takes priority. — An obligation to pay materialmen is implied in all contracts subject to the materialmen's lien statute (Chapter 48, Article 2 NMSA 1978) or the Little Miller Act, Section 13-14-18 NMSA 1978; the account debtor is consequently permitted to assert an assignor/subcontractor's failure to pay its supplier as a defense or set-off against a claim by an assignee/factor holding a perfected security interest in the assignor/subcontractor's accounts. *Hasse Contracting Co. v. KBK Fin., Inc.*, 1998-NMCA-038, 125 N.M. 17, 956 P.2d 816, *aff'd*, 1999-NMSC-023, 127 N.M. 316, 980 P.2d 641 (decided under former law).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 538.

Rights and duties in respect of property subject of conditional sale as between seller and seller's assignee, 65 A.L.R. 783.

Right as between surety on contractor's bond and assignee of money to become due on contract, 76 A.L.R. 917.

Priority as between assignee of rights of, and subsequent buyer from, conditional seller, 88 A.L.R. 109.

Notice to debtor as affecting priority as between different assignees of same chose in action, 110 A.L.R. 774.

Priority between assignee and surety of contractor who completes contract as to money earned by contractor but unpaid before default, 164 A.L.R. 613.

Constitutionality, construction and application of statute respecting sale, assignment or transfer of retail installment contracts, 10 A.L.R.2d 447.

Validity of anti-assignment clause in contract, 37 A.L.R.2d 1251.

Transferee of commercial paper given by purchaser of chattel and secured by conditional sale, retention of title, or chattel mortgage as subject to defenses which chattel purchaser could assert against seller, 44 A.L.R.2d 8, 39 A.L.R.3d 518.

Construction and operation of UCC § 9-318(3) providing that account debtor is authorized to pay assignor until he receives notification to pay assignee, 100 A.L.R.3d 1218.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 134.

55-9-405. Modification of assigned contract.

(a) A modification of or substitution for an assigned contract is effective against an assignee if made in good faith. The assignee acquires corresponding rights under the modified or substituted contract. The assignment may provide that the modification or substitution is a breach of contract by the assignor. This subsection is subject to Subsections (b) through (d) of this section.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section applies to the extent that:

(1) the right to payment or a part thereof under an assigned contract has not been fully earned by performance; or

(2) the right to payment or a part thereof has been fully earned by performance and the account debtor has not received notification of the assignment under Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-406 NMSA 1978.

(c) This section is subject to law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 which establishes a different rule for an account debtor who is an individual and who incurred the obligation primarily for personal, family or household purposes.

(d) This section does not apply to an assignment of a health-care-insurance receivable.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-405, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 67.

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1. Source. Former section 9-318(2).

2. Modification of Assigned Contract. The ability of account debtors and assignors to modify assigned contracts can be important, especially in the case of government contracts and complex contractual arrangements (*e.g.*, construction contracts) with

respect to which modifications are customary. Subsections (a) and (b) provide that good-faith modifications of assigned contracts are binding against an assignee to the extent that (i) the right to payment has not been fully earned or (ii) the right to payment has been earned and notification of the assignment has not been given to the account debtor. Former section 9-318(2) did not validate modifications of fully-performed contracts under any circumstances, whether or not notification of the assignment had been given to the account debtor. Subsection (a) protects the interests of assignees by (i) limiting the effectiveness of modifications to those made in good faith, (ii) affording the assignee with corresponding rights under the contract as modified, and (iii) recognizing that the modification may be a breach of the assignor's agreement with the assignee.

3. Consumer Account Debtors. Subsection (c) is new. It makes clear that the rules of this section are subject to other law establishing special rules for consumer account debtors.

4. Account Debtors on Health-Care-Insurance Receivables. Subsection (d) also is new. It provides that this section does not apply to an assignment of a health-care-insurance receivable. The obligation of an insurer with respect to a health-care-insurance receivable is governed by other law.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 67 repealed former 55-9-405 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1986, ch. 36, § 3, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 538.

Rights and duties in respect of property subject of conditional sale as between seller and seller's assignee, 65 A.L.R. 783.

Right as between surety on contractor's bond and assignee of money to become due on contract, 76 A.L.R. 917.

Priority as between assignee of rights of, and subsequent buyer from, conditional seller, 88 A.L.R. 109.

Notice to debtor as affecting priority as between different assignees of same chose in action, 110 A.L.R. 774.

Priority between assignee and surety of contractor who completes contract as to money earned by contractor but unpaid before default, 164 A.L.R. 613.

Constitutionality, construction and application of statute respecting sale, assignment or transfer of retail installment contracts, 10 A.L.R.2d 447.

Validity of anti-assignment clause in contract, 37 A.L.R.2d 1251.

Transferee of commercial paper given by purchaser of chattel and secured by conditional sale, retention of title, or chattel mortgage as subject to defenses which chattel purchaser could assert against seller, 44 A.L.R.2d 8, 39 A.L.R.3d 518.

Construction and operation of UCC § 9-318(3) providing that account debtor is authorized to pay assignor until he receives notification to pay assignee, 100 A.L.R.3d 1218.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 134.

55-9-406. Discharge of account debtor; notification of assignment; identification and proof of assignment; restrictions on assignment of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles and promissory notes ineffective.

(a) Subject to Subsections (b) through (i) and (l) of this section, an account debtor on an account, chattel paper or a payment intangible may discharge its obligation by paying the assignor until, but not after, the account debtor receives a notification, signed by the assignor or the assignee, that the amount due or to become due has been assigned and that payment is to be made to the assignee. After receipt of the notification, the account debtor may discharge its obligation by paying the assignee and may not discharge the obligation by paying the assignor.

(b) Subject to Subsections (h) and (l) of this section, notification is ineffective under Subsection (a) of this section:

(1) if it does not reasonably identify the rights assigned;

(2) to the extent that an agreement between an account debtor and a seller of a payment intangible limits the account debtor's duty to pay a person other than the seller and the limitation is effective under law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978; or

(3) at the option of an account debtor, if the notification notifies the account debtor to make less than the full amount of any installment or other periodic payment to the assignee, even if:

(A) only a portion of the account, chattel paper or payment intangible has been assigned to that assignee;

(B) a portion has been assigned to another assignee; or

(C) the account debtor knows that the assignment to that assignee is limited.

(c) Subject to Subsections (h) and (l) of this section, if requested by the account debtor, an assignee shall seasonably furnish reasonable proof that the assignment has been made. Unless the assignee complies, the account debtor may discharge its obligation by paying the assignor, even if the account debtor has received a notification under Subsection (a) of this section.

(d) In this subsection, "promissory note" includes a negotiable instrument that evidences chattel paper. Except as otherwise provided in Subsections (e) and (k) of this section and Sections 55-2A-303 and 55-9-407 NMSA 1978, and subject to Subsection (h) of this section, a term in an agreement between an account debtor and an assignor or in a promissory note is ineffective to the extent that it:

(1) prohibits, restricts or requires the consent of the account debtor or person obligated on the promissory note to the assignment or transfer of, or the creation, attachment, perfection or enforcement of a security interest in, the account, chattel paper, payment intangible or promissory note; or

(2) provides that the assignment or transfer or the creation, attachment, perfection or enforcement of the security interest may give rise to a default, breach, right of recoupment, claim, defense, termination, right of termination or remedy under the account, chattel paper, payment intangible or promissory note.

(e) Subsection (d) of this section does not apply to the sale of a payment intangible or promissory note, other than a sale pursuant to a disposition under Section 55-9-610 NMSA 1978 or an acceptance of collateral under Section 55-9-620 NMSA 1978.

(f) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (k) of this section and Sections 55-2A-303 and 55-9-407 NMSA 1978 and subject to Subsections (h) and (i) of this section, a rule of law, statute or regulation that prohibits, restricts or requires the consent of a government, governmental body or official, or account debtor to the assignment or transfer of, or creation of a security interest in, an account or chattel paper is ineffective to the extent that the rule of law, statute or regulation:

(1) prohibits, restricts or requires the consent of the government, governmental body or official, or account debtor to the assignment or transfer of, or the creation, attachment, perfection or enforcement of a security interest in the account or chattel paper; or

(2) provides that the assignment or transfer or the creation, attachment, perfection or enforcement of the security interest may give rise to a default, breach, right of recoupment, claim, defense, termination, right of termination or remedy under the account or chattel paper.

(g) Subject to Subsections (h) and (l) of this section, an account debtor may not waive or vary its option under Paragraph (3) of Subsection (b) of this section.

(h) This section is subject to law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 that establishes a different rule for an account debtor who is an individual and who incurred the obligation primarily for personal, family or household purposes.

(i) This section does not apply to an assignment of a health-care-insurance receivable.

(j) This section is subject to laws other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 to the extent that those laws prohibit or restrict the assignment, transfer of or creation of a security interest in benefits, compensation, any other account or chattel paper.

(k) Subsections (d), (f) and (j) of this section do not apply to a security interest in an ownership interest in a general partnership, limited liability partnership, limited partnership, limited liability limited partnership or limited liability company.

(l)Subsections (a), (b), (c) and (g) of this section do not apply to a controllable account or controllable payment intangible.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-406, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 68; 2013, ch. 137, § 10; 2023, ch. 142, § 77.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-318(3), (4).

2. **Account Debtor's Right to Pay Assignor Until Notification.** Subsection (a) provides the general rule concerning an account debtor's right to pay the assignor until the account debtor receives appropriate notification. The revision makes clear that once the account debtor receives the notification, the account debtor cannot discharge its obligation by paying the assignor. It also makes explicit that payment to the assignor before notification, or payment to the assignee after notification, discharges the obligation. No change in meaning from pre-1998 Section 9-318 is intended. Nothing in this section conditions the effectiveness of a notification on the identity of the person who gives it. An account debtor that doubts whether the right to payment has been assigned may avail itself of the procedures in subsection (c). See Comment 4. As to the rights and powers of an assignee generally, see Section 9-102(a)(7A) (defining "assignee"), (7B) (defining "assignor"), and Comment 2.b.1.

An effective notification under subsection (a) must be signed. This requirement normally could be satisfied by sending notification on the notifying person's letterhead or

on a form on which the notifying person's name appears. In each case the printed name would be a symbol adopted by the notifying person for the purpose of identifying the person and adopting the notification. See Section 1-201(b)(37) (defining "sign").

Subsection (a) applies only to account debtors on accounts, chattel paper, and payment intangibles. (Section 9-102 defines the term "account debtor" more broadly, to include those obligated on all general intangibles.) Although subsection (a) is more precise than its predecessor, it probably does not change the rule that applied under former article 9. Former section 9-318(3) referred to the account debtor's obligation to "pay," indicating that the subsection was limited to account debtors on accounts, chattel paper, and other payment obligations.

3. **Limitations on Effectiveness of Notification.** Subsection (b) contains some special rules concerning the effectiveness of a notification under subsection (a).

Subsection (b)(1) tracks former section 9-318(3) by making ineffective a notification that does not reasonably identify the rights assigned. A reasonable identification need not identify the right to payment with specificity, but what is reasonable also is not left to the arbitrary decision of the account debtor. If an account debtor has doubt as to the adequacy of a notification, it may not be safe in disregarding the notification unless it notifies the assignee with reasonable promptness as to the respects in which the account debtor considers the notification defective.

Subsection (b)(2), which is new, applies only to sales of payment intangibles. It makes a notification ineffective to the extent that other law gives effect to an agreement between an account debtor and a seller of a payment intangible that limits the account debtor's duty to pay a person other than the seller. Payment intangibles are substantially less fungible than accounts and chattel paper. In some (*e.g.*, commercial bank loans), account debtors customarily and legitimately expect that they will not be required to pay any person other than the financial institution that has advanced funds.

It has become common in financing transactions to assign interests in a single obligation to more than one assignee. Requiring an account debtor that owes a single obligation to make multiple payments to multiple assignees would be unnecessarily burdensome. Thus, under subsection (b)(3), an account debtor that is notified to pay an assignee less than the full amount of any installment or other periodic payment has the option to treat the notification as ineffective, ignore the notice, and discharge the assigned obligation by paying the assignor. Some account debtors may not realize that the law affords them the right to ignore certain notices of assignment with impunity. By making the notification ineffective at the account debtor's option, subsection (b)(3) permits an account debtor to pay the assignee in accordance with the notice and thereby to satisfy its obligation pro tanto. Under subsection (g), the rights and duties created by subsection (b)(3) cannot be waived or varied.

4. **Proof of Assignment.** Subsection (c) links payment with discharge, as in subsection (a). It follows former section 9-318(3) in referring to the right of the account

debtor to pay the assignor if the requested proof of assignment is not seasonably forthcoming. Even if the proof is not forthcoming, the notification of assignment would remain effective, so that, in the absence of reasonable proof of the assignment, the account debtor could discharge the obligation by paying either the assignee or the assignor. Of course, if the assignee did not in fact receive an assignment, the account debtor cannot discharge its obligation by paying a putative assignee who is a stranger. The observations in comment 3 concerning the reasonableness of an identification of a right to payment also apply here. An account debtor that questions the adequacy of proof submitted by an assignor would be well advised to promptly inform the assignor of the defects.

An account debtor may face another problem if its obligation becomes due while the account debtor is awaiting reasonable proof of the assignment that it has requested from the assignee. This section does not excuse the account debtor from timely compliance with its obligations. Consequently, an account debtor that has received a notification of assignment and who has requested reasonable proof of the assignment may discharge its obligation by paying the assignor at the time (or even earlier if reasonably necessary to avoid risk of default) when a payment is due, even if the account debtor has not yet received a response to its request for proof. On the other hand, after requesting reasonable proof of the assignment, an account debtor may not discharge its obligation by paying the assignor substantially in advance of the time that the payment is due unless the assignee has failed to provide the proof seasonably.

5. **Contractual Restrictions on Assignment.** Pre-1998 Section 9-318(4) rendered ineffective an agreement between an account debtor and an assignor which prohibited assignment of an account (whether outright or to secure an obligation) or prohibited a security assignment of a general intangible for the payment of money due or to become due. Subsection (d) essentially follows pre-1998 Section 9-318(4), but expands the rule of free assignability to chattel paper (subject to Sections 2A-303 and 9-407) and promissory notes and explicitly overrides both restrictions and prohibitions of assignment. The policies underlying the ineffectiveness of contractual restrictions under this section build on common-law developments that essentially have eliminated legal restrictions on assignments of rights to payment as security and other assignments of rights to payment such as accounts and chattel paper. Any that might linger for accounts and chattel paper are addressed by subsection (f). *See* Comment 6.

The first sentence of subsection (d) ensures that the subsection applies to a negotiable instrument that would be a promissory note but for (i) the exclusion of writings that evidence chattel paper from the definition of "instrument" (Section 9-102(a)(47), as revised in 2022) and (ii) the definition of "promissory note" (Section 9-102(a)(65)) as a subset of "instrument." That sentence also ensures that subsection (d) applies to an obligor on such a negotiable instrument, even though the obligor is not an "account debtor" (Section 9-102(a)(3)). The sentence restores the scope of subsection (d) to apply to all obligations and obligors on chattel paper, as was the case prior to the revision of the definition of "instrument".

Former section 9-318(4) did not apply to a sale of a payment intangible (as described in the former provision, "a general intangible for money due or to become due") but did apply to an assignment of a payment intangible for security. Subsection (e) continues this approach and also makes subsection (d) inapplicable to sales of promissory notes. Section 9-408 addresses anti-assignment clauses with respect to sales of payment intangibles and promissory notes.

Like former section 9-318(4), subsection (d) provides that anti-assignment clauses are "ineffective." The quoted term means that the clause is of no effect whatsoever; the clause does not prevent the assignment from taking effect between the parties and the prohibited assignment does not constitute a default under the agreement between the account debtor and assignor. However, subsection (d) does not override terms that do not directly prohibit, restrict, or require consent to an assignment but which might, nonetheless, present a practical impairment of the assignment. Properly read, however, subsection (d) reaches only covenants that prohibit, restrict, or require consents to assignments; it does not override all terms that might "impair" an assignment in fact.

Example: Buyer enters into an agreement with Seller to buy equipment that Seller is to manufacture according to Buyer's specifications. Buyer agrees to make a series of prepayments during the construction process. In return, Seller agrees to set aside the prepaid funds in a special account and to use the funds solely for the manufacture of the designated equipment. Seller also agrees that it will not assign any of its rights under the sale agreement with Buyer. Nevertheless, Seller grants to Secured Party a security interest in its accounts. Seller's anti-assignment agreement is ineffective under subsection (d); its agreement concerning the use of prepaid funds, which is not a restriction or prohibition on assignment, is not. However, if Secured Party notifies Buyer to make all future payments directly to Secured Party, Buyer will be obliged to do so under subsection (a) if it wishes the payments to discharge its obligation. Unless Secured Party releases the funds to Seller so that Seller can comply with its use-of-funds covenant, Seller will be in breach of that covenant.

In the example, there appears to be a plausible business purpose for the use-of-funds covenant. However, a court may conclude that a covenant with no business purpose other than imposing an impediment to an assignment actually is a direct restriction that is rendered ineffective by subsection (d).

6. **Legal Restrictions on Assignment.** Former section 9-318(4), like subsection (d) of this section, addressed only contractual restrictions on assignment. The former section was grounded on the reality that legal, as opposed to contractual, restrictions on assignments of rights to payment had largely disappeared. New subsection (f) codifies this principle of free assignability for accounts and chattel paper. For the most part the discussion of contractual restrictions in comment 5 applies as well to legal restrictions rendered ineffective under subsection (f).

7. **Multiple Assignments.** This section, like former section 9-318, is not a complete codification of the law of assignments of rights to payment. In particular, it is silent

concerning many of the ramifications for an account debtor in cases of multiple assignments of the same right. For example, an assignor might assign the same receivable to multiple assignees (which assignments could be either inadvertent or wrongful). Or, the assignor could assign the receivable to assignee-1, which then might reassign it to assignee-2, and so forth. The rights and duties of an account debtor in the face of multiple assignments and in other circumstances not resolved in the statutory text are left to the common-law rules. *See, e.g.*, Restatement (2d), Contracts sections 338(3) and 339. The failure of former article 9 to codify these rules does not appear to have caused problems.

8. **Consumer Account Debtors.** Subsection (h) is new. It makes clear that the rules of this section are subject to other law establishing special rules for consumer account debtors.

9. **Account Debtors on Health-Care-Insurance Receivables.** Subsection (i) [(j)] also is new. The obligation of an insurer with respect to a health-care-insurance receivable is governed by other law. Section 9-408 addresses contractual and legal restrictions on the assignment of a health-care-insurance receivable.

10. **Inapplicability to Certain Ownership Interests.** Subsection (k) provides that subsections (d), (f), and (j) do not apply to a security interest in an ownership interest in a limited liability company, limited partnership, or general partnership, regardless of the name of the interest and whether the interest: (i) pertains to economic rights, governance rights, or both; (ii) arises under: (a) an operating agreement, the applicable limited liability company act, or both; or (b) a partnership agreement, the applicable partnership act, or both; or (iii) is owned by: (a) a member of a company or transferee or assignee of a member; or (b) a partner or a transferee or assignee of a partner; or (iv) comprises contractual, property, other rights, or some combination thereof. Ownership interests referred to in subsection (k) include interests in a series of a limited liability company, limited partnership, or general partnership, if the series is a "person" (Section 1-201(b)(27)).

11. **Controllable Accounts and Controllable payment intangibles.** For controllable accounts and controllable payment intangibles, subsection (l) recognizes that subsections (a), (b), (c) and (g) are replaced by analogous provisions in Section 12-106.

12. **"Signed" Replaces "Authenticated."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate term "signed" replaces the reference to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 68 repealed former 55-9-406 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws1986, ch. 36, § 4, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, revised the definition of "promissory note", and added certain applicability provisions; in Subsection (a), after "Subsections (b) through (i)", added "and (l)", after "a notification", deleted "authenticated" and added "signed"; in Subsections (b), (c) and (g), after "Subject to", changed "Subsection (h)" to "Subsections (h) and (l)"; in Subsection (d), in the introductory paragraph, added "In this subsection, 'promissory note' includes a negotiable instrument that evidences chattel paper.", after "provided in", deleted "Subsection" and added "Subsections", and after "(e)", added "and (k)"; in Subsection (f), after "provided in", added "Subsection (k) of this section and"; and added Subsection (k).

The 2013 amendment, effective July 1, 2013, clarified the effectiveness of an agreement between an account debtor and an assignor relating to a sale pursuant to a disposition or an acceptance of collateral; and in Subsection (e), after "promissory note", added "other than a sale pursuant to a disposition under Section 55-9-610 NMSA 1978 or an acceptance of collateral under Section 55-9-620 NMSA 1978".

Decisions under former Section 55-9-406 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-406 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Section 55-9-406 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Contractual restrictions on assignment. — Attempted restrictions placed upon capital retains by the bylaws of a dairy cooperative were ineffective. Creditor had a valid security interest in capital retains. *Norwest Bank v. Van Tol (In re Van Tol)*, 255 B.R. 57 (10th Cir. B.A.P. 2000).

Debtor not liable until notified of assignment. — In the absence of notice of assignment the debtor may, without incurring liability to the assignee, make payment as directed by the assignor. *S & W Trucks, Inc. v. Nelson Auction Serv., Inc.*, 1969-NMCA-058, 80 N.M. 423, 457 P.2d 220 (decided under former law).

Authorizing payment to another deemed insufficient notification. — Merely authorizing payment of a stated sum to a particular person cannot be considered as a notification that such sum had been assigned to the individual to whom payment is authorized. *S & W Trucks, Inc. v. Nelson Auction Serv., Inc.*, 1969-NMCA-058, 80 N.M. 423, 457 P.2d 220 (decided under former law).

Sufficient notification. — Here the assignment said that all right, title and interest of contractor to funds due from account debtor were to be assigned to bank, and this assignment was accepted by agent of account debtor. This was not a case of indirect collection. The account debtor could readily determine that assignee had purchased assignor's right, title and interest in the proceeds. There was no need for the assignee to instruct the account debtor not to pay the assignor. The unconditional language of the assignment was sufficient notice that the assignee was to be paid. *First Nat'l Bank v. Mountain States Tel. & Tel. Co.*, 1977-NMSC-089, 91 N.M. 126, 571 P.2d 118 (decided under former law).

Receipt and deposit of payments by an account seller were proper, since account debtors may continue making payments to the debtor unless notified of the assignment and of the fact that payments are to be sent to the assignee (creditor) under the UCC. *GMA, Inc. v. Boerner*, 70 B.R. 77 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1987) (decided under former law).

Clause prohibiting assignments prohibited. — Subsection (4) [now subsection (d)] of this section nullifies any provision in a contract between a debtor and a party who has assigned an account to provide security to another, to the extent the contract seeks to disallow the assignment for the purposes of creating a security interest in the account. *Hasse Contracting Co. v. KBK Fin., Inc.*, 1998-NMCA-038, 125 N.M. 17, 956 P.2d 816, *aff'd*, 1999-NMSC-023, 127 N.M. 316, 980 P.2d 641 (decided under former law).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 538.

Rights and duties in respect of property subject of conditional sale as between seller and seller's assignee, 65 A.L.R. 783.

Right as between surety on contractor's bond and assignee of money to become due on contract, 76 A.L.R. 917.

Priority as between assignee of rights of, and subsequent buyer from, conditional seller, 88 A.L.R. 109.

Notice to debtor as affecting priority as between different assignees of same chose in action, 110 A.L.R. 774.

Priority between assignee and surety of contractor who completes contract as to money earned by contractor but unpaid before default, 164 A.L.R. 613.

Constitutionality, construction and application of statute respecting sale, assignment or transfer of retail installment contracts, 10 A.L.R.2d 447.

Validity of anti-assignment clause in contract, 37 A.L.R.2d 1251.

Transferee of commercial paper given by purchaser of chattel and secured by conditional sale, retention of title, or chattel mortgage as subject to defenses which chattel purchaser could assert against seller, 44 A.L.R.2d 8, 39 A.L.R.3d 518.

Construction and operation of UCC § 9-318(3) providing that account debtor is authorized to pay assignor until he receives notification to pay assignee, 100 A.L.R.3d 1218.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 134.

55-9-407. Restrictions on creation or enforcement of security interest in leasehold interest or in lessor's residual interest.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (b) of this section, a term in a lease agreement is ineffective to the extent that it:

(1) prohibits, restricts or requires the consent of a party to the lease to the assignment or transfer of, or the creation, attachment, perfection or enforcement of a security interest in an interest of a party under the lease contract or in the lessor's residual interest in the goods; or

(2) provides that the assignment or transfer or the creation, attachment, perfection or enforcement of the security interest may give rise to a default, breach, right of recoupment, claim, defense, termination, right of termination or remedy under the lease.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (7) of Section 55-2A-303 NMSA 1978, a term described in Paragraph (2) of Subsection (a) of this section is effective to the extent that there is:

(1) a transfer by the lessee of the lessee's right of possession or use of the goods in violation of the term; or

(2) a delegation of a material performance of either party to the lease contract in violation of the term.

(c) The creation, attachment, perfection or enforcement of a security interest in the lessor's interest under the lease contract or the lessor's residual interest in the goods is not a transfer that materially impairs the lessee's prospect of obtaining return performance or materially changes the duty of or materially increases the burden or risk imposed on the lessee within the purview of Subsection (4) of Section 55-2A-303 NMSA 1978 unless, and then only to the extent that, enforcement actually results in a delegation of material performance of the lessor.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-407, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 69.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS

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1. Source. Section 2A-303.

2. Restrictions on Assignment Generally Ineffective. Under subsection (a), as under former section 2A-303(3), a term in a lease agreement which prohibits or restricts the creation of a security interest generally is ineffective. This reflects the general policy of

section 9-406(d) and former section 9-318(4). This section has been conformed in several respects to analogous provisions in sections 9-406, 9-408, and 9-409, including the substitution of "ineffective" for "not enforceable" and the substitution of "assignment or transfer of, or the creation, attachment, perfection, or enforcement of a security interest" for "creation or enforcement of a security interest."

3. Exceptions for Certain Transfers and Delegations. Subsection (b) provides exceptions to the general ineffectiveness of restrictions under subsection (a). A term that otherwise is ineffective under subsection (a)(2) is effective to the extent that a lessee transfers its right to possession and use of goods or if either party delegates material performance of the lease contract in violation of the term. However, under subsection (c), as under former section 2A-303(3), a lessor's creation of a security interest in its interest in a lease contract or its residual interest in the leased goods is not a material impairment under section 2A-303(4) (former section 2A-303(5)), absent an actual delegation of the lessor's material performance. The terms of the lease contract determine whether the lessor, in fact, has any remaining obligations to perform. If it does, it is then necessary to determine whether there has been an actual delegation of "material performance." *See* section 2A-303, comments 3 and 4.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 69 repealed former 55-9-407 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1986, ch. 36, § 5, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-408. Restrictions on assignment of promissory notes, health-care-insurance receivables and certain general intangibles ineffective.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsections (b) and (e) of this section, a term in a promissory note or in an agreement between an account debtor and a debtor that relates to a health-care-insurance receivable or a general intangible, including a contract, permit, license or franchise, and that prohibits, restricts or requires the consent of the person obligated on the promissory note or the account debtor to the assignment or transfer of, or creation, attachment or perfection of a security interest in, the promissory note, health-care-insurance receivable or general intangible is ineffective to the extent that the term:

(1) would impair the creation, attachment or perfection of a security interest; or

(2) provides that the assignment or transfer or the creation, attachment or perfection of the security interest may give rise to a default, breach, right of recoupment, claim, defense, termination, right of termination or remedy under the promissory note, health-care-insurance receivable or general intangible.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section applies to a security interest in a payment intangible or promissory note only if the security interest arises out of a sale of the payment intangible or promissory note other than a sale pursuant to a disposition under Section 55-9-610 NMSA 1978 or an acceptance of collateral under Section 55-9-620 NMSA 1978.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (e) of this section, a rule of law, statute or regulation that prohibits, restricts or requires the consent of a government, governmental body or official, person obligated on a promissory note or account debtor to the assignment or transfer of, or creation of a security interest in, a promissory note, health-care-insurance receivable or general intangible, including a contract, permit, license or franchise between an account debtor and a debtor, is ineffective to the extent that the rule of law, statute or regulation:

(1) would impair the creation, attachment or perfection of a security interest; or

(2) provides that the assignment or transfer or the creation, attachment or perfection of the security interest may give rise to a default, breach, right of recoupment, claim, defense, termination, right of termination or remedy under the promissory note, health-care-insurance receivable or general intangible.

(d) To the extent that a term in a promissory note or in an agreement between an account debtor and a debtor that relates to a health-care-insurance receivable or general intangible or a rule of law, statute or regulation described in Subsection (c) of this section would be effective under law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 but is ineffective under Subsection (a) or (c) of this section, the creation, attachment or perfection of a security interest in the promissory note, health-care-insurance receivable or general intangible:

(1) is not enforceable against the person obligated on the promissory note or the account debtor;

(2) does not impose a duty or obligation on the person obligated on the promissory note or the account debtor;

(3) does not require the person obligated on the promissory note or the account debtor to recognize the security interest, pay or render performance to the secured party or accept payment or performance from the secured party;

(4) does not entitle the secured party to use or assign the debtor's rights under the promissory note, health-care-insurance receivable or general intangible, including any related information or materials furnished to the debtor in the transaction giving rise to the promissory note, health-care-insurance receivable or general intangible;

(5) does not entitle the secured party to use, assign, possess or have access to any trade secrets or confidential information of the person obligated on the promissory note or the account debtor; and

(6) does not entitle the secured party to enforce the security interest in the promissory note, health-care-insurance receivable or general intangible. The provisions of this section shall prevail over an inconsistent provision of an existing or future statute or rule of this state, unless the inconsistent provision is set forth in a statute of this state that refers expressly to this section and states that the inconsistent provision shall prevail over the provisions of this section.

(e) This section does not apply to a security interest in an ownership interest in a general partnership, limited liability partnership, limited partnership, limited liability limited partnership or limited liability company.

(f) In this section, "promissory note" includes a negotiable instrument that evidences chattel paper.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-408, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 70; 2013, ch. 137, § 11; 2023, ch. 142, § 78.

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1. **Source.** New.

2. **Free Assignability.** This section makes ineffective any attempt to restrict the assignment of a general intangible, health-care-insurance receivable, or promissory note, whether the restriction appears in the terms of a promissory note or the agreement between an account debtor and a debtor (subsection (a)) or in a rule of law, including a statute or governmental rule or regulation (subsection (c)). This result allows the creation, attachment, and perfection of a security interest in a general intangible, such as an agreement for the nonexclusive license of software, as well as sales of certain receivables, such as a health-care-insurance receivable (which is an "account"), payment intangible, or promissory note, without giving rise to a default or breach by the assignor or from triggering a remedy of the account debtor or person obligated on a promissory note. This enhances the ability of certain debtors to obtain credit. On the other hand, subsection (d) protects the other party - the "account debtor" on a general intangible or the person obligated on a promissory note - from adverse effects arising from the security interest. It leaves the account debtor's or obligated person's rights and obligations unaffected in all material respects if a restriction rendered ineffective by subsection (a) or (c) would be effective under law other than article 9.

Example 1: A term of an agreement for the nonexclusive license of computer software prohibits the licensee from assigning any of its rights as licensee with respect to the software. The agreement also provides that an attempt to assign rights in violation of the restriction is a default entitling the licensor to terminate the license agreement. The licensee, as debtor, grants to a secured party a security interest in its rights under the license and in the computers in which it is installed. Under this section, the term prohibiting assignment and providing for a default upon an attempted assignment is ineffective to prevent the creation, attachment, or perfection of the security interest or entitle the licensor to terminate the license agreement. However, under subsection (d), the secured party (absent the licensor's agreement) is not entitled to enforce the license or to use, assign, or otherwise enjoy the benefits of the licensed software, and the licensor need not recognize (or pay any attention to) the secured party. Even if the secured party takes possession of the computers on the debtor's default, the debtor would remain free to remove the software from the computer, load it on another computer, and continue to use it, if the license so permits. If the debtor does not remove the software, other law may require the secured party to remove it before disposing of the computer. Disposition of the software with the computer could violate an effective prohibition on enforcement of the security interest. *See* subsection (d).

3. **Nature of Debtor's Interest.** Neither this section nor any other provision of this Article determines whether a debtor has a property interest. The definition of the term "security interest" provides that it is an "interest in personal property." *See* Section 1-201(b)(35) [55-1-201(b)(35) NMSA 1978]. Ordinarily, a debtor can create a security interest in collateral only if it has "rights in the collateral." *See* Section 9-203(b) [55-9-203(b) NMSA 1978]. Other law determines whether a debtor has a property interest ("rights in the collateral") and the nature of that interest. For example, the nonexclusive license addressed in Example 1 may not create any property interest whatsoever in the intellectual property (*e.g.*, copyright) that underlies the license and that effectively enables the licensor to grant the license. The debtor's property interest may be confined solely to its interest in the promises made by the licensor in the license agreement (*e.g.*, a promise not to sue the debtor for its use of the software).

4. **Scope: Sales of Payment Intangibles and Other General Intangibles; Assignments Unaffected by this Section.** Subsections (a) and (c) render ineffective restrictions on assignments only "to the extent" that the assignments restrict the "creation, attachment, or perfection of a security interest," including sales of payment intangibles and promissory notes. This section does not render ineffective a restriction on an assignment that does not create a security interest. For example, if the debtor in comment 2, Example 1, purported to assign the license to another entity that would use the computer software itself, other law would govern the effectiveness of the anti-assignment provisions.

Subsection (a) applies to a security interest in payment intangibles only if the security interest arises out of sale of the payment intangibles. Contractual restrictions directed to security interests in payment intangibles which secure an obligation are subject to section 9-406(d). Subsection (a) also deals with sales of promissory notes which also

create security interests. *See* section 9-109(a). Subsection (c) deals with all security interests in payment intangibles or promissory notes, whether or not arising out of a sale.

Subsection (a) does not render ineffective any term, and subsection (c) does not render ineffective any law, statute, or regulation, that restricts outright sales of general intangibles other than payment intangibles. They deal only with restrictions on security interests. The only sales of general intangibles that create security interests are sales of payment intangibles.

5. **Terminology: "Account Debtor"; "Person Obligated on a Promissory Note."** This section uses the term "account debtor" as it is defined in section 9-102. The term refers to the party, other than the debtor, to a general intangible, including a permit, license, franchise, or the like, and the person obligated on a health-care-insurance receivable, which is a type of account. The definition of "account debtor" does not limit the term to persons who are obligated to pay under a general intangible. Rather, the term includes all persons who are obligated on a general intangible, including those who are obligated to render performance in exchange for payment. In some cases, *e.g.*, the creation of a security interest in a franchisee's rights under a franchise agreement, the principal payment obligation may be owed by the debtor (franchisee) to the account debtor (franchisor). This section also refers to a "person obligated on a promissory note," inasmuch as those persons do not fall within the definition of "account debtor."

Example 2: A licensor and licensee enter into an agreement for the nonexclusive license of computer software. The licensee's interest in the license agreement is a general intangible. If the licensee grants to a secured party a security interest in its rights under the license agreement, the licensee is the debtor and the licensor is the account debtor. On the other hand, if the licensor grants to a secured party a security interest in its right to payment (an account) under the license agreement, the licensor is the debtor and the licensee is the account debtor. (This section applies to the security interest in the general intangible but not to the security interest in the account, which is not a health-care-insurance receivable.)

6. **Effects on Account Debtors and Persons Obligated on Promissory Notes.** Subsections (a) and (c) affect two classes of persons. These subsections affect account debtors on general intangibles and health-care-insurance receivables and persons obligated on promissory notes. Subsection (c) also affects governmental entities that enact or determine rules of law. However, subsection (d) ensures that these affected persons are not affected adversely. That provision removes any burdens or adverse effects on these persons for which any rational basis could exist to restrict the effectiveness of an assignment or to exercise any remedies. For this reason, the effects of subsections (a) and (c) are immaterial insofar as those persons are concerned.

Subsection (a) does not override terms that do not directly prohibit, restrict, or require consent to an assignment but which might, nonetheless, present a practical impairment of the assignment. Properly read, however, this section, like section 9-406(d), reaches

only covenants that prohibit, restrict, or require consents to assignments; it does not override all terms that might "impair" an assignment in fact.

Example 3: A licensor and licensee enter into an agreement for the nonexclusive license of valuable business software. The license agreement includes terms (i) prohibiting the licensee from assigning its rights under the license, (ii) prohibiting the licensee from disclosing to anyone certain information relating to the software and the licensor, and (iii) deeming prohibited assignments and prohibited disclosures to be defaults. The licensee wishes to obtain financing and, in exchange, is willing to grant a security interest in its rights under the license agreement. The secured party, reasonably, refuses to extend credit unless the licensee discloses the information that it is prohibited from disclosing under the license agreement. The secured party cannot determine the value of the proposed collateral in the absence of this information. Under this section, the terms of the license prohibiting the assignment (grant of the security interest) and making the assignment a default are ineffective. However, the nondisclosure covenant is not a term that prohibits the assignment or creation of a security interest in the license. Consequently, the nondisclosure term is enforceable even though the practical effect is to restrict the licensee's ability to use its rights under the license agreement as collateral.

The nondisclosure term also would be effective in the factual setting of comment 2, Example 1. If the secured party's possession of the computers loaded with software would put it in a position to discover confidential information that the debtor was prohibited from disclosing, the licensor should be entitled to enforce its rights against the secured party. Moreover, the licensor could have required the debtor to obtain the secured party's agreement that (i) it would immediately return all copies of software loaded on the computers and that (ii) it would not examine or otherwise acquire any information contained in the software. This section does not prevent an account debtor from protecting by agreement its independent interests that are unrelated to the "creation, attachment, or perfection" of a security interest. In Example 1, moreover, the secured party is not in possession of copies of software by virtue of its security interest or in connection with enforcing its security interest in the debtor's license of the software. Its possession is incidental to its possession of the computers, in which it has a security interest. Enforcing against the secured party a restriction relating to the software in no way interferes with its security interest in the computers.

7. **Effect in Assignor's Bankruptcy.** This section could have a substantial effect if the assignor enters bankruptcy. Roughly speaking, Bankruptcy Code section 552 invalidates security interests in property acquired after a bankruptcy petition is filed, except to the extent that the postpetition property constitutes proceeds of prepetition collateral.

Example 4: A debtor is the owner of a cable television franchise that, under applicable law, cannot be assigned without the consent of the municipal franchisor. A lender wishes to extend credit to the debtor, provided that the credit is secured by the debtor's "going business" value. To secure the loan, the debtor grants a security interest in all its

existing and after-acquired property. The franchise represents the principal value of the business. The municipality refuses to consent to any assignment for collateral purposes. If other law were given effect, the security interest in the franchise would not attach; and if the debtor were to enter bankruptcy and sell the business, the secured party would receive but a fraction of the business's value. Under this section, however, the security interest would attach to the franchise. As a result, the security interest would attach to the proceeds of any sale of the franchise while a bankruptcy is pending. However, this section would protect the interests of the municipality by preventing the secured party from enforcing its security interest to the detriment of the municipality.

8. **Effect Outside of Bankruptcy.** The principal effects of this section will take place outside of bankruptcy. Compared to the relatively few debtors that enter bankruptcy, there are many more that do not. By making available previously unavailable property as collateral, this section should enable debtors to obtain additional credit. For purposes of determining whether to extend credit, under some circumstances a secured party may ascribe value to the collateral to which its security interest has attached, even if this section precludes the secured party from enforcing the security interest without the agreement of the account debtor or person obligated on the promissory note. This may be the case where the secured party sees a likelihood of obtaining that agreement in the future. This may also be the case where the secured party anticipates that the collateral will give rise to a type of proceeds as to which this section would not apply.

Example 5: Under the facts of Example 4, the debtor does not enter bankruptcy. Perhaps in exchange for a fee, the municipality agrees that the debtor may transfer the franchise to a buyer. As consideration for the transfer, the debtor receives from the buyer its check for part of the purchase price and its promissory note for the balance. The security interest attaches to the check and promissory note as proceeds. *See* section 9-315(a)(1)(B). This section does not apply to the security interest in the check, which is not a promissory note, health-care-insurance receivable, or general intangible. Nor does it apply to the security interest in the promissory note, inasmuch as it was not sold to the secured party.

9. **Contrary Federal Law.** This section does not override federal law to the contrary. However, it does reflect an important policy judgment that should provide a template for future federal law reforms.

10. **Inapplicability to Certain Ownership Interests.** This section does not apply to an ownership interest in a limited liability company, limited partnership, or general partnership, regardless of the name of the interest and whether the interest: (i) pertains to economic rights, governance rights, or both; (ii) arises under: (a) an operating agreement, the applicable limited liability company act, or both; or (b) a partnership agreement, the applicable partnership act, or both; or (iii) is owned by: (a) a member of a company or transferee or assignee of a member; or (b) a partner or a transferee or assignee of a partner; or (iv) comprises contractual, property, other rights, or some combination thereof.

11. Subsection (g) ensures that this section applies to a negotiable instrument that would be a promissory note but for (i) the exclusion of writings that evidence chattel paper from the definition of "instrument" (Section 9-102(a)(47), as revised in 2022) and (ii) the definition of "promissory note" (Section 9-102(a)(65)) as a subset of "instrument." *See* Section 9-406, Comment 5.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 70 repealed former 55-9-408 NMSA 1978, as enacted by enacted by Laws 1985, ch. 193, § 33, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, provided that this section does not apply to a security interest in an ownership interest in a general partnership, limited liability partnership, limited partnership, limited liability limited partnership or limited liability company, and revised the definition of "promissory note"; in Subsection (a), in the introductory clause, after "provided in", changed "Subsection (b)" to "Subsections (b) and (e)"; in Subsection (c), in the introductory clause, added "Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (e) of this section"; and added Subsections (e) and (f).

The 2013 amendment, effective July 1, 2013, clarified the effectiveness of a security interest when an agreement between an account debtor and an assignor relates to a sale pursuant to a disposition or an acceptance of collateral; and in Subsection (b), after "promissory note", added "other than a sale pursuant to a disposition under Section 55-9-610 NMSA 1978 or an acceptance of collateral under Section 55-9-620 NMSA 1978".

55-9-409. Restrictions on assignment of letter-of-credit rights ineffective.

(a) A term in a letter of credit or a rule of law, statute, regulation, custom or practice applicable to the letter of credit which prohibits, restricts or requires the consent of an applicant, issuer or nominated person to a beneficiary's assignment of or creation of a security interest in a letter-of-credit right is ineffective to the extent that the term or rule of law, statute, regulation, custom or practice:

(1) would impair the creation, attachment or perfection of a security interest in the letter-of-credit right; or

(2) provides that the assignment or the creation, attachment or perfection of the security interest may give rise to a default, breach, right of recoupment, claim, defense, termination, right of termination or remedy under the letter-of-credit right.

(b) To the extent that a term in a letter of credit is ineffective under Subsection (a) of this section but would be effective under law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 or a custom or practice applicable to the letter of credit, to the transfer of a right to draw or otherwise demand performance under the letter of credit or to the assignment of

a right to proceeds of the letter of credit, the creation, attachment or perfection of a security interest in the letter-of-credit right:

(1) is not enforceable against the applicant, issuer, nominated person or transferee beneficiary;

(2) imposes no duties or obligations on the applicant, issuer, nominated person or transferee beneficiary; and

(3) does not require the applicant, issuer, nominated person or transferee beneficiary to recognize the security interest, pay or render performance to the secured party or accept payment or other performance from the secured party.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-409, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 71.

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1. Source. New.

2. Purpose and Relevance. This section, patterned on section 9-408, limits the effectiveness of attempts to restrict the creation, attachment, or perfection of a security interest in letter-of-credit rights, whether the restriction appears in the letter of credit or a rule of law, custom, or practice applicable to the letter of credit. It protects the creation, attachment, and perfection of a security interest while preventing these events from giving rise to a default or breach by the assignor or from triggering a remedy or defense of the issuer or other person obligated on a letter of credit. Letter-of-credit rights are a type of supporting obligation. *See* section 9-102. Under sections 9-203 and 9-308, a security interest in a supporting obligation attaches and is perfected automatically if the security interest in the supported obligation attaches and is perfected. *See* section 9-107, comment 5. The automatic attachment and perfection under article 9 would be anomalous or misleading if, under other law (*e.g.*, article 5), a restriction on transfer or assignment were effective to block attachment and perfection.

3. Relationship to Letter-of-Credit Law. Although restrictions on an assignment of a letter of credit are ineffective to prevent creation, attachment, and perfection of a security interest, subsection (b) protects the issuer and other parties from any adverse effects of the security interest by preserving letter-of-credit law and practice that limits the right of a beneficiary to transfer its right to draw or otherwise demand performance (section 5-112) and limits the obligation of an issuer or nominated person to recognize a beneficiary's assignment of letter-of-credit proceeds (section 5-114). Thus, this section's treatment of letter-of-credit rights differs from this article's treatment of instruments and investment property. Moreover, under section 9-109(c)(4), this article does not apply to the extent that the rights of a transferee beneficiary or nominated person are

independent and superior under section 5-114, thereby preserving the "independence principle" of letter-of-credit law.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

PART 5
FILING

SUBPART 1. FILING OFFICE; CONTENTS ANDEFFECTIVENESS OF FINANCING STATEMENT

55-9-501. Filing office.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (b) of this section, if the local law of this state governs perfection of a security interest or agricultural lien, the office in which to file a financing statement to perfect the security interest or agricultural lien is:

(1) the office of the county clerk where a record of a mortgage on the related real property would be recorded if:

(A) the collateral is as-extracted collateral or timber to be cut; or

(B) the financing statement is filed as a fixture filing and the collateral is goods that are or are to become fixtures; or

(2) the office of the secretary of state in all other cases, including a case in which the collateral is goods that are or are to become fixtures and the financing statement is not filed as a fixture filing.

(b) The office in which to file a financing statement to perfect a security interest in collateral, including fixtures, of a transmitting utility is the office of the secretary of state. The financing statement also constitutes a fixture filing as to the collateral indicated in the financing statement which is or is to become fixtures.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-501, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 72.

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1. Source. Derived from former section 9-401.

2. Where to File. Subsection (a) indicates where in a given state a financing statement is to be filed. Former article 9 afforded each state three alternative approaches, depending on the extent to which the state desires central filing (usually with the Secretary of State), local filing (usually with a county office), or both. As comment 1 to former section 9-401 observed, "The principal advantage of state-wide filing is ease of access to the credit information which the files exist to provide. Consider for example the national distributor who wishes to have current information about the credit standing of the thousands of persons he sells to on credit. The more completely the files are centralized on a state-wide basis, the easier and cheaper it becomes to procure credit information; the more the files are scattered in local filing units, the more burdensome and costly." Local filing increases the net costs of secured transactions also by increasing uncertainty and the number of required filings. Any benefit that local filing may have had in the 1950's is now insubstantial. Accordingly, this article dictates central filing for most situations, while retaining local filing for real-estate-related collateral and special filing provisions for transmitting utilities.

3. Minerals and Timber. Under subsection (a)(1), a filing in the office where a record of a mortgage on the related real property would be filed will perfect a security interest in as-extracted collateral. Inasmuch as the security interest does not attach until extraction, the filing continues to be effective after extraction. A different result occurs with respect to timber to be cut, however. Unlike as-extracted collateral, standing timber may be goods before it is cut. *See* section 9-102 (defining "goods"). Once cut, however, it is no longer timber to be cut, and the filing in the real-property-mortgage office ceases to be effective. The timber then becomes ordinary goods, and filing in the office specified in subsection (a)(2) is necessary for perfection. Note also that after the timber is cut the law of the debtor's location, not the location of the timber, governs perfection under section 9-301.

4. Fixtures. There are two ways in which a secured party may file a financing statement to perfect a security interest in goods that are or are to become fixtures. It may file in the article 9 records, as with most other goods. *See* subsection (a)(2). Or it may file the financing statement as a "fixture filing," defined in section 9-102, in the office in which a record of a mortgage on the related real property would be filed. *See* subsection(a)(1)(B).

5. Transmitting Utilities. The usual filing rules do not apply well for a transmitting utility (defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978]). Many pre-UCC statutes provided special filing rules for railroads and in some cases for other public utilities, to avoid the requirements for filing with legal descriptions in every county in which such debtors had property. Former Section 9-401(5) [55-9-401(5) NMSA 1978] recreated and broadened these provisions, and subsection (b) follows this approach. The nature of the debtor will inform persons searching the record as to where to make a search.

A given State’s subsection (b) applies only if the local law of that State governs perfection. As to most collateral, perfection by filing is governed by the law of the jurisdiction in which the debtor is located. *See* Section 9-301(1) [55-9-301(1) NMSA

1978]. However, the law of the jurisdiction in which goods that are or become fixtures are located governs perfection by filing a fixture filing. See Section 9-301(3)(A) [55-9-301(3)(A) NMSA 1978]. As a consequence, filing in the filing office of more than one State may be necessary to perfect a security interest in fixtures collateral of a transmitting utility by filing a fixture filing. *See* Section 9-301, Comment 5.b.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 72 repealed former 55-9-501 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1985, ch. 193, § 34, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Cross references. — For Farm Products Secured Interest Act, see Chapter 56, Article 13 NMSA 1978.

Decisions under former Section 55-9-401 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-401 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Section 55-9-401 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Limited duties of filing officers. — When an instrument appears correct, it is not the duty of the filing officer to determine the validity of such document, to ascertain whether it is genuine or forged or to rule upon its legal efficacy. Similarly, whether an instrument presented for filing is in fact an original, duplicate original or a copy of an original, or whether the signature appearing upon an instrument filed under the code is intended to be operative are questions which the filing officer is not normally able to judge. Consequently, the filing officer should accept instruments for filing under the code which appear valid on their face, leaving the determination of authenticity, legal effect and evidentiary value to the courts in cases where such issues are raised. 1962 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 62-126 (rendered under former law).

Law reviews. — For article, "Fixtures and the Uniform Commercial Code in New Mexico," see 4 Nat. Resources J. 109 (1964).

For article, "The Warehouseman vs. the Secured Party: Who Prevails When the Warehouseman's Lien Covers Goods Subject to a Security Interest?" see 8 Nat. Resources J. 331 (1968).

For note, "Fixtures, Security Interests and Filing: Problems of Title Examination in New Mexico," see 8 Nat. Resources J. 513 (1968).

For comment, "New Mexico's Uniform Commercial Code in Oil and Gas Transactions," see 10 Nat. Resources J. 361 (1970).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 288 et seq.

Effect of recording chattel mortgage in town or county to which the mortgagor subsequently removed, 1 A.L.R. 1662.

Effect of officer's failure properly to file contract, 70 A.L.R. 595.

Omission of amount of debt in mortgage or in record thereof as affecting validity of mortgage, its operation as notice, or its coverage with respect to debts secured, 145 A.L.R. 369.

Construction and application of statutory provision respecting registration of mortgages or other liens on personal property in case of residents of other states, 10 A.L.R.2d 764.

Conflict of laws as to chattel mortgages and conditional sales of chattels, 13 A.L.R.2d 1312.

Attorney's liability for negligence in preparing or recording security document, 87 A.L.R.2d 991.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 53 et seq.

55-9-502. Contents of financing statement; record of mortgage as financing statement; time of filing financing statement.

(a) Subject to Subsection (b) of this section, a financing statement is sufficient only if it:

(1) provides the name of the debtor;

(2) provides the name of the secured party or a representative of the secured party; and

(3) indicates the collateral covered by the financing statement.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-501 NMSA 1978, to be sufficient a financing statement that covers as-extracted collateral or timber to be cut, or that is filed as a fixture filing and covers goods that are or are to become fixtures, must satisfy Subsection (a) of this section and also:

(1) indicate that it covers this type of collateral;

(2) indicate that it is to be filed for record in the real property records;

(3) provide a description of the real property to which the collateral is related sufficient to give constructive notice of a mortgage pursuant to the laws of this state if the description were contained in a record of the mortgage of the real property; and

(4) if the debtor does not have an interest of record in the real property, provide the name of a record owner.

(c) A record of a mortgage is effective, from the date it is filed for record, as a financing statement filed as a fixture filing or as a financing statement covering as-extracted collateral or timber to be cut only if:

(1) the record indicates the goods or accounts that it covers;

(2) the goods are or are to become fixtures related to the real property described in the record or the collateral is related to the real property described in the record and is as-extracted collateral or timber to be cut;

(3) the record satisfies the requirements for a financing statement in this section but:

(A) the record need not indicate that it is to be filed for record in the real property records; and

(B) the record sufficiently provides the name of a debtor who is an individual if it provides the individual name of the debtor or the surname and first personal name of the debtor, even if the debtor is an individual to whom Paragraph (4) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-503 NMSA 1978 applies; and

(4) the record is duly recorded.

(d) A financing statement may be filed before a security agreement is made or a security interest otherwise attaches.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-502, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 73; 2013, ch. 137, § 12; 2015, ch. 54, § 5.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-402(1), (5), (6).

2. **"Notice Filing."** This section adopts the system of "notice filing." What is required to be filed is not, as under pre-UCC chattel mortgage and conditional sales acts, the security agreement itself, but only a simple record providing a limited amount of information (financing statement). The financing statement may be filed before the security interest attaches or thereafter. *See* subsection (d). *See also* section 9-308(a) (contemplating situations in which a financing statement is filed before a security interest attaches).

The notice itself indicates merely that a person may have a security interest in the collateral indicated. Further inquiry from the parties concerned will be necessary to disclose the complete state of affairs. Section 9-210 provides a statutory procedure under which the secured party, at the debtor's request, may be required to make disclosure. However, in many cases, information may be forthcoming without the need to resort to the formalities of that section.

Notice filing has proved to be of great use in financing transactions involving inventory, accounts, and chattel paper, because it obviates the necessity of refiling on each of a series of transactions in a continuing arrangement under which the collateral changes from day to day. However, even in the case of filings that do not necessarily involve a series of transactions (*e.g.*, a loan secured by a single item of equipment), a financing statement is effective to encompass transactions under a security agreement not in existence and not contemplated at the time the notice was filed, if the indication of collateral in the financing statement is sufficient to cover the collateral concerned. Similarly, a financing statement is effective to cover after-acquired property of the type indicated and to perfect with respect to future advances under security agreements, regardless of whether after-acquired property or future advances are mentioned in the financing statement and even if not in the contemplation of the parties at the time the financing statement was authorized to be filed.

3. **Debtor's Signature; Required Authorization.** Subsection (a) sets forth the simple formal requirements for an effective financing statement. These requirements are: (1) The debtor's name; (2) the name of a secured party or representative of the secured party; and (3) an indication of the collateral.

Whereas former section 9-402(1) required the debtor's signature to appear on a financing statement, this article contains no signature requirement. The elimination of the signature requirement facilitates paperless filing. (However, as PEB Commentary No. 15 indicates, a paperless financing statement was sufficient under former article 9.) Elimination of the signature requirement also makes the exceptions provided by former section 9-402(2) unnecessary.

The fact that this article does not require that an authenticating symbol be contained in the public record does not mean that all filings are authorized. Rather, section 9-509(a) entitles a person to file an initial financing statement, an amendment that adds collateral, or an amendment that adds a debtor only if the debtor authorizes the filing, and section 9-509(d) entitles a person other than the debtor to file a termination statement only if the secured party of record authorizes the filing. Of course, a filing has legal effect only to the extent it is authorized. *See* section 9-510.

Law other than this Article, including the law with respect to ratification of past acts, generally determines whether a person has the requisite authority to file a record under this Article. *See* Sections 1-103 and 9-509, Comment 3. However, under Section 9-509(b), the debtor’s signing of (or becoming bound by) a security agreement ipso facto constitutes the debtor’s authorization of the filing of a financing statement covering the

collateral described in the security agreement. The secured party need not obtain a separate authorization.

Section 9-625 provides a remedy for unauthorized filings. Making an unauthorized filing also may give rise to civil or criminal liability under other law. In addition, this article contains provisions that assist in the discovery of unauthorized filings and the amelioration of their practical effect. For example, section 9-518 provides a procedure whereby a person may add to the public record a statement to the effect that a financing statement indexed under the person's name was wrongfully filed, and section 9-509(d) entitles any person to file a termination statement if the secured party of record fails to comply with its obligation to file or send one to the debtor, the debtor authorizes the filing, and the termination statement so indicates. However, the filing office is neither obligated nor permitted to inquire into issues of authorization. *See* section 9-520(a).

4. **Certain Other Requirements.** Subsection (a) deletes other provisions of former section 9-402(1) because they seem unwise (real-property description for financing statements covering crops), unnecessary (adequacy of copies of financing statements), or both (copy of security agreement as financing statement). In addition, the filing office must reject a financing statement lacking certain other information formerly required as a condition of perfection (e.g., an address for the debtor or secured party). *See* sections 9-516(b) and 9-520(a). However, if the filing office accepts the record, it is effective nevertheless. *See* section 9-520(c).

5. **Real-Property-Related Filings.** Subsection (b) contains the requirements for financing statements filed as fixture filings and financing statements covering timber to be cut or minerals and minerals-related accounts constituting as-extracted collateral. A description of the related real property must be sufficient to reasonably identify it. *See* section 9-108. This formulation rejects the view that the real property description must be by metes and bounds, or otherwise conforming to traditional real-property practice in conveyancing, but, of course, the incorporation of such a description by reference to the recording data of a deed, mortgage, or other instrument containing the description should suffice under the most stringent standards. The proper test is that a description of real property must be sufficient so that the financing statement will fit into the real property search system and be found by a real property searcher. Under the optional language in subsection (b)(3), the test of adequacy of the description is whether it would be adequate in a record of a mortgage of the real property. As suggested in the legislative note, more detail may be required if there is a tract indexing system or a land registration system.

If the debtor does not have an interest of record in the real property, a real-property-related financing statement must show the name of a record owner, and section 9-519(d) requires the financing statement to be indexed in the name of that owner. This requirement also enables financing statements covering as-extracted collateral or timber to be cut and financing statements filed as fixture filings to fit into the real property search system.

6. **Record of Mortgage Effective as Financing Statement.** Subsection (c) explains when a record of a mortgage is effective as a financing statement filed as a fixture filing or to cover timber to be cut or as-extracted collateral. Use of the term "record of a mortgage" recognizes that in some systems the record actually filed is not the record pursuant to which a mortgage is created. Moreover, "mortgage" is defined in section 9-102 as an "interest in real property," not as the record that creates or evidences the mortgage or the record that is filed in the public recording systems. A record creating a mortgage may also create a security interest with respect to fixtures (or other goods) in conformity with this article. A single agreement creating a mortgage on real property and a security interest in chattels is common and useful for certain purposes. Under subsection (c), the recording of the record evidencing a mortgage (if it satisfies the requirements for a financing statement) constitutes the filing of a financing statement as to the fixtures (but not, of course, as to other goods). Section 9-515(g) makes the usual five-year maximum life for financing statements inapplicable to mortgages that operate as fixture filings under section 9-502(c). Such mortgages are effective for the duration of the real property recording.

Of course, if a combined mortgage covers chattels that are not fixtures, a regular financing statement filing is necessary with respect to the chattels, and subsection (c) is inapplicable. Likewise, a financing statement filed as a "fixture filing" is not effective to perfect a security interest in personal property other than fixtures.

In some cases it may be difficult to determine whether goods are or will become fixtures. Nothing in this part prohibits the filing of a "precautionary" fixture filing, which would provide protection in the event goods are determined to be fixtures. The fact of filing should not be a factor in the determining whether goods are fixtures. *Cf.* section 9-505(b).

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 73 repealed former 55-9-502 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1985, ch. 193, § 35, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2015 amendment, effective July 1, 2015, amended the Uniform Commercial Code, as enacted by New Mexico, to make it uniform; and in Subsection (c), Paragraph (4), after "record is", added "duly".

The 2013 amendment, effective July 1, 2013, clarified the filing rules for a mortgage as a financing statement; in Paragraph (3) of Subsection (c), in the introductory sentence, after "in this section", deleted "other than an indication" and added "but"; in Subparagraph (A) of Paragraph (3) of Subsection (c), at the beginning of the sentence, added "the record need not indicate"; and added Subparagraph (B) of Paragraph (3) of Subsection (c).

Decisions under former Section 55-9-402 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-402 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Section 55-9-402 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

This section adopts system of notice filing designed to replace rigid description requirements. But, while the description requirements have been liberalized, the language of Subsection (1) (now Subsection (a)) clearly requires some specificity of description. *Mogul Enters., Inc. v. Commercial Credit Bus. Loans, Inc.*, 1978-NMSC-081, 92 N.M. 215, 585 P.2d 1096 (decided under former law).

Language of security agreement prevails over financing statement. — In a conflict between the unsigned financing statement and the language of the security agreement the latter prevails for the reason that no security interest can exist in the absence of a security agreement, and therefore a financing statement which goes beyond the scope of the agreement has no effect to that extent. *Jones & Laughlin Supply v. Dugan Prod. Corp.*, 1973-NMCA-050, 85 N.M. 51, 508 P.2d 1348 (decided under former law).

Need for description of property and names of parties to instrument. — With chattel mortgages, constructive notice generally is given by recording the instrument in the proper county along with designating the mortgagee and mortgagor (or assignee of mortgagor), inasmuch as ofttimes it is impractical to discover whether personal property is subject to a lien from solely the description of the personal property itself, without the name of the mortgagor. *Reconstruction Fin. Corp. v. Stephens*, 118 F. Supp. 565 (D.N.M. 1954) (decided under former law).

Minor errors in information does not invalidate financing statement. — A security agreement is sufficient as a financing statement if it contains all the information required of a valid financing statement, even though there are minor errors in the information. *First Nat'l Bank v. Niccum (In re Permian Anchor Servs.)*, 649 F.2d 763 (10th Cir. 1981) (decided under former law).

Omitting debtor's address is major error. — Leaving the address of the debtor out of a financing statement is a major error. *First Nat'l Bank v. Niccum (In re Permian Anchor Servs.)*, 649 F.2d 763 (10th Cir. 1981) (decided under former law).

Lack of the secured party's signature does not make the instrument defective within the meaning of this section. *Strevell-Paterson Fin. Co. v. May*, 1967-NMSC-004, 77 N.M. 331, 422 P.2d 366 (decided under former law).

"Inventory," "equipment" and "supplies" sufficient to describe collateral. — The terms "inventory," "equipment" and "supplies" are sufficient to meet the requirement that collateral must be described in general language reasonably describing the items. *Waterfield v. Burnett (In re Burnett)*, 21 B.R. 752 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1982) (decided under former law).

Name only on cover of instrument not substantial compliance. — Where secured party's name appears only on cover of instrument, the secured party does not substantially comply with the necessary requirements, and such instrument is defective as a financing statement and does not give notice to the defendant of the secured party's security interest. *Strevell-Paterson Fin. Co. v. May*, 1967-NMSC-004, 77 N.M. 331, 422 P.2d 366 (decided under former law).

Language in financing statement fails to satisfy section. — The words "all assets . . . regardless of type or description now owned . . . or to be bought in the future . . ." in a financing statement fail to satisfy the requirements of this section. The language is too general and vague to fulfill the demand that the financing statement at least reveal "the type" of collateral. The language is misleading and does not give subsequent secured parties adequate notice of a security interest in inventory and accounts receivable. *Mogul Enters., Inc. v. Commercial Credit Bus. Loans, Inc.*, 1978-NMSC-081, 92 N.M. 215, 585 P.2d 1096 (decided under former law).

Old security devices replaced by simplified procedures. — Under the terms of the Code, the traditional distinctions among security devices such as conditional sales contracts and chattel mortgages are not retained. The Code substitutes for such a simplified statutory procedure which applies to all transactions intended to create security interests in personal property and fixtures. 1962 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 62-01 (decided under former law).

Law reviews. — For article, "Fixtures and the Uniform Commercial Code in New Mexico," see 4 Nat. Resources J. 109 (1964).

For note, "Fixtures, Security Interests and Filing: Problems of Title Examination in New Mexico," see 8 Nat. Resources J. 513 (1968).

For comment, "New Mexico's Uniform Commercial Code in Oil and Gas Transactions," see 10 Nat. Resources J. 361 (1970).

For article, "Essential Attributes of Commercial Paper - Part I," see 1 N.M. L. Rev. 479 (1971).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 288 et seq.

Effect of recording chattel mortgage in town or county to which the mortgagor subsequently removed, 1 A.L.R. 1662.

Omission of amount of debt in mortgage or in record thereof as affecting validity of mortgage, its operation as notice, or its coverage with respect to debts secured, 145 A.L.R. 369.

Construction and application of statutory provision respecting registration of mortgages or other liens on personal property in case of residents of other states, 10 A.L.R.2d 764.

Conflict of laws as to chattel mortgages and conditional sales of chattels, 13 A.L.R.2d 1312.

Attorney's liability for negligence in preparing or recording security document, 87 A.L.R.2d 991.

Necessity and sufficiency of notice or statement prescribed by factor's lien law, 96 A.L.R.2d 727.

Sufficiency of description in chattel mortgage as covering all property of a particular kind, 2 A.L.R.3d 839, 30 A.L.R.3d 9.

Construction and effect of UCC article 9, dealing with secured transactions, etc., 30 A.L.R.3d 9, 67 A.L.R.3d 308, 69 A.L.R.3d 1162, 76 A.L.R.3d 11, 99 A.L.R. 3d 807, 99 A.L.R.3d 1080, 100 A.L.R.3d 10, 100 A.L.R.3d 940, 7 A.L.R.4th 308, 11 A.L.R.4th 241, 90 A.L.R.4th 859, 25 A.L.R.5th 696.

Sufficiency of designation of debtor or secured party in security agreement of financing statement under UCC § 9-402, 99 A.L.R.3d 478.

Sufficiency of address of debtor in financing statement required by UCC § 9-402(1), 99 A.L.R.3d 807.

Sufficiency of address of secured party in financing statement required under UCC § 9-402(1), 99 A.L.R.3d 1080.

Sufficiency of description of collateral in financing statement under UCC §§ 9-110 and 9-402, 100 A.L.R.3d 10.

Sufficiency of secured party's signature on financing § 9-402, or security agreement under UCC § 9-402, 100 A.L.R.3d 390.

Sufficiency of debtor's signature on security agreement or financing statement under UCC §§ 9-203 and 9-402, 3 A.L.R.4th 502.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 53 et seq.

55-9-503. Name of debtor and secured party.

(a) A financing statement sufficiently provides the name of the debtor:

(1) except as otherwise provided in Paragraph (3) of this section, if the debtor is a registered organization or the collateral is held in a trust that is a registered

organization, only if the financing statement provides the name that is stated to be the registered organization's name on the public organic record most recently filed with or issued or enacted by the registered organization's jurisdiction of organization that purports to state, amend or restate the registered organization's name;

(2) subject to Subsection (f) of this section, if the collateral is being administered by the personal representative of a decedent, only if the financing statement provides, as the name of the debtor, the name of the decedent and, in a separate part of the financing statement, indicates that the collateral is being administered by a personal representative;

(3) if the collateral is held in a trust that is not a registered organization, only if the financing statement:

(A) provides, as the name of the debtor:

(i) if the organic record of the trust specifies a name for the trust, the name specified; or

(ii) if the organic record of the trust does not specify a name for the trust, the name of the settlor or testator; and

(B) in a separate part of the financing statement:

(i) if the name is provided in accordance with Subparagraph (A)(i) of this paragraph, indicates that the collateral is held in a trust; or

(ii) if the name is provided in accordance with Subparagraph (A)(ii) of this paragraph, provides additional information sufficient to distinguish the trust from other trusts having one or more of the same settlors or the same testator and indicates that the collateral is held in a trust, unless the additional information so indicates;

(4) subject to Subsection (g) of this section, if the debtor is an individual to whom this state has issued a driver's license that has not expired, only if the financing statement provides the name of the individual indicated on the driver's license;

(5) if the debtor is an individual to whom Paragraph (4) of this subsection does not apply, only if the financing statement provides the individual name of the debtor or the surname and first personal name of the debtor; and

(6) in other cases:

(A) if the debtor has a name, only if the financing statement provides the organizational name of the debtor; and

(B) if the debtor does not have a name, only if it provides the names of the partners, members, associates or other persons comprising the debtor in a manner such that each name provided would be sufficient if the person named were the debtor.

(b) A financing statement that provides the name of the debtor in accordance with Subsection (a) of this section is not rendered ineffective by the absence of:

(1) a trade name or other name of the debtor; or

(2) unless required under Subparagraph (B) of Paragraph (6) of Subsection (a) of this section, names of partners, members, associates or other persons comprising the debtor.

(c) A financing statement that provides only the debtor's trade name does not sufficiently provide the name of the debtor.

(d) Failure to indicate the representative capacity of a secured party or representative of a secured party does not affect the sufficiency of a financing statement.

(e) A financing statement may provide the name of more than one debtor and the name of more than one secured party.

(f) The name of the decedent indicated on the order appointing the personal representative of the decedent issued by the court having jurisdiction over the collateral is sufficient as the name of the decedent under Paragraph (2) of Subsection (a) of this section.

(g) If this state has issued to an individual more than one driver's license of a kind described in Paragraph (4) of Subsection (a) of this section, the one that was issued most recently is the one to which Paragraph (4) of Subsection (a) of this section refers.

(h) As used in this section, "name of the settlor or testator" means:

(1) if the settlor is a registered organization, the name that is stated to be the settlor's name on the public organic record most recently filed with or issued or enacted by the settlor's jurisdiction of organization that purports to state, amend or restate the settlor's name; or

(2) in other cases, the name of the settlor or testator indicated in the trust's organic record.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-503, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 74; 2013, ch. 137, § 13.

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1. Source. Subsections (a)(4)(A), (b), and (c) derive from former section 9-402(7); otherwise, new.

2. Debtor's Name. The requirement that a financing statement provide the debtor's name is particularly important. Financing statements are indexed under the name of the debtor, and those who wish to find financing statements search for them under the debtor's name. Subsection (a) explains what the debtor's name is for purposes of a financing statement.

a. Registered Organizations. As a general matter, if the debtor is a "registered organization" (defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978] so as to ordinarily include corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, and statutory trusts), then the debtor's name is the name shown on the "public organic record" of the debtor's "jurisdiction of organization" (both also defined in Section 9-102).

b. Collateral Held in a Trust. When a financing statement covers collateral that is held in a trust that is a registered organization, subsection (a)(1) governs the name of the debtor. If, however, the collateral is held in a trust that is not a registered organization, subsection (a)(3) applies. (As used in this Article, collateral "held in a trust" includes collateral as to which the trust is the debtor as well as collateral as to which the trustee is the debtor.) This subsection adopts a convention that generally results in the name of the trust or the name of the trust's settlor being provided as the name of the debtor on the financing statement, even if, as typically is the case with common-law trusts, the "debtor" (defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978]) is a trustee acting with respect to the collateral. This convention provides more accurate information and eases the burden for searchers, who otherwise would have difficulty with respect to debtor trustees that are large financial institutions.

More specifically, if a trust's organic record specifies a name for the trust, subsection (a)(3) requires the financing statement to provide, as the name of the debtor, the name for the trust specified in the organic record. In addition, the financing statement must indicate, in a separate part of the financing statement, that the collateral is held in a trust.

If the organic record of the trust does not specify a name for the trust, the name required for the financing statement is the name of the settlor or, in the case of a testamentary trust, the testator, in each case as determined under subsection (h). In addition, the financing statement must provide sufficient additional information to distinguish the trust from other trusts having one or more of the same settlors or the same testator. In many cases an indication of the date on which the trust was settled will satisfy this requirement. If neither the name nor the additional information indicates that the collateral is held in a trust, the financing statement must indicate that fact, but not as part of the debtor's name.

Neither the indication that the collateral is held in a trust nor the additional information that distinguishes the trust from other trusts having one or more of the same settlors or the same testator is part of the debtor's name. Nevertheless, a financing statement that fails to provide, in a separate part of the financing statement, any required indication or additional information does not sufficiently provide the name of the debtor under Sections 9-502(a) and 9-503(a)(3) [55-9-502(a) and 55-9-503(a)(3) NMSA 1978], does not "substantially satisfy[ ] the requirements" of Part 5 within the meaning of Section 9-506(a) [55-9-506(a) NMSA 1978], and so is ineffective.

c. Collateral Administered by a Personal Representative. Subsection (a)(2) deals with collateral that is being administered by an executor, administrator, or other personal representative of a decedent. Even if, as often is the case, the representative is the "debtor" (defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978]), the financing statement must provide the name of the decedent as the name of the debtor. Subsection (f) provides a safe harbor, under which the name of the decedent indicated on the order appointing the personal representative issued by the court having jurisdiction over the collateral is sufficient as the name of the decedent. If the order indicates more than one name for the decedent, the first name in the list qualifies under subsection (f); however, other names in the list also may qualify as the "name of the decedent" within the meaning of subsection (a)(2). In addition to providing the name of the decedent, the financing statement must indicate, in a separate part of the financing statement, that the collateral is being administered by a personal representative. Although the indication is not part of the debtor's name, a financing statement that fails to provide the indication does not sufficiently provide the name of the debtor under Sections 9-502(a) and 9-503(a)(2) [55-9-502(a) and 55-9-503(a)(2) NMSA 1978], does not "substantially satisfy[ ] the requirements" of Part 5 within the meaning of Section 9-506(a) [55-9-506(a) NMSA 1978], and so is ineffective.

d. Individuals. This Article provides alternative approaches towards the requirement for providing the name of a debtor who is an individual.

Alternative A. Alternative A distinguishes between two groups of individual debtors. For debtors holding an unexpired driver's license issued by the State where the financing statement is filed (ordinarily the State where the debtor maintains the debtor's principal residence), Alternative A requires that a financing statement provide the name indicated on the license. When a debtor does not hold an unexpired driver's license issued by the relevant State, the requirement can be satisfied in either of two ways. A financing statement is sufficient if it provides the "individual name" of the debtor. Alternatively, a financing statement is sufficient if it provides the debtor's surname (*i.e.*, family name) and first personal name (*i.e.*, first name other than the surname).

Alternative B. Alternative B provides three ways in which a financing statement may sufficiently provide the name of an individual who is a debtor. The "individual name" of the debtor is sufficient, as is the debtor's surname and first personal name. If the individual holds an unexpired driver's license issued by the State where the financing

statement is filed (ordinarily the State of the debtor's principal residence), the name indicated on the driver's license also is sufficient.

Name indicated on the driver's license. A financing statement does not "provide the name of the individual which is indicated" on the debtor's driver's license unless the name it provides is the same as the name indicated on the license. This is the case even if the name indicated on the debtor's driver's license contains an error.

Example 1: Debtor, an individual whose principal residence is in Illinois, grants a security interest to SP in certain business equipment. SP files a financing statement with the Illinois filing office. The financing statement provides the name appearing on Debtor's Illinois driver's license, "Joseph Allan Jones." Regardless of which Alternative is in effect in Illinois, this filing would be sufficient under Illinois' Section 9-503(a), even if Debtor's correct middle name is Alan, not Allan.

A filing against "Joseph A. Jones" or "Joseph Jones" would not "provide the name of the individual which is indicated" on the debtor's driver's license. However, these filings might be sufficient if Alternative A is in effect in Illinois and Jones has no current (*i.e.*, unexpired) Illinois driver's license, or if Illinois has enacted Alternative B.

Determining the name that should be provided on the financing statement must not be done mechanically. The order in which the components of an individual's name appear on a driver's license differs among the States. Had the debtor in Example 1 obtained a driver's license from a different State, the license might have indicated the name as "Jones Joseph Allan." Regardless of the order on the driver's license, the debtor's surname must be provided in the part of the financing statement designated for the surname.

Alternatives A and B both refer to a license issued by "this State." Perfection of a security interest by filing ordinarily is determined by the law of the jurisdiction in which the debtor is located. *See* Section 9-301(1) [55-9-301(1) NMSA 1978]. (Exceptions to the general rule are found in Section 9-301(3) and (4), concerning fixture filings, timber to be cut, and as-extracted collateral.) A debtor who is an individual ordinarily is located at the individual's principal residence. *See* Section 9-307(b) [55-9-307(b) NMSA 1978]. (An exception appears in Section 9-307(c) [55-9-307(c) NMSA 1978].) Thus, a given State's Section 9-503 [55-9-503 NMSA 1978] ordinarily will apply during any period when the debtor's principal residence is located in that State, even if during that time the debtor holds or acquires a driver's license from another State.

When a debtor's principal residence changes, the location of the debtor under Section 9-307 [55-9-307 NMSA 1978] also changes and perfection by filing ordinarily will be governed by the law of the debtor's new location. As a consequence of the application of that jurisdiction's Section 9-316 [55-9-316 NMSA 1978], a security interest that is perfected by filing under the law of the debtor's former location will remain perfected for four months after the relocation, and thereafter if the secured party perfects under the law of the debtor's new location. Likewise, a financing statement filed in the former

location may be effective to perfect a security interest that attaches after the debtor relocates. *See* Section 9-316(h) [55-9-316(h) NMSA 1978].

Individual name of the debtor. Article 9 does not determine the "individual name" of a debtor. Nor does it determine which element or elements in a debtor's name constitute the surname. In some cases, determining the "individual name" of a debtor may be difficult, as may determining the debtor's surname. This is because in the case of individuals, unlike registered organizations, there is no public organic record to which reference can be made and from which the name and its components can be definitively determined.

Names can take many forms in the United States. For example, whereas a surname is often colloquially referred to as a "last name," the sequence in which the elements of a name are presented is not determinative. In some cultures, the surname appears first, while in others it may appear in a location that is neither first nor last. In addition, some surnames are composed of multiple elements that, taken together, constitute a single surname. These elements may or may not be separated by a space or connected by a hyphen, "i," or "y." In other instances, some or all of the same elements may not be part of the surname. In some cases, a debtor's entire name might be composed of only a single element, which should be provided in the part of the financing statement designated for the surname.

In disputes as to whether a financing statement sufficiently provides the "individual name" of a debtor, a court should refer to any non-UCC law concerning names. However, case law about names may have developed in contexts that implicate policies different from those of Article 9. A court considering an individual's name for purposes of determining the sufficiency of a financing statement is not necessarily bound by cases that were decided in other contexts and for other purposes.

Individuals are asked to provide their names on official documents such as tax returns and bankruptcy petitions. An individual may provide a particular name on an official document in response to instructions relating to the document rather than because the name is actually the individual's name. Accordingly, a court should not assume that the name an individual provides on an official document necessarily constitutes the "individual name" for purposes of the sufficiency of the debtor's name on a financing statement. Likewise, a court should not assume that the name as presented on an individual's birth certificate is necessarily the individual's current name.

In applying non-UCC law for purposes of determining the sufficiency of a debtor's name on a financing statement, a court should give effect to the instruction in Section 1-103(a)(1) [55-1-103(a)(1) NMSA 1978] that the UCC "must be liberally construed and applied to promote its underlying purposes and policies," which include simplifying and clarifying the law governing commercial transactions. Thus, determination of a debtor's name in the context of the Article 9 filing system must take into account the needs of both filers and searchers. Filers need a simple and predictable system in which they can have a reasonable degree of confidence that, without undue burden, they can

determine a name that will be sufficient so as to permit their financing statements to be effective. Likewise, searchers need a simple and predictable system in which they can have a reasonable degree of confidence that, without undue burden, they will discover all financing statements pertaining to the debtor in question. The court also should take into account the purpose of the UCC to make the law uniform among the various jurisdictions. *See* Section 1-103(a)(3) [55-1-103(a)(3) NMSA 1978].

Of course, once an individual debtor's name has been determined to be sufficient for purposes of Section 9-503 [55-9-503 NMSA 1978], a financing statement that provides a variation of that name, such as a "nickname" that does not constitute the debtor's name, does not sufficiently provide the name of the debtor under this section. *Cf.* Section 9-503(c) [55-9-503(c) NMSA 1978] (a financing statement providing only a debtor's trade name is not sufficient).

If there is any doubt about an individual debtor's name, a secured party may choose to file one or more financing statements that provide a number of possible names for the debtor and a searcher may similarly choose to search under a number of possible names.

Note that, even if the name provided in an initial financing statement is correct, the filing office nevertheless must reject the financing statement if it does not identify an individual debtor's surname (*e.g.*, if it is not clear whether the debtor's surname is Perry or Mason). *See* Section 9-516(b)(3)(C) [55-9-516(b)(3)(C) NMSA 1978].

3. Secured Party's Name. New subsection (d) makes clear that when the secured party is a representative, a financing statement is sufficient if it names the secured party, whether or not it indicates any representative capacity. Similarly, a financing statement that names a representative of the secured party is sufficient, even if it does not indicate the representative capacity.

Example 2: Debtor creates a security interest in favor of Bank X, Bank Y, and Bank Z, but not to their representative, the collateral agent (Bank A). The collateral agent is not itself a secured party. *See* Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978]. Under Sections 9-502(a) and 9-503(d) [55-9-502(a) and 55-9-503(d) NMSA 1978], however, a financing statement is effective if it names as secured party Bank A and not the actual secured parties, even if it omits Bank A's representative capacity.

Each person whose name is provided in an initial financing statement as the name of the secured party or representative of the secured party is a secured party of record. *See* Section 9-511 [55-9-511 NMSA 1978].

4. Multiple Names. Subsection (e) makes explicit what is implicit under former Article 9: a financing statement may provide the name of more than one debtor and secured party. *See* Section 1-106 [55-1-106 NMSA 1978] (words in the singular include the plural). With respect to records relating to more than one debtor, *see* Section 9-520(d) [55-9-520(d) NMSA 1978]. With respect to financing statements providing the

name of more than one secured party, *see* Sections 9-509(e) and 9-510(b) [55-9-509(e) and [55-9-510(b) NMSA 1978].

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 74 repealed former 55-9-503 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-503, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2013 amendment, effective July 1, 2013, clarified the rules for naming debtors in financing statements; in Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a), at the beginning of the sentence, added "except as otherwise provided in Paragraph (3) of this section", after "registered organization", added "or the collateral is held in a trust that is a registered organization", after "provides the name", deleted "of the debtor indicated" and added "that is stated to be the registered organization's name", after "name on the public", added "organic", after "organic record", deleted "of" and added "most recently filed with or issued or enacted by", after "enacted by the", deleted "debtor's" and added "registered organization's", and after "jurisdiction of organization", deleted "which shows the debtor to have been organized" and added the remainder of the sentence; in Paragraph (2) of Subsection (a), at the beginning of the sentence, added "subject to Subsection (f) of this section", after "this section, if the", deleted "debtor is a decedent's estate" and added "collateral is being administered by the personal representative of a decedent", after "financing statement provides", added "as the name of the debtor", after "name of the decedent and", added "in a separate part of the financing statement", and after "indicates that the", deleted "debtor is an estate", and added the remainder of the sentence; in Paragraph (3) of Subsection (a), at the beginning of the sentence, after "if the", deleted "debtor is a trust or a trustee acting with respect to property held in trust", deleted former Subparagraph (A), which required that the name of the trust be stated as specified in its organic documents or the name of the settlor if no name for the trust is specified, deleted former Subparagraph (B), which required that the financing statement indicate that the debtor is a trust or a trustee, and added "collateral is held in a trust that is not a registered organization, only if the financing statement"; added Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of Paragraph (3) of Subsection (a); added Paragraphs (4) and (5) of Subsection (a); in Paragraph (6) of Subsection (a), in Subparagraph (A), after "name, only if", deleted "it" and added "the financing statement", and after "provides the", deleted "individual or", and in Subparagraph (B), after "comprising the debtor", added the remainder of the sentence; and added Subsections (f) through (h).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 288 et seq.

Effect of recording chattel mortgage in town or county to which the mortgagor subsequently removed, 1 A.L.R. 1662.

Omission of amount of debt in mortgage or in record thereof as affecting validity of mortgage, its operation as notice, or its coverage with respect to debts secured, 145 A.L.R. 369.

Construction and application of statutory provision respecting registration of mortgages or other liens on personal property in case of residents of other states, 10 A.L.R.2d 764.

Conflict of laws as to chattel mortgages and conditional sales of chattels, 13 A.L.R.2d 1312.

Attorney's liability for negligence in preparing or recording security document, 87 A.L.R.2d 991.

Sufficiency of designation of debtor or secured party in security agreement of financing statement under UCC § 9-402, 99 A.L.R.3d 478.

Sufficiency of address of debtor in financing statement required by UCC § 9-402(1), 99 A.L.R.3d 807.

Sufficiency of address of secured party in financing statement required under UCC § 9-402(1), 99 A.L.R.3d 1080.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 53 et seq.

55-9-504. Indication of collateral.

A financing statement sufficiently indicates the collateral that it covers if the financing statement provides:

(1) a description of the collateral pursuant to Section 55-9-108 NMSA 1978; or

(2) an indication that the financing statement covers all assets or all personal property.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-504, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 75.

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1. Source. Former section 9-402(1).

2. Indication of Collateral. To comply with section 9-502(a), a financing statement must "indicate" the collateral it covers. A financing statement sufficiently indicates collateral claimed to be covered by the financing statement if it satisfies the purpose of

conditioning perfection on the filing of a financing statement, *i.e.*, if it provides notice that a person may have a security interest in the collateral claimed. *See* section 9-502, comment 2. In particular, an indication of collateral that would have satisfied the requirements of former section 9-402(1) (*i.e.*, "a statement indicating the types, or describing the items, of collateral") suffices under section 9-502(a). An indication may satisfy the requirements of section 9-502(a), even if it would not have satisfied the requirements of former section 9-402(1).

This section provides two safe harbors. Under paragraph (1), a "description" of the collateral (as the term is explained in section 9-108) suffices as an indication for purposes of the sufficiency of a financing statement.

Debtors sometimes create a security interest in all, or substantially all, of their assets. To accommodate this practice, paragraph (2) expands the class of sufficient collateral references to embrace "an indication that the financing statement covers all assets or all personal property." If the property in question belongs to the debtor and is personal property, any searcher will know that the property is covered by the financing statement. Of course, regardless of its breadth, a financing statement has no effect with respect to property indicated but to which a security interest has not attached. Note that a broad statement of this kind (*e.g.*, "all debtor's personal property") would not be a sufficient "description" for purposes of a security agreement. *See* sections 9-108 and 9-203(b)(3)(A). It follows that a somewhat narrower description than "all assets," *e.g.*, "all assets other than automobiles," is sufficient for purposes of this section, even if it does not suffice for purposes of a security agreement.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 75 repealed former 55-9-504 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1985, ch. 193, § 36, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former 55-9-402 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-402 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former 55-9-402 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Description insufficient. — Where a financing statement listed all major assets of the debtor, who was a commercial grower of cut roses, with complete and exact descriptions, the description of some collateral as "miscellaneous equipment" was not sufficient to put third parties on notice that the creditor claimed a security interest in 60,000 rose bushes which were one of the debtor's major assets and the creditor's security interest in the rose bushes was not perfected. *In re Flores de N.M., Inc.*, 151 B.R. 571 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1993).

Description sufficient. — Where a financing statement described some of the collateral as "miscellaneous equipment," the description was sufficient to place a third party on notice that the creditor claimed a security interest in a prefabricated portable

office building and in a computer system that were used in the debtor's commercial cut rose business, because the office building and computer system were not substantial assets and were of the type of item which might be reasonably grouped in a catch-all paragraph and labeled "miscellaneous equipment." *In re Flores de N.M., Inc.*, 151 B.R. 571 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1993).

Security agreement must cover disputed items. — Although the filing of the financing statement was sufficient to put defendants on inquiry as to plaintiff's security interest, this avails plaintiff nothing when the security agreement did not cover the disputed items. *Jones & Laughlin Supply v. Dugan Prod. Corp.*, 1973-NMCA-050, 85 N.M. 51, 508 P.2d 1348 (decided under former law).

"Inventory," "equipment" and "supplies" sufficient to describe collateral. — The terms "inventory," "equipment" and "supplies" are sufficient to meet the requirement that collateral must be described in general language reasonably describing the items. *Waterfield v. Burnett (In re Burnett)*, 21 B.R. 752 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1982) (decided under former law).

Language in financing statement fails to satisfy section. — The words "all assets . . . regardless of type or description now owned . . . or to be bought in the future . . ." in a financing statement fail to satisfy the requirements of this section. The language is too general and vague to fulfill the demand that the financing statement at least reveal "the type" of collateral. The language is misleading and does not give subsequent secured parties adequate notice of a security interest in inventory and accounts receivable. *Mogul Enters., Inc. v. Commercial Credit Bus. Loans, Inc.*, 1978-NMSC-081, 92 N.M. 215, 585 P.2d 1096 (decided under former law).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 288 et seq.

Effect of recording chattel mortgage in town or county to which the mortgagor subsequently removed, 1 A.L.R. 1662.

Omission of amount of debt in mortgage or in record thereof as affecting validity of mortgage, its operation as notice, or its coverage with respect to debts secured, 145 A.L.R. 369.

Construction and application of statutory provision respecting registration of mortgages or other liens on personal property in case of residents of other states, 10 A.L.R.2d 764.

Conflict of laws as to chattel mortgages and conditional sales of chattels, 13 A.L.R.2d 1312.

Attorney's liability for negligence in preparing or recording security document, 87 A.L.R.2d 991.

Necessity and sufficiency of notice or statement prescribed by factor's lien law, 96 A.L.R.2d 727.

Sufficiency of description in chattel mortgage as covering all property of a particular kind, 2 A.L.R.3d 839, 30 A.L.R.3d 9.

Sufficiency of description of collateral in financing statement under UCC §§ 9-110 and 9-402, 100 A.L.R.3d 10.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 53 et seq.

55-9-505. Filing and compliance with other statutes and treaties for consignments, leases, other bailments and other transactions.

(a) A consignor, lessor, or other bailor of goods, a licensor or a buyer of a payment intangible or promissory note may file a financing statement, or may comply with a statute, regulation or treaty described in Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-311 NMSA 1978, using the terms "consignor", "consignee", "lessor", "lessee", "bailor", "bailee", "licensor", "licensee", "owner", "registered owner", "buyer", "seller" or words of similar import, instead of the terms "secured party" and "debtor".

(b) Sections 55-9-501 through 55-9-526 NMSA 1978 apply to the filing of a financing statement under Subsection (a) of this section and, as appropriate, to compliance that is equivalent to filing a financing statement under Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-311 NMSA 1978, but the filing or compliance is not of itself a factor in determining whether the collateral secures an obligation. If it is determined for another reason that the collateral secures an obligation, a security interest held by the consignor, lessor, bailor, licensor, owner or buyer which attaches to the collateral is perfected by the filing or compliance.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-505, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 76.

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1. Source. Former section 9-408.

2. Precautionary Filing. Occasionally, doubts arise concerning whether a transaction creates a relationship to which this article or its filing provisions apply. For example, questions may arise over whether a "lease" of equipment in fact creates a security interest or whether the "sale" of payment intangibles in fact secures an obligation, thereby requiring action to perfect the security interest. This section, which derives from former section 9-408, affords the option of filing of a financing statement

with appropriate changes of terminology but without affecting the substantive question of classification of the transaction.

3. Changes from Former Section 9-408. This section expands the rule of former Section 9-408 [55-9-408 NMSA 1978] to embrace more generally other bailments and transactions, as well as sales transactions, primarily sales of payment intangibles and promissory notes. It provides the same benefits for compliance with a statute or treaty described in Section 9-311(a) [55-9-311(a) NMSA 1978] that former Section 9-408 [55-9-408 NMSA 1978] provided for filing, in connection with the use of terms such as "lessor," consignor," etc. The references to "owner" and "registered owner" are intended to address, for example, the situation where a putative lessor is the registered owner of an automobile covered by a certificate of title and the transaction is determined to create a security interest. Although this section provides that the security interest is perfected, the relevant certificate-of-title statute may expressly provide to the contrary or may be ambiguous. If so, it may be necessary or advisable to amend the certificate-of-title statute to ensure that perfection of the security interest will be achieved.

As did former Section 1-201 [55-1-201 NMSA 1978], former Article 9 referred to transactions, including leases and consignments, "intended as security." This misleading phrase created the erroneous impression that the parties to a transaction can dictate how the law will classify it (e.g., as a bailment or as a security interest) and thus affect the rights of third parties. This Article deletes the phrase wherever it appears. Subsection (b) expresses the principle more precisely by referring to a security interest that "secures an obligation."

4. Consignments. Although a "true" consignment is a bailment, the filing and priority provisions of former Article 9 applied to "true" consignments. *See* former Sections 2-326(3), 9-114 [55-2-326(3), 55-9-114 NMSA 1978]. A consignment "intended as security" created a security interest that was in all respects subject to former Article 9. This Article subsumes most true consignments under the rubric of "security interest." *See* Sections 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978] (definition of "consignment"), 9-109(a)(4) [55-9-109(a)(4) NMSA 1978], 1-201(b)(35) [55-1-201(b)(35) NMSA 1978] (definition of "security interest"). Nevertheless, it maintains the distinction between a (true) "consignment," as to which only certain aspects of Article 9 apply, and a so-called consignment that actually "secures an obligation," to which Article 9 applies in full. The revisions to this section reflect the change in terminology.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 76 repealed former 55-9-505 NMSA 1978, as amended by Laws 1985, ch. 193, § 37, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-506. Effect of errors or omissions.

(a) A financing statement substantially satisfying the requirements of Sections 55-9-501 through 55-9-526 NMSA 1978 is effective, even if it has minor errors or omissions, unless the errors or omissions make the financing statement seriously misleading.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (c) of this section, a financing statement that fails sufficiently to provide the name of the debtor in accordance with Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-503 NMSA 1978 is seriously misleading.

(c) If a search of the records of the filing office under the debtor's correct name, using the filing office's standard search logic, if any, would disclose a financing statement that fails sufficiently to provide the name of the debtor in accordance with Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-503 NMSA 1978, the name provided does not make the financing statement seriously misleading.

(d) For purposes of Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-508 NMSA 1978, the "debtor's correct name" in Subsection (c) of this section means the correct name of the new debtor.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-506, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 77.

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1. Source. Former section 9-402(8).

2. Errors and Omissions. Like former Section 9-402(8) [55-9-402(8) NMSA 1978], subsection (a) is in line with the policy of this Article to simplify formal requisites and filing requirements. It is designed to discourage the fanatical and impossibly refined reading of statutory requirements in which courts occasionally have indulged themselves. Subsection (a) provides the standard applicable to indications of collateral. Subsections (b) and (c), which are new, concern the effectiveness of financing statements in which the debtor’s name is incorrect. Subsection (b) contains the general rule: a financing statement that fails sufficiently to provide the debtor’s name in accordance with Section 9-503(a) [55-9-503(a) NMSA 1978] is seriously misleading as a matter of law. Subsection (c) provides an exception: If the financing statement nevertheless would be discovered in a search under the debtor’s correct name, using the filing office’s standard search logic, if any, then as a matter of law the incorrect name does not make the financing statement seriously misleading. A financing statement that is seriously misleading under this section is ineffective even if it is disclosed by (i) using a search logic other than that of the filing office to search the official records, or (ii) using the filing office’s standard search logic to search a data base other than that of the filing office. For purposes of subsection (c), any name that satisfies Section 9-503(a) at the time of the search is a "correct name."

This section and Section 9-503 [55-9-503 NMSA 1978] balance the interests of filers and searchers. Searchers are not expected to ascertain nicknames, trade names, and the like by which the debtor may be known and then search under each of them. Rather, it is the secured party's responsibility to provide the name of the debtor sufficiently in a filed financing statement. Subsection (c) sets forth the only situation in which a financing statement that fails sufficiently to provide the name of the debtor is not seriously misleading. As stated in subsection (b), if the name of the debtor provided on a financing statement is insufficient and subsection (c) is not satisfied, the financing statement is seriously misleading. Such a financing statement is ineffective even if the debtor is known in some contexts by the name provided on the financing statement and even if searchers know or have reason to know that the name provided on the financing statement refers to the debtor. Any suggestion to the contrary in a judicial opinion is incorrect.

To satisfy the requirements of Section 9-503(a)(2) [55-9-503(a)(2) NMSA 1978], a financing statement must indicate that the collateral is being administered by a personal representative. To satisfy the requirements of Section 9-503(a)(3) [55-9-503(a)(3) NMSA 1978], a financing statement must indicate that the collateral is held in a trust and provide additional information that distinguishes the trust from certain other trusts. The indications and additional information are not part of the debtor's name. Nevertheless, a financing statement that fails to provide an indication or the additional information when required does not sufficiently provide the name of the debtor under Sections 9-502(a) and 9-503(a) [55-9-502(a) and 55-9-503(a) NMSA 1978], does not "substantially satisfy[ ] the requirements" of Part 5 within the meaning of this section and so is ineffective.

In addition to requiring the debtor's name and an indication of the collateral, Section 9-502(a) [55-9-502(a) NMSA 1978] requires a financing statement to provide the name of the secured party or a representative of the secured party. Inasmuch as searches are not conducted under the secured party's name, and no filing is needed to continue the perfected status of security interest after it is assigned, an error in the name of the secured party or its representative will not be seriously misleading. However, in an appropriate case, an error of this kind may give rise to an estoppel in favor of a particular holder of a conflicting claim to the collateral. *See* Section 1-103 [55-1-103 NMSA 1978].

3. New Debtors. Subsection (d) provides that, in determining the extent to which a financing statement naming an original debtor is effective against a new debtor, the sufficiency of the financing statement should be tested against the name of the new debtor.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 77 repealed former 55-9-506 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-506, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former Section 55-9-402 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-402 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Section 55-9-402 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Minor errors in information does not invalidate financing statement. — A security agreement is sufficient as a financing statement if it contains all the information required of a valid financing statement, even though there are minor errors in the information. *First Nat'l Bank v. Niccum (In re Permian Anchor Servs.)*, 649 F.2d 763 (10th Cir. 1981) (decided under former law).

Minor errors which are not seriously misleading will not invalidate a financing statement or continuation statement which otherwise is in substantial compliance with statutory requirements. *NationsCredit Com. Corp. v. Camp Town, Inc.*, 197 B.R. 139 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1996) (decided under former law).

Omitting debtor's address is major error. — Leaving the address of the debtor out of a financing statement is a major error. *First Nat'l Bank v. Niccum (In re Permian Anchor Servs.)*, 649 F.2d 763 (10th Cir. 1981) (decided under former law).

Security interest not unperfected when change in debtor's name not recorded. — Filed security agreement listing debtor under former corporate name did not become "seriously misleading", as referred to in Subsection (5) (now see this section), once debtor changed its name so as not to serve sufficient notice of security interest, since financing statement is sufficient even if it fails to give any name for a debtor where debtor's address and mailing address are given, and since later creditor knew of debtor's first corporate name and of first creditor's intention to advance money so that later creditor could not have been misled; consequently, first creditor's priority did not become "unperfected" for failure to file new security agreement and financing statement. *In re Bud Long Chevrolet, Inc.*, 39 B.R. 499 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1984) (decided under former law).

Failure to identify new debtor. — Where the secured party had knowledge of the debtor's transfer of the collateral and accepted payments from the transferee on the debtor's note but never amended its financing statement to identify the transferee as the new debtor, the secured party's filing of a "continuation statement" naming the original debtor whom it knew was no longer in possession of the collateral was insufficient to preserve the security interest. *Prod. Credit Ass'n v. Lane (In re Cattle Complex Corp.)*, 61 B.R. 526 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1986) (decided under former law).

55-9-507. Effect of certain events on effectiveness of financing statement.

(a) A filed financing statement remains effective with respect to collateral that is sold, exchanged, leased, licensed or otherwise disposed of and in which a security interest or

agricultural lien continues, even if the secured party knows of or consents to the disposition.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (c) of this section and Section 55-9-508 NMSA 1978, a financing statement is not rendered ineffective if, after the financing statement is filed, the information provided in the financing statement becomes seriously misleading under Section 55-9-506 NMSA 1978.

(c) If the name that a filed financing statement provides for a debtor becomes insufficient as the name of the debtor under Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-503 NMSA 1978 such that the financing statement becomes seriously misleading under Section 55-9-506 NMSA 1978:

(1) the financing statement is effective to perfect a security interest in collateral acquired by the debtor before, or within four months after, the filed financing statement becomes seriously misleading; and

(2) the financing statement is not effective to perfect a security interest in collateral acquired by the debtor more than four months after the filed financing statement becomes seriously misleading, unless an amendment to the financing statement that renders the financing statement not seriously misleading is filed within four months after the financing statement became seriously misleading.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-507, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 78; 2013, ch. 137, § 14.

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1. Source. Former section 9-402(7).

2. Scope of Section. This section deals with situations in which the information in a proper financing statement becomes inaccurate after the financing statement is filed. Compare section 9-338, which deals with situations in which a financing statement contains a particular kind of information concerning the debtor (i.e., the information described in section 9-516(b)(5)) that is incorrect at the time it is filed.

3. Post-Filing Disposition of Collateral. Under subsection (a), a financing statement remains effective even if the collateral is sold or otherwise disposed of. This subsection clarifies the third sentence of former section 9-402(7) by providing that a financing statement remains effective following the disposition of collateral only when the security interest or agricultural lien continues in that collateral. This result is consistent with the conclusion of PEB Commentary No. 3. Normally, a security interest does continue after

disposition of the collateral. *See* section 9-315(a)(1). Law other than this article determines whether an agricultural lien survives disposition of the collateral.

As a consequence of the disposition, the collateral may be owned by a person other than the debtor against whom the financing statement was filed. Under subsection (a), the secured party remains perfected even if it does not correct the public record. For this reason, any person seeking to determine whether a debtor owns collateral free of security interests must inquire as to the debtor's source of title and, if circumstances seem to require it, search in the name of a former owner. Subsection (a) addresses only the sufficiency of the information contained in the financing statement. A disposition of collateral may result in loss of perfection for other reasons. *See* section 9-316.

Example: Dee Corp. is an Illinois corporation. It creates a security interest in its equipment in favor of Secured Party. Secured Party files a proper financing statement in Illinois. Dee Corp. sells an item of equipment to Bee Corp., a Pennsylvania corporation, subject to the security interest. The security interest continues, see section 9-315(a)(1), and remains perfected, see section 9-507(a), notwithstanding that the financing statement is filed under "D" (for Dee Corp.) and not under "B." However, because Bee Corp. is located in Pennsylvania and not Illinois, *see* section 9-307, unless Secured Party perfects under Pennsylvania law within one year after the transfer, its security interest will become unperfected and will be deemed to have been unperfected against purchasers of the collateral. *See* section 9-316.

4. Other Post-Filing Changes. Subsection (b) provides that, as a general matter, post-filing changes that render a financing statement seriously misleading have no effect on a financing statement. The financing statement remains effective. It is subject to two exceptions: Section 9-508 and Section 9-507(c) [55-9-508 and 55-9-507(c) NMSA 1978]. Section 9-508 addresses the effectiveness of a financing statement filed against an original debtor when a new debtor becomes bound by the original debtor’s security agreement. It is discussed in the Comments to that section. Section 9-507(c) addresses cases in which a filed financing statement provides a name that, at the time of filing, satisfies the requirements of Section 9-503(a) [55-9-503(a) NMSA 1978] with respect to the named debtor but, at a later time, no longer does so.

Example 1: Debtor, an individual whose principal residence is in California, grants a security interest to SP in certain business equipment. SP files a financing statement with the California filing office. Alternative A is in effect in California. The financing statement provides the name appearing on Debtor’s California driver’s license, "James McGinty." Debtor obtains a court order changing his name to "Roger McGuinn" but does not change his driver’s license. Even after the court order issues, the name provided for the debtor in the financing statement is sufficient under Section 9-503(a) [55-9-503(a) NMSA 1978]. Accordingly, Section 9-507(c) [55-9-507(c) NMSA 1978] does not apply.

The same result would follow if Alternative B is in effect in California.

Under Section 9-503(a)(4) [55-9-503(a)(4) NMSA 1978] (Alternative A), if the debtor holds a current (*i.e.*, unexpired) driver's license issued by the State where the financing statement is filed, the name required for the financing statement is the name indicated on the license that was issued most recently by that State. If the debtor does not have a current driver's license issued by that State, then the debtor's name is determined under subsection (a)(5). It follows that a debtor's name may change, and a financing statement providing the name on the debtor's then-current driver's license may become seriously misleading, if the license expires and the debtor's name under subsection (a)(5) is different. The same consequences may follow if a debtor's driver's license is renewed and the names on the licenses differ.

Example 2: The facts are as in Example 1. Debtor's driver's license expires one year after the entry of the court order changing Debtor's name. Debtor does not renew the license. Upon expiration of the license, the name required for sufficiency by Section 9-503(a) [55-9-503(a) NMSA 1978] is the individual name of the debtor or the debtor's surname and first personal name. The name "James McGinty" has become insufficient.

Example 3: The facts are as in Example 1. Before the license expires, Debtor renews the license. The name indicated on the new license is "Roger McGuinn." Upon issuance of the new license, "James McGinty" becomes insufficient as the debtor's name under Section 9-503(a) [55-9-503(a) NMSA 1978].

The same results would follow if Alternative B is in effect in California (assuming that, following the issuance of the court order, "James McGinty" is neither the individual name of the debtor nor the debtor's surname and first personal name).

Even if the name provided as the name of the debtor becomes insufficient under Section 9-503(a) [55-9-503(a) NMSA 1978], the filed financing statement does not become seriously misleading, and Section 9-507(c) [55-9-507(c) NMSA 1978] does not apply, if the financing statement can be found by searching under the debtor's "correct" name, using the filing office's standard search logic. *See* Section 9-506 [55-9-506 NMSA 1978]. Any name that satisfies Section 9-503(a) at the time of the search is a "correct name" for these purposes. Thus, assuming that a search of the records of the California filing office under "Roger McGuinn," using the filing office's standard search logic, would not disclose a financing statement naming "James McGinty," the financing statement in Examples 2 and 3 has become seriously misleading and Section 9-507(c) applies.

If a filed financing statement becomes seriously misleading because the name it provides for a debtor becomes insufficient, the financing statement, unless amended to provide a sufficient name for the debtor, is effective only to perfect a security interest in collateral acquired by the debtor before, or within four months after, the change. If an amendment that provides a sufficient name is filed within four months after the change, the financing statement as amended would be effective also with respect to collateral acquired more than four months after the change. If an amendment that provides a sufficient name is filed more than four months after the change, the financing statement

as amended would be effective also with respect to collateral acquired more than four months after the change, but only from the time of the filing of the amendment.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 78 repealed former 55-9-507 NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 1961, ch. 96, § 9-507, and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2001.

The 2013 amendment, effective July 1, 2013, clarified the effectiveness of financing statements when the name of the debtor becomes insufficient to identify the debtor; in Subsection (c), in the introductory sentence, after "If", deleted "provides for a debtor" and added "the", after "filed financing statement", added "provides for a debtor", and after "for a debtor becomes", added "insufficient as the name of the debtor under Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-503 NMSA 1978 such that the financing statement becomes"; in Paragraph (1) of Subsection (c), after "four months after, the" deleted "change" and added "filed financing statement becomes seriously misleading"; and in Paragraph (2) of Subsection (c), after "debtor more than four months after the", deleted "change" and added "filed financing statement becomes seriously misleading", and after "filed within four months after the", deleted "change" and added "financing statement becomes seriously misleading".

55-9-508. Effectiveness of financing statement if new debtor becomes bound by security agreement.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a filed financing statement naming an original debtor is effective to perfect a security interest in collateral in which a new debtor has or acquires rights to the extent that the financing statement would have been effective had the original debtor acquired rights in the collateral.

(b) If the difference between the name of the original debtor and that of the new debtor causes a filed financing statement that is effective under Subsection (a) of this section to be seriously misleading under Section 55-9-506 NMSA 1978:

(1) the financing statement is effective to perfect a security interest in collateral acquired by the new debtor before, and within four months after, the new debtor becomes bound under Subsection (d) of Section 55-9-203 NMSA 1978; and

(2) the financing statement is not effective to perfect a security interest in collateral acquired by the new debtor more than four months after the new debtor becomes bound under Subsection (d) of Section 55-9-203 NMSA 1978 unless an initial financing statement providing the name of the new debtor is filed before the expiration of that time.

(c) This section does not apply to collateral as to which a filed financing statement remains effective against the new debtor under Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-507 NMSA 1978.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-508, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 79.

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1. **Source.** New.

2. **The Problem.** Section 9-203(d) and (e) and this section deal with situations where one party (the "new debtor") becomes bound as debtor by a security agreement entered into by another person (the "original debtor"). These situations often arise as a consequence of changes in business structure. For example, the original debtor may be an individual debtor who operates a business as a sole proprietorship and then incorporates it. Or, the original debtor may be a corporation that is merged into another corporation. Under both former article 9 and this article, collateral that is transferred in the course of the incorporation or merger normally would remain subject to a perfected security interest. *See* sections 9-315(a)(1) and 9-507(a). Former article 9 was less clear with respect to whether an after-acquired property clause in a security agreement signed by the original debtor would be effective to create a security interest in property acquired by the new corporation or the merger survivor and, if so, whether a financing statement filed against the original debtor would be effective to perfect the security interest. This section and sections 9-203(d) and (e) are a clarification.

3. **How New Debtor Becomes Bound.** Normally, a security interest is unenforceable unless the debtor has signed a security agreement describing the collateral. *See* Section 9-203(b). Section 9-203(e) creates an exception, under which a security agreement entered into by one person is effective with respect to the property of another. This exception comes into play if a "new debtor" becomes bound as debtor by a security agreement entered into by another person (the "original debtor"). (The quoted terms are defined in Section 9-102.) If a new debtor does become bound, then the security agreement entered into by the original debtor satisfies the security-agreement requirement of Section 9-203(b)(3) as to existing or after-acquired property of the new debtor to the extent the property is described in the security agreement. In that case, no other agreement is necessary to make a security interest enforceable in that property. *See* Section 9-203(e).

Section 9-203(d) explains when a new debtor becomes bound by an original debtor's security agreement. Under section 9-203(d)(1), a new debtor becomes bound as debtor if, by contract or operation of other law, the security agreement becomes effective to create a security interest in the new debtor's property. For example, if the applicable corporate law of mergers provides that when A Corp merges into B Corp, B Corp

becomes a debtor under A Corp's security agreement, then B Corp would become bound as debtor following such a merger. Similarly, B Corp would become bound as debtor if B Corp contractually assumes A's obligations under the security agreement.

Under certain circumstances, a new debtor becomes bound for purposes of this article even though it would not be bound under other law. Under section 9-203(d)(2), a new debtor becomes bound when, by contract or operation of other law, it (i) becomes obligated not only for the secured obligation but also generally for the obligations of the original debtor and (ii) acquires or succeeds to substantially all the assets of the original debtor. For example, some corporate laws provide that, when two corporations merge, the surviving corporation succeeds to the assets of its merger partner and "has all liabilities" of both corporations. In the case where, for example, A Corp merges into B Corp (and A Corp ceases to exist), some people have questioned whether A Corp's grant of a security interest in its existing and after-acquired property becomes a "liability" of B Corp, such that B Corp's existing and after-acquired property becomes subject to a security interest in favor of A Corp's lender. Even if corporate law were to give a negative answer, under section 9-203(d)(2), B Corp would become bound for purposes of section 9-203(e) and this section. The "substantially all of the assets" requirement of section 9-203(d)(2) excludes sureties and other secondary obligors as well as persons who become obligated through veil piercing and other nonsuccessorship doctrines. In most cases, it will exclude successors to the assets and liabilities of a division of a debtor.

4. **When Financing Statement Effective Against New Debtor.** Subsection (a) provides that a filing against the original debtor generally is effective to perfect a security interest in collateral that a new debtor has at the time it becomes bound by the original debtor’s security agreement and collateral that it acquires after the new debtor becomes bound. Under subsection (b), however, if the filing against the original debtor is seriously misleading as to the new debtor’s name, the filing is effective as to collateral acquired by the new debtor more than four months after the new debtor becomes bound only if a person files during the four-month period an initial financing statement providing the name of the new debtor. *Compare* Section 9-507(c) [55-9-507(c) NMSA 1978] (four-month period of effectiveness with respect to collateral acquired by a debtor after the name provided for the debtor becomes insufficient as the name of the debtor). As to the meaning of "initial financing statement" in this context, *see* Section 9-512 [55-9-512 NMSA 1978], Comment 5.

5. **Transferred Collateral.** This section does not apply to collateral transferred by the original debtor to a new debtor. *See* subsection (c). Under those circumstances, the filing against the original debtor continues to be effective until it lapses or perfection is lost for another reason. *See* sections 9-316, 9-507(a).

6. **Priority.** Section 9-326 governs the priority contest between a secured creditor of the original debtor and a secured creditor of the new debtor.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-509. Persons entitled to file a record.

(a) A person may file an initial financing statement, amendment that adds collateral covered by a financing statement or amendment that adds a debtor to a financing statement only if:

(1) the debtor authorizes the filing in a signed record or pursuant to Subsection (b) or (c) of this section; or

(2) the person holds an agricultural lien that has become effective at the time of filing and the financing statement covers only collateral in which the person holds an agricultural lien.

(b) By signing or becoming bound as debtor by a security agreement, a debtor or new debtor authorizes the filing of an initial financing statement, and an amendment, covering:

(1) the collateral described in the security agreement; and

(2) property that becomes collateral under Paragraph (2) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-315 NMSA 1978, whether or not the security agreement expressly covers proceeds.

(c) By acquiring collateral in which a security interest or agricultural lien continues under Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-315 NMSA 1978, a debtor authorizes the filing of an initial financing statement, and an amendment, covering the collateral and property that becomes collateral under Paragraph (2) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-315 NMSA 1978.

(d) A person may file an amendment other than an amendment that adds collateral covered by a financing statement or an amendment that adds a debtor to a financing statement only if:

(1) the secured party of record authorizes the filing; or

(2) the amendment is a termination statement for a financing statement as to which the secured party of record has failed to file or send a termination statement as required by Subsection (a) or (c) of Section 55-9-513 NMSA 1978, the debtor authorizes the filing and the termination statement indicates that the debtor authorized it to be filed.

(e) If there is more than one secured party of record for a financing statement, each secured party of record may authorize the filing of an amendment under Subsection (d) of this section.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-509, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 80; 2023, ch. 142, § 79.

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1. **Source.** New.

2. **Scope and Approach of This Section.** This section collects in one place most of the rules determining whether a record may be filed. Section 9-510 explains the extent to which a filed record is effective. Under these sections, the identity of the person who effects a filing is immaterial. The filing scheme contemplated by this part does not contemplate that the identity of a "filer" will be a part of the searchable records. This is consistent with, and a necessary aspect of, eliminating signatures or other evidence of authorization from the system. (Note that the 1972 amendments to this article eliminated the requirement that a financing statement contain the signature of the secured party.) As long as the appropriate person authorizes the filing, or, in the case of a termination statement, the debtor is entitled to the termination, it is insignificant whether the secured party or another person files any given record. The question of authorization is one for the court, not the filing office. However, a filing office may choose to employ authentication procedures in connection with electronic communications, *e.g.*, to verify the identity of a filer who seeks to charge the filing fee.

3. **Unauthorized Filings.** Records filed in the filing office do not require signatures for their effectiveness. Subsection (a)(1) substitutes for the debtor's signature on a financing statement the requirement that the debtor authorize in a signed record the filing of an initial financing statement or an amendment that adds collateral. Also, under subsection (a)(1), if an amendment adds a debtor, the debtor who is added must authorize the amendment. A person who files an unauthorized record in violation of subsection (a)(1) is liable under Section 9-625(b) and (e) for actual and statutory damages. Of course, a filed financing statement is ineffective to perfect a security interest if the filing is not authorized. See Section 9-510(a). Law other than this Article, including the law with respect to ratification of past acts, generally determines whether a person has the requisite authority to file a record under this section. See Sections 1-103, 9-502, Comment 3. This Article applies to other issues, such as the priority of a security interest perfected by the filing of a financing statement. See Section 9-322, Comment 4.

4. ***Ipso Facto* Authorization.** Under subsection (b), the signing of a security agreement *ipso facto* constitutes the debtor's authorization of the filing of a financing statement covering the collateral described in the security agreement. The secured party need not obtain a separate authorization. Similarly, a new debtor's becoming bound by a security agreement *ipso facto* constitutes the new debtor's authorization of the filing of a financing statement covering the collateral described in the security

agreement by which the new debtor has become bound. And, under subsection (c), the acquisition of collateral in which a security interest continues after disposition under Section 9-315(a)(1) *ipso facto* constitutes an authorization to file an initial financing statement against the person who acquired the collateral. The authorization to file an initial financing statement also constitutes an authorization to file a record covering actual proceeds of the original collateral, even if the security agreement is silent as to proceeds.

Example 1: Debtor signs a security agreement creating a security interest in Debtor's inventory in favor of Secured Party. Secured Party files a financing statement covering inventory and accounts. The financing statement is authorized insofar as it covers inventory and unauthorized insofar as it covers accounts. (Note, however, that the financing statement will be effective to perfect a security interest in accounts constituting proceeds of the inventory to the same extent as a financing statement covering only inventory.)

Example 2: Debtor signs a security agreement creating a security interest in Debtor's inventory in favor of Secured Party. Secured Party files a financing statement covering inventory. Debtor sells some inventory, deposits the buyer's payment into a deposit account, and withdraws the funds to purchase equipment. As long as the equipment can be traced to the inventory, the security interest continues in the equipment. See Section 9-315(a)(2). However, because the equipment was acquired with cash proceeds, the financing statement becomes ineffective to perfect the security interest in the equipment on the 21st day after the security interest attaches to the equipment unless Secured Party continues perfection beyond the 20-day period by filing a financing statement against the equipment or amending the filed financing statement to cover equipment. See Section 9-315(d). Debtor's signing of the security agreement authorizes the filing of an initial financing statement or amendment covering the equipment, which is "property that becomes collateral under Section 9-315(a)(2)." See Section 9-509(b)(2).

5. **Agricultural Liens.** Under subsection (a)(2), the holder of an agricultural lien may file a financing statement covering collateral subject to the lien without obtaining the debtor's authorization. Because the lien arises as matter of law, the debtor's consent is not required. A person who files an unauthorized record in violation of this subsection is liable under section 9-625(e) for a statutory penalty and damages.

6. **Amendments; Termination Statements Authorized by Debtor.** Most amendments may not be filed unless the secured party of record, as determined under Section 9-511, authorizes the filing. See subsection (d)(1). However, under subsection (d)(2), the authorization of the secured party of record is not required for the filing of a termination statement if the secured party of record failed to send or file a termination statement as required by Section 9-513, the debtor authorizes it to be filed, and the termination statement so indicates. An authorization to file a record under subsection (d) is effective even if the authorization is not in a signed record. Compare subsection (a)(1). However, both the person filing the record and the person giving the

authorization may wish to obtain and retain a record indicating that the filing was authorized.

7. **Multiple Secured Parties of Record.** Subsection (e) deals with multiple secured parties of record. It permits each secured party of record to authorize the filing of amendments. However, section 9-510(b) protects the rights and powers of one secured party of record from the effects of filings made by another secured party of record. *See* section 9-510, comment 3.

8. **Successor to Secured Party of Record.** A person may succeed to the powers of the secured party of record by operation of other law, *e.g.*, the law of corporate mergers. In that case, the successor has the power to authorize filings within the meaning of this section.

9. **"Signed" and "Signing" Replace "Authenticated" and "Authenticating."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate terms "signed" and "signing" replace the references to "authenticated" and "authenticating" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, in Paragraph (a)(1), after "filing in", deleted "authenticated" and added "a signed"; and in Subsection (b), after "By", deleted "authenticating" and added "signing".

55-9-510. Effectiveness of filed record.

(a) A filed record is effective only to the extent that it was filed by a person that may file it under Section 55-9-509 NMSA 1978.

(b) A record authorized by one secured party of record does not affect the financing statement with respect to another secured party of record.

(c) A continuation statement that is not filed within the six-month period prescribed by Subsection (d) of Section 55-9-515 NMSA 1978 is ineffective.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-510, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 81.

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1. Source. New.

2. Ineffectiveness of Unauthorized or Overbroad Filings. Subsection (a) provides that a filed financing statement is effective only to the extent it was filed by a person entitled to file it.

Example 1: Debtor authorizes the filing of a financing statement covering inventory. Under section 9-509, the secured party may file a financing statement covering only inventory; it may not file a financing statement covering other collateral. The secured party files a financing statement covering inventory and equipment. This section provides that the financing statement is effective only to the extent the secured party may file it. Thus, the financing statement is effective to perfect a security interest in inventory but ineffective to perfect a security interest in equipment.

3. Multiple Secured Parties of Record. Section 9-509(e) permits any secured party of record to authorize the filing of most amendments. Subsection (b) of this section prevents a filing authorized by one secured party of record from affecting the rights and powers of another secured party of record without the latter's consent.

Example 2: Debtor creates a security interest in favor of A and B. The filed financing statement names A and B as the secured parties. An amendment deleting some collateral covered by the financing statement is filed pursuant to B's authorization. Although B's security interest in the deleted collateral becomes unperfected, A's security interest remains perfected in all the collateral.

Example 3: Debtor creates a security interest in favor of A and B. The financing statement names A and B as the secured parties. A termination statement is filed pursuant to B's authorization. Although the effectiveness of the financing statement terminates with respect to B's security interest, A's rights are unaffected. That is, the financing statement continues to be effective to perfect A's security interest.

4. Continuation Statements. A continuation statement may be filed only within the six months immediately before lapse. *See* section 9-515(d). The filing office is obligated to reject a continuation statement that is filed outside the six-month period. *See* sections 9-516(b)(7) and 9-520(a). Subsection (c) provides that if the filing office fails to reject a continuation statement that is not filed in a timely manner, the continuation statement is ineffective nevertheless.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-511. Secured party of record.

(a) A secured party of record with respect to a financing statement is a person whose name is provided as the name of the secured party or a representative of the secured party in an initial financing statement that has been filed. If an initial financing statement is filed under Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-514 NMSA 1978, the assignee

named in the initial financing statement is the secured party of record with respect to the financing statement.

(b) If an amendment of a financing statement which provides the name of a person as a secured party or a representative of a secured party is filed, the person named in the amendment is a secured party of record. If an amendment is filed under Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-514 NMSA 1978, the assignee named in the amendment is a secured party of record.

(c) A person remains a secured party of record until the filing of an amendment of the financing statement which deletes the person.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-511, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 82.

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1. Source. New.

2. Secured Party of Record. This new section explains how the secured party of record is to be determined. If SP-1 is named as the secured party in an initial financing statement, it is the secured party of record. Similarly, if an initial financing statement reflects a total assignment from SP-0 to SP-1, then SP-1 is the secured party of record. *See* subsection (a). If, subsequently, an amendment is filed assigning SP-1's status to SP-2, then SP-2 becomes the secured party of record in place of SP-1. The same result obtains if a subsequent amendment deletes the reference to SP-1 and substitutes therefor a reference to SP-2. If, however, a subsequent amendment adds SP-2 as a secured party but does not purport to remove SP-1 as a secured party, then SP-2 and SP-1 each is a secured party of record. *See* subsection (b). An amendment purporting to remove the only secured party of record without providing a successor is ineffective. *See* section 9-512(e). At any point in time, all effective records that comprise a financing statement must be examined to determine the person or persons that have the status of secured party of record.

3. Successor to Secured Party of Record. Application of other law may result in a person succeeding to the powers of a secured party of record. For example, if the secured party of record (A) merges into another corporation (B) and the other corporation (B) survives, other law may provide that B has all of A's powers. In that case, B is authorized to take all actions under this part that A would have been authorized to take. Similarly, acts taken by a person who is authorized under generally applicable principles of agency to act on behalf of the secured party of record are effective under this part.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-512. Amendment of financing statement.

(a) Subject to Section 55-9-509 NMSA 1978, a person may add or delete collateral covered by, continue or terminate the effectiveness of, or, subject to Subsection (e) of this section, otherwise amend the information provided in, a financing statement by filing an amendment that:

(1) identifies, by its file number, the initial financing statement to which the amendment relates; and

(2) if the amendment relates to an initial financing statement filed for record in a county clerk's office, provides the information specified in Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-502 NMSA 1978.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Section 55-9-515 NMSA 1978, the filing of an amendment does not extend the period of effectiveness of the financing statement.

(c) A financing statement that is amended by an amendment that adds collateral is effective as to the added collateral only from the date of the filing of the amendment.

(d) A financing statement that is amended by an amendment that adds a debtor is effective as to the added debtor only from the date of the filing of the amendment.

(e) An amendment is ineffective to the extent it:

(1) purports to delete all debtors and fails to provide the name of a debtor to be covered by the financing statement; or

(2) purports to delete all secured parties of record and fails to provide the name of a new secured party of record.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-512, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 83; 2015, ch. 54, § 6.

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1. Source. Former section 9-402(4).

2. Changes to Financing Statements. This section addresses changes to financing statements, including addition and deletion of collateral. Although termination statements, assignments, and continuation statements are types of amendments, this

article follows former article 9 and contains separate sections containing additional provisions applicable to particular types of amendments. *See* sections 9-513 (termination statements); 9-514 (assignments); and 9-515 (continuation statements). One should not infer from this separate treatment that this article requires a separate amendment to accomplish each change. Rather, a single amendment would be legally sufficient to, e.g., add collateral and continue the effectiveness of the financing statement.

3. Amendments. An amendment under this article may identify only the information contained in a financing statement that is to be changed; alternatively, it may take the form of an amended and restated financing statement. The latter would state, for example, that the financing statement "is amended and restated to read as follows: . . ." References in this part to an "amended financing statement" are to a financing statement as amended by an amendment using either technique.

This section revises former section 9-402(4) to permit secured parties of record to make changes in the public record without the need to obtain the debtor's signature. However, the filing of an amendment that adds collateral or adds a debtor must be authorized by the debtor or it will not be effective. *See* sections 9-509(a) and 9-510(a).

4. Amendment Adding Debtor. An amendment that adds a debtor is effective, provided that the added debtor authorizes the filing. *See* Section 9-509(a) [55-9-509(a) NMSA 1978]. However, filing an amendment adding a debtor to a previously filed financing statement affords no advantage over filing an initial financing statement against that debtor and may be disadvantageous. With respect to the added debtor, for purposes of determining the priority of the security interest, the time of filing is the time of the filing of the amendment, not the time of the filing of the initial financing statement. See subsection (d). However, the effectiveness of the financing statement lapses with respect to added debtor at the time it lapses with respect to the original debtor. *See* subsection (b).

5. Amendment Adding Debtor Name. Many states have enacted statutes governing the "conversion" of one organization organized under the law of that state, *e.g.*, a corporation, into another such organization, *e.g.*, a limited liability company. This Article defers to those statutes to determine whether the resulting organization is the same legal person as the initial, converting organization (albeit with a different name) or whether the resulting organization is a different legal person. When the governing statute does not clearly resolve the question, a secured party whose debtor is the converting organization may wish to proceed as if the statute provides for both results. In these circumstances, an amendment adding to the initial financing statement the name of the resulting organization may be preferable to an amendment substituting that name for the name of the debtor provided on the initial financing statement. In the event the governing statute is construed as providing that the resulting organization is the same legal person as the converting organization, but with a different name, the timely filing of such an amendment would satisfy the requirement of Section 9-507(c)(2) [55-9-507(c)(2) NMSA 1978]. If, however, the governing statute is construed as providing that

the resulting organization is a different legal person, the financing statement (which continues to provide the name of the original debtor) would be effective as to collateral acquired by the resulting organization ("new debtor") before, and within four months after, the conversion. See Section 9-508(b)(1) [55-9-508(b)(1) NMSA 1978]. Inasmuch as it is the first financing statement filed against the resulting organization by the secured party, the record adding the name of the resulting organization as a debtor would constitute "an initial financing statement providing the name of the new debtor " under Section 9-508(b)(2) [55-9-508(b)(2) NMSA 1978]. The secured party also may wish to file another financing statement naming the resulting organization as debtor. *See* Comment 4.

6. Deletion of All Debtors or Secured Parties of Record. Subsection (e) assures that there will be a debtor and secured party of record for every financing statement.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2015 amendment, effective July 1, 2015, amended the Uniform Commercial Code, as enacted by New Mexico, to make it uniform; and in Subsection (a), Paragraph (2), after "filed", added "for record".

Decisions under former Sections 55-9-402 and 55-9-406 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Sections 55-9-402 and 55-9-406 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Section 55-9-402 and 55-9-406 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Failure to identify new debtor. — Where the secured party had knowledge of the debtor's transfer of the collateral and accepted payments from the transferee on the debtor's note but never amended its financing statement to identify the transferee as the new debtor, the secured party's filing of a "continuation statement" naming the original debtor whom it knew was no longer in possession of the collateral was insufficient to preserve the security interest. *Prod. Credit Ass'n v. Lane (In re Cattle Complex Corp.)*, 61 B.R. 526 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1986) (decided under former law).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am Jur 2d Secured Transactions § 329 et seq.

Necessity and sufficiency of notice or statement prescribed by factor's lien law, 96 A.L.R.2d 727.

Sufficiency of description in chattel mortgage as covering all property of a particular kind, 2 A.L.R.3d 839, 30 A.L.R.3d 9.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 65 et seq.

55-9-513. Termination statement.

(a) A secured party shall cause the secured party of record for a financing statement to file a termination statement for the financing statement if the financing statement covers consumer goods and:

(1) there is no obligation secured by the collateral covered by the financing statement and no commitment to make an advance, incur an obligation or otherwise give value; or

(2) the debtor did not authorize the filing of the initial financing statement.

(b) To comply with Subsection (a) of this section, a secured party shall cause the secured party of record to file the termination statement:

(1) within one month after there is no obligation secured by the collateral covered by the financing statement and no commitment to make an advance, incur an obligation or otherwise give value; or

(2) if earlier, within twenty days after the secured party receives a signed demand from a debtor.

(c) In cases not governed by Subsection (a) of this section, within twenty days after a secured party receives a signed demand from a debtor, the secured party shall cause the secured party of record for a financing statement to send to the debtor a termination statement for the financing statement or file the termination statement in the filing office if:

(1) except in the case of a financing statement covering accounts or chattel paper that has been sold or goods that are the subject of a consignment, there is no obligation secured by the collateral covered by the financing statement and no commitment to make an advance, incur an obligation or otherwise give value;

(2) the financing statement covers accounts or chattel paper that has been sold but as to which the account debtor or other person obligated has discharged its obligation;

(3) the financing statement covers goods that were the subject of a consignment to the debtor but are not in the debtor's possession; or

(4) the debtor did not authorize the filing of the initial financing statement.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in Section 55-9-510 NMSA 1978, upon the filing of a termination statement with the filing office, the financing statement to which the termination statement relates ceases to be effective. Except as otherwise provided in Section 55-9-510 NMSA 1978, for purposes of Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-519, Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-522 and Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-523 NMSA 1978, the filing with the filing office of a termination statement relating to a financing

statement that indicates that the debtor is a transmitting utility also causes the effectiveness of the financing statement to lapse.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-513, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 84; 2023, ch. 142, § 80.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-404.

2. **Duty to File or Send.** This section specifies when a secured party must cause the secured party of record to file or send to the debtor a termination statement for a financing statement. Because most financing statements expire in five years unless a continuation statement is filed (section 9-515), no compulsion is placed on the secured party to file a termination statement unless demanded by the debtor, except in the case of consumer goods. Because many consumers will not realize the importance to them of clearing the public record, an affirmative duty is put on the secured party in that case. But many purchase-money security interests in consumer goods will not be filed, except for motor vehicles. *See* section 9-309(1). Under section 9-311(b), compliance with a certificate of title statute is "equivalent to the filing of a financing statement under this article." Thus, this section applies to a certificate of title unless the section is superseded by a certificate of title statute that contains a specific rule addressing a secured party's duty to cause a notation of a security interest to be removed from a certificate of title. In the context of a certificate of title, however, the secured party could comply with this section by causing the removal itself or providing the debtor with documentation sufficient to enable the debtor to effect the removal.

Subsections (a) and (b) apply to a financing statement covering consumer goods. Subsection (c) applies to other financing statements. Subsections (a) and (c) each makes explicit what was implicit under former article 9: If the debtor did not authorize the filing of a financing statement in the first place, the secured party of record should file or send a termination statement. The liability imposed upon a secured party that fails to comply with subsection (a) or (c) is identical to that imposed for the filing of an unauthorized financing statement or amendment. *See* section 9-625(e).

References to a "termination statement" in this section and in Part 5 generally should be interpreted functionally, based on the purposes of the termination. A termination statement includes any amendment that meets the definition of that term by containing an indication that the amendment "is a termination statement" or that the identified financing statement "is no longer effective." Section 9-102(a)(80). The amendment may terminate the effectiveness of a financing statement in whole or in part. For example, if a person did not authorize the filing of a financing statement against it as debtor, under subsection (a)(2) and (c)(4) the person may demand that the financing statement be

terminated as to that person, even if the financing statement remains of record and effective as to one or more other persons named as debtors in the financing statement. Such a termination statement may take the form of an amendment that deletes the person as a debtor. Similarly, if a person authorized the filing of a financing statement as to some collateral but not as to other property identified as collateral on the financing statement, the person may demand that the financing statement be terminated as to the unauthorized identified collateral, even if the financing statement remains of record and effective as to other identified collateral. Such a termination statement may take the form of an amendment that deletes the unauthorized identified collateral from coverage of the financing statement. Even if such amendments do not indicate explicitly that they are termination statements, they would nonetheless indicate that the financing statement "is no longer effective" to the extent specified and fall within the definition of "termination statement."

3. **"Bogus" Filings.** A secured party's duty to send a termination statement arises when the secured party "receives" a signed demand from the debtor. In the case of an unauthorized financing statement, the person named as debtor in the financing statement may have no relationship with the named secured party and no reason to know the secured party's address. Inasmuch as the address in the financing statement is "held out by [the person named as secured party in the financing statement] as the place for receipt of such communications [i.e., communications relating to security interests]," the putative secured party is deemed to have "received" a notification delivered to that address. See Section 1-202(e). If a termination statement is not forthcoming, the person named as debtor itself may authorize the filing of a termination statement, which will be effective if it indicates that the person authorized it to be filed. See Sections 9-509(d)(2), 9-510(a).

4. **Buyers of Receivables.** Applied literally, former section 9-404(1) would have required many buyers of receivables to file a termination statement immediately upon filing a financing statement because "there is no outstanding secured obligation and no commitment to make advances, incur obligations, or otherwise give value." Subsections (a)(1) and (2) remedy this problem. While the security interest of a buyer of accounts or chattel paper (B-1) is perfected, the debtor is not deemed to retain an interest in the sold receivables and thus could transfer no interest in them to another buyer (B-2) or to a lien creditor (LC). However, for purposes of determining the rights of the debtor's creditors and certain purchasers of accounts or chattel paper from the debtor, while B-1's security interest is unperfected, the debtor-seller is deemed to have rights in the sold receivables, and a competing security interest or judicial lien may attach to those rights. *See* sections 9-109 and 9-318 and comment 5. Suppose that B-1's security interest in certain accounts and chattel paper is perfected by filing, but the effectiveness of the financing statement lapses. Both before and after lapse, B-1 collects some of the receivables. After lapse, LC acquires a lien on the accounts and chattel paper. B-1's unperfected security interest in the accounts and chattel paper is subordinate to LC's rights. *See* section 9-317(a)(2). But collections on accounts and chattel paper are not "accounts" or "chattel paper." Even if B-1's security interest in the accounts and chattel

paper is or becomes unperfected, neither the debtor nor LC acquires rights to the collections that B-1 collects (and owns) before LC acquires a lien.

5. **Effect of Filing.** Subsection (b) states the effect of filing a termination statement: The related financing statement ceases to be effective. If one of several secured parties of record files a termination statement, subsection (b) applies only with respect to the rights of the person who authorized the filing of the termination statement. *See* section 9-510(b). The financing statement remains effective with respect to the rights of the others. However, even if a financing statement is terminated (and thus no longer is effective) with respect to all secured parties of record, the financing statement, including the termination statement, will remain of record until at least one year after it lapses with respect to all secured parties of record. *See* section 9-519(g).

6. **"Signed" Replaces "Authenticated."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate term "signed" replaces the references to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, updated certain language in the section; in Subsection (b), in Paragraph (b)(2), after "receives", deleted "an authenticated" and added "a signed"; and in Subsection (c), after "party receives", deleted "an authenticated" and added "a signed".

55-9-514. Assignment of powers of secured party of record.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (c) of this section, an initial financing statement may reflect an assignment of all of the secured party's power to authorize an amendment to the financing statement by providing the name and mailing address of the assignee as the name and address of the secured party.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (c) of this section, a secured party of record may assign of record all or part of its power to authorize an amendment to a financing statement by filing in the filing office an amendment of the financing statement which:

(1) identifies, by its file number, the initial financing statement to which it relates;

(2) provides the name of the assignor; and

(3) provides the name and mailing address of the assignee.

(c) An assignment of a record of a security interest in a fixture covered by a record of a mortgage which is effective as a financing statement filed as a fixture filing pursuant to the provisions of Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-502 NMSA 1978 may be made only

by an assignment of record of the mortgage in the manner provided by law of this state other than the Uniform Commercial Code.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-514, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 85.

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1. Source. Former section 9-405.

2. Assignments. This section provides a permissive device whereby a secured party of record may effectuate an assignment of its power to affect a financing statement. It may also be useful for a secured party who has assigned all or part of its security interest or agricultural lien and wishes to have the fact noted of record, so that inquiries concerning the transaction would be addressed to the assignee. *See* section 9-502, comment 2. Upon the filing of an assignment, the assignee becomes the "secured party of record" and may authorize the filing of a continuation statement, termination statement, or other amendment. Note that under section 9-310(c) no filing of an assignment is required as a condition of continuing the perfected status of the security interest against creditors and transferees of the original debtor. However, if an assignment is not filed, the assignor remains the secured party of record, with the power (even if not the right) to authorize the filing of effective amendments. *See* sections 9-509(d) and 9-511(c).

Where a record of a mortgage is effective as a financing statement filed as a fixture filing (section 9-502(c)), then an assignment of record of the security interest may be made only in the manner in which an assignment of record of the mortgage may be made under local real property law.

3. Comparison to Prior Law. Most of the changes reflected in this section are for clarification or to embrace medium-neutral drafting. As a general matter, this section preserves the opportunity given by former section 9-405 to assign a security interest of record in one of two different ways. Under subsection (a), a secured party may assign all of its power to affect a financing statement by naming an assignee in the initial financing statement. The secured party of record may accomplish the same result under subsection (b) by making a subsequent filing. Subsection (b) also may be used for an assignment of only some of the secured party of record's power to affect a financing statement, *e.g.*, the power to affect the financing statement as it relates to particular items of collateral or as it relates to an undivided interest in a security interest in all the collateral. An initial financing statement may not be used to change the secured party of record under these circumstances. However, an amendment adding the assignee as a secured party of record may be used.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former Section 55-9-405 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-405 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Section 55-9-405 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Continuity of financing statement. — The assignee of a security interest was entitled to the priority of the original financing statement since there was no lapse in sequence of filings of amendments, assignments, and continuations, and the assignee was lawfully entitled to all rights in the financing statement. *NationsCredit Com. Corp. v. Camp Town, Inc.*, 197 B.R. 139 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1996) (decided under former law).

55-9-515. Duration and effectiveness of financing statement; effect of lapsed financing statement.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsections (b), (e), (f) and (g) of this section, a filed financing statement is effective for a period of five years after the date of filing.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsections (e), (f) and (g) of this section, an initial financing statement filed in connection with a public-finance transaction or manufactured-home transaction is effective for a period of thirty years after the date of filing if it indicates that it is filed in connection with a public-finance transaction or manufactured-home transaction.

(c) The effectiveness of a filed financing statement lapses on the expiration of the period of its effectiveness unless before the lapse a continuation statement is filed pursuant to Subsection (d) of this section. Upon lapse, a financing statement ceases to be effective and any security interest or agricultural lien that was perfected by the financing statement becomes unperfected unless the security interest is perfected otherwise. If the security interest or agricultural lien becomes unperfected upon lapse, it is deemed never to have been perfected as against a purchaser of the collateral for value.

(d) A continuation statement may be filed only within six months before the expiration of the five-year period specified in Subsection (a) of this section or the thirty-year period specified in Subsection (b) of this section, whichever is applicable.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in Section 55-9-510 NMSA 1978, upon timely filing of a continuation statement, the effectiveness of the initial financing statement continues for a period of five years commencing on the day on which the financing statement would have become ineffective in the absence of the filing. Upon the expiration of the five-year period, the financing statement lapses in the same manner as provided in Subsection (c) of this section, unless, before the lapse, another continuation statement is filed pursuant to Subsection (d) of this section. Succeeding continuation statements

may be filed in the same manner to continue the effectiveness of the initial financing statement.

(f) If a debtor is a transmitting utility and a filed initial financing statement so indicates, the financing statement is effective until a termination statement is filed. The filing officer may require proof of the debtor's authority to operate as a transmitting utility as a condition of filing the financing statement or an amendment.

(g) A record of a mortgage that is effective as a financing statement filed as a fixture filing under Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-502 NMSA 1978 remains effective as a financing statement filed as a fixture filing until the mortgage is released or satisfied of record or its effectiveness otherwise terminates as to the real property.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-515, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 86; 2002, ch. 50, § 1; 2005, ch. 144, § 107; 2013, ch. 137, § 15; 2023, ch. 142, § 81.

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1. Source. Former section 9-403(2), (3), and (6).

2. Period of Financing Statement's Effectiveness. Subsection (a) states the general rule: A financing statement is effective for a five-year period unless its effectiveness is continued under this section or terminated under section 9-513. Subsection (b) provides that if the financing statement relates to a public-finance transaction or a manufactured-home transaction and so indicates, the financing statement is effective for 30 years. These financings typically extend well beyond the standard, five-year period. Under subsection (f), a financing statement filed against a transmitting utility remains effective indefinitely, until a termination statement is filed. Likewise, under subsection (g), a mortgage effective as a fixture filing remains effective until its effectiveness terminates under real property law.

3. Lapse. When the period of effectiveness under subsection (a) or (b) expires, the effectiveness of the financing statement lapses. The last sentence of subsection (c) addresses the effect of lapse. The deemed retroactive unperfection applies only with respect to purchasers for value; unlike former section 9-403(2), it does not apply with respect to lien creditors.

Example 1: SP-1 and SP-2 both hold security interests in the same collateral. Both security interests are perfected by filing. SP-1 filed first and has priority under section 9-322(a)(1). The effectiveness of SP-1's filing lapses. As long as SP-2's security interest remains perfected thereafter, SP-2 is entitled to priority over SP-1's security interest, which is deemed never to have been perfected as against a purchaser for value (SP-2). *See* section 9-322(a)(2).

Example 2: SP holds a security interest perfected by filing. On July 1, LC acquires a judicial lien on the collateral. Two weeks later, the effectiveness of the financing statement lapses. Although the security interest becomes unperfected upon lapse, it was perfected when LC acquired its lien. Accordingly, notwithstanding the lapse, the perfected security interest has priority over the rights of LC, who is not a purchaser. *See* section 9-317(a)(2).

4. Effect of Debtor's Bankruptcy. Under former section 9-403(2), lapse was tolled if the debtor entered bankruptcy or another insolvency proceeding. Nevertheless, being unaware that insolvency proceedings had been commenced, filing offices routinely removed records from the files as if lapse had not been tolled. Subsection (c) deletes the former tolling provision and thereby imposes a new burden on the secured party: To be sure that a financing statement does not lapse during the debtor's bankruptcy. The secured party can prevent lapse by filing a continuation statement, even without first obtaining relief from the automatic stay. *See* Bankruptcy Code section 362(b)(3). Of course, if the debtor enters bankruptcy before lapse, the provisions of this article with respect to lapse would be of no effect to the extent that federal bankruptcy law dictates a contrary result (*e.g.*, to the extent that the Bankruptcy Code determines rights as of the date of the filing of the bankruptcy petition).

5. Continuation Statements. Subsection (d) explains when a continuation statement may be filed. A continuation statement filed at a time other than that prescribed by subsection (d) is ineffective, *see* section 9-510(c), and the filing office may not accept it. *See* sections 9-516(b) and 9-520(a). Subsection (e) specifies the effect of a continuation statement and provides for successive continuation statements.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, added a public-finance transaction to an existing provision related to the duration and effectiveness of a financing statement; and in Subsection (b), after each occurrence of "in connection with a", added "public-financing transaction or".

The 2013 amendment, effective July 1, 2013, clarified the effectiveness of an initial financing statement when the debtor is a transmitting utility; and in Subsection (f), after "utility and a filed", added "initial".

The 2005 amendment, effective January 1, 2006, deletes references to "public-finance transaction" in Subsection (b).

The 2002 amendment, effective July 1, 2002, inserted "or an amendment" in the last sentence of Subsection (f).

Decisions under former Section 55-9-403 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-403 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under

former Section 55-9-403 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Lapse prior to end of five-year period. — A security interest may lapse before the end of the five-year period in this section only if (1) a termination statement is filed pursuant to Section 55-9-404 NMSA 1978 (now Section 55-9-513 NMSA 1978), or (2) the debtor makes full payment on the underlying note. *Bond Enters., Inc. v. W. Bank*, 54 B.R. 366 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1985) (decided under former law).

Lapse during bankruptcy proceedings. — A creditor's security interest, perfected and valid at the initiation of bankruptcy proceedings but due to expire during the pendency of those proceedings does not lapse where the creditor fails to file a continuation statement. Rather, the creditor's rights in the security interest are preserved until the later of either (1) the end of the time period fixed by this section for the lapsing of a financing statement, or (2) thirty days after notice of the expiration or termination of the stay under 11 U.S.C. § 362. *Bond Enters., Inc. v. W. Bank*, 54 B.R. 366 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1985) (decided under former law).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 405 et seq.

Premature refiling, 63 A.L.R. 591.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions, § 65 et seq.

55-9-516. What constitutes filing; effectiveness of filing.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (b) of this section, communication of a record to a filing office and tender of the filing fee or acceptance of the record by the filing office constitutes filing.

(b) Filing does not occur with respect to a record that the secretary of state refuses to accept because:

(1) the record is not communicated by a method or medium of communication authorized by the filing office;

(2) an amount equal to or greater than the applicable filing fee is not tendered;

(3) the filing office is unable to index the record because:

(A) in the case of an initial financing statement, the record does not provide a name for the debtor;

(B) in the case of an amendment or information statement, the record:

(i) does not identify the initial financing statement as required by Section 55-9-512 or 55-9-518 NMSA 1978, as applicable; or

(ii) identifies an initial financing statement whose effectiveness has lapsed under Section 55-9-515 NMSA 1978;

(C) in the case of an initial financing statement that provides the name of a debtor identified as an individual or an amendment that provides a name of a debtor identified as an individual that was not previously provided in the financing statement to which the record relates, the record does not identify the debtor's surname; or

(D) in the case of a record filed or recorded in the filing office described in Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-501 NMSA 1978, the record does not provide a sufficient description of the real property to which it relates;

(4) in the case of an initial financing statement or an amendment that adds a secured party of record, the record does not provide a name and mailing address for the secured party of record;

(5) in the case of an initial financing statement or an amendment that provides a name of a debtor that was not previously provided in the financing statement to which the amendment relates, the record does not:

(A) provide a mailing address for the debtor; or

(B) indicate whether the name provided as the name of the debtor is the name of an individual or an organization;

(6) in the case of an assignment reflected in an initial financing statement under Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-514 NMSA 1978 or an amendment filed under Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-514 NMSA 1978, the record does not provide a name and mailing address for the assignee; or

(7) in the case of a continuation statement, the record is not filed within the six-month period prescribed by Subsection (d) of Section 55-9-515 NMSA 1978.

(c) For purposes of Subsection (b) of this section:

(1) a record does not provide information if the secretary of state is unable to read or decipher the information; and

(2) a record that does not indicate that it is an amendment or identify an initial financing statement to which it relates, as required by Section 55-9-512, 55-9-514 or 55-9-518 NMSA 1978, is an initial financing statement.

(d) A record that is communicated to the filing office with tender of the filing fee, but that the secretary of state refuses to accept for a reason other than one set forth in Subsection (b) of this section, is effective as a filed record except as against a purchaser of the collateral that gives value in reasonable reliance upon the absence of the record from the files.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-516, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 87; 2013, ch. 137, § 16.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS

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1. **Source.** Subsection (a): Former section 9-403(1); the remainder is new.

2. **What Constitutes Filing.** Subsection (a) deals generically with what constitutes filing of a record, including an initial financing statement and amendments of all kinds (*e.g.*, assignments, termination statements, and continuation statements). It follows former section 9-403(1), under which either acceptance of a record by the filing office or presentation of the record and tender of the filing fee constitutes filing.

3. **Effectiveness of Rejected Record.** Subsection (b) provides an exclusive list of grounds upon which the filing office may reject a record. *See* Section 9-520(a) [55-9-520(a) NMSA 1978]. Although some of these grounds would also be grounds for rendering a filed record ineffective (*e.g.*, an initial financing statement does not provide a name for the debtor), many others would not be (*e.g.*, an initial financing statement does not provide a mailing address for the debtor or secured party of record). Neither this section nor Section 9-520 [55-9-520 NMSA 1978] requires or authorizes the filing office to determine, or even consider, the accuracy of information provided in a record.

A financing statement or other record that is communicated to the filing office but which the filing office refuses to accept provides no public notice, regardless of the reason for the rejection. However, this section distinguishes between records that the filing office rightfully rejects and those that it wrongfully rejects. A filer is able to prevent a rightful rejection by complying with the requirements of subsection (b). No purpose is served by giving effect to records that justifiably never find their way into the system, and subsection (b) so provides.

Subsection (d) deals with the filing office's unjustified refusal to accept a record. Here, the filer is in no position to prevent the rejection and as a general matter should not be prejudiced by it. Although wrongfully rejected records generally are effective, subsection (d) contains a special rule to protect a third-party purchaser of the collateral (*e.g.*, a buyer or competing secured party) who gives value in reliance upon the apparent absence of the record from the files. As against a person who searches the public record and reasonably relies on what the public record shows, subsection (d) imposes

upon the filer the risk that a record failed to make its way into the filing system because of the filing office's wrongful rejection of it. (*Compare* section 9-517, under which a mis-indexed financing statement is fully effective.) This risk is likely to be small, particularly when a record is presented electronically, and the filer can guard against this risk by conducting a post-filing search of the records. Moreover, section 9-520(b) requires the filing office to give prompt notice of its refusal to accept a record for filing.

4. **Method or Medium of Communication.** Rejection pursuant to subsection (b)(1) for failure to communicate a record properly should be understood to mean noncompliance with procedures relating to security, signing, or other communication-related requirements that the filing office may impose. Subsection (b)(1) does not authorize a filing office to impose additional substantive requirements. See Section 9-520, Comment 2.

5. **Address for Secured Party of Record.** Under subsection (b)(4) and Section 9-520(a) [55-9-520(a) NMSA 1978], the lack of a mailing address for the secured party of record requires the filing office to reject an initial financing statement. The failure to include an address for the secured party of record no longer renders a financing statement ineffective. *See* Section 9-502(a) [55-9-502(a) NMSA 1978]. The function of the address is not to identify the secured party of record but rather to provide an address to which others can send required notifications, *e.g.*, of a purchase-money security interest in inventory or of the disposition of collateral. Inasmuch as the address shown on a filed financing statement is an "address that is reasonable under the circumstances," a person required to send a notification to the secured party may satisfy the requirement by sending a notification to that address, even if the address is or becomes incorrect. *See* Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978] (definition of "send"). Similarly, because the address is "held out by [the secured party] as the place for receipt of such communications [i.e., communications relating to security interests]," the secured party is deemed to have received a notification delivered to that address. *See* Section 1-202(e) [55-1-202(e) NMSA 1978].

6. **Uncertainty Concerning Individual Debtor's Surname.** Subsection (b)(3)(C) requires the filing office to reject an initial financing statement or amendment adding an individual debtor if the office cannot index the record because it does not identify the debtor's surname (*e.g.*, it is unclear whether the debtor's name surname is Elton or John).

7. **Inability of Filing Office to Read or Decipher Information.** Under subsection (c)(1), if the filing office cannot read or decipher information, the information is not provided by a record for purposes of subsection (b).

8. **Classification of Records.** For purposes of subsection (b), a record that does not indicate it is an amendment or identify an initial financing statement to which it relates is deemed to be an initial financing statement. *See* subsection (c)(2).

9. **Effectiveness of Rejectable but Unrejected Record.** Section 9-520(a) requires the filing office to refuse to accept an initial financing statement for a reason set forth in subsection (b). However, if the filing office accepts such a financing statement nevertheless, the financing statement generally is effective if it complies with the requirements of section 9-502(a) and (b). *See* section 9-520(c). Similarly, an otherwise effective financing statement generally remains so even though the information in the financing statement becomes incorrect. *See* section 9-507(b). (Note that if the information required by subsection (b)(5) is incorrect when the financing statement is filed, section 9-338 applies.)

ANNOTATIONS

The 2013 amendment, effective July 1, 2013, clarified the rule for filing financing statements when the name of an individual debtor was not previously provided on the record or the record does not contain a sufficient description of real property to which the record relates; in Subparagraph (B) of Paragraph (3) of Subsection (b), after "amendment or", deleted "correction" and added "information"; added Subparagraphs (C) and (D) of Paragraph (3) of Subsection (b); in Subparagraph (B) of Paragraph (5) of Subsection (b), after "indicate whether the", added "name provided as the name of the", and after "name of the debtor is", added "the name of"; and deleted former Subparagraph (C) of Paragraph (5) of Subsection (b), which provided for the filing of financing statements when the debtor is an organization.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 405 et seq.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions, § 65 et seq.

55-9-517. Effect of indexing errors.

The failure of the filing office to index a record correctly does not affect the effectiveness of the filed record.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-517, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 88.

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1. Source. New.

2. Effectiveness of Mis-Indexed Records. This section provides that the filing office's error in mis-indexing a record does not render ineffective an otherwise effective record. As did former section 9-401, this section imposes the risk of filing-office error on those who search the files rather than on those who file.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-518. Claim concerning inaccurate or wrongfully filed record.

(a) A person may file in the filing office an information statement with respect to a record indexed there under the person's name if the person believes that the record is inaccurate or was wrongfully filed.

(b) An information statement under Subsection (a) of this section must:

(1) identify the record to which it relates by the file number assigned to the initial financing statement to which the record relates;

(2) indicate that it is an information statement; and

(3) provide the basis for the person's belief that the record is inaccurate and indicate the manner in which the person believes the record should be amended to cure any inaccuracy or provide the basis for the person's belief that the record was wrongfully filed.

(c) A person may file in the filing office an information statement with respect to a record filed there if the person is a secured party of record with respect to the financing statement to which the record relates and believes that the person that filed the record was not entitled to do so under Subsection (d) of Section 55-9-509 NMSA 1978.

(d) An information statement under Subsection (c) of this section must:

(1) identify the record to which it relates by the file number assigned to the initial financing statement to which the record relates;

(2) indicate that it is an information statement; and

(3) provide the basis for the person's belief that the person that filed the record was not entitled to do so under Subsection (d) of Section 55-9-509 NMSA 1978.

(e) The filing of an information statement does not affect the effectiveness of an initial financing statement or other filed record.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-518, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 89; 2013, ch. 137, § 17.

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1. Source. New.

2. Information Statements. Former Article 9 did not afford a nonjudicial means for a debtor to indicate that a financing statement or other record was inaccurate or wrongfully filed. Subsection (a) affords the debtor the right to file an information statement. Among other requirements, the information statement must provide the basis for the debtor's belief that the public record should be corrected. *See* subsection (b). These provisions, which resemble the analogous remedy in the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681i, afford an aggrieved person the opportunity to state its position on the public record. They do not permit an aggrieved person to change the legal effect of the public record. Thus, although a filed information statement becomes part of the "financing statement," as defined in Section 9-102 [55-9-102 NMSA 1978], the filing does not affect the effectiveness of the initial financing statement or any other filed record. *See* subsection (e).

Sometimes a person files a termination statement or other record relating to a filed financing statement without being entitled to do so. A secured party of record with respect to the financing statement who believes that such a record has been filed may, but need not, file an information statement indicating that the person that filed the record was not entitled to do so. *See* subsection (c). An information statement has no legal effect. Its sole purpose is to provide some limited public notice that the efficacy of a filed record is disputed. If the person that filed the record was not entitled to do so, the filed record is ineffective, regardless of whether the secured party of record files an information statement. Likewise, if the person that filed the record was entitled to do so, the filed record is effective, even if the secured party of record files an information statement. *See* Section 9-510(a), 9-518(e) [55-9-510(a), 55-9-518(e) NMSA 1978]. Because an information statement filed under subsection (c) has no legal effect, a secured party of record – even one who is aware of the unauthorized filing of a record – has no duty to file one. Just as searchers bear the burden of determining whether the filing of initial financing statement was authorized, searchers bear the burden of determining whether the filing of every subsequent record was authorized.

Inasmuch as the filing of an information statement has no legal effect, this section does not provide a mechanism by which a secured party can correct an error that it discovers in its own financing statement.

This section does not displace other provisions of this Article that impose liability for making unauthorized filings or failing to file or send a termination statement (*see* Section 9-625(e) [55-9-625(e) NMSA 1978]), nor does it displace any available judicial remedies.

3. Resort to Other Law. This Article cannot provide a satisfactory or complete solution to problems caused by misuse of the public records. The problem of "bogus"

filings is not limited to the UCC filing system but extends to the real-property records, as well. A summary judicial procedure for correcting the public record and criminal penalties for those who misuse the filing and recording systems are likely to be more effective and put less strain on the filing system than provisions authorizing or requiring action by filing and recording offices.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2013 amendment, effective July 1, 2013, provided for the filing of information statements to correct inaccurate records or wrongfully filed financing statements; in Subsection (a), after "in the filing office", deleted "a correction" and added "an information"; in Subsection (b), at the beginning of the sentence, deleted "A correction" and added "An information" and after "information statement", added "under Subsection (a) of this section"; in Paragraph (2) of Subsection (b), after "that it is", deleted "a correction" and added "an information"; added Subsections (c) and (d); and in Subsection (e), after "The filing of", deleted "a correction" and added "an information".

SUBPART 2. DUTIES AND OPERATION OF FILINGOFFICE

55-9-519. Numbering, maintaining and indexing records; communicating information provided in records.

(a) For each record filed in a filing office, the filing office shall:

(1) assign a unique number to the filed record;

(2) create a record that bears the number assigned to the filed record and the date and time of filing; and

(3) maintain the filed record for public inspection.

(b) The filing office shall maintain a capability to retrieve a record by the name of the debtor and by the file number assigned to the initial financing statement to which the record relates. The secretary of state shall also maintain a capability to associate and retrieve with one another an initial financing statement and each filed record relating to the initial financing statement.

(c) The filing office may not remove a debtor's name from the index until one year after the effectiveness of a financing statement naming the debtor lapses under Section 55-9-515 NMSA 1978 with respect to all secured parties of record.

(d) The secretary of state shall perform the acts required by Subsections (a) through (c) of this section at the time and in the manner prescribed by filing-office rule, but not later than three business days after the filing office receives the record in question.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-519, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 90.

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1. Source. Former sections 9-403(4) and (7), and section 9-405(2).

2. Filing Office's Duties. Subsections (a) through (e) set forth the duties of the filing office with respect to filed records. Subsection (h), which is new, imposes a minimum standard of performance for those duties. Prompt indexing is crucial to the effectiveness of any filing system. An accepted but unindexed record affords no public notice. Subsection (f) requires the filing office to maintain appropriate storage and retrieval facilities, and subsection (g) contains minimum requirements for the retention of records.

3. File Number. Subsection (a)(1) requires the filing office to assign a unique number to each filed record. That number is the "file number" only if the record is an initial financing statement. *See* section 9-102.

4. Time of Filing. Subsection (a)(2) and section 9-523 refer to the "date and time" of filing. The statutory text does not contain any instructions to a filing office as to how the time of filing is to be determined. The method of determining or assigning a time of filing is an appropriate matter for filing-office rules to address.

5. Related Records. Subsections (c) and (f) are designed to ensure that an initial financing statement and all filed records relating to it are associated with one another, indexed under the name of the debtor, and retrieved together. To comply with subsection (f), a filing office (other than a real property recording office in a state that enacts subsection (f), Alternative B) must be capable of retrieving records in each of two ways: By the name of the debtor and by the file number of the initial financing statement to which the record relates.

6. Prohibition on Deleting Names from Index. This article contemplates that the filing office will not delete the name of a debtor from the index until at least one year passes after the effectiveness of the financing statement lapses as to all secured parties of record. *See* subsection (g). This rule applies even if the filing office accepts an amendment purporting to delete or modify the name of a debtor or terminate the effectiveness of the financing statement. If an amendment provides a modified name for a debtor, the amended name should be added to the index, *see* subsection (c)(2), but the preamendment name should remain in the index.

Compared to former article 9, the rule in subsection (g) increases the amount of information available to those who search the public records. The rule also contemplates that searchers - not the filing office - will determine the significance and effectiveness of filed records.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Effect of officer's failure properly to file contract, 70 A.L.R. 595.

55-9-520. Acceptance and refusal to accept record.

(a) The secretary of state shall refuse to accept a record for filing for a reason set forth in Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-516 NMSA 1978 and may refuse to accept a record for filing only for a reason set forth in that subsection.

(b) If a filing office refuses to accept a record for filing, it shall communicate to the person that presented the record the fact of and reason for the refusal and the date and time the record would have been filed had the filing office accepted it. The communication must be made at the time and in the manner prescribed by filing-office rule or by other law.

(c) A filed financing statement satisfying Subsections (a) and (b) of Section 55-9-502 NMSA 1978 is effective, even if the secretary of state is required to refuse to accept it for filing under Subsection (a) of this section. However, Section 55-9-338 NMSA 1978 applies to a filed financing statement providing information described in Paragraph (5) of Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-516 NMSA 1978 which is incorrect at the time the financing statement is filed.

(d) If a record communicated to a filing office provides information that relates to more than one debtor, this part applies as to each debtor separately.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-520, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 91.

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1. Source. New.

2. Refusal to Accept Record for Filing. In some states, filing offices considered themselves obligated by former article 9 to review the form and content of a financing statement and to refuse to accept those that they determine are legally insufficient. Some filing offices imposed requirements for or conditions to filing that do not appear in the statute. Under this section, the filing office is not expected to make legal judgments and is not permitted to impose additional conditions or requirements.

Subsection (a) both prescribes and limits the bases upon which the filing office must and may reject records by reference to the reasons set forth in section 9-516(b). For the most part, the bases for rejection are limited to those that prevent the filing office from dealing with a record that it receives - because some of the requisite information (*e.g.*, the debtor's name) is missing or cannot be deciphered, because the record is not communicated by a method (*e.g.*, it is MIME-rather than UU-encoded) or medium (*e.g.*, it is written rather than electronic) that the filing office accepts, or because the filer fails to tender an amount equal to or greater than the filing fee.

3. Consequences of Accepting Rejectable Record. Section 9-516(b) [55-9-516(b) NMSA 1978] includes among the reasons for rejecting an initial financing statement the failure to give certain information that is not required as a condition of effectiveness. In conjunction with Section 9-516(b)(5) [55-9-516(b)(5) NMSA 1978], this section requires the filing office to refuse to accept a financing statement that is legally sufficient to perfect a security interest under Section 9-502 [55-9-502 NMSA 1978] but does not contain a mailing address for the debtor or disclose whether the debtor is an individual or an organization. The information required by Section 9-516(b)(5) assists searchers in weeding out "false positives," *i.e.*, records that a search reveals but which do not pertain to the debtor in question. It assists filers by helping to ensure that the debtor's name is correct and that the financing statement is filed in the proper jurisdiction.

If the filing office accepts a financing statement that does not give this information at all, the filing is fully effective. Section 9-520(c) [55-9-520(c) NMSA 1978]. The financing statement also generally is effective if the information is given but is incorrect; however, Section 9-338 [55-9-338 NMSA 1978] affords protection to buyers and holders of perfected security interests who give value in reasonable reliance upon the incorrect information.

4. Filing Office's Duties with Respect to Rejected Record. Subsection (b) requires the filing office to communicate the fact of rejection and the reason therefor within a fixed period of time. Inasmuch as a rightfully rejected record is ineffective and a wrongfully rejected record is not fully effective, prompt communication concerning any rejection is important.

5. Partial Effectiveness of Record. Under subsection (d), the provisions of this part apply to each debtor separately. Thus, a filing office may reject an initial financing statement or other record as to one named debtor but accept it as to the other.

Example: An initial financing statement is communicated to the filing office. The financing statement names two debtors, John Smith and Jane Smith. It contains all of the information described in section 9-516(b)(5) with respect to John but lacks some of the information with respect to Jane. The filing office must accept the financing statement with respect to John, reject it with respect to Jane, and notify the filer of the rejection.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-521. Form of financing statement and amendment; records.

(a) A filing office that accepts written records may not refuse to accept a written initial financing statement that is in the following form and format, except for a reason set forth in Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-516 NMSA 1978:

"UCC FINANCING STATEMENT

FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

A. NAME & PHONE OF CONTACT AT FILER (optional)

_____

B. E-MAIL CONTACT AT FILER (optional)

_____

C. SEND ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO: (Name and Address)

_____ THE ABOVE SPACE IS

_____ FOR FILING

_____ OFFICE USE ONLY

1. DEBTOR'S NAME: Provide only one Debtor name (1a or 1b) (use exact, full name; do not omit, modify, or abbreviate any part of the Debtor's name), if any part of the Individual Debtor's name will not fit in line 1b, leave all of item 1 blank, check here Q and provide the Individual Debtor information in item 10 of the Financing Statement Addendum (Form UCC1Ad)

1a. ORGANIZATION'S NAME

_____

OR 1b. INDIVIDUAL'S SURNAME

_____

FIRST PERSONAL NAME

_____

ADDITIONAL NAME(S)/INITIAL(S) SUFFIX

_____

1c. MAILING ADDRESS

_____

CITY STATE POSTAL CODE COUNTRY

2. DEBTOR'S NAME: Provide only one Debtor name (2a or 2b) (use exact, full name; do not omit, modify, or abbreviate any part of the Debtor's name), if any part of the Individual Debtor's name will not fit in line 2b, leave all of item 2 blank, check here Q and provide the Individual Debtor information in item 10 of the Financing Statement Addendum (Form UCC1Ad)

2a. ORGANIZATION'S NAME

_____

OR 2b. INDIVIDUAL'S SURNAME

_____

FIRST PERSONAL NAME

_____

ADDITIONAL NAME(S)/INITIAL(S) SUFFIX

_____

2c. MAILING ADDRESS

_____

CITY STATE POSTAL CODE COUNTRY

_____

3. SECURED PARTY'S NAME (or NAME of ASSIGNEE of ASSIGNOR SECURED PARTY) Provide only one Secured Party name (3a or 3b)

3a. ORGANIZATION'S NAME

_____

OR 3b. INDIVIDUAL'S SURNAME

_____

FIRST PERSONAL NAME

_____

ADDITIONAL NAME(S)/INITIAL(S) SUFFIX

_____

3c. MAILING ADDRESS

_____

CITY STATE POSTAL CODE COUNTRY

_____

4. COLLATERAL: This financing statement covers the following collateral

_____

_____

_____

5. Check only if applicable and check only one box.

Collateral is

Q held in a Trust (see UCC1Ad, item 17 and instructions)

Q being administered by a Decedent's Personal Representative

6a. Check only if applicable and check only one box.

Q Public-Finance Transaction

Q Manufactured-Home Transaction

Q A Debtor is a Transmitting Utility

6b. Check only if applicable and check only one box.

Q Agricultural Lien

Q Non-UCC Filing

7. ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATION (if applicable)

Q Lessee/Lessor

Q Consignee/Consignor

Q Seller/Buyer

Q Bailee/Bailor

Q Licensee/Licensor

8. OPTIONAL FILER REFERENCE DATA:

_____

UCC FINANCING STATEMENT (Form UCC1)(Rev. 04/20/11)

UCC FINANCING STATEMENT ADDENDUM

FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

9. NAME OF FIRST DEBTOR: Same as line 1a or 1b on Financing Statement; if line 1b was left blank because Individual Debtor name did not fit, check here ____

9a. ORGANIZATION'S NAME

_____

OR 9b. INDIVIDUAL'S SURNAME

_____

FIRST PERSONAL NAME

THE ABOVE SPACE IS FOR FILING OFFICE USE ONLY

_____

ADDITIONAL NAME(S)/INITIAL(S) SUFFIX

_____

10. DEBTOR'S NAME: Provide (10a or 10b) only one additional Debtor name or Debtor name that did not fit in line 1b or 2b of the Financing Statement (Form UCC1)(use exact, full name; do not omit, modify, or abbreviate any part of the Debtor's name) and enter the mailing address in line 10c

10a. ORGANIZATION'S NAME

_____

OR 10b. INDIVIDUAL'S SURNAME

_____

FIRST PERSONAL NAME

_____

ADDITIONAL NAME(S)/INITIAL(S) SUFFIX

_____

10c. MAILING ADDRESS

_____

CITY STATE POSTAL CODE COUNTRY

_____

11. ___ ADDITIONAL SECURED PARTY'S NAME or

___ ASSIGNOR SECURED PARTY'S NAME: Provide only one name (11a or 11b)

11a. ORGANIZATION'S NAME

_____

OR 11b. INDIVIDUAL'S SURNAME

_____

FIRST PERSONAL NAME

_____

ADDITIONAL NAME(S)/INITIAL(S) SUFFIX

_____

11c. MAILING ADDRESS

_____

CITY STATE POSTAL CODE COUNTRY

_____

12. ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR ITEM 4 (Collateral):

_____

_____

_____

13. This FINANCING STATEMENT is to be filed [for record] (or recorded) in the REAL ESTATE RECORDS (if applicable)

14. This FINANCING STATEMENT:

____ covers timber to be cut

____ covers as-extracted collateral

____ is filed as a fixture filing

15. Name and address of a RECORD OWNER of real estate described in item 16 (if Debtor does not have a record interest):

_____

_____

_____

16. Description of real estate:

_____

_____

_____

17. MISCELLANEOUS:

_____

_____

UCC FINANCING STATEMENT ADDENDUM (Form UCC1Ad)(Rev. 04/20/11)".

(b) A filing office that accepts written records may not refuse to accept a written record in the following form and format except for a reason set forth in Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-516 NMSA 1978:

"UCC FINANCING STATEMENT AMENDMENT

FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

A. NAME & PHONE OF CONTACT AT FILER (optional)

_____

B. E-MAIL CONTACT AT FILER (optional)

_____

C. SEND ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO: (Name and Address)

_____ THE ABOVE SPACE IS

_____ FOR FILING

_____ OFFICE USE ONLY

1a. INITIAL FINANCING STATEMENT FILE NUMBER

_____

1b. _____ This FINANCING STATEMENT AMENDMENT is to be filed [for record] (or recorded) in the REAL ESTATE RECORDS Filer: attach Amendment Addendum (Form UCC3Ad) and provide Debtor's name in item 13

2. _____ TERMINATION: Effectiveness of the Financing Statement identified above is terminated with respect to the security interest(s) of Secured Party authorizing this Termination Statement.

3. _____ ASSIGNMENT (full or partial): Provide name of Assignee in item 7a or 7b, and address of Assignee in item 7c and name of Assignor in item 9. For partial assignment, complete items 7 and 9 and also indicate affected collateral in item 8.

4. _____ CONTINUATION: Effectiveness of the Financing Statement identified above with respect to the security interest(s) of Secured Party authorizing this Continuation Statement is continued for the additional period provided by applicable law.

5. PARTY INFORMATION CHANGE:

Check one of these two boxes:

This change affects ___ Debtor or ___ Secured Party of record

AND Check one of these three boxes to:

_____ CHANGE name and/or address: Complete item 6a or 6b; and item 7a or 7b and item 7c

_____ ADD name: Complete item 7a or 7b, and item 7c

_____ DELETE name: Give record name to be deleted in item 6a or 6b

6. CURRENT RECORD INFORMATION: Complete for Party Information Change - provide only one name (6a or 6b)

6a. ORGANIZATION'S NAME

_____

OR 6b. INDIVIDUAL’S SURNAME

_____

FIRST PERSONAL NAME

_____

ADDITIONAL NAME(S)/INITIAL(S) SUFFIX

_____

7. CHANGED OR ADDED INFORMATION: Complete for Assignment or Party Information Change - provide only one name (7a or 7b) (use exact, full name; do not omit, modify, or abbreviate any part of the Debtor's name)

7a. ORGANIZATION'S NAME

_____

OR 7b. INDIVIDUAL'S SURNAME

_____

FIRST PERSONAL NAME

_____

ADDITIONAL NAME(S)/INITIAL(S) SUFFIX

_____

7c. MAILING ADDRESS

_____

CITY STATE POSTAL CODE COUNTRY

_____

8. ___ COLLATERAL CHANGE: Also check one of these four boxes:

___ ADD collateral ___ DELETE collateral

___ RESTATE covered collateral ___ ASSIGN collateral

Indicate collateral: _____

9. NAME OF SECURED PARTY OF RECORD AUTHORIZING THIS AMENDMENT: Provide only one name (9a or 9b) (name of Assignor, if this is an Assignment)

If this is an Amendment authorized by a DEBTOR, check here ___ and provide name of authorizing Debtor

9a. ORGANIZATION'S NAME

_____

OR 9b. INDIVIDUAL'S SURNAME

_____

FIRST PERSONAL NAME

_____

ADDITIONAL NAME(S)/INITIAL(S) SUFFIX

_____

10. OPTIONAL FILER REFERENCE DATA:

_____

UCC FINANCING STATEMENT AMENDMENT ADDENDUM
FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

11. INITIAL FINANCING STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: Same as item 1a on Amendment form

_____

12. NAME OF PARTY AUTHORIZING THIS AMENDMENT: Same as item 9 on Amendment form

12a. ORGANIZATION'S NAME

_____

OR 12b. INDIVIDUAL'S SURNAME

_____

FIRST PERSONAL NAME

_____

ADDITIONAL NAME(S)/INITIAL(S) SUFFIX

_____ THE ABOVE SPACE IS
_____ FOR FILING
_____ OFFICE USE ONLY

13. Name of DEBTOR on related financing statement (Name of a current Debtor of record required for indexing purposes only in some filing offices – see Instruction item 13). Provide only one Debtor name (13a or 13b) (use exact, full name; do not omit, modify, or abbreviate any part of the Debtor's name). See instructions if name does not fit.

13a. ORGANIZATION'S NAME

_____

OR 13b. INDIVIDUAL'S SURNAME

_____

FIRST PERSONAL NAME

_____

ADDITIONAL NAME(S)/INITIAL(S) SUFFIX

_____

14. ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR ITEM 8 (Collateral):

_____

_____

_____

15. This FINANCING STATEMENT AMENDMENT:
___ covers timber to be cut, ___ covers as-extracted collateral, ___ is filed as a fixture filing

16. Name and address of a RECORD OWNER of real estate described in item 17 (if Debtor does not have a record interest):

_____

_____

_____

17. Description of real estate:

_____

_____

_____

18. MISCELLANEOUS

_____

UCC FINANCING STATEMENT AMENDMENT ADDENDUM
(Form UCC3Ad) (Rev 04/20/11)".

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-521, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 92; repealed and reenacted by Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 18.

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1. Source. New.

2. "Safe Harbor" Written Forms. Although section 9-520 limits the bases upon which the filing office can refuse to accept records, this section provides sample written forms that must be accepted in every filing office in the country, as long as the filing office's rules permit it to accept written communications. By completing one of the forms in this section, a secured party can be certain that the filing office is obligated to accept it.

The forms in this section are based upon national financing statement forms that were in use under former article 9. Those forms were developed over an extended period and reflect the comments and suggestions of filing officers, secured parties and their counsel, and service companies. The formatting of those forms and of the ones in this section has been designed to reduce error by both filers and filing offices.

A filing office that accepts written communications may not reject, on grounds of form or format, a filing using these forms. Although filers are not required to use the forms, they are encouraged and can be expected to do so, inasmuch as the forms are well designed and avoid the risk of rejection on the basis of form or format. As their use expands, the forms will rapidly become familiar to both filers and filing office personnel. Filing offices may and should encourage the use of these forms by declaring them to be the "standard" (but not exclusive) forms for each jurisdiction, albeit without in any way suggesting that alternative forms are unacceptable.

The multi-purpose form in subsection (b) covers changes with respect to the debtor, the secured party, the collateral, and the status of the financing statement (termination and continuation). A single form may be used for several different types of amendments at once (e.g., both to change a debtor's name and continue the effectiveness of the financing statement).

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals and reenactments. — Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 18 repealed former 55-9-521 NMSA 1978 and enacted a new section, effective July 1, 2013.

Decisions under former Section 55-9-402 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-402 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Section 55-9-402 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Old security devices replaced by simplified procedures. — Under the terms of the code, the traditional distinctions among security devices such as conditional sales contracts and chattel mortgages are not retained. The code substitutes for such a simplified statutory procedure which applies to all transactions intended to create security interests in personal property and fixtures. 1962 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 62-01 (rendered under former law).

55-9-522. Maintenance and destruction of records.

(a) The filing office shall maintain a record of the information provided in a filed financing statement for at least one year after the effectiveness of the financing statement has lapsed under Section 55-9-515 NMSA 1978 with respect to all secured parties of record. The record must be retrievable by using the name of the debtor and by using the file number assigned to the initial financing statement to which the record relates.

(b) Except to the extent that a statute governing disposition of public records provides otherwise, the filing office immediately may destroy any written record evidencing a financing statement. However, if the filing office destroys a written record, it shall maintain another record of the financing statement which complies with Subsection (a) of this section.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-522, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 93.

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1. Source. Former section 9-403(3), revised substantially.

2. Maintenance of Records. Section 9-523 requires the filing office to provide information concerning certain lapsed financing statements. Accordingly, subsection (a) requires the filing office to maintain a record of the information in a financing statement for at least one year after lapse. During that time, the filing office may not delete any information with respect to a filed financing statement; it may only add information. This approach relieves the filing office from any duty to determine whether to substitute or delete information upon receipt of an amendment. It also assures searchers that they will receive all information with respect to financing statements filed against a debtor and thereby be able themselves to determine the state of the public record.

The filing office may maintain this information in any medium. Subsection (b) permits the filing office immediately to destroy written records evidencing a financing statement, provided that the filing office maintains another record of the information contained in the financing statement as required by subsection (a).

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-523. Information from secretary of state.

(a) If a person that files a written record requests an acknowledgment of the filing, the secretary of state shall send to the person an image of the record showing the number assigned to the record pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-519 NMSA 1978 and the date and time of the filing of the record. However, if the person furnishes a copy of the record to the filing office, the filing office may instead:

(1) note upon the copy the number assigned to the record pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-519 NMSA 1978 and the date and time of the filing of the record; and

(2) send the copy to the person.

(b) The secretary of state shall make available to the general public records indexed both by the names of debtors and by unique file numbers, based upon which copies may be obtained.

(c) In complying with its duty under Subsection (b) of this section, the secretary of state may communicate information in any medium. However, if requested, the filing office shall communicate information by issuing its written certificate.

(d) If a person files a record other than a written record that is communicated by a method or medium of communication authorized by the filing office, the filing office shall communicate to the person an acknowledgment that provides:

(1) the information in the record;

(2) the number assigned to the record pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-519 NMSA 1978; and

(3) the date and time of the filing of the record.

(e) The secretary of state shall perform the action required by Subsections (a) through (d) of this section at the time and in the manner prescribed by filing-office rule, but not later than three business days after the filing office receives the request.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-523, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 94.

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1. Source. Former section 9-407; subsections (d) and (e) are new.

2. Filing Office's Duty to Provide Information. Former section 9-407, dealing with obtaining information from the filing office, was bracketed to suggest to legislatures that its enactment was optional. Experience has shown that the method by which interested persons can obtain information concerning the public records should be uniform. Accordingly, the analogous provisions of this article are not in brackets.

Most of the other changes from former section 9-407 are for clarification, to embrace medium-neutral drafting, or to impose standards of performance on the filing office.

3. Acknowledgments of Filing. Subsections (a) and (b) require the filing office to acknowledge the filing of a record. Under subsection (a), the filing office is required to acknowledge the filing of a written record only upon request of the filer. Subsection (b) requires the filing office to acknowledge the filing of a non-written record even in the absence of a request from the filer.

4. Response to Search Request. Subsection (c)(3) requires the filing office to provide "the information contained in each financing statement" to a person who requests it. This requirement can be satisfied by providing copies, images, or reports. The requirement does not in any manner inhibit the filing office from also offering to provide less than all of the information (presumably for a lower fee) to a person who asks for less. Thus, subsection (c) accommodates the practice of providing only the type of record (e.g., initial financing statement, continuation statement), number assigned to the record, date and time of filing, and names and addresses of the debtor and secured party when a requesting person asks for no more (i.e., when the person does not ask for copies of financing statements). In contrast, the filing office's obligation under subsection (b) to provide an acknowledgment containing "the information contained in the record" is not defined by a customer's request. Thus unless the filer stipulates otherwise, to comply with subsection (b) the filing office's acknowledgment must contain all of the information in a record.

Subsection (c) assures that a minimum amount of information about filed records will be available to the public. It does not preclude a filing office from offering additional services.

5. Lapsed and Terminated Financing Statements. This section reflects the policy that terminated financing statements will remain part of the filing office's data base. The filing office may remove from the data base only lapsed financing statements, and then only when at least a year has passed after lapse. *See* section 9-519(g). Subsection (c)(1)(C) requires a filing office to conduct a search and report as to lapsed financing statements that have not been removed from the data base, when requested.

6. Search by Debtor's Address. Subsection (c)(1)(A) contemplates that, by making a single request, a searcher will receive the results of a search of the entire public record maintained by any given filing office. Addition of the bracketed language in subsection (c)(1)(A) would permit a search report limited to financing statements showing a particular address for the debtor, but only if the search request is so limited. With or without the bracketed language, this subsection does not permit the filing office to compel a searcher to limit a request by address.

7. Medium of Communication; Certificates. Former article 9 provided that the filing office respond to a request for information by providing a certificate. The principle of medium-neutrality would suggest that the statute not require a written certificate. Subsection (d) follows this principle by permitting the filing office to respond by communicating "in any medium." By permitting communication "in any medium," subsection (d) is not inconsistent with a system in which persons other than filing office staff conduct searches of the filing office's (computer) records.

Some searchers find it necessary to introduce the results of their search into evidence. Because official written certificates might be introduced into evidence more easily than official communications in another medium, subsection (d) affords states the option of requiring the filing office to issue written certificates upon request. The alternative bracketed language in subsection (d) recognizes that some states may prefer to permit the filing office to respond in another medium, as long as the response can be admitted into evidence in the courts of that state without extrinsic evidence of its authenticity.

8. Performance Standard. The utility of the filing system depends on the ability of searchers to get current information quickly. Accordingly, subsection (e) requires that the filing office respond to a request for information no later than two business days after it receives the request. The information contained in the response must be current as of a date no earlier than three business days before the filing office receives the request. *See* subsection (c)(1). The failure of the filing office to comply with performance standards, such as subsection (e), has no effect on the private rights of persons affected by the filing of records.

9. Sales of Records in Bulk. Subsection (f), which is new, mandates that the appropriate official or the filing office sell or license the filing records to the public in bulk, on a nonexclusive basis, in every medium available to the filing office. The details of implementation are left to filing-office rules.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former Section 55-9-407 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-407 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Section 55-9-407 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Copy of filed information. — A secured party does not have a duty to retain a copy of what was filed: This section requires the noting of filing information on a copy only upon the request of the person filing and is inconsistent with any such duty. *Greeman Motors, Inc. v. United N.M. Bank*, 48 B.R. 611 (Bankr. D.N.M. 1985) (decided under former law).

55-9-524. Delay by secretary of state.

Delay by the secretary of state beyond the time limits prescribed in Section 55-9-519 NMSA 1978 and Section 55-9-523 NMSA 1978 is excused if:

(1) the delay is caused by interruption of communication or computer facilities, war, emergency conditions, failure of equipment, lack of appropriations or other circumstances beyond control of the secretary of state; and

(2) the secretary of state exercises reasonable diligence under the circumstances.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-524, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 95.

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Source. New; derived from section 4-109.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-525. Fees.

(a) Except as provided in Subsections (b) and (d) of this section, the fee for filing and indexing a record pursuant to Sections 55-9-501 through 55-9-526 NMSA 1978 in the office of the secretary of state is:

(1) if the record is communicated in writing in a form prescribed by the secretary of state:

(i) twenty dollars ($20.00) if the record consists of one, two or three pages;

(ii) forty dollars ($40.00) if the record consists of at least four pages, but no more than twenty-five pages; and

(iii) one hundred dollars ($100) if the record consists of more than twenty-five pages, plus five dollars ($5.00) for each page;

(2) if the record is communicated in writing, but not in a form prescribed by the secretary of state, double the amount specified in Paragraph (1) of this subsection for a record of the same length;

(3) if the record is communicated by facsimile or a similar medium and the use of that medium is authorized by filing-office rule, the amount specified in Paragraph (1) of this subsection for a record of the same length; and

(4) if the record is communicated in any other medium authorized by filing-office rule:

(i) ten dollars ($10.00) if the record consists of fifteen thousand or fewer bytes; and

(ii) twenty dollars ($20.00) if the record consists of more than fifteen thousand bytes.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (d) of this section, the fee for filing and indexing an initial financing statement of the following kind is the amount specified in Subsection (a) of this section plus:

(1) one hundred dollars ($100) if the financing statement states that a debtor is a transmitting utility; and

(2) one hundred dollars ($100) if the financing statement indicates that it is filed in connection with a manufactured-home transaction.

(c) The number of names required to be indexed does not affect the amount of the fee set forth in Subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

(d) This section does not require a fee with respect to a record of a mortgage that is effective as a financing statement filed as a fixture filing or as a financing statement covering as-extracted collateral or timber to be cut under Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-502 NMSA 1978. However, the recording fees that otherwise would be applicable to the record of the mortgage apply.

(e) The secretary of state is authorized to establish additional fees for sale of data or records by adopting and publishing rules, pursuant to Section 55-9-526 NMSA 1978, to implement the requirements set forth in Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978.

(f) The fee for filing and indexing a record pursuant to Sections 55-9-501 through 55-9-526 NMSA 1978 in the office of the county clerk is as provided in Section 14-8-15 NMSA 1978.

History: Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 96; 2002, ch. 50, § 2; 2005, ch. 144, § 108; 2013, ch. 214, § 13.

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1. Source. Various sections of former part 4.

2. Fees. This section contains all fee requirements for filing, indexing, and responding to requests for information. Uniformity in the fee structure (but not necessarily in the amount of fees) makes this article easier for secured parties to use and reduces the likelihood that a filed record will be rejected for failure to pay at least the correct amount of the fee. *See* section 9-516(b)(2).

The costs of processing electronic records are less than those with respect to written records. Accordingly, this section mandates a lower fee as an incentive to file electronically and imposes the additional charge (if any) for multiple debtors only with respect to written records. When written records are used, this article encourages the use of the uniform forms in section 9-521. The fee for filing these forms should be no greater than the fee for other written records.

To make the relevant information included in a filed record more accessible once the record is found, this section mandates a higher fee for longer written records than for shorter ones. Finally, recognizing that financing statements naming more than one debtor are most often filed against a husband and wife, any additional charge for multiple debtors applies to records filed with respect to more than two debtors, rather than with respect to more than one.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2013 amendment, effective June 14, 2013, provided fees for filing documents in the offices of the secretary of state and county clerks; in Subsection (a), in the introductory sentence, after "55-9-526 NMSA 1978", added "in the office of the secretary of state"; and added Subsection (f).

The 2005 amendment, effective January 1, 2006, deletes fee for filing a financing statement in connection with a public-finance transaction in former Subsection (b)(1).

The 2002 amendment, effective July 1, 2002, deleted Subsection (a)(4)(iii), which set out fees for records consisting of more than 30,000 bytes; and added Subsection (e).

Decisions under former Sections 55-9-403 and 55-9-409 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Sections 55-9-403 and 55-9-409 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Sections 55-9-403 and 55-9-409 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Fee for mortgage executed before but filed after effective date of code. — When a chattel mortgage was entered into by the parties and executed prior to the date of January 1, 1962, but was offered for filing with the county clerk for secretary of state after the effective date of the Uniform Commercial Code, the proper filing fee for such instruments was the fee specified under the provisions of former 61-8-6, 1953 Comp. 1962 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 62-12 (decided under former law).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Federal government or agencies of federal government as subject to payment of tax or fee imposed upon or for recording or filing instrument, 124 A.L.R. 1267.

55-9-526. Filing-office rules.

The secretary of state shall adopt and publish rules to implement Sections 55-9-501 through 55-9-526 NMSA 1978. The filing-office rules must be:

(a) consistent with Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978; and

(b) adopted and published in accordance with the State Rules Act [Chapter 14, Article 4, NMSA 1978].

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-526, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 97.

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1. Source. New; subsection (b) derived in part from the Uniform Consumer Credit Code (1974).

2. Rules Required. Operating a filing office is a complicated business, requiring many more rules and procedures than this article can usefully provide. Subsection (a) requires the adoption of rules to carry out the provisions of article 9. The filing-office rules must be consistent with the provisions of the statute and adopted in accordance with local procedures. The publication requirement informs secured parties about filing office practices, aids secured parties in evaluating filing-related risks and costs, and promotes regularity of application within the filing office.

3. Importance of Uniformity. In today's national economy, uniformity of the policies and practices of the filing offices will reduce the costs of secured transactions substantially. The International Association of Corporate Administrators (IACA), referred to in subsection (b), is an organization whose membership includes filing officers from every state. These individuals are responsible for the proper functioning of the article 9 filing system and have worked diligently to develop model filing-office rules, with a view toward efficiency and uniformity.

Although uniformity is an important desideratum, subsection (a) affords considerable flexibility in the adoption of filing-office rules. Each state may adopt a version of subsection (a) that reflects the desired relationship between the statewide filing office described in section 9-501(a)(2) and the local filing offices described in section 9-501(a)(1) and that takes into account the practices of its filing offices. Subsection (a) need not designate a single official or agency to adopt rules applicable to all filing offices, and the rules applicable to the statewide filing office need not be identical to those applicable to the local filing office. For example, subsection (a) might provide for the statewide filing office to adopt filing-office rules, and, if not prohibited by other law, the filing office might adopt one set of rules for itself and another for local offices. Or, subsection (a) might designate one official or agency to adopt rules for the statewide filing office and another to adopt rules for local filing offices.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

PART 6
DEFAULT

SUBPART 1. DEFAULT AND ENFORCEMENT OFSECURITY INTEREST

55-9-601. Rights after default; judicial enforcement; consignor or buyer of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles or promissory notes.

(a) After default, a secured party has the rights provided in Sections 55-9-601 through 55-9-628 NMSA 1978 and, except as otherwise provided in Section 55-9-602 NMSA 1978, those provided by agreement of the parties. A secured party:

(1) may reduce a claim to judgment, foreclose or otherwise enforce the claim, security interest or agricultural lien by any available judicial procedure; and

(2) if the collateral is documents, may proceed either as to the documents or as to the goods they cover.

(b) A secured party in possession of collateral or control of collateral under Section 55-7-106, 55-9-104, 55-9-105, 55-9-105A, 55-9-106, 55-9-107 or 55-9-107A NMSA 1978 has the rights and duties provided in Section 55-9-207 NMSA 1978.

(c) The rights under Subsections (a) and (b) of this section are cumulative and may be exercised simultaneously.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (g) of this section and Section 55-9-605 NMSA 1978, after default, a debtor and an obligor have the rights provided in Sections 55-9-601 through 55-9-628 NMSA 1978 and by agreement of the parties.

(e) If a secured party has reduced its claim to judgment, the lien of any levy that may be made upon the collateral by virtue of an execution based upon the judgment relates back to the earliest of:

(1) the date of perfection of the security interest or agricultural lien in the collateral;

(2) the date of filing a financing statement covering the collateral; or

(3) any date specified in a statute under which the agricultural lien was created.

(f) A sale pursuant to an execution is a foreclosure of the security interest or agricultural lien by judicial procedure within the meaning of this section. A secured party may purchase at the sale and thereafter hold the collateral free of any other requirements of Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978.

(g) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-607 NMSA 1978, this part imposes no duties upon a secured party that is a consignor or is a buyer of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles or promissory notes.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-601, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 98; 2005, ch. 144, § 109; 2023, ch. 142, § 82.

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1. Source. Former section 9-501(1), (2), (5).

2. Enforcement: In General. The rights of a secured party to enforce its security interest in collateral after the debtor's default are an important feature of a secured transaction. (Note that the term "rights," as defined in section 1-201, includes "remedies.") This part provides those rights as well as certain limitations on their exercise for the protection of the defaulting debtor, other creditors, and other affected persons. However, subsections (a) and (d) make clear that the rights provided in this part do not exclude other rights provided by agreement.

3. When Remedies Arise. Under subsection (a) the secured party's rights arise "(a)fter default." As did former section 9-501, this article leaves to the agreement of the parties the circumstances giving rise to a default. This article does not determine

whether a secured party's post-default conduct can constitute a waiver of default in the face of an agreement stating that such conduct shall not constitute a waiver. Rather, it continues to leave to the parties' agreement, as supplemented by law other than this article, the determination whether a default has occurred or has been waived. *See* section 1-103.

4. Possession of Collateral; Section 9-207. After a secured party takes possession of collateral following a default, there is no longer any distinction between a security interest that before default was nonpossessory and a security interest that was possessory before default, as under a common-law pledge. This part generally does not distinguish between the rights of a secured party with a nonpossessory security interest and those of a secured party with a possessory security interest. However, section 9-207 addresses rights and duties with respect to collateral in a secured party's possession. Under subsection (b) of this section, section 9-207 applies not only to possession before default but also to possession after default. Subsection (b) also has been conformed to section 9-207, which, unlike former section 9-207, applies to secured parties having control of collateral.

5. Cumulative Remedies. Former section 9-501(1) provided that the secured party's remedies were cumulative, but it did not explicitly provide whether the remedies could be exercised simultaneously. Subsection (c) permits the simultaneous exercise of remedies if the secured party acts in good faith. The liability scheme of subpart 2 affords redress to an aggrieved debtor or obligor. Moreover, permitting the simultaneous exercise of remedies under subsection (c) does not override any non-UCC law, including the law of tort and statutes regulating collection of debts, under which the simultaneous exercise of remedies in a particular case constitutes abusive behavior or harassment giving rise to liability.

6. Judicial Enforcement. Under subsection (a) a secured party may reduce its claim to judgment or foreclose its interest by any available procedure outside this article under applicable law. Subsection (e) generally follows former section 9-501(5). It makes clear that any judicial lien that the secured party may acquire against the collateral effectively is a continuation of the original security interest (if perfected) and not the acquisition of a new interest or a transfer of property on account of a preexisting obligation. Under former section 9-501(5), the judicial lien was stated to relate back to the date of perfection of the security interest. Subsection (e), however, provides that the lien relates back to the earlier of the date of filing or the date of perfection. This provides a secured party who enforces a security interest by judicial process with the benefit of the "first-to-file-or-perfect" priority rule of section 9-322(a)(1).

7. Agricultural Liens. Part 6 provides parallel treatment for the enforcement of agricultural liens and security interests. Because agricultural liens are statutory rather than consensual, this article does draw a few distinctions between these liens and security interests. Under subsection (e), the statute creating an agricultural lien would govern whether and the date to which an execution lien relates back. Section 9-606 explains when a "default" occurs in the agricultural lien context.

8. Execution Sales. Subsection (f) also follows former section 9-501(5). It makes clear that an execution sale is an appropriate method of foreclosure contemplated by this part. However, the sale is governed by other law and not by this article, and the limitations under section 9-610 on the right of a secured party to purchase collateral do not apply.

9. Sales of Receivables; Consignments. Subsection (g) provides that, except as provided in section 9-607(c), the duties imposed on secured parties do not apply to buyers of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles, or promissory notes. Although denominated "secured parties," these buyers own the entire interest in the property sold and so may enforce their rights without regard to the seller ("debtor") or the seller's creditors. Likewise, a true consignor may enforce its ownership interest under other law without regard to the duties that this part imposes on secured parties. Note, however, that section 9-615 governs cases in which a consignee's secured party (other than a consignor) is enforcing a security interest that is senior to the security interest (i.e., ownership interest) of a true consignor.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, in Subsection B, after "55-9-105", added "55-9-105A", and after "55-9-107", added "or 55-9-107A".

The 2005 amendment, effective January 1, 2006, adds the statutory reference to Section 55-9-106 NMSA 1978 in Subsection (b).

Decisions under former Section 55-9-501 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-501 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Section 55-9-501 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Doctrine of election of remedies abolished. — The purpose of Subsections (1) and (5) (now Subsections (a), (c), and (e)) of this section is to abolish the doctrine of election of remedies. *Ruidoso State Bank v. Garcia*, 1978-NMSC-092, 92 N.M. 288, 587 P.2d 435 (decided under former law).

A secured creditor is not required to elect a remedy, but can take any permitted action or combination of actions. *Western Bank v. Matherly*, 1987-NMSC-052, 106 N.M. 31, 738 P.2d 903 (decided under former law).

Secured party may satisfy debt outside of code. — A secured party may reduce his claim to judgment and execute upon the collateral, or otherwise satisfy the debt by resorting to state law other than the Commercial Code. *Riblet Tramway Co. v. Monte Verde Corp.*, 453 F.2d 313 (10th Cir. 1972) (decided under former law).

Secured party's rights upon default. — Upon default, a secured party is entitled to take possession of the collateral for the purpose of preserving it and in addition may sue

on the note for money judgment. *Kimura v. Wauford*, 1986-NMSC-016, 104 N.M. 3, 715 P.2d 451 (decided under former law).

Secured party suing on defaulted note may sue and reduce debt to judgment. In that case, the debt would be merged into the judgment. However, the debt would be carried forward so that the secured party's rights under the security agreement would not be destroyed. The security agreements would not be merged into the judgment. *Ruidoso State Bank v. Garcia*, 1978-NMSC-092, 92 N.M. 288, 587 P.2d 435 (decided under former law).

Rights of one claiming interest through vendee. — If there are no intervening equities whereby the vendor may be estopped to enforce a forfeiture against one claiming through a conditional vendee of personal property, a vendee can create no greater interest in personal property than is possessed by the vendee, and one claiming a UCC security interest through the vendee takes his interest in the property subject to all claims of title enforceable against the vendee, including forfeiture upon default. *Western Bank v. Matherly*, 1987-NMSC-052, 106 N.M. 31, 738 P.2d 903 (decided under former law).

Recovery of judgment for debt does not prevent later proceedings. — The recovery of a judgment for a debt, except to the extent that it has been satisfied, does not prevent later proceedings to enforce a mortgage or other lien given to secure its payment. *Ruidoso State Bank v. Garcia*, 1978-NMSC-092, 92 N.M. 288, 587 P.2d 435 (decided under former law).

Law reviews. — For article, "Essential Attributes of Commercial Paper - Part I," see 1 N.M. L. Rev. 479 (1971).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68 Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 556 et seq.

Note for price as waiver of reservation of title under conditional sale, 55 A.L.R. 1160.

Demand for payment or for possession as condition of seller's right to retake property or otherwise enforce forfeiture after waiver of strict performance, 59 A.L.R. 134.

Novation of contract as affecting applicability of protective provisions of Uniform Conditional Sales Act or similar statute, 83 A.L.R. 998.

Waiver by conditional purchaser of rights or provisions as to repossession, redemption or resale, 99 A.L.R. 1298.

Action for price as waiver by conditional vendor of right to reclaim property, 113 A.L.R. 653.

Purchase by pledgee of subject of pledge, 37 A.L.R.2d 1381.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 144 et seq.

55-9-602. Waiver and variance of rights and duties.

Except as otherwise provided in Section 55-9-624 NMSA 1978, to the extent that they give rights to a debtor or obligor and impose duties on a secured party, the debtor or obligor may not waive or vary the rules stated in the following listed sections:

(1) Subparagraph (C) of Paragraph (4) of Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-207 NMSA 1978, which deals with use and operation of the collateral by the secured party;

(2) Section 55-9-210 NMSA 1978, which deals with requests for an accounting and requests concerning a list of collateral and statement of account;

(3) Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-607 NMSA 1978, which deals with collection and enforcement of collateral;

(4) Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-608 and Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-615 NMSA 1978 to the extent that they deal with application or payment of noncash proceeds of collection, enforcement or disposition;

(5) Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-608 and Subsection (d) of Section 55-9-615 NMSA 1978 to the extent that they require accounting for or payment of surplus proceeds of collateral;

(6) Section 55-9-609 NMSA 1978 to the extent that it imposes upon a secured party that takes possession of collateral without judicial process the duty to do so without breach of the peace;

(7) Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-610, Sections 55-9-611, 55-9-613 and 55-9-614 NMSA 1978, which deal with disposition of collateral;

(8) Subsection (f) of Section 55-9-615 NMSA 1978, which deals with calculation of a deficiency or surplus when a disposition is made to the secured party, a person related to the secured party or a secondary obligor;

(9) Section 55-9-616 NMSA 1978, which deals with explanation of the calculation of a surplus or deficiency;

(10) Sections 55-9-620 through 55-9-622 NMSA 1978, which deal with acceptance of collateral in satisfaction of obligation;

(11) Section 55-9-623 NMSA 1978, which deals with redemption of collateral;

(12) Section 55-9-624 NMSA 1978, which deals with permissible waivers; and

(13) Sections 55-9-625 and 55-9-626 NMSA 1978, which deal with the secured party's liability for failure to comply with Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-602, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 99.

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1. **Source.** Former Section 9-501(3).

2. **Waiver: In General.** Section 1-102(3) [55-1-102(3) NMSA 1978] addresses which provisions of the UCC are mandatory and which may be varied by agreement. With exceptions relating to good faith, diligence, reasonableness, and care, immediate parties, as between themselves, may vary its provisions by agreement. However, in the context of rights and duties after default, our legal system traditionally has looked with suspicion on agreements that limit the debtor's rights and free the secured party of its duties. As stated in former Section 9-501 [55-9-501 NMSA 1978], Comment 4, "no mortgage clause has ever been allowed to clog the equity of redemption." The context of default offers great opportunity for overreaching. The suspicious attitudes of the courts have been grounded in common sense. This section, like former Section 9-501(3) [55-9-501(3) NMSA 1978], codifies this long-standing and deeply rooted attitude. The specified rights of the debtor and duties of the secured party may not be waived or varied except as stated. Provisions that are not specified in this section are subject to the general rules in Section 1-102(3).

3. **Nonwaivable Rights and Duties.** This section revises former Section 9-501(3) [55-9-501(3) NMSA 1978] by restricting the ability to waive or modify additional specified rights and duties: (i) duties under Section 9-207(b)(4)(C) [55-9-207(b)(4)(C) NMSA 1978], which deals with the use and operation of consumer goods, (ii) the right to a response to a request for an accounting, concerning a list of collateral, or concerning a statement of account (Section 9-210 [55-9-210 NMSA 1978]), (iii) the duty to collect collateral in a commercially reasonable manner (Section 9-607 [55-9-607 NMSA 1978]), (iv) the implicit duty to refrain from a breach of the peace in taking possession of collateral under Section 9-609 [55-9-609 NMSA 1978], (v) the duty to apply noncash proceeds of collection or disposition in a commercially reasonable manner (Sections 9-608 and 9-615 [55-9-608 and 55-9-615 NMSA 1978]), (vi) the right to a special method of calculating a surplus or deficiency in certain dispositions to a secured party, a person related to secured party, or a secondary obligor (Section 9-615), (vii) the duty to give an explanation of the calculation of a surplus or deficiency (Section 9-616 [55-9-616 NMSA 1978]), (viii) the right to limitations on the effectiveness of certain waivers (Section 9-624 [55-9-624 NMSA 1978]), and (ix) the right to hold a secured party liable for failure to comply with this Article (Sections 9-625 [55-9-625 NMSA 1978] and 9-626 [55-9-626 NMSA 1978]). For clarity and consistency, this Article uses the term "waive or vary"

instead of "renounc[e] or modify[]," which appeared in former Section 9-504(3) [55-9-504(3) NMSA 1978].

This section provides generally that the specified rights and duties "may not be waived or varied." However, it does not restrict the ability of parties to agree to settle, compromise, or renounce claims for past conduct that may have constituted a violation or breach of those rights and duties, even if the settlement involves an express "waiver."

Section 9-610(c) [55-9-610(c) NMSA 1978] limits the circumstances under which a secured party may purchase at its own private disposition. Transactions of this kind are equivalent to "strict foreclosures" and are governed by Sections 9-620, 9-621, and 9-622 [55-9-620, 55-9-621, and 55-9-622 NMSA 1978]. The provisions of these sections can be waived only to the extent provided in Section 9-624(b) [55-9-624(b) NMSA 1978]. See Section 9-602 [55-9-602 NMSA 1978].

4. **Waiver by Debtors and Obligors.** The restrictions on waiver contained in this section apply to obligors as well as debtors. This resolves a question under former Article 9 as to whether secondary obligors, assuming that they were "debtors" for purposes of former Part 5, were permitted to waive, under the law of suretyship, rights and duties under that Part.

5. **Certain Post-Default Waivers.** Section 9-624 permits post-default waivers in limited circumstances. These waivers must be made in agreements that are signed. Under Section 1-201, an "'agreement' means the bargain of the parties in fact." In considering waivers under Section 9-624 and analogous agreements in other contexts, courts should carefully scrutinize putative agreements that appear in records that also address many additional or unrelated matters.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-603. Agreement on standards concerning rights and duties.

(a) The parties may determine by agreement the standards measuring the fulfillment of the rights of a debtor or obligor and the duties of a secured party under a rule stated in Section 55-9-602 NMSA 1978 if the standards are not manifestly unreasonable.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to the duty under Section 55-9-609 NMSA 1978 to refrain from breaching the peace.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-603, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 100.

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1. Source. Former section 9-501(3).

2. Limitation on Ability to Set Standards. Subsection (a), like former section 9-501(3), permits the parties to set standards for compliance with the rights and duties under this part if the standards are not "manifestly unreasonable." Under subsection (b), the parties are not permitted to set standards measuring fulfillment of the secured party's duty to take collateral without breaching the peace.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-604. Procedure if security agreement covers real property or fixtures.

(a) If a security agreement covers both personal and real property, a secured party may proceed:

(1) under Sections 55-9-601 through 55-9-628 NMSA 1978 as to the personal property without prejudicing any rights with respect to the real property; or

(2) as to both the personal property and the real property in accordance with the rights with respect to the real property, in which case the other provisions of Sections 55-9-601 through 55-9-628 NMSA 1978 do not apply.

(b) Subject to Subsection (c) of this section, if a security agreement covers goods that are or become fixtures, a secured party may proceed:

(1) under Sections 55-9-601 through 55-9-628 NMSA 1978; or

(2) in accordance with the rights with respect to real property, in which case the other provisions of Sections 55-9-601 through 55-9-628 NMSA 1978 do not apply.

(c) Subject to the other provisions of Sections 55-9-601 through 55-9-628 NMSA 1978, if a secured party holding a security interest in fixtures has priority over all owners and encumbrancers of the real property, the secured party, after default, may remove the collateral from the real property.

(d) A secured party that removes collateral shall promptly reimburse any encumbrancer or owner of the real property, other than the debtor, for the cost of repair of any physical injury caused by the removal. The secured party need not reimburse the encumbrancer or owner for any diminution in value of the real property caused by the absence of the goods removed or by any necessity of replacing them. A person entitled

to reimbursement may refuse permission to remove until the secured party gives adequate assurance for the performance of the obligation to reimburse.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-604, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 101.

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1. Source. Former sections 9-313(8) and 9-501(4).

2. Real-Property-Related Collateral. The collateral in many transactions consists of both real and personal property. In the interest of simplicity, speed, and economy, subsection (a), like former section 9-501(4), permits (but does not require) the secured party to proceed as to both real and personal property in accordance with its rights and remedies with respect to the real property. Subsection (a) also makes clear that a secured party who exercises rights under part 6 with respect to personal property does not prejudice any rights under real-property law.

This article does not address certain other real-property-related problems. In a number of states, the exercise of remedies by a creditor who is secured by both real property and non-real property collateral is governed by special legal rules. For example, under some antideficiency laws, creditors risk loss of rights against personal property collateral if they err in enforcing their rights against the real property. Under a "one-form-of-action" rule (or rule against splitting a cause of action), a creditor who judicially enforces a real property mortgage and does not proceed in the same action to enforce a security interest in personalty may (among other consequences) lose the right to proceed against the personalty. Although statutes of this kind create impediments to enforcement of security interests, this article does not override these limitations under other law.

3. Fixtures. Subsection (b) is new. It makes clear that a security interest in fixtures may be enforced either under real property law or under any of the applicable provisions of part 6, including sale or other disposition either before or after removal of the fixtures (*see* subsection (c)). Subsection (b) also serves to overrule cases holding that a secured party's only remedy after default is the removal of the fixtures from the real property. *See, e.g., Maplewood Bank & Trust v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 625 A.2d 537 (N.J. Super. Ct. App. Div. 1993).

Subsection (c) generally follows former section 9-313(8). It gives the secured party the right to remove fixtures under certain circumstances. A secured party whose security interest in fixtures has priority over owners and encumbrancers of the real property may remove the collateral from the real property. However, subsection (d) requires the secured party to reimburse any owner (other than the debtor) or encumbrancer for the cost of repairing any physical injury caused by the removal. This right to reimbursement

is implemented by the last sentence of subsection (d), which gives the owner or encumbrancer a right to security or indemnity as a condition for giving permission to remove.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former Sections 55-9-313 and 55-9-501 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Sections 55-9-313 and 55-9-501 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Sections 55-9-313 and 55-9-501 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

When secured party may remove fixtures. — Where defendant's purchase money security interests in pumping equipment installed by tenant on property leased by plaintiff attached before the equipment became fixtures on the property, such interest was given priority over plaintiff's antecedent interest in the property, and defendant was therefore justified in removing equipment from land when tenant was evicted from property by plaintiff for failure to pay rent. *Honea v. Laco Auto Leasing, Inc.*, 1969-NMCA-025, 80 N.M. 300, 454 P.2d 782 (decided under former law).

Law reviews. — For note, "Fixtures, Security Interests and Filing: Problems of Title Examination in New Mexico," see 8 Nat. Resources J. 513 (1968).

For comment, "New Mexico's Uniform Commercial Code in Oil and Gas Transactions," see 10 Nat. Resources J. 361 (1970).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 581.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 153 et seq.

55-9-605. Unknown debtor or secondary obligor.

(a) Except as provided in Subsection (b) of this section, a secured party does not owe a duty based on its status as secured party:

(1) to a person that is a debtor or obligor, unless the secured party knows:

(A) that the person is a debtor or obligor;

(B) the identity of the person; and

(C) how to communicate with the person; or

(2) to a secured party or lienholder that has filed a financing statement against a person, unless the secured party knows:

(A) that the person is a debtor; and

(B) the identity of the person.

(b) A secured party owes a duty based on its status as a secured party to a person if, at the time the secured party obtains control of collateral that is a controllable account, controllable electronic record or controllable payment intangible or at the time the security interest attaches to the collateral, whichever is later:

(1) the person is a debtor or obligor; and

(2) the secured party knows that the information in Subparagraph (A), (B) or (C) of Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a) of this section relating to the person is not provided by the collateral, a record attached to or logically associated with the collateral or the system in which the collateral is recorded.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-605, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 102; 2023, ch. 142, § 83.

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1. **Source.** New.

2. **Duties to Unknown Persons and Limitation of Liability.** This section relieves a secured party from duties owed to a debtor or obligor if the secured party does not know about the debtor or obligor. Similarly, it relieves a secured party from duties owed to a secured party or lienholder who has filed a financing statement against the debtor if the secured party does not know about the debtor. Section 9-628(a) and (b) provide analogous limitations of liability. For example, a secured party may be unaware that the original debtor has sold the collateral subject to the security interest and that the new owner has become the debtor. If so, the secured party owes no duty to the new owner (debtor) or to a secured party who has filed a financing statement against the new owner. Note that this section relieves a secured party not only from duties arising under this Article but also from duties arising under other law by virtue of the secured party's status as such under this Article, unless the other law otherwise provides.

This section should be read in conjunction with the limitations on liability contained in the exculpatory provisions in subsections (a), (b), and (c) of Section 9-628. Without this group of provisions, a secured party could incur liability to unknown persons and under circumstances that would not allow the secured party to protect itself. The broadened

definition of the term "debtor" underscores the need for these provisions. For example, as noted above, a debtor may dispose of collateral subject to a security interest, resulting in the transferee becoming a debtor, but the secured party may have no knowledge of the disposition or that the transferee has become a debtor. In that situation the secured party will have no means of giving notice to or accounting to the transferee debtor. Sections 9-605 and 9-628 contemplate such situations by relieving the secured party of its duties to the debtor and limiting the secured party's liability to the debtor.

3. **Exceptions to Relief from Duties and Limitation of Liability.** In some cases, lenders may extend secured credit without knowing, or having the ability to discover, the identity of their borrowers. Pre-2022 Sections 9-605(a) and 9-628(a) and (b) would excuse these secured parties from having duties to their debtors and obligors, including, for example, the duty to notify the debtor or secondary obligor before disposing of the collateral and the duty to account to the debtor for any surplus arising from a disposition, and would limit the secured parties' liability to their debtors and obligors. In many cases these debtors and obligors may be aware that their identities are unknown to their secured parties. By failing to make their identities and contact information known, these debtors and obligors may be impairing the ability of their secured parties to comply with their duties under Article 9. However, such debtor complicity notwithstanding, if secured parties were relieved of their duties in these circumstances, it would conflict with the policy of Section 9-602, which prohibits a waiver or variance of many rights of debtors and obligors and duties of secured parties.

Sections 9-605(b) and 9-628(f) reflect the policy that a secured party should not be free to avoid statutory duties or absolve itself from liability to a debtor or obligor when the secured party knows that the collateral, records attached to or logically associated with the collateral, and the system in which the collateral is recorded do not provide the secured party with the information necessary to fulfill its statutory duties. As discussed in the following paragraph, the secured party's knowledge that it may not be able to comply with its duties enables the secured party to protect itself from being in breach of these duties. (A person has knowledge of or knows a fact if it has "actual knowledge." Section 1-202(b).) The exceptions from the exculpatory protections otherwise afforded to secured parties are determined by the secured party's knowledge at the later of the time the secured party obtains control of a controllable account, controllable electronic record, or controllable payment intangible or the time that the security interest attaches to the collateral.

Obtaining control or attachment of the security interest serves as a rough proxy for the context in which a secured party may know that it may be unable to comply with its duties, usually because the transferor is pseudonymous. The carve-out from the exculpatory protection is limited to duties owed to and liability to a debtor—the transferor of a controllable account, controllable electronic record, or controllable payment intangible over which the secured party obtains control—or obligor. The secured party in such situations could protect itself by choosing not to enter into a transaction in which it might be unable to comply with its statutory duties or by

conditioning its participation on disclosure of the debtor's or obligor's identity and contact information. Ideally, systems providing for the transfer of controllable electronic records would provide mechanisms that would permit compliance with such duties (such as methods of communication and making payments that would preserve a debtor's or obligor's pseudonymity, where that is desired). The amendments to Sections 9-605 and 9-628 provide incentives for system design that would allow for compliance with Article 9 duties.

Secured parties that enter into transactions with knowledge that they may not be able to comply with their Article 9 duties do so at their own peril. Of course, if a secured party possesses, or can obtain, the information necessary to comply with its duties, there is no need for the exculpation from those duties. Note, however, that the limitation on a secured party's relief from duties and liability relates only to secured transactions involving controllable accounts, controllable electronic records, or controllable payment intangibles. Designing systems for these assets that would afford secured parties with opportunities to comply with their Article 9 duties, as suggested above, could eliminate the risks to secured parties and also provide for the protection of debtors' and obligors' rights.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, added a provision related to a secured party's duty based on its status as a secured party; in Subsection (a), added "Except as provided in Subsection (b) of this section"; and added Subsection (b).

55-9-606. Time of default for agricultural lien.

For purposes of Sections 55-9-601 through 55-9-628 NMSA 1978, a default occurs in connection with an agricultural lien at the time the secured party becomes entitled to enforce the lien in accordance with the statute under which it was created.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-606, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 103.

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1. Source. New.

2. Time of Default. Remedies under this part become available upon the debtor's "default." *See* section 9-601. This section explains when "default" occurs in the agricultural-lien context. It requires one to consult the enabling statute to determine when the lienholder is entitled to enforce the lien.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-607. Collection and enforcement by secured party.

(a) If so agreed, and in any event after default, a secured party:

(1) may notify an account debtor or other person obligated on collateral to make payment or otherwise render performance to or for the benefit of the secured party;

(2) may take any proceeds to which the secured party is entitled under Section 55-9-315 NMSA 1978;

(3) may enforce the obligations of an account debtor or other person obligated on collateral and exercise the rights of the debtor with respect to the obligation of the account debtor or other person obligated on collateral to make payment or otherwise render performance to the debtor, and with respect to any property that secures the obligations of the account debtor or other person obligated on the collateral;

(4) if it holds a security interest in a deposit account perfected by control under Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-104 NMSA 1978, may apply the balance of the deposit account to the obligation secured by the deposit account; and

(5) if it holds a security interest in a deposit account perfected by control under Paragraph (2) or (3) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-104 NMSA 1978, may instruct the bank to pay the balance of the deposit account to or for the benefit of the secured party.

(b) If necessary to enable a secured party to exercise under Paragraph (3) of Subsection (a) of this section the right of a debtor to enforce a mortgage nonjudicially, the secured party may record in the office in which a record of the mortgage is recorded:

(1) a copy of the security agreement that creates or provides for a security interest in the obligation secured by the mortgage; and

(2) the secured party's sworn affidavit in recordable form stating that:

(A) a default has occurred with respect to the obligation secured by the mortgage; and

(B) the secured party is entitled to enforce the mortgage nonjudicially.

(c) A secured party shall proceed in a commercially reasonable manner if the secured party:

(1) undertakes to collect from or enforce an obligation of an account debtor or other person obligated on collateral; and

(2) is entitled to charge back uncollected collateral or otherwise to full or limited recourse against the debtor or a secondary obligor.

(d) A secured party may deduct from the collections made pursuant to Subsection (c) of this section reasonable expenses of collection and enforcement, including reasonable attorney fees and legal expenses incurred by the secured party.

(e) This section does not determine whether an account debtor, bank or other person obligated on collateral owes a duty to a secured party.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-607, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 104; 2013, ch. 137, § 19.

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1. Source. Former section 9-502; subsections (b), (d), and (e) are new.

2. Collections: In General. Collateral consisting of rights to payment is not only the most liquid asset of a typical debtor's business but also is property that may be collected without any interruption of the debtor's business. This situation is far different from that in which collateral is inventory or equipment, whose removal may bring the business to a halt. Furthermore, problems of valuation and identification, present with collateral that is tangible personal property, frequently are not as serious in the case of rights to payment and other intangible collateral. Consequently, this section, like former section 9-502, recognizes that financing through assignments of intangibles lacks many of the complexities that arise after default in other types of financing. This section allows the assignee to liquidate collateral by collecting whatever may become due on the collateral, whether or not the method of collection contemplated by the security arrangement before default was direct (i.e., payment by the account debtor to the assignee, "notification" financing) or indirect (i.e., payment by the account debtor to the assignor, "nonnotification" financing).

3. Scope. The scope of this section is broader than that of former section 9-502. It applies not only to collections from account debtors and obligors on instruments but also to enforcement more generally against all persons obligated on collateral. It explicitly provides for the secured party's enforcement of the debtor's rights in respect of the account debtor's (and other third parties') obligations and for the secured party's enforcement of supporting obligations with respect to those obligations. (Supporting obligations are components of the collateral under section 9-203(f).) The rights of a secured party under subsection (a) include the right to enforce claims that the debtor

may enjoy against others. For example, the claims might include a breach-of-warranty claim arising out of a defect in equipment that is collateral or a secured party's action for an injunction against infringement of a patent that is collateral. Those claims typically would be proceeds of original collateral under section 9-315.

4. Collection and Enforcement Before Default. Like part 6 generally, this section deals with the rights and duties of secured parties following default. However, as did former section 9-502 with respect to collection rights, this section also applies to the collection and enforcement rights of secured parties even if a default has not occurred, as long as the debtor has so agreed. It is not unusual for debtors to agree that secured parties are entitled to collect and enforce rights against account debtors prior to default.

5. Collections by Junior Secured Party. A secured party who holds a security interest in a right to payment may exercise the right to collect and enforce under this section, even if the security interest is subordinate to a conflicting security interest in the same right to payment. Whether the junior secured party has priority in the collected proceeds depends on whether the junior secured party qualifies for priority as a purchaser of an instrument (e.g., the account debtor's check) under section 9-330(d), as a holder in due course of an instrument under sections 3-305 and 9-331(a), or as a transferee of money under section 9-332(a). *See* sections 9-330, comment 7; 9-331, comment 5; and 9-332.

6. Relationship to Rights and Duties of Persons Obligated on Collateral. This section permits a secured party to collect and enforce obligations included in collateral in its capacity as a secured party. It is not necessary for a secured party first to become the owner of the collateral pursuant to a disposition or acceptance. However, the secured party's rights, as between it and the debtor, to collect from and enforce collateral against account debtors and others obligated on collateral under subsection (a) are subject to section 9-341, part 4, and other applicable law. Neither this section nor former section 9-502 should be understood to regulate the duties of an account debtor or other person obligated on collateral. Subsection (e) makes this explicit. For example, the secured party may be unable to exercise the debtor's rights under an instrument if the debtor is in possession of the instrument, or under a nontransferable letter of credit if the debtor is the beneficiary. Unless a secured party has control over a letter-of-credit right and is entitled to receive payment or performance from the issuer or a nominated person under article 5, its remedies with respect to the letter-of-credit right may be limited to the recovery of any identifiable proceeds from the debtor. This section establishes only the baseline rights of the secured party vis-a-vis the debtor - the secured party is entitled to enforce and collect after default or earlier if so agreed.

7. Deposit Account Collateral. Subsections (a)(4) and (5) set forth the self-help remedy for a secured party whose collateral is a deposit account. Subsection (a)(4) addresses the rights of a secured party that is the bank with which the deposit account is maintained. That secured party automatically has control of the deposit account under section 9-104(a)(1). After default, and otherwise if so agreed, the bank/secured party may apply the funds on deposit to the secured obligation.

If a security interest of a third party is perfected by control (section 9-104(a)(2) or (a)(3)), then after default, and otherwise if so agreed, the secured party may instruct the bank to pay out the funds in the account. If the third party has control under section 9-104(a)(3), the depositary institution is obliged to obey the instruction because the secured party is its customer. *See* section 4-401. If the third party has control under section 9-104(a)(2), the control agreement determines the depositary institution's obligation to obey.

If a security interest in a deposit account is unperfected, or is perfected by filing by virtue of the proceeds rules of section 9-315, the depositary institution ordinarily owes no obligation to obey the secured party's instructions. *See* section 9-341. To reach the funds without the debtor's cooperation, the secured party must use an available judicial procedure.

8. Rights Against Mortgagor of Real Property. Subsection (b) addresses the situation in which the collateral consists of a mortgage note (or other obligation secured by a mortgage on real property). After the debtor's (mortgagee's) default, the secured party (assignee) may wish to proceed with a nonjudicial foreclosure of the mortgage securing the note but may be unable to do so because it has not become the assignee of record. The assignee/secured party may not have taken a recordable assignment at the commencement of the transaction (perhaps the mortgage note in question was one of hundreds assigned to the secured party as collateral). Having defaulted, the mortgagee may be unwilling to sign a recordable assignment. This section enables the secured party (assignee) to become the assignee of record by recording in the applicable real property records the security agreement and an affidavit certifying default. Of course, the secured party's rights derive from those of its debtor. Subsection (b) would not entitle the secured party to proceed with a foreclosure unless the mortgagor also were in default or the debtor (mortgagee) otherwise enjoyed the right to foreclose.

9. Commercial Reasonableness. Subsection (c) provides that the secured party's collection and enforcement rights under subsection (a) must be exercised in a commercially reasonable manner. These rights include the right to settle and compromise claims against the account debtor. The secured party's failure to observe the standard of commercial reasonableness could render it liable to an aggrieved person under section 9-625, and the secured party's recovery of a deficiency would be subject to section 9-626. Subsection (c) does not apply if, as is characteristic of most sales of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles, and promissory notes, the secured party (buyer) has no right of recourse against the debtor (seller) or a secondary obligor. However, if the secured party does have a right of recourse, the commercial reasonableness standard applies to collection and enforcement even though the assignment to the secured party was a "true" sale. The obligation to proceed in a commercially reasonable manner arises because the collection process affects the extent of the seller's recourse liability, not because the seller retains an interest in the sold collateral (the seller does not). Concerning classification of a transaction, *see* section 9-109, comment 4.

10. Attorney's [Attorney] Fees and Legal Expenses. The phrase "reasonable attorney's [attorney] fees and legal expenses," which appears in subsection (d), includes only those fees and expenses incurred in proceeding against account debtors or other third parties. The secured party's right to recover these expenses from the collections arises automatically under this section. The secured party also may incur other attorney's [attorney] fees and legal expenses in proceeding against the debtor or obligor. Whether the secured party has a right to recover those fees and expenses depends on whether the debtor or obligor has agreed to pay them, as is the case with respect to attorney's [attorney] fees and legal expenses under sections 9-608(a)(1)(A) and 9-615(a)(1). The parties also may agree to allocate a portion of the secured party's overhead to collection and enforcement under subsection (d) or section 9-608(a).

ANNOTATIONS

The 2013 amendment, effective July 1, 2013, provided for the filing of an affidavit stating that a default has occurred with respect to a mortgage; and in Subparagraph (A) of Paragraph (2) of Subsection (b), after "default has occurred", added the remainder of the sentence.

55-9-608. Application of proceeds of collection or enforcement; liability for deficiency and right to surplus.

(a) If a security interest or agricultural lien secures payment or performance of an obligation, the following rules apply:

(1) A secured party shall apply or pay over for application the cash proceeds of collection or enforcement under Section 55-9-607 NMSA 1978 in the following order to:

(A) the reasonable expenses of collection and enforcement and, to the extent provided for by agreement and not prohibited by law, reasonable attorney fees and legal expenses incurred by the secured party;

(B) the satisfaction of obligations secured by the security interest or agricultural lien under which the collection or enforcement is made; and

(C) the satisfaction of obligations secured by any subordinate security interest in or other lien on the collateral subject to the security interest or agricultural lien under which the collection or enforcement is made if the secured party receives a signed demand for proceeds before distribution of the proceeds is completed.

(2) If requested by a secured party, a holder of a subordinate security interest or other lien shall furnish reasonable proof of the interest or lien within a reasonable time. Unless the holder complies, the secured party need not comply with the holder's demand under Subparagraph (C) of Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a) of this section.

(3) A secured party need not apply or pay over for application noncash proceeds of collection and enforcement under Section 55-9-607 NMSA 1978 unless the failure to do so would be commercially unreasonable. A secured party that applies or pays over for application noncash proceeds shall do so in a commercially reasonable manner.

(4) A secured party shall account to and pay a debtor for any surplus, and the obligor is liable for any deficiency.

(b) If the underlying transaction is a sale of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles or promissory notes, the debtor is not entitled to any surplus, and the obligor is not liable for any deficiency.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-608, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 105; 2023, ch. 142, § 84.

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1. **Source.** Subsection (a) is new; subsection (b) derives from former section 9-502(2).

2. **Modifications of Prior Law.** Subsections (a) and (b) modify former section 9-502(2) by explicitly providing for the application of proceeds recovered by the secured party in substantially the same manner as provided in section 9-615(a) and (e) for dispositions of collateral.

3. **Surplus and Deficiency.** Subsections (a)(4) and (b) omit, as unnecessary, the references contained in former section 9-502(2) to agreements varying the baseline rules on surplus and deficiency. The parties are always free to agree that an obligor will not be liable for a deficiency, even if the collateral secures an obligation, and that an obligor is liable for a deficiency, even if the transaction is a sale of receivables. For parallel provisions, *see* section 9-615(d) and (e).

4. **Noncash Proceeds.** Subsection (a)(3) addresses the situation in which an enforcing secured party receives noncash proceeds.

Example: An enforcing secured party receives a promissory note from an account debtor who is unable to pay an account when it is due. The secured party accepts the note in exchange for extending the date on which the account debtor's obligation is due. The secured party may wish to credit its debtor (the assignor) with the principal amount of the note upon receipt of the note, but probably will prefer to credit the debtor only as and when the note is paid.

Under subsection (a)(3), the secured party is under no duty to apply the note or its value to the outstanding obligation unless its failure to do so would be commercially unreasonable. If the secured party does apply the note to the outstanding obligation, however, it must do so in a commercially reasonable manner. The parties may provide for the method of application of noncash proceeds by agreement, if the method is not manifestly unreasonable. *See* section 9-603. This section does not explain when the failure to apply noncash proceeds would be commercially unreasonable; it leaves that determination to case-by-case adjudication. In the example, the secured party appears to have accepted the account debtor's note in order to increase the likelihood of payment and decrease the likelihood that the account debtor would dispute its obligation. Under these circumstances, it may well be commercially reasonable for the secured party to credit its debtor's obligations only as and when cash proceeds are collected from the account debtor, especially given the uncertainty that attends the account debtor's eventual payment. For an example of a secured party's receipt of noncash proceeds in which it may well be commercially unreasonable for the secured party to delay crediting its debtor's obligations with the value of noncash proceeds, *see* section 9-615, comment 3.

When the secured party is not required to "apply or pay over for application noncash proceeds," the proceeds nonetheless remain collateral subject to this article. If the secured party were to dispose of them, for example, appropriate notification would be required (see section 9-611), and the disposition would be subject to the standards provided in this part (see section 9-610). Moreover, a secured party in possession of the noncash proceeds would have the duties specified in section 9-207.

5. **No Effect on Priority of Senior Security Interest.** The application of proceeds required by subsection (a) does not affect the priority of a security interest in collateral which is senior to the interest of the secured party who is collecting or enforcing collateral under section 9-607. Although subsection (a) imposes a duty to apply proceeds to the enforcing secured party's expenses and to the satisfaction of the secured obligations owed to it and to subordinate secured parties, that duty applies only among the enforcing secured party and those persons. Concerning the priority of a junior secured party who collects and enforces collateral, *see* section 9-607, comment 5.

6. **"Signed" Replaces "Authenticated."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate term "signed" replaces the reference to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, in Subparagraph (a)(1)(C), after "party receives", deleted "an authenticated" and added "a signed".

55-9-609. Secured party's right to take possession after default.

(a) After default, a secured party:

(1) may take possession of the collateral; and

(2) without removal, may render equipment unusable and dispose of collateral on a debtor's premises under Section 55-9-610 NMSA 1978.

(b) A secured party may proceed under Subsection (a) of this section:

(1) pursuant to judicial process; or

(2) without judicial process, if it proceeds without breach of the peace.

(c) If so agreed, and in any event after default, a secured party may require the debtor to assemble the collateral and make it available to the secured party at a place to be designated by the secured party which is reasonably convenient to both parties.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-609, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 106.

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1. Source. Former section 9-503.

2. Secured Party's Right to Possession. This section follows former section 9-503 and earlier uniform legislation. It provides that the secured party is entitled to take possession of collateral after default.

3. Judicial Process; Breach of Peace. Subsection (b) permits a secured party to proceed under this section without judicial process if it does so "without breach of the peace." Although former section 9-503 placed the same condition on a secured party's right to take possession of collateral, subsection (b) extends the condition to the right provided in subsection (a)(2) as well. Like former section 9-503, this section does not define or explain the conduct that will constitute a breach of the peace, leaving that matter for continuing development by the courts. In considering whether a secured party has engaged in a breach of the peace, however, courts should hold the secured party responsible for the actions of others taken on the secured party's behalf, including independent contractors engaged by the secured party to take possession of collateral.

This section does not authorize a secured party who repossesses without judicial process to utilize the assistance of a law enforcement officer. A number of cases have held that a repossessing secured party's use of a law enforcement officer without benefit of judicial process constituted a failure to comply with former section 9-503.

4. Damages for Breach of Peace. Concerning damages that may be recovered based on a secured party's breach of the peace in connection with taking possession of collateral, *see* section 9-625, comment 3.

5. Multiple Secured Parties. More than one secured party may be entitled to take possession of collateral under this section. Conflicting rights to possession among secured parties are resolved by the priority rules of this article. Thus, a senior secured party is entitled to possession as against a junior claimant. Non-UCC law governs whether a junior secured party in possession of collateral is liable to the senior in conversion. Normally, a junior who refuses to relinquish possession of collateral upon the demand of a secured party having a superior possessory right to the collateral would be liable in conversion.

6. Secured Party's Right to Disable and Dispose of Equipment on Debtor's Premises. In the case of some collateral, such as heavy equipment, the physical removal from the debtor's plant and the storage of the collateral pending disposition may be impractical or unduly expensive. This section follows former section 9-503 by providing that, in lieu of removal, the secured party may render equipment unusable or may dispose of collateral on the debtor's premises. Unlike former section 9-503, however, this section explicitly conditions these rights on the debtor's default. Of course, this section does not validate unreasonable action by a secured party. Under section 9-610, all aspects of a disposition must be commercially reasonable.

7. Debtor's Agreement to Assemble Collateral. This section follows former section 9-503 also by validating a debtor's agreement to assemble collateral and make it available to a secured party at a place that the secured party designates. Similar to the treatment of agreements to permit collection prior to default under section 9-607 and former section 9-502, however, this section validates these agreements whether or not they are conditioned on the debtor's default. For example, a debtor might agree to make available to a secured party, from time to time, any instruments or negotiable documents that the debtor receives on account of collateral. A court should not infer from this section's validation that a debtor's agreement to assemble and make available collateral would not be enforceable under other applicable law.

8. Agreed Standards. Subject to the limitation imposed by section 9-603(b), this section's provisions concerning agreements to assemble and make available collateral and a secured party's right to disable equipment and dispose of collateral on a debtor's premises are likely topics for agreement on standards as contemplated by section 9-603.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former Section 55-9-503 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-503 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under

former Section 55-9-503 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Secured party may recover possession of chattel by replevin from judicial officer who has properly taken possession thereof under execution. *State v. Weber*, 1966-NMSC-164, 76 N.M. 636, 417 P.2d 444 (decided under former law).

Debtor has no conversion claim if did not redeem. — A debtor who could have regained his right to possession by redemption, but did not redeem, has no claim in conversion, as conversion only protects the rights of one entitled to lawful possession. *Cordova v. Lee Galles Oldsmobile, Inc.*, 1983-NMCA-088, 100 N.M. 204, 668 P.2d 320 (decided under former law).

Law enforcement officer accompanying repossessor. — Any time a law enforcement officer accompanies a repossessor and makes his official presence known to the defaulting party at or near the attempted self-help repossession, that officer has transgressed the line of benign attendance. Hence, repossession of a truck on an air force base became wrongful as a matter of law, where the repossessor was accompanied by an armed military security police sergeant who informed the debtor that "we have to take the truck" or words to that effect. *Waisner v. Jones*, 1988-NMSC-049, 107 N.M. 260, 755 P.2d 598 (decided under former law).

Action by Indian for violation of tribal law in repossessing pickup truck. *Tempest Recovery Servs. v. Belone*, 2003-NMSC-019, 134 N.M. 133, 74 P.3d 67.

Law reviews. — For article, "Breach of the Peace and New Mexico's Uniform Commercial Code," see 4 Nat. Resources J. 85 (1964).

For note, "Self-Help Repossession Under the Uniform Commercial Code: The Constitutionality of Article 9, Section 503," see 4 N.M. L. Rev. 75 (1973).

For article, "Problems in the Application of Full Faith and Credit for Indian Tribes," see 7 N.M. L. Rev. 133 (1977).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 64A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 590 et seq.

Retaking of property conditionally sold as affecting action previously commenced for purchase price, 23 A.L.R. 1462.

Breaking and entering for purpose of retaking possession upon default of purchaser, 36 A.L.R. 853.

Validity of provision for collection of unpaid purchase money after retaking the property in the contract, 43 A.L.R. 1243.

Demand for payment or for possession as condition of seller's right to retake possession or otherwise enforce forfeiture under conditional sale, 59 A.L.R. 134.

What constitutes retaking property, 99 A.L.R. 1297.

Action for price as waiver by conditional vendor of right to reclaim property, 113 A.L.R. 653.

Repossession of property as within statute imposing tax on retail sales, 139 A.L.R. 410.

Right of conditional seller to retake property without legal process, 146 A.L.R. 1331.

What amounts to buyer's waiver of seller's duty to give notice before repossession, 174 A.L.R. 1363.

Rights and remedies as between parties to conditional sale after seller has repossessed himself of the property, 49 A.L.R.2d 15.

Relative rights as between assignee of conditional seller and a subsequent buyer from the conditional seller after repossession or the like, 72 A.L.R.2d 342.

Maintenance of replevin or similar possessory remedy by cotenant, or security transaction creditor thereof, against other cotenants, 93 A.L.R.2d 358.

What conduct by repossessing chattel mortgagee or conditional vendor entails tort liability, 99 A.L.R.2d 358.

Punitive damages for wrongful seizure of chattel by one claiming security interest, 35 A.L.R.3d 1016.

Repossession by secured seller as affecting his right to recover on a note or other obligation given as a down payment, 49 A.L.R.3d 364.

Secured transactions: Right of secured party to take possession of collateral on default under UCC § 9-503, 25 A.L.R.5th 696.

55-9-610. Disposition of collateral after default.

(a) After default, a secured party may sell, lease, license or otherwise dispose of any or all of the collateral in its present condition or following any commercially reasonable preparation or processing.

(b) Every aspect of a disposition of collateral, including the method, manner, time, place and other terms, must be commercially reasonable. If commercially reasonable, a secured party may dispose of collateral by public or private proceedings, by one or more contracts, as a unit or in parcels, and at any time and place and on any terms.

(c) A secured party may purchase collateral:

(1) at a public disposition; or

(2) at a private disposition only if the collateral is of a kind that is customarily sold on a recognized market or the subject of widely distributed standard price quotations.

(d) A contract for sale, lease, license or other disposition includes the warranties relating to title, possession, quiet enjoyment and the like which by operation of law accompany a voluntary disposition of property of the kind subject to the contract.

(e) A secured party may disclaim or modify warranties under Subsection (d) of this section:

(1) in a manner that would be effective to disclaim or modify the warranties in a voluntary disposition of property of the kind subject to the contract of disposition; or

(2) by communicating to the purchaser a record evidencing the contract for disposition and including an express disclaimer or modification of the warranties.

(f) A record is sufficient to disclaim warranties under Subsection (e) of this section if it indicates "There is no warranty relating to title, possession, quiet enjoyment or the like in this disposition" or uses words of similar import.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-610, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 107.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-504(1), (3).

2. **Commercially Reasonable Dispositions.** Subsection (a) follows former Section 9-504 [55-9-504 NMSA 1978] by permitting a secured party to dispose of collateral in a commercially reasonable manner following a default. Although subsection (b) permits both public and private dispositions, including public and private dispositions conducted over the Internet, "every aspect of a disposition . . . must be commercially reasonable." This section encourages private dispositions on the assumption that they frequently will result in higher realization on collateral for the benefit of all concerned. Subsection (a) does not restrict dispositions to sales; collateral may be sold, leased, licensed, or otherwise disposed. Section 9-627 [55-9-627 NMSA 1978] provides guidance for determining the circumstances under which a disposition is "commercially reasonable."

3. **Time of Disposition.** This article does not specify a period within which a secured party must dispose of collateral. This is consistent with this article's policy to encourage private dispositions through regular commercial channels. It may, for example, be prudent not to dispose of goods when the market has collapsed. Or, it might be more appropriate to sell a large inventory in parcels over a period of time instead of in bulk. Of course, under subsection (b) every aspect of a disposition of collateral must be commercially reasonable. This requirement explicitly includes the "method, manner, time, place, and other terms." For example, if a secured party does not proceed under section 9-620 and holds collateral for a long period of time without disposing of it, and if there is no good reason for not making a prompt disposition, the secured party may be determined not to have acted in a "commercially reasonable" manner. *See also* section 1-203 (general obligation of good faith).

4. **Pre-Disposition Preparation and Processing.** Former section 9-504(1) appeared to give the secured party the choice of disposing of collateral either "in its then condition or following any commercially reasonable preparation or processing." Some courts held that the "commercially reasonable" standard of former section 9-504(3) nevertheless could impose an affirmative duty on the secured party to process or prepare the collateral prior to disposition. Subsection (a) retains the substance of the quoted language. Although courts should not be quick to impose a duty of preparation or processing on the secured party, subsection (a) does not grant the secured party the right to dispose of the collateral "in its then condition" under all circumstances. A secured party may not dispose of collateral "in its then condition" when, taking into account the costs and probable benefits of preparation or processing and the fact that the secured party would be advancing the costs at its risk, it would be commercially unreasonable to dispose of the collateral in that condition.

5. **Disposition by Junior Secured Party.** Disposition rights under subsection (a) are not limited to first-priority security interests. Rather, any secured party as to whom there has been a default enjoys the right to dispose of collateral under this subsection. The exercise of this right by a secured party whose security interest is subordinate to that of another secured party does not of itself constitute a conversion or otherwise give rise to liability in favor of the holder of the senior security interest. Section 9-615 addresses application of the proceeds of a disposition by a junior secured party. Under section 9-615(a), a junior secured party owes no obligation to apply the proceeds of disposition to the satisfaction of obligations secured by a senior security interest. Section 9-615(g) builds on this general rule by protecting certain juniors from claims of a senior concerning cash proceeds of the disposition. Even if a senior were to have a nonarticle 9 claim to proceeds of a junior's disposition, section 9-615(g) would protect a junior that acts in good faith and without knowledge that its actions violate the rights of a senior party. Because the disposition by a junior would not cut off a senior's security interest or other lien (*see* section 9-617), in many (probably most) cases the junior's receipt of the cash proceeds would not violate the rights of the senior.

The holder of a senior security interest is entitled, by virtue of its priority, to take possession of collateral from the junior secured party and conduct its own disposition,

provided that the senior enjoys the right to take possession of the collateral from the debtor. *See* section 9-609. The holder of a junior security interest normally must notify the senior secured party of an impending disposition. *See* section 9-611. Regardless of whether the senior receives a notification from the junior, the junior's disposition does not of itself discharge the senior's security interest. *See* section 9-617. Unless the senior secured party has authorized the disposition free and clear of its security interest, the senior's security interest ordinarily will survive the disposition by the junior and continue under section 9-315(a)(1). If the senior enjoys the right to repossess the collateral from the debtor, the senior likewise may recover the collateral from the transferee.

When a secured party's collateral is encumbered by another security interest or other lien, one of the claimants may seek to invoke the equitable doctrine of marshaling. As explained by the Supreme Court, that doctrine "rests upon the principle that a creditor having two funds to satisfy his debt, may not by his application of them to his demand, defeat another creditor, who may resort to only one of the funds." *Meyer v. United States*, 375 U.S. 233, 236 (1963), *quoting Sowell v. Federal Reserve Bank*, 268 U.S. 449, 456-57 (1925). The purpose of the doctrine is "to prevent the arbitrary action of a senior lienor from destroying the rights of a junior lienor or a creditor having less security." *Id.* at 237. Because it is an equitable doctrine, marshaling "is applied only when it can be equitably fashioned as to all of the parties" having an interest in the property. *Id.* This article leaves courts free to determine whether marshaling is appropriate in any given case. *See* section 1-103.

6. **Security Interests of Equal Rank.** Sometimes two security interests enjoy the same priority. This situation may arise by contract, e.g., pursuant to "equal and ratable" provisions in indentures, or by operation of law. *See* section 9-328(6). This article treats a security interest having equal priority like a senior security interest in many respects. Assume, for example, that SP-X and SP-Y enjoy equal priority, SP-W is senior to them, and SP-Z is junior. If SP-X disposes of the collateral under this section, then (i) SP-W's and SP-Y's security interests survive the disposition but SP-Z's does not, see section 9-617, and (ii) neither SP-W nor SP-Y is entitled to receive a distribution of proceeds, but SP-Z is. *See* section 9-615(a)(3).

When one considers the ability to obtain possession of the collateral, a secured party with equal priority is unlike a senior secured party. As the senior secured party, SP-W should enjoy the right to possession as against SP-X. See section 9-609, comment 5. If SP-W takes possession and disposes of the collateral under this section, it is entitled to apply the proceeds to satisfy its secured claim. SP-Y, however, should not have such a right to take possession from SP-X; otherwise, once SP-Y took possession from SP-X, SP-X would have the right to get possession from SP-Y, which would be obligated to redeliver possession to SP-X, and so on. Resolution of this problem is left to the parties and, if necessary, the courts.

7. **Public vs. Private Dispositions.** This Part maintains two distinctions between "public" and other dispositions: (i) the secured party may buy at the former, but normally not at the latter (Section 9-610(c) [55-9-610(c) NMSA 1978]), and (ii) the debtor is

entitled to notification of "the time and place of a public disposition" and notification of "the time after which" a private disposition or other intended disposition is to be made (Section 9-613(1)(E) [55-9-613(1)(E) NMSA 1978]). It does not retain the distinction under former Section 9-504(4) [55-9-504(4) NMSA 1978], under which transferees in a noncomplying public disposition could lose protection more easily than transferees in other noncomplying dispositions. Instead, Section 9-617(b) [55-9-617(b) NMSA 1978] adopts a unitary standard. Although the term is not defined, as used in this Article, a "public disposition" is one at which the price is determined after the public has had a meaningful opportunity for competitive bidding. "Meaningful opportunity" is meant to imply that some form of advertisement or public notice must precede the sale (or other disposition) and that the public must have access to the sale (disposition).

A secured party's purchase of collateral at its own private disposition is equivalent to a "strict foreclosure" and is governed by Sections 9-620, 9-621, and 9-622 [55-9-620, 55-9-621, and 55-9-622 NMSA 1978]. The provisions of these sections can be waived only to the extent provided in Section 9-624(b) [55-9-624(b) NMSA 1978]. *See* Section 9-602 [55-9-602 NMSA 1978].

8. **Investment Property.** Dispositions of investment property may be regulated by the federal securities laws. Although a "public" disposition of securities under this article may implicate the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, it need not do so. A disposition that qualifies for a "private placement" exemption under the Securities Act of 1933 nevertheless may constitute a "public" disposition within the meaning of this section. Moreover, the "commercially reasonable" requirements of subsection (b) need not prevent a secured party from conducting a foreclosure sale without the issuer's compliance with federal registration requirements.

9. **"Recognized Market."** A "recognized market," as used in subsection (c)(2), Section 9-611(d), and Section 9-627(b)(1) and (2), is one in which the items sold are fungible and which generally produces market prices that are not lower than those that would be expected to result from, as applicable, (i) commercially reasonable dispositions to persons other than the secured party, (ii) commercially reasonable dispositions made with otherwise required notifications to the debtor or other affected persons, or (iii) dispositions otherwise made in a commercially reasonable manner. (As used here, "fungible" items are those that are considered interchangeable in the relevant market and not only items that are strictly "identical" to the other items.) The intended goals of the recognized market exceptions are to ensure that neither the debtor nor other affected parties would be disadvantaged by the special treatment given to recognized markets and to facilitate the efficiencies and cost savings that the special treatment may provide. The purpose of including in subsection (c)(2) collateral that is "the subject of widely distributed standard price quotations" and the criteria for determining whether price quotations meet this standard in subsection (c)(2) are the same as for a recognized market, although the availability of such standard price quotations may be based on, but distributed independently of, a "market" in which acquisitions and dispositions are made. Although a recognized market need not be subject to direct or indirect (e.g., self-regulatory) regulation or supervision, the existence

of regulatory requirements or guidelines that are designed to arrive at prices consistent with those contemplated by subsection (c)(2) may provide useful guidance for applying the regulated market standard.

Traditionally, it has been understood that a market in which prices are individually negotiated is not a recognized market, even if the items are the subject of widely disseminated price guides (such as the Kelly Blue Book for automobiles) or are disposed of through specialized auctions (such as those conducted for dealers in livestock and automobiles). However, this does not suggest that, for example, dispositions at prices reflected in such guides or of livestock or automobiles at such auctions could not be commercially reasonable.

The New York Stock Exchange, NASDAQ, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and ICE Futures U.S., Inc. are examples of recognized markets. Such exchanges match buy and sell orders submitted by or on behalf of buyers and sellers that are not typically known to each other and do not involve individual negotiations. Other parties, such as inter-dealer brokers in the on-the-run U.S. Treasury market and broker-dealers in the equities market, often operate similar trading facilities that would likewise not involve known buyers or sellers or individual negotiations and may constitute recognized markets. These markets provide for robust trading with active bidding on fungible assets. There is no reason to believe that prices obtained on these markets would be less favorable to debtors, other obligors, and other interested persons than if collateral were disposed of in an off-market public or private disposition.

Trading environments generally referred to as "over-the-counter" or "OTC" markets, however, typically have involved prospective buyers and sellers that can know each other and have direct communication in order to make trades. Unlike typical exchanges, OTC markets normally do involve the individual negotiation of a price. See Carl S. Bjerre, Investment Securities, 71 Bus. Law. 1311, 1316-17 (2016) (contrasting exchanges and typical OTC markets for equity securities and explaining that OTC markets have tended to feature thinner markets with less liquidity and more variability of pricing).

In considering the recognized market exceptions, it is important to appreciate that recognized markets and other systems that produce equivalent "widely distributed standard price quotations" are not limited to traditional exchanges, such as those mentioned above. In particular, the exchange-OTC dichotomy no longer offers such a reliable, bright-line test for determining status as a recognized market or as a source of widely distributed standard price quotations. To be sure, some OTC markets do not qualify for the exceptions. However, recent years have witnessed a variety of new trading platforms, the use of new technologies, and new sources of providing and consuming information. There now exist markets, in particular for debt securities (including United States Treasury securities), that might be classified as OTC markets under the traditional taxonomy, but which qualify for the exceptions as recognized markets or as sources of data for widely distributed standard price quotations. Market participants rely on prices provided by these markets to the same extent and for the

same purposes (including in connection with default and enforcement of security interests) as they rely on prices generated by traditional securities and commodities exchanges. These prices are widely available from business publications and online sources as well as from private subscription-based service providers. It can safely be assumed that these financial markets and the data that they provide to the public will continue to evolve. The touchstone for determining whether a market structure is a recognized market or one that produces equivalent price quotations is a functional one. It is not based on the "type" of market (e.g., "exchange," "OTC," or other classification). It is based on whether the market or distribution of price quotations provides reliable and trusted data on prices consistent with the purposes of subsection (c)(2) and the corresponding provisions of Sections 9-611 and 9-627.

10. **Relevance of Price.** While not itself sufficient to establish a violation of this part, a low price suggests that a court should scrutinize carefully all aspects of a disposition to ensure that each aspect was commercially reasonable. Note also that even if the disposition is commercially reasonable, section 9-615(f) provides a special method for calculating a deficiency or surplus if (i) the transferee in the disposition is the secured party, a person related to the secured party, or a secondary obligor, and (ii) the amount of proceeds of the disposition is significantly below the range of proceeds that a complying disposition to a person other than the secured party, a person related to the secured party, or a secondary obligor would have brought.

11. **Warranties.** Subsection (d) affords the transferee in a disposition under this section the benefit of any title, possession, quiet enjoyment, and similar warranties that would have accompanied the disposition by operation of nonarticle 9 law had the disposition been conducted under other circumstances. For example, the article 2 warranty of title would apply to a sale of goods, the analogous warranties of article 2A would apply to a lease of goods, and any common law warranties of title would apply to dispositions of other types of collateral. *See, e.g.*, Restatement (2d), Contracts section 333 (warranties of assignor).

Subsection (e) explicitly provides that these warranties can be disclaimed either under other applicable law or by communicating a record containing an express disclaimer. The record need not be written, but an oral communication would not be sufficient. *See* section 9-102 (definition of "record"). Subsection (f) provides a sample of wording that will effectively exclude the warranties in a disposition under this section, whether or not the exclusion would be effective under nonarticle 9 law.

The warranties incorporated by subsection (d) are those relating to "title, possession, quiet enjoyment, and the like." Depending on the circumstances, a disposition under this section also may give rise to other statutory or implied warranties, e.g., warranties of quality or fitness for purpose. Law other than this article determines whether such other warranties apply to a disposition under this section. Other law also determines issues relating to disclaimer of such warranties. For example, a foreclosure sale of a car by a car dealer could give rise to an implied warranty of merchantability (section 2-314) unless effectively disclaimed or modified (section 2-316).

This section's approach to these warranties conflicts with the former comment to section 2-312. This article rejects the baseline assumption that commercially reasonable dispositions under this section are out of the ordinary commercial course or peculiar. The comment to section 2-312 has been revised accordingly.

ANNOTATIONS

Cross references. — For determination of whether conduct was commercially reasonable, see 55-9-627 NMSA 1978.

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former Section 55-9-504 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-504 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Section 55-9-504 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATION.

Agreement of parties. — Under New Mexico law the "defense" of commercial unreasonableness available under the New Mexico UCC can be waived by agreement of the parties. *United States v. N.M. Landscaping, Inc.*, 785 F.2d 843 (10th Cir. 1986).

II. LIABILITY FOR SURPLUS OR DEFICIENCY.

When failure to sell collateral does not bar judgment. — The referee in bankruptcy did not err in awarding a judgment in favor of appellee notwithstanding his failure to sell the collateral which secured appellants' debt where the judgment was based on the depletion of the inventory. *With v. Amador*, 596 F.2d 428 (10th Cir. 1979) (decided under former law).

Burden of proof on value of collateral. — In a suit for a deficiency, where the value of the collateral is at issue, there is a presumption that the value of the repossessed collateral at resale is equal to the value of the outstanding debt. When the sale is conducted in accordance with Subsection (3) (now Subsection (b)) the sum received at sale is evidence of the market value; but when the sale is not conducted according to the Code, the amount received is not evidence of the market value of the collateral, and the secured party will have the burden of proving the market value by other evidence. *Clark Leasing Corp. v. White Sands Forest Prods., Inc.*, 1975-NMSC-022, 87 N.M. 451, 535 P.2d 1077 (decided under former law).

III. DISPOSITION OF COLLATERAL.

UCC encourages commercial sales of collateral. — The UCC encourages sales of repossessed collateral through regular commercial channels as opposed to public auction which often times yields only disappointing results. *Security Fed. Sav. & Loan v.*

Prendergast, 1989-NMSC-044, 108 N.M. 572, 775 P.2d 1289 (decided under former law).

Good faith duty of creditor to dispose of collateral reasonably. — The requirements of Subsection (3) (now Subsection (b)) place upon the creditor the good faith duty to the debtor to use reasonable means to see that a reasonable price is received for the collateral. *Clark Leasing Corp. v. White Sands Forest Prods., Inc.*, 1975-NMSC-022, 87 N.M. 451, 535 P.2d 1077 (decided under former law).

Commercially reasonable notice. — Notice of sale should be given to a "public" reasonably expected to have an interest in the collateral and should be published in a manner reasonably calculated to assure such publicity that the collateral will bring the best possible price from competitive bidding of a strived-for lively concourse of bidders. *Villella Enters., Inc. v. Young*, 1988-NMSC-099, 108 N.M. 33, 766 P.2d 293 (decided under former law).

Creditor electing to sell in regular course of business must comply with section. — Once the creditor elects to retain collateral, and follow the mechanics of Section 55-9-505 NMSA 1978 (now Section 55-9-620 NMSA 1978), he can do as he pleases with the property, but where he intends to sell the property in the regular course of his business, which is in substance selling the property as contemplated by this section, he must account for a surplus in conformity with this section. *Reeves v. Foutz & Tanner, Inc.*, 1980-NMSC-095, 94 N.M. 760, 617 P.2d 149 (decided under former law).

Commercially reasonable sale to bring better price. — The importance of a commercially reasonable sale lies in the fact that the amount of the deficiency judgment will be inversely proportional to the sales price; if the price is high, the amount of the judgment will be low, and vice versa. The "method, manner, time, place and terms" tests are really proxies for "insufficient price," and their importance lies almost exclusively in the extent they protect against an unfairly low price. *Clark Leasing Corp. v. White Sands Forest Prods., Inc.*, 1975-NMSC-022, 87 N.M. 451, 535 P.2d 1077 (decided under former law).

In determining commercial reasonableness, each case will turn on its particular facts but generally, evidence as to every aspect of the sale including the amount of advertising done, normal commercial practices in disposing of particular collateral, the length of time elapsing between repossession and resale, whether deterioration of the collateral has occurred, the number of persons contacted concerning the sale and even the price obtained will be pertinent. *Clark Leasing Corp. v. White Sands Forest Prods.*, Inc., 1975-NMSC-022, 87 N.M. 451, 535 P.2d 1077; *Villella Enters., Inc. v. Young*, 1988-NMSC-099, 108 N.M. 33, 766 P.2d 293 (decided under former law).

Burden of proof on creditor that sale commercially reasonable. — In light of the specific requirement of Subsection (3) (now Subsection (b)) as to commercial reasonableness, a creditor, when suing for a deficiency, should allege and prove that disposition of the collateral was conducted in compliance with that statute; the creditor

must allege and, unless admitted, prove that the sale was commercially reasonable. *Clark Leasing Corp. v. White Sands Forest Prods., Inc.*, 1975-NMSC-022, 87 N.M. 451, 535 P.2d 1077 (decided under former law).

Creditor must show some unreasonableness to avoid directed verdict. — Once a creditor suing for a deficiency has made a prima facie case indicating a commercially reasonable sale, the debtor may be required to elicit some evidence of commercial unreasonableness to avoid a directed verdict on the issue, but when this is done, it becomes a question for the trier of the facts. *Clark Leasing Corp. v. White Sands Forest Prods., Inc.*, 1975-NMSC-022, 87 N.M. 451, 535 P.2d 1077 (decided under former law).

Price as factor in determining commercial reasonableness. — A debtor will not rebut a prima facie presumption of commercial reasonableness merely by contending that the price obtained for the collateral was too low. Nonetheless, the price obtained is a relevant factor. *Villella Enters., Inc. v. Young*, 1988-NMSC-099, 108 N.M. 33, 766 P.2d 293 (decided under former law).

Failure to achieve commercial reasonableness not forfeiture of deficiency. — A secured party's failure to comply with Subsection (3) (now Subsection (b)) does not result in a forfeiture of the right to a deficiency; the secured party has the right to recover the claimed deficiency less any loss occasioned by its failure to sell in a commercially reasonable manner. *Clark Leasing Corp. v. White Sands Forest Prods., Inc.*, 1975-NMSC-022, 87 N.M. 451, 535 P.2d 1077 (decided under former law).

Deficiency judgment. — A secured party's failure to comply with Subsection (3) (now Subsection (b)) does not constitute an absolute bar to a deficiency judgment; instead, the secured party has the burden of showing what amount a sale would have brought if done in compliance with the UCC, and, the difference between what the sale brought when performed improperly and what it should have brought, if done correctly, will be the damages allowed to the debtors. If such amount does not equal the total deficiency, the secured party may recover the amount remaining unpaid. *First Nat'l Bank v. Jiron*, 1987-NMSC-085, 106 N.M. 261, 741 P.2d 1382 (decided under former law).

Noncompliance with notice requirements. — When a secured party has not complied with the notice provisions of Subsection (3) of former Section 55-9-54 NMSA 1978 (now Section 55-9-611 NMSA 1978), it still may obtain a deficiency judgment if it proves the market value of the collateral. Such proof must be by evidence other than the sum received at sale. *First Nat'l Bank v. Ruttle*, 1989-NMSC-054, 108 N.M. 687, 778 P.2d 434 (decided under former law).

Burden of proving value. — When the collateral has been sold in a manner that does not comply with the provisions of the UCC, there is a rebuttable presumption that the collateral was worth an amount at least equal to the outstanding balance. To overcome the presumption, the secured party has the burden of proving the value of the collateral by evidence other than the sum received at the sale. *First Nat'l Bank v. Jiron*, 1987-NMSC-085, 106 N.M. 261, 741 P.2d 1382 (decided under former law).

"Commercially reasonable" requirement may be waived. — Guarantors of promissory note waived contract defense that sale of collateral securing promissory note was not conducted in commercially reasonable manner. *United States v. Lattauzio*, 748 F.2d 559 (10th Cir. 1984) (decided under former law).

Cash only auction sales. — "Cash only" terms of auction sale of farm equipment pledged as security for a note did not render the sale commercially unreasonable, where there was no evidence to suggest that this was not the normal practice of the auction company. *First Nat'l Bank v. Ruttle*, 1989-NMSC-054, 108 N.M. 687, 778 P.2d 434 (decided under former law).

Loan of collateral does not constitute "disposition" under Subsection (1) (now Subsection (a)). *Cordova v. Lee Galles Oldsmobile, Inc.*, 1983-NMCA-088, 100 N.M. 204, 668 P.2d 320 (decided under former law).

Sale of unadvertised mobile home by automobile dealer. — Sale of mobile home was commercially reasonable, even though the vehicle was never advertised for sale, where the vehicle was placed on the premises of a dealer in used autos, and where customers could view repossessed vehicles and make written offers to purchase them. *Security Fed. Sav. & Loan v. Prendergast*, 1989-NMSC-044, 108 N.M. 572, 775 P.2d 1289 (decided under former law).

Bank's auction of farm equipment. — Bank's decision to auction farm equipment pledged as security for a note was reasonable, where the bank's loan officer testified he contacted several dealers in farm equipment in the area, and none were interested in purchasing the equipment auctioned. *First Nat'l Bank v. Ruttle*, 1989-NMSC-054, 108 N.M. 687, 778 P.2d 434 (decided under former law).

Notice of private collateral sale need not mention possible rebates. — Notice of a private sale of collateral which states a redemption amount accurate at the time but which fails to mention possible rebates is not unreasonable as a matter of law. *Richardson Ford Sales, Inc. v. Johnson*, 1984-NMCA-007, 100 N.M. 779, 676 P.2d 1344 (decided under former law).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 624 et seq.

Purchase by pledgee of subject of pledge, 76 A.L.R. 705, 37 A.L.R.2d 1381.

Rights and remedies as between parties after repossession of property by seller, 99 A.L.R. 1288.

What is "commercially reasonable" disposition of collateral required by UCC § 9-504(3), 7 A.L.R.4th 308.

Failure of secured party to make "commercially reasonable" disposition of collateral under UCC § 9-504(3) as bar to deficiency judgment, 10 A.L.R.4th 413.

Secured transactions: what is "public" or "private" sale under UCC § 9-504(3), 60 A.L.R.4th 1012.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 161 et seq.

55-9-611. Notification before disposition of collateral.

(a) In this section, "notification date" means the earlier of the date on which:

(1) a secured party sends to the debtor and any secondary obligor a signed notification of disposition; or

(2) the debtor and any secondary obligor waive the right to notification.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (d) of this section, a secured party that disposes of collateral under Section 55-9-610 NMSA 1978 shall send to the persons specified in Subsection (c) of this section a reasonable signed notification of disposition.

(c) To comply with Subsection (b) of this section, the secured party shall send a signed notification of disposition to:

(1) the debtor;

(2) any secondary obligor; and

(3) if the collateral is other than consumer goods:

(A) any other person from which the secured party has received, before the notification date, a signed notification of a claim of an interest in the collateral;

(B) any other secured party or lienholder that, ten days before the notification date, held a security interest in or other lien on the collateral perfected by the filing of a financing statement that:

(i) identified the collateral;

(ii) was indexed under the debtor's name as of that date; and

(iii) was filed in the office in which to file a financing statement against the debtor covering the collateral as of that date; and

(C) any other secured party that, ten days before the notification date, held a security interest in the collateral perfected by compliance with a statute, regulation or treaty described in Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-311 NMSA 1978.

(d) Subsection (b) of this section does not apply if the collateral is perishable or threatens to decline speedily in value or is of a type customarily sold on a recognized market.

(e) A secured party complies with the requirement for notification prescribed by Subparagraph (B) of Paragraph (3) of Subsection (c) of this section if:

(1) not later than twenty days or earlier than thirty days before the notification date, the secured party requests, in a commercially reasonable manner, information concerning financing statements indexed under the debtor's name in the office indicated in Subparagraph (B) of Paragraph (3) of Subsection (c) of this section; and

(2) before the notification date, the secured party:

(A) did not receive a response to the request for information; or

(B) received a response to the request for information and sent a signed notification of disposition to each secured party or other lienholder named in that response whose financing statement covered the collateral.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-611, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 108; 2023, ch. 142, § 85.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-504(3).

2. **Reasonable Notification.** This section requires a secured party who wishes to dispose of collateral under Section 9-610 to send "a reasonable signed notification of disposition" to specified interested persons, subject to certain exceptions. The notification must be reasonable as to the manner in which it is sent, its timeliness (i.e., a reasonable time before the disposition is to take place), and its content. See Sections 9-612 (timeliness of notification), 9-613 (contents of notification generally), 9-614 (contents of notification in consumer-goods transactions).

3. **Notification to Debtors and Secondary Obligors.** This section imposes a duty to send notification of a disposition not only to the debtor but also to any secondary obligor. Subsections (b) and (c) resolve an uncertainty under former article 9 by providing that secondary obligors (sureties) are entitled to receive notification of an

intended disposition of collateral, regardless of who created the security interest in the collateral. If the surety created the security interest, it would be the debtor. If it did not, it would be a secondary obligor. (This article also resolves the question of the secondary obligor's ability to waive, pre-default, the right to notification - waiver generally is not permitted. *See* section 9-602.) Section 9-605 relieves a secured party from any duty to send notification to a debtor or secondary obligor unknown to the secured party.

Under subsection (b), the principal obligor (borrower) is not always entitled to notification of disposition.

Example: Behnfeldt borrows on an unsecured basis, and Bruno grants a security interest in her car to secure the debt. Behnfeldt is a primary obligor, not a secondary obligor. As such, she is not entitled to notification of disposition under this section.

4. **Notification to Other Secured Parties.** Prior to the 1972 amendments to Article 9, former Section 9-504(3) [55-9-504(3) NMSA 1978] required the enforcing secured party to send reasonable notification of the disposition:

> except in the case of consumer goods to any other person who has a security interest in the collateral and who has duly filed a financing statement indexed in the name of the debtor in this State or who is known by the secured party to have a security interest in the collateral.

The 1972 amendments eliminated the duty to give notice to secured parties other than those from whom the foreclosing secured party had received written notice of a claim of an interest in the collateral.

Many of the problems arising from dispositions of collateral encumbered by multiple security interests can be ameliorated or solved by informing all secured parties of an intended disposition and affording them the opportunity to work with one another. To this end, subsection (c)(3)(B) expands the duties of the foreclosing secured party to include the duty to notify (and the corresponding burden of searching the files to discover) certain competing secured parties. The subsection imposes a search burden that in some cases may be greater than the pre-1972 burden on foreclosing secured parties but certainly is more modest than that faced by a new secured lender.

To determine who is entitled to notification, the foreclosing secured party must determine the proper office for filing a financing statement as of a particular date, measured by reference to the "notification date," as defined in subsection (a). This determination requires reference to the choice-of-law provisions of Part 3. The secured party must ascertain whether any financing statements covering the collateral and indexed under the debtor’s name, as the name existed as of that date, in fact were filed in that office. The foreclosing secured party generally need not notify secured parties whose effective financing statements have become more difficult to locate because of changes in the location of the debtor, proceeds rules, or changes in the name that is sufficient as the name of the debtor under Section 9-503(a) [55-9-503(a) NMSA 1978].

5. **Signature Requirement.** Subsections (b), (c), and (e) explicitly provide that notifications must be "signed." Some cases read pre-1998 Section 9-504(3) as validating oral notification. Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate term "signed" replaces the references to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

6. **Second Try.** This article leaves to judicial resolution, based upon the facts of each case, the question whether the requirement of "reasonable notification" requires a "second try," i.e., whether a secured party who sends notification and learns that the debtor did not receive it must attempt to locate the debtor and send another notification.

7. **Recognized Market; Perishable Collateral.** Subsection (d) makes it clear that there is no obligation to give notification of a disposition in the case of perishable collateral or collateral customarily sold on a recognized market (e.g., marketable securities). As to what constitutes a recognized market, see Section 9-610, Comment 9.

8. **Failure to Conduct Notified Disposition.** Nothing in this article prevents a secured party from electing not to conduct a disposition after sending a notification. Nor does this article prevent a secured party from electing to send a revised notification if its plans for disposition change. This assumes, however, that the secured party acts in good faith, the revised notification is reasonable, and the revised plan for disposition and any attendant delay are commercially reasonable.

9. **Waiver.** A debtor or secondary obligor may waive the right to notification under this section only by a post-default signed agreement. See Section 9-624(a).

10. **Other Law.** Other State or federal law may contain requirements concerning notification of a disposition of property by a secured party. For example, federal law imposes notification requirements with respect to the enforcement of mortgages on federally documented vessels. Principles of statutory interpretation and, in the context of federal law, supremacy and preemption determine whether and to what extent law other than this Article supplements, displaces, or is displaced by this Article. *See* Sections 1-103, 1-104, 9-109(c)(1) [55-1-103, 55-1-104, 55-9-109(c)(1) NMSA 1978].

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, substituted each occurrence of "authenticated" with "signed" throughout the section.

Decisions under former Section 55-9-504 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-504 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Section 55-9-504 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Secured party required to give notice. — Notice of the time and place of sale under the Code is required to be given the debtor by a secured party. *Foundation Discs., Inc. v. Serna*, 1970-NMSC-072, 81 N.M. 474, 468 P.2d 875 (decided under former law).

Test for notification good faith effort not whether notice received. — In construing the requirements of notification to be sent a debtor under Subsection (3) (now this section), the test of notification is not whether the debtor receives the notice but only whether the secured party has made a good faith effort and took such steps as a reasonable person would have taken to give notice. *Begay v. Foutz & Tanner, Inc.*, 1979-NMCA-136, 95 N.M. 106, 619 P.2d 551, *rev'd on other grounds sub nom. Reeves v. Foutz & Tanner, Inc.*, 1980-NMSC-095, 94 N.M. 760, 617 P.2d 149 (decided under former law).

Requirement of reasonable notification is a question of fact to be determined only after considering all the facts and circumstances of the individual case. *Ridley v. First Nat'l Bank*, 1974-NMCA-149, 87 N.M. 184, 531 P.2d 607, cert. denied, 87 N.M. 179, 531 P.2d 602 (1975) (decided under former law).

Written not verbal notice satisfactory under code. — Where the record discloses that no formal written notice of the time and place of sale was given to defendant, the fact that defendant may have had verbal notice that there would be a sale of the collateral does not satisfy the requirements of the code. *Foundation Discs., Inc. v. Serna*, 1970-NMSC-072, 81 N.M. 474, 468 P.2d 875 (decided under former law).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — Construction of term "debtor" as used in UCC § 9-504(3), requiring secured party to give notice to debtor of sale of collateral securing obligation, 5 A.L.R.4th 1291.

Loss or modification of right to notification of sale of repossessed collateral under Uniform Commercial Code § 9-504, 9 A.L.R.4th 552.

Sufficiency of secured party's notification of sale or other intended disposition of collateral under UCC § 9-504(3), 11 A.L.R.4th 241.

Nature of collateral which secured party may sell or otherwise dispose of without giving notice to defaulting debtor under UCC § 9-504(3), 11 A.L.R.4th 1060.

55-9-612. Timeliness of notification before disposition of collateral.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (b) of this section, whether a notification is sent within a reasonable time is a question of fact.

(b) In a transaction other than a consumer transaction, a notification of disposition sent after default and ten days or more before the earliest time of disposition set forth in the notification is sent within a reasonable time before the disposition.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-612, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 109.

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1. **Source.** New.

2. **Reasonable Notification.** Section 9-611(b) requires the secured party to send a "reasonable signed notification." Under that section, as under pre-1998 Section 9-504(3), one aspect of a reasonable notification is its timeliness. This generally means that the notification must be sent at a reasonable time in advance of the date of a public disposition or the date after which a private disposition is to be made. A notification that is sent so near to the disposition date that a notified person could not be expected to act on or take account of the notification would be unreasonable.

3. **Timeliness of Notification: Safe Harbor.** The 10-day notice period in subsection (b) is intended to be a "safe harbor" and not a minimum requirement. To qualify for the "safe harbor" the notification must be sent after default. A notification also must be sent in a commercially reasonable manner. See Section 9-611(b) ("reasonable signed notification"). These requirements prevent a secured party from taking advantage of the "safe harbor" by, for example, giving the debtor a notification at the time of the original extension of credit or sending the notice by surface mail to a debtor overseas.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-613. Contents and form of notification before disposition of collateral; general.

(a) Except in a consumer-goods transaction, the following rules apply:

(1) The contents of a notification of disposition are sufficient if the notification:

(A) describes the debtor and the secured party;

(B) describes the collateral that is the subject of the intended disposition;

(C) states the method of intended disposition;

(D) states that the debtor is entitled to an accounting of the unpaid indebtedness and states the charge, if any, for an accounting; and

(E) states the time and place of a public disposition or the time after which any other disposition is to be made.

(2) Whether the contents of a notification that lacks any of the information specified in Paragraph (1) of this subsection are nevertheless sufficient is a question of fact.

(3) The contents of a notification providing substantially the information specified in Paragraph (1) of this subsection are sufficient, even if the notification includes:

(A) information not specified by that subsection; or

(B) minor errors that are not seriously misleading.

(4) A particular phrasing of the notification is not required.

(5) The following form of notification and the form appearing in Paragraph (3) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-614 NMSA 1978, when completed, each provides sufficient information:

"NOTIFICATION OF DISPOSITION OF COLLATERAL

To: (Name of debtor, obligor or other person to which the notification is sent)

From: (Name, address and telephone number of secured)

(1) Name of any debtor that is not an addressee: (*Name of each debtor*)

(2) We will sell (*describe collateral*) (to the highest qualified bidder) at public sale. A sale could include a lease or license. The sale will be held as follows:

(*Date*)

(*Time*)

(*Place)*

(3) We will sell (*describe collateral*) at private sale sometime after *(date*). A sale could include a lease or license.

(4) You are entitled to an accounting of the unpaid indebtedness secured by the property that we intend to sell or, as applicable, lease or license.

(5) If you request an accounting, you must pay a charge of $ (*amount*).

(6) You may request an accounting by calling us at (*telephone number*)."

(b) The following instructions apply to the form of notification in Paragraph (5) of Subsection (a) of this section:

(1) the instructions in this subsection refer to the numbers in braces before items in the form of notification in Paragraph (5) of Subsection (a) of this section. Do not include the numbers or braces in the notification. The numbers and braces are used only for the purpose of these instructions;

(2) include and complete Item (1) only if there is a debtor that is not an addressee of the notification and list the name or names;

(3) include and complete either Item (2), if the notification relates to a public disposition of the collateral, or Item (3), if the notification relates to a private disposition of the collateral. If Item (2) is included, include the words "to the highest qualified bidder" only if applicable;

(4) include and complete Items (4) and (6); and

(5) include and complete Item (5) only if the sender will charge the recipient for an accounting.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-613, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 110; 2023, ch. 142, § 86.

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1. **Source.** New.

2. **Contents of Notification.** To comply with the "reasonable signed notification" requirement of Section 9-611(b), the contents of a notification must be reasonable. Except in a consumer-goods transaction, the contents of a notification that includes the information set forth in paragraph (1) are sufficient as a matter of law, unless the parties agree otherwise. (The reference to "time" of disposition means here, as it did in former Section 9-504(3) [55-9-504(3) NMSA 1978], not only the hour of the day but also the date.) Although a secured party may choose to include additional information concerning the transaction or the debtor’s rights and obligations, no additional information is required unless the parties agree otherwise. A notification that lacks some of the information set forth in paragraph (1) nevertheless may be sufficient if found to be reasonable by the trier of fact, under paragraph (2). A properly completed sample form of notification in paragraph (5) or in Section 9-614(a)(3) [55-9-614(a)(3) NMSA 1978] is

an example of a notification that would contain the information set forth in paragraph (1). Under paragraph (4), however, no particular phrasing of the notification is required.

This section applies to a notification of a public disposition conducted electronically. A notification of an electronic disposition satisfies paragraph (1)(E) if it states the time when the disposition is scheduled to begin and states the electronic location. For example, under the technology current in 2010, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) or other Internet address where the site of the public disposition can be accessed suffices as an electronic location.

3. **Style Changes in Safe-Harbor Form and Medium Neutrality.** No change in substance is intended by the changes in style to the form provided in paragraph (5) of the pre-2022 text of this section. However, the presentation and explanation of how to use the form has been simplified and clarified.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, rewrote the contents of a notification of disposition of collateral form; in Paragraphs (a)(2) and (3), after "specified in", deleted "Subsection (l) of this section" and added "Paragraph (l) of this subsection"; in Paragraph (a)(5), after "appearing in", deleted "Subsection (3)" and added "Paragraph (3) of Subsection (a)"; deleted the former "NOTIFICATION OF DISPOSITION OF COLLATERAL" form and added a new "NOTIFICATION OF DISPOSITION OF COLLATERAL" form; and added Subsection (b).

55-9-614. Contents and form of notification before disposition of collateral; consumer-goods transaction.

(a) In a consumer-goods transaction, the following rules apply:

(1) A notification of disposition must provide the following information:

(A) the information specified in Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-613 NMSA 1978;

(B) a description of any liability for a deficiency of the person to which the notification is sent;

(C) a telephone number from which the amount that must be paid to the secured party to redeem the collateral under Section 55-9-623 NMSA 1978 is available; and

(D) a telephone number or mailing address from which additional information concerning the disposition and the obligation secured is available.

(2) A particular phrasing of the notification is not required.

(3) The following form of notification, when completed in accordance with the instructions in Subsection (b) of this section, provides sufficient information:

"(*Name and address of secured party*)

(*Date*)

NOTICE OF OUR PLAN TO SELL PROPERTY

(*Name and address of any obligor who is also a debtor*)

Subject: (*Identify transaction*)

We have your (*describe collateral*) because you broke promises in our agreement.

{1} We will sell (*describe collateral*) at public sale. A sale could include a lease or license. The sale will be held as follows:

(*Date*)

(*Time*)

(*Place*)

You may attend the sale and bring bidders if you want.

{2} We will sell (*describe collateral*) at private sale sometime after (*date*). A sale could include a lease or license.

{3} The money that we get from the sale, after paying our costs, will reduce the amount you owe. If we get less money than you owe, you (*will or will not, as applicable*) still owe us the difference. If we get more money than you owe, you will get the extra money, unless we must pay it to someone else.

{4} You can get the property back at any time before we sell it by paying us the full amount you owe, not just the past due payments, including our expenses. To learn the exact amount you must pay, call us at *(telephone number*).

{5} If you want us to explain to you in (writing) (writing or in (*description of electronic record*) (*description of electronic record*) how we have figured the amount that you owe us,

{6} call us at (*telephone number*) (or) (write us at (*secured party's address*)) (or contact us by (*description of electronic communication method*))

{7} and request (a written explanation) (a written explanation or an explanation in (*description of electronic record*)) (an explanation in (*description of electronic record*)).

{8} We will charge you $ (*amount*) for the explanation if we sent you another written explanation of the amount you owe us within the last six months.

{9} If you need more information about the sale, (call us at (*telephone number*)) (or) (write us at (*secured party's address*)) (or contact us by (*description of electronic communication method*)).

{10} We are sending this notice to the following other people who have an interest in (*describe collateral*) or who owe money under your agreement:

(*Names of all other debtors and obligors, if any*)."

(4) The form of notification provided in Paragraph (3) of this subsection is sufficient even if additional information appears at the end of the form.

(5) The form of notification provided in Paragraph (3) of this subsection is sufficient even if it includes an error regarding information that is not required pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this subsection, unless the error is misleading with respect to rights that arise pursuant to Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978.

(6) If notification under this section is not in the form provided in Paragraph (3) of this subsection, law other than Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 shall determine the effect of including information that is not required pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(b) The following instructions apply to the form of notification in Paragraph (3) of Subsection (a) of this section:

(1) the instructions in this subsection refer to the numbers in braces before items in the form of notification in Paragraph (3) of Subsection (a) of this section. Do not include the numbers or braces in the notification. The numbers and braces are used only for the purpose of these instructions;

(2) include and complete either Item {1}, if the notification relates to a public disposition of the collateral, or Item {2}, if the notification relates to a private disposition of the collateral;

(3) include and complete Items {3}, {4}, {5}, {6} and {7};

(4) in Item {5}, include and complete any one of the three alternative methods for the explanation: writing, writing or electronic record or electronic record;

(5) in Item {6}, include the telephone number. In addition, the sender may include and complete either or both of the two additional alternative methods of communication, those being writing or electronic communication, for the recipient of the notification to communicate with the sender. Neither of the two additional methods of communication is required to be included;

(6) in Item {7}, include and complete the method or methods for the explanation included in Item {5}: writing, writing or electronic record or electronic record;

(7) include and complete Item {8} only if a written explanation is included in Item {5} as a method for communicating the explanation and the sender will charge the recipient for another written explanation;

(8) in Item {9}, include either the telephone number or the address or both the telephone number and the address. In addition, the sender may include and complete the additional electronic method of communication for the recipient of the notification to communicate with the sender. The additional method of electronic communication is not required to be included; and

(9) if Item {10} does not apply, insert "None" after "agreement:"."

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-614, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 111; 2023, ch. 142, § 87.

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1. **Source.** New.

2. **Notification in Consumer-Goods Transactions.** Paragraph (1) sets forth the information required for a reasonable notification in a consumer-goods transaction. A notification that lacks any of the information set forth in paragraph (1) is insufficient as a matter of law. *Compare* section 9-613(2), under which the trier of fact may find a notification to be sufficient even if it lacks some information listed in paragraph (1) of that section.

3. **Safe-Harbor Form of Notification; Errors in Information.** Although paragraph (2) provides that a particular phrasing of a notification is not required, paragraph (3) specifies a safe-harbor form that, when properly completed, satisfies paragraph (1). Paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) contain special rules applicable to erroneous and additional information. Under paragraph (4), a notification in the safe-harbor form specified in paragraph (3) is not rendered insufficient if it contains additional information at the end of the form. Paragraph (5) provides that nonmisleading errors in information contained in a notification are permitted if the safe-harbor form is used and if the errors are in

information not required by paragraph (1). Finally, if a notification is in a form other than the paragraph (3) safe-harbor form, other law determines the effect of including in the notification information other than that required by paragraph (1).

4. **Style Changes in Safe-Harbor Form and Medium Neutrality.** No change in substance is intended by the changes in style to the form provided in paragraph (3) of the pre-2022 text of this section, except that in furtherance of medium neutrality references to "electronic record" and "electronic communication method" have been added to the form. However, the presentation and explanation of how to use the form has been simplified and clarified.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, rewrote the contents of a notification before disposition of collateral form; in Paragraph (a)(3), after "completed", added "in accordance with the instructions in Subsection (b) of this section"; deleted the former "NOTICE OF OUR PLAN TO SELL PROPERTY" form, and added a new "NOTICE OF OUR PLAN TO SELL PROPERTY" form; and added Subsection (b).

55-9-615. Application of proceeds of disposition; liability for deficiency and right to surplus.

(a) A secured party shall apply or pay over for application the cash proceeds of disposition pursuant to Section 55-9-610 NMSA 1978 in the following order to:

(1) the reasonable expenses of retaking, holding, preparing for disposition, processing and disposing, and, to the extent provided for by agreement and not prohibited by law, reasonable attorney fees and legal expenses incurred by the secured party;

(2) the satisfaction of obligations secured by the security interest or agricultural lien under which the disposition is made;

(3) the satisfaction of obligations secured by any subordinate security interest in or other subordinate lien on the collateral if:

(A) the secured party receives from the holder of the subordinate security interest or other lien a signed demand for proceeds before distribution of the proceeds is completed; and

(B) in a case in which a consignor has an interest in the collateral, the subordinate security interest or other lien is senior to the interest of the consignor; and

(4) a secured party that is a consignor of the collateral if the secured party receives from the consignor a signed demand for proceeds before distribution of the proceeds is completed.

(b) If requested by a secured party, a holder of a subordinate security interest or other lien shall furnish reasonable proof of the interest or lien within a reasonable time. Unless the holder does so, the secured party need not comply with the holder's demand under Paragraph (3) of Subsection (a) of this section.

(c) A secured party need not apply or pay over for application noncash proceeds of disposition under Section 55-9-610 NMSA 1978 unless the failure to do so would be commercially unreasonable. A secured party that applies or pays over for application noncash proceeds shall do so in a commercially reasonable manner.

(d) If the security interest under which a disposition is made secures payment or performance of an obligation, after making the payments and applications required by Subsection (a) of this section and permitted by Subsection (c) of this section:

(1) unless Paragraph (4) of Subsection (a) of this section requires the secured party to apply or pay over cash proceeds to a consignor, the secured party shall account to and pay a debtor for any surplus; and

(2) the obligor is liable for any deficiency.

(e) If the underlying transaction is a sale of accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles or promissory notes:

(1) the debtor is not entitled to any surplus; and

(2) the obligor is not liable for any deficiency.

(f) The surplus or deficiency following a disposition is calculated based on the amount of proceeds that would have been realized in a disposition complying with this part to a transferee other than the secured party, a person related to the secured party or a secondary obligor if:

(1) the transferee in the disposition is the secured party, a person related to the secured party or a secondary obligor; and

(2) the amount of proceeds of the disposition is significantly below the range of proceeds that a complying disposition to a person other than the secured party, a person related to the secured party or a secondary obligor would have brought.

(g) A secured party that receives cash proceeds of a disposition in good faith and without knowledge that the receipt violates the rights of the holder of a security interest or other lien that is not subordinate to the security interest or agricultural lien under which the disposition is made:

(1) takes the cash proceeds free of the security interest or other lien;

(2) is not obligated to apply the proceeds of the disposition to the satisfaction of obligations secured by the security interest or other lien; and

(3) is not obligated to account to or pay the holder of the security interest or other lien for any surplus.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-615, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 112; 2023, ch. 142, § 88.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-504(1) and (2).

2. **Application of Proceeds.** This section contains the rules governing application of proceeds and the debtor's liability for a deficiency following a disposition of collateral. Subsection (a) sets forth the basic order of application. The proceeds are applied first to the expenses of disposition, second to the obligation secured by the security interest that is being enforced, and third, in the specified circumstances, to interests that are subordinate to that security interest.

Subsections (a) and (d) also address the right of a consignor to receive proceeds of a disposition by a secured party whose interest is senior to that of the consignor. Subsection (a) requires the enforcing secured party to pay excess proceeds first to subordinate secured parties or lienholders whose interests are senior to that of a consignor and, finally, to a consignor. Inasmuch as a consignor is the owner of the collateral, secured parties and lienholders whose interests are junior to the consignor's interest will not be entitled to any proceeds. In like fashion, under subsection (d)(1) the debtor is not entitled to a surplus when the enforcing secured party is required to pay over proceeds to a consignor.

3. **Noncash Proceeds.** Subsection (c) addresses the application of noncash proceeds of a disposition, such as a note or lease. The explanation in section 9-608, comment 4, generally applies to this subsection.

Example: A secured party in the business of selling or financing automobiles takes possession of collateral (an automobile) following its debtor's default. The secured party decides to sell the automobile in a private disposition under section 9-610 and sends appropriate notification under section 9-611. After undertaking its normal credit investigation and in accordance with its normal credit policies, the secured party sells the automobile on credit, on terms typical of the credit terms normally extended by the secured party in the ordinary course of its business. The automobile stands as collateral for the remaining balance of the price. The noncash proceeds received by the secured party are chattel paper. The secured party may wish to credit its debtor (the assignor)

with the principal amount of the chattel paper or may wish to credit the debtor only as and when the payments are made on the chattel paper by the buyer.

Under subsection (c), the secured party is under no duty to apply the noncash proceeds (here, the chattel paper) or their value to the secured obligation unless its failure to do so would be commercially unreasonable. If a secured party elects to apply the chattel paper to the outstanding obligation, however, it must do so in a commercially reasonable manner. The facts in the example indicate that it would be commercially unreasonable for the secured party to fail to apply the value of the chattel paper to the original debtor's secured obligation. Unlike the example in comment 4 to section 9-608, the noncash proceeds received in this example are of the type that the secured party regularly generates in the ordinary course of its financing business in nonforeclosure transactions. The original debtor should not be exposed to delay or uncertainty in this situation. Of course, there will be many situations that fall between the examples presented in the comment to section 9-608 and in this comment. This article leaves their resolution to the court based on the facts of each case.

One would expect that where noncash proceeds are or may be material, the secured party and debtor would agree to more specific standards in an agreement entered into before or after default. The parties may agree to the method of application of noncash proceeds if the method is not manifestly unreasonable. *See* section 9-603.

When the secured party is not required to "apply or pay over for application noncash proceeds," the proceeds nonetheless remain collateral subject to this article. *See* section 9-608, comment 4.

4. **Surplus and Deficiency.** Subsection (d) deals with surplus and deficiency. It revises former section 9-504(2) by imposing an explicit requirement that the secured party "pay" the debtor for any surplus, while retaining the secured party's duty to "account." Inasmuch as the debtor may not be an obligor, subsection (d) provides that the obligor (not the debtor) is liable for the deficiency. The special rule governing surplus and deficiency when receivables have been sold likewise takes into account the distinction between a debtor and an obligor. Subsection (d) also addresses the situation in which a consignor has an interest that is subordinate to the security interest being enforced.

5. **Collateral Under New Ownership.** When the debtor sells collateral subject to a security interest, the original debtor (creator of the security interest) is no longer a debtor inasmuch as it no longer has a property interest in the collateral; the buyer is the debtor. *See* section 9-102. As between the debtor (buyer of the collateral) and the original debtor (seller of the collateral), the debtor (buyer) normally would be entitled to the surplus following a disposition. Subsection (d) therefore requires the secured party to pay the surplus to the debtor (buyer), not to the original debtor (seller) with which it has dealt. But, because this situation typically arises as a result of the debtor's wrongful act, this article does not expose the secured party to the risk of determining ownership of the collateral. If the secured party does not know about the buyer and accordingly

pays the surplus to the original debtor, the exculpatory provisions of this article exonerate the secured party from liability to the buyer. *See* sections 9-605 and 9-628(a) and (b). If a debtor sells collateral free of a security interest, as in a sale to a buyer in ordinary course of business (*see* section 9-320(a)), the property is no longer collateral and the buyer is not a debtor.

6. **Certain "Low-Price" Dispositions.** Subsection (f) provides a special method for calculating a deficiency or surplus when the secured party, a person related to the secured party (defined in section 9-102), or a secondary obligor acquires the collateral at a foreclosure disposition. It recognizes that when the foreclosing secured party or a related party is the transferee of the collateral, the secured party sometimes lacks the incentive to maximize the proceeds of disposition. As a consequence, the disposition may comply with the procedural requirements of this article (e.g., it is conducted in a commercially reasonable manner following reasonable notice) but nevertheless fetch a low price.

Subsection (f) adjusts for this lack of incentive. If the proceeds of a disposition of collateral to a secured party, a person related to the secured party, or a secondary obligor are "significantly below the range of proceeds that a complying disposition to a person other than the secured party, a person related to the secured party, or a secondary obligor would have brought," then instead of calculating a deficiency (or surplus) based on the actual net proceeds, the calculation is based upon the amount that would have been received in a commercially reasonable disposition to a person other than the secured party, a person related to the secured party, or a secondary obligor. Subsection (f) thus rejects the view that the secured party's receipt of such a price necessarily constitutes noncompliance with part 6. However, such a price may suggest the need for greater judicial scrutiny. *See* section 9-610, comment 10.

7. **"Person Related To."** Section 9-102 defines "person related to." That term is a key element of the system provided in subsection (f) for low-price dispositions. One part of the definition applies when the secured party is an individual, and the other applies when the secured party is an organization. The definition is patterned closely on the corresponding definition in section 1.301(32) of the Uniform Consumer Credit Code.

8. **"Signed" Replaces "Authenticated."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate term "signed" replaces the reference to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, substituted each occurrence of "authenticated" with "signed" throughout the section.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 64A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 685 et seq.

UCC: value of trade-in taken on sale of collateral for purposes of computing surplus or deficiency, 72 A.L.R.4th 1128.

55-9-616. Explanation of calculation of surplus or deficiency.

(a) In this section:

(1) "explanation" means a record that:

(A) states the amount of the surplus or deficiency;

(B) provides an explanation in accordance with Subsection (c) of this section of how the secured party calculated the surplus or deficiency;

(C) states, if applicable, that future debits, credits, charges, including additional credit service charges or interest, rebates and expenses may affect the amount of the surplus or deficiency; and

(D) provides a telephone number or mailing address from which additional information concerning the transaction is available; and

(2) "request" means a record:

(A) signed by a debtor or consumer obligor;

(B) requesting that the recipient provide an explanation; and

(C) sent after disposition of the collateral under Section 55-9-610 NMSA 1978.

(b) In a consumer-goods transaction in which the debtor is entitled to a surplus or a consumer obligor is liable for a deficiency under Section 55-9-615 NMSA 1978, the secured party shall:

(1) send an explanation to the debtor or consumer obligor, as applicable, after the disposition and:

(A) before or when the secured party accounts to the debtor and pays any surplus or first makes demand in a record on the consumer obligor after the disposition for payment of the deficiency; and

(B) within fourteen days after receipt of a request; or

(2) in the case of a consumer obligor who is liable for a deficiency, within fourteen days after receipt of a request, send to the consumer obligor a record waiving the secured party's right to a deficiency.

(c) To comply with Subparagraph (B) of Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a) of this section, an explanation must provide the following information in the following order:

(1) the aggregate amount of obligations secured by the security interest under which the disposition was made and, if the amount reflects a rebate of unearned interest or credit service charge, an indication of that fact, calculated as of a specified date:

(A) if the secured party takes or receives possession of the collateral after default, not more than thirty-five days before the secured party takes or receives possession; or

(B) if the secured party takes or receives possession of the collateral before default or does not take possession of the collateral, not more than thirty-five days before the disposition;

(2) the amount of proceeds of the disposition;

(3) the aggregate amount of the obligations after deducting the amount of proceeds;

(4) the amount, in the aggregate or by type, and types of expenses, including expenses of retaking, holding, preparing for disposition, processing and disposing of the collateral, and attorney fees secured by the collateral which are known to the secured party and relate to the current disposition;

(5) the amount, in the aggregate or by type, and types of credits, including rebates of interest or credit service charges, to which the obligor is known to be entitled and which are not reflected in the amount in Paragraph (1) of this subsection; and

(6) the amount of the surplus or deficiency.

(d) A particular phrasing of the explanation is not required. An explanation complying substantially with the requirements of Subsection (a) of this section is sufficient, even if it includes minor errors that are not seriously misleading.

(e) A debtor or consumer obligor is entitled without charge to one response to a request under this section during any six-month period in which the secured party did not send to the debtor or consumer obligor an explanation pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subsection (b) of this section. The secured party may require payment of a charge not exceeding twenty-five dollars ($25.00) for each additional response.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-616, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 113; 2023, ch. 142, § 89.

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1. **Source.** New.

2. **Duty to Send Information Concerning Surplus or Deficiency.** This section reflects the view that, in every consumer-goods transaction, the debtor or obligor is entitled to know the amount of a surplus or deficiency and the basis upon which the surplus or deficiency was calculated. Under subsection (b)(1), a secured party is obligated to provide this information (an "explanation," defined in subsection (a)(1)) no later than the time that it accounts for and pays a surplus or the time of its first demand in a record in an attempt to collect the deficiency. The obligor need not make a request for an accounting in order to receive an explanation. A secured party who does not attempt to collect a deficiency in a demand in a record or account for and pay a surplus has no obligation to send an explanation under subsection (b)(1) and, consequently, cannot be liable for noncompliance.

A debtor or secondary obligor need not wait until the secured party commences collection efforts in a demand in a record in order to receive an explanation of how a deficiency or surplus was calculated. Subsection (b)(1)(B) obliges the secured party to send an explanation within 14 days after it receives a "request" (defined in subsection (a)(2)).

3. **Explanation of Calculation of Surplus or Deficiency.** Subsection (c) contains the requirements for how a calculation of a surplus or deficiency must be explained in order to satisfy subsection (a)(1)(B). It gives a secured party some discretion concerning rebates of interest or credit service charges. The secured party may include these rebates in the aggregate amount of obligations secured, under subsection (c)(1), or may include them with other types of rebates and credits under subsection (c)(5). Rebates of interest or credit service charges are the only types of rebates for which this discretion is provided. If the secured party provides an explanation that includes rebates of precomputed interest, its explanation must so indicate. The expenses and attorney's [attorney] fees to be described pursuant to subsection (c)(4) are those relating to the most recent disposition, not those that may have been incurred in connection with earlier enforcement efforts and which have been resolved by the parties.

4. **Liability for Noncompliance.** A secured party who fails to comply with subsection (b)(2) is liable for any loss caused plus $500. *See* section 9-625(b), (c), and (e)(6). A secured party who fails to send an explanation under subsection (b)(1) is liable for any loss caused plus, if the noncompliance was "part of a pattern, or consistent with a practice of noncompliance," $500. *See* section 9-625(b), (c), and (e)(5). However, a secured party who fails to comply with this section is not liable for statutory minimum damages under section 9-625(c)(2). *See* section 9-628(d).

5. **"Signed" Replaces "Authenticated"; Medium Neutrality.** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate term "signed" replaces the

reference to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section. In furtherance of medium neutrality, the reference in the pre-2022 text of this section to a "written demand" has been replaced by a reference to a "demand in a record" and the reference to a "writing" has been replaced by a reference to a "record."

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, in Paragraph (a)(1), after "means a", deleted "writing" and added "record"; in Subparagraph (a)(2)(A), deleted "authenticated" and added "signed"; in Subparagraph (b)(1)(A), deleted "written" preceding "demand", and after "demand", added "in a record"; and in Subsection (c), in the introductory clause, after "this section", deleted "a writing" and added "an explanation".

55-9-617. Rights of transferee of collateral.

(a) A secured party's disposition of collateral after default:

(1) transfers to a transferee for value all of the debtor's rights in the collateral;

(2) discharges the security interest under which the disposition is made; and

(3) discharges any subordinate security interest or other subordinate lien.

(b) A transferee that acts in good faith takes free of the rights and interests described in Subsection (a) of this section, even if the secured party fails to comply with this article or the requirements of any judicial proceeding.

(c) If a transferee does not take free of the rights and interests described in Subsection (a) of this section, the transferee takes the collateral subject to:

(1) the debtor's rights in the collateral;

(2) the security interest or agricultural lien under which the disposition is made; and

(3) any other security interest or other lien.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-617, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 114.

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1. Source. Former section 9-504(4).

2. Title Taken by Good Faith Transferee. Subsection (a) sets forth the rights acquired by persons who qualify under subsection (b) - transferees who act in good faith. Such a person is a "transferee," inasmuch as a buyer at a foreclosure sale does not meet the definition of "purchaser" in section 1-201 (the transfer is not, vis-a-vis the debtor, "voluntary"). By virtue of the expanded definition of the term "debtor" in section 9-102, subsection (a) makes clear that the ownership interest of a person who bought the collateral subject to the security interest is terminated by a subsequent disposition under this part. Such a person is a debtor under this article. Under former article 9, the result arguably was the same, but the statute was less clear. Under subsection (a), a disposition normally discharges the security interest being foreclosed and any subordinate security interests and other liens.

A disposition has the effect specified in subsection (a), even if the secured party fails to comply with this article. An aggrieved person (e.g., the holder of a subordinate security interest to whom a notification required by section 9-611 was not sent) has a right to recover any loss under section 9-625(b).

3. Unitary Standard in Public and Private Dispositions. Subsection (b) now contains a unitary standard that applies to transferees in both private and public dispositions - acting in good faith. However, this change from former section 9-504(4) should not be interpreted to mean that a transferee acts in good faith even though it has knowledge of defects or buys in collusion, standards applicable to public dispositions under the former section. Properly understood, those standards were specific examples of the absence of good faith.

4. Title Taken by Nonqualifying Transferee. Subsection (c) specifies the consequences for a transferee who does not qualify for protection under subsections (a) and (b) (i.e., a transferee who does not act in good faith). The transferee takes subject to the rights of the debtor, the enforcing secured party, and other security interests or other liens. In such a case the disposition is ineffective to the extent that it would otherwise have cut off the debtor’s rights in the collateral, and the debtor retains those rights, including the debtor’s right of redemption under Section 9-623, albeit subject to the security interest under which the disposition was made and any other security interests or liens. *See* PEB Commentary No. 22, dated August 24, 2020. The Commentary is available at https://www.ali.org/peb-ucc.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-618. Rights and duties of certain secondary obligors.

(a) A secondary obligor acquires the rights and becomes obligated to perform the duties of the secured party after the secondary obligor:

(1) receives an assignment of a secured obligation from the secured party;

(2) receives a transfer of collateral from the secured party and agrees to accept the rights and assume the duties of the secured party; or

(3) is subrogated to the rights of a secured party with respect to collateral.

(b) An assignment, transfer or subrogation described in Subsection (a) of this section:

(1) is not a disposition of collateral under Section 55-9-610 NMSA 1978; and

(2) relieves the secured party of further duties under Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-618, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 115.

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1. Source. Former section 9-504(5).

2. Scope of This Section. Under this section, assignments of secured obligations and other transactions (regardless of form) that function like assignments of secured obligations are not dispositions to which part 6 applies. Rather, they constitute assignments of rights and (occasionally) delegations of duties. Application of this section may require an investigation into the agreement of the parties, which may not be reflected in the words of the repurchase agreement (e.g., when the agreement requires a recourse party to "purchase the collateral" but contemplates that the purchaser will then conduct an article 9 foreclosure disposition).

This section, like former section 9-504(5), does not constitute a general and comprehensive rule for allocating rights and duties upon assignment of a secured obligation. Rather, it applies only in situations involving a secondary obligor described in subsection (a). In other contexts, the agreement of the parties and applicable law other than article 9 determine whether the assignment imposes upon the assignee any duty to the debtor and whether the assignor retains its duties to the debtor after the assignment.

Subsection (a)(1) applies when there has been an assignment of an obligation that is secured at the time it is assigned. Thus, if a secondary obligor acquires the collateral at a disposition under section 9-610 and simultaneously or subsequently discharges the unsecured deficiency claim, subsection (a)(1) is not implicated. Similarly, subsection (a)(3) applies only when the secondary obligor is subrogated to the secured party's rights with respect to collateral. Thus, this subsection will not be implicated if a secondary obligor discharges the debtor's unsecured obligation for a post-disposition

deficiency. Similarly, if the secured party disposes of some of the collateral and the secondary obligor thereafter discharges the remaining obligation, subsection (a) applies only with respect to rights and duties concerning the remaining collateral, and, under subsection (b), the subrogation is not a disposition of the remaining collateral.

As discussed more fully in comment 3, a secondary obligor may receive a transfer of collateral in a disposition under section 9-610 in exchange for a payment that is applied against the secured obligation. However, a secondary obligor who pays and receives a transfer of collateral does not necessarily become subrogated to the rights of the secured party as contemplated by subsection (a)(3). Only to the extent the secondary obligor makes a payment in satisfaction of its secondary obligation would it become subrogated. To the extent its payment constitutes the price of the collateral in a section 9-610 disposition by the secured party, the secondary obligor would not be subrogated. Thus, if the amount paid by the secondary obligor for the collateral in a section 9-610 disposition is itself insufficient to discharge the secured obligation, but the secondary obligor makes an additional payment that satisfies the remaining balance, the secondary obligor would be subrogated to the secured party's deficiency claim. However, the duties of the secured party as such would have come to an end with respect to that collateral. In some situations the capacity in which the payment is made may be unclear. Accordingly, the parties should in their relationship provide clear evidence of the nature and circumstances of the payment by the secondary obligor.

3. Transfer of Collateral to Secondary Obligor. It is possible for a secured party to transfer collateral to a secondary obligor in a transaction that is a disposition under section 9-610 and that establishes a surplus or deficiency under section 9-615. Indeed, this article includes a special rule, in section 9-615(f), for establishing a deficiency in the case of some dispositions to, inter alia, secondary obligors. This article rejects the view, which some may have ascribed to former section 9-504(5), that a transfer of collateral to a recourse party can never constitute a disposition of collateral which discharges a security interest. Inasmuch as a secured party could itself buy collateral at its own public sale, it makes no sense to prohibit a recourse party ever from buying at the sale.

4. Timing and Scope of Obligations. Under subsection (a), a recourse party acquires rights and incurs obligations only "after" one of the specified circumstances occurs. This makes clear that when a successor assignee, transferee, or subrogee becomes obligated it does not assume any liability for earlier actions or inactions of the secured party whom it has succeeded unless it agrees to do so. Once the successor becomes obligated, however, it is responsible for complying with the secured party's duties thereafter. For example, if the successor is in possession of collateral, then it has the duties specified in section 9-207.

Under subsection (b), the same event (assignment, transfer, or subrogation) that gives rise to rights to, and imposes obligations on, a successor relieves its predecessor of any further duties under this article. For example, if the security interest is enforced after the secured obligation is assigned, the assignee - but not the assignor - has the duty to comply with this part. Similarly, the assignment does not excuse the assignor from

liability for failure to comply with duties that arose before the event or impose liability on the assignee for the assignor's failure to comply.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-619. Transfer of record or legal title.

(a) In this section, "transfer statement" means a record signed by a secured party stating:

(1) that the debtor has defaulted in connection with an obligation secured by specified collateral;

(2) that the secured party has exercised its post-default remedies with respect to the collateral;

(3) that, by reason of the exercise, a transferee has acquired the rights of the debtor in the collateral; and

(4) the name and mailing address of the secured party, debtor and transferee.

(b) A transfer statement entitles the transferee to the transfer of record of all rights of the debtor in the collateral specified in the statement in any official filing, recording, registration or certificate-of-title system covering the collateral. If a transfer statement is presented with the applicable fee and request form to the official or office responsible for maintaining the system, the official or office shall:

(1) accept the transfer statement;

(2) promptly amend its records to reflect the transfer; and

(3) if applicable, issue a new appropriate certificate of title in the name of the transferee.

(c) A transfer of the record or legal title to collateral to a secured party under Subsection (b) of this section or otherwise is not of itself a disposition of collateral under Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 and does not of itself relieve the secured party of its duties under that article.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-619, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 116; 2023, ch. 142, § 90.

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1. **Source.** New.

2. **Transfer of Record or Legal Title.** Potential buyers of collateral that is covered by a certificate of title (e.g., an automobile) or is subject to a registration system (e.g., a copyright) typically require as a condition of their purchase that the certificate or registry reflect their ownership. In many cases, this condition can be met only with the consent of the record owner. If the record owner is the debtor and, as may be the case after the default, the debtor refuses to cooperate, the secured party may have great difficulty disposing of the collateral.

Subsection (b) provides a simple mechanism for obtaining record or legal title, for use primarily when other law does not provide one. Of course, use of this mechanism will not be effective to clear title to the extent that subsection (b) is preempted by federal law. Subsection (b) contemplates a transfer of record or legal title to a third party, following a secured party's exercise of its disposition or acceptance remedies under this part, as well as a transfer by a debtor to a secured party prior to the secured party's exercise of those remedies. Under subsection (c), a transfer of record or legal title (under subsection (b) or under other law) to a secured party prior to the exercise of those remedies merely puts the secured party in a position to pass legal or record title to a transferee at foreclosure. A secured party who has obtained record or legal title retains its duties with respect to enforcement of its security interest, and the debtor retains its rights as well.

3. **Title-Clearing Systems Under Other Law.** Applicable non-UCC law (e.g., a certificate of title statute, federal registry rules, or the like) may provide a means by which the secured party may obtain or transfer record or legal title for the purpose of a disposition of the property under this article. The mechanism provided by this section is in addition to any title clearing provision under law other than this article.

4. **"Signed" Replaces "Authenticated."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate term "signed" replaces the reference to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, in Subsection (a), in the introductory clause, after "means a record", deleted "authenticated" and added "signed".

55-9-620. Acceptance of collateral in full or partial satisfaction of obligation; compulsory disposition of collateral.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (g) of this section, a secured party may accept collateral in full or partial satisfaction of the obligation it secures only if:

(1) the debtor consents to the acceptance under Subsection (c) of this section;

(2) the secured party does not receive, within the time set forth in Subsection (d) of this section, a notification of objection to the proposal signed by:

(A) a person to which the secured party was required to send a proposal under Section 55-9-621 NMSA 1978; or

(B) any other person, other than the debtor, holding an interest in the collateral subordinate to the security interest that is the subject of the proposal;

(3) if the collateral is consumer goods, the collateral is not in the possession of the debtor when the debtor consents to the acceptance; and

(4) Subsection (e) of this section does not require the secured party to dispose of the collateral or the debtor waives the requirement pursuant to Section 55-9-624 NMSA 1978.

(b) A purported or apparent acceptance of collateral under this section is ineffective unless:

(1) the secured party consents to the acceptance in a signed record or sends a proposal to the debtor; and

(2) the conditions of Subsection (a) of this section are met.

(c) For purposes of this section:

(1) a debtor consents to an acceptance of collateral in partial satisfaction of the obligation it secures only if the debtor agrees to the terms of the acceptance in a record signed after default; and

(2) a debtor consents to an acceptance of collateral in full satisfaction of the obligation it secures only if the debtor agrees to the terms of the acceptance in a record signed after default or the secured party:

(A) sends to the debtor after default a proposal that is unconditional or subject only to a condition that collateral not in the possession of the secured party be preserved or maintained;

(B) in the proposal, proposes to accept collateral in full satisfaction of the obligation it secures; and

(C) does not receive a notification of objection signed by the debtor within twenty days after the proposal is sent.

(d) To be effective under Paragraph (2) of Subsection (a) of this section, a notification of objection must be received by the secured party:

(1) in the case of a person to which the proposal was sent pursuant to Section 55-9-621 NMSA 1978, within twenty days after notification was sent to that person; and

(2) in other cases:

(A) within twenty days after the last notification was sent pursuant to Section 55-9-621 NMSA 1978; or

(B) if a notification was not sent, before the debtor consents to the acceptance under Subsection (c) of this section.

(e) A secured party that has taken possession of collateral shall dispose of the collateral pursuant to Section 55-9-610 NMSA 1978 within the time specified in Subsection (f) of this section if:

(1) sixty percent of the cash price has been paid in the case of a purchase-money security interest in consumer goods; or

(2) sixty percent of the principal amount of the obligation secured has been paid in the case of a non-purchase-money security interest in consumer goods.

(f) To comply with Subsection (e) of this section, the secured party shall dispose of the collateral:

(1) within ninety days after taking possession; or

(2) within any longer period to which the debtor and all secondary obligors have agreed in an agreement to that effect entered into and signed after default.

(g) In a consumer transaction, a secured party may not accept collateral in partial satisfaction of the obligation it secures.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-620, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 117; 2021, ch. 86, § 3; 2023, ch. 142, § 91.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-505.

2. **Overview.** This section and the two sections following deal with strict foreclosure, a procedure by which the secured party acquires the debtor's interest in the collateral without the need for a sale or other disposition under section 9-610. Although these provisions derive from former section 9-505, they have been entirely reorganized and substantially rewritten. The more straightforward approach taken in this article eliminates the fiction that the secured party always will present a "proposal" for the retention of collateral and the debtor will have a fixed period to respond. By eliminating the need (but preserving the possibility) for proceeding in that fashion, this section eliminates much of the awkwardness of former section 9-505. It reflects the belief that strict foreclosures should be encouraged and often will produce better results than a disposition for all concerned.

Subsection (a) sets forth the conditions necessary to an effective acceptance (formerly, retention) of collateral in full or partial satisfaction of the secured obligation. Section 9-621 requires in addition that a secured party who wishes to proceed under this section notify certain other persons who have or claim to have an interest in the collateral. Unlike the failure to meet the conditions in subsection (a), under section 9-622(b) the failure to comply with the notification requirement of section 9-621 does not render the acceptance of collateral ineffective. Rather, the acceptance can take effect notwithstanding the secured party's noncompliance. A person to whom the required notice was not sent has the right to recover damages under section 9-625(b). Section 9-622(a) sets forth the effect of an acceptance of collateral.

3. **Conditions to Effective Acceptance.** Subsection (a) contains the conditions necessary to the effectiveness of an acceptance of collateral. Subsection (a)(1) requires the debtor's consent. Under subsections (c)(1) and (c)(2), the debtor may consent by agreeing to the acceptance in writing after default. Subsection (c)(2) contains an alternative method by which to satisfy the debtor's-consent condition in subsection (a)(1). It follows the proposal-and-objection model found in pre-1998 Section 9-505: The debtor consents if the secured party sends a proposal to the debtor and does not receive an objection within 20 days. Under subsection (c)(1), however, that silence is not deemed to be consent with respect to acceptances in partial satisfaction. Thus, a secured party who wishes to conduct a "partial strict foreclosure" must obtain the debtor's agreement in a record signed after default. In all other respects, the conditions necessary to an effective partial strict foreclosure are the same as those governing acceptance of collateral in full satisfaction. (But see subsection (g), prohibiting partial strict foreclosure of a security interest in consumer transactions.)

The time when a debtor consents to a strict foreclosure is significant in several circumstances under this section and the following one. *See* sections 9-620(a)(1), (d)(2), 9-621(a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3). For purposes of determining the time of consent, a debtor's conditional consent constitutes consent.

Subsection (a)(2) contains the second condition to the effectiveness of an acceptance under this section - the absence of a timely objection from a person holding a junior interest in the collateral or from a secondary obligor. Any junior party - secured party or

lienholder - is entitled to lodge an objection to a proposal, even if that person was not entitled to notification under section 9-621. Subsection (d), discussed below, indicates when an objection is timely.

Subsections (a)(3) and (a)(4) contain special rules for transactions in which consumers are involved. *See* comment 12.

4. **Proposals.** Section 9-102 defines the term "proposal." It is necessary to send a "proposal" to the debtor only if the debtor does not agree to an acceptance in signed record as described in subsection (c)(1) or (c)(2). Section 9-621(a) determines whether it is necessary to send a proposal to third parties. A proposal need not take any particular form as long as it sets forth the terms under which the secured party is willing to accept collateral in satisfaction. A proposal to accept collateral should specify the amount (or a means of calculating the amount, such as by including a per diem accrual figure) of the secured obligations to be satisfied, state the conditions (if any) under which the proposal may be revoked, and describe any other applicable conditions. Note, however, that a conditional proposal generally requires the debtor's agreement in order to take effect. See subsection (c).

5. **Secured Party's Agreement; No "Constructive" Strict Foreclosure.** The conditions of subsection (a) relate to actual or implied consent by the debtor and any secondary obligor or holder of a junior security interest or lien. To ensure that the debtor cannot unilaterally cause an acceptance of collateral, subsection (b) provides that compliance with these conditions is necessary but not sufficient to cause an acceptance of collateral. Rather, under subsection (b), acceptance does not occur unless, in addition, the secured party consents to the acceptance in a signed record or sends to the debtor a proposal. For this reason, a mere delay in collection or disposition of collateral does not constitute a "constructive" strict foreclosure. Instead, delay is a factor relating to whether the secured party acted in a commercially reasonable manner for purposes of Section 9-607 or 9-610. A debtor's voluntary surrender of collateral to a secured party and the secured party's acceptance of possession of the collateral does not, of itself, necessarily raise an implication that the secured party intends or is proposing to accept the collateral in satisfaction of the secured obligation under this section.

6. **When Acceptance Occurs.** This section does not impose any formalities or identify any steps that a secured party must take in order to accept collateral once the conditions of subsections (a) and (b) have been met. Absent facts or circumstances indicating a contrary intention, the fact that the conditions have been met provides a sufficient indication that the secured party has accepted the collateral on the terms to which the secured party has consented or proposed and the debtor has consented or failed to object. Following a proposal, acceptance of the collateral normally is automatic upon the secured party's becoming bound and the time for objection passing. As a matter of good business practice, an enforcing secured party may wish to memorialize its acceptance following a proposal, such as by notifying the debtor that the strict foreclosure is effective or by placing a written record to that effect in its files. The

secured party's agreement to accept collateral is self-executing and cannot be breached. The secured party is bound by its agreement to accept collateral and by any proposal to which the debtor consents.

7. **No Possession Requirement.** This section eliminates the requirement in former section 9-505 that the secured party be "in possession" of collateral. It clarifies that intangible collateral, which cannot be possessed, may be subject to a strict foreclosure under this section. However, under subsection (a)(3), if the collateral is consumer goods, acceptance does not occur unless the debtor is not in possession.

8. **When Objection Timely.** Subsection (d) explains when an objection is timely and thus prevents an acceptance of collateral from taking effect. An objection by a person to which notification was sent under section 9-621 is effective if it is received by the secured party within 20 days from the date the notification was sent to that person. Other objecting parties (i.e., third parties who are not entitled to notification) may object at any time within 20 days after the last notification is sent under section 9-621. If no such notification is sent, third parties must object before the debtor agrees to the acceptance in writing or is deemed to have consented by silence. The former may occur any time after default, and the latter requires a 20-day waiting period. *See* subsection (c).

9. **Applicability of Other Law.** This section does not purport to regulate all aspects of the transaction by which a secured party may become the owner of collateral previously owned by the debtor. For example, a secured party's acceptance of a motor vehicle in satisfaction of secured obligations may require compliance with the applicable motor vehicle certificate of title law. State legislatures should conform those laws so that they mesh well with this section and section 9-610, and courts should construe those laws and this section harmoniously. A secured party's acceptance of collateral in the possession of the debtor also may implicate statutes dealing with a seller's retention of possession of goods sold.

10. **Accounts, Chattel Paper, Payment Intangibles, and Promissory Notes.** If the collateral is accounts, chattel paper, payment intangibles, or promissory notes, then a secured party’s acceptance of the collateral in satisfaction of secured obligations would constitute a sale to the secured party. That sale normally would give rise to a new security interest (the ownership interest) under Sections 1-201(b)(35) and 9-109. In the case of accounts and chattel paper, the new security interest would remain perfected by a filing that was effective to perfect the secured party’s original security interest. In the case of payment intangibles or promissory notes, the security interest would be perfected when it attaches. See Section 9-309. However, the procedures for acceptance of collateral under this section satisfy all necessary formalities and a new security agreement signed by the debtor would not be necessary.

11. **Role of Good Faith.** Section 1-304 [55-1-304 NMSA 1978] imposes an obligation of good faith on a secured party’s enforcement under this Article. This obligation may not be disclaimed by agreement. *See* Section 1-302 [55-1-302 NMSA

1978]. Thus, a proposal and acceptance made under this section in bad faith would not be effective. For example, a secured party's proposal to accept marketable securities worth $1,000 in full satisfaction of indebtedness in the amount of $100, made in the hopes that the debtor might inadvertently fail to object, would be made in bad faith. On the other hand, in the normal case proposals and acceptances should be not second-guessed on the basis of the "value" of the collateral involved. Disputes about valuation or even a clear excess of collateral value over the amount of obligations satisfied do not necessarily demonstrate the absence of good faith.

12. **Special Rules in Consumer Cases.** Subsection (e) imposes an obligation on the secured party to dispose of consumer goods under certain circumstances. Subsection (f) explains when a disposition that is required under subsection (e) is timely. An effective acceptance of collateral cannot occur if subsection (e) requires a disposition unless the debtor waives this requirement pursuant to Section 9-624(b) [55-9-624(b) NMSA 1978]. Moreover, a secured party who takes possession of collateral and unreasonably delays disposition violates subsection (e), if applicable, and may also violate Section 9-610 [55-9-610 NMSA 1978] or other provisions of this Part. Subsection (e) eliminates as superfluous the express statutory reference to "conversion" found in former Section 9-505 [55-9-505 NMSA 1978]. Remedies available under other law, including conversion, remain available under this Article in appropriate cases. *See* Sections 1-103, 1-305 [55-1-103, 55-1-305 NMSA 1978].

Subsection (g) prohibits the secured party in consumer transactions from accepting collateral in partial satisfaction of the obligation it secures. If a secured party attempts an acceptance in partial satisfaction in a consumer transaction, the attempted acceptance is void.

13. **"Signed" Replaces "Authenticated."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate term "signed" replaces the references to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, substituted each occurrence of "authenticated" with "signed" throughout the section.

The 2021 amendment, effective June 18, 2021, in Subsection (a), Paragraph (a)(3), added "if".

Decisions under former Section 55-9-505 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-505 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Section 55-9-505 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

When creditor retains collateral in discharge of debt, he becomes owner. *Begay v. Foutz & Tanner, Inc.*, 1979-NMCA-136, 95 N.M. 106, 619 P.2d 551, *rev'd on other*

grounds sub nom. Reeves v. Foutz & Tanner, Inc., 1980-NMSC-095, 94 N.M. 760, 617 P.2d 149 (decided under former law).

Creditor selling collateral in regular course of business must comply with the disposition section of the code. — Once the creditor elects to retain collateral, and follow the mechanics of this section, he can do as he pleases with the property, but where he intends to sell the property in the regular course of his business, which is in substance selling the property as contemplated by Section 55-9-504 NMSA 1978 (now Section 55-9-610 NMSA 1978), he must account for a surplus in conformity with that section. *Reeves v. Foutz & Tanner, Inc.*, 1980-NMSC-095, 94 N.M. 760, 617 P.2d 149 (decided under former law).

Failure to sell collateral not always election to retain. — Where a decrease in inventory constitutes a willful and malicious conversion of collateral and a violation of Section 30-16-18 NMSA 1978, failure to sell the repossessed collateral will not be treated as an election under this section to retain the collateral in satisfaction of the obligation. *With v. Amador*, 596 F.2d 428 (10th Cir. 1979) (decided under former law).

Recovery allowed for failure to sell truck within 90 days. — Plaintiff was entitled to recover damages in conversion from defendant for failure to comply with default provisions of Uniform Commercial Code, where defendant, who repossessed plaintiff's pick-up truck after plaintiff had paid defendant more than 60% of purchase price, failed to sell truck within 90 days of possession. *Crosby v. Basin Motor Co.*, 1971-NMCA-127, 83 N.M. 77, 488 P.2d 127 (decided under former law).

Remedies of Subsection (2) of former Section 55-9-505 NMSA 1978 (now this section) are accessible to all secured parties including pawnbrokers dealing in Indian pawn with Indian debtors, and they may avail themselves of the remedies provided by the code. *Begay v. Foutz & Tanner, Inc.*, 1979-NMCA-136, 95 N.M. 106, 619 P.2d 551, *rev'd on other grounds sub nom. Reeves v. Foutz & Tanner, Inc.*, 1980-NMSC-095, 94 N.M. 760, 617 P.2d 149 (decided under former law).

Law reviews. — For article, "Breach of the Peace and New Mexico's Uniform Commercial Code," see 4 Nat. Resources J. 85 (1964).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 704 et seq.

Rights and duties of parties to conditional sales contract as to resale of repossessed property, 49 A.L.R.2d 15.

Construction and operation of U.C.C. § 9-505(2) authorizing secured party in possession of collateral to retain it in satisfaction of obligation, 55 A.L.R.3d 651.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 179.

55-9-621. Notification of proposal to accept collateral.

(a) A secured party that desires to accept collateral in full or partial satisfaction of the obligation it secures shall send its proposal to:

(1) any person from which the secured party has received, before the debtor consented to the acceptance, a signed notification of a claim of an interest in the collateral;

(2) any other secured party or lienholder that, ten days before the debtor consented to the acceptance, held a security interest in or other lien on the collateral perfected by the filing of a financing statement that:

(A) identified the collateral;

(B) was indexed under the debtor's name as of that date; and

(C) was filed in the office or offices in which to file a financing statement against the debtor covering the collateral as of that date; and

(3) any other secured party that, ten days before the debtor consented to the acceptance, held a security interest in the collateral perfected by compliance with a statute, regulation or treaty described in Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-311 NMSA 1978.

(b) A secured party that desires to accept collateral in partial satisfaction of the obligation it secures shall send its proposal to any secondary obligor in addition to the persons described in Subsection (a) of this section.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-621, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 118; 2023, ch. 142, § 92.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-505.

2. **Notification Requirement.** Subsection (a) specifies three classes of competing claimants to whom the secured party must send notification of its proposal: (i) those who notify the secured party that they claim an interest in the collateral, (ii) holders of certain security interests and liens who have filed against the debtor, and (iii) holders of certain security interests who have perfected by compliance with a statute (including a certificate-of-title statute), regulation, or treaty described in Section 9-311(a) [55-9-311(a) NMSA 1978]. With regard to (ii), *see* Section 9-611 [55-9-611 NMSA 1978],

Comment 4. Subsection (b) also requires notification to any secondary obligor if the proposal is for acceptance in partial satisfaction.

Unlike Section 9-611 [55-9-611 NMSA 1978], this section contains no "safe harbor," which excuses an enforcing secured party from notifying certain secured parties and other lienholders. This is because, unlike Section 9-610 [55-9-610 NMSA 1978], which requires that a disposition of collateral be commercially reasonable, Section 9-620 [55-9-620 NMSA 1978] permits the debtor and secured party to set the amount of credit the debtor will receive for the collateral subject only to the requirement of good faith. An effective acceptance discharges subordinate security interests and other subordinate liens. *See* Section 9-622 [55-9-622 NMSA 1978]. If collateral is subject to several liens securing debts much larger than the value of the collateral, the debtor may be disinclined to refrain from consenting to an acceptance by the holder of the senior security interest, even though, had the debtor objected and the senior disposed of the collateral under Section 9-610, the collateral may have yielded more than enough to satisfy the senior security interest (but not enough to satisfy all the liens). Accordingly, this section imposes upon the enforcing secured party the risk of the filing office's errors and delay. The holder of a security interest who is entitled to notification under this section but to whom the enforcing secured party does not send notification has the right to recover under Section 9-625(b) [55-9-625(b) NMSA 1978] any loss resulting from the secured party's noncompliance with this section.

3. **"Signed" Replaces "Authenticated."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate term "signed" replaces the reference to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, in Paragraph (a)(1), after "acceptance", deleted "authenticated" and added "signed".

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 704 et seq.

Rights and duties of parties to conditional sales contract as to resale of repossessed property, 49 A.L.R.2d 15.

Construction and operation of U.C.C. § 9-505(2) authorizing secured party in possession of collateral to retain it in satisfaction of obligation, 55 A.L.R.3d 651.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 179.

55-9-622. Effect of acceptance of collateral.

(a) A secured party's acceptance of collateral in full or partial satisfaction of the obligation it secures:

(1) discharges the obligation to the extent consented to by the debtor;

(2) transfers to the secured party all of a debtor's rights in the collateral;

(3) discharges the security interest or agricultural lien that is the subject of the debtor's consent and any subordinate security interest or other subordinate lien; and

(4) terminates any other subordinate interest.

(b) A subordinate interest is discharged or terminated under Subsection (a) of this section, even if the secured party fails to comply with Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-622, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 119.

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1. Source. New.

2. Effect of Acceptance. Subsection (a) specifies the effect of an acceptance of collateral in full or partial satisfaction of the secured obligation. The acceptance to which it refers is an effective acceptance. If a purported acceptance is ineffective under section 9-620, e.g., because the secured party receives a timely objection from a person entitled to notification, then neither this subsection nor subsection (b) applies. Paragraph (1) expresses the fundamental consequence of accepting collateral in full or partial satisfaction of the secured obligation - the obligation is discharged to the extent consented to by the debtor. Unless otherwise agreed, the obligor remains liable for any deficiency. Paragraphs (2) through (4) indicate the effects of an acceptance on various property rights and interests. Paragraph (2) follows section 9-617(a) in providing that the secured party acquires "all of a debtor's rights in the collateral." Under paragraph (3), the effect of strict foreclosure on holders of junior security interests and other liens is the same regardless of whether the collateral is accepted in full or partial satisfaction of the secured obligation: All junior encumbrances are discharged. Paragraph (4) provides for the termination of other subordinate interests.

Subsection (b) makes clear that subordinate interests are discharged under subsection (a) regardless of whether the secured party complies with this article. Thus, subordinate interests are discharged regardless of whether a proposal was required to be sent or, if required, was sent. However, a secured party's failure to send a proposal or otherwise to comply with this article may subject the secured party to liability under section 9-625.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-623. Right to redeem collateral.

(a) A debtor, any secondary obligor or any other secured party or lienholder may redeem collateral.

(b) To redeem collateral, a person shall tender:

(1) fulfillment of all obligations secured by the collateral; and

(2) the reasonable expenses and attorney fees described in Paragraph (1) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-615 NMSA 1978.

(c) A redemption may occur at any time before a secured party:

(1) has collected collateral under Section 55-9-607 NMSA 1978;

(2) has disposed of collateral or entered into a contract for its disposition under Section 55-9-610 NMSA 1978; or

(3) has accepted collateral in full or partial satisfaction of the obligation it secures under Section 55-9-622 NMSA 1978.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-623, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 120.

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1. Source. Former section 9-506.

2. Redemption Right. Under this section, as under former section 9-506, the debtor or another secured party may redeem collateral as long as the secured party has not collected (section 9-607), disposed of or contracted for the disposition of (section 9-610), or accepted (section 9-620) the collateral. Although this section generally follows former section 9-506, it extends the right of redemption to holders of nonconsensual liens. To redeem the collateral a person must tender fulfillment of all obligations secured, plus certain expenses. If the entire balance of a secured obligation has been accelerated, it would be necessary to tender the entire balance. A tender of fulfillment obviously means more than a new promise to perform an existing promise. It requires payment in full of all monetary obligations then due and performance in full of all other obligations then matured. If unmatured secured obligations remain, the security interest continues to secure them (i.e., as if there had been no default).

3. Redemption of Remaining Collateral Following Partial Enforcement. Under section 9-610 a secured party may make successive dispositions of portions of its

collateral. These dispositions would not affect the debtor's, another secured party's, or a lienholder's right to redeem the remaining collateral.

4. Effect of "Repledging." Section 9-207 generally permits a secured party having possession or control of collateral to create a security interest in the collateral. As explained in the comments to that section, the debtor's right (as opposed to its practical ability) to redeem collateral is not affected by, and does not affect, the priority of a security interest created by the debtor's secured party.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

Decisions under former Section 55-9-506 NMSA 1978. — In light of the similarity of this section and former Section 55-9-506 NMSA 1978, annotations decided under former Section 55-9-506 NMSA 1978 have been included in the annotations in this section.

Debtor has no conversion claim if did not redeem. — A debtor who could have regained his right to possession by redemption, but did not redeem, has no claim in conversion, as conversion only protects the rights of one entitled to lawful possession. *Cordova v. Lee Galles Oldsmobile, Inc.*, 1983-NMCA-088, 100 N.M. 204, 668 P.2d 320 (decided under former law).

Law reviews. — For article, "Breach of the Peace and New Mexico's Uniform Commercial Code," see 4 Nat. Resources J. 85 (1964).

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 564 et seq.

Buyer's right of redemption on repossession of property by seller, 99 A.L.R. 1296.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 184.

55-9-624. Waiver.

(a) A debtor or secondary obligor may waive the right to notification of disposition of collateral under Section 55-9-611 NMSA 1978 only by an agreement to that effect entered into and signed after default.

(b) A debtor may waive the right to require disposition of collateral under Subsection (e) of Section 55-9-620 NMSA 1978 only by an agreement to that effect entered into and signed after default.

(c) Except in a consumer-goods transaction, a debtor or secondary obligor may waive the right to redeem collateral under Section 55-9-623 NMSA 1978 only by an agreement to that effect entered into and signed after default.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-624, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 121; 2023, ch. 142, § 93.

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1. **Source.** Former Sections 9-504(3), 9-505, 9-506 [55-9-504(3), 55-9-505, 55-9-506 NMSA 1978, respectively].

2. **Waiver.** This section is a limited exception to Section 9-602 [55-9-602 NMSA 1978], which generally prohibits waiver by debtors and obligors. It makes no provision for waiver of the rule prohibiting a secured party from buying at its own private disposition. Transactions of this kind are equivalent to "strict foreclosures" and are governed by Sections 9-620, 9-621, and 9-622 [55-9-620, 55-9-621, and 55-9-622 NMSA 1978, respectively].

3. **"Signed" Replaces "Authenticated."** Consistent with the revised definition of "sign" in Section 1-201, the cognate term "signed" replaces the references to "authenticated" in the pre-2022 text of this section.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, substituted each occurrence of "authenticated" with "signed" throughout the section.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 704 et seq.

Rights and duties of parties to conditional sales contract as to resale of repossessed property, 49 A.L.R.2d 15.

Construction and operation of U.C.C. § 9-505(2) authorizing secured party in possession of collateral to retain it in satisfaction of obligation, 55 A.L.R.3d 651.

Loss or modification of right to notification of sale of repossessed collateral under Uniform Commercial Code § 9-504, 9 A.L.R.4th 552.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 179.

SUBPART 2. NONCOMPLIANCE WITH ARTICLE

55-9-625. Remedies for secured party's failure to comply with article.

(a) If it is established that a secured party is not proceeding in accordance with Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, a court may order or restrain collection, enforcement or disposition of collateral on appropriate terms and conditions.

(b) Subject to Subsections (c), (d) and (f) of this section, a person is liable for damages in the amount of any loss caused by a failure to comply with Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978. Loss caused by a failure to comply may include loss resulting from the debtor's inability to obtain, or increased costs of, alternative financing.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in Section 55-9-628 NMSA 1978:

(1) a person that, at the time of the failure, was a debtor, was an obligor or held a security interest in or other lien on the collateral may recover damages under Subsection (b) of this section for its loss; and

(2) if the collateral is consumer goods, a person that was a debtor or a secondary obligor at the time a secured party failed to comply with this part may recover for that failure in any event an amount not less than the credit service charge plus ten percent of the principal amount of the obligation or the time-price differential plus ten percent of the cash price.

(d) A debtor whose deficiency is eliminated under Section 55-9-626 NMSA 1978 may recover damages for the loss of any surplus. However, a debtor or secondary obligor whose deficiency is eliminated or reduced under Section 55-9-626 NMSA 1978 may not otherwise recover under Subsection (b) of this section for noncompliance with the provisions of Sections 55-9-601 through 55-9-628 NMSA 1978 relating to collection, enforcement, disposition or acceptance.

(e) In addition to any damages recoverable under Subsection (b) of this section, the debtor, consumer obligor or person named as a debtor in a filed record, as applicable, may recover five hundred dollars ($500) in each case from a person that:

(1) fails to comply with Section 55-9-208 NMSA 1978;

(2) fails to comply with Section 55-9-209 NMSA 1978;

(3) files a record that the person is not entitled to file under Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-509 NMSA 1978;

(4) fails to cause the secured party of record to file or send a termination statement as required by Subsection (a) or (c) of Section 55-9-513 NMSA 1978;

(5) fails to comply with Paragraph (1) of Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-616 NMSA 1978 and whose failure is part of a pattern, or consistent with a practice, of noncompliance; or

(6) fails to comply with Paragraph (2) of Subsection (b) of Section 55-9-616 NMSA 1978.

(f) A debtor or consumer obligor may recover damages under Subsection (b) of this section and, in addition, five hundred dollars ($500) in each case from a person that, without reasonable cause, fails to comply with a request under Section 55-9-210 NMSA 1978. A recipient of a request under Section 55-9-210 NMSA 1978 that never claimed an interest in the collateral or obligations that are the subject of a request under that section has a reasonable excuse for failure to comply with the request within the meaning of this subsection.

(g) If a secured party fails to comply with a request regarding a list of collateral or a statement of account under Section 55-9-210 NMSA 1978, the secured party may claim a security interest only as shown in the list or statement included in the request as against a person that is reasonably misled by the failure.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-625, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 122.

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1. Source. Former section 9-507.

2. Remedies for Noncompliance; Scope. Subsections (a) and (b) provide the basic remedies afforded to those aggrieved by a secured party's failure to comply with this article. Like all provisions that create liability, they are subject to section 9-628, which should be read in conjunction with section 9-605. The principal limitations under this part on a secured party's right to enforce its security interest against collateral are the requirements that it proceed in good faith (section 1-203), in a commercially reasonable manner (sections 9-607 and 9-610), and, in most cases, with reasonable notification (sections 9-611 through 9-614). Following former section 9-507, under subsection (a) an aggrieved person may seek injunctive relief, and under subsection (b) the person may recover damages for losses caused by noncompliance. Unlike former section 9-507, however, subsections (a) and (b) are not limited to noncompliance with provisions of this part of article 9. Rather, they apply to noncompliance with any provision of this article. The change makes this section applicable to noncompliance with sections 9-207 (duties of secured party in possession of collateral), 9-208 (duties of secured party having control over deposit account), 9-209 (duties of secured party if account debtor has been notified of an assignment), 9-210 (duty to comply with request for accounting, etc.), 9-509(a) (duty to refrain from filing unauthorized financing statement), and 9-

513(a) (duty to provide termination statement). Subsection (a) also modifies the first sentence of former section 9-507(1) by adding the references to "collection" and "enforcement." Subsection (c)(2), which gives a minimum damage recovery in consumer goods transactions, applies only to noncompliance with the provisions of this part.

3. Damages for Noncompliance with This Article. Subsection (b) sets forth the basic remedy for failure to comply with the requirements of this article: A damage recovery in the amount of loss caused by the noncompliance. Subsection (c) identifies who may recover under subsection (b). It affords a remedy to any aggrieved person who is a debtor or obligor. However, a principal obligor who is not a debtor may recover damages only for noncompliance with section 9-616, inasmuch as none of the other rights and duties in this article run in favor of such a principal obligor. Such a principal obligor could not suffer any loss or damage on account of noncompliance with rights or duties of which it is not a beneficiary. Subsection (c) also affords a remedy to an aggrieved person who holds a competing security interest or other lien, regardless of whether the aggrieved person is entitled to notification under part 6. The remedy is available even to holders of senior security interests and other liens. The exercise of this remedy is subject to the normal rules of pleading and proof. A person who has delegated the duties of a secured party but who remains obligated to perform them is liable under this subsection. The last sentence of subsection (d) eliminates the possibility of double recovery or other over-compensation arising out of a reduction or elimination of a deficiency under section 9-626, based on noncompliance with the provisions of this part relating to collection, enforcement, disposition, or acceptance. Assuming no double recovery, a debtor whose deficiency is eliminated under section 9-626 may pursue a claim for a surplus. Because section 9-626 does not apply to consumer transactions, the statute is silent as to whether a double recovery or other over-compensation is possible in a consumer transaction.

Damages for violation of the requirements of this article, including section 9-609, are those reasonably calculated to put an eligible claimant in the position that it would have occupied had no violation occurred. *See* section 1-106. Subsection (b) supports the recovery of actual damages for committing a breach of the peace in violation of section 9-609, and principles of tort law supplement this subsection. *See* section 1-103. However, to the extent that damages in tort compensate the debtor for the same loss dealt with by this article, the debtor should be entitled to only one recovery.

4. Minimum Damages in Consumer-Goods Transactions. Subsection (c)(2) provides a minimum, statutory, damage recovery for a debtor and secondary obligor in a consumer-goods transaction. It is patterned on former section 9-507(1) and is designed to ensure that every noncompliance with the requirements of part 6 in a consumer goods transaction results in liability, regardless of any injury that may have resulted. Subsection (c)(2) leaves the treatment of statutory damages as it was under former article 9. A secured party is not liable for statutory damages under this subsection more than once with respect to any one secured obligation (see section 9-

628(e)), nor is a secured party liable under this subsection for failure to comply with section 9-616 (see section 9-628(d)).

Following former section 9-507(1), this article does not include a definition or explanation of the terms "credit service charge," "principal amount," "time-price differential," or "cash price," as used in subsection (c)(2). It leaves their construction and application to the court, taking into account the subsection's purpose of providing a minimum recovery in consumer-goods transactions.

5. Supplemental Damages. Subsections (e) and (f) provide damages that supplement the recovery, if any, under subsection (b). Subsection (e) imposes an additional $500 liability upon a person who fails to comply with the provisions specified in that subsection, and subsection (f) imposes like damages on a person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with a request for an accounting or a request regarding a list of collateral or statement of account under section 9-210. However, under subsection (f), a person has a reasonable excuse for the failure if the person never claimed an interest in the collateral or obligations that were the subject of the request.

6. Estoppel. Subsection (g) limits the extent to which a secured party who fails to comply with a request regarding a list of collateral or statement of account may claim a security interest.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

Am. Jur. 2d, A.L.R. and C.J.S. references. — 68A Am. Jur. 2d Secured Transactions § 737 et seq.

Rights in proceeds of vehicle collision policy, under "loss-payable" clause, of conditional seller, chattel mortgagee or the like, of vehicle where there has been improper repossession or foreclosure after the damage, 46 A.L.R.2d 992.

Rights and duties of parties to conditional sales contract as to resale of repossessed property, 49 A.L.R.2d 15.

Liability of secured creditor under Uniform Commercial Code to third party on ground of unjust enrichment, 27 A.L.R.5th 719.

79 C.J.S. Secured Transactions § 185 et seq.

55-9-626. Action in which deficiency or surplus is in issue.

(a) In an action arising from a transaction, other than a consumer transaction, in which the amount of a deficiency or surplus is in issue, the following rules apply:

(1) A secured party need not prove compliance with the provisions of this part relating to collection, enforcement, disposition or acceptance unless the debtor or a secondary obligor places the secured party's compliance in issue.

(2) If the secured party's compliance is placed in issue, the secured party has the burden of establishing that the collection, enforcement, disposition or acceptance was conducted in accordance with Sections 55-9-601 through 55-9-628 NMSA 1978.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in Section 55-9-628 NMSA 1978, if a secured party fails to prove that the collection, enforcement, disposition or acceptance was conducted in accordance with the provisions of Sections 55-9-601 through 55-9-628 NMSA 1978 relating to collection, enforcement, disposition or acceptance, the liability of a debtor or a secondary obligor for a deficiency is limited to an amount by which the sum of the secured obligation, expenses and attorney fees exceeds the greater of:

(A) the proceeds of the collection, enforcement, disposition or acceptance; or

(B) the amount of proceeds that would have been realized had the noncomplying secured party proceeded in accordance with the provisions of this part relating to collection, enforcement, disposition or acceptance.

(4) For purposes of Subparagraph (B) of Paragraph (3) of this subsection, the amount of proceeds that would have been realized is equal to the sum of the secured obligation, expenses and attorney's [attorney] fees unless the secured party proves that the amount is less than that sum.

(5) If a deficiency or surplus is calculated under Subsection (f) of Section 55-9-615 NMSA 1978, the debtor or obligor has the burden of establishing that the amount of proceeds of the disposition is significantly below the range of prices that a complying disposition to a person other than the secured party, a person related to the secured party or a secondary obligor would have brought.

(b) The limitation of the rules in Subsection (a) of this section to transactions other than consumer transactions is intended to leave to the court the determination of the proper rules in consumer transactions. The court may not infer from that limitation the nature of the proper rule in consumer transactions and may continue to apply established approaches.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-626, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 123.

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1. Source. New.

2. Scope. The basic damage remedy under section 9-625(b) is subject to the special rules in this section for transactions other than consumer transactions. This section addresses situations in which the amount of a deficiency or surplus is in issue, i.e., situations in which the secured party has collected, enforced, disposed of, or accepted the collateral. It contains special rules applicable to a determination of the amount of a deficiency or surplus. Because this section affects a person's liability for a deficiency, it is subject to section 9-628, which should be read in conjunction with section 9-605. The rules in this section apply only to noncompliance in connection with the "collection, enforcement, disposition, or acceptance" under part 6. For other types of noncompliance with part 6, the general liability rule of section 9-625(b) - recovery of actual damages - applies. Consider, for example, a repossession that does not comply with section 9-609 for want of a default. The debtor's remedy is under section 9-625(b). In a proper case, the secured party also may be liable for conversion under non-UCC law. If the secured party thereafter disposed of the collateral, however, it would violate section 9-610 at that time, and this section would apply.

3. Rebuttable Presumption Rule. Section 9-626 establishes the rebuttable presumption rule for transactions other than consumer transactions. Under paragraph (1), the secured party need not prove compliance with the relevant provisions of this part as part of its prima facie case. If, however, the debtor or a secondary obligor raises the issue (in accordance with the forum's rules of pleading and practice), then the secured party bears the burden of proving that the collection, enforcement, disposition, or acceptance complied. In the event the secured party is unable to meet this burden, then paragraph (3) explains how to calculate the deficiency. Under this rebuttable presumption rule, the debtor or obligor is to be credited with the greater of the actual proceeds of the disposition or the proceeds that would have been realized had the secured party complied with the relevant provisions. If a deficiency remains, then the secured party is entitled to recover it. The references to "the secured obligation, expenses, and attorney's [attorney] fees" in paragraphs (3) and (4) embrace the application rules in sections 9-608(a) and 9-615(a).

Unless the secured party proves that compliance with the relevant provisions would have yielded a smaller amount, under paragraph (4) the amount that a complying collection, enforcement, or disposition would have yielded is deemed to be equal to the amount of the secured obligation, together with expenses and attorney's [attorney] fees. Thus, the secured party may not recover any deficiency unless it meets this burden.

4. Consumer Transactions. Although section 9-626 adopts a version of the rebuttable presumption rule for transactions other than consumer transactions, with certain exceptions part 6 does not specify the effect of a secured party's noncompliance in consumer transactions. (The exceptions are the provisions for the recovery of damages in section 9-625.) Subsection (b) provides that the limitation of subsection (a) (section 9-626) to transactions other than consumer transactions is intended to leave to the court the determination of the proper rules in consumer transactions. It also instructs

the court not to draw any inference from the limitation as to the proper rules for consumer transactions and leaves the court free to continue to apply established approaches to those transactions.

Courts construing former section 9-507 disagreed about the consequences of a secured party's failure to comply with the requirements of former part 5. Three general approaches emerged. Some courts have held that a noncomplying secured party may not recover a deficiency (the "absolute bar" rule). A few courts held that the debtor can offset against a claim to a deficiency all damages recoverable under former section 9-507 resulting from the secured party's noncompliance (the "offset" rule). A plurality of courts considering the issue held that the noncomplying secured party is barred from recovering a deficiency unless it overcomes a rebuttable presumption that compliance with former part 5 would have yielded an amount sufficient to satisfy the secured debt. In addition to the nonuniformity resulting from court decisions, some states enacted special rules governing the availability of deficiencies.

5. Burden of Proof When Section 9-615(f) Applies. In a non-consumer transaction, paragraph (5) imposes upon a debtor or obligor the burden of proving that the proceeds of a disposition are so low that, under section 9-615(f), the actual proceeds should not serve as the basis upon which a deficiency or surplus is calculated. Were the burden placed on the secured party, then debtors might be encouraged to challenge the price received in every disposition to the secured party, a person related to the secured party, or a secondary obligor.

6. Delay in Applying This Section. There is an inevitable delay between the time a secured party engages in a noncomplying collection, enforcement, disposition, or acceptance and the time of a subsequent judicial determination that the secured party did not comply with part 6. During the interim, the secured party, believing that the secured obligation is larger than it ultimately is determined to be, may continue to enforce its security interest in collateral. If some or all of the secured indebtedness ultimately is discharged under this section, a reasonable application of this section would impose liability on the secured party for the amount of any excess, unwarranted recoveries but would not make the enforcement efforts wrongful.

ANNOTATIONS

Bracketed material. — The bracketed material in Subsection (a)(4) was inserted by the compiler and is not part of the law.

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-627. Determination of whether conduct was commercially reasonable.

(a) The fact that a greater amount could have been obtained by a collection, enforcement, disposition or acceptance at a different time or in a different method from

that selected by the secured party is not of itself sufficient to preclude the secured party from establishing that the collection, enforcement, disposition or acceptance was made in a commercially reasonable manner.

(b) A disposition of collateral is made in a commercially reasonable manner if the disposition is made:

(1) in the usual manner on any recognized market;

(2) at the price current in any recognized market at the time of the disposition; or

(3) otherwise in conformity with reasonable commercial practices among dealers in the type of property that was the subject of the disposition.

(c) A collection, enforcement, disposition or acceptance is commercially reasonable if it has been approved:

(1) in a judicial proceeding;

(2) by a bona fide creditors' committee;

(3) by a representative of creditors; or

(4) by an assignee for the benefit of creditors.

(d) Approval under Subsection (c) of this section need not be obtained, and lack of approval does not mean that the collection, enforcement, disposition or acceptance is not commercially reasonable.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-627, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 124.

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1. **Source.** Former section 9-507(2).

2. **Relationship of Price to Commercial Reasonableness.** Some observers have found the notion contained in subsection (a) (derived from former section 9-507(2)) (the fact that a better price could have been obtained does not establish lack of commercial reasonableness) to be inconsistent with that found in section 9-610(b) (derived from former section 9-504(3)) (every aspect of the disposition, including its terms, must be commercially reasonable). There is no such inconsistency. While not itself sufficient to establish a violation of this part, a low price suggests that a court should scrutinize

carefully all aspects of a disposition to ensure that each aspect was commercially reasonable.

The law long has grappled with the problem of dispositions of personal and real property which comply with applicable procedural requirements (e.g., advertising, notification to interested persons, etc.) but which yield a price that seems low. This article addresses that issue in section 9-615(f). That section applies only when the transferee is the secured party, a person related to the secured party, or a secondary obligor. It contains a special rule for calculating a deficiency or surplus in a complying disposition that yields a price that is "significantly below the range of proceeds that a complying disposition to a person other than the secured party, a person related to the secured party, or a secondary obligor would have brought."

3. **Determination of Commercial Reasonableness; Advance Approval.** It is important to make clear the conduct and procedures that are commercially reasonable and to provide a secured party with the means of obtaining, by court order or negotiation with a creditors' committee or a representative of creditors, advance approval of a proposed method of enforcement as commercially reasonable. This section contains rules that assist in that determination andprovides for advance approval in appropriate situations. However, none of the specific methods of disposition specified in subsection (b) is required or exclusive.

4. **"Recognized Market."** As in Sections 9-610(c) and 9-611(d), the concept of a "recognized market" in subsections (b)(1) and (2) is quite limited; it applies only to markets in which there are standardized price quotations for property that is essentially fungible, such as (but not limited to) securities and commodities exchanges. See Section 9-610, Comment 9 (discussing standards for a "recognized market").

ANNOTATIONS

Cross references. — For disposition of collateral, see 55-9-610 NMSA 1978.

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-628. Nonliability and limitation on liability of secured party; liability of secondary obligor.

(a) Subject to Subsection (f) of this section, unless a secured party knows that a person is a debtor or obligor, knows the identity of the person and knows how to communicate with the person:

(1) the secured party is not liable to the person, or to a secured party or lienholder that has filed a financing statement against the person, for failure to comply with Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978; and

(2) the secured party's failure to comply with Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 does not affect the liability of the person for a deficiency.

(b) Subject to Subsection (f) of this section, a secured party is not liable because of its status as secured party:

(1) to a person that is a debtor or obligor, unless the secured party knows:

(A) that the person is a debtor or obligor;

(B) the identity of the person; and

(C) how to communicate with the person; or

(2) to a secured party or lienholder that has filed a financing statement against a person, unless the secured party knows:

(A) that the person is a debtor; and

(B) the identity of the person.

(c) A secured party is not liable to any person, and a person's liability for a deficiency is not affected, because of any act or omission arising out of the secured party's reasonable belief that a transaction is not a consumer-goods transaction or a consumer transaction or that goods are not consumer goods, if the secured party's belief is based on its reasonable reliance on:

(1) a debtor's representation concerning the purpose for which collateral was to be used, acquired or held; or

(2) an obligor's representation concerning the purpose for which a secured obligation was incurred.

(d) A secured party is not liable to any person under Paragraph (2) of Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-625 NMSA 1978 for its failure to comply with Section 55-9-616 NMSA 1978.

(e) A secured party is not liable under Paragraph (2) of Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-625 NMSA 1978 more than once with respect to any one secured obligation.

(f) Subsections (a) and (b) of this section do not apply to limit the liability of a secured party to a person if, at the time the secured party obtains control of collateral that is a controllable account, controllable electronic record or controllable payment intangible or at the time the security interest attaches to the collateral, whichever is later:

(1) the person is a debtor or obligor; and

(2) the secured party knows that the information in Subparagraph (A), (B) or (C) of Paragraph (1) of Subsection (b) of this section relating to the person is not provided by the collateral, a record attached to or logically associated with the collateral or the system in which the collateral is recorded.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-628, enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 125; 2023, ch. 142, § 94.

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1. **Source.** New.

2. **Exculpatory Provisions.** With respect to subsection (f), see Section 9-605, Comments 2 and 3.

If a secured party reasonably, but mistakenly, believes that a consumer transaction or consumer-goods transaction is a nonconsumer transaction or nonconsumer-goods transaction, and if the secured party's belief is based on its reasonable reliance on a representation of the type specified in subsection (c)(1) or (c)(2), then this article should be applied as if the facts reasonably believed and the representation reasonably relied upon were true. For example, if a secured party reasonably believed that a transaction was a nonconsumer transaction and its belief was based on reasonable reliance on the debtor's representation that the collateral secured an obligation incurred for business purposes, the secured party is not liable to any person, and the debtor's liability for a deficiency is not affected, because of any act or omission of the secured party which arises out of the reasonable belief. Of course, if the secured party's belief is not reasonable or, even if reasonable, is not based on reasonable reliance on the debtor's representation, this limitation on liability is inapplicable.

3. **Inapplicability of Statutory Damages to Section 9-616.** Subsection (d) excludes noncompliance with section 9-616 entirely from the scope of statutory damage liability under section 9-625(c)(2).

4. **Single Liability for Statutory Minimum Damages.** Subsection (e) ensures that a secured party will incur statutory damages only once in connection with any one secured obligation.

ANNOTATIONS

The 2023 amendment, effective January 1, 2024, added a provision clarifying the limitation of liability of a secured party in certain circumstances; in Subsections (a) and

(b), in the introductory clause, added "Subject to Subsection (f) of this section"; and added Subsection (f).

PART 7
TRANSITION

55-9-701. Effective date.

The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2001.

History: Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155.

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A uniform law as complex as article 9 necessarily gives rise to difficult problems and uncertainties during the transition to the new law. As is customary for uniform laws, this article is based on the general assumption that all states will have enacted substantially identical versions. While always important, uniformity is essential to the success of this article. If former article 9 is in effect in some jurisdictions, and this article is in effect in others, horrendous complications may arise. For example, the proper place in which to file to perfect a security interest (and thus the status of a particular security interest as perfected or unperfected) would depend on whether the matter was litigated in a state in which former article 9 was in effect or a state in which this article was in effect. Accordingly, this section contemplates that states will adopt a uniform effective date for this article. Any one state's failure to adopt the uniform effective date will greatly increase the cost and uncertainty surrounding the transition.

Other problems arise from transactions and relationships that were entered into under former article 9 or under non-UCC law and which remain outstanding on the effective date of this article (July 1, 2001). The difficulties arise primarily because this article expands the scope of former article 9 to cover additional types of collateral and transactions and because it provides new methods of perfection for some types of collateral, different priority rules, and different choice of law rules governing perfection and priority. This section and the other sections in this part address primarily this second set of problems.

ANNOTATIONS

Meaning of "this act". — The words "this act" means Laws 2001, ch. 139 which is codified as 55-1-105 NMSA 1978, 55-1-201 NMSA 1978, 55-2-103 NMSA 1978, 55-2-210 NMSA 1978, 55-2-326 NMSA 1978, 55-2-502 NMSA 1978, 55-2-716 NMSA 1978, 55-2A-103 NMSA 1978, 55-2A-303 NMSA 1978, 55-2A-307 NMSA 1978, 55-2A-309

NMSA 1978, 55-4-210 NMSA 1978, 55-5-118 NMSA 1978, 55-7-503 NMSA 1978, 55-8-103 NMSA 1978, 55-8-106 NMSA 1978, 55-8-110 NMSA 1978, 55-8-301 NMSA 1978, 55-8-302 NMSA 1978 and Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978

55-9-702. Saving clause.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Sections 146 through 155 [55-9-701 to 55-9-710 NMSA 1978] of this act, its provisions apply to a transaction or lien within its scope, even if the transaction or lien was entered into or created before July 1, 2001.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (c) of this section and Sections 147 through 153 [55-9-703 to 55-9-709 NMSA 1978] of this act:

(1) transactions and liens that were not governed by Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, as it existed prior to July 1, 2001, were validly entered into or created before that date and would be subject to this act if they had been entered into or created after July 1, 2001, and the rights, duties and interests flowing from those transactions and liens remain valid after July 1, 2001; and

(2) the transactions and liens described in Paragraph (1) of this subsection may be terminated, completed, consummated and enforced as required or permitted by this act or by the law that otherwise would apply if this act had not taken effect.

(c) This act does not affect an action, case or proceeding commenced before July 1, 2001.

History: Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 146.

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1. Pre-July 1, 2001, Transactions. Subsection (a) contains the general rule that this article applies to transactions, security interests, and other liens within its scope (see section 9-109), even if the transaction or lien was entered into or created before July 1, 2001. Thus, secured transactions entered into under former article 9 must be terminated, completed, consummated, and enforced under this article. Subsection (b) is an exception to the general rule. It applies to valid, pre-July 1, 2001, transactions and liens that were not governed by former article 9 but would be governed by this article if they had been entered into or created on or after July 1, 2001. Under subsection (b), these valid transactions, such as the creation of agricultural liens and security interests in commercial tort claims, retain their validity under this article and may be terminated, completed, consummated, and enforced under this article. However, these transactions also may be terminated, completed, consummated, and enforced by the law that otherwise would apply had this article not taken effect.

2. Judicial Proceedings Commenced Before July 1, 2001. As is usual in transition provisions, subsection (c) provides that this article does not affect litigation pending on the July 1, 2001, date.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the Uniform Commercial Code - Secured Transactions Act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-703. Temporary transition provision; security interest perfected before effective date.

(a) A security interest that is enforceable immediately before July 1, 2001 and would have priority over the rights of a person that becomes a lien creditor at that time is a perfected security interest under this act if, on July 1, 2001, the applicable requirements for enforceability and perfection under this act are satisfied without further action.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Section 149 [55-9-705 NMSA 1978] of this act, if, immediately before July 1, 2001, a security interest is enforceable and would have priority over the rights of a person that becomes a lien creditor at that time, but the applicable requirements for enforceability or perfection under this act are not satisfied on July 1, 2001, the security interest:

(1) is a perfected security interest until midnight on June 30, 2002;

(2) remains enforceable on and after July 1, 2002 only if the security interest becomes enforceable pursuant to Section 55-9-203 NMSA 1978 before midnight on June 30, 2002; and

(3) remains perfected on and after July 1, 2002 only if the applicable requirements for perfection under this act are satisfied before midnight on June 30, 2002.

History: Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 147.

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1. Perfected Security Interests Under Former Article 9 and This Article. This section deals with security interests that are perfected (i.e., that are enforceable and have priority over the rights of a lien creditor) under former article 9 or other applicable law immediately before this article takes effect. Subsection (a) provides, not surprisingly, that if the security interest would be a perfected security interest under this article (i.e., if the transaction satisfies this article's requirements for enforceability (attachment) and

perfection), no further action need be taken for the security interest to be a perfected security interest.

2. Security Interests Enforceable and Perfected Under Former Article 9 but Unenforceable or Unperfected Under This Article. Subsection (b) deals with security interests that are enforceable and perfected under former article 9 or other applicable law immediately before July 1, 2001, but do not satisfy the requirements for enforceability (attachment) or perfection under this article. Except as otherwise provided in section 9-705, these security interests are perfected security interests for one year after July 1, 2001. If the security interest satisfies the requirements for attachment and perfection within that period, the security interest remains perfected thereafter. If the security interest satisfies only the requirements for attachment within that period, the security interest becomes unperfected at the end of the one-year period.

Example 1: A pre-July 1, 2001, security agreement in a consumer transaction covers "all securities accounts." The security interest is properly perfected. The collateral description was adequate under former article 9 (see former section 9-115(3)) but is insufficient under this article (*see* section 9-108(e)(2)). Unless the debtor authenticates a new security agreement describing the collateral other than by "type" (or section 9-203(b)(3) otherwise is satisfied) within the one-year period following July 1, 2001, the security interest becomes unenforceable at the end of that period.

Other examples under former article 9 or other applicable law that may be effective as attachment or enforceability steps but may be ineffective under this article include an oral agreement to sell a payment intangible or possession by virtue of a notification to a bailee under former section 9-305. Neither the oral agreement nor the notification would satisfy the revised section 9-203 requirements for attachment.

Example 2: A pre-July 1, 2001, possessory security interest in instruments is perfected by a bailee's receipt of notification under former section 9-305. The bailee has not, however, acknowledged that it holds for the secured party's benefit under revised section 9-313. Unless the bailee authenticates a record acknowledging that it holds for the secured party (or another appropriate perfection step is taken) within the one-year period following July 1, 2001, the security interest becomes unperfected at the end of that period.

3. Interpretation of Pre-July 1, 2001, Security Agreements. Section 9-102 defines "security agreement" as "an agreement that creates or provides for a security interest." Under section 1-201(3), an "agreement" is a "bargain of the parties in fact." If parties to a pre-July 1, 2001, security agreement describe the collateral by using a term defined in former article 9 in one way and defined in this article in another way, in most cases it should be presumed that the bargain of the parties contemplated the meaning of the term under former article 9.

Example 3: A pre-July 1, 2001, security agreement covers "all accounts" of a debtor. As defined under former article 9, an "account" did not include a right to payment for lottery

winnings. These rights to payment are "accounts" under this article, however. The agreement of the parties presumptively created a security interest in "accounts" as defined in former article 9. A different result might be appropriate, for example, if the security agreement explicitly contemplated future changes in the article 9 definitions of types of collateral - e.g., "'Accounts' means 'accounts' as defined in the UCC article 9 of (State X), as that definition may be amended from time to time." Whether a different approach is appropriate in any given case depends on the bargain of the parties, as determined by applying ordinary principles of contract construction.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the Uniform Commercial Code - Secured Transactions Act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-704. Temporary transition provision; security interest unperfected before effective date.

A security interest that is enforceable immediately before July 1, 2001, but which would be subordinate to the rights of a person that becomes a lien creditor at that time:

(1) remains an enforceable security interest until midnight June 30, 2002;

(2) remains enforceable on and after July 1, 2002 if the security interest becomes enforceable pursuant to Section 55-9-203 NMSA 1978 before June 30, 2002; and

(3) becomes perfected:

(A) without further action on July 1, 2002 if the applicable requirements for perfection under this act are satisfied before or at that time; or

(B) when the applicable requirements for perfection are satisfied if the requirements are satisfied after the time specified in Paragraph (A) of this subsection.

History: Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 148.

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This section deals with security interests that are enforceable but unperfected (i.e., subordinate to the rights of a person who becomes a lien creditor) under former article 9 or other applicable law immediately before July 1, 2001. These security interests remain enforceable for one year after July 1, 2001, and thereafter if the appropriate steps for attachment under this article are taken before the one-year period expires. (This section's treatment of enforceability is the same as that of section 9-703.) The security

interest becomes a perfected security interest on July 1, 2001, if, at that time, the security interest satisfies the requirements for perfection under this article. If the security interest does not satisfy the requirements for perfection until sometime thereafter, it becomes a perfected security interest at that later time.

Example: A security interest has attached under former article 9 but is unperfected because the filed financing statement covers "all of debtor's personal property" and controlling case law in the applicable jurisdiction has determined that this identification of collateral in a financing statement is insufficient. On July 1, 2001, the financing statement becomes sufficient under section 9-504(2). On that date the security interest becomes perfected. (This assumes, of course, that the financing statement is filed in the proper filing office under this article.)

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the Uniform Commercial Code - Secured Transactions Act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-705. Temporary transition provision; effectiveness of action taken before effective date.

(a) If action, other than the filing of a financing statement, is taken before July 1, 2001, and if the action would have resulted in priority of a security interest over the rights of a person that becomes a lien creditor had the security interest become enforceable before that date, the action is effective to perfect a security interest that attaches under this act before July 1, 2002. An attached security interest becomes unperfected on July 1, 2002 unless the security interest becomes a perfected security interest under this act before that date.

(b) The filing of a financing statement before July 1, 2001 is effective to perfect a security interest to the extent the filing would satisfy the applicable requirements for perfection under this act.

(c) This act does not render ineffective an effective financing statement that, before July 1, 2001, is filed and satisfies the applicable requirements for perfection under the law of the jurisdiction governing perfection as provided in Section 55-9-103 NMSA 1978 as it existed prior to July 1, 2001. However, except as otherwise provided in Subsections (d) and (e) of this section and Section 150 [55-9-706 NMSA 1978] of this act, the financing statement ceases to be effective at the earlier of:

(1) the time the financing statement would have ceased to be effective under the law of the jurisdiction in which it is filed; or

(2) June 30, 2006.

(d) Filing of a continuation statement after July 1, 2001 does not continue the effectiveness of a financing statement filed before that date. However, upon the timely filing of a continuation statement on or after July 1, 2001 and in accordance with the law of the jurisdiction governing perfection as provided in Sections 55-9-301 through 55-9-342 NMSA 1978, the effectiveness of a financing statement filed in the same office in that jurisdiction before July 1, 2001 continues for the period provided by the law of that jurisdiction.

(e) Paragraph (2) of Subsection (c) of this section applies to a financing statement that, before July 1, 2001, is filed against a transmitting utility and satisfies the applicable requirements for perfection under the law of the jurisdiction governing perfection as provided in Section 55-9-103 NMSA 1978 as that section existed prior to July 1, 2001 only to the extent that Sections 55-9-301 through 55-9-342 NMSA 1978 provide that the law of a jurisdiction other than the jurisdiction in which the financing statement is filed governs perfection of a security interest in collateral covered by the financing statement.

(f) A financing statement that includes a financing statement filed before July 1, 2001 and a continuation statement filed after that date is effective only to the extent that it satisfies the requirements of Sections 55-9-501 through 55-9-518 NMSA 1978 for an initial financing statement.

History: Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 149.

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1. General. This section addresses primarily the situation in which the perfection step is taken under former article 9 or other applicable law before July 1, 2001, but the security interest does not attach until after that date.

2. Perfection Other Than by Filing. Subsection (a) applies when the perfection step is a step other than the filing of a financing statement. If the step that would be a valid perfection step under former article 9 or other law is taken before July 1, 2001, and if a security interest attaches within one year after July 1, 2001, then the security interest becomes a perfected security interest upon attachment. However, the security interest becomes unperfected one year after July 1, 2001, unless the requirements for attachment and perfection under this article are satisfied within that period.

3. Perfection by Filing: Ineffective Filings Made Effective. Subsection (b) deals with financing statements that were filed under former article 9 and which would not have perfected a security interest under the former article (because, e.g., they did not accurately describe the collateral or were filed in the wrong place), but which would perfect a security interest under this article. Under subsection (b), such a financing statement is effective to perfect a security interest to the extent it complies with this

article. Subsection (b) applies regardless of the reason for the filing. For example, a secured party need not wait until July 1, 2001, to respond to the change this article makes with respect to the jurisdiction whose law governs perfection of certain security interests. Rather, a secured party may wish to prepare for this change by filing a financing statement before July 1, 2001, in the jurisdiction whose law governs perfection under this article. On July 1, 2001, the filing becomes effective to perfect a security interest (assuming the filing satisfies the perfection requirements of this article). Note, however, that section 9-706 determines whether a financing statement filed before July 1, 2001, operates to continue the effectiveness of a financing statement filed in another office before July 1, 2001.

4. Perfection by Filing: Change in Applicable Law or Filing Office. Subsection (c) provides that a financing statement filed in the proper jurisdiction under former section 9-103 remains effective for all purposes, despite the fact that this article would require filing of a financing statement in a different jurisdiction or in a different office in the same jurisdiction. This means that, during the early years of this article's effectiveness, it may be necessary to search not only in the filing office of the jurisdiction whose law governs perfection under this article but also (if different) in the jurisdiction(s) and filing office(s) designated by former article 9. To limit this burden, subsection (c) provides that a financing statement filed in the jurisdiction determined by former section 9-103 becomes ineffective at the earlier of the time it would become ineffective under the law of that jurisdiction or June 30, 2006. The June 30, 2006, limitation addresses some nonuniform versions of former article 9 that extended the effectiveness of a financing statement beyond five years. Note that a financing statement filed before July 1, 2001, may remain effective beyond June 30, 2006, if subsection (d) (concerning continuation statements) or (e) (concerning transmitting utilities) or section 9-706 (concerning initial financing statements that operate to continue pre-effective-date financing statements) so provides.

Subsection (c) is an exception to section 9-703(b). Under the general rule in section 9-703(b), a security interest that is enforceable and perfected on July 1, 2001, is a perfected security interest for one year after this article takes effect, even if the security interest is not enforceable under this article and the applicable requirements for perfection under this article have not been met. However, in some cases subsection (c) may shorten the one-year period of perfection; in others, if the security interest is enforceable under section 9-203, it may extend the period of perfection.

Example 1: On July 3, 1996, D, a State X corporation, creates a security interest in certain manufacturing equipment located in State Y. On July 6, 1996, SP perfects a security interest in the equipment under former article 9 by filing in the office of the State Y Secretary of State. *See* former section 9-103(1)(b). This article takes effect in States X and Y on July 1, 2001. Under section 9-705(c), the financing statement remains effective until it lapses in July, 2001. *See* former section 9-403. Had SP continued the effectiveness of the financing statement by filing a continuation statement in State Y under former article 9 before July 1, 2001, the financing statement would have remained effective to perfect the security interest through June 30, 2006. *See* subsection (c)(2).

Alternatively, SP could have filed an initial financing statement in State X under subsection (b) or section 9-706 before the State Y financing statement lapsed. Had SP done so, the security interest would have remained perfected without interruption until the State X financing statement lapsed.

5. Continuing Effectiveness of Filed Financing Statement. A financing statement filed before July 1, 2001, may be continued only by filing in the state and office designated by this article. This result is accomplished in the following manner: Subsection (d) indicates that, as a general matter, a continuation statement filed on or after July 1, 2001, does not continue the effectiveness of a financing statement filed under the law designated by former section 9-103. Instead, an initial financing statement must be filed under section 9-706. The second sentence of subsection (d) contains an exception to the general rule. It provides that a continuation statement is effective to continue the effectiveness of a financing statement filed before July 1, 2001, if this article prescribes not only the same jurisdiction but also the same filing office.

Example 2: On November 8, 2000, D, a State X corporation, creates a security interest in certain manufacturing equipment located in State Y. On November 15, 2000, SP perfects a security interest in the equipment under former article 9 by filing in the office of the State Y Secretary of State. *See* former section 9-103(1)(b). This article takes effect in States X and Y on July 1, 2001. Under section 9-705(c), the financing statement ceases to be effective in November, 2005, when it lapses. *See* section 9-515. Under this article, the law of D's location (State X, *see* section 9-307) governs perfection. *See* section 9-301. Thus, the filing of a continuation statement in State Y on or after July 1, 2001, would not continue the effectiveness of the financing statement. *See* subsection (d). However, the effectiveness of the financing statement could be continued under section 9-706.

Example 3: The facts are as in Example 2, except that D is a State Y corporation. Assume State Y adopted former section 9-401(1) (second alternative). State Y law governs perfection under part 3 of this article. (*See* sections 9-301 and 9-307.) Under the second sentence of subsection (d), the timely filing of a continuation statement in accordance with the law of State Y continues the effectiveness of the financing statement.

Example 4: The facts are as in Example 3, except that the collateral is equipment used in farming operations and, in accordance with former section 9-401(1) (second alternative) as enacted in State Y, the financing statement was filed in State Y, in the office of the Shelby County Recorder of Deeds. Under this article, a continuation statement must be filed in the office of the State Y Secretary of State. *See* section 9-501(a)(2). Under the second sentence of subsection (d), the timely filing of a continuation statement in accordance with the law of State Y operates to continue a pre-July 1, 2001, financing statement only if the continuation statement is filed in the same office as the financing statement. Accordingly, the continuation statement is not effective in this case, but the financing statement may be continued under section 9-706.

Example 5: The facts are as in Example 3, except that State Y enacted former section 9-401(1) (third alternative). As required by former section 9-401(1), SP filed financing statements in both the office of the State Y Secretary of State and the office of the Shelby County Recorder of Deeds. Under this article, a continuation statement must be filed in the office of the State Y Secretary of State. *See* section 9-501(a)(2). The timely filing of a continuation statement in that office on or after July 1, 2001, would be effective to continue the effectiveness of the financing statement (and thus continue the perfection of the security interest), even if the financing statement filed with the county recorder lapses.

6. Continuation Statements. In some cases, this article reclassifies collateral covered by a financing statement filed under former article 9. For example, collateral consisting of the right to payment for real property sold would be a "general intangible" under the former article but an "account" under this article. To continue perfection under those circumstances, a continuation statement must comply with the normal requirements for a continuation statement. *See* section 9-515. In addition, the pre-July 1, 2001, financing statement and continuation statement, taken together, must satisfy the requirements of this article concerning the sufficiency of the debtor's name, secured party's name, and indication of collateral. *See* subsection (f).

Example 6: A pre-July 1, 2001, financing statement covers "all general intangibles" of a debtor. As defined under former article 9, a "general intangible," would include rights to payment for lottery winnings. These rights to payment are "accounts" under this article, however. An on or after July 1, 2001, continuation statement will not continue the effectiveness of the pre-July 1, 2001, financing statement with respect to lottery winnings unless it amends the indication of collateral covered to include lottery winnings (e.g., by adding "accounts," "rights to payment for lottery winnings," or the like). If the continuation statement does not amend the indication of collateral, the continuation statement will be effective to continue the effectiveness of the financing statement only with respect to "general intangibles" as defined in this article.

Example 7: The facts are as in Example 6, except that the pre-July 1, 2001, financing statement covers "all accounts and general intangibles." Even though rights to payment for lottery winnings are "general intangibles" under former article 9 and "accounts" under this article, an on or after July 1, 2001, continuation statement would continue the effectiveness of the pre-July 1, 2001, financing statement with respect to lottery winnings. There would be no need to amend the indication of collateral covered, inasmuch as the indication ("accounts") satisfies the requirements of this article.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the Uniform Commercial Code - Secured Transactions Act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-706. Temporary transition provision; when initial financing statement suffices to continue effectiveness of financing statement.

(a) The filing of an initial financing statement in the office specified in Section 55-9-501 NMSA 1978 continues the effectiveness of a financing statement filed before July 1, 2001 if:

(1) the filing of an initial financing statement in that office would be effective to perfect a security interest under this act;

(2) the pre-effective-date financing statement was filed in an office in another state or another office in this state; and

(3) the initial financing statement satisfies Subsection (c) of this section.

(b) The filing of an initial financing statement under Subsection (a) of this section continues the effectiveness of the pre-effective-date financing statement:

(1) if the initial financing statement is filed before July 1, 2001, for the period provided in Section 55-9-403 NMSA 1978 as it existed prior to July 1, 2001, with respect to a financing statement; and

(2) if the initial financing statement is filed after July 1, 2001, for the period provided in Section 55-9-515 NMSA 1978 with respect to an initial financing statement.

(c) To be effective for purposes of Subsection (a) of this section, an initial financing statement must:

(1) satisfy the requirements of Sections 55-9-501 through 55-9-526 NMSA 1978 for an initial financing statement;

(2) identify the pre-effective-date financing statement by indicating the office in which the financing statement was filed and providing the dates of filing and file numbers, if any, of the financing statement and of the most recent continuation statement filed with respect to the financing statement; and

(3) indicate that the pre-effective-date financing statement remains effective.

History: Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 150.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS

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1. Continuation of Financing Statements Not Filed in Proper Filing Office Under This Article. This section deals with continuing the effectiveness of financing statements that are filed in the proper state and office under former article 9, but which would be filed in the wrong state or in the wrong office of the proper state under this article. Section 9-705(d) provides that, under these circumstances, filing a continuation statement after the effective date of this article in the office designated by former article 9 would not be effective. This section provides the means by which the effectiveness of such a financing statement can be continued if this article governs perfection under the applicable choice of law rule: Filing an initial financing statement in the office specified by section 9-501.

Although it has the effect of continuing the effectiveness of a pre-July 1, 2001, financing statement, an initial financing statement described in this section is not a continuation statement. Rather, it is governed by the rules applicable to initial financing statements. (However, the debtor need not authorize the filing. *See* section 9-707.) Unlike a continuation statement, the initial financing statement described in this section may be filed any time during the effectiveness of the pre-July 1, 2001, financing statement - even before this article is enacted - and not only within the six months immediately prior to lapse. In contrast to a continuation statement, which extends the lapse date of a filed financing statement for five years, the initial financing statement has its own lapse date, which bears no relation to the lapse date of the pre-July 1, 2001, financing statement whose effectiveness the initial financing statement continues. *See* subsection (b).

As subsection (a) makes clear, the filing of an initial financing statement under this section continues the effectiveness of a pre-July 1, 2001, financing statement. If the effectiveness of a pre-July 1, 2001, financing statement lapses before the initial financing statement is filed, the effectiveness of the pre-July 1, 2001, financing statement cannot be continued. Rather, unless the security interest is perfected otherwise, there will be a period during which the security interest is unperfected before becoming perfected again by the filing of the initial financing statement under this section.

If an initial financing statement is filed under this section before July 1, 2001, it takes effect on July 1, 2001, (assuming that it is ineffective under former article 9). Note, however, that former article 9 determines whether the filing office is obligated to accept such an initial financing statement. For the reason given in the preceding paragraph, an initial financing statement filed before July 1, 2001, does not continue the effectiveness of a pre-July 1, 2001, financing statement unless the latter remains effective on July 1, 2001. Thus, for example, if the effectiveness of the pre-July 1, 2001, financing statement lapses before July 1, 2001, the initial financing statement would not continue its effectiveness.

2. Requirements of Initial Financing Statement Filed in Lieu of Continuation Statement. Subsection (c) sets forth the requirements for the initial financing statement under subsection (a). These requirements are needed to inform searchers that the initial financing statement operates to continue a financing statement filed elsewhere and to

enable searchers to locate and discover the attributes of the other financing statement. The notice-filing policy of this Article applies to the initial financing statements described in this section. Accordingly, an initial financing statement that substantially satisfies the requirements of subsection (c) is effective, even if it has minor errors or omissions, unless the errors or omissions make the financing statement seriously misleading. *See* Section 9-506 [55-9-506 NMSA 1978].

A single initial financing statement may continue the effectiveness of more than one financing statement filed before this Article's effective date. *See* Section 1-106 [55-1-106 NMSA 1978] (words in the singular include the plural). If a financing statement has been filed in more than one office in a given jurisdiction, as may be the case if the jurisdiction had adopted former Section 9-401(1) [55-9-401(1) NMSA 1978], third alternative, then an identification of the filing in the central filing office suffices for purposes of subsection (c)(2). If under this Article the collateral is of a type different from its type under former Article 9 – as would be the case, e.g., with a right to payment of lottery winnings (a "general intangible" under former Article 9 and an "account" under this Article), then subsection (c) requires that the initial financing statement indicate the type under this Article.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the Uniform Commercial Code - Secured Transactions Act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-707. Temporary transition provision; amendment of pre-effective-date financing statement.

(a) In this section, "pre-effective-date financing statement" means a financing statement filed before July 1, 2001.

(b) After July 1, 2001, a person may add or delete collateral covered by, continue or terminate the effectiveness of, or otherwise amend the information provided in, a pre-effective-date financing statement only in accordance with the law of the jurisdiction governing perfection as provided in Sections 55-9-301 through 55-9-338 NMSA 1978. However, the effectiveness of a pre-effective-date financing statement also may be terminated in accordance with the law of the jurisdiction in which the financing statement is filed.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (d) of this section if the law of this state governs perfection of a security interest, the information in a pre-effective-date financing statement may be amended after July 1, 2001 only if:

(1) the pre-effective-date financing statement and an amendment are filed in the office specified in Section 55-9-501 NMSA 1978;

(2) an amendment is filed in the office specified in Section 55-9-501 NMSA 1978 concurrently with, or after the filing in that office of, an initial financing statement that satisfies Subsection (c) of Section 149 [55-9-705 NMSA 1978] of this act; or

(3) an initial financing statement that provides the information as amended and satisfies Subsection (c) of Section 149 [55-9-705 NMSA 1978] of this act is filed in the office specified in Section 55-9-501 NMSA 1978.

(d) If the law of this state governs perfection of a security interest, the effectiveness of a pre-effective-date financing statement may be continued only under Subsections (d) and (f) of Section 148 [55-9-704 NMSA 1978] of this act or Section 149 [55-9-705 NMSA 1978] of this act.

(e) Whether or not the law of this state governs perfection of a security interest, the effectiveness of a pre-effective-date financing statement filed in this state may be terminated after July 1, 2001 by filing a termination statement in the office in which the pre-effective-date financing statement is filed, unless an initial financing statement that satisfies Subsection (c) of Section 149 of this act has been filed in the office specified by the law of the jurisdiction governing perfection as provided in Sections 55-9-301 through 55-9-342 NMSA 1978 as the office in which to file a financing statement.

History: Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 151.

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1. Scope of This Section. This section addresses post-operative-date amendments to pre-operative-date financing statements.

2. Applicable Law. Determining how to amend a pre-operative-date financing statement requires one first to determine the jurisdiction whose law applies. Subsection (b) provides that, as a general matter, post-operative-date amendments to pre-operative-date financing statements are effective only if they are accomplished in accordance with the substantive (or local) law of the jurisdiction governing perfection under part 3 of this article. However, under certain circumstances, the effectiveness of a financing statement may be terminated in accordance with the substantive law of the jurisdiction in which the financing statement is filed. *See* comment 5, below.

Example 1: D is a corporation organized under the law of State Y. It owns equipment located in State X. Under former article 9, SP properly perfected a security interest in the equipment by filing a financing statement in State X. Under this article, the law of State Y governs perfection of the security interest. See sections 9-301, 9-307. After this article becomes operative, SP wishes to amend the financing statement to reflect a change in D's name. Under subsection (b), the financing statement may be amended in

accordance with the law of State Y, i.e., in accordance with subsection (c) as enacted in State Y.

Example 2: The facts are as in Example 1, except that SP wishes to terminate the effectiveness of the State X filing. The first sentence of subsection (b) provides that the financing statement may be terminated after the operative date of this article in accordance with the law of State Y, i.e., in accordance with subsection (c) as enacted in State Y. However, the second sentence provides that the financing statement also may be terminated in accordance with the law of jurisdiction in which it is filed, i.e., in accordance with subsection (e) as enacted in State X. If the pre-operative-date financing statement is filed in the jurisdiction whose law governs perfection (here, State Y), then both sentences would designate the law of State Y as applicable to the termination of the financing statement. That is, the financing statement could be terminated in accordance with subsection (c) or (e) as enacted in State Y.

3. Method of Amending. Subsection (c) provides three methods of effectuating a post-operative-date amendment to a pre-operative-date financing statement. Under subsection (c)(1), if the financing statement is filed in the jurisdiction and office determined by this article, then an effective amendment may be filed in the same office.

Example 3: D is a corporation organized under the law of State Z. It owns equipment located in State Z. Before the operative date of this article, SP perfected a security interest in the equipment by filing in two offices in State Z, a local filing office and the office of the Secretary of State. *See* former section 9-401(1) (third alternative). State Z enacts this article and specifies in section 9-501 that a financing statement covering equipment is to be filed in the office of the Secretary of State. SP wishes to assign its power as secured party of record. Under subsection (b), the substantive law of State Z applies. Because the pre-operative-date financing statement is filed in the office specified in subsection (c)(1) as enacted by State Z, SP may effectuate the assignment by filing an amendment under section 9-514 with the office of the Secretary of State. SP need not amend the local filing, and the priority of the security interest perfected by the filing of the financing statement would not be affected by the failure to amend the local filing.

If a pre-operative-date financing statement is filed in an office other than the one specified by section 9-501 of the relevant jurisdiction, then ordinarily an amendment filed in that office is ineffective. (Subsection (e) provides an exception for termination statements.) Rather, the amendment must be effectuated by a filing in the jurisdiction and office determined by this article. That filing may consist of an initial financing statement followed by an amendment, an initial financing statement together with an amendment, or an initial financing statement that indicates the information provided in the financing statement, as amended. Subsection (c)(2) encompasses the first two options; subsection (c)(3) contemplates the last. In each instance, the initial financing statement must satisfy section 9-706(c).

4. Continuation. Subsection (d) refers to the two methods by which a secured party may continue the effectiveness of a pre-operative-date financing statement under this part. The comments to sections 9-705 and 9-706 explain these methods.

5. Termination. The effectiveness of a pre-operative-date financing statement may be terminated pursuant to subsection (c). This section also provides an alternative method for accomplishing this result: Filing a termination statement in the office in which the financing statement is filed. The alternative method becomes unavailable once an initial financing statement that relates to the pre-operative-date financing statement and satisfies section 9-706(c) is filed in the jurisdiction and office determined by this article.

Example 4: The facts are as in Example 1, except that SP wishes to terminate a financing statement filed in State X. As explained in Example 1, the financing statement may be amended in accordance with the law of jurisdiction governing perfection under this article, i.e., in accordance with the substantive law of State Y. As enacted in State Y, subsection (c)(1) is inapplicable because the financing statement was not filed in the State Y filing office specified in section 9-501. Under subsection (c)(2), the financing statement may be amended by filing in the State Y filing office either an initial financing statement followed by a termination statement or an initial financing statement together with a termination statement. (The financing statement also may be amended under subsection (c)(3), but the resulting initial financing statement is likely to be very confusing.) In each instance, the initial financing statement must satisfy section 9-706(c). Applying the law of State Y, subsection (e) is inapplicable, because the financing statement was not filed in "this state," i.e., State Y.

This section affords another option to SP. Subsection (b) provides that the effectiveness of a financing statement may be terminated either in accordance with the law of the jurisdiction governing perfection (here, State Y) or in accordance with the substantive law of the jurisdiction in which the financing statement is filed (here, State X). Applying the law of State X, the financing statement is filed in "this state," i.e., State X, and subsection (e) applies. Accordingly, the effectiveness of the financing statement can be terminated by filing a termination statement in the State X office in which the financing statement is filed, unless an initial financing statement that relates to the financing statement and satisfies section 9-706(c) as enacted in State X has been filed in the jurisdiction and office determined by this article (here, the State Y filing office).

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the Uniform Commercial Code - Secured Transactions Act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-708. Temporary transition provision; persons entitled to file initial financing statement or continuation statement.

A person may file an initial financing statement or a continuation statement under Sections 145 through 152 of this act if:

(1) the secured party of record authorizes the filing; and

(2) the filing is necessary under Sections 145 through 153 of this act:

(A) to continue the effectiveness of a financing statement filed before July 1, 2001; or

(B) to perfect or continue the perfection of a security interest.

History: Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 152.

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This section permits a secured party to file an initial financing statement or continuation statement necessary under this part to continue the effectiveness of a financing statement filed before July 1, 2001, or to perfect or otherwise continue the perfection of a security interest. Because a filing described in this section typically operates to continue the effectiveness of a financing statement whose filing the debtor already has authorized, this section does not require authorization from the debtor.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the Uniform Commercial Code - Secured Transactions Act effective July 1, 2001.

Compiler's notes. — The references to Sections 145 through 152 of this act and 145 through 153 of this act, should apparently refer to Laws 2001, ch. 139, Sections 146 through 152 [55-9-702 through 55-9-708 NMSA 1978] and 146 through 153 [55-9-702 through 55-9-709 NMSA 1978]. Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 145 is codified at 55-8-510 NMSA 1978.

55-9-709. Temporary transition provision; priority.

(a) This act determines the priority of conflicting claims to collateral. However, if the relative priorities of the claims were established before July 1, 2001, Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 as it existed before that date determines priority.

(b) For purposes of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-322 NMSA 1978, the priority of a security interest that becomes enforceable under Section 55-9-203 NMSA 1978 dates from July 1, 2001 if the security interest is perfected under this act by the filing of a financing statement before that date which would not have been effective to perfect the security interest under Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 as it existed before July 1,

2001. This subsection does not apply to conflicting security interests, each of which is perfected by the filing of such a financing statement.

History: Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 153.

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1. Law Governing Priority. Ordinarily, this article determines the priority of conflicting claims to collateral. However, when the relative priorities of the claims were established before July 1, 2001, former article 9 governs.

Example 1: In 1999, SP-1 obtains a security interest in a right to payment for goods sold ("account"). SP-1 fails to file a financing statement. This article takes effect on July 1, 2001. Thereafter, on August 1, 2001, D creates a security interest in the same account in favor of SP-2, who files a financing statement. This article determines the relative priorities of the claims. SP-2's security interest has priority under section 9-322(a)(1).

Example 2: In 1999, SP-1 obtains a security interest in a right to payment for goods sold ("account"). SP-1 fails to file a financing statement. In 2000, D creates a security interest in the same account in favor of SP-2, who likewise fails to file a financing statement. This article takes effect on July 1, 2001. Because the relative priorities of the security interests were established before the effective date of this article, former article 9 governs priority, and SP-1's security interest has priority under former section 9-312(5)(b).

Example 3: The facts are as in Example 2, except that, on August 1, 2001, SP-2 files a proper financing statement under this article. Until August 1, 2001, the relative priorities of the security interests were established before July 1, 2001, as in Example 2. However, by taking the affirmative step of filing a financing statement, SP-2 established anew the relative priority of the conflicting claims on or after July 1, 2001. Thus, this article determines priority. SP-2's security interest has priority under section 9-322(a)(1).

As Example 3 illustrates, relative priorities that are "established" before July 1, 2001, do not necessarily remain unchanged on or after July 1, 2001. Of course, unlike priority contests among unperfected security interests, some priorities are established permanently, e.g., the rights of a buyer of property who took free of a security interest under former article 9.

One consequence of the rule in subsection (a) is that the mere taking effect of this article does not of itself adversely affect the priority of conflicting claims to collateral.

Example 4: In 1999, SP-1 obtains a security interest in a right to payment for lottery winnings (a "general intangible" as defined in former article 9 but an "account" as

defined in this article). SP-1's security interest is unperfected because its filed financing statement covers only "accounts." In 2000, D creates a security interest in the same right to payment in favor of SP-2, who files a financing statement covering "accounts and general intangibles." Before this article takes effect on July 1, 2001, SP-2's perfected security interest has priority over SP-1's unperfected security interest under former section 9-312(5). Because the relative priorities of the security interests were established before July 1, 2001, former article 9 continues to govern priority on or after July 1, 2001. Thus, SP-2's priority is not adversely affected by this article's having taken effect.

Note that were this article to govern priority, SP-2 would become subordinated to SP-1 under section 9-322(a)(1), even though nothing changes other than this article's having taken effect. Under section 9-704, SP-1's security interest would become perfected; the financing statement covering "accounts" adequately covers the lottery winnings and complies with the other perfection requirements of this article, e.g., it is filed in the proper office.

Example 5: In 1999, SP-1 obtains a security interest in a right to payment for lottery winnings - a "general intangible" (as defined under former article 9). SP-1's security interest is unperfected because its filed financing statement covers only "accounts." In 2000, D creates a security interest in the same right to payment in favor of SP-2, who makes the same mistake and also files a financing statement covering only "accounts." Before this article takes effect on July 1, 2001, SP-1's unperfected security interest has priority over SP-2's unperfected security interest, because SP-1's security interest was the first to attach. *See* former section 9-312(5)(b). Because the relative priorities of the security interests were established before July 1, 2001, former article 9 continues to govern priority on or after July 1, 2001. Although section 9-704 makes both security interests perfected for purposes of this article, both are unperfected under former article 9, which determines their relative priorities.

2. Financing Statements Ineffective Under Former Article 9 but Effective Under This Article. If this article determines priority, subsection (b) may apply. It deals with the case in which a filing that occurs before July 1, 2001, would be ineffective to perfect a security interest under former article 9 but effective under this article. For purposes of section 9-322(a), the priority of a security interest that attaches on or after July 1, 2001, and is perfected in this manner dates from July 1, 2001.

Example 6: In 1999, SP-1 obtains a security interest in D's existing and after-acquired instruments and files a financing statement covering "instruments." In 2000, D grants a security interest in its existing and after-acquired accounts in favor of SP-2, who files a financing statement covering "accounts." On or after July 1, 2001, one of D's account debtors gives D a negotiable note to evidence its obligation to pay an overdue account. Under the first-to-file-or-perfect rule in section 9-322(a), SP-1 would have priority in the instrument, which constitutes SP-2's proceeds. SP-1's filing in 1999 was earlier than SP-2's in 2000. However, subsection (b) provides that, for purposes of section 9-322(a), SP-1's priority dates from the time this article takes effect (July 1, 2001). Under section

9-322(b), SP-2's priority with respect to the proceeds (instrument) dates from its filing as to the original collateral (accounts). Accordingly, SP-2's security interest would be senior.

Subsection (b) does not apply to conflicting security interests each of which is perfected by a pre-July 1, 2001, filing that was not effective under former article 9 but is effective under this article.

Example 7: In 1999, SP-1 obtains a security interest in D's existing and after-acquired instruments and files a financing statement covering "instruments." In 2000, D grants a security interest in its existing and after-acquired instruments in favor of SP-2, who files a financing statement covering "instruments." After this article takes effect on July 1, 2001, one of D's account debtors gives D a negotiable note to evidence its obligation to pay an overdue account. Under the first-to-file-or-perfect rule in section 9-322(a), SP-1 would have priority in the instrument. Both filings are effective under this article, *see* section 9-705(b), and SP-1's filing in 1999 was earlier than SP-2's in 2000. Subsection (b) does not change this result.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 155 makes the Uniform Commercial Code - Secured Transactions Act effective July 1, 2001.

55-9-710. Repealed.

History: Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 154; repealed by Laws 2011, ch. 134, § 24.

ANNOTATIONS

Repeals. — Laws 2011, ch. 134, § 24 repealed NMSA 1978, as enacted by Laws 2001, ch. 139, § 154, relating to a temporary transition provision, effective July 1, 2011. For provisions of former section, *see* the 2010 NMSA 1978 on *NMOneSource.com.*

PART 8
SECURITY INTEREST

55-9-801. Effective date.

The effective date of the provisions of this 2013 act is July 1, 2013.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-801, enacted by Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 20.

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These transition provisions largely track the provisions of Part 7, which govern the transition to the 1998 revision of this Article. The Comments to the sections of Part 7 generally are relevant to the corresponding sections of Part 8. The 2010 amendments are less far-reaching than the 1998 revision. Although Part 8 does not carry forward those Part 7 provisions that clearly would have no application to the transition to the amendments, as a matter of prudence Part 8 does carry forward all Part 7 provisions that are even arguably relevant to the transition.

The most significant transition problem raised by the 2010 amendments arises from changes to Section 9-503(a) [55-9-503(a) NMSA 1978], concerning the name of the debtor that must be provided for a financing statement to be sufficient. Sections 9-805 and 9-806 [55-9-805 and 55-9-806 NMSA 1978] address this problem.

Example: On November 8, 2012, Debtor, an individual whose "individual name" is "Lon Debtor" and whose principal residence is located in State A, creates a security interest in certain manufacturing equipment. On November 15, 2012, SP perfects a security interest in the equipment under Article 9 (as in effect prior to the 2010 amendments) by filing a financing statement against "Lon Debtor" in the State A filing office. On July 1, 2013, the 2010 amendments, including Alternative A to Section 9-503(a) [55-9-503(a) NMSA 1978], take effect in State A. Debtor's unexpired State A driver's indicates that Debtor's name is "Polonius Debtor." Assuming that a search under "Polonius Debtor" using the filing office's standard search logic would not disclose the filed financing statement, the financing statement would be insufficient under amended Section 9-503(a)(4) (Alt. A) [55-9-503(a)(4) NMSA 1978]. However, Section 9-805(b) [55-9-805(b) NMSA 1978] provides that the 2010 amendments do not render the financing statement ineffective. Rather, the financing statement remains effective — even if it has become seriously misleading—until it would have ceased to be effective had the amendments not taken effect. *See* Section 9-805(b)(1) [55-9-805(b)(1) NMSA 1978]. SP can continue the effectiveness of the financing statement by filing a continuation statement with the State A filing office. To do so, however, SP must amend Debtor's name on the financing statement to provide the name that is sufficient under Section 9-503(a)(4) (Alt. A) at the time the continuation statement is filed. *See* Section 9-805(c), (e) [55-9-805(c), (e) NMSA 1978].

The most significant transition problem addressed by the 1998 revision arose from the change in the choice-of-law rules governing where to file a financing statement. The 2010 amendments do not change the choice-of-law rules. Even so, the amendments will change the place to file in a few cases, because certain entities that were not previously classified as "registered organizations" would fall within that category under the amendments.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 20 made the provisions of Laws 2013, ch. 137 effective July 1, 2013.

Applicability. — Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 21 provided that:

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this part, this 2013 act applies to a transaction or lien within its scope, even if the transaction or lien was entered into or created before this 2013 act takes effect.

(b) This 2013 act does not affect an action, case or proceeding commenced before this 2013 act takes effect.

55-9-802. Applicability.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this part, this 2013 act applies to a transaction or lien within its scope, even if the transaction or lien was entered into or created before this 2013 act takes effect.

(b) This 2013 act does not affect an action, case or proceeding commenced before this 2013 act takes effect.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-802, enacted by Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 21.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 20 made the provisions of Laws 2013, ch. 137 effective July 1, 2013.

55-9-803. Security interest perfected before effective date.

(a) A security interest that is a perfected security interest immediately before this 2013 act takes effect is a perfected security interest under Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, as amended by this 2013 act, if, when this 2013 act takes effect, the applicable requirements for attachment and perfection under Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, as amended by this 2013 act, are satisfied without further action.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in Section 55-9-805 NMSA 1978, if, immediately before this 2013 act takes effect, a security interest is a perfected security interest but the applicable requirements for perfection under Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, as amended by this 2013 act, are not satisfied when this act takes effect, the security interest remains perfected thereafter only if the applicable requirements for perfection under Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, as amended by this 2013 act, are satisfied within one year after this 2013 act takes effect.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-803, enacted by Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 22.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 20 made the provisions of Laws 2013, ch. 137 effective July 1, 2013.

55-9-804. Security interest unperfected before effective date.

A security interest that is an unperfected security interest immediately before this 2013 act takes effect becomes a perfected security interest:

(a) without further action, when this 2013 act takes effect, if the applicable requirements for perfection under Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, as amended by this 2013 act, are satisfied before or at that time; or

(b) when the applicable requirements for perfection are satisfied if the requirements are satisfied after that time.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-804, enacted by Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 23.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 20 made the provisions of Laws 2013, ch. 137 effective July 1, 2013.

55-9-805. Effectiveness of action taken before effective date.

(a) The filing of a financing statement before this 2013 act takes effect is effective to perfect a security interest to the extent the filing would satisfy the applicable requirements for perfection under Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, as amended by this 2013 act.

(b) This 2013 act does not render ineffective an effective financing statement that, before this 2013 act takes effect, is filed and satisfies the applicable requirements for perfection under the law of the jurisdiction governing perfection as provided in Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978 as it existed before amendment. However, except as otherwise provided in Subsections (c) and (d) of this section and Section 55-9-806 NMSA 1978, the financing statement ceases to be effective:

(1) if the financing statement is filed in this state at the time the financing statement would have ceased to be effective had this 2013 act not taken effect; or

(2) if the financing statement is filed in another jurisdiction, at the earlier of:

(A) the time the financing statement would have ceased to be effective under the law of that jurisdiction; or

(B) June 30, 2018.

(c) The filing of a continuation statement after this 2013 act takes effect does not continue the effectiveness of a financing statement filed before this 2013 act takes effect. However, upon the timely filing of a continuation statement after this 2013 act takes effect, and in accordance with the law of the jurisdiction governing perfection as provided in Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, as amended by this 2013 act, the effectiveness of a financing statement filed in the same office in that jurisdiction before this 2013 act takes effect continues for the period provided by the law of that jurisdiction.

(d) Subparagraph (B) of Paragraph (2) of Subsection (b) of this section applies to a financing statement that, before this 2013 act takes effect, is filed against a transmitting utility and satisfies the applicable requirements for perfection under the law of the jurisdiction governing perfection as provided in Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, as it existed before amendment, only to the extent that Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, as amended by this 2013 act, provides that the law of a jurisdiction other than the jurisdiction in which the financing statement is filed governs perfection of a security interest in collateral covered by the financing statement.

(e) A financing statement that includes a financing statement filed before this 2013 act takes effect and a continuation statement filed after this 2013 act takes effect is effective only to the extent that it satisfies the requirements of Part 5, as amended by this 2013 act, for an initial financing statement. A financing statement that indicates that the debtor is a decedent's estate indicates that the collateral is being administered by a personal representative within the meaning of Paragraph (2) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-503 NMSA 1978, as amended by this 2013 act. A financing statement that indicates that the debtor is a trust, or is a trustee acting with respect to property held in trust, indicates that the collateral is held in a trust within the meaning of Paragraph (3) of Subsection (a) of Section 55-9-503 NMSA 1978, as amended by this 2013 act.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-805, enacted by Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 24.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 20 made the provisions of Laws 2013, ch. 137 effective July 1, 2013.

55-9-806. When initial financing statement suffices to continue effectiveness of financing statement.

(a) The filing of an initial financing statement in the office specified in Section 55-9-501 NMSA 1978 continues the effectiveness of a financing statement filed before this 2013 act takes effect if:

(1) the filing of an initial financing statement in that office would be effective to perfect a security interest under Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, as amended by this 2013 act;

(2) the pre-effective-date financing statement was filed in an office in another state; and

(3) the initial financing statement satisfies Subsection (c) of this section.

(b) The filing of an initial financing statement under Subsection (a) of this section continues the effectiveness of the pre-effective-date financing statement:

(1) if the initial financing statement is filed before this 2013 act takes effect, for the period provided in unamended Section 55-9-515 NMSA 1978 with respect to an initial financing statement; and

(2) if the initial financing statement is filed after this 2013 act takes effect, for the period provided in Section 55-9-515 NMSA 1978, as amended by this 2013 act, with respect to an initial financing statement.

(c) To be effective for purposes of Subsection (a) of this section, an initial financing statement must:

(1) satisfy the requirements of Part 5, as amended by this 2013 act, for an initial financing statement;

(2) identify the pre-effective-date financing statement by indicating the office in which the financing statement was filed and providing the dates of filing and file numbers, if any, of the financing statement and of the most recent continuation statement filed with respect to the financing statement; and

(3) indicate that the pre-effective-date financing statement remains effective.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-806, enacted by Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 25.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 20 made the provisions of Laws 2013, ch. 137 effective July 1, 2013.

55-9-807. Amendment of pre-effective-date financing statement.

(a) As used in this section, "pre-effective-date financing statement" means a financing statement filed before this 2013 act takes effect.

(b) After this 2013 act takes effect, a person may add or delete collateral covered by, continue or terminate the effectiveness of, or otherwise amend the information provided in, a pre-effective-date financing statement only in accordance with the law of the jurisdiction governing perfection as provided in Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, as amended by this 2013 act. However, the effectiveness of a pre-effective-date financing statement also may be terminated in accordance with the law of the jurisdiction in which the financing statement is filed.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (d) of this section, if the law of this state governs perfection of a security interest, the information in a pre-effective-date financing statement may be amended after this 2013 act takes effect only if:

(1) the pre-effective-date financing statement and an amendment are filed in the office specified in Section 55-9-501 NMSA 1978;

(2) an amendment is filed in the office specified in Section 55-9-501 NMSA 1978 concurrently with, or after the filing in that office of, an initial financing statement that satisfies Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-806 NMSA 1978; or

(3) an initial financing statement that provides the information as amended and that satisfies Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-806 NMSA 1978, is filed in the office specified in Section 55-9-501 NMSA 1978.

(d) If the law of this state governs perfection of a security interest, the effectiveness of a pre-effective-date financing statement may be continued only pursuant to Subsections (c) and (e) of Section 55-9-805 or Section 55-9-806 NMSA 1978.

(e) Whether or not the law of this state governs perfection of a security interest, the effectiveness of a pre-effective-date financing statement filed in this state may be terminated after this 2013 act takes effect by filing a termination statement in the office in which the pre-effective-date financing statement is filed, unless an initial financing statement that satisfies Subsection (c) of Section 55-9-806 NMSA 1978 has been filed in the office specified by the law of the jurisdiction governing perfection as provided in Chapter 55, Article 9 NMSA 1978, as amended by this 2013 act as the office in which to file a financing statement.

History: 1978 Comp., § 55-9-807, enacted by Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 26.

ANNOTATIONS

Effective dates. — Laws 2013, ch. 137, § 20 made the provisions of Laws 2013, ch. 137 effective July 1, 2013.

55-9-808. Person entitled to file initial financing statement or continuation statement.