

because they primarily affect OPM's administrative procedures.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 890

Administrative practice and procedure, Government employees, Health facilities, Health insurance, Health professions, Hostages, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Retirement.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.  
James B. King,  
Director.

Accordingly, OPM is amending 5 CFR Part 890 as follows:

**PART 890—FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM**

1. The authority citation for part 890 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 8913; § 890.803 also issued under 50 U.S.C. 403p, 22 U.S.C. 4069c and 4069c-1; Subpart L also issued under sec. 599C of Pub. L. 101-513, 104 Stat. 2064, as amended.

2. In § 890.203, paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2), and the last sentence in paragraph (a)(5) are revised to read as follows:

**§ 890.203 Application for approval of, and proposal of amendments to, health benefits plans.**

(a) *New plan applications.* (1) The Director of OPM shall consider applications to participate in the FEHB Program from comprehensive medical plans (CMP's) at his or her discretion. CMP's are automatically invited to submit applications annually to participate in the FEHB Program unless otherwise notified by OPM. If the Director should determine that it is not beneficial to the enrollees and the Program to consider applications for a specific contract year, OPM will publish a notice with a 60 day comment period in the Federal Register no less than 7 months prior to the date applications would be due for the specific contract year for which applications will not be accepted.

(2) When applications are considered, CMP's should apply for approval by writing to the Office of Personnel Management, Washington, DC 20415. Application letters must be accompanied by any descriptive material, financial data, or other documentation required by OPM. Plans must submit the letter and attachments in the OPM-specified format by January 31, or another date specified by OPM, of the year preceding the contract year for which applications are being accepted. Plans must submit evidence demonstrating they meet all requirements for approval by March 31

of the year preceding the contract year for which applications are being accepted. Plans that miss either deadline cannot be considered for participation in the next contract year. All newly approved plans must submit benefit and rate proposals to OPM by May 31 of the year preceding the contract year for which applications are being accepted in order to be considered for participation in that contract year. OPM may make counter-proposals at any time.

\* \* \* \* \*

(5) \* \* \* The extent of the data and documentation to be submitted by a plan so qualified by HHS, as well as by a non-qualified plan, for a particular review cycle may be obtained by writing directly to the Office of Insurance Programs, Retirement and Insurance Service, Office of Personnel Management, Washington, DC 20415.

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

**9 CFR Part 77**

[Docket No. 95-072-1]

**Tuberculosis in Cattle and Bison; State Designation**

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Interim rule and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We are amending the tuberculosis regulations concerning the interstate movement of cattle and bison by reducing the designation of Wisconsin from an accredited-free State to an accredited-free (suspended) State. We have determined that Wisconsin no longer meets the criteria for designation as an accredited-free State but meets the criteria for designation as an accredited-free (suspended) State. This change is necessary to prevent the spread of tuberculosis in cattle and bison.

**DATES:** Interim rule effective December 8, 1995. Consideration will be given only to comments received on or before February 6, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Please send an original and three copies of your comments to Docket No. 95-072-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comments refer to

Docket No. 95-072-1. Comments received may be inspected at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Mitchell Essey, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Cattle Diseases and Surveillance, VS, APHIS, Suite 3B08, 4700 River Road Unit 36, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231, (301) 734-7727.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Bovine tuberculosis is the contagious, infectious, and communicable disease caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*. The tuberculosis regulations contained in 9 CFR part 77 (referred to below as the regulations), regulate the interstate movement of cattle and bison because of tuberculosis. Cattle and bison not known to be affected with or exposed to tuberculosis are eligible for interstate movement without restriction if those cattle or bison are moved from jurisdictions designated as accredited-free States, accredited-free (suspended) States, or modified accredited States. The regulations restrict the interstate movement of cattle or bison not known to be affected with or exposed to tuberculosis if those cattle or bison are moved from jurisdictions designated as nonmodified accredited States.

The status of a State is based on its freedom from evidence of tuberculosis, the effectiveness of the State's tuberculosis eradication program, and the degree of the State's compliance with the standards contained in a document captioned "Uniform Methods and Rules—Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication," which is incorporated by reference into the regulations.

An accredited-free State, as defined in § 77.1 of the regulations, is a State that has no findings of tuberculosis in any cattle or bison in the State for at least 5 years. The State must also comply with all the provisions of the "Uniform Methods and Rules—Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication" regarding accredited-free States.

An accredited-free (suspended) State is defined as a State with accredited-free status in which tuberculosis has been detected in any cattle or bison in the State. A State with accredited-free (suspended) status is qualified for redesignation of accredited-free status after the herd in which tuberculosis is detected has been quarantined, an