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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

12 CFR Part 204

[Regulation D; Docket No. R-1024]

Reserve Requirements of Depository Institutions

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board).

ACTION: Final rule; technical amendment.

SUMMARY: The Board is amending Regulation D (Reserve Requirements of Depository Institutions) to remove the definition of *De novo depository institution*. The definition is not used in the Regulation.

EFFECTIVE DATES: November 24, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Heyke, Senior Attorney, Legal Division (202/452-3688). For the hearing impaired only, Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), Diane Jenkins (202/452-3544).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 204.2(p) of the Board's Regulation D (12 CFR part 204) defines *De novo depository institution* to mean a depository institution that was not in business on July 1, 1979, and was not the successor by merger or consolidation to a depository institution that was in business before the merger or consolidation. The definition is not used in the Regulation. Accordingly, the Board is removing it.

List of Subjects in 12 CFR Part 204

Banks, banking, Federal Reserve System, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Board is amending part 204 in chapter II of title 12 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 204—RESERVE REQUIREMENTS OF DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS (REGULATION D)

1. The authority citation for part 204 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 12 U.S.C. 248(a), 248(c), 371a, 461, 601, 611, and 3105.

2. In § 204.2, paragraph (p) is removed and reserved.

By order of the Secretary of the Board, acting pursuant to delegated authority for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, November 18, 1998.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98-31354 Filed 11-23-98; 8:45 am]

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FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

12 CFR Part 611

RIN 3052-AB71

Organization; Balloting and Stockholder Reconsideration Issues

AGENCY: Farm Credit Administration.
ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule will amend Farm Credit Administration (FCA or Agency) regulations concerning Farm Credit System (System or FCS) ballots and the effective dates for mergers, consolidations, or transfers of direct lending authority from a Farm Credit Bank (FCB) or agricultural credit bank (ACB) to a Federal land bank association (FLBA). The amendments allow the use of identity codes on ballots, as long as the votes are tabulated by an independent third party; limit the scope of the regulation to System banks and associations; and remove descriptions of specific balloting procedures from the regulations. The amendments also reduce the earliest effective date of a merger, consolidation, or transfer of lending authority from 50 days to 35 days after stockholder notification, or 15 days after submission of documents to the FCA for final approval, whichever occurs later. The effects of the amendments are to provide more flexibility to institutions and stockholders when stockholder votes occur, to extend security and confidentiality requirements to all stockholder votes of banks and associations, to apply such requirements

only to banks and associations, and to accelerate the effective date of the above-described corporate actions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This regulation will become effective 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**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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or

Rebecca S. Orlich, Senior Attorney, Office of General Counsel, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, VA 22102-5090, (703) 883-4020, TDD (703) 883-4444.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The FCA proposed amendments to its balloting and reconsideration period regulations on March 20, 1998 (63 FR 13564) as a part of its continuing efforts to reduce regulatory burdens on the System. This rule was proposed in response to requests by several System institutions to revise the secret ballot procedures and to accelerate the effective date of certain corporate actions.

As explained more fully below, we have made revisions to the proposed amendments to §§ 611.330 and 611.340 and adopted substantially as proposed the amendments to §§ 611.505(e) and 611.1122(k).

We received comment letters on the proposed regulations from the Farm Credit Council (Council) on behalf of its member banks and associations; AgriBank, FCB (AgriBank); Farm Credit Leasing Services Corporation (Leasing Corporation); and one individual via electronic mail. In addition, we received comments via telephone from the Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation (Funding Corporation) and from two FLBAs. AgriBank made general comments supporting the proposed changes. Other comments addressed specific issues, as described below. All of the comments were carefully considered in the formulation of the final rule.