

on Tribal consultation and collaboration.

Civil Rights Impact Analysis

FNS has reviewed this proposed rule in accordance with Departmental Regulations 4300-4, "Civil Rights Impact Analysis" and 1512-1, "Regulatory Decision Making Requirements" to identify and address any major civil rights impacts the proposed rule might have on minorities, women, persons with disabilities, or other protected classes. FNS has determined that this proposed rule will not have an adverse impact on any retail food store owners or SNAP recipients belonging to protected classes. The regulation only concerns those retail food stores participating in SNAP that would not meet the increased staple food stocking requirements necessary for SNAP authorization that were mandated by the 2014 Farm Bill and codified in the 2016 final rule, "Enhancing Retailer Standards in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)." The proposed regulatory changes would aid those retail stores, which are primarily small format retailers, in meeting the enhanced stocking requirements of the 2016 final rule. This proposed rule would not change any requirements related to the eligibility or participation of protected classes or individuals, minority owned or operated business entities, or woman owned or operated business entities in SNAP. As a result, this rulemaking would have no differential impact on protected classes of individuals, minority owned or operated business entities, or woman owned or operated business entities. Relatedly, FNS does not collect data from retail food stores regarding any of the protected classes under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and FNS specifically prohibits retailers that participate in SNAP to engage in actions that discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion or political belief.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chap. 35; see 5 CFR part 1320) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approve all collections of information by a Federal agency from the public before they can be implemented. Respondents are not required to respond to any collection of information unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. There is no information collection burden associated with this proposed rule.

E-Government Act Compliance

FNS is committed to complying with the E-Government Act of 2002, Public Law 107-347, to promote the use of the internet and other information technologies to provide increased opportunities for citizen access to government information and services, and for other purposes. FNS intends to provide Program stakeholders with guidance and technical assistance materials related to this proposed rule using online media.

List of Subjects

7 CFR Part 271

Food stamps, Grant programs—Social programs, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

7 CFR Part 278

Banks, banking, Food stamps, Grant programs—social programs, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Surety bonds.

Accordingly, 7 CFR parts 271 and 278 are proposed to be amended as follows:

- 1. The authority citation for parts 271 and 278 continue to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2011–2036.

PART 271—GENERAL INFORMATION AND DEFINITIONS

- 2. In § 271.2, add a definition for *Variety* in alphabetical order to read as follows:

§ 271.2 Definitions.

* * * * *

Variety, in evaluating a firm's stock of staple foods for purposes of determining eligibility to participate in SNAP, means foods that differ from each other by distinct main ingredient or product kind as determined by the Secretary. See 7 CFR 278.1(b)(1)(ii)(C).

* * * * *

PART 278—PARTICIPATION OF RETAIL FOOD STORES, WHOLESALE FOOD CONCERNS AND INSURED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- 3. Revise § 278.1(b)(1)(ii)(C) to read as follows:

§ 278.1 Approval of retail food stores and wholesale food concerns.

* * * * *

- (b) * * *
(1) * * *
(ii) * * *

(C)(1) Offer a variety of staple foods within each staple food category that differ from each other by distinct main ingredient or product kind. For example: Apples, cabbage, tomatoes, bananas, pumpkins, broccoli, and

grapes in the vegetables or fruits category; or fat-reduced cow milk, almond-based milk substitute, soy-based yogurt substitute, soft goat milk-based cheese, cow milk-based butter, cow milk-based sour cream, and cow milk-based full-fat yogurt in the dairy products category; or rice, wheat-based bagels, 100% whole grain wheat-based bagels, wheat-based pitas, rye-based bread, rice-based pasta, oatmeal, and wheat-based matzah in the bread or cereals category; or shelf-stable chicken, beans, nuts/seeds, perishable beef, perishable pork, chicken eggs, and perishable chicken in the meat, poultry, or fish category.

(2) Variety of foods is not to be interpreted as different brands, nutrient values (e.g., low sodium and lite), flavorings (e.g., vanilla and chocolate), packaging types or styles (e.g. boxed and bagged, or fresh and frozen), meat cuts, product shapes, textures, or package sizes of the same or similar foods except where explicitly specified in Agency guidance. Similar food items such as, but not limited to, tomatoes and tomato juice, brown rice and white rice, 1% milk and skim milk, perishable ground beef and perishable beefsteak, or different types of apples (e.g., Empire, Jonagold, and McIntosh), shall count as depth of stock but shall not each be counted as more than one staple food variety for the purpose of determining the number of varieties in any staple food category except where explicitly specified in Agency guidance.

Accessory foods shall not be counted as staple foods for purposes of determining eligibility to participate in SNAP as a retail food store.

* * * * *

Dated: March 28, 2019.

Brandon Lipps,

Acting Deputy Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.

[FR Doc. 2019-06597 Filed 4-4-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

7 CFR Part 1423

[Doc. No. AMS-FTPP-18-0085]

Delivery and Shipping Standards for Cotton Warehouses

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Commodity Credit

Corporation (CCC) proposes to amend the regulations that specify the requirements for CCC-approved warehouses storing and handling cotton. The amendment would change how warehouse operators account for bales made available for shipment (BMAS) and how CCC determines BMAS compliance. The current regulation allows bales that are made available for shipment by the warehouse operator but not picked up (BNPU) by the shipper to count for up to two reporting weeks when calculating and reporting BMAS for the reporting week. This amendment proposes to limit BNPU to be counted for one week, with BMAS to include only bales actually shipped or not picked up for that reporting week. CCC also proposes to allow two additional options for the warehouse operator to meet the 4.5% cotton flow requirement by averaging either the BMAS for the reporting week and the week prior to the reporting week, or by averaging the BMAS for the reporting week and the week after the reporting week. In addition, CCC proposes to amend the regulations to reflect the transfer of warehouse programs and activities from USDA's Farm Service Agency to AMS in 2018.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 6, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted electronically at www.regulations.gov. Comments may also be submitted to: Dan Schofer, AMS, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Stop 3061, Room 2555 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-3061. Comments will be made available for public inspection at Room 2530-S of the above address during regular business hours or electronically at www.regulations.gov. Comments received will be posted without change, including any personal information provided. All comments should reference the docket number AMS-FTPP-18-0085, the date of submission, and the page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Schofer at dan.schofer@ams.usda.gov or 202-690-2434.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In order to provide cotton warehouse operators the flexibility to address real-time scheduling changes and market demands faced by cotton merchants and shippers, CCC would use a two-week rolling average of BMAS to determine a warehouse operator's compliance with the minimum cotton flow rate of 4.5% of applicable storage capacity.

For example, a cotton warehouse operator has scheduled 4.5% of the

warehouse's applicable storage capacity to be available for shipment for several consecutive weeks. The week before a load is scheduled to be picked-up, a shipper requests to change its load out date to an earlier load out date in the preceding week, for an amount representing 0.25% of the warehouse's applicable storage capacity. If the warehouse operator has that specific load (0.25% of licensed capacity) already staged for a scheduled delivery the following week, that load could be picked up earlier, in the week preceding the original load out date. Without using a two-week rolling average and without making any additional bale adjustments, the warehouse operator would be considered to have delivered cotton without unnecessary delay for the first week because its BMAS is 4.75%, which is greater than the required 4.5%. However, the warehouse operator would not be considered to have delivered cotton without unnecessary delay during the second week because its BMAS is 4.25%, which is less than he required 4.5%. In this example, the option to calculate BMAS compliance using the rolling average of the reporting week and the week preceding the reporting week would result in a determination by CCC that the cotton warehouse operator is in compliance with a BMAS of 4.5% for the reporting week.

In another example, one that illustrates the third option of meeting the cotton flow requirement, a cotton warehouse operator schedules 4.5% of the applicable storage capacity for delivery in each of three consecutive weeks. During the first week, the cotton warehouse operator actually makes available for shipment 6.0% of the applicable storage capacity. During the second week, the cotton warehouse operator only makes 2.0% of applicable storage capacity available for shipment. During the third week, the cotton warehouse operator makes 7.0% of applicable storage capacity available for shipment. In this example, the cotton warehouse operator is considered to have delivered cotton without unnecessary delay during the first and the third weeks. During the second week however, the CCC will use the two-week rolling average of either the applicable week and the immediately preceding week, which results in an average BMAS of 4.0%, or the two-week rolling average of the applicable week and the immediately succeeding week, which results in an average BMAS of 4.5% to make its compliance determination for the second week. Using the two-week rolling average of

the second and third week to calculate the BMAS for the second week allows the CCC to consider the cotton warehouse operator to have delivered cotton without unnecessary delay for that second week because the 4.5% average met the cotton flow requirement.

This proposed rule change would continue to require warehouse operators to report their BMAS each week based upon the revised definition of BMAS. CCC would determine compliance on an individual reporting week, or if needed, use an option of one of the rolling average calculations of BMAS for two consecutive reporting weeks. In the event that CCC uses the average of the applicable week and the immediately succeeding week, CCC would determine compliance for the applicable week after it receives the data from the immediately succeeding week. These options would allow cotton warehouse operators to meet the cotton flow requirements of the regulation while being flexible to the needs of the shipping and merchant industries.

Executive Orders 12866 and 13771, and Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

This rule does not meet the definition of a significant regulatory action contained in section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 and is not subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Additionally, because this rule does not meet the definition of a significant regulatory action it does not trigger the requirements contained in Executive Order 13771. See OMB's Memorandum titled "Interim Guidance Implementing Section 2 of the Executive Order of January 30, 2017, titled 'Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs'" (February 2, 2017).

Pursuant to the requirements set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) [5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*], CCC has considered the economic effect of this action on small entities and has determined that this proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small business entities. The purpose of the RFA is to fit regulatory actions to the scale of businesses subject to such actions in order that small businesses will not be unduly burdened.

Currently, there are 326 CCC-approved warehouses that store cotton. The U.S. Small Business Administration's Table of Small Business Size Standards matched to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Codes identifies small business size by average annual receipts or by the average number of employees at a firm. This information can be found

at 13 CFR parts 121.104, 121.106, and 121.201. CCC estimates that 50 CCC-approved warehouses that store cotton would be considered small businesses according to SBA standards.

Sizes of cotton warehouses vary in size as well as business type, including small, independent country warehouses, small to large sized warehouses owned by cooperatives of producers, and small to large sized warehouses owned by corporate shippers/merchants. The effects of this proposed rule are not expected to be disproportionately greater or lesser for small businesses than for large businesses.

USDA is committed to complying with the E-Government Act of 2002 to promote the use of the internet and other information technologies to provide increased opportunities for citizen access to government information and services, and for other purposes. Accordingly, CCC developed options for companies requesting service to do so electronically.

Executive Order 13175

This action has been reviewed in accordance with the requirements of Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments. The review reveals that this regulation would not have substantial and direct effects on Tribal governments and would not have significant Tribal implications.

Executive Order 12988

This proposed rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. This proposed rule is not intended to have retroactive effect. The USDA has not identified any relevant Federal rules that duplicate, overlap, or conflict with this proposed rule.

The warehouse operator may resolve any claim for noncompliance from any entity, such as a merchant or shipper, other than CCC with the cotton shipping standard in a court of competent jurisdiction or through mutually agreed upon arbitration procedures. CCC does not have authority to limit an entity from filing suit in a court of law against another entity.

The warehouse operator may request that CCC reconsider adverse actions when the warehouse operator establishes that the reasons for the action have been remedied or requests reconsideration of the action.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The cotton information covered in this proposed rule is the weekly reporting of BMAS by cotton warehouses. BMAS is reported through

the Electronic Warehouse Receipt Inc. (EWR Inc.) system, to which AMS has access. EWR Inc. is a USDA licensed provider company and generally contains information that is exempt from the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) because it is usual and customary business information. The proposed change in the regulation would not change the burden associated with reporting BMAS, which is required to be reported weekly.

Background and Proposed Revisions

AMS administers the CCC-approved warehouse program for CCC. This responsibility includes entering into contracts for the storage and handling of CCC-interest commodities with warehouses. The operators of those approved warehouses are required to comply with CCC regulations, which include reporting information about the stored commodities to CCC. The specific requirements that operators of approved warehouses must meet are specified in the regulations at § 7 CFR 1423 “Commodity Credit Corporation Approved Warehouses” and in the signed storage agreement between CCC and the warehouse operator for each type of commodity.

Operators of CCC-approved cotton warehouses are currently required to report BMAS, among other data, to the CCC on a weekly basis. Under the current rule at § 7 CFR 1423.11(b)(1)(ii), bales that were scheduled and ready for delivery in a previous week, but not picked up by the shipper, remained available for loading and for which another shipping date had not been established could be counted toward BMAS for up to two weeks. This proposed rule would clarify that bales scheduled and ready for delivery during a week but not picked up by the end of that reporting week can only be reported as BMAS for that one week that such bales were made available for shipment. The National Cotton Council, on behalf of the U.S. cotton industry, requested this change in order to increase the cotton flow rate to domestic and foreign manufacturers, to more quickly respond to domestic and international market needs, and to optimize performance by approved cotton warehouse operators. This change is being made to simplify the calculation of BMAS so that certain bales do not need to be accounted for beyond the applicable reporting week. The proposed rule would change how BNPU are counted in the weekly report to CCC. It would not change any warehouse tariffs or fees.

A conforming change would also be made to CCC’s Cotton Storage Agreement (Form CCC–823). The

storage agreement is the agreement between CCC and the cotton warehouse operator on the requirements that the warehouse operator must meet for storing and handling CCC-interest cotton. The standard cotton storage agreement form and the subsequent amendments are available on the USDA website at: <https://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov//efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/CCC823.PDF>.

There is no expected cost to warehouses or CCC of reporting BMAS as specified in this proposed rule. The proposed rule would only change how bales made available but not picked up by the shipper or merchant are reported by the warehouse operator to CCC in the weekly report. It does not change warehouse tariffs or restocking fees.

This change is intended to improve the efficiency of cotton flow from U.S. producers and cotton warehouses to shippers, and ultimately to cotton manufacturers, by more accurately reporting cotton that is available for shipment. Under the current rule, it has become apparent that certain bales may have been scheduled and ready for shipment but were never picked up for two weeks or more, potentially inflating BMAS calculations. This proposed rule change is meant to more accurately reflect how the cotton industry actually makes bales available for shipment during that one week. Availability and consistent supply of cotton are crucial for the U.S. cotton industry in order to compete with other cotton producing nations and having accurate information about bales made available for shipment contributes to more efficient and effective marketing of U.S. cotton.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1423

Agricultural commodities, Cotton, Honey, Oilseeds, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Surety bonds, Warehouses.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the Commodity Credit Corporation proposes to amend 7 CFR part 1423 as follows:

PART 1423—COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION APPROVED WAREHOUSES

- 1. The authority citation for part 1423 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 714b and 714c.

- 2. Amend § 1423.2 by revising it to read as follows:

§ 1423.2 Administration.

On behalf of CCC, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will administer this part under the supervision of the AMS Administrator.

■ 3. Amend § 1423.3 by removing the definition for “KCCO.”

■ 4. Amend § 1423.7 by revising paragraph (d) to read as follows:

§ 1423.7 Net Worth Alternatives.

* * * * *

(d) Other alternative instruments and forms of financial assurance as the AMS Administrator determines appropriate to secure the warehouse operator’s compliance with this section.

■ 5. Amend § 1423.8 by revising paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 1423.8 Approval or rejection.

* * * * *

(b) CCC will notify the warehouse operator of rejection under this part in writing. The notification will state the causes for rejection. CCC will reconsider a warehouse for approval when the warehouse operator establishes that the reasons for rejection have been remedied or requests reconsideration of the action and presents to the Director, Warehouse and Commodity Management Division, AMS, in writing, information in support of such request. The warehouse operator may, if dissatisfied with the Director’s determination, obtain a review of the determination and an informal hearing by submitting a request with the AMS Administrator. Appeals shall be as prescribed in part 780 of this title.

■ 6. Amend § 1423.11 by revising paragraphs (a)(2) and (b)(1) to read as follows:

§ 1423.11 Delivery and shipping standards for cotton warehouses.

(a) * * *

(2) Be considered to have delivered cotton without unnecessary delay if the warehouse operator has made available for shipment at least 4.5 percent of its applicable storage capacity in effect, measured as the BMAS:

(i) During the relevant week of shipment, or

(ii) Calculated as the two-week, rolling average of the BMAS for the relevant week of shipment and the BMAS for the immediately preceding week, or

(iii) Calculated as the two-week, rolling average of the BMAS for the relevant week of shipment and the BMAS for the immediately succeeding week.

(b) * * *

(1) Bales made available for shipment (BMAS) during such week is defined as any cotton bales that have been delivered or are scheduled and ready for delivery but not picked up during such week.

* * * * *

■ 7. Amend § 1423.13 by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 1423.13 Appeals, suspensions, and debarment.

(a) After initial approval, warehouse operators may request that CCC reconsider adverse actions when the warehouse operator establishes that the reasons for the action have been remedied or requests reconsideration of the action and presents to the Director, Warehouse and Commodity Management Division, AMS, in writing, information in support of such request. The warehouse operator may, if dissatisfied with the Director’s determination, obtain a review of the determination and an informal hearing by submitting a request to the AMS Administrator. Appeals shall be as prescribed in part 780 of this title, and under such regulations the warehouse operator shall be considered as “participant.”

* * * * *

Dated: April 2, 2019.

Robert Stephenson,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 2019–06699 Filed 4–4–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 25

[Docket No.: FAA–2019–0218; Notice No. 19–3]

RIN 2120–AL15

High Elevation Airport Operations

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: The FAA proposes to amend certain airworthiness regulations applicable to cabin pressurization systems and oxygen dispensing equipment on transport category airplanes to accommodate airplane operations into or out of airports with elevations at or above 8,000 feet above sea level. Currently, the FAA makes and documents equivalent level of safety findings when an airplane manufacturer or modifier proposes to certify airplane cabin pressurization systems used for operations into or out of airports with elevations at or above 8,000 feet. In addition, the FAA grants exemptions from the automatic oxygen mask

presentation requirements for operations into or out of airports with elevations at or above 14,000 feet. This proposed action is necessary to relieve the burden on industry and the FAA that results from project-specific equivalent level of safety (ELOS) requests and petitions for exemption to accommodate operations at high elevation airports for transport category airplanes.

DATES: Send comments on or before June 4, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Send comments identified by docket number FAA–2019–0218 using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.

- *Mail:* Send comments to Docket Operations, M–30; U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12–140, West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* Take comments to Docket Operations in Room W12–140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

- *Fax:* Fax comments to Docket Operations at 202–493–2251.

Privacy: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to <http://www.regulations.gov>, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <http://www.dot.gov/privacy>.

Docket: Background documents or comments received may be read at <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time. Follow the online instructions for accessing the docket or go to the Docket Operations in Room W12–140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions concerning this action, contact Robert Hettman, Propulsion & Mechanical Systems Section, AIR–672, Transport Standards Branch, Policy and Innovation Division, Aircraft Certification Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 2200 S 216th Street, Des Moines, Washington 98198; telephone and facsimile 206–231–3171; email robert.hettman@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: