

and amount of funds in the Committee's operating reserve. The recommended rate will generate \$210,000, which is \$55,500 below the anticipated expenses. The Committee found this acceptable because reserve funds will be used to make up the deficit.

A review of historical information and preliminary information pertaining to the upcoming fiscal period indicates that the grower price for the 1999–2000 marketing season could range between \$9.00 and \$12.00 per carton of cantaloupes and between \$6.00 and \$9.00 per carton of honeydew melons. Therefore, the estimated assessment revenue for the 1999–2000 fiscal period as a percentage of total grower revenue could range between .55 and .42 percent for cantaloupes and between .83 and .55 percent for honeydew melons.

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 South Texas melon industry and all interested persons were invited to attend the meeting and participate in Committee deliberations on all issues. Like all Committee meetings, the November 4, 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 South Texas melon 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 small business guide on complying with fruit, vegetable, and specialty crop marketing agreements and orders may be viewed at the following web site: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/moab.html>. Any questions about the compliance guide should be sent to Jay Guerber at the previously mentioned address in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

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 period began on October 1, 1999, and the marketing order requires that the rate of assessment for each fiscal period apply to all assessable melons handled during such fiscal period; (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 979

Marketing agreements, Melons, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR part 979 is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 979—MELONS GROWN IN SOUTH TEXAS

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 979 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601–674.

2. Section 979.219 is revised to read as follows:

§ 979.219 Assessment rate.

On and after October 1, 1999, an assessment rate of \$0.05 per carton is established for South Texas melons.

Dated: January 4, 2000.

Robert C. Keeney,

Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

[FR Doc. 00–507 Filed 1–7–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

13 CFR Part 120

Liquidation of Collateral

AGENCY: Small Business Administration (SBA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: SBA proposes to amend its regulation regarding the liquidation and sale of loans. As part of a government-wide initiative, federal credit agencies are being directed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to sell their loan portfolios. Previously, SBA amended its regulations to permit the sale of direct and purchased loans made under the authorities of the 7(a) and 501, 502, 503, and 504 programs (64 FR

44109). SBA now proposes to sell its physical disaster home loans, physical disaster business loans and economic injury disaster loans (collectively referred to as Disaster Assistance Loans). This will include sales of both secured and unsecured Disaster Assistance Loans in performing and non-performing status. The Disaster Assistance Loans will be sold to qualified bidders by means of competitive procedures at publicly advertised sales. Bidder qualifications will be set for each sale in accordance with the terms and conditions of each sale.

DATES: Submit comments on or before February 9, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be mailed to Arnold S. Rosenthal, Assistant Administrator for Portfolio Management, Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Blewett, 202–205–4202.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 13 CFR 120.540 sets forth SBA's policy for the liquidation of collateral and the sale of commercial loans. SBA now proposes to amend and expand this rule to include the sale of Disaster Assistance Loans in asset sales.

Public Law 104–134, the “Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996,” enacted on April 26, 1996, provides that, “the head of an executive * * * agency may sell, subject to section 504(b) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 and using competitive procedures, any non-tax debt owed to the United States that is delinquent for more than 90 days.” 31 U.S.C. 3711(i)(1).

The Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 634(b)(2), provides that “(The Administrator) may sell at public or private sale . . . in (her) discretion * * * any evidence of debt * * * personal property, or security. * * *” It further provides in 15 U.S.C. 634(b)(7) that the Administrator may “take any and all actions * * * when (she) determines such actions are necessary or desirable in * * * liquidating or otherwise dealing with or realizing on loans. * * *” Pursuant to this statutory authority, SBA is establishing an Asset Sales Program to sell portions of its direct and participation loan portfolios.

Compliance With Executive Orders 13132, 12988, and 12866, the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612), and the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Ch. 35).

This proposed rule is not a significant rule within the meaning of Executive

Order 12866, since it is not likely to have an annual economic effect of \$100 million or more, result in a major increase in costs or prices, or have a significant adverse effect on competition or the U.S. economy.

SBA certifies that this proposed rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601-612.

This regulation concerns the ability of SBA to sell disaster loans as part of SBA's Asset Sales Programs. There will be no economic impact upon the small businesses that received those loans because the loans that will be sold are merely changing ownership, so no new funding is involved. The purchaser of the loans will be bound by the terms of the loan documents in the same manner as SBA. The Agency does not anticipate that any additional costs will be placed upon small entities. Therefore, SBA believes that there will be no economic impact on small businesses.

Nevertheless, even if it is assumed that there is an economic impact, this rule would still only have a minimal effect on an insubstantial number of small businesses. This is because SBA's total disaster business loan portfolio at the end of FY 1999 was 64,832 loans, as contrasted with an estimated total of 24 million small businesses in the United States (as estimated by SBA's Office of Advocacy).

SBA certifies that this proposed rule does not impose any additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C., chapter 35.

For purposes of Executive Order 13132, SBA certifies that this proposed rule has no federalism implications warranting preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

For purposes of Executive Order 12988, SBA certifies that this proposed rule is drafted, to the extent practicable, to accord with the standards set forth in paragraph 3 of that Order.

List of Subjects in 13 CFR Part 120

Loan programs—business.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, SBA proposes to amend 13 CFR part 120 as follows:

PART 120—BUSINESS LOANS

1. The authority citation for part 120 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 634 (b)(6) and 636(a) and (h).

2. Revise the section heading in § 120.540 and amend the first sentence of paragraph (b)(4) as follows:

§ 120.540 What are SBA's policies concerning the liquidation of collateral and the sale of business loans and physical disaster assistance loans, physical disaster business loans and economic injury disaster loans?

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(4) Sell direct and purchased 7(a) and 501, 502, 503 and 504 loans and physical disaster home loans, physical disaster business loans and economic injury disaster loans in asset sales. * * *

* * * * *

Dated: December 23, 1999.

Aida Alvarez,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-426 Filed 1-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 99-NM-349-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A319, A320, A321, A330, and A340 Series Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes the adoption of a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain Airbus Model A319, A320, A321, A330, and A340 series airplanes. This proposal would require revising the Airplane Flight Manual to provide the flight crew with certain instructions associated with the Global Positioning System (GPS). This proposal also would require modification of the Global Positioning System Signal Unit (GPSSU) of the satellite navigational system. This proposal is prompted by issuance of mandatory continuing airworthiness information by a foreign civil airworthiness authority. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent position and altitude errors due to bad oscillator warm-up characteristics of the GPSSU, which could result in navigational errors that may exceed 0.5 nautical mile.

DATES: Comments must be received by February 9, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114,

Attention: Rules Docket No. 99-NM-349-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from Airbus Industrie, 1 Rond Point Maurice Bellonte, 31707 Blagnac Cedex, France. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Norman B. Martenson, Manager, International Branch, ANM-116, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-2110; fax (425) 227-1149.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications shall identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address specified above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments, specified above, will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposals contained in this notice may be changed in light of the comments received.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the proposed rule. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report summarizing each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this proposal will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments submitted in response to this notice must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 99-NM-349-AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

Availability of NPRMs

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-114, Attention: Rules Docket No. 99-NM-349-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.