Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that these regulations will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because they will affect only Federal agencies and employees.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532

Administrative practice and procedure, Freedom of information, Government employees, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wages.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,

Director.

Accordingly, the Office of Personnel Management is amending 5 CFR part 532 as follows:

PART 532—PREVAILING RATE SYSTEMS

1. The authority citation for part 532 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 5343, 5346; § 532.707 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552.

2. Appendix A to subpart B of part 532 is amended for the State of Illinois by revising the name of the ''Champaign-Urbana'' wage area to read ''Central Illinois''.

3. Appendix C to subpart B is amended for the State of Colorado by revising the wage area listing for Southern Colorado, for the State of New Mexico by revising the wage area listing for Albuquerque, and for the State of Texas by revising the wage area listing for El Paso, to read as follows:

Appendix C to Subpart B of Part 532—Appropriated Fund Wage and Survey Areas

* * * * *

COLORADO

* * * * *

SOUTHERN COLORADO

Survey Area

Colorado:
El Paso
Pueblo
Teller

Area of Application. Survey area plus:

Colorado:
Alamosa
Archuleta
Baca
Bent
Chaffee
Cheyenne
Conejos
Costilla
Crowley
Custer
Delta
Dolores
Fremont
Gunnison
Hinsdale
Huerfano
Kiowa
Kit Carson
Las Animas
Lincoln
Mineral
Montrose
Otero
Ouray
Prowers
Rio Grande
Saguache
San Juan
San Miguel

* * * * *

NEW MEXICO

ALBUQUERQUE

Survey Area

New Mexico:
Bernalillo
Sandoval

Area of Application. Survey area plus:

New Mexico:
Catron
Cibola
Colfax
Curry
De Baca
Guadalupe
Harding
Lincoln (Does not include White Sands Missile Range portions.)
Los Alamos
Mora
Quay
Rio Arriba
Roosevelt
San Miguel
Santa Fe
Socorro (Does not include White Sands Missile Range portions.)
Taos
Torrance
Union
Valencia

* * * * *

TEXAS

* * * * *

EL PASO

Survey Area

Texas:
El Paso
New Mexico:
Dona Ana
Otero

Area of Application. Survey area plus:

New Mexico:
Chaves
Eddy
Grant
Hidalgo
Lincoln (Only White Sands Missile Range portions.)
Luna
Sierra
Socorro (Only White Sands Missile Range portions.)
Texas:
Culberson
Hudspeth

* * * * *

4. Appendix D to subpart B is amended for the State of Washington by revising the wage area listing for Kitsap to read as follows:

Appendix D to Subpart B of Part 532—Nonappropriated Fund Wage and Survey Areas

* * * * *

WASHINGTON

* * * * *

KITSAP

Survey Area

Washington:
Kitsap

Area of Application. Survey area plus:

Washington:
Clallam
Jefferson

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 00–20061 Filed 8–8–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 205

[TM–00–07]

RIN 0581–AA40

National Organic Program, Provision of Reasonable Security

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is publishing this advance notice of proposed rulemaking to request comments on the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA) requirement that private certifying agents furnish reasonable security, in an amount determined by the Secretary, to protect the rights of participants in the National Organic Program (NOP). On March 13, 2000, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) published in the **Federal Register**, a revised National Organic Program proposed rule. The proposed rule stated the amount and terms of reasonable security would be the subject of additional rulemaking.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before September 8, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Beth Hayden, Agricultural Marketing Specialist, National Organic Program,

USDA/AMS/TM/NOP, Room 2510–So., Ag Stop 0268, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090–6456. Phone: 202/720–3252. Fax: 202/205–7808. E-mail: beth.hayden@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith Jones, Program Manager, National Organic Program, USDA/AMS/TM/NOP, Room 2945–So., Ag Stop 0268, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090–6456. Phone: 202/720–3252. Fax: 202/690–3924. E-mail: keith.jones@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

AMS is responsible for implementing 7 U.S.C. 6515 (e)(2). This section of the OFPA requires private certifying agents to furnish reasonable security, in an amount determined by the Secretary, for the purpose of protecting the rights of participants (customers) in an organic certification program established under the NOP. Historically, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) recommends regulations that will benefit the organic industry. When the NOSB considered the issue of reasonable security as proposed in the March 13, 2000, proposed rule, 65 FR 13512–13658, (2000), they recommended that the criteria used to determine the amount and type of security required should be affordable and explicitly defined with particular regard for the diverse size and economics of various regional certifiers and operations being certified. Additionally, the Senate Committee Report on the OFPA (Senate Committee Report, Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, Title XVI, pg. 294–295) states, ''It is not the Committee's intention that the Department establish security deposits that are so high as to cause the elimination of private certifying agents.''

AMS reviewed many financial instruments to determine the type and value of security a certifying agent might need based on its business structure and customer base. For example, an agent operating a small, not-for-profit operation for clients who primarily sell directly to consumers may have fewer and smaller liability requirements than an agent with numerous clients who sell to large food processors or who export product.

AMS also interviewed current certifying agents and concluded that many of the 36 known private certifying agents carry liability insurance to protect themselves against claims from the public or their employees in the course of their business activities. For example, some certifying agents must provide evidence of liability coverage in order to sell their products to food processors. However, under certain state laws, not-for-profit certifying agents may be exempt from legal actions that would normally require a prudent businessperson to carry liability insurance. In some cases, certifying agents request that their clients sign a liability waiver and therefore do not carry liability insurance.

After reviewing the options for assessing reasonable security and the current industry information on this issue, however, the NOP decided to seek additional public input on what amount and type of reasonable security is best for protecting the rights of NOP participants.

This action has been determined not significant and not subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

Issues for Public Comment

AMS is soliciting comments on all aspects of reasonable security and protection of the rights of program participants. We request comments from any interested parties, including producers and handlers of organic agricultural products, certifying agents, importers and exporters, the international community and any other person or group. The following questions are provided to facilitate public comment on this advanced notice of proposed rulemaking. Comments addressing other relevant issues also may be submitted.

1. From what risks or events might a customer of a private certifying agent require reasonable security?
2. What are the financial instrument(s) that could provide the reasonable security to protect customers from these events?
3. What dollar amounts of security would give reasonable protection to a customer of a private certifying agent?
4. What are the financial costs to private certifiers, especially small certifiers, of providing reasonable security?
5. Do the risk or events provided in response to Question #1 necessarily require financial compensation?
6. Are there situations where reasonable security is not needed?

A thirty day comment period is provided for interested persons to comment on this advance notice of proposed rulemaking. This time period is deemed appropriate given the need to publish a final NOP rule by the end of the calendar year.

After comments to this notice are received and analyzed, AMS intends to publish a proposed rule in the **Federal Register**. The public will once again be invited to submit comments. The proposed rule will include the proposed regulation, an explanation of our decision making process, an analysis of the costs and benefits, the effects on small businesses, and an estimate of the paperwork burden imposed by the rule.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 6501–6522.

Dated: August 3, 2000.

Sharon Bomer Lauritsen,

Acting Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing.

[FR Doc. 00–20062 Filed 8–8–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000–SW–11–AD]

Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Model 430 Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes the adoption of a new airworthiness directive (AD) for Bell Helicopter Textron Canada (BHTC) Model 430 helicopters. This proposal would require calibration of the fuel quantity indicating system. This proposal is prompted by an operator report of an inaccurate fuel quantity indicating system. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent an inaccurate fuel quantity indicating system reading, engine flameout due to fuel starvation, and a subsequent forced landing.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 10, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2000–SW–11–AD, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas 76137. You may also send comments electronically to the Rules Docket at 9-asw-adcomments@faa.gov. Comments may be inspected at the Office of the Regional Counsel between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Bell Helicopter Textron Canada, 12,800