

# Rules and Regulations

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### 7 CFR Parts 1728 and 1755

#### Standards and Specifications for Timber Products Acceptable for Use by Rural Utilities Service Electric and Telecommunications Borrowers; Correction

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Final rule; correction.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service published a final rule in the **Federal Register** on June 24, 2011, which amended its regulations on Electric and Telecommunications Standards and Specifications for Materials, Equipment and Construction, by codifying specifications for wood poles, stubs and anchor logs, wood crossarms (solid and laminated), transmission timbers and pole keys, and for quality control and inspection of timber products. The Agency also updated these specifications to conform with revisions to the American Wood Preservers' Association (AWPA) standards and follow agency policy on insurance requirements. The document inadvertently published incorrect percentages that would require rejection or re-inspection of the entire lot of poles. This document corrects these errors.

**DATES:** The correction is effective May 18, 2012.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Mr. H. Robert Lash, Transmission Branch, Electric Staff Division, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 1246, STOP 1569, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-1569; telephone: (202) 720-0486, or, email: [Bob.Lash@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Bob.Lash@wdc.usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Need for Correction

As published, the final rule describes in detail the responsibilities and procedures pertaining to the quality control for crossarms as specified in 7 CFR 1728.202. In this section, RUS inadvertently requires a 5 percent rejection or re-inspection of the entire lot of poles. The Agency is correcting this percentage inaccuracy in §§ 1728.202(f)(3)(i)(B), 1728.202(f)(3)(i)(C) and 1728.202(f)(3)(ii)(A) by replacing it with a 15 percent rejection or re-inspection of the entire lot of poles. The correct percentage of 15 appeared in the proposed rule and the Agency did not receive any adverse comments regarding it.

##### List of Subjects in 7 CFR Parts 1728 and 1755

###### 7 CFR Part 1728

Electric power, Incorporation by reference, Loan programs—energy, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Rural areas.

###### 7 CFR Part 1755

Incorporation by reference, Loan programs—communications, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Rural areas, Telephone.

For reasons set forth in the preamble, chapter XVII of title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, is amended as follows:

#### PART 1728—ELECTRIC STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION

- 1. The authority citation for part 1728 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*; 1921 *et seq.*, 6941 *et seq.*

- 2. In § 1728.202, revise paragraphs (f)(3)(i)(B), (f)(3)(i)(C), and (f)(3)(ii)(A) to read as follows:

##### § 1728.202 Bulletin 1728H-702, Specification for Quality Control and Inspection of Timber Products.

\* \* \* \* \*

(f) \* \* \*

(3) \* \* \*

(i) \* \* \*

(B) Re-treat the charge if more than 15 percent of the borings are found to be nonconforming.

(C) Re-treat all nonconforming poles if 15 percent or fewer fail the requirement.

(ii) \* \* \*

(A) For Group B poles 45 feet and shorter, bore each pole and re-treat only those found to be nonconforming, unless more than 15 percent fail; in that case, re-treat the entire lot.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dated: May 9, 2012.

**Jonathan Adelstein,**

*Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

[FR Doc. 2012-12025 Filed 5-17-12; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

#### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

#### Rural Utilities Service

#### Farm Service Agency

#### 7 CFR Part 1942

#### RIN 0575-AC78

#### Community Facility Loans

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Utilities Service, and Farm Service Agency, USDA.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Housing Service (Agency) is amending regulations on Community Facility Loans, to maintain consistency with standard industry contracts and to make minor revisions to streamline processing applications. These revisions are needed to conform to market and industry changes by updating, clarifying, and modifying the regulatory requirements for community facility construction and development. The amendments to the regulation will streamline current processes and provide for faster reviews of alternate construction contract methods (such as Design/Build and Construction Management) by the Agency's National Office.

**DATES:** This rule is effective July 17, 2012.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William Downs, Technical Support Branch, Program Support Staff, Rural Housing Service, U.S. Department of