

rinderpest or foot-and-mouth disease exists; and

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(4) Except as provided in § 94.21 for fresh (chilled or frozen) beef from Uruguay.

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(d) Except as otherwise provided in this part, fresh (chilled or frozen) meat of ruminants or swine raised and slaughtered in a region free of foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest, as designated in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, and fresh (chilled or frozen) beef exported from Uruguay in accordance with § 94.21, which during shipment to the United States enters a port or otherwise transits a region where rinderpest or foot-and-mouth disease exists may be imported provided that all of the following conditions are met:

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■ 3. A new § 94.21 is added to read as follows:

§ 94.21 Restrictions on importation of beef from Uruguay.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this part, fresh (chilled or frozen) beef from Uruguay may be exported to the United States under the following conditions:

(a) The meat is beef from bovines that have been born, raised, and slaughtered in Uruguay.

(b) Foot-and-mouth disease has not been diagnosed in Uruguay within the previous 12 months.

(c) The beef came from bovines that originated from premises where foot-and-mouth disease has not been present during the lifetime of any bovines slaughtered for the export of beef to the United States.

(d) The beef came from bovines that were moved directly from the premises of origin to the slaughtering establishment without any contact with other animals.

(e) The beef came from bovines that received ante-mortem and post-mortem veterinary inspections, paying particular attention to the head and feet, at the slaughtering establishment, with no evidence found of vesicular disease.

(f) The beef consists only of bovine parts that are, by standard practice, part of the animal's carcass that is placed in a chiller for maturation after slaughter. Bovine parts that may not be imported include all parts of bovine heads, feet, hump, hooves, and internal organs.

(g) All bone and visually identifiable blood clots and lymphoid tissue have been removed from the beef.

(h) The beef has not been in contact with meat from regions other than those listed in § 94.1(a)(2).

(i) The beef came from bovine carcasses that were allowed to mature at 40 to 50° F (4 to 10° C) for a minimum of 36 hours after slaughter and that reached a pH of 5.8 or less in the loin muscle at the end of the maturation period. Measurements for pH must be taken at the middle of both *longissimus dorsi* muscles. Any carcass in which the pH does not reach 5.8 or less may be allowed to mature an additional 24 hours and be retested, and, if the carcass still has not reached a pH of 5.8 or less after 60 hours, the meat from the carcass may not be exported to the United States.

(j) An authorized veterinary official of the Government of Uruguay certifies on the foreign meat inspection certificate that the above conditions have been met.

(k) The establishment in which the bovines are slaughtered allows periodic on-site evaluation and subsequent inspection of its facilities, records, and operations by an APHIS representative.

Done in Washington, DC, this 21st day of May 2003.

Bobby R. Acord,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-13248 Filed 5-28-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

12 CFR Part 791

Rules of NCUA Board Procedure; Promulgation of NCUA Rules and Regulations; Public Observance of NCUA Board Meetings

AGENCY: National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule, Interpretive Ruling and Policy Statement (IRPS) 03-2, amends the Regulatory Flexibility Act provisions of NCUA's IRPS 87-2, Developing and Reviewing Government Regulations. The Regulatory Flexibility Act generally requires federal agencies to prepare analyses to describe the impact of proposed and final rules on small entities. Since 1981, the NCUA has defined small entity in this context to mean those credit unions with less than one million dollars in assets. This final rule redefines small entity to mean those credit unions with less than ten million dollars in assets. In addition, the rule amplifies a provision regarding NCUA's policy of reviewing all existing regulations every three years by stating that one-third of existing regulations

will be reviewed each year and the public will receive notice of those regulations under review. The rule also updates IRPS 87-2 with a reference to the U.S. Small Business Administration guidance on implementation of the Regulatory Flexibility Act and to a Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act requirement for publication of the factual basis supporting any certification that a particular rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

DATES: This rule is effective June 30, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul M. Peterson, Staff Attorney, Office of General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3428 or telephone: (703) 518-6555.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

In 1981, the NCUA defined small credit union for purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Pub. L. 96-354, as any credit union having less than one million dollars in assets. NCUA IRPS 81-4, 46 FR 29248, June 1, 1981. IRPS 87-2 superseded IRPS 81-4 but continued the definition of small credit unions for purposes of the RFA as those with less than one million dollars in assets. 52 FR 35231, 35232, September 8, 1987. IRPS 87-2 is incorporated by reference into NCUA's current rule governing the promulgation of regulations. 12 CFR 791.8(a).

The Board believes that NCUA's current definition of small credit union as one with less than one million dollars in assets, adopted in 1981, is now outdated. On November 21, 2002, the Board issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to amend the definition of small credit union in IRPS 87-2. 67 FR 72113, December 4, 2002. The Board proposed to change the qualifying asset size for a small credit union from less than one million dollars in assets to less than ten million dollars in assets. This final rule adopts the proposed rule's definition of small credit union.

As discussed in the NPRM, the RFA is intended in part to encourage federal agencies to give special attention when making rules to the inability of smaller entities to handle incremental compliance burdens created by new rules. Credit unions with ten or more million dollars in assets have staff that may devote some of their time to compliance issues and incremental compliance burdens, but credit unions with significantly less than ten million