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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

7 CFR Part 2

Revision of Delegations of Authority

AGENCY: Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document revises the delegations of authority from the Secretary of Agriculture and general officers of the Department to delegate to the General Counsel the authority to pay tort claims that arise outside the United States, as authorized by section 920 of Public Law 104-27.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 19, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert L. Siegler, Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Research and Operations Division, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, Room 2321-S, Washington, D.C. 20250, telephone 202-720-6035.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 920 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIR Act), Pub. L. No. 104-127 (7 U.S.C. 2262a), authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to pay a tort claim if the claim arises outside the United States in connection with activities of individuals performing service for the Secretary. This document delegates the authority of the Secretary to the General Counsel to make determinations of tort claims that arise outside the United States in accordance with section 920 of the FAIR Act.

This rule relates to internal agency management. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, notice of proposed rule making and opportunity for comment are not required. Further, since this rule relates to internal agency management, it is exempt from the provisions of Executive Order Nos. 12291 and 12778. In addition, this action is not a rule as

defined by Pub. L. No. 96-354, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act. Accordingly, as authorized by section 808 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-121, this rule may be made effective upon publication in the Federal Register.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 2

Authority delegations (Government agencies).

PART 2—DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY BY THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT

Accordingly, Part 2, Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

1. The authority citation for Part 2 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Sec. 212(a), Pub. L. 103-353, 108 Stat. 3210, 7 U.S.C. 6912(a)(1); 5 U.S.C. 301; Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953, 3 CFR, 1949-1953 Comp., p. 1024.

Subpart D—Delegations of Authority to Other General Officers and Agency Heads

2. Section 2.31 is amended by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 2.31 General Counsel.

* * * * *

(a) Consider, ascertain, adjust, determine, compromise, and settle claims pursuant to the Federal Tort Claims Act, as amended (28 U.S.C. 2671-2680), and the regulations of the Attorney General contained in 28 CFR part 14; and consider, ascertain, adjust, determine, compromise, and settle claims pursuant to section 920 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, Public Law 104-127 (7 U.S.C. 2262a).

Dated: September 10, 1996.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 96-23973 Filed 9-18-96; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

12 CFR Part 226

[Regulation Z; Docket No. R-0927]

Truth in Lending

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Board is publishing revisions to Regulation Z (Truth in Lending). The revisions implement the Truth in Lending Act Amendments of 1995, which establish new creditor-liability rules for closed-end loans secured by real property or dwellings and consummated on or after September 30, 1995. The 1995 Amendments create several tolerances for accuracy in disclosing the amount of the finance charge, and creditors have no civil or administrative liability if the finance charge and affected disclosures are within the applicable tolerances. The amendments also clarify how lenders must disclose certain fees connected with mortgage loans. In addition, the Board is publishing a new rule regarding the treatment of fees charged in connection with debt cancellation agreements, which is similar to the existing rule for credit insurance premiums and provides for more uniform treatment of these fees.

DATES: This rule is effective October 21, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James A. Michaels, Senior Attorney, or Natalie E. Taylor or Michael L. Hentrel, Staff Attorneys, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, at (202) 452-3667 or 452-2412; users of Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) *only*, contact Dorothea Thompson at (202) 452-3544.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The purpose of the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) (15 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*) is to promote the informed use of consumer credit by requiring disclosures about its terms and cost. The act requires creditors to disclose the cost of credit as a dollar amount (the "finance charge") and as an annual percentage rate (the "APR"). Uniformity in creditors' disclosures is intended to assist consumers in comparison shopping.