DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 966

Tomatoes Grown in Florida; Reapportionment of Membership

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule would adjust the number of member seats apportioned to each district represented on the Florida Tomato Committee (Committee). The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is taking this action based on an amendatory change to the marketing order for tomatoes grown in Florida, which reduced the size of the Committee from 12 members to 10. This action would reduce the member seats in each of the two districts from six members and their alternates to five members and their alternates.

DATES: Comments must be received by July 28, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this proposal. Comments must be sent to the Docket Clerk, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250–0237; Fax: (202) 720–8938; or internet: http://www.regulations.gov. All comments should reference the document number and the date and page number of this issue of the Federal Register and will be made available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular business hours, or can be viewed at: http://www.regulations.gov. All comments submitted in response to this proposal will be included in the record and will be made available to the public. Please be advised that the identity of the individuals or entities submitting the comments will be made public on the internet at the address provided above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven W. Kaufman, Marketing Specialist, or Christian D. Nissen, Regional Director, Southeast Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA; Telephone: (863) 324–3375, Fax: (863) 291–8614, or email: Steven.Kaufman@usda.gov or Christian.Nissen@usda.gov.

Small businesses may request information on complying with this regulation by contacting Richard Lower, Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250–0237; Telephone: (202) 720–2491, or email: RichardLowerCase@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, proposes an amendment to regulations issued to carry out a marketing order as defined in 7 CFR 900.2(j). This proposed rule is issued under Marketing Agreement No. 125 and Order No. 966, as amended (7 CFR part 966), regulating the handling of tomatoes grown in Florida. Part 966 (referred to as 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.” The Committee locally administers the Order and is comprised of producers operating within the production area.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is issuing this proposed rule in conformance with Executive Orders 12866 and 13563. Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, distributive impacts and equity). Executive Order 13563 emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, reducing costs, harmonizing rules, and promoting flexibility. This action falls within a category of regulatory actions that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) exempted from Executive Order 12866 review.

This proposed rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 13175—Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, which requires agencies to consider whether their rulemaking actions would have tribal implications. AMS has determined this proposed rule is unlikely to have substantial direct effects on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

This proposed rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. This proposed rule is not intended to have retroactive effect.

The Act provides that administrative proceedings must be exhausted before parties may file suit in court. Under section 608c(15)(A) of the Act, any handler subject to an order may file with USDA a petition stating that the order, any provision of the order, or any obligation imposed in connection with the order is not in accordance with law and request a modification of the order or to be exempted therefrom. A handler is afforded the opportunity for a hearing on the petition. After the hearing, USDA would rule on the petition. The Act provides that the district court of the United States in any district in which the handler is an inhabitant, or has his or her principal place of business, has jurisdiction to review USDA’s ruling on the petition, provided an action is filed not later than 20 days after the date of the entry of the ruling.

This proposed rule invites comments on changes to the Committee membership as prescribed in the Order. USDA is taking this action as a conforming change following amendments to the Order published in the Federal Register on November 16, 2020 (85 FR 72914). The amendments, in part, reduced membership on the Committee from 12 members and their alternates to 10 members and their alternates. This action would reduce the member seats in each of the two districts from six members and their alternates to five members and their alternates, maintaining equitable representation on the Committee from both districts.

Section 966.22 provides for the establishment of membership on the Committee. The ten members and their alternates shall be producers, or officers or employees of a corporate producer, in
the district for which selected and a resident of the production area. Section 966.160 defines the two districts from which producers serve as representatives on the Committee. Section 966.25 provides the authority for the Committee to recommend, with the approval of the Secretary, reapportionment of members among districts, and the reestablishment of districts within the production area. Section 966.161 apportions Committee membership among the two districts pursuant to § 966.25.

The Committee met on November 1, 2018, and February 27, 2019, to recommend changes to the Order. These recommendations included reducing the Committee size from 12 members to 10; reducing the number of districts in the production area from four districts to two, maintaining that membership on the Committee be divided evenly between the two districts. The reduction to two districts and the reapportionment of Committee membership that provided equal representation of six members in each of those newly formed districts were completed under a separate rulemaking action published in the Federal Register on September 26, 2019 (84 FR 50711).

During the Committee’s discussion of the amendments and the reduction in Committee size, members indicated they wanted to maintain the equity in membership between the two districts. With the reduction in the Committee size from 12 members and their alternates to 10 members and their alternates, this rule would make a conforming change to the Committee membership as apportioned in § 966.161. This action would reduce the seats in each district from six members and their alternates to five members and their alternates. This would maintain the equitable representation on the Committee and bring the number of apportioned seats in line with the reduced number of members authorized in the Order.

Accordingly, each district would nominate five members and five alternates for a total of 10 members and 10 alternate nominees to serve on the Committee.

**Initial 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 proposed rule on small entities. Accordingly, AMS has prepared this initial regulatory flexibility analysis. 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 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 65 producers of Florida tomatoes in the production area and 41 handlers subject to regulation under the Order. Small agricultural producers are defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA) as those having annual receipts less than $1,000,000 and small agricultural service firms are defined as those whose annual receipts are less than $30,000,000 (13 CFR 121.201).

With an estimated producer price of $14.00 per 25-pound container, the number of Florida tomato producers, and a normal distribution assumed, the average annual producer revenue is above $1,000,000, ($14.00 times 22.3 million containers equals $312,200,000 divided by 65 producers equals $4,803,077 per producer). Thus, the majority of producers of Florida tomatoes may be classified as large entities.

According to industry and Committee data, the average annual price for fresh Florida tomatoes during the 2019–20 season was approximately $19.07 per 25-pound container, and total fresh shipments were 22.3 million containers. Using the average price and shipment information, the number of handlers, and a normal distribution assumed, the majority of handlers have average annual receipts of less than $30,000,000, ($19.07 times 22.3 million containers equals $425,261,000 divided by 41 handlers equals $10,372,220 per handler). Thus, the majority of handlers of Florida tomatoes may be classified as small entities.

This proposed rule would adjust the number of member seats apportioned on the Committee. USDA is taking this action based on an amendatory change to the Order, which reduced the size of the Committee from 12 members to 10. This action would reduce the member seats in each of the two districts from six members and their alternates to five members and their alternates. This change would revise § 966.161 pursuant to the authority in § 966.25.

It is not anticipated that this action would impose any additional costs on the industry. This change is a conforming change and would not establish any new regulatory requirements on handlers. There would be no change in financial costs, reporting, or recordkeeping requirements because of this action.

This action would reduce the apportioned members from six members and their alternates to five members and their alternates in each of the two districts to reflect the recent amendatory action which reduced the size of the Committee. The balance of representation on the Committee would remain the same with member seats divided evenly between the two districts. The effects of this rule would not be disproportionately greater or less for small entities than for larger entities.

Alternatives to reapportionment were discussed and considered by the Committee. However, these alternatives were rejected. The Committee agreed that given the number of producers had decreased, reducing the Committee size would make it more reflective of today’s industry. The Committee also wanted to maintain the balance of representation between the two districts. With the amendatory change to the Order, this action is necessary to make the regulations conform to the Order requirements.

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 OMB and assigned OMB No. 0581–0178, Vegetable and Specialty Crops. No changes in those requirements would be necessary because of this proposed rule. Should any changes become necessary, they would be submitted to OMB for approval.

This proposed rule would not impose any additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements on either small or large Florida tomato 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.

The Committee’s meetings are widely publicized throughout the Florida tomato industry, and all interested persons are invited to attend the meetings and participate in Committee deliberations on all issues. Like all Committee meetings, the November 1, 2018, and February 27, 2019, meetings were open to the public, and all entities, both large and small, were able to express their views on this issue. Finally, interested persons are invited to submit comments on this proposed rule, including the regulatory and information collection impacts of this action on small businesses. AMS is committed to complying with the E-Government Act, to promote the
PART 966—TOMATOES GROWN IN FLORIDA

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 966 continues to read as follows:


2. Revise § 966.161 to read as follows:

§ 966.161 Reapportionment of committee membership.

Pursuant to § 966.25, industry membership on the Florida Tomato Committee shall be reapportioned as follows:

(a) District 1—five members and their alternates.

(b) District 2—five members and their alternates.

Erin Morris,
Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Proposed rule; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The FAA is withdrawing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that proposed to supersede airworthiness directive (AD) AD 2015–23–03 for Pacific Aerospace Limited Model 750XL airplanes. The NPRM was prompted by mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) issued by an aviation authority of another country to identify and correct an unsafe condition on an aviation product. The MCAI describes the unsafe condition as fatigue cracks on the fin forward pickup plates. Since issuance of the NPRM, the FAA has determined that the actions required by AD 2015–23–03 address the unsafe condition. Accordingly, the NPRM is withdrawn.

DATES: As of June 28, 2021, the proposed rule, which published in the Federal Register on June 18, 2018 (83 FR 28171), is withdrawn.

ADDRESSES:

Examing the AD Docket
You may examine the AD docket at https://www.regulations.gov by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2018–0422; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this AD action, any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Mike Kiesov, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, General Aviation & Rotorcraft Section, National Validation Branch, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, MO 64106; phone: (816) 329–4144; fax: (816) 329–4090; email: mike.kiesov@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FAA issued an NPRM that proposed to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to certain Pacific Aerospace Limited Model 750XL airplanes. The NPRM was published in the Federal Register on June 18, 2018 (83 FR 28171), and proposed to supersede AD 2015–23–03, Amendment 39–18319 (80 FR 69569, November 10, 2015) (AD 2015–23–03). AD 2015–23–03 requires reducing the torque setting for the fin forward pickup bolt, inspecting the fin forward pickup plates for cracks, and replacing the fin forward pickup plates. The NPRM was based on MCAI originated by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of New Zealand. The MCAI states:

This [CAA] AD revised to introduce Pacific Aerospace Limited Mandatory Service Bulletin (MSB) PACSB/XL/068 issue 6, dated 8 January 2018. The changes to the AD are limited to minor editorial changes, and the addition of alternate P/N [part number] hi-lok fasteners due to limited availability of the original P/N. There are no changes to the AD applicability or the requirements.

Actions Since the NPRM Was Issued

After issuance of the NPRM, the FAA has determined that the actions required by AD 2015–23–03 address the unsafe condition. The new service information is unchanged except for editorial changes and the addition of alternate hi-lok fasteners. AD 2015–23–03 only requires the procedures in the service information that was incorporated by reference and not the materials. Thus, operators may use the new hi-lok fasteners to comply with AD 2015–23–03 without an alternative method of compliance. Based on the above information, the FAA has determined that AD action is not warranted and the proposal should be withdrawn.

Withdrawal of the NPRM constitutes only such action and does not preclude the FAA from further rulemaking on this issue, nor does it commit the FAA to any course of action in the future.

Regulatory Findings

Since this action only withdraws an NPRM, it is neither a proposed AD nor a final rule. This action, therefore, is not covered under Executive Order 12866 or the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

The Withdrawal

Accordingly, the notice of proposed rulemaking, which published in the Federal Register on June 18, 2018 (83 FR 28171), is withdrawn.