

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

## FORM 40-17F2

Initial certificate of accounting of securities and similar investments in the custody of management investment companies filed pursuant to Rule 17f-2 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 filed on Form N-17F-2

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### SUBJECT COMPANY

#### DREYFUS HIGH YIELD STRATEGIES FUND

CIK: **1057861** | IRS No.: **134001109** | State of Incorp.: **MA** | Fiscal Year End: **1231**  
Type: **40-17F2** | Act: **40** | File No.: **811-08703** | Film No.: **081047679**

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FLOOR  
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2129226789

### FILED BY

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Trustees of  
Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund:

We have examined management's assertion, included in the accompanying Management Statement Regarding Compliance With Certain Provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940, that Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund, (the "Fund"), complied with the requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of Rule 17f-2 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 as of May 31, 2008. Management is responsible for the Fund's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assertion about the Fund's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Fund's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. Included among our procedures were the following tests performed as of May 31, 2008 and with respect to agreement of security purchases and sales, for the period from March 31, 2008 (the date of our last examination) through May 31, 2008:

1. Examination of Mellon Bank N.A.'s (the "Custodian") security position reconciliations for all securities held by sub custodians and in book entry form;
2. Confirmation of all securities hypothecated, pledged or placed in escrow with brokers;
3. Inspection of documentation of other securities held in safekeeping by the Custodian but not included in 1) and 2) above;
4. Reconciliation between the Fund's accounting records and the Custodian's records as of May 31, 2008 and verified reconciling items;
5. Confirmation of pending purchases for the Fund as of May 31, 2008 with brokers, and where responses were not received, an inspection of documentation corresponding to subsequent cash payments;
6. Agreement of pending sales activity for the Fund as of May 31, 2008 to documentation of corresponding subsequent cash receipts;
7. Agreement of Fund's trade tickets for two purchases and two sales or maturities for the period March 31, 2008 (the date of our last examination) through May 31, 2008, to the books and records of the Fund noting that they had been accurately recorded and subsequently settled;
8. We reviewed Mellon Global Securities Services Report on Controls Placed in Operation and Tests of Operating Effectiveness ("SAS 70 Report") for the period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 and noted no negative findings were reported in the areas of Asset Custody and Control; and
9. We inquired of the Custodian who concurred that all control

policies and procedures detailed in Section IV Control Objectives, Controls, and Tests of Operating Effectiveness of the SAS 70 Report, have remained in operation and functioned adequately from January 1, 2008 through May 31, 2008. In addition, we obtained written representation from the Custodian confirming the above.

We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Fund's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, managements assertion that the Fund complied with the requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of Rule 17f-2 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 as of May 31, 2008, with respect to securities reflected in the investment accounts of the Fund is fairly stated, in all material respects.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and the Board of Trustees of the Fund and the Securities and Exchange Commission and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

KPMG LLP  
New York, New York  
August 29, 2008

August 29, 2008

Management Statement Regarding Compliance With  
Certain Provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940

Management of Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund (the "Fund"), is responsible for complying with the requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of Rule 17f-2, "Custody of Investments by Registered Management Investment Companies," of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Management is also responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls over compliance with those requirements. Management has performed an evaluation of the Fund's compliance with the requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of Rule 17f-2 as of May 31, 2008 and from March 31, 2008 through May 31, 2008.

Based on the evaluation, Management asserts that the Fund was in compliance with the requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of Rule 17f-2 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 as of May 31, 2008 and from March 31, 2008 through May 31, 2008 with respect to securities reflected in the investment account of the Fund.

Dreyfus High Yield Strategies Fund

Jim Windels  
Treasurer