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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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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206-A106

Prevailing Rate Systems; Removal of Putnam, Richmond, and Rockland Counties, NY, and Monmouth County, NJ, from the New York, NY, Appropriated Fund Survey Area

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing a final rule to remove Putnam, Richmond, and Rockland Counties, NY, and Monmouth County, NJ, from the survey area of the New York, NY, appropriated fund Federal Wage System wage area. The four counties will remain in the area of application of the New York, NY, wage area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 23, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Allen at (202) 606-2848, or send an email message to maallen@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 3, 1997, OPM published a proposed rule to remove Putnam, Richmond, and Rockland Counties, NY, and Monmouth County, NJ, from the survey area of the New York, NY, appropriated fund Federal Wage System (FWS) wage area (62 FR 59300). The proposed rule provided a 30-day period for public comment, during which OPM received one comment. The comment was related to the definition of the Newburgh, NY, wage area—a matter previously decided by OPM following lengthy discussions at meetings of the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee (FPRAC), the statutory national-level labor-management committee responsible for advising OPM on matters concerning the pay of

FWS employees. The proposed rule is therefore being adopted as a final rule.

When the FWS was established in 1972, the New York, NY, survey area was composed of Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties, NY; and Essex, Hudson, Morris, and Union Counties, NJ. In 1975, FPRAC agreed by consensus to recommend that the New York, NY, survey area be expanded to include Putnam County, NY; and Bergen, Middlesex, Monmouth, Passaic, and Somerset Counties, NJ. This change was made so as to include 100 percent of the New York wage area's FWS employment in the New York, NY, survey area and to provide for a larger number of surveyable private industrial establishments.

As the largest FWS survey—with a sample of more than 900 industrial establishments—the New York, NY, FWS wage survey has become increasingly difficult to conduct because its logistical demands create unusual burdens on local agency activities already strained by downsizing and budget constraints. To reduce the logistical burdens of the New York, NY, FWS wage survey, OPM is removing Putnam, Richmond, and Rockland Counties, NY, and Monmouth County, NJ, from the New York, NY, survey area. Of the 19 counties in the New York, NY, survey area, OPM is removing these four counties from the survey area because their removal appears to offer the best means of reducing the logistical burdens of surveys in the New York, NY, wage area while least affecting the determination of prevailing rates for FWS employees in that wage area.

The removal of these four counties from the New York, NY, FWS survey area leaves about 90 percent of the wage area's FWS employment in the New York, NY, survey area, and reduces the number of surveyable private industrial establishments in the New York, NY, survey universe by only about 4 percent. OPM also considered the possible removal of other counties from the New York survey area, but none appeared to offer as convincing a rationale for removal as do Putnam, Richmond, Rockland, or Monmouth Counties. FPRAC reviewed and concurred by consensus with this change.

Because of a typographical error in appendix C to subpart B of 5 CFR part

532, the wage area listing for the New York, NY, wage area follows immediately after the wage area listing for the Newburgh, NY, wage area without showing the title of the New York, NY, wage area. This final rule also corrects that inadvertent omission.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that these regulations will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because they affect only Federal agencies and employees.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532

Administrative practice and procedure, Freedom of information, Government employees, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wages.

Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,
Director.

Accordingly, OPM is amending 5 CFR part 532 as follows:

PART 532—PREVAILING RATE SYSTEMS

1. The authority citation for part 532 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 5343, 5346; § 532.707 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552.

Appendix C to Subpart B of Part 532 [Amended]

2. Appendix C to subpart B is amended by revising the wage area listings for the Newburgh, New York, and New York, New York, wage areas to read as follows:

Appendix C to Subpart B of Part 532—Appropriated Fund Wage and Survey Areas

* * * * *

New York

* * * * *

Newburgh

Survey Area

New York:
Dutchess
Orange
Ulster

Area of Application. Survey Area Plus

New York:
Delaware
Sullivan

New York

Survey Area

- New York:
 - Bronx
 - Kings
 - Nassau
 - New York
 - Queens
 - Suffolk
 - Westchester
- New Jersey:
 - Bergen
 - Essex
 - Hudson
 - Middlesex
 - Morris
 - Passaic
 - Somerset
 - Union

Area of Application. Survey Area Plus

- New York:
 - Putnam
 - Richmond
 - Rockland
- New Jersey:
 - Monmouth
 - Sussex

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 97-33581 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6325-01-P

**OFFICE OF PERSONNEL
MANAGEMENT**

5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206-A111

**Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment
of Kansas City, MO, Special Wage
Schedule for Printing Positions**

AGENCY: Office of Personnel
Management.

ACTION: Interim rule with request for
comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel
Management (OPM) is issuing an
interim rule to abolish the Federal Wage
System (FWS) special wage schedule for
printing positions in the Kansas City,
Missouri, wage area. Printing and
lithographic employees in Kansas City
will now be paid rates from the regular
Kansas City wage schedule.

DATES: This interim rule becomes
effective on January 4, 1998. Comments
must be received by January 23, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments
to Donald J. Winstead, Assistant
Director for Compensation
Administration, Workforce
Compensation and Performance Service,
Office of Personnel Management, Room
7H31, 1900 E Street NW., Washington,
DC 20415, or FAX: (202) 606-4264.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Mark Allen at (202) 606-2848, or send
an email message to maallen@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
Department of Defense recommended to
OPM that the Kansas City, MO, special
wage schedule for printing positions be
abolished and that the regular Kansas
City wage schedule apply to printing
employees in the Kansas City wage area.
This recommendation was based on the
fact that the number of employees paid
from the special schedule has declined
in recent years from a total of about 70
employees in 1985 to a current total of
about 30 employees. With the reduced
number of employees, it has become
increasingly difficult to comply with the
requirement that workers paid from the
special printing schedule participate in
the local wage survey process. A full-
scale special wage survey in the Kansas
City wage area would require the
substantial work effort of contacting
about 70 printing establishments spread
over 8 counties and would require the
participation of about 10 percent of the
employees who are paid from the
special printing schedule.

Upon abolishment of the Kansas City
special printing schedule, the printing
and lithographic employees will be
converted to the regular schedule for the
Kansas City wage area on a grade-for-
grade basis. An employee's new rate of
pay will be set at the rate for the step
of the applicable grade of the regular
schedule that equals the employee's
existing scheduled rate of pay. When
the existing rate falls between two steps,
an employee's new rate will be set at the
rate for the higher of those two steps.
Pay retention provisions will apply for
the few employees not receiving
increases upon conversion. This
conversion does not constitute an
equivalent increase for within-grade
increase purposes.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory
Committee, the statutory national-level
labor-management committee
responsible for advising OPM on
matters concerning the pay of FWS
employees, has reviewed and concurred
by consensus with this change.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B), I
find that good cause exists for waiving
the general notice of proposed
rulemaking. Also, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.
553(d)(3), I find that good cause exists
for making this rule effective in less
than 30 days. The notice is being
waived and the regulation is being made
effective in less than 30 days because a
new regular wage schedule will go into
effect in the Kansas City wage area on
January 4, 1998, and employees
currently paid from the special printing
schedule for the wage area would have
received a wage adjustment on that date
had the Department of Defense been

able to conduct a special wage survey in
the wage area in 1997.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that these regulations will not
have a significant economic impact on
a substantial number of small entities
because they affect only Federal
agencies and employees.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532

Administrative practice and
procedure, Freedom of information,
Government employees, Reporting and
recordkeeping requirements, Wages.

Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,
Director.

Accordingly, OPM is amending 5 CFR
part 532 as follows:

**PART 532—PREVAILING RATE
SYSTEMS**

1. The authority citation for part 532
continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 5343, 5346; § 532.707
also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552.

§ 532.279 [Amended]

2. In § 532.279, paragraph (j)(3) is
removed, and paragraph (j)(4) is
redesignated as paragraph (j)(3).

[FR Doc. 97-33583 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Rural Utilities Service

Farm Service Agency

7 CFR Part 2003

**Functional Organization of the Rural
Development Mission Area**

AGENCIES: Rural Housing Service; Rural
Business-Cooperative Service; Rural
Utilities Service; Farm Service Agency;
USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The issuing agencies amend
their regulations to reflect the
reorganization of the Department of
Agriculture. The intended effect of this
action is to provide efficient utilization
of Department personnel resources. This
publication provides the function
statements for organizational units
within the Rural Development mission
area, the Rural Housing Service, Rural
Business-Cooperative Service, and the
Rural Utilities Service.