

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Loretta A. Carey, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-158), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202-205-5099.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In the **Federal Register** of March 4, 1997 (62 FR 9826), FDA published a proposed rule to revise its human and animal food labeling regulations that pertain to declarations of net quantity of contents on food packages. That proposal set out procedures for determining whether net quantity of contents declarations accurately reflect the amount of product in food packages. Interested persons were given until June 2, 1997, to comment on the proposed rule.

FDA has received letters from trade associations that represent major segments of both the food and feed industries requesting the agency to grant a 90-day extension of the comment period on its proposed rule for determining compliance for net quantity of contents declarations. The requests argued that the proposed regulation is unusually technical in nature and includes procedures that will affect both food and feed manufacturers and consumers. The requests contend that additional time is needed for interested persons to evaluate fully the impact of the proposed regulation on various products and to assess and develop potential alternatives to the proposed procedures. The agency acknowledges that the proposed rule is quite technical in nature and, after careful consideration, has decided to grant an extension of the comment period until September 2, 1997.

Interested persons may, on or before September 2, 1997, submit to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) written comments regarding this proposed rule. Two copies of any comments are to be submitted, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Received comments may be seen in the office above between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dated: May 13, 1997.

**William K. Hubbard,**

*Associate Commissioner for Policy Coordination.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement****30 CFR Parts 740, 745, 761, and 772**

**RIN 1029-AB42 and 1029-AB82**

**Valid Existing Rights and Prohibitions of Section 522(e); Extension of Public Comment Period**

**AGENCY:** Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior.  
**ACTION:** Extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** On January 31, 1997, (62 FR 4836-72), the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) of the U.S. Department of the Interior published proposed rules which would implement and interpret section 522(e) of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). On that date, OSM also made available for public comment a draft economic analysis (DEA) analyzing the potential impacts of the proposed rules. As a result of requests received, OSM is extending the comment period for the proposed rules and the DEA.

**DATES:** *Electronic or written comments:* OSM will accept electronic or written comments on the proposed rules and DEA until 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on August 1, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** *Electronic or written comments:* Submit electronic comments to [osmrules@osmre.gov](mailto:osmrules@osmre.gov). Mail written comments to the Administrative Record, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20240 or hand-deliver to Room 117 at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Andy DeVito, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240; Telephone (202) 208-2701; E-Mail: [adevito@osmre.gov](mailto:adevito@osmre.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On January 31, 1997 (62 FR 4836-72) OSM published two proposed rules dealing with the interpretation and implementation of section 522(e) of SMCRA. The first rule, RIN 1029-AB42, would amend OSM's regulations to redefine the circumstances under which a person has valid existing rights to conduct surface coal mining operations in areas where such operations are otherwise prohibited by section 522(e) of SMCRA. The second rule, RIN 1029-AB82, is a proposed interpretative rulemaking to address the question of

whether subsidence due to underground mining is a surface coal mining operation and thus prohibited in areas enumerated in section 522(e) of SMCRA. On January 31, 1997 (62 FR 4759), OSM also made available for public comment a DEIS analyzing the impact of the two proposed rules and the alternatives under consideration.

The comment period was scheduled to close on June 2, 1997. In order to accommodate several requests for an extension of the public comment period, OSM is extending the comment period until 5 p.m. Eastern time on August 1, 1997.

Under separate **Federal Register** Notice, the public comment period for the DEIS is also being extended until 5 p.m. Eastern time on August 1, 1997.

Dated: May 27, 1997.

**Mary Josie Blanchard,**

*Assistant Director, Program Support.*

[FR Doc. 97-14162 Filed 5-29-97; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY****Fiscal Service****31 CFR Part 240**

**RIN 1510-AA45**

**Indorsement and Payment of Checks Drawn on the United States Treasury**

**AGENCY:** Financial Management Service, Fiscal Service, Treasury.

**ACTION:** Proposed Rule.

**SUMMARY:** This reissues an earlier proposed revision of 31 CFR part 240, which governs the indorsement and payment of checks drawn on the United States Treasury. The purpose of this reissuance is to announce that it is Treasury's intention to supersede existing Federal common law regarding the apportionment of risk between Treasury and presenting banks with respect to certain materially defective Treasury checks, including counterfeits. Procedural changes are intended both to fix the time by which Treasury can decline payment on Treasury checks and to provide financial institutions with a date certain for final payment. These rules also provide greater clarity by defining previously undefined terms and by ensuring symmetry with current Treasury regulations governing Federal payments utilizing the Automated Clearing House method. In addition, these rules provide that Treasury may instruct Federal Reserve Banks to intercept and return, unpaid, benefit payment checks issued to deceased