

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 28

[CN-97-001]

Revision of User Fees for 1997 Crop Cotton Classification Services to Growers

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is proposing to reduce user fees for cotton producers for 1997 crop cotton classification services under the Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act in accordance with the formula provided in the Uniform Cotton Classing Fees Act of 1987. The 1996 user fee for this classification service was \$1.50 per bale. This proposal would reduce the fee for the 1997 crop to \$1.40 per bale. The proposed reduction in fees resulted from increased efficiency in classing operations. The fee is sufficient to recover the costs of providing classification services, including costs for administration, supervision, and development and maintenance of standards.

DATES: Comments must be received by April 16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments and inquiries should be addressed to Lee Cliburn, Cotton Division, AMS, USDA, room 2641-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456. Comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the above office in Rm. 2641-South Building, 14th & Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lee Cliburn, 202-720-2145.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This proposed rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866, and it has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This proposed rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. It is not intended to have retroactive effect. This rule would not preempt any state or local laws, regulations, or policies unless they present an irreconcilable conflict with this rule. There are no administrative procedures which must be exhausted prior to any judicial challenge to the provisions of this rule.

The Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), has considered the economic impact of this proposal on small entities pursuant to the requirements set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). It has been determined that the implementation of this proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small businesses.

The purpose of the RFA is to fit regulatory actions to the scale of businesses subject to such actions in order that small businesses will not be disproportionately burdened. There are an estimated 40,000 cotton growers in the U.S. who voluntarily use the AMS cotton classing services annually, and the majority of these cotton growers are small businesses under the criteria established by the Small Business Administration (13 CFR § 121.601). The Administrator of AMS has certified that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as defined in the RFA because:

(1) The fee reduction reflects a decrease in the cost-per-unit currently borne by those entities utilizing the services (the 1996 user fee for classification services was \$1.50 per bale; the fee for the 1997 crop would be reduced to \$1.40 per bale; the 1997 crop is estimated at 17,587,000 bales);

(2) The cost reduction will not affect competition in the marketplace; and

(3) The use of classification services is voluntary.

In compliance with OMB regulations (5 CFR part 1320) which implement the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the information collection requirements contained in the provisions to be amended by this proposed rule have been previously approved by OMB and were assigned OMB control number 0581-0009 under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

It is anticipated that the proposed changes, if adopted, would be made effective July 1, 1997, as provided by the Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act.

Fees for Classification Under the Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act of 1927

The user fee charged to cotton producers for High Volume Instrument (HVI) classification services under the Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act (7 U.S.C. 473a) was \$1.50 per bale during the 1996 harvest season as determined by using the formula provided in the Uniform Cotton Classing Fees Act of 1987, as amended by Public Law 102-237. The fees cover salaries, costs of equipment and supplies, and other overhead costs, including costs for administration, supervision, and development and maintenance of cotton standards.

This proposed rule establishes the user fee charged to producers for HVI classification at \$1.40 per bale during the 1997 harvest season.

Public Law 102-237 amended the formula in the Uniform Cotton Classing Fees Act of 1987 for establishing the producer's classification fee so that the producer's fee is based on the prevailing method of classification requested by producers during the previous year. HVI classing was the prevailing method of cotton classification requested by producers in 1996. Therefore, the 1997 producer's user fee for classification service is based on the 1996 base fee for HVI classification.

The fee was calculated by applying the formula specified in the Uniform Cotton Classing Fees Act of 1987, as amended by Public Law 102-237. The 1996 base fee for HVI classification exclusive of adjustments, as provided by the Act, was \$2.04 per bale. A two percent, or four cents per bale increase due to the implicit price deflator of the gross domestic product added to the \$2.04 would result in a 1997 base fee of \$2.08 per bale. The formula in the Act provides for the use of the percentage change in the implicit price deflator of the gross national product (as indexed for the most recent 12-month period for which statistics are available). However, this has been replaced by the gross domestic product by the Department of Commerce as a more appropriate measure for the short-term monitoring and analysis of the U.S. economy.

The number of bales to be classed by the United States Department of

Agriculture from the 1997 crop is estimated at 17,587,000. The 1997 base fee was decreased 15 percent based on the estimated number of bales to be classed (one percent for every 100,000 bales or portion thereof above the base of 12,500,000, limited to a maximum adjustment of 15 percent). This percentage factor amounts to a 31 cents per bale reduction and was subtracted from the 1997 base fee of \$2.08 per bale, resulting in a fee of \$1.77 per bale.

With a fee of \$1.77 per bale, the projected operating reserve would be 41.93 percent. The Act specifies that the Secretary shall not establish a fee which, when combined with other sources of revenue, will result in a projected operating reserve of more than 25 percent. Accordingly, the fee of \$1.77 must be reduced by 37 cents per bale, to \$1.40 per bale, to provide an ending accumulated operating reserve for the fiscal year of 25 percent of the projected cost of operating the program. This would establish the 1997 season fee at \$1.40 per bale.

Accordingly, § 28.909, paragraph (b) would be revised to reflect the reduction in the HVI classification fees.

As provided for in the Uniform Cotton Classing Fees Act of 1987, as amended, a five cent per bale discount would continue to be applied to voluntary centralized billing and collecting agents as specified in § 28.909 (c).

Growers or their designated agents would continue to incur no additional fees if only one method of receiving classification data was requested. The fee for each additional method of receiving classification data in § 28.910 would remain at five cents per bale, and it would be applicable even if the same method was requested. The fee in § 28.910 (b) for an owner receiving classification data from the central database would remain at five cents per bale, and the minimum charge of \$5.00 for services provided per monthly billing period would remain the same. The provisions of § 28.910 (c) concerning the fee for new classification memoranda issued from the central database for the business convenience of an owner without reclassification of the cotton will remain the same.

The fee for review classification in § 28.911 would be reduced from \$1.50 per bale to \$1.40 per bale.

The fee for returning samples after classification in § 28.911 would remain at 40 cents per sample.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 28

Administrative practice and procedures, Cotton, Cotton samples, Grades, Market news, Reporting and

recordkeeping requirements, Standards, Staples, Testing, Warehouses.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR Part 28 is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 28—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for Part 28 would continue to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 471–476.

2. Section 28.909, paragraph (b) would be revised to read as follows:

§ 28.909 Costs.

* * * * *

(b) The cost of High Volume Instrument (HVI) cotton classification service to producers is \$1.40 per bale.

* * * * *

3. In Section 28.911, the last sentence of paragraph (a) would be revised to read as follows:

§ 28.911 Review classification.

(a) * * * The fee for review classification is \$1.40 per bale.

* * * * *

Dated: March 10, 1997.

Lon Hatamiya,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97–6648 Filed 3–14–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE: 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Airspace Docket No. 97–AGL–7]

Modification of Class E Airspace; Manitowish, WI, Manitowish Waters Airport

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This notice proposes to modify Class E airspace at Manitowish, WI. A Global Positioning System (GPS) standard instrument approach procedure (SIAP) to Runway 32 has been developed for Manitowish Waters Airport. Controlled airspace extending upward from 700 to 1200 feet above ground level (AGL) is needed to contain aircraft executing the approach. The intended affect of this proposal is to provide segregation of aircraft using instrument approach procedures in instrument conditions from other aircraft operating in visual weather conditions.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on the proposal in triplicate to: Federal Aviation Administration, Office of the Assistant Chief Counsel, AGL–7, Rules Docket No. 97–AGL–7, 2300 East Devon Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018.

The official docket may be examined in the Office of the Assistant Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, 2300 East Devon Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois. An informal docket may also be examined during normal business hours at the Air Traffic Division, Operations Branch, Federal Aviation Administration, 2300 East Devon Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John A. Clayborn, Air Traffic Division, Operations Branch, AGL–530, Federal Aviation Administration, 2300 East Devon Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018, telephone (847) 294–7568.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested parties are invited to participate in this proposed rulemaking by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Comments that provide the factual basis supporting the views and suggestions presented are particularly helpful in developing reasoned regulatory decisions on the proposal. Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, aeronautical, economic, environmental, and energy-related aspects of the proposal.

Communications should identify the airspace docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address listed above. Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments on this notice must submit with those comments a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made:

“Comments to Airspace Docket No. 97–AGL–7.” The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned to the commenter. All communications received on or before the specified closing date for comments will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposal contained in this notice may be changed in light of comments received. All comments submitted will be available for examination in the Rules Docket, FAA, Great Lakes Region, Office of the Assistant Chief Counsel, 2300 East Devon Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois, both before and after the closing date for comments. A report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerned with this rulemaking will be filed in the docket.