

as of the effective date (current possessors) will be afforded additional time to reach full compliance with this part. Any provision not specifically cited in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(6) of this section will be applicable as of February 11, 2003. In addition, any person who does not possess listed agents or toxins by the effective date of this part, but who wishes to initiate a research or educational project prior to November 12, 2003, must be in compliance with the provisions of this part that are applicable for current possessors at the time of application, as provided in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(5) of this section.

(1) During the period from February 11, 2003, to November 12, 2003, biological agents or toxins listed in § 121.3 may only be transferred to an individual or entity that is not registered under this part if:

(i) The individual or entity is registered by CDC for that specific overlap agent or toxin in accordance with 42 CFR part 72; or

(ii) The individual or entity has been issued a permit by the Administrator under part 122 of this subchapter to import or move interstate that specific agent or toxin. If an individual or entity has not been issued a permit under part 122 of this subchapter, the individual or entity may apply for a permit. To receive an agent or toxin, an individual or entity will also be required to submit APHIS Form 2041, in accordance with § 121.14(c). Because USDA permits do not cover intrastate movement, unless registered by CDC under 42 CFR part 72, an individual or entity may not receive a listed agent or toxin that is being moved intrastate until that individual or entity is registered in accordance with this part.

(2) By March 12, 2003, the responsible official must submit the registration application package as required in § 121.9. In addition, the responsible official must submit to the Attorney General the names and identifying information for the responsible official; alternate responsible official, where applicable; entity; and, where applicable, the individual who owns or controls the entity.

(3) By April 11, 2003, the responsible official must submit to the Attorney General the names and identifying information for all individuals whom the responsible official has identified as having a legitimate need to handle or use listed agents or toxins, and who have the appropriate training and skills to handle such agents or toxins, as required in § 121.11.

(4) By June 12, 2003, the responsible official must submit the security section

of the Biosafety and Security Plan required in § 121.12 to APHIS or, for overlap agents or toxins, to APHIS or CDC.

(5) By September 12, 2003, the responsible official must implement the security section of the Biosafety and Security Plan, as required in § 121.12, and provide security training in accordance with 9 CFR 121.13.

(6) By November 12, 2003, the registration application process must be complete and the entity in full compliance with the regulations in this part, except as otherwise provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(b) *Provisional registration.* (1) Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph (a) of this section, APHIS may issue a provisional registration certificate to current possessors if, as of November 12, 2003:

(i) The Attorney General has received all of the information, including fingerprint cards, required by the Attorney General to conduct a security risk assessment of the entity, including any individual who owns or controls the entity; and

(ii) The entity otherwise meets all of the requirements of this part.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph (a) of this section, APHIS may issue a provisional registration certificate to individuals and entities that did not possess listed biological agents or toxins as of February 11, 2003, if, as of November 12, 2003:

(i) The Attorney General has received all of the information, including fingerprint cards, required by the Attorney General to conduct a security risk assessment of the entity, including any individual who owns or controls the entity;

(ii) The entity otherwise meets all of the requirements of this part; and

(iii) The Administrator finds that circumstances warrant such action in the interest of the health of plants or plant products or national security.

(3) A provisional registration certificate will be effective until APHIS either issues a certificate of registration or suspends or revokes the provisional registration.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph (a) of this section, APHIS may issue a provisional grant of access for individuals identified by an entity as having a legitimate need to handle or use agents or toxins listed in § 121.3 if, as of November 12, 2003, the Attorney General has received all of the information, including fingerprint cards, required by the Attorney General to conduct a security risk assessment of that individual. A provisional grant of access will be effective until APHIS

grants or denies access to biological agents or toxins listed in § 121.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 29th day of October, 2003.

**Bobby R. Acord,**

*Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-27640 Filed 10-31-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Farm Service Agency

#### 7 CFR Parts 762 and 764

#### Rural Housing Service

#### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

#### Rural Utilities Service

#### 7 CFR Parts 1910, 1924, 1941, 1943 and 1955

RIN 0560-AG99

#### Technical Changes to Citizenship Requirements and Loan Eligibility Regulations

**AGENCIES:** Farm Service Agency, Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This rule amends the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) regulations for direct and guaranteed loan making requirements by revising loan eligibility requirements to conform with provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). In addition, it amends the direct and guaranteed loan program regulations to implement statutory provisions of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT).

**DATES:** This rule is effective November 3, 2003.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Janet Downs, Senior Loan Officer, USDA, FSA, Farm Loan Programs, Loan Making Division, STOP 0522, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0522; Telephone: (202) 720-0599, e-mail: [Janet\\_Downs@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Janet_Downs@wdc.usda.gov). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: