

practicable, the costs of the services rendered. This rule will amend the schedule for fees for inspection services rendered to the processed fruit and vegetable industry to reflect the costs necessary to operate the program.

AMS regularly reviews its user fee programs to determine if the fees are adequate. While AMS continues to pursue opportunities to reduce its costs, the existing fee schedule will not generate sufficient revenues to cover lot, year round, and less than year round inspection program costs while maintaining an adequate reserve balance.

Based on the Agency's analysis of increasing program costs, AMS will increase the fees relating to lot, year round, and less than year round inspection services.

AMS projects that program costs will increase to approximately \$14.4 million in FY 2004 and \$14.9 million in FY 2005, primarily from increases in employee salaries and benefits. An estimated 3.4 percent pay increase for employees effective January 2004 and January 2005 will increase program costs approximately \$375,000 in FY 2004 and approximately \$390,000 in FY 2005. Without a fee increase, the FY 2004 and FY 2005 end-of-year reserve balances will decline from \$4.3 million to \$3.6 million (3.0 months reserve), and \$2.4 million (1.9 months reserve), respectively. The required 4 month level should be approximately \$5.0 million. The final fee increase ranging from 8 to 11 percent will increase revenue by \$1.3 million per year and will enable AMS to replenish program reserves to a 4 month level, approximately \$5.0 million, for both FYs 2004 and 2005.

For inspection services charged under § 52.42, overtime and holiday work will continue to be charged as provided in that section.

For inspection services charged on a contract basis under § 52.51 overtime work will also continue to be charged as provided in that section. The following fee schedule compares current fees and charges with final fees and charges for processed fruit and vegetable inspection as found in 7 CFR §§ 52.42–52.51. Unless otherwise provided for by regulation or written agreement between the applicant and the Administrator, the charges in the schedule of fees as found in § 52.42 are:

Current	Final
\$47.00/hr.	\$52.00/hr.

Charges for travel and other expenses as found in § 52.50 are:

Current	Final
\$47.00/hr.	\$52.00/hr.

Charges for year-round in-plant inspection services on a contract basis as found in § 52.51(c) are:

(1) For inspector assigned on a year-round basis:

Current	Final
\$36.00/hr.	\$39.00/hr.

(2) For inspector assigned on less than a year-round basis: Each inspector:

Current	Final
\$48.00/hr.	\$52.00/hr.

Charges for less than year-round in-plant inspection services (four or more consecutive 40 hour weeks) on a contract basis as found in § 52.51(d) are:

(1) Each inspector:

Current	Final
\$48.00/hr.	\$52.00/hr.

It is preferable to have the fee increase to be in place at the beginning of the fiscal year, October 1, 2003, which is also the beginning of a billing cycle. Further, a thirty day comment period was provided for interested persons to comment on this proposed action. No comments were received regarding this proposed rule.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 52

Food grades and standards, Food labeling, Frozen foods, Fruit juices, Fruits, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, and Vegetables.

■ For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR part 52 is amended as follows:

PART 52—[AMENDED]

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, it is found and determined that good cause exists for not postponing the effective date of this action until 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**.

■ 1. The authority citation for part 52 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

§ 52.42 [Amended]

■ 2. In § 52.42, the figure “\$47.00” is revised to read “\$52.00”.

§ 52.50 [Amended]

■ 3. In § 52.50, the figure “\$47.00” is revised to read “\$52.00”.

§ 52.51 [Amended]

■ 4. In § 52.51, paragraph (c)(1), the figure “\$36.00” is revised to read “\$39.00”, in paragraph (c)(2), the figure “\$48.00” is revised to read “\$52.00”, and in paragraph (d)(1), the figure “\$48.00” is revised to read “\$52.00”.

Dated: October 27, 2003.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 03–27412 Filed 10–29–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

Rural Housing Service

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Rural Utilities Service

7 CFR Part 1910

Implementation of Low-Documentation Direct Operating Loan (Lo-Doc) Regulations

CFR Correction

In Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1900 to 1939, revised as of January 1, 2003, in § 1910.4, redesignate the second paragraph (i) as paragraph (j).

[FR Doc. 03–55528 Filed 10–29–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1505–01–D

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Part 72

RIN 3150–AH26

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Standardized NUHOMS®–24P, –52B, and –61BT Revision; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Direct final rule; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is withdrawing a direct final rule that would have revised the Transnuclear, Inc. (TN) Standardized NUHOMS®–24P, –52B, and –61BT cask system listing within the “List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks” to include Amendment No. 5 to the Certificate of Compliance. The NRC is taking this action because it has received significant adverse comments in response to an identical

proposed rule which was concurrently published with the direct final rule.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jayne M. McCausland, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301) 415-6219 (e-mail: jmm2@nrc.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 19, 2003 (68 FR 49683), the NRC published in the **Federal Register** a direct final rule amending its regulations in 10 CFR 72.214 to revise the Transnuclear, Inc. (TN) Standardized NUHOMS®-24P, -52B, and -61BT cask system listing within the "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks" to include Amendment No. 5 to the Certificate of Compliance. Amendment No. 5 would have modified the present cask system design to add another dry shielded canister (DSC), designated NUHOMS®-32PT DSC, to the authorized contents of the Standardized NUHOMS®-24P, -52B, and -61BT cask system. This canister is designed to accommodate 32 pressurized water reactor assemblies with or without Burnable Poison Rod assemblies. It is designed for use with the existing NUHOMS® Horizontal Storage Module and NUHOMS® Transfer Cask under a general license. The direct final rule was to become effective on November 3, 2003. The NRC also concurrently published an identical proposed rule on August 19, 2003 (68 FR 49726).

In the August 19, 2003, direct final rule, NRC stated that if any significant adverse comments were received, a timely notice of withdrawal of the direct final rule would be published in the **Federal Register**. As a result, the direct final rule would not take effect.

The NRC received significant adverse comment on the direct final rule; therefore, the NRC is withdrawing the direct final rule. As stated in the August 19, 2003, direct final rule, NRC will address the comments received on the August 19, 2003, companion proposed rule in a subsequent final rule. The NRC will not initiate a second comment period on this action.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of October, 2003.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

William D. Travers,

Executive Director for Operations.

[FR Doc. 03-27330 Filed 10-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

12 CFR Part 709

Interpretive Ruling and Policy Statement No. 03-3; Qualified Financial Contracts

AGENCY: National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

ACTION: Notice of interpretive ruling and policy statement No. 03-3.

SUMMARY: Interpretive Ruling and Policy Statement (IRPS) No. 03-3 provides guidance on NCUA's treatment of qualified financial contracts (QFCs) and federal funds (fed funds) transactions if NCUA becomes liquidating agent or conservator of a credit union. The guidance covers the timing, form, authority, and maintenance of written agreements documenting QFC and fed funds transactions.

DATES: This IRPS will become effective October 30, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Program Officer, Office of Examination and Insurance, at (703) 518-6360; or Paul Peterson, Staff Attorney, Office of General Counsel, at (703) 518-6540.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Qualified financial contracts are defined by the Federal Credit Union Act (Act) as any securities contract, forward contract, repurchase agreement, and any similar agreement the NCUA Board (Board) determines by regulation. 12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(8)(D). The Board designated swap agreements (swaps) as QFCs effective June 30, 2003. 68 FR 32355 (May 30, 2003).

The Act provides that any agreement purporting to form the basis of a claim against the liquidating agent or the NCUA Board must be in writing and executed contemporaneously with the acquisition of the asset by the credit union, be approved by the credit union's board, and be maintained continuously as an official record of the credit union. 12 U.S.C. 1787(b)(9), 1788(a)(3). Standard market practices for the creation and documentation of QFC and federal funds (fed funds) transactions, however, are often relatively informal. Representatives of potential QFC and fed funds counterparties have expressed concern to NCUA about how it might interpret the Act's formality requirements in the event of a credit union liquidation or conservatorship.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has previously adopted policy guidance that addresses counterparty concerns about similar

formality provisions in the Federal Deposit Insurance Act applicable to bank transactions. FDIC Statement of Policy on Qualified Financial Contracts, December 12, 1989, at <http://www.fdic.gov/regulations/laws/rules/5000-1100.html>. This IRPS adopts a similar policy on the formality provisions in the Federal Credit Union Act as applied to credit union transactions.

Interpretive Ruling and Policy Statement No. 03-3—Qualified Financial Contracts

This Interpretive Ruling and Policy Statement ("IRPS") provides guidance to the financial markets with regard to the treatment of qualified financial contracts (QFCs) in the event NCUA is appointed liquidating agent or conservator of a credit union. The guidance covers the timing, form, authority, and maintenance of written agreements documenting QFCs and provides a safe harbor for bona fide transactions between credit unions and nonaffiliated counterparties. For purposes of the requirements set out in sections 207(b)(9) and 208(a)(3) of the Federal Credit Union Act (the Act), the Board intends that this policy statement apply to federal funds (fed funds) transactions as well as QFCs. 12 U.S.C. 1787(b)(9) and 1788(a)(3).

The NCUA Board specifically intends that counterparties to QFCs and fed funds transactions may rely on this policy statement. The NCUA Board does not, however, intend to provide in this policy statement any indication or guidance of the treatment by a liquidating agent or conservator of any other type of contract other than fed funds or those specifically defined as QFCs in the Act or by the Board pursuant to the Act. Also, nothing in this policy statement is intended to apply to transactions between a credit union and a counterparty that is an affiliate of the credit union.

This policy statement will be effective unless revoked or otherwise withdrawn upon 45 days notice provided in the **Federal Register**. Any such revocation or withdrawal will only operate prospectively.

Written Agreement Requirements

Any QFC (including any ancillary agreements, such as a master agreement or security arrangements) that complies with the following criteria will be deemed to satisfy the requirements in sections 207(b)(9) and 208(a)(3) of the Act. 12 U.S.C. 1787(b)(9) and 1788(a)(3).

1. The QFC is evidenced by a writing (including a confirmation) that either is sent by the credit union to the