

Dated: January 19, 1999.

**Charles M. Auer,**

*Director, Chemical Control Division, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics.*

[FR Doc. 99-2205 Filed 1-28-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### 48 CFR Part 829

RIN 2900-AJ32

#### VA Acquisition Regulation: Taxes

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.  
**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** This rule proposes to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) by deleting procedures and controls prescribed in the VAAR whereby facilities or institutions owned or controlled by State Governments, territories, and the District of Columbia, under supervision of a Federal agency, can obtain tax-free tobacco products for gratuitous distribution to present and former members of the Armed Forces of the United States. These procedures and controls are inconsistent with VA policy against promotion of the use of tobacco products. Accordingly, we propose to delete the provisions concerning tax-free tobacco products. Further, this document proposes to remove provisions stating that contracting officers will submit requests for legal advice, through channels, to the General Counsel. These provisions are internal VA instructions to contracting officers and are not required to be published in the **Federal Register** or the Code of Federal Regulations. In addition, this document proposes to remove provisions stating that the VAAR contains refund procedures for State and local taxes, since the VAAR does not contain such provisions.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before March 30, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or hand-deliver written comments to: Director, Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Room 1154, Washington, DC 20420. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to "RIN 2900-AJ32." All written comments will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulations Management, Room 1158, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Don Kaliher, Acquisition Policy Team (95A), Office of Acquisition and Materiel Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20420, telephone number (202) 273-8819.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary hereby certifies that this rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), 5 U.S.C. 601-612. This rule would have a minuscule effect, if any, on small businesses. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), this rule is exempt from the initial and final regulatory flexibility analysis requirements of sections 603 and 604.

#### List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 829

Government procurement, Taxes.

Approved: January 22, 1999.

**Togo D. West, Jr.,**

*Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 48 CFR parts 829 is proposed to be amended as follows:

#### PART 829—TAXES

1. The authority citation for part 829 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 38 U.S.C. 501 and 40 U.S.C. 486(c).

2. Section 829.000 is revised to read as follows:

##### 829.000 Scope of part.

This part prescribes policies and procedures for exemptions from Federal excise taxes imposed on alcohol products purchased for use in the Department of Veterans Affairs medical care program.

##### Subpart 829.1—[Removed]

3. Subpart 829.1 consisting of section 829.101 is removed.

##### 829.270 through 829-270-2 [Removed]

4. Sections 829.270 through 829.270-2 are removed.

[FR Doc. 99-2126 Filed 1-28-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AF30

#### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Extension of Comment Period on Proposed Special Regulations for the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; extension of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides notice that the comment period on the Service's proposal to establish special regulations for the conservation of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) (63 FR 66777, December 3, 1998) is extended through March 5, 1999. The Service notes that revisions of Mouse Protection Areas and Potential Mouse Protection Areas referenced in the December 3, 1998, proposed rule are available for review. **DATES:** The public comment period, which was originally to close on February 1, 1999, is extended for an additional 31 days and now closes on March 5, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and materials should be sent to Colorado Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. Comments and materials received will be available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Colorado Field Office, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** LeRoy W. Carlson, Colorado Field Supervisor, telephone 303/275-2370, facsimile 303/275-2371 (see **ADDRESSES** section).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Preble's meadow jumping mouse, a small rodent in the family Zapodidae, is known to occur only in eastern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. It lives primarily in heavily vegetated riparian habitats and immediately adjacent upland habitats. Habitat loss and degradation caused by agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial development have resulted in concern over its continued existence.

On May 13, 1998, the Service published a final rule (63 FR 26517) to

list the Preble's meadow jumping mouse as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. sections 1531 to 1544) without critical habitat. At the time the Preble's was listed, a special rule for the conservation of the Preble's was not promulgated and therefore virtually all of the restrictions of the Act became applicable to the species. On December 3, 1998, the Service proposed a special rule under 4(d) of the Act to establish standards for the conservation of the Preble's for 18 months.

Some revisions have been made to the geographic locations of Mouse Protection Areas and Potential Mouse Protection Areas described in the December 3, 1998, proposed rule. These revisions, based on the best scientific information currently available, are

maintained by the Service at addresses provided below. These geographic locations can be viewed at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 361, Lakewood, Colorado, telephone 303/275-2370 or at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming Field Office, 4000 Morrie Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001, telephone 307/722-2374. Depictions of these geographic locations are also available on our internet home page ([www.r6.fws.gov/preble](http://www.r6.fws.gov/preble)).

Legal notice and news releases announcing the extension of the comment period are being published in newspapers concurrently with this **Federal Register** notice.

Written statements concerning the proposed special rule should be mailed

to the Service office identified in the **ADDRESSES** section above on or before March 5, 1999.

#### **Author**

The author of this notice is Peter Plage, Colorado Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone 303/275-2370.

#### **Authority**

Authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Dated: January 22, 1999.

#### **Terry T. Terrell,**

*Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.*  
[FR Doc. 99-1994 Filed 1-28-99; 8:45 am]

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