

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

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 29

[Docket No. TB-97-01]

Tobacco Inspection—Growers Referendum

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of referendum.

SUMMARY: This document announces that a referendum will be conducted by mail during the period of March 24–28, 1997, for producers of flue-cured tobacco who sell their tobacco at auction in Tabor City and Whiteville, North Carolina, to determine producer approval of the designation of the Tabor City and Whiteville tobacco markets as one consolidated auction market.

DATES: The referendum will be held March 24–28, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William Coats, Deputy Director, Tobacco Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone number (202) 205-0508.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given of a mail referendum on the designation of a consolidated auction market at Tabor City and Whiteville, North Carolina. Tabor City and Whiteville were designated on June 26, 1942, (7 CFR 29.8001) as flue-cured tobacco auction markets under the Tobacco Inspection Act (7 U.S.C. 511 *et seq.*). Under this Act those markets have been receiving mandatory grading services from USDA.

On August 6, 1996, an application was made to the Secretary of Agriculture to consolidate the designated markets of Tabor City and Whiteville, North Carolina. The application, filed by warehouse operators on those markets, was made pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Tobacco Inspection Act (7

CFR Part 29.1–29.3). On November 6, 1996, a public hearing was held in Tabor City, North Carolina, pursuant to the regulations. A Review Committee, established pursuant to § 29.3(h) of the regulations 7 CFR 29.3(h)), has reviewed and considered the application, the testimony presented at the hearing, the exhibits received in evidence, and other available information. The Committee recommended to the Secretary that the application be granted and the Secretary approved the application on February 19, 1997.

Before a new market can be officially designated, a referendum must be held to determine that a two-thirds majority of producers favor the designation. It is hereby determined that the referendum will be held by mail during the period of March 24–28, 1997. The purpose of the referendum is to determine whether farmers who sold their tobacco on the designated markets at Tabor City and Whiteville are in favor of, or opposed to, the designation of the consolidated market for the 1997 and succeeding crop years. Accordingly, if a two-thirds majority of those tobacco producers voting in the referendum favor this consolidation, a new market will be designated as and will be called Tabor City-Whiteville.

To be eligible to vote in the referendum a tobacco producer must have sold flue-cured tobacco on either the Tabor City or Whiteville, North Carolina, auction markets during the 1996 marketing season. Any farmer who believes he or she is eligible to vote in the referendum but has not received a mail ballot by March 24, 1997, should immediately contact William Coats at (202) 205-0508.

The referendum will be held in accordance with the provisions for referenda of the Tobacco Inspection Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 511d) and the regulations for such referendum set forth in 7 CFR 29.74.

Dated: March 7, 1997.
Lon Hatamiya,
Administrator.
[FR Doc. 97-6265 Filed 3-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

12 CFR Ch. VII

Interpretive Rulings and Policy Statements (IRPS)

AGENCY: National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The NCUA solicits comment on a proposal to revise its existing Interpretive Rulings and Policy Statements (IRPS). This proposal, which is one part of NCUA's Regulatory Review Program, is intended to ease the compliance burden on federally chartered and federally insured credit unions and provide more valuable guidance by updating and simplifying ineffective or outmoded IRPS. Proposed options include the withdrawal of all outdated and nonessential IRPS, the redesignation of IRPS into the NCUA rules, the transference of guidance now provided in the IRPS into NCUA instructional manuals or directives, and the preservation of beneficial IRPS.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 12, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be directed to Becky Baker, Secretary of the Board. Mail or hand-deliver comments to: National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3428. Fax comments to (703) 518-6319. E-mail comments to boardmail@ncua.gov. Please send comments by one method only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Martin "Sparky" Conrey, Staff Attorney, or Nicole Sippial Williams, Staff Attorney, Division of Operations, Office of the General Counsel, at the above address or by telephone at (703) 518-6540.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 2222 of the Economic Growth and Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996 requires each federal financial institution regulatory agency represented by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) to conduct a review of regulations at least once every 10 years to identify outdated or unnecessary