

Proposed Rules

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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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

7 CFR Part 1423

RIN 0560-AE50

Standards for Approval of Warehouses for CCC Interest Commodity Storage

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening and extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is reopening and extending the comment period for the proposed rulemaking, "Standards for Approval of Warehouses for CCC Interest Commodity Storage." The original comment period for the proposed rule closed on January 20, 2004, and CCC is reopening and extending it for 30 days. This action responds to requests from warehouse operators to provide more time to comment on the proposed rule.

DATES: Comments are due March 11, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for additional information should be directed to Howard Froehlich, Chief, Program Development Branch, Warehouse and Inventory Division, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 0553, Washington, DC 20250-0553, telephone: (202) 720-7398, FAX: (202) 690-3123, e-mail:

Howard_Froehlich@wdc.fsa.usda.gov. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication for regulatory information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 20, 2003, CCC published a proposed rule, "Standards for Approval of Warehouses for CCC Interest Commodity Storage" in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 65412). The rule

proposed to revise regulations covering the storage of commodities in which CCC has an interest. For the most part, those commodities are acquired in connection with non-recourse commodity loan programs that benefit farmers. The rule will consolidate the regulations for all commodities stored by CCC into one set of regulations. In addition, the rule would, in some instances, revise the substantive provisions that are in effect under the existing regulations.

The Agency believes that the request for additional time to comment on the proposed rule is reasonable and will still allow the rulemaking to proceed in a timely manner. As a result of the reopening and extension, the comment period for the proposed rule will close on March 11, 2004.

Signed in Washington, DC, January 23, 2004.

James R. Little,

Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of Thrift Supervision

12 CFR Part 502

[No. 2004-06]

RIN 1550-AB47

Assessments and Fees

AGENCY: Office of Thrift Supervision, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) is proposing to amend its rules on assessments and fees. The proposed rule would replace examination fees for savings and loan holding companies (SLHCs) with semi-annual assessments on top-tier SLHCs. OTS would charge a base assessment amount on all top-tier SLHCs, and would add up to three additional components to this base amount. The three components would be based on the risk or complexity of the SLHC's business, its organizational form, and its condition. OTS is also considering assessing certain SLHCs that are large and complex enterprises

(conglomerates) under a separate assessment procedure and solicits comments on these assessment procedures.

OTS also proposes to amend the existing rules governing the calculation of savings association semi-annual assessments. Specifically, OTS proposes to eliminate the alternative calculation for the asset size component currently available to small "qualifying savings associations."

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: *Mail:* Send comments to Regulation Comments, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552, Attention: No. 2004-06. Commenters should be aware that there have been some unpredictable and lengthy delays in postal deliveries to the Washington, DC area and may prefer to make their comments via facsimile, e-mail, or hand delivery.

Delivery: Hand deliver comments to the Guard's Desk, East Lobby Entrance, 1700 G Street, NW., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on business days, Attention: Regulation Comments, Chief Counsel's Office, No. 2004-06.

Facsimiles: Send facsimile transmissions to Fax Number (202) 906-6518, Attention: No. 2004-06.

E-Mail: Send e-mails to regs.comments@ots.treas.gov, Attention: No. 2004-06, and include your name and telephone number.

Availability of comments: OTS will post comments and the related index on the OTS Internet Site at www.ots.treas.gov. You may inspect comments at the Public Reading Room, 1700 G Street, NW., by appointment. To make an appointment for access, call (202) 906-5922, send an e-mail to public.info@ots.treas.gov, or send a facsimile transmission to (202) 906-7755. (Please identify the materials you would like to inspect to assist us in serving you.) We schedule appointments on business days between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. In most cases, appointments will be available the business day after the date we receive a request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donna Deale, Manager, Affiliates and Holding Company Supervision, (202) 906-7488; or Karen Osterloh, Special Counsel, Regulations and Legislation Division, Chief Counsel's Office, (202)