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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

7 CFR Parts 272 and 273

[Amendment No. 197]

Food Stamp Program: Recertification of SSI Households

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule for the Food Stamp Program permits households consisting of only applicants for and recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to apply for food stamp recertification at offices of the Social Security Administration (SSA). This action is required by a partial summary judgment in the case of *James Campbell, et al.* v. *United States Department of Agriculture, et al.* This rule's effect will be to offer an alternate recertification procedure for many food stamp households.

DATES: This rule is effective September 3, 1981. The rule must be implemented no later than October 5, 1981. Comments must be received on or before December 2, 1981 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas J. O'Connor, Supervisor, Policy and Regulations Section, Program Standards Branch, Program Development Division, Family Nutrition Programs, Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; 202-447-9075.

ADDRESS: Comments should be submitted to: Susan McAndrew, Acting Director, Program Development Division, Family Nutrition Programs, Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. All written comments will be open to public inspection at the offices of the Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday) at 500 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., Room 678.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12291. The Department has determined that this rule will not have an annual effect on the economy of $100 million. The rule will not result in a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State or local government agencies, or geographic regions. The administrative funding for the taking of some applications for food stamp recertification will be directed toward SSA, rather than toward the State welfare agencies as is currently the case. This rule will not significantly and adversely affect competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation or the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign based enterprises. Implementation of this rule will not affect foreign trade, since the rule's effects are limited to State welfare agencies, the Social Security Administration, and the Food and Nutrition Service. Therefore, the Department has determined that this rule is not major.

In accordance with section 8(a)(2) of Executive Order 12291, the Department has not complied with section 3(c)(3) of that Executive Order. Section 3(c)(3) would require the Department to submit this rule to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) at least ten days before publication in the **Federal Register.** Because the court allowed the Department a short time to write and publish this rule, it is not practicable to submit the rule to OMB. However, the Department has notified OMB of the problems it faces in complying with the Executive Order and is submitting the rule for review upon publication.

The rule has also been reviewed with regard to the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (Pub. L. No. 96-354, 94 Stat. 1164, September 9, 1980). G. William Hoagland, Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, has certified that this rule does not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. State welfare agencies, their local offices, and the offices of the Social Security Administration will be minimally affected by this change in procedure.

Campbell v. *USDA* (Civil Action No. 80-0282, D.C.) requires that the provisions of this rule be implemented no later than sixty days after the rule is published in the **Federal Register.** Therefore, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), USDA is waiving the notice of proposed rulemaking because publication of the final rule and implementation as directed by the court could not be accomplished if a proposed rule were issued. However, because this is an interim final rule, the Department will accept comments on this rule.

Introduction

Public Law 95-113, the Food Stamp Act of 1977, sought to make it easier for people to apply for food stamps. This was particularly true for the aged and the disabled. Section 11(i)(2) of that Act required USDA and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to cooperate regarding food stamp households which are composed only of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) applicants or recipients. On April 22, 1980, USDA published a final rule on this subject, with the approval of HHS (see 45 FR 27426 to be published at 7 CFR 273.2(k)). SSA and the State welfare agencies implemented the rule on August 1, 1980. According to this rule any household composed only of SSI applicants or recipients, which is not participating in the Food Stamp Program and has not recently applied, may file an initial food stamp application at an SSA office.

Currently, households may apply for recertifications at SSA's offices only if the household had applied initially at an SSA office, had received its food stamp notice of expiration, and had gone to an SSA office for a redetermination of its SSI case by the fifteenth day of the last month of its certification period. USDA placed these limitations on recertifications for three reasons. First, the Department viewed the certification and recertification procedures as distinct, since the latter is, at least partly, an updating of previously recorded information. In the Department's opinion, section 11(i)(2) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 was meant to cover only initial certifications. Secondly, food stamp recertifications and SSI redeterminations take place on different schedules. Therefore, if separate food stamp recertifications through SSA offices were permitted, SSA would be performing actions wholly unrelated to its own programs. Finally, current Food Stamp Program regulations allow SSI recipients to obtain out-of-office interviews. This provision relieves them of the burden of going to food stamp offices. This interim final rule revises the conditions under which a household may apply for recertification at an SSA office.

Revised Criteria for Recertification

On June 4, 1981 the United States District Court for the District of Columbia issued a partial summary judgment in the case of *James Campbell, et al.* v. *United States Department of Agriculture, et al.* (Civil Action No. 80-0282). According to this interim final rule which implements the court's order, any household which may apply at SSA for an initial certification may also do so for a recertification. The current rules regarding application for initial certification allow two systems. If SSA's own employees accept food stamp applications and conduct interviews, a household may apply for food stamps only if all its members receive SSI or are applying for it. If a State agency's employee is working in an SSA office to conduct food stamp business, a household may apply for food stamps there if it contains at least one SSI applicant or recipient or one member applying for or receiving Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI) benefits, if SSA agrees. These criteria will now be in effect for those who wish to apply for food stamp recertifications.

As in the case of application for initial certification, SSA will interview the applicant, obtain any readily available verification, complete a transmittal form, and send this material to the State welfare agency. SSA will not actually recertify the household. Certification functions other than those specifically described in this rule, notification and issuance functions, fair hearings, and other activites remain the sole responsibility of the State agencies.

Comments

Although this rule must be implemented without benefit of comments, the Department invites parties to comment. The comment period will last for 120 days. After that period, the Department will review the comments and publish a final rule.

Implementation

The Court in *Campbell* v. *USDA* initially ordered implementation of this rule no later than 20 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. However, an extension has been approved by the Court, requiring implementation no later than 60-days after publication, unless it is determined by FNS that good cause exists for a State agency to take up to 90 days to implement the rule. Good cause is the inability of a State welfare agency to comply with the 60 day deadline after having taken all reasonable steps required to meet said date. One example of good cause would be disruption in shipping resulting in the late distribution of the forms within the State welfare agency and/or to the Social Security Administration. In those States with computer-generated notices of expiration, necessary reprogramming of computers might also cause State agencies to fail to meet the deadline. Finally, a State's Administrative Procedures Act might delay the implementation date beyond the 60 days. Therefore, State agencies must implement these rules no later than 60 days after publication unless a good cause extension is granted by FNS.

Accordingly, 7 CFR Parts 272 and 273 are amended as follows:

PART 272—REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCIES

1. In § 272.1, paragraph (g)(33) is added to read as follows:

§ 272.1 General terms and conditions.

* * * * *

(g) Implementation.* * *

(33) *Amendment 197.* State agencies, the Social Security Administration, and the Food and Nutrition Service shall implement § 273.2(k), of this chapter, as amended, no later than October 5, 1981. An extension of up to 30 additional days may be granted by FNS if the State agency can show good cause for not complying with the 60-day timeframe. Good cause is the inability of a State welfare agency to comply with the 60-day deadline after having taken all reasonable steps required to meet said date. One example of good cause would be disruption in shipping resulting in the late distribution of revised or additional forms within the State welfare agency and/or to the Social Security Administration. In those States with computer-generated notices of expiration, necessary reprogramming of computers might also cause State agencies to fail to meet the deadline. Finally, a State's Administrative Procedures Act might delay the implementation date beyond the 60 days. FNS shall determine on a case-by-case basis whether good cause exists.

(i) Before the implementation date, FNS shall provide to State agencies model language for a revised notice of expiration, and shall approve acceptable revision which the State agencies submit;

(ii) Beginning on the implementation date, State agencies shall issue revised notices of expiration to recipients informing them that any household consisting only of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) applicants or recipients is entitled to apply for food stamp recertification at an office of the Social Security Administration (SSA);

(iii) Beginning on the implementation date, SSA shall accept applications for food stamp recertification from all households consisting only of SSI applicants or recipients in accordance with § 273.2(k)(1)(i) of this chapter.

(iv) Beginning on the implementation date, outstationed State agency workers shall accept applications for food stamp recertification from those households entitled to apply in accordance with § 273.2(k)(1)(ii) of this chapter.

PART 273—CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS

2. In § 273.2, the introductory text of paragraph (k) and paragraph (k)(2)(ii) are revised as follows:

§ 273.2 Application processing.

* * * * *

(k) *SSI households.* For purposes of this paragraph, SSI is defined as Federal SSI payments made under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, federally administered optional supplementary payments under section 1616 of that Act, or federally administered mandatory supplementary payments made under Section 212(a) of Pub. L. 93-66. Except in cashout States (§ 273.20), households which have not applied for food stamps in the thirty preceding days, and which do not have applications pending, may apply and be certified for food stamp benefits in accordance with the procedures described in § 273.2(k)(1)(i) or § 273.2(k)(1)(ii) and with the notice, procedural and timeliness requirements of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 and its implementing regulations. These households' food stamp eligibility and benefit levels shall be based solely on food stamp eligibility criteria. The State agency shall make an eligibility determination based on information provided by SSA or by the household.

* * * * *

(2) *Recertifications.* * * *

(ii) Households shall be entitled to make a timely application (in accordance with § 273.14(b)(3)) for food stamp recertification at an SSA office under the following conditions:

* * * * *

(91 Stat. 958 (7 U.S. 2011–2027))

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs No. 10551, Food Stamp)

Dated: July 20, 1981.

G. William Hoagland,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 81-22659 Filed 8-3-81; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-M

Rural Electrification Administration

7 CFR Part 1701

Public Information; Appendix A—REA Bulletins; Bulletin 345-84, REA Specification for Expanded Dielectric Trunk Coaxial Cable, PE-84

AGENCY: Rural Electricification Administration, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: REA hereby amends Appendix A—REA Bulletins to issue a "File With" to Bulletin 345-84, REA Specification for Expanded Dielectric Trunk Coaxial Cable, PE-84, to relax attenuation requirements for 12.70 mm cable at 5, 10, and 25 MHz. The relaxations will have minimal impact on system design and will increase the number of manufacturers capable of producing cable meeting the attenuation requirements without costly retooling thus assuring an adequate supply of acceptable cable at competitive prices.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1, 1981.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harry M. Hutson, Chief, Outside Plant Branch, Telecommunications Engineering and Standards Division, Rural Electrification Administration, Room 1342, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, telephone (202) 447-3827. The Impact Analysis Statement describing the options considered in developing this rule, and the impact of implementing each option, is available on request from the above office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Rural Electrification Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.), REA hereby issues a "File With" to amend Bulletin 345-84 (PE-84), which became effective September 1980. As a result of discussions with the product manufacturers prior to the issuance of PE-84, it was assumed that adequate supplies of acceptable cable would be available at competitive prices. Such is not the case, and only limited supplies are available, with the result that prices for this product have increased. By slightly relaxing attenuation requirements in the 5 to 25 MHz regions, the supply of acceptable cable can be substantially increased with only minimal impacts on system design. Increasing the supply of acceptable cable will assure competitive prices as well.

Because of the need outlined above for prompt action to assure adequate cable supplies at competitive prices, John H. Arnesen, Assistant Administrator—Telephone, has determined this action responds to an emergency situation within the meaning of Section 8 of Executive Order 12291 and warrants publication without opportunity for public comment. Therefore, pursuant to the administrative procedure provisions in 5 U.S.C. 553 it is found upon good cause that notice and other public procedure with respect to this action is impractical and contrary to the public interest and good cause is found for making this relaxation of requirements effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. This action has been issued in conformance with Executive Order 12291, Federal Regulation, and has been determined to be "not major."

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance as 10.853, Community Antenna Television Loans and Loan Guarantees)

Dated: May 1, 1981.

John H. Arnesen,

Assistant Administrator, Telephone.

[FR Doc. 81-22538 Filed 8-3-81; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-M

Agricultural Marketing Service [1]

Food Safety and Quality Service

7 CFR Part 2852

United States Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives [2]

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this rule is to revise the voluntary U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives. The final rule was developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at the request of the California olive industry. This rule will: (1) provide for seven (7) sizes in canning whole and pitted ripe olives and (2) provide minimum drained weight requirements for the seven (7) sizes. Its effect will be to promote efficient and orderly marketing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 4, 1981.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Romeo V. Villaluz, Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, (202) 447-6247.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: William T. Manley, Deputy Administrator, Marketing Program Operations, Agricultural Marketing Service, has determined that this final rule is not major. It will not result in an annual effect on the economy of $100 million or more. There will be no major increase in cost or prices for consumers; individual industries; Federal, State, or local government agencies; or geographic regions. It will not result in significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investments, productivity, innovations, or the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic or export markets.

William T. Manley, Deputy Administrator, Marketing Program Operations, Agricultural Marketing Service, has determined that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities, as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, Pub. L. 96-354 (5 U.S.C. 601), because this reflects current marketing practices.

It is found that good cause exists for making this document effective upon publication in the **Federal Register** (5 U.S.C. 553) because: (1) The 1981-82 crop year begins in mid-August 1981 and this final rule should be effective by the time new crop deliveries from growers to processors begin and (2) postponing the effective date of this final rule would serve no useful purpose and could cause administrative problems in the application of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives.

The California olive industry produces the entire U.S. crop of olives. It is regulated by a Federal marketing order. The marketing order specifies the size categories and the minimum sizes of processed olives, by variety, that may be used to produce whole and pitted canned ripe olives. It also provides for processed olives smaller than the size prescribed for whole and pitted styles, which are used for limited purposes.

[1] The Commodity Services Program of the Food Safety and Quality Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) was transferred to the Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA by USDA Secretary's Memorandum 1000-1, issued June 17, 1981. A notice detailing the agencies' reorganization is being drafted for later publication.

[2] Compliance with provisions of these standards shall not excuse failure to comply with the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or with applicable State laws and regulations.

Prior to September 1977, the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives contained nine (9) sizes of whole and pitted olives (small, medium, large, extra large, mammoth, giant, jumbo, colossal, and super colossal). At that time, however, the olive industry used fourteen (14) size designations. The fourteen (14) size designations included all nine (9) sizes in the U.S. grade standard plus five (5) other designations. The five other designations included select and standard (other terms for small); picnic (for Ascolano variety extra large); gems (for Sevillano variety mammoth); and super supreme (for super colossal). The limited size olives, referred to in the industry as petite, are used for sliced, chopped, halves, and segmented styles. These styles are for special uses such as pizza, meat loaf, and salads.

In September 1977, a revision of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives provided for five (5) sizes (small, medium, large, extra large, and colossal). The olive marketing order, however, continued to cite the nine (9) sizes provided for in the superseded standards. However, about one half (production tonnage) of the olives processed were sold on the basis of the five (5) sizes in the 1977 standards.

While a segment of the ripe olive processing industry customarily uses five (5) sizes for retail sales and other members use nine (9) sizes, the ripe olive industry has agreed on the use of seven (7) sizes. The industry is currently reviewing olive sizes under the order to align them with the U.S. grade standards.

Restructuring the olive sizes from five to seven necessitated changing the minimum drained weight requirement to reflect the seven sizes. To determine the proper restructuring for the seven sizes and minimum drained weight requirements, therefore, an olive size and drained weight study was undertaken jointly by the USDA and the olive processors. Results of this study are incorporated in this rule.

This action is in concurrence with the recommendations and information submitted by the California olive industry through the Olive Administrative Committee.

Comments

The proposed rule to revise the voluntary grade standards for canned ripe olives was published in the **Federal Register** on May 5, 1981 (46 FR 25097–25101). Three comments were received. One comment came from an olive processor in California and another comment came from the Olive Administrative Committee. Both parties fully endorsed the proposal with suggestions for a minor editorial change. The third comment came from an individual who expressed concern over the use of size designations other than small, medium, and large. The seven size designations, however, are established terms which have been accepted by both the olive industry and consumers.

Some editorial changes have been made in the final publication to clarify the standards.

In consideration of the foregoing, Subpart United States Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives (7 CFR Part 2852.3754 and 2852.3755) are hereby amended to read as follows:

1. In § 2852.3754, paragraph (b)(1) and Table I are hereby revised to read as follows:

§ 2852.3754 Size designations for whole and pitted style.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

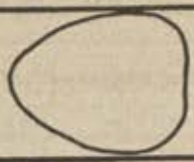
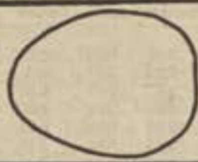
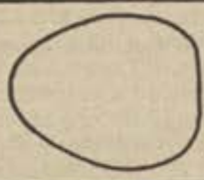
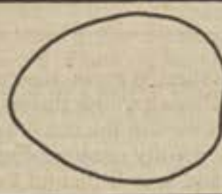
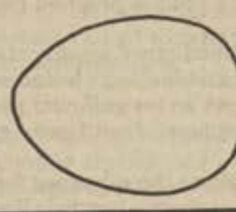
(1) *Single size.* Canned whole or pitted olives shall be considered of a single size if the olives are at least as uniform in size as defined for U.S. Grade C in § 2852.3756 of this subpart and conform with the applicable count per pound range indicated in Table I in the case of whole olives, or conform closely to the applicable illustration in Table I in the case of pitted olives. When the count per pound of whole olives falls between two count ranges, the size designation shall be the next smaller size.

(2) * * *

BILLING CODE 3410-02-M

TABLE I

SIZE - CANNED WHOLE AND PITTED RIPE OLIVES

DESIGNATION	COUNT PER POUND	ILLUSTRATION	APPROXIMATE DIAMETER RANGE ILLUSTRATED (mm)
SMALL	128 - 140		16 - 17
MEDIUM	106 - 121		17 - 19
LARGE	91 - 105		19 - 20
EXTRA LARGE	65 - 88		20 - 22
JUMBO	51 - 60		22 - 24
COLOSSAL	41 - 50		24 - 26
SUPER COLOSSAL	26 - 40		26 and over

BILLING CODE 3410-02-C

2. In § 2852.3755, paragraph (c)(2) and Table II are hereby revised to read as follows:

§ 2852.3755 Minimum drained weights.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(2) There shall be no unreasonable shortage in any individual container.

Table II.—*Acceptance Values for Drained Weights—Whole*

	211 X 304		300 X 407		603 X 700	
	$\bar{X}d$ ounces	$\bar{X}d$ grams	$\bar{X}d$ ounces	$\bar{X}d$ grams	$\bar{X}d$ ounces	$\bar{X}d$ grams
Small	4.5	127.5	7.75	219.7	66.0	1871.1
Medium	4.5	127.5	7.75	219.7	66.0	1871.1
Large	4.5	127.5	7.75	219.7	66.0	1871.1
Extra large	4.5	127.5	7.5	212.6	66.0	1871.1
Jumbo	4.0	113.4	7.25	205.5	64.0	1814.4
Colossal	4.0	113.4	7.25	205.5	64.0	1814.4
Super colossal	4.0	113.4	7.25	205.5	64.0	1814.4

Table II.—*Acceptance Values for Drained Weights—Pitted*

	211 X 304		300 X 407		603 X 700	
	$\bar{X}d$ ounces	$\bar{X}d$ grams	$\bar{X}d$ ounces	$\bar{X}d$ grams	$\bar{X}d$ ounces	$\bar{X}d$ grams
Small	3.25	92.1	6.0	170.1	51.0	1445.8
Medium	3.25	92.1	6.0	170.1	51.0	1445.8
Large	3.5	99.2	6.0	170.1	51.0	1445.8
Extra large	3.5	99.2	6.0	170.1	51.0	1445.8
Jumbo	3.25	92.1	5.75	163.0	49.0	1389.1
Colossal	3.25	92.1	5.75	163.0	49.0	1389.1
Super colossal	3.25	92.1	5.75	163.0	49.0	1389.1

(Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, Secs. 203, 205, 60 Stat. 1087, as amended, 1090, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1622, 1624))

Done at Washington, D.C., on July 29, 1981.

William T. Manley,

Deputy Administrator, Marketing Program Operations.

[FR Doc. 81-22570 Filed 8-3-81; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-M

Agricultural Marketing Service

Food Safety and Quality Service

7 CFR Part 2856

[Docket No. 80-025F]

Revision of Shell Egg Standards and Grades

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service,[1] USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule revises the voluntary shell egg grading regulations. The amendments are basically the same as proposed in the **Federal Register** of April 17, 1981 (46 FR 22383). The amendments will:

a. Raise the minimum percent of eggs of a specified quality in the consumer grades at origin and destination, except for a downward adjustment in this percentage for U.S. Grade AA at destination to more accurately reflect normal quality loss during marketing.

b. Eliminate the consumer grade Fresh Fancy quality control program because it is used very little and the Grade A quality control program because it is not used.

c. Eliminate C quality classification for individual eggs because they have become an insignificant portion of production (about 1 percent of nest-run eggs).

d. Raise the tolerance for Checked eggs at destination for all egg sizes and for Jumbo size eggs at origin, slightly raise the tolerance for Leakers and Dirties at destination, and provide a small tolerance for Dirties at origin to more accurately reflect current egg production and marketing practices.

e. Eliminate the three lower U.S. Wholesale grades—Trades, Dirties, and Checks—because they are no longer used and eliminate the two U.S. Procurement grades because they are obsolete.

f. Clarify the definition or origin grading to indicate that this is a grading made at a plant where eggs are graded and packed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1981.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: D. M. Holbrook, Chief, Poultry Standardization Branch, Poultry Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 3944, South Agriculture Building, Washington, DC 20250, (202) 447-3506.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12291

An initial determination has been made that this final rule is not a major rule under Executive Order 12291 because it does not impose additional burdens or requirements on the affected industry. It will not result in an annual effect on the economy of $100 million or more, a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic or export markets.

This regulation has been reviewed for cost effectiveness under USDA Secretary's Memorandum 1512-1 implementing Executive Order 12291. It revises the shell egg standards and grades to bring them in line with current egg production and marketing conditions. As such, it is anticipated that the revisions will result in no monetary costs or other adverse impacts offsetting the expected benefits. Alternatively, the Agency could have retained the existing, outdated standards and grades, but strict compliance with those standards and grades would result in substantial cost to both industry and consumers with little or no offsetting product quality benefit.

Effect on Small Entities

It has been determined that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because it involves changes that are limited to bringing the existing regulations into conformity with current industry production and marketing practices, but does not impose additional burdens or requirements on the affected industry.

Background

The history of standards for shell eggs dates back to 1925 when the first quality standards for individual eggs were developed. In 1948, consumer grades were issued, and in 1967 separate

[1] The Commodity Services program of the Food Safety and Quality Service, USDA was transferred to the Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA by USDA Secretary's Memorandum 1000-1, issued June 17, 1981. A notice detailing the Agency's reorganization is being drafted for later publication.