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

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Parts 300 and 319

[Docket No. 97–110–2]

RIN 0579–AA92

Importation of Grapefruit, Lemons, and Oranges From Argentina

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period and notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we are extending by 120 days the comment period for our proposed rule regarding the importation of grapefruit, lemons, and oranges from Argentina and that we have scheduled a public hearing to give interested persons an opportunity for the oral presentation of data, views, and arguments regarding that proposed rule.

DATES: Consideration will be given only to comments on Docket No. 97–110–1 that are received on or before February 11, 1999. We will also consider comments made at a public hearing that will be held in Thousand Oaks, CA, on December 17, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 97–110–1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 97–110–1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690–2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room. The public hearing will be held at the Civic Arts Plaza, Scherr Forum, 2100 East Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Thousand Oaks, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ron Campbell, Import Specialist, Phytosanitary Issues Management Team, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 140, Riverdale, MD 20737–1236; (301) 734–6799; e-mail: Ronald.C.Campbell@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On August 12, 1998, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 43117–43125, Docket No. 97–110–1) to amend the citrus fruit regulations by recognizing a citrus-growing area within Argentina as being free from citrus canker. In that document, we also proposed to amend the fruits and vegetables regulations to allow the importation of grapefruit, lemons, and oranges from the citrus canker-free area of Argentina under conditions designed to prevent the introduction into the United States of two other diseases of citrus, sweet orange scab and citrus black spot, and other plant pests. These proposed changes would allow grapefruit, lemons, and oranges to be imported into the United States from Argentina subject to certain conditions.

In response to requests received following the publication of the proposed rule, we have scheduled a public hearing to be held in Thousand Oaks, CA, on December 17, 1998.

The purpose of this hearing is to give interested persons an opportunity for the oral presentation of data, views, and arguments. Questions about the content of the proposed rule may be part of the commenters' oral presentations. However, neither the presiding officer nor any other representative of APHIS will respond to the comments at the hearing, except to clarify or explain provisions of the proposed rule.

A representative of APHIS will preside at the public hearing. Any interested person may appear and be heard in person, by attorney, or by other representative. Written statements may be submitted and will be made part of the hearing record. Persons who wish to speak at a public hearing will be asked to provide their name and organization. We ask that anyone who reads a statement or submits a written statement provide two copies to the presiding officer at the hearing.

The public hearing will begin at 9 a.m. and is scheduled to end at 5 p.m., local time. However, the hearing may be terminated at any time after it begins if all persons desiring to speak have been heard. If the number of speakers at the hearing warrants it, the presiding officer may limit the time for each presentation so that everyone wishing to speak has the opportunity.

In the August 12, 1998, proposed rule, we stated that comments on the proposed rule were required to be received on or before October 13, 1998. However, in order to receive and consider the comments to be presented at the public hearing, and to accommodate persons who may wish to comment on issues that may be raised at the public hearing, we are extending by 120 days the comment period for the proposed rule. Therefore, we will consider all comments that are received on or before February 11, 1999.

Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of October 1998.

Craig A. Reed,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98–27791 Filed 10–13–98; 12:17 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Part 35

Medical Use of Byproduct Material; Workshop

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of workshop.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has developed a proposed rulemaking for a comprehensive revision of its regulations governing the medical use of byproduct material in 10 CFR part 35, ''Medical Use of Byproduct Material,'' and a proposed revision of its 1979 Medical Use Policy Statement (MPS). Throughout the development of the proposed rule and MPS, the Commission solicited input from the various interests that may be affected by these proposed revisions. The Commission is now soliciting comments on the proposed rule and MPS through

two mechanisms—publishing the documents in the **Federal Register** for a 90-day public comment period (63 FR 43516 and 63 FR 43580, August 13, 1998); and convening facilitated public meetings and a workshop, during the public comment period, to discuss the Commission's proposed resolution of the major issues. The workshop on NRC's medical rulemaking initiative will be held during the Organization of Agreement States' (OAS) 1998 All Agreement States Meeting, in Bedford, New Hampshire.

DATES: The workshop will be held on October 31, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

ADDRESSES: The Wayfarer Inn, 121 South River Road, Bedford, NH 03110, telephone 603–622–3766.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cathy Haney, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, telephone 301–415–6825, e-mail cxh@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: After a comprehensive review of its medical use program, the Commission directed the staff to revise 10 CFR part 35, associated guidance documents, and, if necessary, the Commission's 1979 MPS (Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM)—COMSECY–96–057, ''Materials/Medical Oversight'' (DSI 7), dated March 20, 1997). The Commission's SRM specifically directed the restructuring of Part 35 into a risk-informed, more performance-based regulation. In its SRM dated June 30, 1997, ''SECY–97–115, Program for Revision of 10 CFR part 35, 'Medical Uses of Byproduct Material' and Associated **Federal Register** Notice,'' the Commission approved the staff's proposed plan for the revision of Part 35 and the Commission's 1979 MPS. The schedule the Commission approved in SRM–SECY–97–115 provides for the rulemaking to be completed by June 1999. After Commission approval of the staff's program to revise part 35 and associated guidance documents, the staff initiated the rulemaking process, as announced in 62 FR 42219 (August 6, 1997).

The proposed rule and MPS were developed using a group approach. A Working Group and Steering Group, consisting of representatives from NRC, OAS, and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc., were established to develop rule text alternatives, rule language, and associated guidance documents. State participation in the process was intended to enhance development of corresponding rules in State regulations, to provide an opportunity for early State input, and to allow State staff to assess potential impacts of NRC draft language on the regulation of non-Atomic Energy Act materials used in medical diagnosis, treatment, or research, in the States.

The proposed revision of part 35 is based on the Commission's directions in the SRMs of March 20, 1997, and June 30, 1997. The revision is intended to make part 35 a more risk-informed, performance-based regulation that will: (1) Focus the regulations on those medical procedures that pose the highest risk, from a radiation safety aspect, with a subsequent decrease in the oversight of low-risk activities; (2) focus on those requirements that are essential for patient safety; (3) initiate improvements in NRC's medical program, by implementing recommendations from internal staff audits, other rulemaking activities, and results of analyses in medical issues papers; (4) incorporate regulatory requirements for new treatment modalities; (5) reference, as appropriate, available industry guidance and standards; and (6) provide for capturing relevant safety-significant events.

The program for revising part 35, associated guidance document, and MPS has provided more opportunity for input from potentially affected parties (the medical community and the public) than is provided by the typical notice and comment rulemaking process. Based on the worthwhile public input received during the early rulemaking process, the Commission believes that it is important for interests affected by the proposed revisions not only to have an opportunity to comment on the proposed rulemaking and MPS, but also to have an opportunity to discuss the proposed revisions with one another and the Commission. Accordingly, the Commission is convening three public meetings (63 FR 39763, July 24, 1998) and a workshop, during the public comment period, where representatives of the interests that may be affected by the proposed rulemaking and MPS will have an opportunity to discuss the proposed revisions.

The workshop will be open to the public, on a space available basis. The agenda for the workshop will focus on discussion of: (1) The proposed revision of part 35 and the MPS; (2) proposed changes in licensing, inspection and enforcement philosophy; (3) implementation costs; (4) resolution of cross-cutting issues; and (5) Agreement State issues. However, the workshop will also provide enough flexibility for the public to have an opportunity to comment on related rulemaking issues.

Members of the public who are unable to attend the workshop can send comments to Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, or provide comments via NRC's interactive rulemaking website through the NRC home page (http://www.nrc.gov). The comment periods for the proposed rule and the MPS end on November 12 and November 13 ,1998, respectively. Comments received after these dates will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is only able to ensure consideration of comments received on or before these dates.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 9th day of October, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Frederick C. Combs,

Acting Director, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 98–27809 Filed 10–15–98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 98–CE–66–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company Models 1900, 1900C, and 1900D Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) that would apply to certain Raytheon Aircraft Company Models 1900, 1900C, and 1900D airplanes. The proposed AD would require inspecting the main landing gear hydraulic actuators to determine whether a certain Frisby Aerospace actuator is installed, and reworking or replacing any of these Frisby Aerospace actuators. The proposed AD is the result of reports of fatigue cracks in the end cap of main landing gear hydraulic actuators manufactured by Frisby Aerospace and installed on the affected airplanes. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent the main landing gear from not locking down due to the hydraulic actuator cracking and separating, which could result in loss of control of the airplane during landing, taxi, or ground operations.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 17, 1998.