

performed for the purpose of certifying breeding swine for movement interstate, but we estimate the number to be small.

We anticipate, therefore, that this action will have a minimal positive economic impact, if any, on swine producers in Oklahoma.

Under these circumstances, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Executive Order 12372

This program/activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.025 and is subject to Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V.)

Executive Order 12988

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. This rule: (1) Preempts all State and local laws and regulations that are in conflict with this rule; (2) has no retroactive effect; and (3) does not require administrative proceedings before parties may file suit in court challenging this rule.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule contains no information collection or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

List of Subjects in 9 CFR Part 78

Animal diseases, Bison, Cattle, Hogs, Quarantine, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

Accordingly, 9 CFR part 78 is amended as follows:

PART 78—BRUCELLOSIS

1. The authority citation for part 78 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 111–114a–1, 114g, 115, 117, 120, 121, 123–126, 134b, and 134f; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.2(d).

§ 78.43 [Amended]

2. Section 78.43 is amended by adding “Oklahoma,” immediately after “Ohio”.

Done in Washington, DC, this 16th day of June 1998.

Charles Schwalbe,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98–16748 Filed 6–23–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

12 CFR Part 607

RIN 3052–AB83

Assessment and Apportionment of Administrative Expenses; Technical Change

AGENCY: Farm Credit Administration.

ACTION: Direct final rule with opportunity for comment.

SUMMARY: The Farm Credit Administration (FCA or Agency), through the FCA Board (Board), issues a direct final rule that makes technical amendments to its assessment regulations in order to conform to the recently adopted FCA Board policy statement on its financial institution rating system. The Financial Institution Rating System (FIRS) is the rating system used by FCA examiners for evaluating and categorizing the safety and soundness of Farm Credit System (System) institutions on an ongoing, uniform, and comprehensive basis. The FIRS modified the FCA Rating System (which had been referred to as the CAMEL rating system) by adding a separate rating factor for sensitivity to market risk. In accordance with the FIRS policy statement, these technical amendments replace the reference to “composite CAMEL rating” (the acronym CAMEL referred to the following five rating components: capital, asset quality, management, earnings, and liquidity), with “composite Financial Institution Rating System (FIRS) rating” and replace references to “CAMEL” with “FIRS.” The technical amendments do not substantively change the FCA assessment process or adversely affect System institutions.

DATES: If no significant adverse comment is received on or before July 24, 1998, these regulations shall be effective upon the expiration of 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register** during which either or both Houses of Congress are in session. Notice of the effective date will be published in the **Federal Register**. If significant adverse comment is received, the FCA will publish a timely notice of withdrawal of the regulations and indicate how the Agency expects to proceed with further rulemaking.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted via electronic mail to “reg-comm@fca.gov” or facsimile transmission to (703) 734–5784. Comments also may be mailed or delivered to Patricia W. DiMuzio, Director, Regulation and Policy

Division, Office of Policy and Analysis, Farm Credit Administration, 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102–5090. Copies of all communications received will be available for review by interested parties in the Office of Policy and Analysis, Farm Credit Administration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew D. Jacob, Senior Financial Analyst, Office of Policy and Analysis, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, Virginia 22102–5090, (703) 883–4498, TDD (703) 883–4444 or

Wendy R. Laguarda, Senior Attorney, Office of General Counsel, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, Virginia 22102–5090, (703) 883–4020, TDD (703) 883–4444.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Board is making technical amendments to its assessment regulations to replace the reference to “composite CAMEL rating” with “composite Financial Institution Rating System (FIRS) rating” and to replace references to “CAMEL” with “FIRS.” The technical amendments reflect the Board’s adoption, at its April 9, 1998 Board meeting, of a policy statement on the FIRS. The policy statement establishes six rating factor components and a composite rating that reflect the condition and overall safety and soundness of a System institution. The FIRS policy statement differs from the previous CAMEL rating system by the addition of a sixth rating component—the “S” component for sensitivity to market risk. Hence, the six rating factor components of the FIRS are capital, assets, management, earnings, liquidity, and sensitivity (“S” component). The policy statement also sets forth the responsibility of the Chief Examiner to implement, maintain, and recommend to the FCA Board changes to the rating system and to establish appropriate evaluative criteria for determining FIRS composite and component ratings.

The FIRS is an internal rating system used by the FCA for evaluating the safety and soundness of System institutions on a uniform basis and for identifying those System institutions requiring special supervisory attention or concern. In addition, the FIRS also provides the Agency with valuable information for assessing risk and allocating resources based on the safety and soundness of regulated institutions. The FIRS is similar to the system known as the Uniform Financial Institutions Rating System (UFIRS), which is used by Federal and state supervisory

banking agencies for rating commercial banks and savings associations.

The FIRS policy statement was published in the **Federal Register** at 63 FR 19918, April 22, 1998. In addition, the evaluative criteria for determining FIRS composite and component ratings is set forth in the FCA Examination Manual at section EM 135. The examination manual is a public document and available for a fee upon request from the FCA or through the FCA's Internet Home Page (<http://www.fca.gov>).

II. Direct Final Rulemaking

The FCA is using a "direct final" procedure for this rulemaking. In a direct final rulemaking, an agency gives notice that a rule will become final at a specified future date unless the agency receives significant adverse comment on the rule during the comment period established in the rulemaking notice. Direct final rulemaking is justified under section 553(b)(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 551-59, *et seq.* (APA). Section 553(b)(B) is the APA's "good cause" exemption for omitting notice and comment on a rule where an agency finds "that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest." However, rather than eliminating public comment altogether, as would be permissible under section 553(b)(B), in a direct final rule, the FCA gives the public adequate opportunity to comment on or object to a rule. For a full explanation of direct final rulemaking, see 62 FR 63644 (December 3, 1997).

The FCA believes that the technical amendments to the assessment regulations fit the category of rules appropriate for direct final rulemaking. These changes merely conform the regulations to the FCA Board's policy statement on FIRS. The changes amend current regulatory references to "composite CAMEL rating" with an updated reference to "composite FIRS rating." As such, the changes are straightforward and noncontroversial.

This rule has a 30-day comment period. If, during that period, the FCA receives a significant adverse comment on the rule, the FCA will withdraw the rule and may either issue another direct final rule or promulgate the rule in proposed form. A significant adverse comment is defined as one where the commenter explains why the rule would be inappropriate, including challenges to the rule's underlying premise or approach, or would be ineffective or unacceptable without a change. In general, a significant adverse comment would raise an issue serious enough to

warrant a substantive response from the FCA in a notice-and-comment proceeding.

If no significant adverse comment is received, the FCA will publish its customary notice of the effective date of the rule following the required Congressional waiting period under section 5.17(c)(1) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended.

List of Subjects in 12 CFR Part 607

Accounting, Agriculture, Banks, Banking, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Rural areas.

As stated in the preamble, part 607 of chapter VI, title 12 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 607—ASSESSMENT AND APPORTIONMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

1. The authority citation for part 607 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: Secs. 5.15, 5.17 of the Farm Credit Act (12 U.S.C. 2250, 2252) and 12 U.S.C. 3025.

2. Section 607.2 is amended by revising paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 607.2 Definitions.

* * * * *

(c) *Composite Financial Institution Rating System (FIRS) rating* means the composite numerical assessment of the financial condition of an institution assigned to the institution by the FCA based on its most recent examination of the institution. The FIRS factors are generally considered to be important indicators of an institution's financial health. Institutions are rated on each of the factors during an examination. The composite FIRS rating ranges from 1 to 5, with a lower number indicating a better financial condition than a higher number.

* * * * *

§ 607.3 [Amended]

3. Section 607.3 is amended by removing the acronym "CAMEL" and adding in its place "FIRS" each place it appears in paragraph (b)(2).

Dated: June 19, 1998.

Floyd Fithian,

Secretary, Farm Credit Administration Board.
[FR Doc. 98-16809 Filed 6-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6705-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 97-NM-302-AD; Amendment 39-10621; AD 98-13-30]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Model G-159 (G-I) Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to all Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Model G-159 (G-I) airplanes, that requires revising the Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) to prohibit positioning the power levers below the flight idle stop. This amendment is prompted by incidents and accidents involving airplanes equipped with turboprop engines in which the ground propeller beta range was used improperly during flight. The actions specified by this AD are intended to prevent loss of airplane controllability or engine overspeed with consequent loss of engine power caused by the power levers being positioned below the flight idle stop while the airplane is in flight.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 29, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Information pertaining to this rulemaking action may be examined at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, Rules Docket, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office, 1895 Phoenix Boulevard, suite 450, Atlanta, Georgia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne A. Shade, Aerospace Engineer, Airframe and Propulsion Branch, ACE-117A, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office, 1895 Phoenix Boulevard, suite 450, Atlanta, Georgia 30349; telephone (770) 703-7337; fax (770) 703-6097.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) to include an airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to all Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Model G-159 (G-I) airplanes was published in the **Federal Register** on April 27, 1998 (63 FR 20556). That action proposed to require revising the Limitations Section of the Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) to prohibit the positioning of the power