

Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for APHIS, Washington, DC 20503, and (2) Docket No. 00-037-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comments refer to Docket No. 00-037-1 and send your comments within 60 days of publication of this rule.

This rule amends the citrus canker regulations to establish provisions under which eligible owners of commercial citrus groves may receive payments to replace commercial citrus trees removed because of citrus canker. Implementing this program would necessitate the use of an information collection activity in the form of an application for funds.

We are soliciting comments from the public concerning our information collection and recordkeeping requirements. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the information collection is necessary for the proper performance of our agency's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the information collection on those who are to respond (such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses).

Estimate of burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.21 hours per response.

Respondents: Eligible commercial citrus grove owners in Florida.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 65.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.08.

Estimated annual number of responses: 70.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 15 hours.

(Due to rounding, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the average reporting burden per response.)

Copies of this information collection can be obtained by calling Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 301

Agricultural commodities, Plant diseases and pests, Quarantine, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

Accordingly, 7 CFR part 301 is amended as follows:

PART 301—DOMESTIC QUARANTINE NOTICES

1. The authority citation for part 301 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: Title IV, Pub. L. 106-224, 114 Stat. 438, 7 U.S.C. 7701-7772; 7 U.S.C. 166; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Section 301.75-15 also issued under Sec. 204, Title II, Pub. L. 106-113, 113 Stat. 1501A-293, and sec. 203, title II, Pub. L. 106-224, 114 Stat. 400 (7 U.S.C. 1421 note).

2. Section 301.75-1 is amended by adding, in alphabetical order, definitions of the terms *commercial citrus grove* and *public order* to read as follows:

§ 301.75-1 Definitions.

* * * * *

Commercial citrus grove. An establishment maintained for the primary purpose of producing citrus fruit for commercial sale.

* * * * *

Public order. Either an "Agreement to Destroy and Covenant Not to Sue" signed by the grove owner and the Florida Department of Food and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry (DPI), or an "Immediate Final Order" issued by DPI, both of which identify citrus trees infected with or exposed to citrus canker and order their destruction.

* * * * *

3. In Subpart—Citrus Canker, a new § 301.75-15 is added to read as follows:

§ 301.75-15 Funds for the replacement of commercial citrus trees.

Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, the owner of a commercial citrus grove may be eligible to receive funds to replace commercial citrus trees in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(a) *Eligibility.* The owner of a commercial citrus grove may be eligible to receive funds to replace commercial citrus trees removed to control citrus canker if the trees were removed pursuant to a public order between 1986 and 1990 or on or after September 28, 1995.

(b) *Tree replacement payments.* The owner of a commercial citrus grove who is eligible under paragraph (a) of this section to receive funds to replace commercial citrus trees will, upon

approval of an application submitted in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section, receive a payment of \$26 per tree up to the following per-acre maximum payments:

Variety	Maximum payment per acre
Grapefruit, red seedless	\$2,704
Orange, Valencia	3,198
Orange, early/midseason/navel ..	3,068
Tangelo	2,964
Lime	4,004
Other or mixed citrus	2,704

(c) *How to apply for tree replacement funds.* The form necessary to apply for funds to replace commercial citrus trees may be obtained from any local citrus canker eradication program office in Florida, or from the USDA Citrus Canker Project, 10300 SW 72nd Street, Suite 150, Miami, FL 33173. The completed application should be accompanied by a copy of the public order directing the destruction of the trees and its accompanying inventory that describes the number and the variety of trees removed. Your completed application must be sent to the USDA Citrus Canker Eradication Project, Attn: Commercial Tree Replacement Program, c/o Division of Plant Industry, 3027 Lake Alfred Road, Winter Haven, FL 33881. Claims for trees destroyed on or before the effective date of this rule must be received within 60 days after the effective date of this rule. Claims for trees destroyed after the effective date of this rule must be received within 60 days after the destruction of the trees.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0579-0163.)

Done in Washington, DC, this 12th day of October 2000.

Charles P. Schwalbe,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 00-26591 Filed 10-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 956

[Docket No. FV00-956-1 IFR]

Sweet Onions Grown in the Walla Walla Valley of Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon; Revision of Administrative Rules and Regulations

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Interim final rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: This rule modifies the handler assessment and reporting requirements under the Walla Walla sweet onion marketing order. The marketing order regulates the handling of sweet onions grown in the Walla Walla Valley and is administered locally by the Walla Walla Sweet Onion Marketing Committee (Committee). For sweet onions handled during the period September 1 through May 31 of each fiscal period, this rule provides dates by which handlers must pay assessments and furnish reports to the Committee that reflect new cultural and storage practices that have extended the traditional mid-summer marketing season.

DATES: Effective October 17, 2000; comments received by December 15, 2000 will be considered prior to issuance of a final rule.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning this rule. Comments must be sent to the Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, room 2525-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; Fax: (202) 720-5698, or E-mail: moab.docketclerk@usda.gov. Comments should reference the docket number and the date and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be available for public inspection in the Office of the Docket Clerk during regular business hours, or can be viewed at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/moab.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert J. Curry, Northwest Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 1220 SW Third Avenue, suite 385, Portland, Oregon 97204-2807; telephone: (503) 326-2724, Fax: (503) 326-7440; or George Kelhart, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, room 2525-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; telephone: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-5698.

Small businesses may request information on complying with this regulation by contacting Jay Guerber, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, room 2525-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456; telephone: (202) 720-2491, Fax: (202) 720-5698, or E-mail: Jay.Guerber@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This rule is issued under Marketing Agreement and Order No. 956, as amended (7 CFR

part 956), regulating the handling of sweet onions grown in the Walla Walla Valley of Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon, 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."

The Department of Agriculture (Department) is issuing this rule in conformance with Executive Order 12866.

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. This rule provides dates by which handlers must pay assessments and furnish reports to the Committee that reflect new cultural and storage practices for sweet onions handled during the period September 1 through May 31 of each fiscal period. This rule will not preempt any State or local laws, regulations, or policies, unless they present an irreconcilable conflict with this rule.

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 the Secretary 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. Such handler is afforded the opportunity for a hearing on the petition. After the hearing the Secretary 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 the Secretary's ruling on the petition, provided an action is filed not later than 20 days after the date of the entry of the ruling.

Section 956.41 of the order provides the Committee with the authority to establish an annual budget of expenditures and § 956.42 provides authority for the Committee to levy assessments upon handlers of Walla Walla sweet onions to provide adequate funds to defray such expenditures. Section 956.202 establishes the current assessment rate of \$0.21 per 50-pound bag of Walla Walla sweet onions handled. Section 956.42 also provides the Committee with the authority to impose an interest charge on any handler who fails to pay any assessment in a timely manner, and § 956.142 of the order's administrative rules and regulations establishes rate of interest and the date such interest charge begins to accrue. Section 956.80 establishes the

authority for the Committee to require handler reports, while § 956.180 provides the rules and regulations necessary for the Committee to implement and administer such reporting requirements.

For sweet onions handled on or after September 1, this rule modifies the date handlers must pay assessments and furnish reports to the Committee. These changes recognize new cultural and storage practices that have extended the traditional mid-summer marketing season. The changes provide dates by which handlers must pay assessments and submit reports on shipments made in September or later. This rule was unanimously recommended by the Committee on August 15, 2000.

Sections 956.142 (interest charges) and 956.180 (reports) were established in August 1996 to foster prompt assessment payments and to ensure that adequate funds would be available to cover budgeted expenses incurred by the Committee under the order. Section 956.180 established reporting requirements for providing the Committee with statistical information regarding total industry shipments and is used as a basis for assessment collection. This information also is useful for the development of a budget and in making marketing and promotion plans for the upcoming season. Section 956.142 establishes an assessment due date and an interest charge on any handler who fails to pay his or her assessments within thirty days of the due date. The assessment due date is September 1, and the monthly interest charge on delinquent assessments is 1.5 percent.

Historically, Walla Walla sweet onions have been planted in the fall, then harvested and marketed from late June to early August. Due to the short shelf life of this traditionally non-storage, summer onion, the marketing season has closely followed the annual harvest. However, recent changes in cultural and storage practices within the Walla Walla sweet onion industry are lengthening the marketing season for some of the sweet onions produced in the Walla Walla Valley. A few producers have been planting sweet onions in the spring, thereby extending the traditional mid-summer harvest into late summer or early fall. In addition, Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage has been introduced this season, and the potential now exists for extending the marketing season further into the fall and early winter season.

By extending the due dates for assessments and reports on sweet onions handled on or after September 1, this action provides Walla Walla sweet

onion handlers more time to comply with these requirements. This will enable them to take advantage of the expanding marketing season. The Committee will continue to require that assessments be paid and reports submitted by September 1 for onions handled in June, July, and August.

For assessments due on sweet onions handled prior to September 1, the monthly interest charge of 1.5 percent will continue to accrue after September 30. For assessments due on sweet onions handled during the period September 1 through May 31 of each fiscal period, interest charges will begin accruing 30 days after the handler's report of shipments is due.

Handlers marketing their sweet onions prior to September 1 will continue to submit reports (Committee Form No. 1's) showing weekly and seasonal totals by September 1, and assessments for their shipments to the Committee no later than September 30 to avoid late payment interest charges. For shipments during the period September 1 through May 31 of each fiscal period, handlers will submit a separate report, along with the appropriate assessment payment, for each monthly period that they continue to make shipments. Such report will be due at the office of the Committee no later than 30 days following the end of the month in which shipments were made. Assessments will be due within thirty (30) days of the last day of the month in which the shipments are made. For example, a handler shipping Walla Walla sweet onions anytime during the month of September would furnish the shipment report to the Committee no later than October 30. In this example, the report would contain the number of 50-pound equivalents of Walla Walla sweet onions shipped by such handler during each week in September, along with the monthly total of shipments and a check for the appropriate assessment amount. This reporting and payment schedule continues for each monthly period Walla Walla sweet onions are handled after September 1.

With the introduction of spring planting and CA storage for Walla Walla sweet onions and the associated extension of the traditional marketing season, this action is necessary to ensure that adequate Committee operating funds are obtained in a timely manner, that producers and handlers are treated equitably and have the needed flexibility to produce and market their crop as they desire, and that consumers have an extended season in which to purchase Walla Walla sweet onions.

Pursuant to requirements set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has considered the economic impact of this action on small entities. Accordingly, the AMS has prepared this initial 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. Thus, both statutes have small entity orientation and compatibility.

There are approximately 30 handlers of Walla Walla sweet onions who are subject to regulation under the order and approximately 60 sweet onion producers in the regulated production area. Small agricultural service firms are defined by the Small Business Administration (13 CFR 121.201) as those having annual receipts of less than \$5,000,000, and small agricultural producers are defined as those having annual receipts of less than \$500,000.

The Committee estimates that all of the handlers of Walla Walla sweet onions ship under \$5,000,000 worth of sweet onions on an annual basis. In addition, based on acreage, production, and producer prices reported by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and the total number of onion producers in the regulated production area, the average gross annual producer revenue from sweet onions was about \$117,000 in 1999, the most recent year statistics are available. Based on this information, it can be concluded that the majority of Walla Walla sweet onion handlers and producers may be classified as small entities, excluding receipts from other sources.

Based on authority in §§ 956.42 and 956.80, the Committee unanimously recommended this action at a public meeting on August 15, 2000. Specifically, for sweet onions handled on or after September 1, this rule modifies the date handlers must pay assessments (§ 956.142) and furnish reports (§ 956.180) to the Committee. These changes are being made to recognize new cultural and storage practices that will extend the traditional mid-summer marketing season to mid-winter, and would provide handlers more time to pay assessments and file reports on these later shipments.

Regarding the impact of this action on affected entities, sweet onion handlers will not be forced into noncompliance because they will be able to pay

assessments and submit shipment reports later than currently provided. When the current deadlines were established, the Committee did not envision shipments being made in September or later. Walla Walla sweet onions have a relatively high market value, but generally must be harvested and sold within a short time period between late June and early August. By extending the marketing season, producers and handlers hope to increase their returns while providing consumers with unique, highly demanded sweet onions during a period of time such onions are usually not available.

The Committee estimates that during the current marketing season only a limited amount of sweet onions may be handled on or after September 1 and into early winter. The Committee has been informed, however, that an additional 1,300 acres of sweet onions may be planted for the 2001 marketing season with many of the onions possibly going into CA storage. Approximately 800 acres of Walla Walla sweet onions were planted for the 2000 season.

The Committee discussed alternatives to the recommendation, including leaving the regulations unmodified. However, the Committee decided that it did not have the option of leaving the regulations unmodified because some handler assessment obligations are expected to accrue during the period September 1 through May 31 of each fiscal period. Another alternative discussed would have changed the regulations to require the submission of reports and assessments for the entire crop, regardless of when marketed, within 30 to 60 days of the date of shipment. The Committee rejected this option because it felt that the bulk of the Walla Walla sweet onion crop will continue to be marketed during the traditional mid-summer season, and it wants to ensure that an adequate income is received early in the fiscal period to offset expenditures. The fiscal period begins June 1 and ends May 31.

The Committee uses Form No. 1, Handler's Statement of Walla Walla Sweet Onion Shipments, for collecting assessments and statistical data. This form has traditionally been mailed to handlers in mid-August with the requirement that it be returned by September 1. Handler assessments are due within 30 days of September 1 to avoid imposition of the 1.5 percent per month interest charge for overdue assessments. The Committee has revised Form No. 1 to reflect the changes made herein.

The Committee estimates that only two of the currently regulated handlers in the Walla Walla sweet onion

production area may initially ship sweet onions on or after September 1. The Committee also estimates that the revised Form No. 1 will continue to take approximately 25 minutes to complete. With only two handlers submitting reports on October 31 and possibly again on November 30, for example, the total additional burden on the industry for the information reporting requirements for sweet onions shipped on or after September 1 would approximate 100 minutes per year. Thus, while this rule will impose some additional reporting requirements, the burden is currently approved under OMB No. 0581-0078 by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). The Agricultural Marketing Service has notified the Office of Management and Budget of this change in burden.

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. In addition, the Department has not identified any relevant Federal rules that duplicate, overlap, or conflict with this rule.

The Committee's meeting was widely publicized throughout the Walla Walla sweet onion industry and all interested persons were invited to attend the meeting and participate in Committee deliberations on all issues. Like all Committee meetings, the August 15, 2000, meeting was a public meeting and all entities, both large and small, were able to express views on this issue. Further, interested persons are invited to submit information on the regulatory and informational impacts of this action on small businesses.

A small business guide on complying with fruit, vegetable, and specialty crop marketing agreements and orders may be viewed at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/moab.html>. Any questions about the compliance guide should be sent to Jay Guerber at the previously mentioned address in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

After consideration of all relevant material presented, including the Committee's recommendation, and other information, it is found that this interim final rule, as hereinafter set forth, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

This rule invites comments on providing handlers more time to meet assessment and reporting requirements for Walla Walla sweet onions handled during the period September 1 through May 31 of each fiscal period. Any

comments received will be considered prior to finalization of this rule.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, it is also found and determined upon good cause that it is impracticable, unnecessary, and contrary to the public interest to give preliminary notice prior to putting this rule into effect and that good cause exists for not postponing the effective date of this rule until 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register** because: (1) This rule provides relaxed assessment and reporting requirements for Walla Walla sweet onions handled during the period September 1 through May 31 of each fiscal period; (2) this rule needs to be effective promptly so handlers will be able to market their sweet onions on or after September 1, 2000, and be in compliance with order requirements; (3) the Committee unanimously recommended this change at a public meeting, and interested parties had an opportunity to provide input; and (4) this rule provides a 60-day comment period, and any comments received will be considered prior to finalization of this rule.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 956

Marketing agreements, Onions, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR part 956 is amended as follows:

PART 956—SWEET ONIONS GROWN IN THE WALLA WALLA VALLEY OF SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON AND NORTHEAST OREGON

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 956 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601-674.

2. Section 956.142 is revised to read as follows:

§ 956.142 Interest charges.

For Walla Walla Sweet Onions handled prior to September 1, the Committee shall impose an interest charge on any handler who fails to pay his or her annual assessments within thirty (30) days of the due date of September 1. For Walla Walla Sweet Onions handled during the period September 1 through May 31 of each fiscal period, the Committee shall impose an interest charge on any handler who fails to pay his or her assessments within thirty (30) days of the last day of the month in which such shipments are made. The interest charge shall be 1½ percent of the unpaid assessment balance. In the event the handler fails to pay the delinquent assessment amount within 60 days following the due date, the 1½ percent

interest charge shall be applied monthly thereafter to the unpaid balance, including any accumulated interest. Any amount paid by a handler as an assessment, including any charges imposed pursuant to this paragraph, shall be credited when the payment is received in the Committee office.

3. In § 956.180, the introductory text is revised to read as follows:

§ 956.180 Reports.

Each handler shall furnish to the Committee a report containing the information in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section, except that gift box and roadside stand sales shall be exempt from paragraph (b) of this section: *Provided*, That for Walla Walla Sweet Onions handled prior to September 1, such report shall be furnished to the Committee by September 1, and that for Walla Walla Sweet Onions handled during the period September 1 through May 31 of each fiscal period, such report shall be furnished to the Committee no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in which such sweet onions were handled:

* * * * *

Dated: October 10, 2000.

Robert C. Keeney,

Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

[FR Doc. 00-26487 Filed 10-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000-NM-312-AD; Amendment 39-11928; AD 2000-20-03 R1]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2B19 Series Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This amendment revises an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Bombardier Model CL-600-2B19 series airplanes, that currently requires installation of shields for the aileron quadrants in the wheel bay of the main landing gear (MLG). This amendment revises the compliance time for the requirements of that AD. The actions specified in this AD are intended to prevent accumulation of