

870.302(a)(3) also issued under sections 11202(f), 11232(e), and 11246(b) and (c) of Pub. L. 105-33, 111 Stat. 251, and section 7(e) of Pub. L. 105-274, 112 Stat. 2419; Sec. 870.302(a)(3) also issued under section 145 of Pub. L. 106-522, 114 Stat. 2472; Secs. 870.302(b)(8), 870.601(a), and 870.602(b) also issued under Pub. L. 110-279, 122 Stat. 2604; Subpart E also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8702(c); Sec. 870.601(d)(3) also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8706(d); Sec. 870.703(e)(1) also issued under section 502 of Pub. L. 110-177, 121 Stat. 2542; Sec. 870.705 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8714b(c) and 8714c(c); Public Law 104-106, 110 Stat. 521.

■ 2. In § 870.801, paragraph (d)(2) is revised to read as follows:

§ 870.801 Order of precedence and payment of benefits.

* * * * *

(d) * * *

(2) To qualify a person for such payment, a certified copy of the court order must be received in the appropriate office before the death of the insured.

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[FR Doc. 2012-29164 Filed 12-3-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-63-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 915

[Doc. No. AMS-FV-11-0094; FV12-915-1 FIR]

Avocados Grown in South Florida; Decreased Assessment Rate

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Affirmation of interim rule as final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is adopting, as a final rule, without change, an interim rule that decreased the assessment rate established for the Avocado Administrative Committee (Committee) for the 2012-13 and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.37 to \$0.25 per 55-pound bushel container of Florida avocados handled. The Committee locally administers the marketing order for avocados grown in South Florida. The interim rule decreased the assessment rate to reflect a reduction in expenditures for research and to help reduce industry costs.

DATES: Effective December 5, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doris Jamieson or Christian D. Nissen, Southeast Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Fruit and Vegetable Program,

AMS, USDA; Telephone: (863) 324-3375, Fax: (863) 325-8793, or Email: Doris.Jamieson@ams.usda.gov or Christian.Nissen@ams.usda.gov.

Small businesses may obtain information on complying with this and other marketing order regulations by viewing a guide at the following Web site: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/MarketingOrdersSmallBusinessGuide>; or by contacting Laurel May, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Fruit and Vegetable Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250-0237; Telephone: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-8938, or Email: Laurel.May@ams.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This rule is issued under Marketing Order No. 915, as amended (7 CFR part 915), regulating the handling of avocados grown in South Florida, hereinafter referred to as the "order." The order is effective under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), hereinafter referred to as the "Act."

USDA is issuing this rule in conformance with Executive Order 12866.

Under the order, Florida avocado handlers are subject to assessments, which provide funds to administer the order. Assessment rates issued under the order are intended to be applicable to all assessable Florida avocados for the entire fiscal period, and continue indefinitely until amended, suspended, or terminated. The Committee's fiscal period begins on April 1, and ends on March 31.

In an interim rule published in the *Federal Register* on July 2, 2012, and effective on July 3, 2012, (77 FR 39150, Doc. No. AMS-FV-11-0094, FV12-915-1 IR), § 915.235 was amended by decreasing the assessment rate established for Florida avocados for the 2012-13 and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.37 to \$0.25 per 55-pound bushel container. The decrease in the assessment rate reflects a reduction in Committee expenditures for research and will help reduce industry costs while still providing adequate funding to meet program expenses.

Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

Pursuant to requirements set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601-612), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has considered the economic impact of this rule on small entities. Accordingly, AMS has prepared this final regulatory flexibility analysis.

The purpose of the RFA is to fit regulatory actions to the scale of

business subject to such actions in order that small businesses will not be unduly or disproportionately burdened. Marketing orders issued pursuant to the Act, and the rules issued thereunder, are unique in that they are brought about through group action of essentially small entities acting on their own behalf.

There are approximately 30 handlers of Florida avocados subject to regulation under the order and around 300 producers in the production area. Small agricultural service firms are defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA) as those whose annual receipts are less than \$7,000,000, and small agricultural producers are defined as those having annual receipts of less than \$750,000 (13 CFR 121.201).

According to Committee data and information from the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS), the average price for Florida avocados during the 2011-12 season was around \$16.50 per 55-pound bushel container and total shipments were near 1,200,000 55-bushels. Using the average price and shipment information provided by the Committee, the majority of avocado handlers could be considered small businesses under SBA's definition. In addition, based on avocado production, producer prices, and the total number of Florida avocado producers, the average annual producer revenue is less than \$750,000. Consequently, the majority of avocado handlers and producers may be classified as small entities.

This rule continues in effect the action that decreased the assessment rate established for the Committee and collected from handlers for the 2012-13 and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.37 to \$0.25 per 55-pound bushel container of avocados. The Committee unanimously recommended 2012-13 expenditures of \$324,575 and an assessment rate of \$0.25 per 55-pound bushel container of avocados. The assessment rate of \$0.25 is \$0.12 lower than the rate previously in effect. Applying the \$0.25 per 55-pound bushel container assessment rate to the Committee's 1,000,000 55-pound bushel container crop estimate should provide \$250,000 in assessment income. Thus, income derived from handler assessments, along with interest income and funds from the Committee's authorized reserve will be adequate to cover the budgeted expenses. The decrease in the assessment rate reflects a reduction in Committee expenditures for research and will help reduce industry costs.

This rule continues in effect the action that decreased the assessment obligation imposed on handlers.

Assessments are applied uniformly on all handlers, and some of the costs may be passed on to producers. However, decreasing the assessment rate reduces the burden on handlers, and may reduce the burden on producers.

In addition, the Committee's meeting was widely publicized throughout the Florida avocado industry and all interested persons were invited to attend the meeting and participate in Committee deliberations on all issues. Like all Committee meetings, the December 14, 2011, meeting was a public meeting and all entities, both large and small, were able to express views on this issue.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the order's information collection requirements have been previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and assigned OMB No. 0581-0189, Generic OMB Fruit Crops. No changes in those requirements as a result of this action are anticipated. Should any changes become necessary, they would be submitted to OMB for approval.

This action imposes no additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements on either small or large Florida avocado handlers. As with all Federal marketing order programs, reports and forms are periodically reviewed to reduce information requirements and duplication by industry and public sector agencies.

USDA has not identified any relevant Federal rules that duplicate, overlap or conflict with this rule.

Comments on the interim rule were required to be received on or before August 31, 2012. No comments were received. Therefore, for reasons given in the interim rule, we are adopting the interim rule as a final rule, without change.

To view the interim rule, go to: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=AMS-FV-11-0094-0001>.

This action also affirms information contained in the interim rule concerning Executive Orders 12866 and 12988, and the E-Gov Act (44 U.S.C. 101).

After consideration of all relevant material presented, it is found that finalizing the interim rule, without change, as published in the **Federal Register** (77 FR 39150, July 2, 2012) will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 915

Avocados, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

PART 915—AVCOADOS GROWN IN SOUTH FLORIDA

Accordingly, the interim rule amending 7 CFR part 915, which was published at 77 FR 39150 on July 2, 2012, is adopted as a final rule, without change.

Dated: November 28, 2012.

David R. Shipman,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2012-29253 Filed 12-3-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

10 CFR Part 710

RIN 1992-AA36

Criteria and Procedures for Determining Eligibility for Access to Classified Matter or Special Nuclear Material: Technical Amendments

AGENCY: Office of the General Counsel, Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: DOE is amending its regulations at 10 CFR part 710, which sets forth the policies and procedures for resolving questions concerning eligibility for DOE access authorization, to revise a provision concerning designation of an acting official and to update the official's title. Specifically, the duties assigned to the Principal Deputy for Mission Support Operations (formerly, the Deputy Chief for Operations), Office of Health, Safety and Security, may now be exercised by a person or persons designated in writing as acting for, or in the temporary capacity of, that official. Currently, the part 710 regulations state that this official's duties may be exercised by another individual only in the official's absence. Today's final rule also revises one title: "Principal Deputy for Mission Support Operations" replaces "Deputy Chief for Operations".

DATES: *Effective Date:* This rule is effective on December 4, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christina Pak, Office of the General Counsel, GC-52, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585; Christina.Pak@hq.doe.gov; 202-586-4114; Mark R. Pekrul, Office of Departmental Personnel Security, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585; Mark.Pekrul@hq.doe.gov; 202-586-3249.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

10 CFR part 710 sets forth the policies and procedures for resolving questions concerning eligibility for DOE access authorization. Various DOE officials are assigned specific duties in this process. Currently, section 710.36 provides that each of the named officials, with the exception of the Secretary of Energy and the Deputy Chief for Operations, Office of Health, Safety and Security, may designate his or her duties to other DOE officials without restriction.

Since the part 710 rule was last amended in 2001, experience has demonstrated that conditioning the Deputy Chief for Operations' ability to delegate his part 710 functions solely on occasions when he is absent from the office is unduly restrictive, unnecessary, and administratively inefficient. In order to enhance the Department's ability to effectively manage the Administrative Review process prescribed by part 710, the Deputy Chief of Operations should be accorded greater flexibility in delegating his assigned responsibilities under the rule. In those cases where duties of the Deputy Chief of Operations are delegated pursuant to this amendment, they will continue to be exercised by a DOE employee in a security-related Senior Executive Service position within the Office of Health, Safety and Security, as approved by the Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer. In addition, DOE would update part 710 to reflect organizational changes within the Office of Health, Safety and Security by replacing "Deputy Chief for Operations" wherever it appears in the rule with "Principal Deputy Chief for Mission Support Operations".

The regulatory amendments in this final rule do not alter substantive rights or obligations under current law.

II. Procedural Requirements

A. Review Under Executive Orders 12866 and 13563

Today's regulatory action has been determined not to be "a significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866, "Regulatory Planning and Review," 58 FR 51735 (October 4, 1993). Accordingly, this action was not subject to review under that Executive Order by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). DOE has also reviewed this regulation pursuant to Executive Order 13563, issued on January 18, 2011 (76 FR 3281 (Jan. 21, 2011)). Executive Order 13563 is supplemental to and explicitly reaffirms the principles, structures, and definitions governing regulatory review established in