

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

Office of the Secretary

7 CFR Part 6

RIN 0551-AA59

Licensing for Certain Sugar-Containing Products Under Tariff-Rate Quota

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule: Extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule, published in the *Federal Register* on March 17, 2000, (65 FR 14478-14484) provides for licensing of imports of sugar-containing products which enter under the tariff-rate quota (TRQ) provided for in Additional U.S. Note 8 to chapter 17 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS). Public comments were requested by April 17, 2000. The Department is extending the public comment period to May 17, 2000.

DATES: The comment period has been extended and will expire on May 17, 2000. Comments should be received on or before this date to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be mailed or delivered to Diana Wanamaker, Import Policies and Programs Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 1021, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-1021. Comments received may be inspected between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at room 5541-S, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-1021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diana Wanamaker at the address above, or telephone at 202-720-2916, or e-mail at Wanamaker@fas.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed rule was published in the *Federal Register* on March 17, 2000 (65 FR 14478-14484) and public comments were requested on or before April 17, 2000, to be assured of consideration. In view of private sector and foreign

government requests that the comment period be extended in order to more fully assess the proposed import licensing requirement and its effects on business operations, the Department has decided that a 30-day extension of the comment period to May 17, 2000 would be reasonable.

Signed at Washington, D.C. on April 13, 2000.

Timothy J. Galvin,

Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

[FR Doc. 00-9728 Filed 4-17-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Part 301

[Docket No. 99-077-1]

RIN 0579-AB17

Karnal Bunt; Regulated Areas

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: We propose to amend the Karnal bunt regulations by removing from regulated areas any noninfected acreage that is more than 3 miles from a field or area associated with a bunted wheat kernel. This action would reduce the size of the areas that are regulated because of Karnal bunt in La Paz, Maricopa, and Pinal Counties of Arizona. We also propose to specify that mechanized harvesting equipment must be cleaned and disinfected before leaving a regulated area only if it has been used to harvest host crops that test positive for Karnal bunt. This action would relieve restrictions on the movement of mechanized harvesting equipment from all areas regulated because of Karnal bunt. We believe these actions would not result in a significant risk of spreading Karnal bunt.

DATES: We invite you to comment on this docket. We will consider all comments that we receive by June 19, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please send your comment and three copies to: Docket No. 99-077-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03,

4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 99-077-1.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the *Federal Register*, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS rules, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Vedpal S. Malik, National Karnal Bunt Coordinator, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 134, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301)734-6774.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Karnal bunt is a fungal disease of wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), durum wheat (*Triticum durum*), and triticale (*Triticum aestivum* X *Secale cereale*), a hybrid of wheat and rye. Karnal bunt is caused by the fungus *Tilletia indica* (Mitra) Mundkur and is spread through the movement of infected seed. In the absence of measures taken by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to prevent its spread, the establishment of Karnal bunt in the United States could have significant consequences with regard to the export of wheat to international markets. The regulations regarding Karnal bunt are set forth in 7 CFR 301.89-1 through 301.89-14 (referred to below as the regulations).

Regulated Areas in Arizona

The regulations in § 301.89-3(e) provide the criteria for classifying a field or area as a regulated area for Karnal bunt. Under those criteria, a field or area would be classified as a regulated area when it is:

- A field planted with seed from a lot found to contain a bunted wheat kernel;
- A distinct definable area that contains at least one field that was found during survey to contain a bunted