

n_1 years; thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

(4) For benefits for which the deferral period is y years (y is an integer and $y > n_1$

+ n_2), interest rate i_3 shall apply from the valuation date for a period of $y - n_1 - n_2$ years, interest rate i_2 shall apply for the following n_2 years, interest rate i_1 shall apply

for the following n_1 years; thereafter the immediate annuity rate shall apply.

TABLE I
[Lump sum valuations]

Rate set	For plans with a valuation date		Immediate annuity rate (percent)	Deferred annuities (percent)				
	On or after	Before		i_1	$2i_2$	i_3	n_1	n_2
32	* 06-1-96	* 07-1-96	* 5.00	* 4.25	* 4.00	* 4.00	* 7	* 8

Annuity Valuations

In determining the value of interest factors of the form $v^{0:n}$ (as defined in § 2676.13(b)(1)) for purposes of applying the formulas set forth in § 2676.13 (b) through (i) and in determining the value of any interest factor

used in valuing annuity benefits under this subpart, the plan administrator shall use the values of i_t prescribed in the table below.

The following table tabulates, for each calendar month of valuation ending after the effective date of this part, the interest rates (denoted by i_1, i_2, i_3 , and referred to

generally as i_t) assumed to be in effect between specified anniversaries of a valuation date that occurs within that calendar month; those anniversaries are specified in the columns adjacent to the rates. The last listed rate is assumed to be in effect after the last listed anniversary date.

TABLE II
[Annuity valuations]

For valuation dates occurring in the month—	The values of i_t are:					
	i_t	for t =	i_t	for t =	i_t	for t =
June 1996	* .0620	* 1-20	* .0475	* >20	* N/A	* N/A

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 9th day of May 1996.

Martin Slate,

Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

[FR Doc. 96-12125 Filed 5-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7708-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

34 CFR Part 685

RIN 1840-AC19

William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Final regulations.

SUMMARY: The Secretary amends the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program regulations to add the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number to a section of the regulations. The section contains information collection requirements approved by OMB. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information

unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The Secretary takes this action to inform the public that these requirements have been approved and affected parties must comply with them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These regulations are effective on July 1, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rachel Edelstein, Program Specialist, Direct Loan Policy Group, Policy Development Division, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue SW. (Room 3053, ROB-3), Washington, D.C. 20202. Telephone (202) 708-9406. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Final regulations for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program were published in the Federal Register on December 1, 1995 (60 FR 61820). Compliance with information collection requirements in a section of these regulations was delayed until those requirements were approved by OMB

under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. OMB approved the information collection requirements in the regulations on November 24, 1995. The information collection requirements in these regulations will therefore become effective with all of the other provisions of the regulations on July 1, 1996.

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking

It is the practice of the Secretary to offer interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, the publication of OMB control numbers is purely technical and does not establish substantive policy. Therefore, the Secretary has determined under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), that public comment on the regulations is unnecessary and contrary to the public interest.

List of Subjects in 34 CFR Part 685

Administrative practice and procedure, Colleges and universities, Education, Loan programs—education, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Student aid, Vocational education.

Dated: May 8, 1996.

David A. Longanecker,
Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary
Education.

The Secretary amends Part 685 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

**PART 685—WILLIAM D. FORD
FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM**

1. The authority citation for Part 685 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1087a *et. seq.*, unless otherwise noted.

§ 685.209 [Amended]

2. Section 685.209 is amended by revising the OMB control number following the section to read as follows: "(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1840-0672)."

[FR Doc. 96-11944 Filed 5-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

39 CFR Part 3001

[Docket No. RM95-4; Order No. 1110]

Rules of Practice and Procedure

AGENCY: Postal Rate Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule sets forth amendments to the Commission's rules of practice and procedure that provide for expedited consideration of requests of the United States Postal Service to: conduct market tests of new postal services in order to develop information necessary to support a permanent mail classification change; adopt, on a provisional basis, mail classification and associated rate changes that supplement, but do not alter, existing rates and mail classifications; and adopt permanent but narrowly focused mail classification changes that supplement, but do not alter, existing rates and mail classifications. In addition to these amendments, the final rule adopts provisions that allow the Postal Service to use a multi-year test period for the purpose of demonstrating the financial viability of potential new services that are the subject of a concurrent Postal Service request.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These rules are effective May 15, 1996 through May 15, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen L. Sharfman, Legal Advisor, Postal Rate Commission, 1333 H Street NW., Suite 300, Washington DC 20268-0001 (telephone: 202/789-6820).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 27, 1995, the Commission published a notice of proposed amendments to its rules of practice and procedure designed to facilitate expedited consideration of Postal Service requests to: (1) Conduct market tests of new postal services in order to develop information necessary to support a permanent mail classification change; (2) adopt, on a provisional basis, mail classification and associated rate changes that supplement, but do not alter, existing rates and mail classifications; and (3) adopt permanent but narrowly focused mail classification changes that supplement, but do not alter, existing rates and mail classifications. The proposed amendments also include provisions that would permit the Postal Service to request the Commission's use of a multi-year test period for the purpose of demonstrating the financial viability of potential new services that are the subject of a concurrent Postal Service request. 60 FR 54981-89 (October 27, 1995). The Commission's proposed rules pursue specific recommendations of the Joint Task Force on Postal Ratemaking,¹ and are responsive to a majority of the initiatives requested by the Postal Service in a petition submitted to the Commission on April 13, 1995. *Id.* at 54981.

The Commission received 17 sets of comments in response to the Notice of October 27.² The commenters present divergent views on both the substance of the Commission's proposed rules and the propriety of adopting them in the current proceeding. Additionally, several commenters suggest that the Commission pursue other initiatives in this proceeding that were originally recommended by the Joint Task Force Report and proposed in the Postal Service's petition. In view of these diverse statements of position, it is appropriate to begin with a discussion

¹See Postal Ratemaking in a Time of Change: A Report by the Joint Task Force on Postal Ratemaking (June 1, 1992).

²The American Bankers Association, American Business Press, Advertising Mail Marketing Association, Direct Marketing Association, Inc., Dow Jones & Company, Inc., Federal Express Corporation, McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., Major Mailers Association, Mail Order Association of America, Magazine Publishers of America, Newspaper Association of America, National Newspaper Association, the Commission's Office of the Consumer Advocate, Parcel Shippers Association, Time Warner, Inc., United Parcel Service, and the United States Postal Service submitted comments in response to the Notice. Some of these comments were not timely filed, primarily owing to extraordinarily adverse weather conditions on the date they were due. In order to avoid prejudice to any party who wished to comment, the Commission has considered all comments received.

of the considerations bearing on the Commission's determination to adopt new rules at this time in four areas, on a five-year trial basis.

I. Considerations Bearing on Adoption of Proposed Rules

In the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking published on October 27, the Commission announced its determination to promulgate draft rules which would implement a majority, but not all, of the seven procedural initiatives contained in the Postal Service's Petition of April 13, 1995. 60 FR 54981. The Commission found that four of the initiatives offered the greatest promise for procedural improvement in the near term. Accordingly, the Commission published draft rules of procedure governing market tests, limited-duration provisional service changes, minor classifications changes, and multi-year test periods for new services. With regard to the remaining three Postal Service initiatives—rules for limited scope rate cases, rate bands for competitive services, and Negotiated Service Agreements—the Commission concluded that their consideration should be deferred for various reasons, but stated that each of the areas merits further study and deliberation in subsequent proceedings. *Id.* at 54981, 54985.

The Deferred Postal Service Proposals

Several commenters ask the Commission to take up one or more of the three remaining initiatives, either in this proceeding or by initiating another rulemaking in the near future. Time Warner urges the Commission to reconsider the determination to defer consideration of rules for establishing rate bands for competitive services and rules providing for contract rates; Parcel Shippers Association comments that adoption of procedures allowing rate bands and negotiated service contracts is crucial to the competitive posture of the Postal Service. Advertising Mail Marketing Association, Dow Jones & Company, Magazine Publishers of America, and Mail Order Association of America comment in favor of initiating a proceeding in the near future to consider one or more of the three deferred initiatives. The Postal Service states that it would have preferred that all its proposals be addressed in this proceeding, but urges the Commission to issue a further rulemaking on the remaining initiatives now that Docket No. MC95-1 has been concluded.

The Commission continues to believe that limited scope rate cases, rate bands, and Negotiated Service Agreements present issues that are qualitatively