

# Rules and Regulations

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### 7 CFR Part 1792

RIN 0572-AB74

#### Seismic Safety

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

**ACTION:** Notice of confirmation of direct final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency delivering the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Utilities Programs, gives notice that no adverse comments were received regarding the direct final rule amending its regulations to update the seismic safety requirements of the agency, and confirms the effective date of the direct final rule.

**DATES:** The direct final rule published in the **Federal Register** on April 30, 2004, (69 FR 23641) was effective on June 14, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Donald Heald, Structural Engineer, Transmission Branch, Electric Staff Division, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 1569, Washington, DC 20250-1569. Telephone: (202) 720-9102. Fax: (202) 720-7491.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

RUS requires borrowers and grant recipients to meet applicable requirements mandated by Federal statutes and regulations to obtain RUS financing. One such requirement is compliance with building safety provisions of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.*) as implemented pursuant to Executive Order 12699, Seismic Safety of Federal and Federally

Assisted or Regulated New Building Construction (3 CFR, 1990 Comp., pg. 269).

Subpart C of 7 CFR Part 1792 codifies the policies and requirements that RUS and RTB borrowers and grant recipients must meet for new building construction when using funds provided or guaranteed by RUS or RTB, or when obtained through a lien accommodation or subordination approved by RUS or RTB.

The Executive Order requires all Federal agencies to ensure that any new building which is leased for Federal uses or purchased or constructed with Federal assistance is designed and constructed in accordance with appropriate seismic design standards. Those standards must be equivalent to or exceed the seismic safety levels in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) recommended provisions for the development of seismic regulations for new buildings. The Executive Order charges the Interagency Committee on Seismic Safety in Construction (ICSSC) with recommending appropriate and cost-effective seismic design, construction standards and practices.

According to a recent study commissioned by the ICSSC, the model codes and standards that are equivalent to the 1997 NEHRP Recommended Provisions are the 2000 International Building Code and the ASCE 7-98 Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures. These codes will be added to the list of codes equivalent to the 1994 or 1997 NEHRP Recommended Provisions. In addition, clarification is added to the acknowledgment.

#### Confirmation of Effective Date

This is to confirm the effective date of June 14, 2004, for the direct final rule, 7 CFR 1792, Seismic Safety, published in the **Federal Register** on April 30, 2004.

Dated: June 18, 2004.

**Hilda Gay Legg,**

*Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

[FR Doc. 04-14323 Filed 6-23-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### 8 CFR Part 103

#### 19 CFR Part 24

[CBP Dec. 04-19]

RIN 1651-AA59

### Overtime Compensation and Premium Pay for Customs Officers

**AGENCY:** Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This rule amends the definition of "customs officer" for the purpose of eligibility for overtime compensation and premium pay. In addition, a conforming change is made to the definition of "immigration officer." These revisions are necessary to reflect recent changes in the functions and organizational structure of U.S. Customs and Border Protection consistent with the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* July 24, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard Balaban, Financial Analyst, Office of Field Operations, (202) 927-0031.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Section 24.16 of the Customs Regulations (19 CFR 24.16) sets forth the procedure that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) must follow to furnish overtime and premium pay to customs officers, as required by the Customs Officer Pay Reform Act, 19 U.S.C. 267 ("COPRA"). The statutory language at 19 U.S.C. 267(e)(1) provides that overtime compensation and premium pay may be paid to an individual performing those functions specified by regulation by the Secretary of the Treasury for a customs inspector or canine enforcement officer. Since the enactment of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135, 6 U.S.C. 101 *et seq.*), these regulations are now promulgated by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

The enabling regulation, specifically 19 CFR 24.16(b)(7), Customs Regulations, currently defines those eligible for COPRA coverage by specifying only four position