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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

7 CFR 3200

RIN 0599-AA10

Office of Procurement and Property Management (OPPM); Uniform Procedures for the Acquisition and Transfer of Excess Personal Property

AGENCY: Office of Procurement and Property Management.

ACTION: Direct final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Procurement and Property Management of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposes to amend its procedures for the acquisition and transfer of excess personal property to 1994 Institutions (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Education Land Grant Status Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note)); any Hispanic-Serving Institution (as defined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)); and any college/university eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321 *et seq.*), including Tuskegee University, in support of research, educational, technical, and scientific activities or for related programs. This amendment would clarify administrative rules regarding equipment transfer and reduce the administrative burden placed on the Institutions.

DATES: This rule is effective March 1, 2004 without further action, unless we receive written adverse comments or written notice of intent to submit adverse comments on or before January 29, 2004. If we receive adverse comments, the Office of Procurement and Property Management will publish a timely withdrawal of the rule in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to USDA, OPPM, PMD, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Mail Stop 9304, Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathy Fay on 202-720-9779.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Procedural Requirements
 - A. Executive Order Number 12866.
 - B. Regulatory Flexibility Act.
 - C. Paperwork Reduction Act.
- III. Electronic Access Addresses

I. Background

This direct final rule amends the final rule which was published in the **Federal Register** at 63 FR 57233-57236, Oct. 27, 1998.

II. Procedural Requirements

A. Executive Order Number 12866

This proposed rule was reviewed under EO 12866, and it has been determined that it is not a significant regulatory action because it will not have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more or adversely and materially affect a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities. This proposed rule will not create any serious inconsistencies or otherwise interfere with any actions taken or planned by another agency. It will not materially alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs, or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

USDA certifies that this proposed rule will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, for the reason that this regulation imposes no new requirements on small entities.

C. Paperwork Reduction

The forms necessary to implement these procedures have been cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 2500, *et seq.*

III. Electronic Access Addresses

You may send electronic mail (E-mail) to kathy.fay@usda.gov or contact us via fax at (202) 720-3339.

CHAPTER 32—OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

PART 3200—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE GUIDELINES FOR THE ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY

■ 1. The authority citation for part 3200 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 7 U.S.C. 2206a.

■ 2. Amend § 3200.4 by revising paragraphs (a), (d) and (e)(2) to read as follows:

§ 3200.4 Procedures.

(a) To receive information concerning the availability of Federal excess personal property, an eligible institution's property management officer may contact their regional GSA, Area Utilization Officer. For information on USDA excess personal property, visit the USDA Web site at <http://www.nfc.usda.gov/propexcs>. USDA excess property will first be screened by USDA agencies through the Departmental Excess Personal Property Coordinator (DEPPC) using the Departmental Property Management Information System.

* * * * *

(d) Eligible institutions may submit property requests by mail or fax on a Standard Form 122, "Transfer Order Excess Personal Property".

(e)(1) * * *

(2) This statement needs to be added following the property description:

"The property requested hereon is certified to be used in support of research, educational, technical, and scientific activities or for related programs. This transfer is requested pursuant to the provisions of Section 923 Pub. L. 104-127 (7 U.S.C. 2206a). Also, in accordance with these provisions USDA authorizes transfer of title of this property to the college/university/institution."

* * * * *

■ 3. Amend § 3200.6 by revising paragraph (a), redesignating paragraphs (b) and (c) as (c) and (d), and adding a new paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 3200.6 Restrictions.

(a) Property in the following Federal Supply Groups are prohibited from transfer.

INELIGIBLE FEDERAL SUPPLY CODE GROUPS

FSC Group	Name
10	Weapons.
11	Nuclear ordinance.
13	Ammunition and explosives.
14	Guided missiles.
18	Space vehicles.

(b) The property in the FSC's listed below are discouraged from transfer and not approved on a routine basis. However, Institutions may request items in these FSC groups, but all requests will be referred to the Director, Office of Procurement and Property Management for consideration and approval:

FSC Group	Name
15	Aircraft and airframe structural components.
16	Aircraft components and accessories.
17	Aircraft launching, landing and ground handling equipment.
20	Ship and marine equipment.

* * * * *

■ 4. Revise § 3200.10 to read as follows:

§ 3200.10 Disposal.

Once the requirements in § 3200.9 are met for retention and use of property by the Institution and title is transferred, Federal excess personal property (FEPP) no longer needed by an Institution will be disposed of in accordance with the Institution's disposal practices. Regardless of ownership, FEPP must never be disposed of in any manner which is detrimental or dangerous to public health or safety. Also, any costs incurred during the disposal process are the responsibility of the Institution.

Done at Washington, DC, this 22nd day of December, 2003.

W. R. Ashworth,

Director, Office of Procurement and Property Management.

[FR Doc. 03-32013 Filed 12-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-TX-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of Thrift Supervision

12 CFR Parts 506, 550, 560, 563, 563g, and 575

[No. 2003-68]

Technical Amendments

AGENCY: Office of Thrift Supervision, Treasury.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) is amending its regulations to incorporate a number of technical and conforming amendments. They include clarifications, updated statutory and other references, and corrections of typographical errors.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 30, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marilyn K. Burton, Senior Paralegal (Regulations), (202) 906-6467, or Karen A. Osterloh, Special Counsel, (202) 906-6639, Regulations and Legislation Division, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OTS is amending its regulations to incorporate a number of technical and conforming amendments. OTS is making the following miscellaneous changes:

- *Part 506—Information Collection Requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA).* The final rule updates the table displaying the OMB control numbers assigned to various OTS regulations under the PRA by adding and amending references to a control number. See 12 CFR 506.1(b).
- *Part 550—Fiduciary Powers of Savings Associations.* The final rule corrects typographical errors in the chart in § 550.70.
- *Part 560—Lending and Investment.* The final rule corrects a typographical error in § 560.30.
- *Part 563—Savings Associations—Operations.* The final rule adds a regulatory reference to § 563.41(b) and deletes a citation to an outdated regulation in § 563.180(c).
- *Parts 563g—Securities Offerings.* The final rule updates a reference to an OTS Office and revises citations in §§ 563g.1(a)(6), (a)(9) and (a)(10), and 563g.5.
- *Part 575—Mutual Holding Companies.* The final rule corrects a typographical error in § 575.7.

Administrative Procedure Act; Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994

OTS finds that there is good cause to dispense with prior notice and comment

on this final rule and with the 30-day delay of effective date mandated by the Administrative Procedure Act.¹ OTS believes that these procedures are unnecessary and contrary to public interest because the rule merely corrects and clarifies existing provisions. Because the amendments in the rule are not substantive, these changes will not detrimentally affect savings associations.

Section 302 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 provides that regulations that impose additional reporting, disclosure, or other new requirements may not take effect before the first day of the quarter following publication.² This section does not apply because this final rule imposes no additional requirements and makes only technical changes to existing regulations.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

Pursuant to section 605(b) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act,³ the OTS Director certifies that this technical corrections regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Executive Order 12866

OTS has determined that this rule is not a "significant regulatory action" for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

OTS has determined that the requirements of this final rule will not result in expenditures by State, local, and tribal governments, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more in any one year. Accordingly, a budgetary impact statement is not required under section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

List of Subjects

12 CFR Part 506

Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

12 CFR Part 550

Savings associations, Trusts and trustees.

12 CFR Part 560

Consumer protection, Investments, Manufactured homes, Mortgages, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Savings associations, Securities.

¹ 5 U.S.C. 553.

² Pub. L. No. 103-325, 12 U.S.C. 4802.

³ Pub. L. No. 96-354, 5 U.S.C. 601.