

Rules and Regulations

Federal Register

Vol. 62, No. 71

Monday, April 14, 1997

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

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FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

5 CFR Part 1655

Thrift Savings Plan Loans

AGENCY: Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Executive Director of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (Board) is adopting as final the Board's interim Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) loan regulations without change. **DATES:** This final rule is effective April 14, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Forrest on (202) 942-1662.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board administers the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), a defined contribution plan for Federal employees established by the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act of 1986, Pub. L. 99-335, 100 Stat. 514, codified as amended, largely at 5 U.S.C. 8401-8479.

On January 10, 1990, the Board published an interim rule with request for comments in the **Federal Register** (55 FR 978) which created 5 CFR part 1655 to govern the TSP loan program. On November 18, 1996, the Board published an interim rule with request for comments in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 58754) which amended the interim loan regulations to conform them with the Thrift Savings Plan Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-208, and to codify improvements made to TSP loan procedures since 1990. The Board received no comments on either interim rule; therefore, we are adopting the interim regulations as final without change.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that these regulations will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities

because they will affect only employees of the United States Government.

Paperwork Reduction Act

I certify that these regulations do not require additional reporting under the criteria of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

Pursuant to the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-4, section 201, 109 Stat. 48, 64, the effect of these regulations on State, local, and tribal governments and on the private sector has been assessed. These regulations will not compel the expenditure in any one year of \$100 million or more by any State, local, or tribal governments in the aggregate or by the private sector. Therefore, a statement under section 202, 109 Stat. 48, 64-65, is not required.

Submission to Congress and the General Accounting Office

Under 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A), the Board submitted a report containing this rule and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of this rule in today's **Federal Register**. This rule is not a major rule as defined at 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board
Roger W. Mehle,
Executive Director.

Accordingly, the interim rule adding 5 CFR part 1655 which was published at 55 FR 978 on January 10, 1990, and the portion of the interim rule amending 5 CFR part 1655 which was published at 61 FR 58754 on November 18, 1996, are adopted as final without change.

[FR Doc. 97-9533 Filed 4-11-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6760-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Parts 56 and 70

[Docket No. PY-97-001]

Egg, Poultry, and Rabbit Grading Increase in Fees and Charges

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is increasing the fees and charges for Federal voluntary egg, poultry, and rabbit grading. These fees and charges are increased to cover the increase in salaries of Federal employees, salary increases of State employees cooperatively utilized in administering the programs, and other increased Agency costs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas C. Bailey, Chief, Standardization Branch, (202) 720-3506.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This rule has been determined not-significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866 and has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. This action is not intended to have retroactive effect. This rule will not preempt any State or local laws, regulations, or policies, unless they present an irreconcilable conflict with this rule. There are no administrative procedures which must be exhausted prior to any judicial challenge to the provisions of this rule.

Pursuant to the requirements set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), the AMS has considered the economic impact of this action on small entities.

There are more than 400 users of the Poultry Division's grading services. Many of these users are small entities under the criteria established by the Small Business Administration (13 CFR 121.601). This rule raises the fees charged to all businesses for voluntary grading services for eggs, poultry, and rabbits. The AMS estimates that overall this rule will yield an additional \$1.2 million during fiscal year (FY) 1998. Without the fee increase, anticipated revenue will not cover program costs and projected FY 98 revenues for grading services are \$21.7 million with costs projected at \$23.1 million. Trust fund balances would be below appropriate levels. With a fee increase, projected FY 98 revenues are \$22.9 million with costs projected at \$23.1 million. The hourly resident rate will increase by approximately 5.5 percent while the hourly nonresident rate for grading service will increase by approximately 15.8 percent. The costs to