

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 1220

[No. LS-02-14]

Amendment to the Soybean Promotion and Research Rules and Regulations

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule would amend the Soybean Promotion and Research Rules and Regulations (Rules and Regulations) established under the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (Act) by requiring first purchasers of soybeans and producers marketing processed soybeans or soybean products of a producer's own production in the States or regions of Delaware, Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas, Eastern Region, and the Western Region, to remit and report assessments on a quarterly basis rather than a monthly basis. This proposed change would reduce the administrative costs of monthly reporting imposed on these smaller soybean producing States and regions.

DATES: Written comments must be received by July 18, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send a copy of your comments to Kenneth R. Payne, Chief; Marketing Programs Branch; Livestock and Seed Program; Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), USDA, Room 2638-S; STOP 0251; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, DC 20250-0251. Comments may also be sent electronically to SoybeanComments@usda.gov or by facsimile at 202/720-1125. All comments should reference the docket number LS-02-14, the date, and the page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. Comments will be available for public inspection via the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mpb/rp-soy.htm> or between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except holidays at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marlene M. Betts, Agricultural Marketing Specialist, Marketing Programs Branch, 202/720-1115.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has waived the review process required by Executive Order 12866 for this action.

Executive Order 12988

This proposed rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. This proposal is not intended to have a retroactive effect.

The Act provides that administrative proceedings must be exhausted before parties may file suit in court. Under § 1971 of the Act, a person subject to the Soybean Promotion and Research Order (Order) may file a petition with the Department of Agriculture (Department) stating that the Order, any provision of the Order, or any obligation imposed in connection with the Order, is not in accordance with law and requesting a modification of the Order or an exemption from the Order. The petitioner is afforded the opportunity for a hearing on the petition. After a hearing, the Department would rule on the petition. The Act provides that the district courts of the United States in any district in which such person is an inhabitant, or has their principal place of business, has jurisdiction to review the Department's ruling on the petition, if a complaint for this purpose is filed within 20 days after the date of the entry of the ruling. Further, § 1974 of the Act provides, with certain exceptions, that nothing in the Act may be construed to preempt or supersede any other program relating to soybean promotion, research, consumer information, or industry information organized and operated under the laws of the United States or any State. One exception in the Act concerns assessments collected by Qualified State Soybean Boards (QSSBs). The exception provides that to ensure adequate funding of the operations of QSSBs under the Act, no State law or regulation may limit or have the effect of limiting the full amount of assessments that a QSSB in that State may collect, and which is authorized to be credited under the Act.

Another exception concerns certain referenda conducted during specified periods by a State relating to the continuation or termination of a QSSB or State soybean assessment.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

AMS has determined that this proposed rule will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), because it only revises the remittance of assessments and reports from a monthly basis to a quarterly basis for certain States or regions. The States or regions of Delaware, Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas, Eastern Region, and the Western Region will be changed from monthly remitting States or regions to quarterly remitting States or regions to reduce administrative costs. Because of the minimal number of first purchasers, producers, and total remittances from these States and regions, allowing the States or regions to remit and report assessments on a quarterly basis would benefit QSSBs, the States and regions, and the United Soybean Board (Board) by reducing the administrative costs of remitting and reporting assessments on a monthly basis. The proposed action would likely reduce administrative costs by approximately \$10,000. As such, these changes will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. There are an estimated 30,000 soybean producers who pay assessments and an estimated 150 first purchasers who collect assessments in the four affected States and two regions. There are six QSSBs that would be affected under this proposed rule. Most of these entities would be considered small entities under the criteria established by the Small Business Administration (13 CFR 121.201).

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1990 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the reporting and recordkeeping requirements included in 7 CFR part 1220 were previously approved by OMB and were assigned OMB control number 0581-0093. The purpose of this proposed rule is to change the remitting and reporting of assessments to a quarterly basis from a monthly basis in four soybean producing States and two regions. There

are a minimal number of first purchasers and producers in these four States and two regions. This change would not substantially impact the overall total burden hours. As a result, no change to the previously submitted burden estimate is necessary.

Background and Proposed Changes

The Act (7 U.S.C. 6301–6311) provides for the establishment of a coordinated program of promotion and research designed to strengthen the soybean industry's position in the marketplace, and to maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets and uses for soybeans and soybean products. The program is financed by an assessment of 0.5 of 1 percent of the net market price of soybeans sold by producers. The final Order establishing a soybean promotion, research, and consumer information program was published in the July 9, 1991, issue of the **Federal Register** (56 FR 31043) and assessments began on September 1, 1991.

The Soybean Promotion and Research Rules and Regulations, 7 CFR part 1220, published in the **Federal Register** on July 2, 1992 (57 FR 29436), specify in § 1220.312(b) that first purchasers and producers responsible for remitting assessments shall remit assessments and reports on a monthly or quarterly basis depending upon the State or region in which they are located. This proposed rule would change the States or regions of Delaware, Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas, Eastern Region, and the Western Region from remitting and reporting assessments on a monthly basis to a quarterly basis. Currently, 15 States and 2 regions report on a monthly basis and 14 States report on a quarterly basis.

The Board, in conjunction with the affected States and regions, recommended to AMS to change the period for remitting and reporting assessments for the following States or regions from a monthly basis to quarterly basis: Delaware, Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas, Eastern Region, and the Western Region.

This proposed rule would assist these smaller soybean producing States and regions (listed above) in reporting and remitting their assessments to the Board. The Board has decided that the current requirement to remit and report assessments on a monthly basis is no longer necessary given the minimal number of first purchasers and total remitters from these smaller soybean producing States and regions. Allowing these States and regions to become quarterly remitters would reduce their administrative costs. It is estimated that administrative costs would be reduced

by approximately \$10,000 if first purchasers of soybeans and producers marketing processed soybeans and soybean products of a producer's own production in the States and regions of Delaware, Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas, the Eastern Region, and the Western Region could remit and report assessments on a quarterly basis. Producers that market soybeans to first purchasers would continue to pay the assessment at the time of settlement. Due to the minimal number of first purchasers and total remittances in these States and regions, allowing the States or regions to remit quarterly would be beneficial to the States, regions, and the Board by reducing the administrative costs of collecting assessments.

A 30-day comment period is provided for interested persons. For the aforementioned reasons, a 30-day comment period is deemed appropriate so that the proposed change, if adopted, can be implemented as soon as possible.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1220

Administrative practice and procedure, Advertising, Agricultural research, Marketing agreements, Soybeans and soybean products, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, it is proposed that Title 7, part 1220 be amended as follows:

PART 1220—SOYBEAN PROMOTION, RESEARCH, AND CONSUMER INFORMATION

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 1220 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 6301–6311.

2. In § 1220.312, the table in paragraph (b) is revised to read as follows:

* * * * *

(b) * * *

Monthly	Quarterly
Arkansas	Alabama
Iowa	Delaware
Kansas	Florida
Kentucky	Georgia
Michigan	Illinois
Minnesota	Indiana
Missouri	Louisiana
Mississippi	Maryland
North Carolina	North Dakota
Tennessee	Nebraska
Wisconsin	New Jersey
	Ohio
	Oklahoma
	Pennsylvania
	South Carolina
	South Dakota
	Texas

Monthly	Quarterly
	Virginia Eastern Region Western Region

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Dated: June 12, 2003.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 03–15318 Filed 6–17–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2001–NM–370–AD]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 757 Series Airplanes Powered by Pratt & Whitney Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes the superseding of an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Boeing Model 757 series airplanes, that currently requires modification of the nacelle strut and wing structure. This action would reduce a certain compliance time in the existing AD. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent fatigue cracking in primary strut structure and consequent reduced structural integrity of the strut. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

DATES: Comments must be received by August 4, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM–114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2001–NM–370–AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments may be submitted via fax to (425) 227–1232. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: *9-anm-nprmcomment@faa.gov*. Comments sent via fax or the Internet must contain “Docket No. 2001–NM–370–AD” in the subject line and need not be submitted in triplicate. Comments sent via the