

Rules and Regulations

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 330

RIN 3206-AH26

Career Transition Assistance for Surplus and Displaced Federal Employees; Effective Date Correction

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Final regulation; correction of effective date.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) published final regulations to implement the President's memorandum of September 12, 1995, requiring Federal agencies to develop career transition assistance programs to help their employees affected by downsizing obtain other employment on June 9, 1997 (62 FR 31315). The effective date in the **DATES** section on page 31315, column 1, contained incomplete and misleading information. This document corrects the **DATES** section as set forth below to accurately reflect OPM's intent with regard to the effective dates and compliance dates of the final regulations.

DATES: Effective dates: The final regulation is effective July 9, 1997, except that the revision of subpart F of 5 CFR part 330 is effective September 8, 1997.

Compliance dates: Agencies will comply with the regulatory changes affecting the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan (ICTAP) by July 9, 1997. Agencies will amend their Career Transition Assistance Plans (CTAP), reflecting regulatory changes on providing internal selection priority and services to their surplus and displaced employees, as soon as possible, but no later than September 8, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Shelton or Ed McHugh on (202)

606-0960, FAX (202) 606-2329, or TDD (202) 606-0023.

Office of Personnel Management.

James B. King,

Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Part 94

[Docket No. 94-106-5]

RIN 0579-AA71

Importation of Beef From Argentina

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are amending the regulations concerning the importation of animal products to allow, under certain conditions, the importation of fresh, chilled or frozen beef from Argentina. This change is warranted because it removes unnecessary restrictions on the importation of meat from Argentina into the United States.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 25, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Gary Colgrove, Chief Staff Veterinarian, National Center for Import and Export, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231, (301) 734-8590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), has promulgated regulations regarding the importation of animals and animal products in order to guard against the introduction into the United States of animal diseases not currently present or prevalent in this country. These regulations are set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), title 9, chapter 1, subchapter D.

On April 18, 1996, we published in the **Federal Register** a proposed rule (61 FR 16978-17105, Docket No. 94-106-1) to revise the regulations in six different parts of 9 CFR to establish importation criteria for certain animals and animal

products based on the level of disease risk in specified geographical regions. In proposing the amendments to the regulations, we stated that we considered the proposed regulatory changes to be consistent with and to meet the requirements of international trade agreements that had recently been entered into by the United States.

We solicited comments concerning our proposal for 90 days ending July 17, 1996. During the comment period, several commenters requested that we extend the period during which we would accept comments. In response to these requests, on July 11, 1996, we published in the **Federal Register** a notice that we would consider comments on the proposed rule for an additional 60 days ending September 16, 1996 (61 FR 36520, Docket No. 94-106-4). During the comment period, we conducted four public hearings at which we accepted oral and written comments from the public. These public hearings (announced in the **Federal Register** on May 6 and May 29, 1996, 61 FR 20190-20191 and 26849-26850, Docket Nos. 94-106-2 and 94-106-3, respectively) were held in Riverdale, MD; Atlanta, GA; Kansas City, MO; and Denver, CO.

We received 113 comments on the proposed rule on or before September 16, 1996. These comments came from representatives of State and foreign governments, international economic and political organizations, veterinary associations, State departments of agriculture, livestock industry associations and other agricultural organizations, importing and exporting associations, members of academia and the research community, brokerage firms, exhibitors, animal welfare organizations, and other members of the public.

Based on our review of the comments received, it is clear that drafting a final rule in response to recommendations submitted by commenters will require close analysis of numerous and complex issues. However, it is also clear to us that there are a limited number of provisions within the proposal that we can make final at this time. Where these provisions involve trade, we believe that delaying their implementation is unwarranted and not in the best interests of trade relations with other countries. On June 26, 1997, we published a final rule in the **Federal Register** to allow the importation of