

Rules and Regulations

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7 CFR Part 301

[Docket No. 99-078-1]

Imported Fire Ant; Quarantined Areas and Treatment Dosage

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim rule and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are amending the imported fire ant regulations by designating as quarantined areas portions of two counties in California. As a result of this action, the interstate movement of regulated articles from those areas will be restricted. This action is necessary to prevent the artificial spread of the imported fire ant to noninfested areas of the United States. We are also amending the treatment provisions in the Appendix to the imported fire ant regulations by lowering the dosage rate of bifenthrin wettable powder for the treatment of containerized nursery plants.

DATES: This interim rule is effective November 5, 1999. We invite you to comment on this docket. We will consider all comments that we receive by January 4, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please send your comment and three copies to: Docket No. 99-078-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 98-078-1.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room

hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS rules, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ronald P. Milberg, Operations Officer, Program Support, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 134, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The imported fire ant regulations (contained in 7 CFR 301.81 through 301.81-10, and referred to below as the regulations) quarantine infested States or infested areas within States and impose restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles for the purpose of preventing the artificial spread of the imported fire ant.

The imported fire ant, *Solenopsis invicta* Buren and *Solenopsis richteri* Forel, is an aggressive, stinging insect that, in large numbers, can seriously injure and even kill livestock, pets, and humans. The imported fire ant feeds on crops and builds large, hard mounds that damage farm and field machinery. The imported fire ant is not native to the United States. The regulations prevent the imported fire ant from spreading throughout its ecological range within this country.

The regulations in § 301.81-3 provide that the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will list as a quarantined area each State, or each portion of a State, that is infested with the imported fire ant. The Administrator will designate less than an entire State as a quarantined area only under the following conditions: (1) The State has adopted and is enforcing restrictions on the intrastate movement of the regulated articles listed in § 301.81-2 that are equivalent to the interstate movement restrictions imposed by the regulations; and (2) designating less than the entire State will prevent the spread of the imported fire ant. The Administrator may include uninfested acreage within

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a quarantined area due to its proximity to an infestation or its inseparability from an infested locality for quarantine purposes.

We are amending § 301.81-3(e) by designating additional portions of Los Angeles and Riverside Counties in California as quarantined areas. We are taking this action because recent surveys conducted by APHIS and State and county agencies reveal that the imported fire ant has spread to these areas. See the rule portion of this document for specific descriptions of the new quarantined areas.

We are also revising the dosage rate of a treatment described in the Appendix to the regulations. Sections 301.81-4 and 301.81-5 of the regulations provide, among other things, that regulated articles requiring treatment before interstate movement must be treated in accordance with the methods and procedures prescribed in the Appendix to the imported fire ant regulations. The Appendix sets forth the treatment provisions of the "Imported Fire Ant Program Manual." We are amending paragraph III.C.4. of the Appendix by changing the dosage rate of bifenthrin wettable powder from 50 ppm to 25 ppm. On December 4, 1992, we published a final rule in the **Federal Register** at 57 CFR 57322-57335 (Docket No. 86-328-2) that lowered the dosage rate of granular bifenthrin from 50 ppm to 25 ppm for the treatment of containerized nursery plants. The dosage rate for bifenthrin wettable powder was not changed at that time. However, bifenthrin wettable powder has been proven effective for the treatment of containerized nursery plants at a dosage rate of 25 ppm, and that dosage rate is consistent with current product labeling approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The lower dosage rate will prevent unnecessary use of the pesticide.

Emergency Action

The Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that an emergency exists that warrants publication of this interim rule without prior opportunity for public comment. Immediate action to quarantine newly infested areas is necessary to prevent the artificial spread of the imported fire ant into noninfested areas of the United States. Immediate

action to change the dosage rate for bifenthrin wettable powder is necessary to prevent unnecessary use of the pesticide.

Because prior notice and other public procedures with respect to this action are impracticable and contrary to the public interest under these conditions, we find good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553 to make this action effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**. We will consider comments that are received within 60 days of publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. After the comment period closes, we will publish another document in the **Federal Register**. The document will include a discussion of any comments we receive and any amendments we are making to the rule as a result of the comments.

Executive Order 12866 and Regulatory Flexibility Act

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12866. For this action, the Office of Management and Budget has waived its review process required by Executive Order 12866.

This action amends the imported fire ant regulations by designating portions of Los Angeles and Riverside Counties in California as quarantined areas. As a result of this action, the interstate movement of regulated articles from those areas will be restricted. This action is necessary on an emergency basis to prevent the artificial spread of the imported fire ant to noninfested areas of the United States. We are also amending the Appendix to the imported fire ant regulations by changing the dosage rate of a chemical to reduce its use and the costs associated with its use.

This emergency situation makes compliance with section 603 and timely compliance with section 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) impracticable. If we determine that this rule would have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities, then we will discuss the issues raised by section 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act in our final regulatory flexibility analysis.

Executive Order 12372

This program/activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.025 and is subject to Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V.)

Executive Order 12988

This interim rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil

Justice Reform. This rule: (1) Preempts all State and local laws and regulations that are inconsistent with this rule; (2) has no retroactive effect; and (3) does not require administrative proceedings before parties may file suit in court challenging this rule.

National Environmental Policy Act

An environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared for this program. The assessment provides a basis for the conclusion that the methods employed to regulate the imported fire ant will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Based on the finding of no significant impact, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

The environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact were prepared in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

Copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact are available for public inspection at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect copies are requested to call ahead on (202) 690–2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room. In addition, copies may be obtained by writing to the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule contains no information collection or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 301

Agricultural commodities, Plant diseases and pests, Quarantine, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

Accordingly, we are amending 7 CFR part 301 as follows:

PART 301—DOMESTIC QUARANTINE NOTICES

1. The authority citation for part 301 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 147a, 150bb, 150dd, 150ee, 150ff, 161, 162, and 164–167; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(c).

2. In § 301.81–3, paragraph (e), the list of quarantined areas is amended by adding, under California, a second paragraph for Los Angeles County and a fourth paragraph for Riverside County to read as follows:

§ 301.81–3 Quarantined areas.

* * * * *

(e) * * *

California

Los Angeles County. * * *

That portion of Los Angeles County in the Azusa area bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of Irwindale Avenue and Foothill Boulevard; then east along Foothill Boulevard to Azusa Avenue; then south along Azusa Avenue to East Fifth Street; then east along East Fifth Street to North Cerritos Avenue; then south along North Cerritos Avenue to Arrow Highway; then west along Arrow Highway to Azusa Avenue, then south along Azusa Avenue to Covina Boulevard; then west along an imaginary line to the intersection of Martinez Street and Irwindale Avenue; then north along Irwindale Avenue to the point of beginning.

* * * * *

Riverside County. * * *

That portion of Riverside County in the Palm Springs area bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of Tramway Road, State Highway 111, and San Rafael Drive; then east along San Rafael Drive to Indian Canyon Drive; then south along Indian Canyon Drive to Francis Drive; then east along Francis Drive to North Farrell Drive; then south along North Farrell Drive to Verona Road; then east along Verona Road to Whitewater Club Drive; then east along an imaginary line to the intersection of Verona Road and Ventura Drive; then east along Verona Road to Avenida Maravilla; then east and south along Avenida Maravilla to 30th Avenue; then west along 30th Avenue to its end; then due west along an imaginary line to the Whitewater River; then southeast along the Whitewater River to Dinah Shore Drive; then west along an imaginary line to the east end of 34th Avenue; then west along 34th Avenue to Golf Club Drive; then south along Golf Club Drive to East Palm Canyon Drive; then south along an imaginary line to the intersection of Desterro Vista and Palm Hills Drive; then south along Palm Hills Drive to its end; then southwest along an imaginary line to the intersection of Murray Canyon and Palm Canyon Drive; then northwest along Palm Canyon Drive to the Palm Springs city limits; then west and north along Palm Springs city limits to Tahquitz Creek; then due north along an imaginary line to Tramway Road; then northeast along Tramway Road to the point of beginning.

* * * * *

3. In part 301, Subpart—Imported Fire Ant (§§ 301.81–301.81–10), the Appendix to the subpart is amended at paragraph III.C.4., under the heading “Exclusion,” and under the heading

"Bifenthrin," by removing the phrase "for wettable powder it is 50 ppm" in the last sentence of the first paragraph and adding in its place the phrase "for wettable powder it is 25 ppm".

Done in Washington, DC, this 1st day of November 1999.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 99-29046 Filed 11-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-U

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

12 CFR Part 226

[Regulation Z; Docket No. R-1051]

Truth in Lending

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

ACTION: Notice of adjustment of dollar amount.

SUMMARY: The Board is publishing an adjustment to the dollar amount that triggers Regulation Z (Truth in Lending) requirements for certain mortgages bearing fees above a certain amount. The Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act of 1994 sets forth rules for home-secured loans in which the total points and fees payable by the consumer at or before loan consummation exceed the greater of \$400 or 8 percent of the total loan amount. The Board has annually adjusted the \$400 amount based on the annual percentage change reflected in the Consumer Price Index that is in effect on June 1. The adjustment for 2000 is \$451.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Hentrel, Staff Attorney, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, at (202) 452-3667. For the users of Telecommunications Device for the Deaf *only*, please contact Diane Jenkins at (202) 452-3544.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Truth in Lending Act (TILA; 15 U.S.C. 1601-1666j) requires creditors to disclose credit terms and the cost of consumer credit as an annual percentage rate. The act requires additional disclosures for loans secured by a consumer's home, and permits consumers to cancel certain transactions that involve their principal dwelling. TILA is implemented by the Board's Regulation Z (12 CFR part 226).

On March 24, 1995, the Board published amendments to Regulation Z implementing the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act of 1994 (HOEPA), contained in the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994, Pub. L. 103-325, 108 Stat. 2160 (60 FR 15463). These amendments, which became effective on October 1, 1995, are contained in § 226.32 of the regulation and impose additional disclosure requirements and substantive limitations on certain closed-end mortgage loans bearing rates or fees above a certain percentage or amount. As enacted, the statute requires creditors to comply with the HOEPA rules if the total points and fees payable by the consumer at or before loan consummation exceed the greater of \$400 or 8 percent of the total loan amount. TILA and Regulation Z provide that the \$400 figure shall be adjusted annually on January 1 by the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that was reported on the preceding June 1. (15 U.S.C. 1602(aa)(3) and 12 CFR 226.32(a)(1)(ii)). The Board adjusted the \$400 amount to \$441 for 1999.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes consumer-based indices monthly, but does not "report" a CPI change on June 1; adjustments are reported in the middle of each month. The Board uses the CPI-U index, which is based on all urban consumers and represents approximately 80 percent of the U.S. population, as the index for adjusting the \$400 dollar figure. The adjustment to the CPI-U index reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on May 15, 1999, was the CPI-U index "in effect" on June 1, and reflects the percentage increase from April 1998 to April 1999. The adjustment to the \$400 figure below reflects a 2.3 percent increase in the CPI-U index for this period and is rounded to whole dollars for ease of compliance.

Adjustment

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, for purposes of determining whether a mortgage transaction is covered by 12 CFR 226.32 (based on the total points and fees payable by the consumer at or before loan consummation), a loan is covered if the points and fees exceed the greater of \$451 or 8 percent of the total loan amount, effective January 1, 2000.

By order of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, acting through the

Secretary of the Board under delegated authority, November 1, 1999.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 99-29003 Filed 11-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 34

[Docket No. FAA-1999-5018; Amendment No. 34-3]

RIN 2120-AG68

Emission Standards for Turbine Engine Powered Airplanes; Correction

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document corrects a final rule published in the **Federal Register** of February 3, 1999 (64 FR 5556). That document revised emission standards for turbine engine-powered airplanes by incorporating the current standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to bring the United States emissions standards into alignment with those of ICAO. This document corrects references to appendices and the effective dates of ICAO-referenced standards.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 5, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edward McQueen, telephone (202) 267-3560.

Correction

In the final rule FR Doc. 99-1608, published in the **Federal Register** of February 3, 1999 (64 FR 5556), make the following corrections:

1. On page 5557, in the first column, under Section 34.71, sixth line, correct "Appendices 3 and 5 of this document specify the system and procedures for sampling and measurement of gaseous emissions" to read "Appendix 6 of this document specifies the compliance procedure for gaseous emissions and smoke."

2. On page 5557, in the first column, under Section 34.82, sixth line, correct "Appendices 3 and 5 of this document specify the system and procedures for sampling and measurement of smoke emissions" to read "Appendix 2 of this document specifies the system and procedures for sampling and measurement of smoke emissions."

3. On page 557, in the first column, under Section 34.89, sixth line, correct "Appendices 3 and 5 of this document