

marketing 1997-98 crop Natural and Zante raisins and this action should be taken promptly to achieve the intended purpose of making the full trade demand available to handlers; (3) handlers are aware of this action, which the Committee unanimously recommended at an open meeting, and need no additional time to comply with these percentages; and (4) this interim final rule provides a 60-day comment period and any comments received will be considered prior to finalization of this rule.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 989

Grapes, Marketing agreements, Raisins, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR part 989 is amended as follows:

PART 989—RAISINS PRODUCED FROM GRAPES GROWN IN CALIFORNIA

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 989 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601-674.

2. Section 989.251 is added to Subpart—Supplementary Regulations to read as follows:

Note: This section will not appear in the annual Code of Federal Regulations.

§ 989.251 Final free and reserve percentages for the 1997-98 crop year.

The final percentages for standard Natural (sun-dried) Seedless and Zante Currant raisins acquired by handlers during the crop year beginning on August 1, 1997, which shall be free tonnage and reserve tonnage, respectively, are designated as follows:

Varietal type	Free percentage	Reserve percentage
Natural (sun-dried) seedless	66	34
Zante currant	44	56

Dated: March 4, 1998.

Robert C. Keeney,

Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

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BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

7 CFR Part 1728

Electric Transmission Specifications and Drawings (34.5 kV to 69 kV and 115 kV to 230 kV) for Use on RUS Financed Electric Systems

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is amending its regulations by revising RUS Bulletin 50-2, Transmission Specifications and Drawings 34.5 kV to 69 kV and Bulletin 50-1, Electric Transmission Specifications and Drawings 115 kV to 230 kV. These bulletins have been renumbered to Bulletin 1728F-810 and Bulletin 1728F-811 respectively. These specifications and drawings are incorporated by reference in the CFR. RUS made changes to improve and clarify the bulletins. RUS borrowers and other users of RUS electric transmission line specifications suggested corrections to several drawings. RUS and RUS borrowers have also suggested modifications to clarify and modify some of the drawings. RUS also reformatted these bulletins in accordance with RUS's publications and directives system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 9, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Donald G. Heald, Transmission Engineer, Electric Staff Division, Rural Utilities Service, Room 1246-S, STOP 1569, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1569. Telephone (202) 720-9102.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12372

This rule is excluded from the scope of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Consultation, which may require consultation with State and local officials. A Final Rule-related notice entitled, "Department Programs and Activities Excluded from Executive Order 12372," (50 FR 47034) exempted RUS loans and loan guarantees from coverage under this order.

Executive Order 12866

This rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866 and therefore has not been reviewed by OMB.

Executive Order 12778

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform. RUS has determined that this

rule meets the applicable standards provided in sec. 3. of the Executive Order.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

The Administrator of RUS has determined that a rule relating to the RUS electric loan program is not a rule as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) and, therefore, the Regulatory Flexibility Act does not apply to this final rule.

Information Collection and Recordkeeping Requirements

This rule contains no reporting or recordkeeping provisions requiring Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35.)

National Environmental Policy Act Certification

The Administrator of RUS has determined that this rule will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Therefore, this action does not require an environmental impact statement or assessment.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

The program described by this proposed rule is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs under number 10.850, Rural Electrification Loans and Loan Guarantees. This catalog is available on a subscription basis from the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325.

Unfunded Mandates

This rule contains no Federal mandates (under the regulatory provision of Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act) for State, local, and tribal governments or the private sector. Thus, this rule is not subject to the requirements of section 202 and 205 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

Background

RUS amends 7 CFR chapter XVII, part 1728, Electric Standards and Specifications for Materials and Construction, by revising RUS Bulletin 50-1, Electric Transmission Specifications and Drawings, 115 kV to 230 kV, and RUS Bulletin 50-2, Electric Transmission Specifications and Drawings, 34.5 kV to 69 kV, and renumbering them as Bulletins 1728F-811 and 1728F-810, respectively.

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) maintains bulletins that contain construction standards and specifications for materials and equipment. In accordance with the RUS standard form of loan documents, these standards and specifications apply to systems constructed by RUS electric and telecommunications borrowers, and contain standard construction units, material, and equipment units used on RUS electric and telephone borrowers' systems. Bulletins 50-1 and 50-2 establish standard overhead electric transmission construction drawings and specifications for wood pole structures and assemblies for use by RUS borrowers on electric systems.

RUS changes the bulletin numbers from Bulletins 50-1 and 50-2 to Bulletins 1728F-811 and 1728F-810, respectively. The changes in the bulletin number and reformatting of the specifications were necessary to conform to RUS' publications and directives system. In addition, certain changes were made to clarify the drawings and specifications. Changes were made for some of the drawings that appear in the current bulletins. These drawing changes are summarized below. If no changes were made to the drawings, the unchanged drawings remain the same as in the current bulletin except that the final rule effective date will be added for publication and verification purposes. The final rule effective date will also be added to the drawings for which changes were made.

Copies of the bulletins will be available for purchase from Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954, telephone (202) 512-1800.

Corrections were made to Crossarm Drilling Drawings TCD-11, TCD-15, TCD-20 and TCD-32 of bulletins formerly designated as Bulletin 50-2 and 50-1, renumbered as Bulletins 1728F-810 and 1728F-811. Several dimensions which are used to drill the crossarms were corrected on crossarm drilling drawings. Crossarm types 81 and 83 (5¹/₈" x 7¹/₂") are eliminated on drawing TCD-40, since laminated arms are readily available in standard 9³/₈" x 3⁵/₈" sizes.

Drawing TG-15 and TG-45 were revised to show the minimum thickness and width of the guying plate. Drawing TG-16 and TG-46 were revised to a better ground the connection between the guy wire and the pole ground wire. On drawing TG-17, a guying plate is added to TG-17D where the insulators attach to the pole and anchor shackles have been added to TG-17E. The anchor shackles are necessary to permit the

attachment of light duty guy assemblies to the double eye pole eye plate. The capacity of the swing angle bracket shown on drawing TG-18 is being clarified to show both allowable and ultimate capacities. Washers are being added on the clevis side of the clevis bolts. These washers will provide a bearing surface when tightening the nut to the clevis bolt. The dimensions of the connecting links to the pole bands were removed from drawing TG-26, Guy Attachments (Pole Bands) and TG-46, Pole Tie Assemblies (Pole Bands). The size of the link depends on the strength of the metal used by different manufacturers.

Drawings TG-28 and TG-29, Bracket and Guy Attachment, were revised to show minimum sizes for the bracket and to clarify the notes by adding an allowable vertical load and defining the ultimate load to be compatible with the TH-10 series structures and TG-29. Antisplit bolts were added to drawings TG-35D and TG-35E, Heavy Duty Guying Ties. Several notes have been added to TG-36, Heavy Duty Pole Bands, so that problems associated with improper use of this unit are avoided. Since there are no suppliers for heavy duty pole eye plates, drawing TG-37 is eliminated. The pole tie assemblies shown in drawing TG-47 are modified to be similar to TG-45.

Units TM-1B and TM-2B of drawings TM-1 and TM-2, Insulator Assembly Units, were modified in both bulletins to require the use of a Y-clevis ball instead of the anchor shackle and oval eye ball. The use of a Y-clevis ball will provide savings to the RUS borrower. It is a standard hardware item that has been used frequently on steel and concrete pole construction.

The Pole Stability, Bearing, and Uplift Foundations drawings (TM-101, 102, 103) were revised to eliminate the compacted backfill below the pole for TM-101 unit, to eliminate unit TM-102B, and to add a note to the engineer on TM-103. All three drawings show the backfill at ground level in a more realistic manner. The reason for the proposed elimination of unit TM-102B is the difficulty in compacting the soil below the top pair of pole bearing plates. The crossarm splice (TM-114A) was eliminated since laminated arms are readily available. Note 4 to Drawing TM-111 was revised for clarification. Drawing TM-115, Steel Upswept Arm Assembly, was revised to show Table 1, Required Dimensions and Swing Angle Clearances. A dimension for the 50,000 pound anchor shackle has been corrected on Drawing TM-120, Hardware.

RUS eliminated the higher capacity log anchors (TA-3L, 3LC, 5L, and 5LC) from the log anchor drawings of both bulletins. The size of the washer required in these construction units limits the safety factor below those designated for other assemblies. The other log anchor units remain in both bulletins (TA-2L and TA-4L). On these drawings, as well as drawing TA-2P, average soil is redefined as class 5 soil to be consistent with other RUS publications.

The modification to existing drawings TA-1S through TA-24S, Anchors (Power Screw), in both bulletins was suggested by RUS borrowers and their consulting engineers. This revision simplifies defining unit costs for screw anchors. Screw anchor units will be composed of the basic helix section with a 5-foot extension. A bid unit will cover the number of extensions. The new drawing is designated TA-2H to 4H.

Corrections to the list of materials for the TSS-9 structure in Bulletin 1728F-810 shows a 12'-0" arm for the lower crossarm instead of 9'-0" arm. The pole ground wire was relocated on the TS-1B, TS-1BX, TS-1C, TSZ-115B, TSZ-138B, TS-115B, and TS-138B in order to improve the BIL (Basic Impulse Insulation Level) of the structure.

Drawings TPF-40 and TPF-50 were revised to reflect the option of using adjustable spacers with gapped poles. A corresponding change is included in the list of options in the construction specifications.

On November 8, 1996, RUS published a proposed rule (61 Fed. Reg. 57788) to revise its specifications and drawings for 34.5 kV to 230 kV transmission lines. Comments on this proposed rule were due January 7, 1997. No comments were received.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1728

Electric power, Incorporation by reference, Loan programs—energy, Rural areas.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, RUS amends 7 CFR 1728 as follows:

PART 1728—ELECTRIC STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION

1. The authority citation for part 1728 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*, 1921 *et seq.*, 6941 *et seq.*

2. Section 1728.97, (b) is amended by removing the entries for Bulletin 50-1 and 50-2, adding to the list of bulletins in numerical order the entries for

Bulletins 1728F-811 and 1728F-810, respectively, as follows:

§ 1728.97 Incorporation by reference of electric standards and specifications.

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(b) List of Bulletins.

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Bulletin 1728F-810, Electric Transmission Specifications and Drawings, 34.5 kV to 69 kV (3-98).

Bulletin 1728F-811, Electric Transmission Specifications and Drawings, 115 kV to 230 kV (3-98).

Dated: February 27, 1998.

Jill Long Thompson,

Under Secretary, Rural Development.

[FR Doc. 98-5942 Filed 3-9-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

15 CFR Part 902

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 971030259-8039-02; I.D. 101497C]

RIN 0648-AJ96

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Framework Adjustment 24

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this final rule to implement Framework Adjustment 24 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The rule: Adjusts the Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod landing limit provision, including the landing limit boundary line; allows vessels to carry-over up to 10 unused multispecies days-at-sea (DAS) into the next fishing year; and exempts vessels that fish in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Regulatory Area from certain provisions of the NE multispecies FMP, such as the DAS requirements. The rule also corrects a provision in the regulations implementing Amendment 7 to the FMP. The intent of this rule is to improve the effectiveness of the GOM cod landing limit, to promote safety, to provide flexibility and opportunity to vessels fishing under the multispecies stock-rebuilding program, and to correct an inadvertent omission in a previous rule.

DATES: Effective April 9, 1998 except for § 648.81(f)(2)(ii)(B), which contains information-collection requirements that are not effective until approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). When OMB approval is received, the effective date of § 648.81(f)(2)(ii)(B) will be published in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Copies of Amendment 7 to the FMP, its regulatory impact review (RIR) and the regulatory flexibility analysis contained within the RIR, its final supplemental environmental impact statement, and Framework Adjustment 24 documents are available on request from Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1097. Comment regarding the collection-of-information requirements contained in this final rule should be sent to Andrew A. Rosenberg, Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298 and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20503 (Attention: NOAA Desk Officer).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan A. Murphy, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Framework Adjustment 20 (62 FR 15381, April 1, 1997, and 62 FR 49144, September 19, 1997) established a GOM cod landing restriction whereby vessels fishing under a multispecies DAS north of 42°00' N. lat. can retain up to 1,000 lb (453.6 kg) of cod per day, or any part of a day, for each of the first 4 days of a trip, and up to 1,500 lb (680.4 kg) of cod per day, or any part of a day, in excess of 4 days. To minimize discarding, a mechanism was developed that allowed vessels to land cod in excess of the landing limit, provided that they not call-out of the multispecies DAS program until DAS per trip correspond to the total allowable landings of cod per trip. To address reports that some vessels may be directing on GOM cod early in the trip and letting their DAS clock continue to run while returning to sea to fish for other regulated species, thereby circumventing the intent of the landing limit restriction, the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) recommended requiring vessels that exceed the GOM cod landing limit to remain in port until DAS equate to total landings of cod.

This framework adjusts the landing limit provision by requiring vessels

subject to this provision to remain in port until sufficient DAS have passed to equate to the cod landed. In addition, these vessels are required to come into port and report to NMFS within 14 days of starting a trip. Transiting between ports, subject to certain restrictions, is authorized.

To better represent the stock boundary between GOM and Georges Bank cod, this framework modifies the current GOM cod landing limit boundary from 42°00' N. lat. to 42°20' N. lat. east of 69°30' W. long.

Due to concern that unforeseen circumstances may result in forfeiture of DAS or fishing under unsafe circumstances at the end of a fishing year, this measure allows active vessels to carry-over up to 10 unused multispecies DAS from one fishing year to the next. Vessels will automatically be credited with the amount of unused DAS remaining, up to a maximum of 10. DAS sanctioned vessels will be credited with unused DAS based on their DAS allocation minus total DAS sanctioned.

In order to remove regulatory obstacles from the U.S. vessels participating in NAFO fisheries, this rule exempts multispecies vessels that possess a High Seas fishing permit and that are fishing exclusively in the NAFO Regulatory Area from DAS, minimum mesh size, and possession limit requirements of the multispecies FMP implementing regulations. Participating vessels are required to obtain, and have on board the vessel, a letter of authorization issued by the Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator).

This rule does not include a provision contained in the proposed rule to implement Framework 24 that would have allowed Day and Trip gillnet category vessels to switch categories once during the 1997 fishing year. Because of the time necessary for notice and comment rulemaking procedures for Framework 24, there is insufficient time left in the fishing year for a vessel switching into the Day gillnet category to meet the required 120 days out of the non-exempt gillnet fishery before the end of the fishing year (April 30).

Further details concerning justification for and development of Framework Adjustment 24 were provided in the notice of proposed rulemaking (62 FR 60676, November 12, 1997).

This rule also corrects an omission to the regulations implementing Amendment 7. The regulations specifically prohibit vessels from fishing for, or possessing, regulated species when fishing with exempted gear in closed areas. Although Amendment 7