$13.20 and $14.90 per 55-pound bushel container or equivalent of avocados. Therefore, the estimated assessment revenue for the 1999–2000 fiscal year as a percentage of total grower revenue could range between 1 and 1.2 percent.

This action would increase the assessment obligation imposed on handlers. While assessments impose some additional costs on handlers, the costs are minimal and uniform on all handlers. Some of the additional costs may be passed on to producers. However, these costs would be offset by the benefits derived by the operation of the marketing order. In addition, the Committee's meeting was widely publicized throughout the Florida avocado industry and all interested persons were invited to attend the meeting and participate in Committee deliberations on all issues. Like all Committee meetings, the January 13, 1999, meeting was a public meeting and all entities, both large and small, were able to express views on this issue. Finally, interested persons are invited to submit information on the regulatory and informational impacts of this action on small businesses.

This proposed rule would impose no additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements on either small or large Florida avocado handlers. 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.

The Department has not identified any relevant Federal rules that duplicate, overlap, or conflict with this rule.

A 30-day comment period is provided to allow interested persons to respond to this proposed rule. Thirty days is deemed appropriate because: (1) The 1999–2000 fiscal year begins on April 1, 1999, and the marketing order requires that the rate of assessment for each fiscal year apply to all assessable avocados handled during such fiscal year; (2) the Committee needs to have sufficient funds to pay its expenses which are incurred on a continuous basis; and (3) handlers are aware of this action which was unanimously recommended by the Committee at a public meeting and is similar to other assessment rate actions issued in past years.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 915

Avocados, Marketing agreements, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR part 915 is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 915—AVOCADOS GROWN IN SOUTH FLORIDA

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 915 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601–674.

2. Section 915.233 is revised to read as follows:

§ 915.233 Assessment rate.

On and after April 1, 1999, an assessment rate of $0.16 per 55-pound bushel container or equivalent is established for avocados grown in South Florida.

Dated: March 11, 1999.

Robert C. Keeney,

Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

[FR Doc. 99–6490 Filed 3–16–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 1065

[DA–99–01]

Milk in the Nebraska-Western Iowa Marketing Area; Proposed Suspension of Supply Plant Shipping Requirements

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed suspension of rule.

SUMMARY: This document invites written comments on a proposal to suspend portions of the supply plant shipping requirements for the Nebraska-Western Iowa order for the months of March through September 1999. This action was requested by North Central Associated Milk Producers, Inc. (AMPI), a cooperative association that supplies milk for the market's fluid needs. Suspension would enable AMPI producers historically associated with the order to share in the Nebraska-Western Iowa Federal order pool for March through August 1999.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before March 24, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments (two copies) should be filed with the USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, Order Formulation Branch, Room 2971, South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090–6456. Advance, unofficial copies of such comments may be faxed to (202) 690–0552 or e-mailed to OFB__FMMO__Comments@usda.gov. Reference should be given to the title of action and docket number.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Constance M. Brenner, Marketing Specialist, USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, Order Formulation Branch, Room 2971, South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090–6456, (202) 720–2357, e-mail address:

connie__m__brenner@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department is issuing this proposed rule in conformance with Executive Order 12866.

This proposed rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. This rule is not intended to have a retroactive effect. If adopted, this proposed rule will not preempt any state or local laws, regulations, or policies, unless they present an irreconcilable conflict with the rule.

The Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601–674), provides that administrative proceedings must be exhausted before parties may file suit in court. Under section 608c(15)(A) of the Act, any handler subject to an order may request modification or exemption from such order by filing with the Secretary a petition stating that the order, any provision of the order, or any obligation imposed in connection with the order is not in accordance with law. A handler is afforded the opportunity for a hearing on the petition. After a hearing, the Secretary would rule on the petition. The Act provides that the district court of the United States in any district in which the handler is an inhabitant, or has its principal place of business, has jurisdiction in equity to review the Secretary's ruling on the petition, provided a bill in equity is filed not later than 20 days after the date of the entry of the ruling.

Small Business Consideration

In accordance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Agricultural Marketing Service has considered the economic impact of this action on small entities and has certified that this proposed rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. For the purpose of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, a dairy farm is considered a ''small business'' if it has an annual gross revenue of less than $500,000, and a dairy products manufacturer is a ''small business'' if it has fewer than 500 employees. For the purpose of determining which dairy farms are ''small businesses,'' the $500,000 per year criterion was used to establish a production guideline of 326,000 pounds per month. Although this guideline does not factor in additional monies that may

be received by dairy producers, it should be an inclusive standard for most ''small'' dairy farmers. For purposes of determining a handler's size, if the plant is part of a larger company operating multiple plants that collectively exceed the 500-employee limit, the plant will be considered a large business even if the local plant has fewer than 500 employees.

For the month of January 1999, 1,248 dairy farmers were producers under Order 65. Of these producers, 1,176 producers (i.e., 94 percent) were considered small businesses having monthly milk production under 326,000 pounds. A further breakdown of the monthly milk production of the producers on the order during January 1999 is as follows: 753 produced less than 100,000 pounds of milk; 322 produced between 100,000 and 200,000; 101 produced between 200,000 and 326,000; and 72 produced over 326,000 pounds. During the same month, 5 handlers were pooled under the order. None are considered small businesses.

This rule would lessen the regulatory impact of the order on certain milk handlers and would tend to ensure that dairy farmers would continue to have their milk priced under the order and thereby receive the benefits that accrue from such pricing.

Interested parties are invited to submit comments on the probable regulatory and informational impact of this proposed rule on small entities. Also, parties may suggest modifications of this proposal for the purpose of tailoring their applicability to small businesses.

Preliminary Statement

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act, suspension for the months of March through September 1999 of the following language from the pool plant provisions of the order regulating the handling of milk in the Nebraska-Western Iowa marketing area is being considered:

In the first sentence of § 1065.7(b)(4), suspending the following language: ''each of the months of,'' ''through March,'' and ''for the following months of April.''

All persons who want to submit written data, views or arguments about the proposed suspension should send two copies of their views to the USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs, Order Formulation Branch, Room 2971, South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090–6456, by the 7th day after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The period for filing comments is limited to 7 days because a longer period would not provide the time needed to complete the required procedures before the requested suspension is to be effective.

All written submissions made pursuant to this notice will be made available for public inspection in the Dairy Programs during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(b)).

Statement of Consideration

The proposed suspension was requested by AMPI, a cooperative association that supplies milk for the market's fluid needs. AMPI requests that language be suspended from the Nebraska-Western Iowa order's pool supply plant definition for the purpose of allowing producers who have historically supplied the fluid needs of Nebraska-Western Iowa distributing plants to maintain their pool status. AMPI contends that because a fluid milk plant operator reduced its purchase of fluid milk from AMPI by more than 50 percent, AMPI will not be able to pool milk historically associated with the Nebraska-Western Iowa order for March 1999, and thus will not qualify for the automatic qualification months of April through August.

AMPI maintains that through discussions with other handlers in the order, it is certain that no additional milk is needed at this time.

Accordingly, it may be appropriate to suspend the aforesaid regulatory language for the months of March through September 1999.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1065

Milk marketing orders.

The authority citation for 7 CFR Part 1065 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601–674.

Dated: March 11, 1999.

Richard M. McKee,

Deputy Administrator, Dairy Programs.

[FR Doc. 99–6488 Filed 3–16–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

16 CFR Parts 1615 and 1616

Standard for the Flammability of Children's Sleepwear: Sizes 0 Through 6X; Standard for the Flammability of Children's Sleepwear: Sizes 7 Through 14

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Proposed amendments.

SUMMARY: The Commission proposes to amend the flammability standards for children's sleepwear in sizes 0 through 6X and sizes 7 through 14 by revising the laundering procedure specified in those standards. These laundering procedures help assure that any chemical flame retardants are not removed or degraded with repeated washing and drying, thereby creating a flammability hazard. The Commission is proposing these amendments because the detergent specified by the existing laundering procedure is no longer available and the operating characteristics of the washing and drying machines required by that procedure are no longer representative of machines now used for home laundering.

DATES: Written comments concerning the proposed amendments must be received by the Office of the Secretary not later than June 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be captioned ''Children's Sleepwear, Laundering Procedures'' and mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207, or delivered to that office, room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland. Comments may also be filed by telefacsimile to (301) 504–0127 or by email to cpsc-os@cpsc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margaret Neily, Project Manager, Directorate for Engineering Sciences, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207; telephone (301) 504–0508, extension 1293.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

The Flammable Fabrics Act (''FFA'') (15 U.S.C. 1191 *et seq.*) authorizes issuance and amendment of flammability standards and regulations to protect the public from unreasonable risks of death, injury, and property damage from fire associated with products of wearing apparel made from fabric and related materials.

In 1971, the Secretary of Commerce issued a flammability standard for children's sleepwear in sizes 0 through 6X to protect young children from death and serious burn injuries which had been associated with ignition of sleepwear garments such as nightgowns and pajamas, by small open-flame sources. That standard became effective in 1972, and is codified at 16 CFR Part 1615.

In 1973, authority to issue flammability standards under the FFA was transferred from the Department of Commerce to the Consumer Product Safety Commission by section 30(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15