

§ 550.1108 Requesting recovery through centralized administrative offset.

Under 31 U.S.C. 3716, creditor agencies must notify the Secretary of the Treasury of all debts that are delinquent as defined in the FCCS (over 180 days) so that recovery may be made by centralized administrative offset. This includes those debts the agency seeks to recover from the pay account of an employee of another agency via salary offset. The Secretary of the Treasury and other Federal disbursing officials will match payments, including Federal salary payments, against these debts. Where a match occurs, and all the requirements for offset have been met, the payments will be offset to collect the debt. Prior to offset of the pay account of an employee, an agency must comply with the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 5514, this subpart, and agency regulations issued thereunder. Specific procedures for notifying the Secretary of the Treasury of a debt for purposes of collection by centralized administrative offset are contained in 31 CFR part 285 and the FCCS. At its discretion, a creditor agency may notify the Secretary of the Treasury of debts that have been delinquent for 180 days or less, including debts the agency seeks to recover from the pay account of an employee via salary offset.

8. A new § 550.1110 is added to read as follows:

§ 550.1110 Debt collection centers.

A debt collection center may act in behalf of a creditor agency to collect claims via salary offset consistent with this section, subject to any limitations on its authority established by the creditor agency it represents or by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

(a) A debt collection center may be authorized to enter into a written agreement with the indebted employee regarding the repayment schedule or, in the absence of such agreement, to establish the terms of the repayment schedule.

(b) A debt collection center may make certifications to the Secretary of the Treasury under § 550.1108 or to a paying agency under § 550.1109 based on the certifications it has received from the creditor agency or a hearing official.

(c) A debt collection center responsible for collecting a particular debt may not act in behalf of a creditor agency for the purpose of making determinations regarding the existence or amount of that debt.

(d) A debt collection center responsible for collecting a particular debt may arrange for a hearing on the existence or amount of the debt or the repayment schedule by an

administrative law judge or, alternatively, another hearing official not under the supervision or control of the head of the creditor agency or the debt collection center.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Agricultural Marketing Service****7 CFR Parts 52, 53 and 54**

[Docket Number LS-98-13]

Processed Fruits and Vegetables and Regulations Governing the Grading and Certification of Livestock, Meats, Prepared Meats, and Meat Products

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Correcting Amendments.

SUMMARY: The Livestock Market News (LMN) Branch and the Meat Grading and Certification (MGC) Branch of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) are amending certain regulations to update them and to correct minor errors. This action is being taken to improve the accuracy and clarity of the regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John E. VanDyke, Chief, LMN Branch, telephone 202-720-6231, or Larry Meadows, Chief, MGC Branch, telephone 202-720-1246.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

AMS has discovered that certain errors exist in the codified regulations. This document corrects those errors.

In part 52, section 52.1843, paragraphs (e)(i) and (ii) should be classified as (e)(1) and (2), respectively.

In the **Federal Register** of June 30, 1998 (63 FR 35500), AMS published a final rule entitled "Removal of U.S. Standards and Other Selected Regulations." The final rule revoked Subpart B (7 CFR Parts 53 and 54). However, in issuing the rule, the agency inadvertently neglected to remove the cross-reference to Subpart B in parts 53 and 54, Subpart A—Regulations. Therefore, this action is being taken to correct these inadvertent omissions.

Need for Correction

The regulations codified in the Code of Federal Regulations and published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 35500) contain errors which may prove to be misleading and need to be clarified.

List of Subjects**7 CFR Part 52**

Food grades and standards, Food labeling, Frozen foods, Fruit juices, Fruits, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, vegetables.

7 CFR Part 53

Cattle, Hogs, Livestock, Sheep.

7 CFR Part 54

Food grades and standards, Food labeling, Meat and meat products.

Accordingly, 7 CFR parts 52, 53 and 54 are corrected by making the following amendments:

PART 52—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 52 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

§ 52.1843 [Amended]

2. In § 52.1843, paragraphs "(e)(i)" and "(e)(ii)" are corrected to read "(e)(1)" and "(e)(2)", respectively.

PART 53—LIVESTOCK (GRADING, CERTIFICATION, AND STANDARDS)

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 53 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

2. Section 53.1, is amended by revising paragraph "Grade" (2) and the definition for "Standards" to read as follows:

§ 53.1 Meaning of words.

* * * * *

Grade. (1) * * *

(2) As a verb, this term means to determine the class, grade, or other quality of livestock according to applicable standards for such livestock.

* * * * *

Standards. The standards of the Department contained in Official United States Standards for Grades of: Carcass Beef; Veal and Calf Carcasses; Lamb, Yearling Mutton, and Mutton Carcasses; and, Pork Carcasses.

* * * * *

3. In § 53.4, the first sentence is revised to read as follows:

§ 53.4 Kind of service.

Grading service under the regulations shall consist of the determination and certification and other identification, upon request by the applicant, of the class, grade, or other quality of livestock under applicable standards. * * *

PART 54—MEATS, PREPARED MEATS, AND MEAT PRODUCTS (GRADING, CERTIFICATION, AND STANDARDS)

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 54 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

2. Section 54.1, is amended by revising paragraph “Grade” (2) and the definition for “Standards” to read as follows:

§ 54.1 Meaning of words.

* * * * *

Grade. (1) * * *

(2) As a verb, this term means to determine the class, grade, or other quality of a product according to applicable standards for such product.

* * * * *

Standards. The standards of the Department contained in Official United States Standards for Grades of: Carcass Beef; Veal and Calf Carcasses; Lamb, Yearling Mutton, and Mutton Carcasses; and, Pork Carcasses.

* * * * *

3. Section 54.4 is revised to read as follows:

§ 54.4 Kind of service.

(1) Grading service under the regulations shall consist of the determination and certification and other identification, upon request by the applicant, of the class, grade, or other quality of products under applicable standards. Class, grade, and other quality may be determined under said standards for meat of cattle, sheep, or swine in carcass form only, except upon approval by the Director upon his determination of good cause and provided that the meat can be identified in conformance with the standards.

(2) Certification service under the regulations shall consist of the determination of the conformity of products to specifications approved by the Director or Chief and the certification and other identification of such livestock or products in accordance with specifications, upon request by the applicant. Determination as to product compliance with specifications for ingredient content or method of preparation may be based upon information received from the inspection system having jurisdiction over the products involved.

(3) The Carcass Data Service, under the regulations, shall consist of the evaluation of carcass characteristics, in accordance with applicable official United States Standards of carcasses of animals identified with the official eartag as shown in § 54.17, the recording

of such data, and transmittal of the data to, or as directed by, the applicant for the service.

(4) The Contract Verification Service, under the regulations, provides wholesale buyers of noncertified commodity products a method of determining whether procurement(s) met contractually specified requirements.

(5) The Quality Systems Certification Program, under the regulations, provides meatpackers, processors, producers, or other businesses in the livestock and meat trade the ability to have special processes or documented quality management systems verified.

4. Section 54.13 is amended by revising the first sentence in paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 54.13 Accessibility and refrigeration of products; access to establishments.

(a) * * *

(b) Grading service will only be furnished for meat that a USDA grader determines is chilled so that grade factors are developed to the extent that a proper grade determination can be made in accordance with the official standards. * * *

5. In § 54.16, the first sentence is revised to read as follows:

§ 54.16 Marking of products.

All products for which class and grade under the standards are determined under the regulations, or the immediate and shipping containers thereof, shall be stamped, branded, or otherwise marked with an appropriate official identification: *Provided*, That except as otherwise directed by the Chief, such marking will not be required when an applicant only desires official certificates. * * *

Dated: December 22, 1998.

Robert L. Leverette,

Acting Deputy Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program.

[FR Doc. 98–34755 Filed 12–30–98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

7 CFR Part 1728

Electric Overhead Distribution Lines; Specifications and Drawings for 24.9/14.4 kV Line Construction

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is revising its bulletin of specifications and drawings for 24.9/

14.4 kV overhead distribution line construction. RUS is separating the bulletin into 19 sections. Each section contains an index, construction specifications, and a group of similar drawings of construction assemblies, which perform a common function. RUS is changing the drawing number on each drawing to conform to a new, functional format. RUS is also making certain technical changes to the drawings so that construction assemblies conform to current RUS construction requirements and specifications. Where applicable, the drawings show allowable loading limits and reference to new tables, which show maximum line angles. Existing specifications, such as pole setting depths, are not being modified, however, they are being moved to the section that contains wood poles. RUS is renumbering and reformatting this bulletin in accordance with its new publications and directives system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 1999. The incorporation by reference of the publication listed in the role is approved by the Director of the Federal Register February 1, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. James L. Bohlk, Electrical Engineer, Distribution Branch, Electric Staff Division, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 1569, Washington, DC 20250–1569. Telephone: (202) 720–1967. Fax: (202) 720–7491.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866

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

Executive Order 12372

This rule is excluded from the scope of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Consultation, which may require consultation with State and local officials. A Notice of Final Rule entitled Department Programs and Activities Excluded from Executive Order 12372 (50 FR 47034) exempts RUS loans and loan guarantees to governmental and non-governmental entities from coverage under this order.

Executive Order 12988

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. RUS has determined that this rule meets the applicable standards provided in Sec. 3. of the Executive Order. In addition, all state and local laws and regulations that are in conflict