

Standards of Ethical Conduct, 5 CFR part 2635, which are applicable to all executive branch personnel; the CPSC regulations at 5 CFR part 8101, which supplement the executive branch standards; the Office of Personnel Management regulations on employee conduct at 5 CFR part 735; and the financial disclosure regulations at 5 CFR part 2634, which are applicable to all executive branch personnel. In addition, the Commissioners of the CPSC are subject to the statutory provisions of 15 U.S.C. 2053(c).

Subpart D—[Removed]

4. Subpart D is removed and reserved.

[FR Doc. 96-31591 Filed 12-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6355-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Part 301

[Docket No. 96-063-2]

Imported Fire Ant; Approved Treatments

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Withdrawal of a direct final rule.

SUMMARY: This document withdraws the direct final rule that notified the public of our intention to amend the imported fire ant regulations. The direct final rule was to lengthen the certification period for containerized nursery stock treated with a 10 parts per million dosage of the insecticide tefluthrin in its granular formulation and to remove the 15 parts per million dosage rate for granular tefluthrin. This withdrawal is necessary because we received a written adverse comment in response to the direct final rule.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 13, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ronald P. Milberg, Operations Officer, Program Support, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 134, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236, (301) 734-5255; or E-mail: rmilberg@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In a direct final rule published in the Federal Register on October 15, 1996 (61 FR 53601-53603, Docket No. 96-063-1), we notified the public of our intention to amend the imported fire ant regulations to lengthen the certification

period for containerized nursery stock treated with a 10 parts per million (ppm) dosage of the insecticide tefluthrin in its granular formulation and to remove the 15 ppm dosage rate for granular tefluthrin.

We solicited comments concerning the direct final rule for 30 days ending November 14, 1996. We stated that the effective date of the direct final rule would be 60 days after publication of the direct final rule in the Federal Register, unless we received a written adverse comment or a written notice of intent to submit an adverse comment. We also stated that if we received any written adverse comment or any written notice of intent to submit an adverse comment, we would publish a notice in the Federal Register withdrawing the direct final rule before the scheduled effective date and would publish a proposed rule for public comment.

We received one written adverse comment and a written notice of intent to submit an adverse comment. Therefore, we are withdrawing the direct final rule and, at a later date, we will publish a proposed rule in the Federal Register.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 150bb, 150dd, 150ee, 150ff, 161, 162, and 164-167; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(c).

Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of December 1996.

A. Strating,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 96-31602 Filed 12-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

Food Safety and Inspection Service

9 CFR Part 391

[Docket No. 96-013F]

RIN 0583-AC13

Fee Increase for Inspection Services

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is increasing the fees charged to meat and poultry establishments, importers, and exporters for providing voluntary inspection, identification, and certification services; overtime and holiday services. The fee increases are based on the Agency's analysis of projected costs for fiscal year 1996, which identifies increased costs resulting from the January 1996 FSIS national and locality pay raise average of 2.4 percent for Federal employees and increased health insurance costs.

At the same time, FSIS is reducing the fees charged for providing laboratory services to meat and poultry establishments. The Agency's analysis of projected costs for fiscal year 1996 identified decreased costs resulting from the use of automated equipment for testing laboratory samples.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 13, 1996.

ADDRESSES: FSIS's cost analysis is on file with the FSIS Docket Clerk, Room 3806, South Agriculture Building, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-3700. It is available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William L. West, Director, Budget and Finance Division, Administrative Management, (202) 720-3367.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) provide for mandatory inspection of meat and poultry slaughtered or processed at official establishments. Such inspection is required to ensure the safety, wholesomeness, and proper labeling of meat and poultry products. The costs of mandatory inspection (excluding services performed on holidays or on an overtime basis) are borne by FSIS.

In addition to mandatory inspection, FSIS provides a range of voluntary inspection services. Under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*), FSIS provides these services to assist in the orderly marketing of various animal products and byproducts not subject to the FMIA or the PPIA. The costs of voluntary inspection are totally recoverable by the Federal Government.

Each year, FSIS reviews the fees it charges meat and poultry establishments, importers, and exporters for providing voluntary inspection, identification, and certification services, as well as overtime and holiday services, and performs a cost analysis to determine whether such fees are adequate to recover the costs FSIS incurs in providing the services. In its analysis of projected costs for fiscal year 1996, FSIS identified increases in the costs of providing voluntary inspection, identification, and certification services, as well as overtime and holiday services. The increases are attributable to the average FSIS national and locality pay raise of 2.4 percent for Federal employees effective January 1996 and increased health insurance costs.