

**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

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[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).

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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.