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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 831

RIN 3206-AH66

Administration and General Provisions—Administration

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing final regulations concerning the adjudication of claims arising under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). The regulation provides that OPM may initially issue decisions that provide the opportunity to appeal directly to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) without having to request OPM to review its initial decision. The regulation streamlines processing of claims under the CSRS and brings OPM's CSRS regulations into conformity with its Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 28, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Brown, (202) 606-0299.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 19, 1996, we published (at 61 FR 66948) proposed regulations to facilitate and streamline our processing of disputed cases under CSRS and bring CSRS regulations into conformity with FERS regulations. We received no comments on the proposed regulations and we are now publishing them as final regulations.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that this regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because the regulation will only affect Federal agencies and retirement payments to retired Government

employees, spouses, and former spouses.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 831

Administrative practice and procedure, Alimony, Claims, Disability benefits, Firefighters, Government employees, Income taxes, Intergovernmental relations, Law enforcement officers, Pensions, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Retirement.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management

James B. King,

Director.

Accordingly, OPM is amending Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, as follows:

PART 831—RETIREMENT

1. The authority citation for part 831 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 8347; § 831.102 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8334; § 831.106 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552a; § 831.108 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8336(d)(2); § 831.201(b)(6) also issued under 5 U.S.C. 7701(b)(2); § 831.204 also issued under section 7202(m)(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, Pub. L. 105-508, 104 Stat. 1388-339; § 831.303 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8334(d)(2); § 831.502 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8337; § 831.502 also issued under section 1(3), E.O. 11228, 3 CFR 1964-1965 Comp.; § 831.621 also issued under section 201(d) of the Federal Employees Benefits Improvement Act of 1986, Pub. L. 99-251, 100 Stat. 23; subpart S also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8345(k); subpart V also issued under 5 U.S.C. 8343a and section 6001 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987, Pub. L. 100-203, 101 Stat. 1330-275; § 831.2203 also issued under section 7001(a)(4) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-508; 104 Stat. 1388-328.

Subpart A—Administration and General Provisions

2. In § 831.109, the last sentence in paragraph (c) is removed, the text in paragraph (f) after the heading "*Final decision.*" is redesignated as paragraph (f)(1) and paragraph (f)(2) is added to read as follows:

§ 831.109 Initial decision and reconsideration.

* * * * *

(f) * * *

(2) OPM may issue a final decision providing the opportunity to appeal under § 831.110 rather than an

opportunity to request reconsideration under paragraph (c) of this section. Such a decision must be in writing and state the right to appeal under § 831.110.

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[FR Doc. 97-10899 Filed 4-25-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

7 CFR Part 400

RIN 0563-AB05

General Administrative Regulations; Nonstandard Underwriting Classification System

AGENCY: Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) finalizes amendments to subpart O of the General Administrative Regulations, effective with the 1998 (1999 for Texas and Arizona/California Production Citrus) and succeeding crop years. This amendment is intended to clarify the effect of the nonstandard underwriting classification system (NCS) and to ensure that NCS is applied to all producers in a fair and consistent manner.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 28, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Smith, Supervisory Insurance Management Specialist, Research and Development, Product Development Division, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, United States Department of Agriculture, 9435 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO 64131, telephone (816) 926-7743.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has determined this rule to be not significant for the purposes of Executive Order 12866 and, therefore, has not been reviewed OMB.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This rule does not contain information collection requirements that require approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).