

One commenter commended OPM for allowing non-DoD agencies to determine their own direct-hire authority for Federal acquisition positions because it reduces the red tape in the hiring process. However, the commenter suggested different assessment methods and tools for hiring good individuals for acquisition positions. We did not adopt this suggestion. It is outside the scope of this regulation.

The last comment did not involve acquisition positions; therefore, it is outside the scope of this amendment.

We are therefore adopting the interim regulation as a final regulation without changes.

E.O. 12866, Regulatory Review

This rule has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with E.O. 12866.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that these regulations will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities (including small businesses, small organizational units, and small governmental jurisdictions) because they will only apply to Federal agencies and employees.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 337

Government employees.

Office of Personnel Management.

Linda M. Springer,
Director.

■ Accordingly, the interim rule amending 5 CFR part 337, which was published at 70 FR 44847 on August 4, 2005, is adopted as a final rule without changes.

[FR Doc. E6-15016 Filed 9-11-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Part 301

[Docket No. APHIS-2006-0116]

Gypsy Moth Generally Infested Areas; Addition of Counties in Ohio and West Virginia

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim rule and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are amending the gypsy moth regulations by adding Delaware and Franklin Counties in Ohio and Monroe County in West Virginia to the

list of generally infested areas based on the detection of infestations of gypsy moth in those counties. As a result of this action, the interstate movement of regulated articles from those areas will be restricted. This action is necessary to prevent the artificial spread of the gypsy moth to noninfested States.

DATES: This interim rule is effective September 12, 2006. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before November 13, 2006.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, select "Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service" from the agency drop-down menu, then click "Submit." In the Docket ID column, select APHIS-2006-0116 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. Information on using Regulations.gov, including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site's "User Tips" link.

- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to APHIS-2006-0116, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to APHIS-2006-0116.

Reading Room: You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

Other Information: Additional information about APHIS and its programs is available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Weyman Fussell, Program Manager, Pest Detection and Management Programs, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 134, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-5705.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar* (Linnaeus), is a destructive pest of forest and shade trees. The gypsy moth regulations (contained in 7 CFR 301.45

through 301.45-12 and referred to below as the regulations) restrict the interstate movement of regulated articles from generally infested areas to prevent the artificial spread of the gypsy moth.

In accordance with § 301.45-2 of the regulations, generally infested areas are, with certain exceptions, those States or portions of States in which a gypsy moth general infestation has been found by an inspector, or each portion of a State that the Administrator deems necessary to regulate because of its proximity to infestation or its inseparability for quarantine enforcement purposes from infested localities. Less than an entire State will be designated as a generally infested area only if: (1) The State has adopted and is enforcing a quarantine or regulation that imposes restrictions on the intrastate movement of regulated articles that are substantially the same as those that are imposed with respect to the interstate movement of such articles; and (2) the designation of less than the entire State as a generally infested area will be adequate to prevent the artificial interstate spread of infestations of the gypsy moth.

Designation of Areas as Generally Infested Areas

Section 301.45-3 of the regulations lists generally infested areas. In this rule, we are amending § 301.45-3(a) by adding two counties in Ohio and one county in West Virginia to the list of generally infested areas. As a result of this rule, the interstate movement of regulated articles from these areas will be restricted.

We are taking this action because, in cooperation with the States of Ohio and West Virginia, the United States Department of Agriculture conducted surveys that detected multiple life stages of the gypsy moth in Delaware and Franklin Counties, OH, and in Monroe County, WV. Based on these surveys, we determined that reproducing populations exist at significant levels in these areas. Eradication of these populations is not considered feasible because these areas are immediately adjacent to areas currently recognized as generally infested and are, therefore, subject to reinfestation.

Emergency Action

This rulemaking is necessary on an emergency basis because of the possibility that the gypsy moth could be artificially spread to noninfested areas of the United States, where it could cause economic losses due to the defoliation of susceptible forest and

shade trees. Under these circumstances, the Administrator has determined that prior notice and opportunity for public comment are contrary to the public interest and that there is good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553 for making this rule effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**.

We will consider comments we receive during the comment period for this interim rule (see **DATES** above). After the comment period closes, we will publish another document in the **Federal Register**. The document will include a discussion of any comments we receive and any amendments we are making to the rule.

Executive Order 12866 and Regulatory Flexibility Act

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12866. For this action, the Office of Management and Budget has waived its review under Executive Order 12866.

This emergency situation makes timely compliance with section 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) impracticable. We are currently assessing the potential economic effects of this action on small entities. Based on that assessment, we will either certify that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities or publish a regulatory flexibility analysis.

Executive Order 12372

This program/activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.025 and is subject to Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V.)

Executive Order 12988

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. This rule: (1) Preempts all State and local laws and regulations that are inconsistent with this rule; (2) has no retroactive effect; and (3) does not require administrative proceedings before parties may file suit in court challenging this rule.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule contains no new information collection or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 301

Agricultural commodities, Plant diseases and pests, Quarantine, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

■ Accordingly, we are amending 7 CFR part 301 as follows:

PART 301—DOMESTIC QUARANTINE NOTICES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 301 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7701–7772 and 7781–7786; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Section 301.75–15 issued under Sec. 204, Title II, Public Law 106–113, 113 Stat. 1501A–293; sections 301.75–15 and 301.75–16 issued under Sec. 203, Title II, Public Law 106–224, 114 Stat. 400 (7 U.S.C. 1421 note).

■ 2. In § 301.45–3, paragraph (a), the entries for Ohio and West Virginia are amended by adding new counties in alphabetical order to read as follows:

§ 301.45–3 Generally infested areas.

(a) * * *

Ohio

* * * * *

Delaware County. The entire county.

* * * * *

Franklin County. The entire county.

* * * * *

West Virginia

* * * * *

Monroe County. The entire county.

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Done in Washington, DC, this 6th day of September 2006.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E6–15059 Filed 9–11–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

12 CFR Part 330

RIN 3064–AD01

Deposit Insurance Regulations; Inflation Index; Certain Retirement Accounts and Employee Benefit Plan Accounts

AGENCY: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FDIC is finalizing its interim rule, with changes, that amended regulations to implement deposit insurance revisions made by the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2005 and the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Conforming Amendments Act of 2005.

DATES: The final rule is effective on October 12, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph A. DiNuzzo, Counsel, (202) 898–7349, Legal Division, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Washington, DC 20429.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The FDIC issued an interim rule, effective April 1, 2006, to implement the deposit-insurance revisions in the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109–171) (“Reform Act”) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Conforming Amendments Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109–173). The comment period on the interim rule ended on May 22, 2006, 71 FR 14629 (Mar. 23, 2006) (“Interim Rule”).

The Reform Act made three substantive changes to the insurance coverage provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813–1835a). Those changes are discussed in detail in the preamble to the Interim Rule. Summarizing: first, section 2103(a) of the legislation provides for an inflation index to be applied to the current maximum deposit insurance amount of \$100,000, defined in the Reform Act as the “standard maximum deposit insurance amount” (“SMDIA”). Beginning April 1, 2010, and every succeeding five years, subject to approval by the Board of Directors of the FDIC and the National Credit Union Administration Board, the current SMDIA could be increased by a cost-of-living adjustment.

Second, section 2103(c) of the Reform Act increases the deposit insurance limit for “certain retirement accounts” from \$100,000 to \$250,000, also subject to the inflation adjustment described above. The types of accounts that come within this provision are detailed below. And, third, section 2103(b) of the Reform Act provides per-participant coverage to employee benefit plan accounts, even if the depository institution at which the deposits are placed is not authorized to accept employee benefit plan deposits. The Reform Act eliminates the former requirement that an insured depository institution meet prescribed capital requirements before employee benefit plan deposits accepted by that institution would be eligible for per-participant coverage.

II. Comments on the Interim Rule

The FDIC received three written comments on the Interim Rule. Each of the comments was from a national banking industry trade association. The first trade association simply stated its support for the Interim Rule. The second association stated its support for