

Proposed Rules

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Monday, March 29, 2004

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Ch. 1

Semiannual Regulatory Agenda

Correction

The Regulatory Information Service Center inadvertently omitted the following entry from the regulatory agenda of the Office of Personnel Management, published in the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions, part XXXVIII of the issue of Monday, December 22, 2003 (68 FR 73770), and should have included the following:

Office of Personnel Management (OPM)—Proposed Rule Stage

• ORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT; OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT; TEMPORARY AND TERM EMPLOYMENT; RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION FOR TEMPORARY AND TERM APPOINTMENTS OUTSIDE THE REGISTER

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 U.S.C. 801 is undetermined.

Legal Authority: Public Law 107–296

CFR Citation: 5 CFR 316; 5 CFR 333; 5 CFR 337; 5 CFR 410

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing interim regulations to implement certain Governmentwide human resources flexibilities contained in the Homeland Security Act of 2002. This regulation provides agencies with increased flexibility in assessing applicants using alternative ranking and selection procedures; the ability to select qualified candidates for jobs in the competitive service using direct-hire procedures including selection for temporary and term positions; the authority to pay or reimburse the costs of academic degree training from appropriated or other available funds

under specified conditions; and increased flexibility in the use of academic degree training to address agency-specific human capital needs, goals, and challenges. This interim regulation will also remove part 333 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, Recruitment and Selection for Temporary and Term Appointments Outside the Register.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule NPRM	06/13/03 09/00/04	68 FR 35265

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required: No

Small Entities Affected: No

Government Levels Affected: None

RIN: 3206–AJ99

Agency Contact: Diane Tyrrell, Division for Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20415, Phone: 202 606–0960, Fax: 202 606–2329, E-mail: dmtyrrel@opm.gov.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Kay Coles James,

Director.

[FR Doc. 04–6813 Filed 3–26–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820–27–M

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of the Secretary

6 CFR Chs. I and II

Semiannual Regulatory Agenda

Correction

The regulatory agenda of the Department of Homeland Security, published in the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions, part IX of the issue of Monday, December 22, 2003 (68 FR 72922), should include the following two entries.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services—Final Rule Stage

• EXTENDING THE FILING DEADLINE AND REMOVING THE APPLICATION FEE WHEN APPLYING FOR POSTHUMOUS UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP

Priority: Other Significant

Legal Authority: 8 U.S.C. 1103; 8 U.S.C. 1440 and note; 8 U.S.C. 1440–1; 8 CFR 2

CFR Citation: 8 CFR 3292; 8 CFR 103

Legal Deadline: None

Abstract: This rule amends the regulations of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS), Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service, to implement Public Law 107–273, the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act, section 11030 (November 2, 2002). Public Law 107–273 amends section 329A of the Immigration and Nationality Act by extending the filing deadline for applications for posthumous citizenship for deceased noncitizen veterans. It will also amend the regulations to remove the prescribed filing fee for Form N–644, Application for Posthumous Citizenship.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Interim Final Rule	02/00/04	
Interim Final Rule Comment Period End	04/00/04	

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required: No

Small entities Affected: No

Government Levels Affected: None

Additional Information: Merged with CIS No. 2271–03, Extension of Deadline for Filing for Posthumous Citizenship

Agency Contact: Craig Howie, Adjudications Officer, Adjudications Division, Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Room 3040, 425 I Street, NW., Washington, DC 20536, Phone: (202) 616–7869, Fax: (202) 514–0198

RIN: 1615–AB04

**Department of Homeland Security
(DHS)**

**Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration
Services—Completed Actions**

**• EXTENSION OF DESIGNATION OF
EL SALVADOR UNDER THE
TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS
(TPS) PROGRAM; AUTOMATIC
EXTENSION OF EMPLOYMENT
AUTHORIZATION DOCUMENT FOR EL
SALVADOR**

Priority: Other Significant. Major status under 5 U.S.C. 801 is undetermined.

Legal Authority: Immigration and Nationality Act, sec 244; 8 U.S.C. 1254a

CFR Citation: None

Legal Deadline: The designation of El Salvador under the Temporary Protected Status Program expires September 9, 2003.

Abstract: This notice designates El Salvador for TPS for 18 months until March 9, 2005 and automatically extends Employment Authorization Documentation until March 9, 2004.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Notice (CIS No. 2279-03) Extension of Designation of El Salvador Under TPS	07/16/03	68 FR 42071

**Regulatory Flexibility Analysis
Required:** No

Small Entities Affected: No

Government Levels Affected: None

Additional Information: CIS No. 2279-03

Agency Contact: Jonathan Mills, Adjudications Officer, Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, 425 I Street, NW., Washington, DC 20536, Phone: (202) 514-4754, E-mail: jonathan.mills@dhs.gov

RIN: 1615-AB05

Richard Sloan,

*Director, Regulations and Forms Services
Division.*

[FR Doc. 04-6814 Filed 3-26-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-27-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection
Service**

7 CFR Part 340

[Docket No. 03-031-3]

**Environmental Impact Statement;
Introduction of Genetically Engineered
Organisms**

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and proposed scope of study; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: We are reopening the comment period for a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement that we published in connection with potential changes to the regulations regarding the importation, interstate movement, and environmental release of certain genetically engineered organisms. The earlier notice identified potential issues and alternatives that will be studied in the environmental impact statement and requested public comment to further delineate the scope of the issues and alternatives. We are reopening the comment period to allow interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before April 13, 2004.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. 03-031-2, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 03-031-2.

- *E-mail:* Address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 03-031-2" on the subject line.

- *Agency Web Site:* Go to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/cominst.html> for a form you can use to submit an e-mail comment through the APHIS Web site.

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the instructions for locating this docket and submitting comments.

Reading Room: You may read any comments that we receive on Docket

No. 03-031-2 in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

Other Information: You may view APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register** and related information, including the names of groups and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Stephanie Stephens, Environmental Services, PPD, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 149, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238; (301) 734-4836.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On January 23, 2004, we published in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 3271-3272, Docket No. 03-031-2) a notice that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service intends to prepare an environmental impact statement in connection with potential changes to the regulations regarding the importation, interstate movement, and environmental release of certain genetically engineered organisms.

Comments on that notice were required to be received on or before March 23, 2004. To provide interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments, we are reopening the comment period on the notice until April 13, 2004. We will also consider all comments received between March 24, 2004 (the day after the close of the original comment period), and the date of this notice.

Done in Washington, DC, this 25th day of March, 2004.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 04-7008 Filed 3-26-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

7 CFR Part 457

**Common Crop Insurance Regulations;
Apple Crop Insurance Provisions**

AGENCY: Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, USDA.