

fleshy scales have a watersoaked condition; and,

(l) Watery scales when more than the equivalent of the entire outer fleshy scale is affected by an off-color, watersoaked condition. The off-color must be of some shade of brown or yellow.

§ 51.3211 Serious damage.

Serious damage unless otherwise specifically defined in this section, means any defect which seriously affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the onions. Any one of the following defects, or any combination of defects the seriousness of which exceeds the maximum allowed for any one defect, shall be considered as serious damage:

- (a) Seedstems when more than one-half inch in diameter;
- (b) Dry sunken areas when extending deeper than one fleshy scale, or when affecting an area equivalent to that of a circle 1 inch in diameter on an onion 2¾ inches in diameter, or correspondingly lesser or greater areas on smaller or larger onions;
- (c) Sprouting when any visible sprout is more than one-half inch in length;
- (d) Staining, dirt or foreign material when more than 25 percent of the onions in any lot are badly stained. Onions with adhering dirt or other foreign matter shall be judged on the same basis as stained onions;
- (e) Mechanical when any cut extends deeper than two fleshy scales, or when cuts seriously damage the appearance of the onion; and,
- (f) Watery scales when more than the equivalent of two entire outer fleshy scales are affected by an off-colored, watersoaked condition. The off-color must be of some shade of brown or yellow.

§ 51.3212 Diameter.

Diameter means the greatest dimension of the onion at right angles to a line running from the stem to the root.

Metric Conversion Table

§ 51.3213 Metric conversion table.

Inches	Millimeters (mm)
1/8	3.2
1/4	6.4
3/8	9.5
1/2	12.7
5/8	15.9
3/4	19.1
7/8	22.2
1	25.4
1 1/4	31.8
1 1/2	38.1

Inches	Millimeters (mm)
1 3/4	44.5
2	50.8
2 1/2	63.5
2 3/4	69.9
3	76.2
3 1/2	88.9
4	101.6

Dated: February 9, 1995.
Lon Hatamiya,
Administrator.
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Rural Utilities Service

7 CFR Part 1717

Investments, Loans, and Guarantees by Electric Borrowers

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.
ACTION: Proposed Rule.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby proposes to revise its policies and requirements governing restrictions on investments, loans and guarantees made by electric borrowers. This proposed rule is intended to clarify RUS's policies and requirements, reduce uncertainty by borrowers, and improve compliance.

DATES: Written comments must be received by RUS or carry a postmark or equivalent by April 17, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Mr. F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Deputy Director, Program Support Staff, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, Ag Box 1522, room 2234-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1500. RUS requires a signed original and 3 copies of all comments (7 CFR 1700.30 (e)). Comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(b)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Alex M. Cockey, Jr., Deputy Assistant Administrator—Electric, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, Ag Box 1560, room 4037-S, 14th Street & Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1500. Telephone: 202-720-9547.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This proposed rule has been determined to be not significant for the purposes of Executive Order 12866, and therefore has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The Administrator of RUS has determined that the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) does not apply to this

rule. The Administrator of RUS has determined that this rule will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Therefore, this action does not require an environmental impact statement or assessment. This rule is excluded from the scope of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Consultation, which may require consultation with State and local officials. A Notice of Final Rule titled Department Programs and Activities Excluded from Executive Order 12372 (50 FR 47034) exempts RUS electric loans and loan guarantees from coverage under this Order. This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform. This rule: (1) Will not preempt any State or local laws, regulations, or policies, unless they present an irreconcilable conflict with this rule; (2) Will not have any retroactive effect; and (3) Will not require administrative proceedings before any parties may file suit challenging the provisions of this rule.

The program described by this rule is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs under number 10.850 Rural Electrification Loans and Loan Guarantees. This catalog is available on a subscription basis from the Superintendent of Documents, the United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325.

Information Collection and Recordkeeping Requirements

The existing recordkeeping and reporting burdens contained in this rule were approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), under control numbers 0572-0017, 0572-0032, and 0572-0103. Additional information collection and recordkeeping requirements contained in this proposed rule have been submitted to OMB for review.

Send questions or comments regarding these burdens or any other aspect of these collections of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, room 10102, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503. Attention: Desk Officer for USDA.

Background

On December 22, 1987, section 312 was added to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. This section allows electric borrowers to invest their own funds or make loans or guarantees, not in excess of 15 percent of their total utility plant,