

Customs territory of the United States. As specified in § 354.3(f)(1), the international airline passenger user fee will be \$3.00 during fiscal year 2001 (October 1, 2000, through September 30, 2001).

Done in Washington, DC, this 25th day of September 2000.

Craig A. Reed,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 00-25021 Filed 9-28-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

[00-B]

Pilot Programs for Official Agencies

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA is extending the current three pilot programs (timely service, open season, and barge) pending changes to the current statutory authority for such programs. These pilot programs were established in 1995 and 1998 to allow more than one official agency to provide official services within a single geographic area. These programs are scheduled to end on September 30, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Neil E. Porter, telephone 202-720-8262.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Sections 7(f) and 7A of the United States Grain Standards Act (Act) (7 U.S.C. 79(f)) and (7 U.S.C. 79a) were amended by the United States Grain Standards Act Amendments of 1993 (Public Law 103-156) on November 24, 1993, to authorize GIPSA's Administrator to conduct pilot programs allowing more than one official agency to provide official services within a single geographic area without undermining the declared policy of the Act. The purpose of the pilot programs is to evaluate the impact of allowing more than one official agency to provide official services within a single geographic area. These pilot programs are scheduled to end on September 30, 2000.

On September 27, 1995, GIPSA published a **Federal Register** Notice (60 FR 49828), announcing two new pilot programs (timely service and open season) to begin on November 1, 1995. The timely service pilot program allowed official agencies to provide official services to facilities outside their

assigned geographic area on a case-by-case basis when these services could not be provided in a timely manner by the official agency designated to serve the area. The open season pilot program allowed official agencies to offer their services to facilities outside their assigned geographic area where no official sample-lot or official weighing services had been provided in the previous 6 months. On October 3, 1996, GIPSA published a **Federal Register** Notice (61 FR 51674), which reduced the qualification period to 3 months.

On January 15, 1998, GIPSA published a **Federal Register** Notice (63 FR 2360), announcing a pilot program allowing barges on all rivers to be sampled by probe by any official agency. This barge pilot option was initiated on March 1, 1998.

On October 1, 1998, GIPSA published a **Federal Register** Notice (63 FR 52682) extending the three pilot programs to September 30, 2000.

The pilot programs are extended pending changes to the current statutory authority for the pilot programs. GIPSA will continue to monitor and evaluate the pilot programs. If, at any time, GIPSA determines that any pilot program is having a negative impact on the official system or is not working as intended, the program may be modified or discontinued.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 *et seq.*).

Dated: September 22, 2000.

Neil E. Porter,

Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 00-24925 Filed 9-28-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Publication of Depreciation Rates

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby announces the depreciation rates for telecommunications plant for the period ended December 31, 1999.

DATES: These rates are effective for the period beginning January 1, 1999 and ending December 31, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathan P. Claffey, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 4056, STOP 1590, Washington, DC 20250-1590. Telephone: (202) 720-9556.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 206(a)(3) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 requires RUS to annually determine and publish average depreciation rates used by its borrowers for the purposes of depreciating telecommunications plant. The following chart provides those rates, compiled by RUS for the reporting period ended December 31, 1999:

AVERAGE DEPRECIATION RATES OF RUS BORROWERS BY EQUIPMENT CATEGORY FOR PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999:

Telecommunications plant category	Depreciation rate (percent)
1. Land and Support Assets:	
a. Motor vehicles	15.00
b. Aircraft	10.00
c. Special purpose vehicles	12.00
d. Garage and other work equipment	10.00
e. Buildings	3.01
f. Furniture and office equipment	10.00
g. General purpose computers	18.57
2. Central Office Switching:	
a. Digital (a)	8.33
b. Analog & electro-mechanical	10.00
c. Operator systems	8.86
d. Radio systems	9.50
e. Circuit equipment (b) ...	10.00
3. Information Origination/Termination:	
a. Station apparatus	11.59
b. Customer premises equipment	10.00
c. Large private branch exchanges	12.50
d. Public telephone terminal equipment	11.10
e. Other terminal equipment	10.55
4. Cable and Wire Facilities:	
a. Aerial cable-Poles	6.67
a. Aerial cable-metal	6.00
b. Aerial cable-fiber	5.00
c. Underground cable-metal	4.81
d. Underground cable-fiber	4.82
e. Buried cable-metal	5.00
f. Buried cable-fiber	5.00
g. Conduit systems	3.02
h. Other	7.21

Christopher A. McLean,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

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330 or in 9 CFR, chapter I, subchapter D of the regulations. Exemptions to these user fees are specified in § 354.3(f)(2).