

not later than 180 days after enactment of the subsection.

Comment: The reinsured company stated that FCIC may not make its rule retroactive. Retroactive rule making requires specific statutory authority. By its retroactive rule making, the FCIC clouds every determination it made for the past four years.

Response: The fact that reinsured companies can seek interpretation of provisions that previously existed does not mean that the rule is retroactive. This rule is intended to provide the mechanism for FCIC to consider requests for interpretation and this mechanism was not given a retroactive effect. Since Congress has mandated FCIC to provide such interpretation, there can be no avoidance of the consequences of their issuance on previous decisions, regardless of when such decisions were made. To limit requests to the interpretation of only new statutory or regulatory provisions would essentially render Section 533 of the 1998 Research Act ineffective.

Comment: The reinsured company states that § 400.768(g) is confusing. The suggestion was made that the subsection should be divided into two subsections, with the first, subsection (g), applicable to reinsured companies and should state "All final agency determinations that are not appealable to the National Appeals Division (NAD) are considered matters of general applicability." The second sentence of the current subsection (g) should be designated subsection (h) and identified as applicable to participants other than "a private insurance company with a reinsurance agreement with FCIC or their agents, loss adjusters, employees or contractors."

Response: There is nothing in this subsection that affects the jurisdiction of NAD and NAD has no authority to hear disputes between reinsured companies and FCIC. Therefore, by its very terms, the provision is limited to persons other than reinsured companies. Therefore, no change has been made.

Comment: The reinsured company states the word "person" in § 400.768(g) is not defined and it should be limited to policyholders and applicants for crop insurance.

Response: It is unnecessary since the NAD regulations are only applicable to participants as defined in 7 CFR part 11. Therefore, no change has been made. Section 400.765(b) has been revised by FCIC to clarify the applicable regulations for which a final agency determination will be provided.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 400

Administrative practice and procedure.

Final Rule

Accordingly, as set forth in the preamble, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation is adopting the interim rule amending 7 CFR part 400 which was published at 63 FR 70312 in the **Federal Register** of December 21, 1998 as final with the following changes:

PART 400—GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Subpart X—Interpretations of Statutory and Regulatory Provisions

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 400 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1506(l), 1506(p).

2. Revise § 400.765(b) to read as follows:

§ 400.765 Basis and applicability.

* * * * *

(b) Requesters may seek interpretations of those provisions of the Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder that are in effect for the crop year in which the request under this subpart is being made and the three previous crop years.

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§ 400.767 [Amended]

3. Amend § 400.767(a)(1), to remove the word "faximile" and to add the word "facsimile".

Signed in Washington, DC, on September 7, 1999.

Kenneth D. Ackerman,
Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight

12 CFR Part 1730

RIN 2550-AA07

Debt Collection

AGENCY: Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, HUD.

ACTION: Final regulation.

SUMMARY: The Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight is adopting the interim regulation that was published at 64 FR 34968 on June 30, 1999, as final

without change. The final regulation sets forth procedures for use by OFHEO in collecting debts owed to the Federal Government. The Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, as amended by the Debt Collection Act of 1982 and the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, requires agencies to issue a regulation on their debt collection procedures. The final regulation includes procedures for collection of debts through salary offset, administrative offset, and tax refund offset.

DATES: This final regulation is effective October 18, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Isabella W. Sammons, Associate General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; or Gail Palestine, Financial Management Officer, Office of Finance and Administration, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, 1700 G Street, NW., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20552, telephone (202) 414-3800 (not a toll-free number). The toll-free telephone number for the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf is (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO) published an interim regulation at 64 FR 34968 on June 30, 1999, that implemented the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, as amended by the Debt Collection Act of 1982 and the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. OFHEO requested comments on the interim regulation, but did not receive any. Accordingly, the interim regulation, which amended Chapter XVII of title 12 of the Code of Federal Regulations by adding part 1730, is adopted as a final regulation without change.

Dated: September 9, 1999.

Mark A. Kinsey,

Acting Director, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.

[FR Doc. 99-24116 Filed 9-15-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Airspace Docket No. 99-ACE-33]

Amendment to Class E Airspace; North Platte, NE

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Direct final rule; confirmation of effective date.