

Regulations, to add to the list of preclearance offices one at Oranjestad, Aruba and one at Ottawa, Canada. Section 101.5 is also amended to reflect that all preclearance operations are being consolidated under a single Director, Preclearance, located in the Office of Field Operations at Customs Headquarters.

Inapplicability of Public Notice and Delayed Effective Date Requirements

Because this amendment merely reflects the addition of two new Customs preclearance offices and the consolidation of the Customs preclearance operations under a Director, Preclearance, located in the Office of Field Operations at Customs Headquarters, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), notice and public procedure are unnecessary, and for the same reason, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), a delayed effective date is not required.

Regulatory Flexibility Act and Executive Order 12866

Because no notice of proposed rulemaking is required, the provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) do not apply. This amendment does not meet the criteria for a "significant regulatory action" as specified in Executive Order 12866.

Drafting Information

The principal author of this document was Janet L. Johnson, Regulations Branch, Office of Regulations and Rulings, U.S. Customs Service. However, personnel from other offices participated in its development.

List of Subjects in 19 CFR Part 101

Customs duties and inspection, Customs ports of entry, Foreign trade statistics, Imports, Organization and functions (Government agencies), Shipments, Vessels.

Amendments to the Regulations

Part 101, Customs Regulations (19 CFR part 101), is amended as set forth below.

PART 101—GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The general authority citation for part 101, Customs Regulations, continues to read, and a new specific authority citation for § 101.5 is added to read, as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 19 U.S.C. 2, 66, 1202 (General Note 22, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States), 1623, 1624, 1646a.

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Section 101.5 also issued under 19 U.S.C. 1629.

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2. Section 101.5 is revised to read as follows:

§ 101.5 Customs preclearance offices in foreign countries.

Listed below are the preclearance offices in foreign countries where U. S. Customs officers are located. A Director, Preclearance, located in the Office of Field Operations at Customs Headquarters, is the responsible Customs officer exercising supervisory control over all preclearance offices.

Country	Customs office
Aruba	Oranjestad
The Bahamas ...	Freeport
	Nassau
Bermuda	Kindley Field
Canada	Calgary, Alberta
	Edmonton, Alberta
	Montreal, Quebec
	Ottawa, Ontario
	Toronto, Ontario
	Vancouver, British Columbia
	Winnipeg, Manitoba

Approved: November 2, 2001.

Charles W. Winwood,

Acting Commissioner of Customs.

Timothy E. Skud,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Fiscal Service

31 CFR Part 337

Supplemental Regulations Governing Federal Housing Administration Debentures

AGENCY: Bureau of the Public Debt, Fiscal Service, Treasury.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury amends the Supplemental Regulations Governing Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Debentures by requiring debentures to be forwarded to the Bureau of the Public Debt for processing. The FHA debentures, issued under the National Housing Act as amended, were previously submitted to the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. This amendment reflects that the Bureau of the Public Debt, Office of Public Debt Accounting, will perform day-to-day operations and transactions relating to the debentures.

DATES: This rule is effective October 29, 2001.

ADDRESSES: You can download this final rule at the following World Wide Web address: <<http://www.publicdebt.treas.gov>>. You may also inspect and copy this rule at: Treasury Department Library, Room 1428, Main Treasury Building, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20220. Before visiting the library, you must call (202) 622-0990 for an appointment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

- Howard Stevens, Office of Public Debt Accounting, Bureau of the Public Debt, at (304) 480-5297 or hstevens@bpd.treas.gov
- Elizabeth Gracia, Office of the Chief Counsel, Bureau of the Public Debt, at (304) 480-8687 or lgracia@bpd.treas.gov
- Edward Gronseth, Office of Chief Counsel, Bureau of the Public Debt, at (304) 480-8692 or egronset@bpd.treas.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Department of the Treasury is the fiscal agent for the Department of Housing and Urban Development for transactions in debentures that have been issued under the National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*, as amended. Federal Reserve Banks, as fiscal agents of the United States, are authorized to perform any necessary acts under this part. In final rule, 59 FR 42161, Aug. 17, 1994, this part was revised to consolidate the processing of debentures in certificated and book-entry forms at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. This final rule amends 31 CFR part 337 to provide that the Bureau of the Public Debt, Office of Public Debt Accounting, will perform transactions relating to the debentures effective October 29, 2001.

II. Procedural Requirements

A. Executive Order 12866

This final rule is not a "significant regulatory action" as defined in Executive Order 12866 and is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804. Therefore, an assessment of anticipated benefits, costs, and regulatory alternatives is not required.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

A prior notice of proposed rulemaking is unnecessary and impracticable because the final rule makes a minor change to the procedures for processing debentures. Because no notice of proposed rulemaking is required, the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*) does not apply.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

We ask for no new collections of information in this final rule. Therefore, the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3507) does not apply.

List of Subjects in 31 CFR Part 337

Banks, Banking, Government Securities, Federal Reserve System, Housing.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, amend 31 CFR part 337 as follows:

PART 337—SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION DEBENTURES

1. The authority citation for part 337 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 31 U.S.C. 321; Sec. 516, Pub. L. 102-550, 106 Stat. 3790.

2. Revise § 337.0 to read as follows:

§ 337.0 Scope of regulations.

The United States Department of the Treasury is the agent of the Federal Housing Administration for transactions in any debentures which have been or may be issued pursuant to the authority conferred by the National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*, as amended from time to time, including Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund Debentures, Housing Insurance Fund Debentures, War Housing Insurance Fund Debentures, Military Housing Insurance Fund Debentures, and National Defense Housing Insurance Fund Debentures. In accordance with the regulations adopted by the Federal Housing Commissioner and approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, such transactions are governed by regulations of the Department of the Treasury, so far as applicable. The Bureau of the Public Debt, Office of Public Debt Accounting operates the FHA debenture computer system and performs the day-to-day operations and transactions relating to the debentures.

3. Revise § 337.2 to read as follows:

§ 337.2 Transportation charges and risks.

Debentures presented for redemption at call or maturity, or for authorized prior purchase, or for conversion to book-entry form, must be delivered at the expense and risk of the holder. Debentures bearing restricted assignments may be forwarded by registered mail, but for the owner's protection debentures bearing unrestricted assignments should be forwarded by insured registered mail.

4. Amend § 337.4 by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 337.4 Presentation and surrender.

(a) *For redemption.* To facilitate the redemption of called or maturing debentures, they may be presented and surrendered in the manner prescribed in this section in advance of the call or maturity date, as the case may be. Early presentation by holders will insure prompt payment of principal and interest when due. The debentures must first be assigned by the registered payee or his assignee, or by his duly constituted representative, if required, in the form and manner indicated in § 337.5, and must then be submitted to the Bureau of the Public Debt at the address given in § 337.14, accompanied by appropriate written advice. A transmittal advice for this purpose will accompany the notice of call.

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5. Revise § 337.14 to read as follows:

§ 337.14 Address for further information.

Further information regarding the issuance of, transactions in, and redemption of, FHA debentures may be obtained from the Bureau of the Public Debt, Office of Public Debt Accounting, 200 Third Street, P.O. Box 396, Parkersburg, West Virginia 26102-0396.

6. Revise § 337.15 to read as follows:

§ 337.15 General Provisions.

As fiscal agents of the United States, Federal Reserve Banks are authorized to perform any necessary acts under this part. The Secretary of the Treasury may at any time or from time to time prescribe supplemental and amendatory regulations governing the matters covered by this part, notice of which shall be communicated promptly to the registered owners of the debentures.

Dated: November 1, 2001.

Donald V. Hammond,

Fiscal Assistant Secretary.

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POSTAL SERVICE**39 CFR Part 111****Refunds and Exchanges for Metered Postage**

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service is amending the *Domestic Mail Manual* (DMM) P014, Refunds and Exchanges, to clarify the refund policy for metered postage. These changes are being made in conjunction with the final rule amending P030, Postage Meters (Postage Evidencing Systems).

DATES: This rule is effective January 1, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Wayne Wilkerson, (703) 292-3590, or facsimile, (703) 292-4073.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed rule to revise the current DMM P014, Refunds and Exchanges, was published in the **Federal Register** August 15, 2001, (66 FR 42817). The Postal Service requested that comments on the proposed rule be submitted by September 14, 2001. The date for receipt of comments was extended to September 25, 2001. The Postal Service received two written comments from postage evidencing system providers and one comment from a governmental organization. The Postal Service gave thorough consideration to the comments it received, modified the proposed rule as appropriate, and now announces the adoption of the final rule. The Postal Service's evaluation of the significant comments follows. The final rule, as amended, follows the discussion of the comments.

Discussion of Comments

1. *Time limit on refunds.* Two commenters expressed concern that only allowing 30 days from the date printed in indicia for users to obtain a refund for unused indicia printed on unmailed envelopes, wrappers, or labels would increase administrative burdens on both the Postal Service and users. Both commenters requested an extension of this time period to 90 days.

The Postal Service carefully considered this requirement and agrees to extend the time period to 60 days for unused indicia printed by all types of postage evidencing systems, except for PC Postage (TM) systems. The time limit for PC Postage systems will remain 30 days.

2. *Damaged postage evidencing systems.* One commenter noted that although the procedures for reconstructing the register values for a refund or transfer of unused postage appear to be limited to systems damaged by fire, there are many other ways in which a system could become damaged.

The Postal Service agrees with the commenter and changed the regulation in response to this comment. The Postal Service also clarified that the unused postage value remaining in a postage evidencing system checked out and withdrawn from service may be refunded only in certain circumstances and only with the proper supporting documentation, as described in the revised regulation.

3. *Refund of unused postage value remaining in a postage evidencing*