

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 rule will 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 will 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 remit and report assessments on a quarterly basis. Producers that market soybeans to first purchasers will 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 will be beneficial to the States, regions, and the Board by reducing the administrative costs of collecting assessments.

Comments

On June 18, 2003, the Department published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 36498) for comment a proposed rule to amend the Rules and Regulations established under the Act. The proposed rule provided 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.

The proposed rule was published with a request for comments to be submitted by July 18, 2003. The Department received one comment, in a timely manner, from an individual who did not support the program in general. This commenter further questioned the impact of the proposal on assessments. In the proposal, we noted that the rule would assist smaller soybean producing States and regions in reporting and

remitting their assessments to the Board. We concluded that 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. As such this action should impact assessments favorably.

Based on the Board's recommendation, in conjunction with the affected States and regions, and no substantive comments, AMS is changing the period for remitting and reporting assessments for the following States or regions from a monthly basis to a quarterly basis: Delaware, Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas, Eastern Region, and the Western Region.

This rule will become effective April 1, 2004.

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, Title 7, part 1220 is 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:

§ 1220.312 Remittance of assessments and submission of reports to United Soybean Board or Qualified State Soybean Board.

(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
	Virginia
	Eastern Region
	Western Region

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Dated: December 9, 2003.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 03–31000 Filed 12–15–03; 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 1951

RIN 0560–AG56

Prompt Disaster Set-Aside Consideration and Primary Loan Servicing Facilitation

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document corrects a final rule published September 25, 2003, which provided disaster set-aside more quickly to those who can most benefit from the program. This document is necessary to correct an editorial mistake relating to the amount which may be set aside.

DATE: This rule is effective on December 16, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Cumpton, Farm Loan Programs, Loan Servicing and Property Management Division, United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, STOP 0523, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–0523, telephone (202) 690–4014; electronic mail: mike_cumpton@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document corrects a final rule which amended 7 CFR part 1951 published in the **Federal Register** on September 25, 2003 (68 FR 55299–55304). Section 1951.954(b)(3), as promulgated incorrectly states, “The installment that may be set aside is limited to the first or second scheduled annual installment due after the disaster occurred and the amount may not exceed the installment set aside.” This document removes the words, “and the amount may not exceed the installment set aside” as extraneous. The maximum set-aside amount is covered by paragraph (b)(4). This correction will make the regulation more clear.

■ For the reason set forth above, the final rule published on September 25, 2003 (68 FR 55299–55304), FR Doc. 03–24177, is corrected as follows:

■ 1. On page 55303, in the third column, revise § 1951.954(b)(3) to read as follows:

§ 1951.954 Eligibility and loan limitation requirements.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(3) The amount set-aside may not exceed the amount of the first or second scheduled annual installment due after the disaster occurred.

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Signed in Washington, DC, on December 10, 2003.

Floyd D. Gaibler,

Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.

[FR Doc. 03–31002 Filed 12–15–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

15 CFR Part 801

[Docket No. 030815201–3306–02]

RIN 0691–AA50

International Services Surveys: BE–85, Quarterly Survey of Financial Services Transactions Between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Unaffiliated Foreign Persons

AGENCY: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule amends 15 CFR 801.9 to set forth the reporting requirements for the BE–85, Quarterly Survey of Financial Services Transactions Between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Unaffiliated Foreign Persons.

The BE–85 survey will be conducted by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Department of Commerce, under the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act, and under Section 5408 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988. The first survey conducted under this rule will cover transactions in the first quarter of 2004. Data from the BE–85 survey are needed to monitor trade in financial services, analyze its impact on the U.S. and foreign economies, compile and improve the U.S. economic accounts, support U.S. commercial policy on financial services, conduct trade promotion, improve the ability of U.S. businesses to identify and evaluate

market opportunities, and for other Government uses.

The survey will cover the same financial services presently covered by the BE–82, Annual Survey of Financial Services Transactions Between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Unaffiliated Foreign Persons, which the BE–85 survey would replace, following a final annual data collection for 2003.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This final rule will be effective January 15, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Obie G. Whichard, Chief, International Investment Division (BE–50), Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230; or via the Internet at obie.whichard@bea.gov (Telephone (202) 606–9890).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the August 29, 2003, **Federal Register**, (68 FR 51939–51941), BEA published a notice of proposed rulemaking setting forth reporting requirements for the BE–85, Quarterly Survey of Financial Services Transactions Between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Unaffiliated Foreign Persons. No comments on the proposed rule were received. Thus, the proposed rule is adopted without change.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Department of Commerce, will conduct the survey under the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act (22 U.S.C. 3101–3108), and under Section 5408 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4908). Section 4(a) of the Act (22 U.S.C. 3103(a)) provides that the President shall, to the extent he deems necessary and feasible, conduct a regular data collection program to secure current information related to international investment and trade in services and publish for the use of the general public and United States Government agencies periodic, regular, and comprehensive statistical information collected pursuant to this subsection. In Section 3 of Executive Order 11961, as amended by Executive Order 12518, the President delegated authority granted under the Act as concerns international trade in services to the Secretary of Commerce, who has redelegated that authority to BEA.

The major purposes of the survey are to monitor trade in financial services, analyze its impact on the U.S. and foreign economies, compile and improve the U.S. economic accounts, support U.S. commercial policy on financial services, conduct trade promotion, and improve the ability of U.S. businesses to identify and evaluate market opportunities.

BEA will conduct the BE–85 survey on a quarterly basis beginning with the first quarter of 2004. BEA will send the survey to potential respondents in March of 2004. Responses will be due by May 15, 2004. The survey will update the data provided on the universe of financial services transactions between U.S. financial services providers and unaffiliated foreign persons. Reporting is required from U.S. financial services providers whose sales of covered services to unaffiliated foreign persons exceeded \$20 million for the previous fiscal year or that expect such sales to exceed that amount during the current fiscal year, or whose purchases of covered services from unaffiliated foreign persons exceeded \$15 million for the previous fiscal year or that expect such purchases to exceed that amount during the current fiscal year. Financial services providers meeting any of these criteria must supply data on the amount of their sales or purchases for each covered type of service, disaggregated by country. U.S. financial services providers that do not meet the mandatory reporting requirements are requested to provide voluntary estimates of their total sales or purchases of each type of financial service.

Executive Order 12866

This final rule is not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

Executive Order 13132

This final rule does not contain policies with Federalism implications as that term is defined in E.O. 13132.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The collection of information required in this final rule has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection displays a currently valid OMB Control Number; such a Control Number (0608–0065) will be displayed.

The BE–85 survey is expected to result in the filing of reports containing mandatory data from about 55 respondents on a quarterly basis, or 220 responses annually. The average burden for completing the BE–85 is estimated to be 10 hours. Thus, the total respondent burden of the survey is estimated at 2,200 hours (220 responses times 10 hours average burden). The actual burden will vary from reporter to