

and distributed quarterly, rather than monthly.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the information collection burden reduction contained in this rule has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget. This action reduces existing approved burden requirements which have been assigned OMB No. 0581-0178. 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, as noted in the initial regulatory flexibility analysis, USDA has not identified any relevant Federal rules that duplicate, overlap or conflict with this rule.

Alternatives Considered

The Committee considered alternatives to this action at meetings on March 11, April 2, and April 3, 2003. The Executive Subcommittee and Committee discussed the possibility of eliminating all reporting, but determined that this was not viable because it needs certain information to prepare its marketing policy and for other decision-making. Some industry leaders also felt that the statistics are important for grower, handler, and bargaining association decisions that need to be made each year. Finally, the Executive Subcommittee and Committee discussed disseminating the information only to members and alternates of the Committee, its subcommittees, and to California prune handlers. Ultimately, the Executive Subcommittee and Committee decided to proceed with the changes in shipment reporting requirements to reduce the frequency of the reports, and to reduce the amount of information reported to and disseminated by the Committee.

The Executive Subcommittee's March 11 and April 2, 2003, meetings and the Committee's April 3, 2003, meeting where this issue was deliberated were public and widely publicized throughout the prune industry. All interested persons were invited to attend the meetings and participate in the industry's deliberations. All entities, both large and small, were able to express their views on this issue at the meetings.

An interim final rule concerning this action was published in the **Federal Register** on June 24, 2003. Copies of the rule were provided by the Committee's staff to all who attended a June 26, 2003, Committee meeting. In addition, the rule was made available through the Internet by the Office of the Federal

Register and USDA. That rule provided for a 60-day comment period, which ended August 25, 2003. No comments were received.

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 finalizing the interim final rule, without change, as published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 37391, June 24, 2003) will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 993

Marketing agreements, Plums, Prunes, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

PART 993—DRIED PRUNES IN CALIFORNIA

■ Accordingly, the interim final rule amending 7 CFR part 993 which was published in the **Federal Register** at 68 FR 37391 on June 24, 2003, is adopted as a final rule without change.

Dated: September 16, 2003.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

12 CFR Part 11

[Docket No. 03-23]

RIN 1557-AC75

Electronic Filing and Disclosure of Beneficial Ownership Reports

AGENCY: Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Treasury.

ACTION: Interim rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) is issuing this interim rule, with a request for comments, to amend our rules, policies, and procedures to require the electronic filing of beneficial ownership reports by officers, directors, and major

shareholders of national banks that have equity securities registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (registered national banks).

This interim rule also requires that all reports required to be filed with the OCC under section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Exchange Act) must be filed electronically and posted on a registered national bank's Web site, if it has one, as soon as practicable. This rule clarifies procedures for officers, directors, and principal shareholders of registered national banks to comply with these mandated electronic filing requirements.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This rule is effective on September 22, 2003.

Compliance Date: To provide for an orderly transition to using a new interagency electronic filing system, *FDICconnect*, for section 16(a) filings, the OCC will not enforce the mandatory filing requirement or the Web-site posting requirement until beginning with reports required to be filed on or after January 1, 2004. Until that date, the OCC expects that persons filing 16(a) reports will, as instructed by the OCC, begin making electronic filings, as soon as practicable, and any such electronic filings will be posted on a registered national bank's Web site, if it has one.

Comment Date: Comments must be received by November 21, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You should direct comments to the Public Information Room, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Mailstop 1-5, Attention: Docket No. 03-23, 250 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20219. Due to delays in paper mail delivery in the Washington, DC, area, commenters are encouraged to submit comments by fax or e-mail. Comments may be sent by fax to (202) 874-4448, or by e-mail to regs.comments@occ.treas.gov. You can inspect and photocopy the comments at the OCC's Public Information Room, 250 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20219. You can make an appointment to inspect the comments by calling (202) 874-5043.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Asa Chamberlayne, Counsel, Securities and Corporate Practices Division, 202-874-5210, or Martha Vestal Clarke, Counsel, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, 202-874-5090.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Exchange Act seeks to protect investors by requiring accurate, reliable, and timely corporate securities disclosures. Generally, companies with equity securities that are subject to the