

Section 956.13 of the order defines "fiscal period" and provides the authority by which this recommended change is being proposed. This rule is a change to Committee operations which would not impose any new requirements or costs on Walla Walla sweet onion handlers or producers. It could, on the other hand, simplify the business operations within the Walla Walla sweet onion industry by putting the order's fiscal period on the same basis as that of normal business recordkeeping practices.

The Committee discussed the alternative of leaving the fiscal period as it presently exists, but unanimously concluded that this change, as recommended, would improve program administration.

This rule would not impose any additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements on either small or large Walla Walla sweet onion handlers. As with all Federal marketing order programs, reports and forms are periodically reviewed to reduce information requirements and duplication by industry and public sectors. In addition, USDA 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. Like all Committee meetings, the December 17, 2002, meeting was a public meeting and all entities, both large and small, were able to express their views on this issue. Finally, 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.ama.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.

A 60-day comment period is provided to allow interested persons to respond to this proposal. All written comments timely received will be considered before a final determination is made on this matter.

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 proposed to be 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. A new § 956.113 is added to subpart "Rules and Regulations" to read as follows:

§ 956.113 Fiscal period.

Pursuant to § 956.13, *fiscal period* shall mean the period beginning January 1 and ending December 31 of each year.

§ 956.142 [Amended]

3. Section 956.142 is amended by removing the words "of each fiscal period" in the second sentence.

§ 956.180 [Amended]

4. Section 956.180 is amended by removing the words "of each fiscal period" in the introductory text.

Dated: April 3, 2003.

A. J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Parts 105 and 115

[Docket No. 02–107–1]

Viruses, Serums, Toxins, and Analogous Products; Suspension, Revocation, or Termination of Biological Licenses or Permits; Inspections

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: We are proposing to amend the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act regulations to specify the actions that would have to be taken by veterinary biologics licensees and permittees upon their receipt of notice from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to stop the preparation, distribution, sale, barter, exchange, shipment, or importation of any worthless, contaminated, dangerous, harmful, or unsatisfactory veterinary biological product. After receiving notice from

APHIS to stop the preparation, distribution, sale, barter, exchange, shipment, or importation of any worthless, contaminated, dangerous, harmful, or unsatisfactory veterinary biological product, licensees and permittees would be required to notify wholesalers, dealers, jobbers, or other persons known to have veterinary biological products in their possession to stop the preparation, distribution, sale, barter, exchange, shipment, or importation of any worthless, contaminated, dangerous, harmful, or unsatisfactory veterinary biological product. In addition, licensees and permittees would be required to submit a complete accounting of the inventory of affected serials or subserials of biological products in the current possession of each person involved in the distribution or sale of the product, and provide written documentation concerning the required notifications as directed by the Administrator of APHIS. These proposed changes are necessary in order to clarify the regulations, provide for the most expeditious means of notification, and to prevent the risk that any worthless, contaminated, dangerous, harmful, or unsatisfactory veterinary biological product may cause harm to animals, the public health, or to the environment.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before June 9, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 02–107–1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737–1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 02–107–1. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 02–107–1" on the subject line.

You may read any comments that we receive on this docket in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690–2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related