

age of such farm (for the purpose of the contract the owner-operator or tenant-operator of the farm shall be considered to have an interest in such acreage).

(e) "Tenant-operator" or "tenant" means a person who rents land from another person for a share of the crop, or proceeds therefrom, produced on such land and is responsible for farm management with respect to the production of cotton on such acreage whether produced by his own or other person's labor.

(f) "Owner-operator" means a person who owns land and is responsible for farm management with respect to the production of cotton on such acreage whether produced by his own or other person's labor.

(g) "Spot market" means a market so designated by the Secretary of Agriculture by regulation (7 CFR 27.93) pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 4862.

7. **Cancellation and termination for indebtedness dates.** (a) For each year of the contract the cancellation date shall be the December 31 (September 30 in Aransas, Refugio, Bee, Live Oak, McMullen, LaSalle, and Dimmit Counties, Texas, and all Texas Counties lying south thereof) immediately preceding the beginning of the crop year for which the cancellation is to become effective.

(b) For each year of the contract the termination date for indebtedness shall be the following applicable date immediately preceding the beginning of the crop year for which the termination is to become effective.

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina.	Apr. 10
Arizona and California.	Mar. 31.
Oklahoma.	Apr. 30.
Texas:	
Childress, Cottle, King, Stonewall, Fisher, Scurry, Borden, Dawson, and Gaines Counties, and all Texas Counties lying north and west thereof.	Apr. 30.
Aransas, Refugio, Bee, Live Oak, McMullen, LaSalle, and Dimmit Counties, and all Texas Counties lying south thereof.	Jan. 31.
Calhoun, Goliad, Jackson, and Victoria Counties.	Feb. 28.
Reeves, Ward, Pecos, and Terrell Counties, and all Counties lying south and west thereof.	Apr. 15.
All other Texas Counties.	Mar. 31.
All other States.	Apr. 15.

(Secs. 506, 516, 52 Stat. 73, as amended, 77, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 1506, 1516.)

The foregoing amendment will effect some changes in the provisions of the current Cotton Endorsement in order to clarify the Corporation's position and to assure the continuation of a viable cotton crop insurance program. Specifically, the foregoing amendment would eliminate subsection 2 of § 401.136, the provision of the current endorsement which permits a reduction of 4 percent in the annual premium for each full 100 acres on the insurance unit up to a maximum of 20 percent. The Corporation is of the opinion that this reduction is not justifiable in view of the existing provisions for premium discount provisions for favorable insuring experience. In addition, the

foregoing amendment (1) More clearly defines the Corporation's position with regard to the determination of insured acreage of any skip-row planting pattern as only the acreage occupied by the rows and eliminating any acreage occupied by the skipped portion; (2) Provides for the Corporation to have the right to make an appraisal of not less than the third stage guarantee on any acreage upon which the stalks have been destroyed prior to inspection; and, (3) Provides for an editorial revision of the table of dates for termination for indebtedness, condensing those states with the same termination dates.

It is desirable that the foregoing amendment be made effective with the 1977 crop year. Notification of any changes must be given to insureds by December 15, 1976, and sufficient time should be allowed to rewrite and print the revised cotton endorsement.

Accordingly, it is found and determined that compliance with the procedure for notice of proposed rule making and public participation would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Therefore, these regulations are issued without compliance with such procedure, and were adopted by the Board of Directors on November 10, 1976.

Said amendment shall become effective December 1, 1976.

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation has determined that this document does not contain a major proposal requiring preparation of an Inflation Impact Statement under Executive Order 11821 and OMB Circular A-107.

PETER F. COLE,

Secretary, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

Approved on November 26, 1976.

RICHARD E. BELL,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 76-35360 Filed 11-30-76; 8:45 am]

CHAPTER IX—AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE (MARKETING AGREEMENTS AND ORDERS; FRUITS, VEGETABLES, NUTS), DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PART 989—RAISINS PRODUCED FROM GRAPES GROWN IN CALIFORNIA

Temporary Changes in Minimum Grade Standards for Packed Raisins

Notices were published in the October 15 and October 29, 1976 issues of the FEDERAL REGISTER (41 FR 45575 and 47491), regarding proposals to temporarily change the minimum grade standards for certain varietal types of packed raisins. The changes are pursuant to the marketing agreement, as amended, and Order No. 989, as amended (7 CFR Part 989; 41 FR 32412), hereinafter referred to collectively as the "order". The order regulates the handling of raisins produced from grapes grown in California and is effective pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674). The proposals were recommended by the Raisin Administrative Committee.

Interested persons were afforded an opportunity to submit written data, views, or arguments on the proposals. Written comments were received from two persons within the time prescribed in the October 15 notice. The written comments received recommended that the tolerance for capstems on imported raisins be increased from 50 to 80 capstems per 500 grams to relieve the expected raisin shortage. Since the comments pertained to imported raisin requirements they were not relevant to the October 15 and 29 proposals and were not considered in making the changes in the minimum grade standards hereinafter set forth.

Section 989.59(a) prescribes minimum standards for packed raisins. Section 989.59(b) provides that the standards for any varietal type then in effect may be changed by the Secretary, on the basis of a recommendation by the Committee or other pertinent information, if he finds that to do so would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Paragraph (b) also authorizes the Secretary, upon recommendation of the Committee, to prescribe minimum standards for any varietal type. The minimum standard for packed natural (sun-dried) Thompson Seedless, natural (sun-dried) Muscat, natural (sun-dried) or artificially dehydrated Sultan, Golden Seedless, Sulfur Bleached, Valencia, and Zante Currant raisins, are prescribed in § 989.59(a) (2). The minimum standards for packed Dipped Seedless raisins are prescribed in § 989.212 of Subpart—Supplementary Regulations (7 CFR 989.201-989.231).

Rains and poor drying conditions during the month of September seriously damaged California's 1976 raisin crop. Although the full extent of the rain damage is still unknown, it is estimated that this crop will be substantially less than domestic and foreign market needs. In addition, cool weather and rain earlier in the season delayed the proper development of sugar in the raisin grapes. Also, when grapes are rained on while drying in the field, there is a sugar loss. This loss of sugar further reduced the maturity of the 1976 raisin crop.

Producers and handlers are making special efforts to recondition the rain damaged crop to recover the maximum quantity of raisins acceptable for human consumption. However, it is expected that mechanical damage sustained by the raisins will be greater than normal due to additional washing and more intensive reconditioning procedures required to accomplish this objective.

The temporary changes in the minimum grade standards for packed raisins, hereinafter set forth, will end November 30, 1977, and will aid in the recovery of raisins acceptable for human consumption from the 1976 production. Also, since the changes are less restrictive, they will help make more raisins available to consumers than would be available without the temporary relaxation in the standards.

After consideration of all relevant matter presented, including that in the notices, the Committee's recommenda-

tions, and other available information, it is hereby found that the changes in the minimum grade standards for certain varietal types of raisins, and contained in § 989.202 hereinafter set forth, would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

It is hereby further found that good cause exists for not postponing the effective date hereof until 30 days after publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER (5 U.S.C. 553) in that: (1) This action temporarily relaxes the current minimum grade standards for certain packed raisins in order to permit and facilitate the recovery of raisins suitable for human consumption; (2) it is necessary that this action become effective promptly to allow handlers to maximize the quantity of raisins available for human consumption as fast as possible; (3) handlers are aware of this action and need no additional time to operate under the less restrictive requirements; and (4) no useful purpose would be served by delaying the effective time.

Therefore, the temporary changes in the minimum grade standards for certain varietal types are set forth in § 989.202 in Subpart—Supplementary Regulations and read as follows:

§ 989.202 Changes in minimum grade standards for certain packed raisins for the period ending November 30, 1977.

Pursuant to § 989.59(b), the requirements set forth in § 989.59(a) (2) for natural (sun-dried) Thompson Seedless, natural (sun-dried) Muscat, natural (sun-dried) or artificially dehydrated Sultana, Golden Seedless, Sulfur Bleached, and Valencia raisins, and the requirements set forth in § 989.212 for Dipped Seedless raisins, shall be U.S. Grade C as defined in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Processed Raisins (7 CFR 52.1841-52.1858; 41 FR 34757) except that the tolerances prescribed for moldy and damaged raisins shall be changed to five percent, and 15 percent, respectively, and the total tolerance for discolored, damaged, or moldy raisins shall be changed to 20 percent. Pursuant to § 989.59(b), the requirement set forth in § 989.59(a) (2) for Zante Currant raisins shall be U.S. Grade B as defined in such standards, except that the tolerance prescribed for moldy and damaged raisins shall be changed to five percent and 15 percent, respectively, and the total tolerance for discolored, damaged, or moldy raisins shall be changed to 20 percent. In addition, for natural (sun-dried) Thompson Seedless, Golden Seedless, Sulfur Bleached, and Dipped Seedless raisins, the term "with not less than 55 percent, by weight, of the raisins that are well matured or reasonably well matured" shall not be applicable. These changes shall terminate November 30, 1977.

Dated November 26, 1976, to become effective December 1, 1976.

FLOYD F. HEDLUND,
Director, Fruit and
Vegetable Division.

[FR Doc. 76-35359 Filed 11-30-76; 8:45 am]

PART 999—SPECIALTY CROPS—IMPORT REGULATIONS

Revision of Certain Requirements for Imported Raisins

The Department is temporarily relaxing the current grade requirements (7 CFR 999.300(b)) on imported raisins, and making minor editorial changes in these requirements. The raisin import regulation is effective pursuant to the requirements of section 8e (7 U.S.C. 608e-1) of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), hereinafter referred to as the "act".

Section 8e requires the Secretary of Agriculture to issue, after reasonable notice, grade requirements on imported raisins which are the same as, or comparable to, those imposed on domestic raisins under the marketing agreement, as amended, and Order No. 989, as amended (7 CFR Part 989; 41 FR 32412), regulating the handling of raisins produced from grapes grown in California (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "order"). Temporary relaxations are being made in the grade requirements for certain varietal types of packed raisins under the order, including natural (sun-dried) Thompson Seedless, Muscat, and Zante Currant raisins. These relaxations pertain to the tolerances for mold, damaged raisins, the total tolerances for discolored, damaged, and moldy raisins, and the maturity level for seedless raisins, including natural (sun-dried) Thompson Seedless raisins, and will terminate November 30, 1977. Notices of these changes were published in the October 15 and 29, 1976, issues of the FEDERAL REGISTER (41 FR 45575 and 47491). Therefore, similar relaxations must be made in the grade requirements for imported Thompson Seedless, Muscat, and Currant Raisins. These, too, will terminate November 30, 1977.

Two comments were received on the proposed relaxation published in the October 15, 1976 issue of the FEDERAL REGISTER. Both commentators recommended that the tolerance for capstems on imported raisins be increased from the current tolerance of 50 capstems per 500 grams to relieve the expected raisin shortage in the United States. This tolerance is applicable only to imported Thompson Seedless raisins. One commentator proposed increasing the tolerance to 80 capstems per 500 grams; the other proposed increasing the tolerance to 70-80 capstems per 17.6 ounces.

The capstem tolerance for imported Thompson Seedless raisins is less restrictive than the tolerance of 35 capstems per 16 ounce effective under the order for natural (sun-dried) Thompson Seedless raisins produced in California. The capstem tolerance for imported raisins is equivalent to 45 capstems per 16 ounces and was made less restrictive to recognize foreign drying and processing techniques (37 FR 5282; March 14, 1972), and that these techniques differ from those in the United States. In the March 14, 1972, action, it was also determined that grade standards for imported raisins, including the capstem tolerance previously

mentioned, are the same as, or are comparable to, those in effect pursuant to the order. This determination is as valid today as it was then. In view of these considerations the proposals for increased tolerances for capstems are denied.

Heavy rains and poor drying conditions during the 1976 domestic raisin harvest seriously damaged the crop and supplies are expected to be below market needs. The temporary relaxations in the domestic and import grade requirements should make more raisins available to consumers and the trade.

The amendment, as hereinafter set forth, also contains minor editorial changes in the import grade requirements to recognize recent Departmental action which combined the U.S. Grade Standards for processed raisins with those for dried currant raisins (7 CFR Part 52; 41 FR 34751).

Based on the foregoing, and all other relevant information, it is hereby found that the revision of the import grade requirements and minor editorial changes, as hereinafter set forth, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

It is hereby further found that it is impracticable, unnecessary, and contrary to the public interest to give preliminary notice and engage in public rulemaking procedure, and that good cause exists for not postponing the effective time for this action until 30 days after publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER (5 U.S.C. 553), and for making it effective on the date hereinafter specified, in that: (1) The requirements of section 8e of the act make this action mandatory; (2) this action temporarily relaxes the quality requirements on raisins offered for importation and conforms with a simultaneous relaxation of the grade requirements on domestic raisins under this part and Order No. 989, as amended (7 CFR Part 989; 41 FR 32412), and makes minor editorial changes; (3) compliance with this amendment will not require any special preparation by importers which cannot be completed by the effective date; and (4) this action relaxes restrictions on the importation of raisins.

Therefore, § 999.300 is amended as follows:

§ 999.300 [Amended]

1. The citation "(§§ 52.1841-52.1852 of this title)" in subparagraph (1) of § 999.300(b), is changed to "§§ 52.1841-52.1858 of this title".

2. Paragraph (4) of § 999.300(b) is revised; and a new paragraph (5) is added as follows:

(b) * * *

(4) With respect to Currant Raisins, the requirements of U.S. Grade B as defined in the said standards.

(5) Until November 30, 1977, with respect to Thompson Seedless, Muscat, and Currant Raisins, the tolerance for moldy and damaged raisins shall be five percent and 15 percent, respectively, and the total tolerance for discolored, damaged, and moldy raisins shall be 20 percent. Also, the requirement in U.S. Grade

C that not less than 55 percent of the raisins must be well-matured or reasonably well-matured shall not apply to Thompson Seedless raisins.

(Secs. 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended; (7 U.S.C. 601-674))

Dated November 26, 1976, to become effective December 1, 1976.

FLOYD F. HEDLUND,
Director, Fruit and
Vegetable Division.

[FR Doc.76-35358 Filed 11-30-76;8:45 am]

CHAPTER XIV—COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SUBCHAPTER B—LOANS, PURCHASES, AND OTHER OPERATIONS

PART 1464—TOBACCO

Tobacco Loan Program; 1976 Crop—Cigar Tobacco, Loan Rate Schedules

On October 15, 1976 there was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER (41 FR 45575) a notice of proposed rulemaking setting forth the proposed price support grade loan rate schedules for 1976-crop cigar tobacco. Interested persons were given the opportunity to submit, not later than November 15, 1976, data, views and recommendations pertaining to the proposed grade loan rates.

No unfavorable comments have been received. Accordingly, the revision of 7 CFR 1464.22 through 1464.27 containing the proposed loan rates is hereby adopted without change as set forth below. The material previously appearing under §§ 1464.22 through 1464.27 remains applicable to the crop to which each refers.

(Secs. 4 and 5, 62 Stat. 1070, as amended (15 U.S.C. 714b, 714c); secs. 101, 106, 401, 403, 63 Stat. 1051, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1441, 1445, 1421, 1423))

Effective Date: December 1, 1976.

Signed at Washington, D.C. on: November 22, 1976.

KENNETH E. FRICK,
Executive Vice President,
Commodity Credit Corporation.

By revising §§ 1464.22-1464.27 to read as follows:

§ 1464.22 1976 Crop—Ohio Filler Tobacco, Types 42-44, Loan Schedule.¹

Grade:	Loan rate*
Crop run (stripped together):	
X1	58.5
X2	53.5
X3	48.5
X4	43.5
Nondescript:	
N	36

*Dollars per hundred pounds, farm sales weight.

§ 1464.23 1976 Crop—Connecticut Valley Broadleaf Tobacco, Type 51 Loan Schedule.²

Grade:	Loan rate*
Binders:	
B1	99
B2	90
B3	79
B4	69
B5	61
Nonbinders:	
X1	48

*Dollars per hundred pounds, farm sales weight.

§ 1464.24 1976 Crop—Connecticut Valley Havana Seed Tobacco, Type 52, Loan Schedule.²

Binders:	Loan rate*
B1	95
B2	87
B3	76
B4	67
B5	61
Nonbinders:	
X1	48

*Dollars per hundred pounds, farm sales weight.

§ 1464.25 1976 Crop—New York and Pennsylvania Havana Seed Tobacco, Type 53, and Southern Wisconsin Tobacco, Type 54, Loan Schedule.¹

Grade:	Loan rate*
Crop run:	
X1	61
X2	55
X3	48
Farm fillers:	
Y1	42.5
Y2	40.5
Y3	38.5
Nondescript:	
N1	35
N2	30

§ 1464.26 1976 Crop—Northern Wisconsin Tobacco, Type 55, Loan Schedule.¹

Grade:	Loan rate*
Binders:	
B1	77
B2	71
B3	66

*Dollars per hundred pounds, farm sales weight.

¹Tobacco is eligible for loan only if consigned by the original producer. No loan is authorized for tobacco graded "S" (scrap) or designated "No-G" (no grade). The cooperative association through which price support is made available is authorized to deduct from the amount paid the grower \$1 per hundred pounds to apply against overhead and receiving costs.

²Tobacco is eligible for loan only if consigned by the original producer. No loan is authorized for tobacco graded "N1" or "N2" (nondescript) or "S" (scrap) or designated "No-G" (no grade). The cooperative association through which price support is made available is authorized to deduct from the amount paid the grower \$1 per hundred pounds to apply against overhead and receiving costs.

Grade:	Loan rate*
Strippers:	
C1	62
C2	56
C3	50
Crop run:	
X1	61
X2	55
X3	49.5
Farm fillers:	
Y1	41
Y2	39
Y3	36
Nondescript:	
N1	34.5
N2	29

*Dollars per hundred pounds, farm sales weight.

§ 1464.27 1976 Crop—Puerto Rican Tobacco, Type 46, Loan Schedule.¹

Grade:	Loan rate*
Price block I (C1F and C1P)	62
Price block II (X1F, X1P, and X1S)	56
Price block III (X2T, X2F, X2P, and X2S)	47.5
Price block IV (N)	25.5

*Dollars per hundred pounds, farm sales weight.

[FR Doc.76-35287 Filed 11-30-76;8:45 am]

Title 13—Business Credit and Assistance

CHAPTER I—SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Rev. 5, Amdt. 7]

PART 107—SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Financing Acquisition of Farm Land

On September 8, 1976, a notice of proposed rulemaking concerning the adoption of a new § 107.904 was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER (41 FR 37817) authorizing, subject to prior written SBA approval, SBIC financing of farm land acquisitions.

Information and effective date. Interested parties were afforded an opportunity to submit comments on or before October 8, 1976. Two comments were received and individually answered by SBA. One requested SBICs to be limited to a specially lower maximum interest rate of 3 percent per annum, payable dependent on the crop yield. The other comment, which misconceived the enabling purpose of § 107.904, objected to its supposed prohibition against SBIC financing of farm land purchases.

After due consideration of all relevant circumstances, including the comments received, SBA has determined that new § 107.904, as proposed and as hereinafter set forth, shall be adopted without change.

The new regulatory provision is being made effective as of the September 8, 1976 publication date of the proposal. As explained in the advance notice, this is intended to preclude speculative or passive farm land investments during the notice period.