

List of Subjects*7 CFR Part 723*

Acres allotments, Marketing quotas, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Tobacco.

7 CFR Part 1464

Loan programs-agriculture, Price support programs, Tobacco, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Warehouses.

■ Accordingly, 7 CFR parts 723 and 1464 are amended as follows:

PART 723—TOBACCO

■ 1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 723 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C., 1301–1314, 1314–1, 1314b, 1314b-1, 1314b-2, 1314c, 1314d, 1314e, 1314f, 1314i, 1315, 1316, 1362, 1363, 1372–75, 1377–1379, 1421, 1445–1, and 1445–2.

■ 2. Section 723.111 is amended by adding paragraphs (h) through (j) to read as follows:

§ 723.111 Flue-cured (types 11–14) tobacco.

* * * * *

(h) The 2000 crop national marketing quota is 543.0 million pounds.

(i) The 2001 crop national marketing quota is 548.9 million pounds.

(j) The 2002 crop national marketing quota is 582.0 millions pounds.

PART 1464—TOBACCO

■ 3. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 1464 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1421, 1423, 1441, 1445, and 1445–1, 15 U.S.C. 714b and 714c; Pub. L. 106–78, Pub. L. 106–113, Stat. 1135 and Pub. L. 106–224.

■ 4. Section 1464.12 is amended by adding paragraphs (h) though (j) to read as follows:

§ 1464.12 Flue-cured (types 11–14) tobacco.

* * * * *

(h) The 2000 crop national price support level is 164.0 cents per pound.

(i) The 2001 crop national price support level is 166.0 cents per pound.

(j) The 2002 crop national price support level is 165.4 cents per pound.

Signed in Washington, DC, on June 3, 2003.

James R. Little,

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency,
Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 03–14624 Filed 6–10–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service****9 CFR Part 82**

[Docket No. 02–117–8]

Exotic Newcastle Disease; Removal of Areas from Quarantine

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim rule and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are amending the exotic Newcastle disease regulations by removing Dona Ana, Luna, and Otero Counties, NM, Hudspeth County, TX, and portions of El Paso County, TX, from the list of quarantined areas. This action removes restrictions on the movement of birds, poultry, and certain other articles from those areas.

DATES: This interim rule was effective June 5, 2003. We will consider all comments that we receive on or before August 11, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 02–117–8, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 02–117–8. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and “Docket No. 02–117–8” on the subject line.

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 USDA 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 dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Aida Boghossian, Senior Staff

Veterinarian, Emergency Programs Staff, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 41, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (301) 734–8073.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Exotic Newcastle disease (END) is a contagious and fatal viral disease affecting the respiratory, nervous, and digestive systems of birds and poultry. END is so virulent that many birds and poultry die without showing any clinical signs. A death rate of almost 100 percent can occur in unvaccinated poultry flocks. END can infect and cause death even in vaccinated poultry.

The regulations in “Subpart A—Exotic Newcastle Disease (END)” (9 CFR 82.1 through 82.16, referred to below as the regulations) were established to prevent the spread of END in the United States in the event of an outbreak. In § 82.3, paragraph (a) provides that any area where birds or poultry infected with END are located will be designated as a quarantined area, and that a quarantined area is any geographical area, which may be a premises or all or part of a State, deemed by epidemiological evaluation to be sufficient to contain all birds or poultry known to be infected with or exposed to END. Portions of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas are designated as quarantined areas in § 82.3(c) of the regulations. As a result, the interstate movement from the quarantined areas of birds, poultry, products, and materials that could spread END is prohibited or restricted. Further, because the Secretary has declared an extraordinary emergency because of END in those States, the regulations in § 82.16 provide that the intrastate movement from those quarantined areas of birds, poultry, products, and materials that could spread END is prohibited or restricted.

In this interim rule, we are reducing the size of the quarantined area in Texas and eliminating the quarantined area in New Mexico based on the results of extensive surveillance and investigations conducted in those States. These activities are described below.

On April 9, 2003, END was confirmed in backyard poultry on a premises in the town of Socorro, El Paso County, TX. Therefore, in an interim rule effective April 10, 2003, and published in the **Federal Register** on April 16, 2003 (68 FR 18531–18532, Docket No. 02–117–5), we amended § 82.3(c) by quarantining El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, TX, and Dona Ana, Luna, and Otero Counties, NM. As provided for by the regulations in § 82.3(a), this quarantined area

encompassed the area where poultry infected with END were located and a surrounding geographical area deemed by epidemiological evaluation to be sufficient to contain all birds or poultry known to be infected with or exposed to END.

Following the detection of END in Texas, intensive surveys were conducted in the five-county quarantined area. The original infected premises proved to be the only premises with END-infected birds. Three "dangerous contact" premises (*i.e.*, premises with an epidemiological link to the infected premises) were identified, along with 51 premises (42 containing poultry and 9 with only pet birds) located within a 1 kilometer radius of the infected premises. All birds and poultry on those 54 premises were tested for END with negative results. Across the five-county quarantined area, additional surveys were conducted in targeted high-risk areas. Populated areas, reports from animal control units, and leads derived from reports of sick birds or poultry or other epidemiological information were used to define the high-risk areas. No additional cases were identified in any of these areas. Passive surveillance, including education and outreach efforts, continues to be conducted throughout the States. A total of 1,591 investigations were conducted in New Mexico and Texas, with 839 flocks tested. No evidence of additional disease spread was identified through this surveillance. There is a single commercial premises in the quarantined area, located in Berino, Dona Ana County, NM. Swabs were submitted on a weekly basis from this facility, all with negative results. A review of biosecurity procedures and other records was also conducted on a weekly basis. All test results reported through May 12, 2003, have been negative.

Reduction of Quarantined Areas

As noted previously, the regulations in § 82.3(a) provide that any area where birds or poultry infected with END are located will be designated as a quarantined area, and that a quarantined area is any geographical area, which may be a premises or all or part of a State, deemed by epidemiological evaluation to be sufficient to contain all birds or poultry known to be infected with or exposed to END.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service epidemiologists have evaluated the results of the investigations conducted in New Mexico and Texas and have determined that we may now reduce the size of the quarantined area in Texas and that it is no longer

necessary to maintain quarantined areas in New Mexico. This determination is based on, among other things, the demonstrated absence of birds or poultry infected with or exposed to END in specific areas. The regulations in § 82.14 provide requirements that must be met before an area may be removed from quarantine, but those requirements relate to measures taken with respect to END-infected or -exposed birds and poultry, their eggs and manure, and articles and premises with which such birds or their manure or litter have come in contact. As there were no END-infected or -exposed birds or poultry in the areas that we are removing from quarantine, there are no requirements under § 82.14 that need to be met before those areas can be removed from quarantine.

Therefore, in this interim rule, we are amending § 82.3(c) by removing Dona Ana, Luna, and Otero Counties, NM, Hudspeth County, TX, and portions of El Paso County, TX, from the list of quarantined areas because the continued quarantine of these areas is no longer necessary to contain all birds and poultry infected with or exposed to END. That portion of El Paso County, TX, that will remain as a quarantined area, which is described in the amendments to § 82.3(c) at the end of this document, has been deemed by epidemiological evaluation to be sufficient to contain all birds or poultry known to be infected with or exposed to END.

Immediate Action

Immediate action is warranted to relieve restrictions that are no longer necessary. We have determined that Dona Ana, Luna, and Otero Counties, NM, Hudspeth County, TX, and portions of El Paso County, TX, may now be removed from the list of areas quarantined because of END. Therefore, immediate action is warranted to relieve the prohibitions or restrictions that have applied to the movement of birds, poultry, products, and other materials from those areas. Under these circumstances, the Administrator has determined that prior notice and opportunity for public comment are contrary to the public interest and that there is good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553 for making this action effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**.

We will consider comments that we receive during the comment period for this interim rule (see DATES above). 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.

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 under Executive Order 12866.

This rule amends the regulations by removing Dona Ana, Luna, and Otero Counties, NM, Hudspeth County, TX, and portions of El Paso County, TX, from the list of quarantined areas. This action needs to be made effective immediately in order to remove restrictions on the movement of birds, poultry, and certain other articles from those areas that are no longer necessary.

This situation makes timely compliance with section 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) impracticable. We are currently assessing the potential economic effects of this action on small entities. Based on that assessment, we will either certify that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities or publish a 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 rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. This rule: (1) Preempts all State and local laws and regulations that are in conflict 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.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This interim 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 9 CFR Part 82

Animal diseases, Poultry and poultry products, Quarantine, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

■ Accordingly, 9 CFR part 82 is amended as follows:

PART 82—EXOTIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE (END) AND CHLAMYDIOSIS; POULTRY DISEASE CAUSED BY SALMONELLA ENTERITIDIS SEROTYPE ENTERITIDIS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 82 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 8301–8317; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

■ 2. In § 82.3, paragraph (c), the entry for New Mexico is removed and the entry for Texas is revised to read as follows:

§ 82.3 Quarantined areas.

* * * * *
(c) * * *
* * * * *

Texas

El Paso County. That portion of the county in the Town of Socorro that is bounded as follows: Beginning at the intersection of Muscat Street and Tokay Avenue; then northeast on Tokay Avenue to Fredonia Street; then southeast on Fredonia Street to Vineyard Road; then southwest on Vineyard Road to Muscat Street; then northwest on Muscat Street to the point of beginning.

Done in Washington, DC, this 5th day of June 2003.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03–14723 Filed 6–10–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2001–NM–41–AD; Amendment 39–13178; AD 2003–11–19]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 727–100 and 727–200 Series Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Boeing Model 727–100 and 727–200 series airplanes, that requires, under certain conditions, replacement of the installed autopilot pitch control computer with a modified computer, testing of the modified system, and revision of the Airplane Flight Manual (AFM). The actions

specified by this AD are intended to prevent undesirable and potentially dangerous pitch oscillations during coupled instrument landing system (ILS) approaches. This AD is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

DATES: Effective July 16, 2003.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of July 16, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, PO Box 3707, Seattle, Washington 98124–2207. This information may be examined at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, Rules Docket, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thanh Truong, Aerospace Engineer, Systems and Equipment Branch, ANM–130S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055–4056; telephone (425) 917–6486; fax (425) 917–6590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) to include an airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain Boeing Model 727–100 and 727–200 series airplanes was published in the **Federal Register** on September 10, 2001 (66 FR 46968). That action proposed to require replacement of the installed autopilot pitch control computer with a modified computer, testing of the modified system, and revision of the Airplane Flight Manual (AFM).

Comments

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment. Due consideration has been given to the comments received.

Support for the Proposed AD

One operator reports that the actions specified in the proposed AD have been incorporated on all of its airplanes.

Request To Withdraw AD

One operator asserts that accomplishment of the actions specified in the proposed AD would not eliminate the identified unsafe condition, and suggests that pilot training and procedures would eliminate unstable category II approaches by autopilot disconnect. The FAA infers that the

commenter is requesting withdrawal of the proposed AD.

The FAA does not agree. The unsafe condition is related to the accident described in the proposed AD involving a Model 727 series airplane during a coupled instrument landing system (ILS) category II approach. The circumstances surrounding that accident led in part to the issuance of this AD. The divergent pitch oscillations of the airplane resulted from an improper autopilot desensitization rate and contributed to the accident. This AD addresses the improper autopilot desensitization rate. The AFM revisions required by this AD provide data to the flightcrew regarding certain limitations, such as autopilot disconnect, inherent in the design of Sperry SP–50 and SP–150 autopilots. Observing these limitations will help the flightcrew take the appropriate action necessary for a successful landing or go-around.

Request To Delay AD Issuance Pending Further Study

One operator requests that issuance of the AD be delayed until further studies, as described in the proposed AD, can be completed. The proposed AD describes additional studies in process that are intended to develop appropriate limits for flap settings and airspeeds and to investigate other aspects such as winds and glideslope angles as possible contributors to the unsafe condition. The commenter requests that the studies be completed before the proposed AFM revisions and modifications are mandated.

The FAA does not agree. If the results of the studies ultimately suggest the need for additional intervention, or if additional data are presented that would justify revising any requirements of this AD, the FAA may consider further rulemaking on this issue. In consideration of the amount of time that has already elapsed since issuance of the original notice of proposed rulemaking, the FAA has determined that further delay of this final rule action is not appropriate.

Request To Remove Landing Flap Limitation

Two operators request removal of the landing flap limitation specified in paragraph (d) of the proposed AD. To justify the request, the commenters state that the difference in the approach speeds between the 30-degree and 40-degree landing flap configurations is only 5 knots, and the proposed limitation would provide only minimal improvement in glideslope beam tracking.