

exporters need to adjust their sorting and packing lines to meet the higher grade requirement. Therefore, the Department has decided that the effective date of this action should be March 30, 1998. This period of time is reasonable and consistent with the provisions of the Act, and will allow both the domestic and imported tomato industries sufficient time to adjust to the new grade requirement and to ship commodity that is already picked and packed.

In view of all the foregoing, the Department has concluded that the increase in the minimum grade requirement from U.S. No. 3 to U.S. No. 2 will advance the interests of the Florida and foreign tomato industries and should be implemented.

In accordance with section 8e of the Act, the United States Trade Representative has concurred with the issuance of this final rule.

After consideration of all relevant matter presented, including the information and recommendation submitted by the Committee and other available information, and the comments received, it is hereby found that this rule, as hereinafter set forth, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, it is also found that good cause exists for not postponing the effective date of this action until 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register** because: (1) Florida tomato handlers are aware of this action, which was discussed at various industry and association meetings and was recommended by a majority of the Committee; (2) the Committee meeting was a public meeting and all interested parties had an opportunity to provide input; (3) the grade increase needs to be in place as soon as possible to cover the balance of the 1997-98 shipping season which ends in June; and (4) an adequate amount of time has been provided for handlers and importers to adjust their packing and sorting lines to meet the higher grade requirement.

List of Subjects

7 CFR Part 966

Marketing agreements, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Tomatoes.

7 CFR Part 980

Food grades and standards, Imports, Marketing agreements, Onions, Potatoes, Tomatoes.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR parts 966 and 980 are amended as follows:

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR parts 966 and 980 continues to read as follows:

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

PART 966—TOMATOES GROWN IN FLORIDA

2. In § 966.323, paragraph(a)(1) is revised to read as follows:

§ 966.323 Handling regulation.

* * * * *

(a) *Grade, size, container, and inspection requirements.* (1) Grade. Tomatoes shall be graded and meet the requirements specified for U.S. No. 1, U.S. Combination, or U.S. No. 2 of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Fresh Tomatoes. When not more than 15 percent of the tomatoes in any lot fail to meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade and not more than one-third of this 15 percent (or 5 percent) are comprised of defects causing very serious damage including not more than 1 percent of tomatoes which are soft or affected by decay, such tomatoes may be shipped and designated as at least 85 percent U.S. No. 1 grade.

PART 980—VEGETABLES; IMPORT REGULATIONS

3. In § 980.212, paragraph (b)(1) is revised to read as follows:

§ 980.212 Import regulations; tomatoes.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) From October 10 through June 15 of each season, tomatoes offered for importation shall be at least 2 ⁹/₃₂ inches in diameter. Not more than 10 percent, by count, in any lot may be smaller than the minimum specified diameter. All lots of tomatoes shall be at least U.S. No. 2 grade.

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Dated: March 9, 1998.

Robert C. Keeney,

Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

[FR Doc. 98-6618 Filed 3-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

SUMMARY: The Farm Credit Administration (FCA) published a final rule under parts 614 and 627 on February 4, 1998 (63 FR 5721). The final rule amends the regulations governing the funding relationship between a Farm Credit Bank (FCB) or agricultural credit bank (ACB), and a direct lender association or other financing institution (OFI). This rule repealed the requirement that the FCA prior approve the General Financing Agreement between an FCB or ACB and a direct lender association or OFI and eliminated a regulatory direct loan limitation. The rule also amended another regulation to permit the voluntary liquidation of Farm Credit institutions by means of an FCA-approved liquidation plan. In accordance with 12 U.S.C. 2252, the effective date of the final rule is 30 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register** during which either or both Houses of Congress are in session. Based on the records of the sessions of Congress, the effective date of the regulations is March 13, 1998.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The regulation amending 12 CFR parts 614 and 627 published on February 4, 1998 (63 FR 5721) is effective March 13, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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(12 U.S.C. 2252(a)(9) and (10))

Dated: March 10, 1998.

Floyd Fithian,

Secretary, Farm Credit Administration Board.

[FR Doc. 98-6371 Filed 3-12-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 95-NM-278-AD; Amendment 39-10385; AD 98-06-08]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300, A310, and A300-600 Series Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

12 CFR Parts 614 and 627

RIN 3052-AB09

Loan Policies and Operations; Title IV Conservators, Receivers, and Voluntary Liquidation; Effective Date

AGENCY: Farm Credit Administration.

ACTION: Notice of effective date.