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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Economic Research Service

7 CFR Part 3700

Organization and Functions

AGENCY: Economic Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document amends regulations of the Economic Research Service (ERS) regarding agency organization and functions of major operational units. This amendment is necessary to reflect changes in the organization of ERS due to an internal reorganization.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 24, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Dunmore, Acting Administrator, ERS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 1226, 1301 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4788, (202) 219-0300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(1), requires Federal agencies to publish in the Federal Register descriptions of its central and field organizations. ERS is the agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture primarily responsible for providing economic and other social science information and analysis on agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural America. This amendment to 7 CFR part 3700 is necessary to reflect changes in the organization of ERS due to an internal reorganization. This rule relates to internal agency management. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 533, notice of proposed rulemaking and opportunity for comment are not required, and this rule may be made effective less than 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. Further, since this rule relates to internal agency management, it is

exempt from the provisions of Executive Orders 12778 and 12866. Also, this rule will not cause a significant economic impact or other substantial effect on small entities. Therefore, the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, et seq., do not apply.

The following actions were taken: Section 3700.1 amended to revise the general description; § 3700.2 amended to revise the organizational structure; § 3700.3 amended to revise the functions; and § 3700.4 amended to update the authority to act for the administrator.

This rule supersedes the notice published on August 25, 1988, 53 FR 32369.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 3700

Organization and functions.

Accordingly, 7 CFR part 3700 is revised to read as follows:

PART 3700—ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS

Sec.

3700.1 General.

3700.2 Organization.

3700.3 Functions.

3700.4 Authority to act for the Administrator.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301 and 552, and 7 CFR 2.67.

§ 3700.1 General.

The Economic Research Service (ERS), originally established in 1961 under the authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), was reestablished as an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture of September 30, 1981 (46 FR 47747), in response to Secretary's Memorandum 1000-1 of June 17, 1981, entitled "Reorganization of Department." The mission of ERS is to provide economic and other social science information and analysis for public and private decisions on agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural America. Its primary customers are USDA policy officials and program administrators, the Office of the White House, Congress, and environmental, consumer, and rural public interest groups, including farm groups and industry.

§ 3700.2 Organization.

ERS maintains its offices at 1301 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC

20005-4788. The organization consists of:

- (a) The Administrator;
- (b) Associate Administrator;
- (c) Five Divisions; Commercial Agriculture Division, Food and Consumer Economics Division, Information Services Division, Natural Resources and Environment Division, and Rural Economy Division; and
- (d) Office of Energy and New Uses.

§ 3700.3 Functions.

(a) *Administrator and Associate Administrator.* The Administrator and Associate Administrator are responsible for developing and implementing policies and plans in support of a program of economic and social science research, analysis, and data dissemination. General functions are: Conducting research and staff analysis, and developing short to long-term outlook analysis and economic indicators.

(b) *Director, Commercial Agriculture Division.* The Director, Commercial Agriculture Division, is responsible for conducting a program of economic research; economic intelligence gathering, analysis, and reporting; and data development and dissemination on economic conditions, U.S. and foreign policies, and agriculture production, trade, and marketing. General functions are:

(1) Developing and monitoring current intelligence and indicators on domestic and international agricultural markets and related farm and trade developments and short to long-term forecasts of domestic and world agricultural markets.

(2) Assessing the technological, economic, and institutional forces influencing U.S. and world agricultural markets.

(3) Conducting special analyses of U.S. and world agricultural markets for policy officials to assist in policy development and the operation of USDA programs.

(4) Collecting necessary information and performing international, national, and regional macroeconomics analysis to estimate the effects of macro economic trends and events in the global economy on the American farm sector.

(c) *Director, Food and Consumer Economic Division.* The Director, Food and Consumer Economic Division, is responsible for providing economic

research, monitoring and statistical indicators, and staff and the policy analysis of consumer and food marketing issues, including: Consumption determinants and trends; consumer demand for food quality, safety, and nutrition; food security; market competition; vertical coordination; nutrition education and food assistance programs; and food safety regulation. General functions are:

(1) Analyzing consumer behavior and food choices, including research regarding the socio-demographic and economic determinants of food and nutrient consumption; consumer valuation of quality, safety, and nutrition characteristics; and the role of information in determining food choices.

(2) Examining food assistance and nutrition programs, nutritional adequacy of diets, and food security, including costs and benefits of food assistance and nutrition programs, program and policy alternatives, the extent and social cost of food insecurity, and the role of food assistance in meeting larger goals of welfare programs.

(3) Analyzing the food processing and distribution sector, including the ability of the sector to meet changing consumer demand; the effect of government market interventions to facilitate that response; and the effect of government interventions and rapid changes in the sector on consumer and producer welfare.

(4) Analyzing food safety issues, including consumer benefits from risk reduction, production tradeoffs in reducing hazards, impact of proposed regulations and international harmonization, and policy alternatives.

(5) Developing and monitoring indicators of individual, household, and market level food consumption, expenditures, and nutrients; food marketing costs, marketing margins, and farm-retail price spreads; and food safety hazards, their effects, and mitigation.

(d) *Director, Information Services Division.* The Director, Information Services Division, is responsible for managing and directing agencywide information technology, communications, and administrative activities in support of the economic research and analysis mission of ERS. General functions are:

(1) Developing and managing information technology infrastructure and training.

(2) Developing and managing communications, publication, and dissemination programs, policies, and procedures.

(3) Providing operations and management services, including liaison with the ARS's Administrative and Financial Management unit.

(e) *Director, Natural Resources and Environment Division.* The Director, Natural Resources and Environment Division, is responsible for providing economic research, monitoring and statistical indicators, and staff and policy analysis of agricultural resource and environment issues including the relationship between agriculture—its practices, technologies, policies, and resource use—and the environment, including effects on the sustainability of the natural resource base, preservation of species and genetic diversity, and environmental quality. General functions are:

(1) Developing and disseminating data for assessing the use of agricultural resources and technologies by agricultural producers. These data include use and ownership of land, use of agricultural chemicals and equipment, and water use.

(2) Evaluating the implications of alternative agricultural and resource conservation policies and programs on commodity prices, consumer welfare, competitiveness, and long-range maintenance of agricultural land and water resources.

(3) Analyzing the costs, benefits, and distributional impacts of alternative policies to reduce environmental and health risk externalities associated with agriculture.

(4) Monitoring and analyzing the uses and conditions of the nation's water resources and the economic consequences of agricultural and environmental policies affecting water supply, use, and quality.

(5) Analyzing the impacts of national and global developments and domestic and international policies on the use and value of land, water, capital assets, and other agricultural production decisions.

(6) Assessing the possible impacts of proposed or anticipated domestic policy and program changes on agricultural production decisions.

(7) Assessing the effects of technology on input use and markets and evaluating the factors affecting input productivity and technology adoption.

(8) Analyzing the implications of global environmental change and sustainable development for U.S. agriculture.

(f) *Director, Rural Economy Division.* The Director, Rural Economy Division, is responsible for conducting a program of economic and social science research and analysis on national rural and agricultural conditions and trends, and

identifying and assessing the potential impact of public and private sector actions and policies that affect rural areas and the agricultural sector.

General functions are:

(1) Analyzing and reporting on current economic and demographic issues facing rural areas and agricultural, especially how changes in the national and global economies affect rural areas and the agriculture sector.

(2) Determining the effects of economic, social, and governmental events and actions on the demand for and supply of rural local government services, the quality of such services, and the relationships between local services and the viability of rural communities.

(3) Developing and disseminating information on current trends in the non-metropolitan and farm populations, the number, location and characteristics of such people, and the factors associated with these trends.

(4) Developing estimates and analyzing labor force trends in rural labor markets, including analyses of unemployment and employment by industry and occupational groups, including farm labor.

(5) Developing data on the income situation of rural people and evaluating the effectiveness of alternative public policies and programs in improving incomes of rural people, especially people in disadvantaged groups.

(6) Monitoring information on and analyzing the development of rural portions of geographic regions of the United States, including changes in industry mix, impacts of energy costs, credit availability, and other economic activities.

(7) Analyzing and reporting on developments in rural and agricultural financial markets and in Federal tax laws, and their consequences for agriculture and rural economies.

(8) Collecting and disseminating financial information on farms and farm enterprises, and developing techniques necessary to measure and describe the financial condition of the agriculture sector and its components.

(g) *Director, Office of Energy and New Uses.* The Director, Office of Energy and New Uses, is responsible for assisting the Secretary in developing Departmental energy policy and coordinating Departmental energy programs and strategies. General functions are:

(1) Providing Department leadership in:

(i) Analyzing and evaluating existing and proposed energy policies and strategies, including those regarding the allocation of scarce resources;

(ii) Developing energy policies and strategies, including those regarding the allocation of scarce resources;

(iii) Reviewing and evaluating Departmental energy and energy-related programs and program progress;

(iv) Developing agricultural and rural components of national energy policy plans;

(v) Preparing reports on energy and energy-related policies and programs required under Act of Congress and Executive Orders, including those involving testimony and reports on legislative proposals.

(2) Providing Departmental oversight and coordination with respect to resources available for energy and energy-related activities, including funds transferred to USDA from departments and agencies of the Federal Government pursuant to interagency agreements.

(3) Representing the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics at conferences, meetings, and other contacts where energy matters are discussed, including liaison with the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other governmental departments and agencies.

(4) Providing the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics with such assistance as requested to perform the duties delegated to him concerning energy and new uses.

(5) Working with the Office of Congressional Relations to maintain Congressional and public contacts in energy matters, including development of legislative proposals, preparation of reports on legislation pending in Congress, appearances before Congressional committees, and related activities.

(6) These delegations exclude the energy management actions related to the internal operations of the Department as delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(7) Conduct a program of research on the economic feasibility of new uses of agricultural products. Assist agricultural researchers by evaluating the economic and market potential of new agricultural products and techniques in the initial phase of development and contributing to prioritization of the Departmental research agenda.

§ 3700.4 Authority to act for the Administrator.

In the absence of the Administrator, the following officials are designated to serve as Acting Administrator in the order indicated:

Associate Administrator
Director, Commercial Agriculture Division

Director, Food and Consumer Economics Division
Director, Natural Resources and Environment Division
Director, Rural Economy Division
Director, Information Services Division
Director, Office of Energy and New Uses

Done at Washington, DC, this 16th day of January 1996.

John Dunmore,

Acting Administrator, Economic Research Service.

[FR Doc. 96-900 Filed 1-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-18-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

19 CFR Parts 10, 12, 24, 123, 134, 162, 174, 177, 178, 181 and 191

[T.D. 95-68]

RIN 1515-AB33

North American Free Trade Agreement

AGENCY: Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document makes a correction to the document published in the Federal Register that adopted as a final rule, with some changes, interim amendments to the Customs Regulations to implement the preferential tariff treatment and other Customs-related provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act. The correction concerns a cross-reference citation within the final regulatory texts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This correction is effective October 1, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joyce Metzger, Office of Field Operations (202-927-0792).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On September 6, 1995, Customs published in the Federal Register (60 FR 46334) T.D. 95-68 to adopt as a final rule, with some changes, interim amendments to the Customs Regulations implementing the preferential tariff treatment and other Customs-related provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act, Public Law 103-182, 107 Stat. 2057. These final NAFTA implementing regulations took effect on October 1, 1995.

The changes to the interim NAFTA implementing regulations as reflected in

the September 6, 1995, final regulations included a redesignation of paragraph (c) of § 181.76 as paragraph (d). However, in the first sentence of paragraph (e) of § 181.76 of the final regulations, the cross-reference to "paragraph (c)" was not correspondingly modified to read "paragraph (d)". This document corrects this oversight.

Correction of Publication

In the document published in the Federal Register as T.D. 95-68 on September 6, 1995 (60 FR 46334), on page 46379, in the first column, in § 181.76(e), the reference to "paragraph (c)" in the first sentence is corrected to read "paragraph (d)".

Dated: January 17, 1996.

Stuart P. Seidel,

Assistant Commissioner, Office of Regulations and Rulings.

[FR Doc. 96-1047 Filed 1-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

21 CFR Part 178

[Docket No. 95F-0172]

Indirect Food Additives: Adjuvants, Production Aids, and Sanitizers

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is amending the food additive regulations to provide for the safe use of disodium decanedioate as a corrosion/rust preventative for greases used as lubricants with incidental food contact. This action is in response to a petition filed by Ciba-Geigy Corp.

DATES: Effective January 24, 1996; written objections and requests for a hearing by February 23, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Submit written objections to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, rm. 1-23, 12420 Parklawn Dr., Rockville, MD 20857.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Vir D. Anand, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-216), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202-418-3081.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a notice published in the Federal Register of July 20, 1995 (60 FR 37453), FDA announced that a food additive petition