

submitted by the Committee and other available information, it is hereby found that this rule, as hereinafter set forth, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 955

Onions, Marketing agreements, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

PART 955—VIDALIA ONIONS GROWN IN GEORGIA

■ Accordingly, the interim final rule amending 7 CFR part 955 which was published at 70 FR 11114 on March 8, 2005, is adopted as a final rule without change.

Dated: July 14, 2005.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 05-14261 Filed 7-19-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

Natural Resources Conservation Service

7 CFR Part 1469

Conservation Security Program

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim final rule; extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is authorized by Title XII, Chapter 2, Subchapter A, of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) published an amendment to the interim final rule for CSP on March 25, 2005, (70 FR 15201), with a comment period expiring July 25, 2005. By this notice, NRCS is extending the period during which it will accept public comment on the amended interim final rule for CSP to September 9, 2005. This extension is to give the public additional time to comment on key issues that have been raised regarding the implementation of the program under the amended interim final rule.

DATES: Comments must be postmarked by midnight, September 9, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send comments in writing, by mail, to Financial Assistance Programs Division, Natural Resources

Conservation Service, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013-2890, or by e-mail to FarmBillRules@usda.gov; Attn: Conservation Security Program.

The amended interim final rule may also be accessed via the Internet through the NRCS homepage, at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>, and by selecting Programs. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig Derickson, Conservation Security Program Manager, Financial Assistance Programs Division, NRCS, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013-2890, telephone: (202) 720-1845; fax: (202) 720-4265. Submit e-mail to: craig.derickson@wdc.usda.gov, Attention: Conservation Security Program.

Signed in Washington, DC, on July 14, 2005.

Bruce I. Knight,

Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

[FR Doc. 05-14297 Filed 7-19-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Parts 93, 94, and 95

[Docket No. 04-011-3]

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza; Additional Restrictions

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Affirmation of interim rule as final rule.

SUMMARY: We are adopting as a final rule, without change, an interim rule that amended the regulations concerning the importation of animals and animal products to prohibit or restrict the importation of birds, poultry, and unprocessed birds and poultry products from regions that have reported the presence of the H5N1 subtype of highly pathogenic avian influenza and to establish additional permit and quarantine requirements for U.S. origin pet birds and performing or theatrical birds and poultry returning to the United States. The interim rule was necessary to prevent the introduction of highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N1 into the United States.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The interim rule became effective on February 4, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Karen A. James-Preston, Director, National Center for Import and Export, Technical Trade Services, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-8172.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Avian influenza (AI) is a disease that can cause varying degrees of clinical illness in poultry. AI viruses can infect chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, ducks, geese, and guinea fowl, as well as a wide variety of other birds. Migratory waterfowl have proved to be the natural reservoir for this disease. AI viruses can be classified into low pathogenic (LPAI) and highly pathogenic (HPAI) forms based on the severity of the illness they cause. Most AI virus strains are LPAI and typically cause little or no clinical signs in infected birds. However, some LPAI virus strains are capable of mutating under field conditions into HPAI viruses, which are extremely infectious and fatal for chickens. HPAI can strike poultry quickly without any infection warning signs and, once established, the disease can spread rapidly from flock to flock. HPAI viruses can also be spread by manure, equipment, vehicles, egg flats, crates, and people whose clothing or shoes have come in contact with the virus. HPAI viruses can remain viable at moderate temperatures for long periods in the environment and can survive indefinitely in frozen material. In some instances, HPAI may even be transmitted to humans, with human infections of AI viruses on the rise in recent years.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA or the Department) regulates the importation of animals and animal products into the United States to guard against the introduction of animal diseases such as AI. The regulations in 9 CFR parts 93, 94, and 95 (referred to below as the regulations) govern the importation of certain animals, birds, poultry, meat, other animal products and byproducts, hay, and straw into the United States in order to prevent the introduction of various animal diseases, including AI.

In an interim rule effective February 4, 2004, and published in the **Federal Register** on May 10, 2004 (69 FR 25820-25826, Docket No. 04-011-1), we amended the regulations to require that all pet birds and performing and theatrical birds and poultry of United States origin be subject to a 30-day quarantine at a USDA facility when they have spent any length of time in a

region reporting incidents of HPAI subtype H5N1 and to require that U.S. origin birds returning from any such region be accompanied by a permit. The interim rule also added new restrictions on the importation of unprocessed¹ bird and poultry carcasses, parts, and products, to allow such products from regions where HPAI subtype H5N1 is considered to exist only when accompanied by an import permit and only if they are research or educational materials destined for a museum or an educational or research institution. In the interim rule we also provided that products and byproducts of birds and poultry, including feathers, birds' nests, and bird trophies may be imported from areas where HPAI subtype H5N1 exists only when accompanied by a permit and authorized by the Administrator. Finally, we added a list of regions (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam) where HPAI subtype H5N1 is considered to exist.

Comments on the interim rule were required to be received on or before July 9, 2004. We received one comment by that date, from a private citizen. The issues raised by this commenter regarding the interim rule are discussed below.

The commenter suggested that APHIS should ban the importation into the United States of all types of birds. The commenter also stated that the 30-day home quarantine for pet birds and theatrical and performing birds and poultry was not effective because bird owners are not qualified to determine the disease status of their birds. The commenter therefore recommended discontinuing the practice of home quarantines, instead quarantining animals in specialized facilities for a minimum of 60 days. The commenter also recommended transferring veterinary inspection functions to epidemiologists and medical doctors. We do not believe the commenter's suggestion that we completely ban the importation of birds into the United States is needed to prevent the introduction of diseases such as avian influenza. We would also like to point out that home quarantine is not available for high-risk birds such as those returning from an H5N1 region;

such high-risk birds are required to go to a USDA quarantine facility for a minimum of 30 days, which is a sufficient amount of time for any clinical signs of disease to appear. We also believe that it is most appropriate for a veterinarian to conduct inspections, given that they have animal health expertise that epidemiologists and medical doctors do not necessarily have.

The commenter expressed concern with the requirement that a notarized statement be signed by any bird owner that their bird has not been in contact with other poultry or birds while overseas for more than 60 days in any region other than one listed as a region where HPAI subtype H5N1 exists. The commenter stated that a notarized statement is not a good indicator of the bird's health because it would be easy to lie in such a statement. While it is possible for a bird owner to lie in a notarized statement, there are criminal and civil penalties that APHIS may pursue should a bird owner be found to have made a false statement. These penalties serve as a deterrent to bird owners providing false information in their notarized statements. Finally, we note that in addition to the notarized statement, the regulations also require that the birds undergo a port of entry veterinary inspection; be accompanied by a United States veterinary health certificate issued prior to the bird's departure from the United States containing an identification number which must match the number on the bird's leg band, tattoo, or microchip; and complete a 30-day home quarantine during which the bird is to be made available for health inspection and testing by Department inspectors upon request.

The commenter was also concerned that theatrical and performing animals would be allowed to enter the United States without a mandatory quarantine period. As stated in the interim rule, theatrical or performing birds of United States origin that have been in a region where HPAI subtype H5N1 exists are subject to a minimum 30-day quarantine in a USDA quarantine facility upon their return to the United States. Performing or theatrical birds returning from all other regions must undergo a 30-day home quarantine upon return to the United States.

The commenter also recommended that nests, carcasses, bird trophies, bird parts, or bird products be prohibited from importation into the United States from any region where HPAI subtype H5N1 exists. As stated in the interim

rule, carcasses, and parts or products of carcasses, of poultry, game birds, or other birds may be imported into the United States from regions where HPAI subtype H5N1 is known to exist only if they are imported for scientific, educational, or research purposes and only if the Administrator has determined they can be imported under conditions which will prevent the introduction of HPAI subtype H5N1 into the United States. We believe this is sufficient to prevent the spread of HPAI subtype H5N1 to the United States.

Therefore, for the reasons given in the interim rule, we are adopting the interim rule, as amended by the June 23, 2005 technical amendment, as a final rule without change.

This action also affirms the information contained in the interim rule concerning Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act, Executive Order 12988, and the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Further, this action has been determined to be not significant for the purposes of Executive Order 12866 and, therefore, has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

List of Subjects

9 CFR Part 93

Animal diseases, Imports, Livestock, Poultry and poultry products, Quarantine, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

9 CFR Part 94

Animal diseases, Imports, Livestock, Meat and meat products, Milk, Poultry and poultry products, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

9 CFR Part 95

Animal feeds, Hay, Imports, Livestock, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Straw, Transportation.

PART 93—IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN ANIMALS, BIRDS, AND POULTRY, AND CERTAIN ANIMAL, BIRD, AND POULTRY PRODUCTS; REQUIREMENTS FOR MEANS OF CONVEYANCE AND SHIPPING CONTAINERS

PART 94—RINDERPEST, FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE, FOWL PEST (FOWL PLAGUE), EXOTIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE, AFRICAN SWINE FEVER, CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER, AND BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY: PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED IMPORTATIONS

¹ In the rule portion of the interim rule we mistakenly omitted the word "unprocessed," thereby holding both processed and unprocessed bird and poultry products to these restrictions. On June 23, 2005, we published a technical amendment in the *Federal Register* (69 FR 25820–25826, Docket No. 04–011–2) in which we amended § 94.6, paragraph (e), to correct this omission.

PART 95—SANITARY CONTROL OF ANIMAL BYPRODUCTS (EXCEPT CASINGS), AND HAY AND STRAW, OFFERED FOR ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES

■ Accordingly, the interim rule amending 9 CFR parts 93, 94 and 95 that was published at 69 FR 25820–25826 on May 10, 2004, as amended by the June 23, 2005, technical amendment that was published at 70 FR 36332–36333, is adopted as a final rule without change.

Done in Washington, DC, this 14th day of July 2005.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 05–14262 Filed 7–19–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Parts 36 and 91

[Docket No. FAA–2003–16523]

RIN 2120–AH99

Stage 4 Aircraft Noise Standards; Correction

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document makes corrections to the final rule published in the **Federal Register** on July 5, 2005 (70 FR 38742). This document adds two assigned amendment numbers. It also clarifies the Flight Manual Statement of Chapter for equivalency required by § 36.105.

DATES: This correction is effective July 20, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laurette Fisher, Office of Environment and Energy (AEE–100), Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267–3561; facsimile (202) 267–5594.

Correction

■ In the final rule “Stage 4 Aircraft Noise Standards” published in the **Federal Register** on July 5, 2005 (70 FR 38742), make the following corrections:

■ 1. On page 38742, in the first column, in the fourth line of the heading, add amendment numbers as follows: [Docket No. FAA–2003–16526; Amendment Nos. 36–26, 91–288]

§ 36.105 [Corrected]

■ 2. On page 38749, in the second column, in the paragraph entitled “§ 36.105 Flight Manual Statement of Chapter 4 equivalency”, eleventh line, change “part 36 Amendment (insert part 36 amendment number)” to read “part 36, Amendment 36 (insert part 36 amendment to which the airplane was certificated)”.

Issued in Washington, DC on July 14, 2005.

Anthony F. Fazio,

Director, Office of Rulemaking.

[FR Doc. 05–14248 Filed 7–19–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA–2005–21706; Airspace Docket No. 05–ACE–23]

Modification of Class E Airspace; Washington, MO

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Direct final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This action amends Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations, part 71 (14 CFR part 71) by revising Class E airspace at Washington, MO. A review of the Class E airspace area extending upward from 700 feet above ground level (AGL) at Washington, MO revealed its legal description is not in proper format and it is not in compliance with established airspace criteria. This airspace area is enlarged and modified to conform to FAA Orders. The intended effect of this rule is to provide controlled airspace of appropriate dimensions to protect aircraft departing from and executing standard instrument approach procedures (SIAPs) to Washington Memorial Airport. This rule also amends the Airport Reference Point (ARP) in the legal description to reflect current data.

DATES: This direct final rule is effective on 0901 UTC, October 27, 2005. Comments for inclusion in the Rules Docket must be received on or before August 19, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on this proposal to the Docket Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001. You must identify the docket number FAA–2005–21706/ Airspace Docket No. 05–ACE–23, at the beginning of your comments. You may

also submit comments on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>. You may review the public docket containing the proposal, any comments received, and any final disposition in person in the Dockets Office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Docket Office (telephone 1–800–647–5527) is on the plaza level of the Department of Transportation NASSIF Building at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brenda Mumper, Air Traffic Division, Airspace Branch, ACE–520A, DOT Regional Headquarters Building, Federal Aviation Administration, 901 Locust, Kansas City, MO 64106; telephone: (816) 329–2524.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This amendment to 14 CFR 71 modifies the Class E airspace area extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Washington, MO. An examination of the Class E airspace area at Washington, MO revealed it does not comply with airspace requirements for recently developed Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (SIAP). Enlargements to this airspace area are necessary in order to comply with airspace requirements set forth in FAA Orders 7400.2E, Procedures for Handling Airspace Matters, and 8260.19C, Flight Procedures and Airspace. The Washington Memorial Airport Airport Reference Point (ARP) is amended to reflect current data and the reference to the Foristell VORTAC is removed. The airspace area is expanded from a 6.3-mile to a 6.4-mile radius of Washington Memorial Airport and extensions are established within 4 miles each side of the 334° bearing from the airport extending from the 6.4-mile radius to 10.8 miles northwest of the airport and within 4 miles each side of the 154° bearing from the airport extending from the 6.4-mile radius to 10.6 miles southeast of the airport. These modifications provide controlled airspace of appropriate dimensions to protect aircraft departing from and executing SIAPs to Washington Memorial Airport. This area will be depicted on appropriate aeronautical charts. Class E airspace areas extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface of the earth are published in paragraph 6005 of FAA Order 7400.9M, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 30, 2004, and effective September 16, 2004, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The Class E airspace designation listed in this document will be published subsequently in the Order.